



Air Bubbles



The Newsletter of the North Shore Frogmen's Club

Volume 46, Number 12

December 2004

President's Message: December 2004

Greetings NSF Members and Friends,

As this is my final President's Message, I once again would like to thank the membership and my fellow club officers for all the hard work that they have done over this past year. Our duties can weigh heavy at times, and can conflict with other obligations; so I just wanted you all to know that your efforts have been greatly appreciated, and that the club, as a whole, owes you a debt of gratitude for your contributions. Club members are what make the club worthwhile; the North Shore Frogmen is not an entity unto itself, merely the sum total of its participants. As I thank the current club officers, I also wish to congratulate in advance those who have decided to offer their time and effort to carry on the "nuts and bolts" duties of holding office in the coming year. I am sure that 2005 will bring new opportunities for fun, adventure, and comradeship that have made being a Froggie worthwhile. I pass the reigns on to fellow club members who I am sure will do an excellent job. Thank you all for a great 2004!!!

Don't forget to show up to vote our new club officers in on Thursday, December 2nd. This is also the date of our annual photo contest, so come and enjoy viewing (and voting on) some of the best photography the club membership has to offer. I am always amazed by the creativity of our club photographers, and am sure to be wowed by several of the entries that we will have the privilege of viewing. Saturday, December 4th is our annual Holiday Banquet, easily defined as the club highlight of the year. I encourage all of you to come enjoy a fun-filled evening of food, music, dancing, and some great raffle prizes!!! John Sears still has some tickets left, so be sure to pick some up if you haven't already done so. The festivities begin at the Franco @7PM, so don't be late!!! To round out the year, don't forget that we have a video night scheduled for the December 16th meeting; and that our new president will be treating us all to a Year-End Pizza Party on Thursday, December 30th. And for those of you who don't mind a little cold, don't forget the annual New Year's Day Dive and Party, complete with a tour of Peter's new abode. Take Care,

Michael J. Donovan
NSF President, '04

North Shore Frogmen's Club

2004 President's Banquet

December 4, 2004

Franco-American Club, Beverly

Cocktails & Appetizers @ 7PM
(Scallops & Bacon, Shrimp, etc.)

Dinner @ 8PM
[Prime Rib or Stuffed Chicken]
T.C. and the Torpedoes
8-12 midnight

Tickets now \$30
<\$15 for non-dining guests>

RAFFLE PRIZES
Dive Gear
Color TV & other prizes

Contact JOHN SEARS for tickets
(978)750-4745

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Election Slate for 2005

Nominations for 2005 officers have produced the following slate.

For president: Dave Smith
For VP: John Ferrier
For Treasurer: Ray Porter
For Secretary: Dan Hering

Please come to the meeting on December 2 to ratify these choices (or not??), and to see and vote on the 2004 North Shore Frogmen's Club photo contest entries. If you cannot make it to election night, the photo display will also be available for viewing at the Annual President's Banquet on December 4th. Support your fellow club members by coming to see their beautiful photographs.

New Years Day Dive

Peter Cassidy

For anyone interested in diving in front of the Cassidy home for the New Year's Party please read on: It would be quite boring but some like to just say they did a dive on New Year's day. They could warm up immediately after the dive. A requirement to safely dive in a tidal section of the Merrimack River is that they must dive during "slack" tide. Since otherwise there would be a substantial current. Diving at low or high tide is safe for a long time and one can get in an hour long dive. The key is to start about half hour before the high or low time mark from an accurate tide table. High or low tide in front of the Cassidy home is about 25 minutes after the chart listed as Merrimack River / Newburyport harbor. Of course if you're pokey you won't be swept away as the current starts very gradually. The peak current is of course about half way between high and low tide.

Low tide is at 10 AM and high tide is at 3 PM. If someone cares to dive, they should plan to enter the river at either 9:30 AM or 2:30 PM.

Diving in the Philippines

Jonathan Bird was our guest speaker at the meeting on November 19. Jonathan and his friend Gator went to the Philippines to take video of Thresher Sharks for a production they are working on for *National Geographic*. While there he also had time to do some still photography of the reefs around the resort where he stayed. The slide show he gave first demonstrated how exceptionally colorful the reef itself is, though rather devoid of fish because of the local custom of fishing with dynamite. After the slide show Jonathan showed some video footage of Thresher Sharks. In order to take this video he went every dawn for the entire trip to the top of an underwater mountain, at a depth of 80 feet, to wait for two hours for the sharks to come to the cleaning station. Out of the whole trip, the sharks showed up for cleaning only one day, but the pictures of the Thresher Sharks are amazing.

Dive Trip to Honduras

April 16-23 Fantasy Island Resort Honduras

\$1699 includes airfare, 2 boat dives a day, unlimited shore diving, transfers, welcome drink, hotel based on double occupancy and 3 meals a day!! *What a deal!!!*

Contact Susan Copelas for more information at:
Windrift32@aol.com
781-334-2006



UNDERSEA DIVERS
SCUBA & SNORKELING
CENTER

42 Water St.
Beverly MA

1-978-927-9551
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ALL NEW FOR 2004!

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The North Shore Frogmen's Club
PO Box 3604
Peabody, MA 01961

2004 OFFICERS

President: Michael Donovan
Tel: (978) 664-3509
Email: mjdonovan@juno.com

VP: Dave Smith
Tel: (978) 774-1043
Email: diverdave8@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Rich Kinkade
Tel: (978) 374-1650
Email: richkinkade@aol.com

Secretary: Ray Porter
Tel: (781) 944-1292
Email: rporter@ch2m.com

2004 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: John Ferrier
Tel: (978) 500-5066
Email: lobstalust@juno.com

Activities:
Daryl Findlay - 978-376-6669
Dave Smith - diverdave8@hotmail.com

Newsletter: Mary Howard
Tel: (781) 944-1292
Email: m.m.howard@comcast.net

Meeting Summaries

28–October–2004

Meeting called to order: 8:15 PM
Attendance: 4 Officers, 13 Members

Committees:

- **Secretary's Report:** Ray Porter – Meeting minutes accepted as amended.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Rich Kinkade – Account balances accepted as read.

Membership: John Ferrier – Hit from the website. Sent a note to the person. Was interested in diving in Maine. Mike Tyson received

membership package, but has not yet responded.

- **Program:** Dave Smith & Daryl Findlay - See activities list.
- **Air Bubbles:** Mary Howard – Air Bubbles went out. December calendar was blank, add activities to your copy.

Dive Talk:

John Ferrier Old Garden Beach - Wind coming in at 40 knots. Waves coming up ramp. Beach completely covered with surf. From Bobby's shop, waves could be seen off-shore.

Raffles: Dollars Box: Mia Peluso
Mystery Prize: Bill Gannett
Bug Bag, Lift bag: Susan Copelas

4–November–2004

Meeting called to order: 8:14 PM
Attendance: 3 Officers, 13 Members
Announcement: John Ferrier will give a Bonaire video and slide presentation at tonight's meeting.

Committees:

- **Secretary's Report:** Ray Porter – Minutes accepted as read.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Rich Kinkade – Account balances accepted as read.
- **Membership:** John Ferrier – Nothing to report.
- **Program:** Daryl Findlay & Dave Smith - See activities list.
- **Air Bubbles:** Mary Howard – nothing to report

Old Business: President's Banquet – tickets \$25 until 11/18, \$30 after the 11/18, \$15 at the door for non-diners.

New Business:

- **Nomination of Officers.**
 - **President:** Dave Smith, nominated, seconded, acceptance pending
 - **Vice President:** John Sears nominated, seconded, acceptance pending
 - **Vice President:** John Ferrier, nominated, seconded, accepted
- **Treasurer:** Ray Porter nominated, seconded, accepted

- **Secretary:** Dan Hering, nominated, seconded, acceptance pending

Dive Talk:

- **Mia** and Dan at Lanes Cove. Met Ralph Arabian & Hans Hug at the beach (dove earlier). On exit the waves knocked Mia over and was helped out of the water by Ralph.
- **Daryl and John.** Met at on Sunday. Went to Old Garden. John's high pressure hose exploded and second one leaked. Did 60 minutes on a 120 tank with a leaky hose. Lots of seaweed. Tangled in seaweed coming up the beach, when he tried to pull himself free, he swung around, landed on his tickler, bent it and crushed the face of a large lobster. Water temp was 50°F. Vis was 15 to 20 ft.
- **Daryl** 65 minutes. Good day for photos (took a couple hundred). Water was warm. Daryl put his camera by a lobster hole, when the lobster came out, he fired the camera and strobes – blinding the lobster
- **Rick Holloran.** Dove Parker River looking for a 3-hp motor he lost in river in Newbury. 3-4 ft vis. Bottom hard packed sand with lot of clams. Water temp was 55°F.

General Discussion:

- **Mike's Moments**
 - Boston Herald – 3 ft high human female skeleton found 18,000 year. It was a Hobbit like creature.
 - Boston Herald - In Florida 455 elderly people die each day. Over 14-day period before election, 7,000 people dead people may have voted.
- Lobster men in Maine dumped lobster shells on the Governor's lawn, so Peter Cassidy now has a wrought iron job.
- Bobby Boyle bought a table of tickets for the banquet.

Raffles: Dollars Box: Mary Howard
Mystery Prize: Rick Holloran
Bug Bag: None

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11–November–2004

Meeting called to order: 8:20 PM
Attendance: 3 Officers, 11 Members

Announcement: Dave Smith sent message accepting nomination for president.

Committees:

- **Secretary's Report:** Ray Porter – Minutes accepted as read.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Rich Kinkade – Account balances accepted as read.
- **Membership:** John Ferrier – Nothing to report; no mail.
- **Program:** Daryl Findlay & Dave Smith - See activities list.
- **Air Bubbles:** Articles for AB due on Sunday, Nov 21.

Old Business:

- **Nominations.**
 - Dave Smith accepted nomination for President
 - John Sears has rejected the nomination for Vice President
 - Mia Peluso reports that Dan Hering has accepted the nomination for Secretary

Dive Talk:

- **Susan Copelas** – A friend of hers won the Bonaire trip at Sea Rovers and she took Susan with her. Could not dive right away. Had to complete an orientation. Dave Dodge was there. Diving restrictions (fees and no. of divers allowed) at the salt pier and town pier. Went to Lincoln where there was a food festival. Went to the Divi to visit
- Vis 80 to 100 feet. Water temp 84oF. Air temp about 87oF. Huge Eagle Ray, tail about 6 feet long. Tarpon attracted to dive lights and swam close to divers. Saw squid.
- Top 15 to 20 feet damaged from the storms.
- Dive Masters were not that helpful.
- **John & Daryl** Went to Lanes Cove on Sunday. Met at 9:30, left at 10:00. Not much fish to see. Starfish galore. Lobsters very limited. Vis not bad over the wall

20 ft at 50 ft, water temp 48°F. Lots of ghost traps. Daryl was in 8-ft of water, heard a boat approaching and got close to the rocks. The boat passed overhead.

General Discussion:

- **Bay State Council Meeting** last night– None of the items from the last meeting was completed.
- If anyone has video footage around the Pinthas let BSC know. This may be a good site for the artificial reef.
- No news on the lobster shell disease.
- The draft of the EIS on the wind mills prepared by the Army Corp of Engineers has been released.
- Video was shown of the great white shark being shepherded out to sea. Pretty cool!
- South Shore Neptune's banquet is \$15, January 29, all are invited.

Raffles: Dollars Box: John Sears
Mystery Prize: Jack Munro
Bug Bag: None

18–November–2004

Meeting called to order: 8:10 PM
Attendance: 3 Officers, 18 Members
Guest: 1 – Sis Despres, Bob Crocker, John (Linda Piehl's fiancé).

Announcement: Jonathan Bird here tonight to give presentation about diving in the Philippines.

Committees:

- **Secretary's Report:** Ray Porter –not read.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Rich Kinkade – not read.
- **Membership:** John Ferrier - None.
- **Program:** Daryl Findlay - See activities list.

Old Business: confirmation of election slate.

Dive Talk:

General Discussion:

- POCO the playful Beluga whale died – Possible infection
- A shark off Africa killed a 77 year old woman swimming in the ocean.

Raffles: Dollars Box: Roslyn Smith

Mystery Prize: Peter Chapman
Bug Bag: None

Member of the Month November 2004 Dan Hering

For his offer to give back to the North Shore Frogmen by standing for an elected club officer position for 2005, even though he is a relatively new member of the club. His dedication, and the enthusiasm of the other "New Blood" of the club, makes me believe that the future of this club is in good hands.







Thank You!!!!

Deadline for submissions
to the January issue of Air
Bubbles is
Monday, December 20

Be sure to check out the
Activities Website at:

[http://www.geocities.com/
nsfrogmen/activities.html](http://www.geocities.com/nsfrogmen/activities.html)

Activities Calendar

December 2004				1	2	3	4	
					8PM Meeting Elections		7PM Banquet	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
					8PM Meeting			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
					8PM Meeting Video Night			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
					8PM Meeting			
26	27	28	29	30	31			
					Pizza Night 7PM			
January 2005				    			1	New Years Day Dive & Party
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
					8PM Meeting			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
					8PM Meeting			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
					8PM Meeting			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
					8PM Meeting			
30	31							

Activities List

- Nov 25, Thu, **Thanksgiving**; no meeting
- Dec 2, Thu, **Elections for 2005 Club Officers**, and **Photo Contest voting**.
- Dec 4, Sat, **Club Banquet**, Franco American Club, 7PM.
- Dec 16, Thu, **Video Night** (Program TBD)
- Dec 30, Thu, **Pizza Night**, Franco American Club, 7PM.
- Jan 1, Sat, **New Years Day Party**, 1PM on. See flyer included with this newsletter.
- Jan 1, Sat, **New Years Day Dive**. Time choices are 9:30AM or 2:30PM. See article.

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“Maybe Next Time”

By Peter Cassidy

Recently, a friend apologized to me for opting out of a dive opportunity due to a weather forecast predicting the ‘possibility of rain.’ Although a prediction of rain implies something unpleasant to most, my response to him was that “it’s summer, it’s warm and we’re going to get wet anyway”. It occurred to me while talking to him that many divers have some confusion about dive suitability and site selection as it relates to weather forecasts. Wind speed and direction have a far greater effect on the probability of a pleasant dive experience than any forecast of rain. Rain will probably have little or no effect on the prospects of a quality dive. The exception of course, would follow a torrential downpour. Then there could be poor visibility from surface runoff clouding up the water. Certainly if the overall climate is cold and damp, the pre-dive and particularly the post-dive may be increasingly more uncomfortable when you add the element of rain. If your likelihood of being miserable before, during and after a dive were assured due to a forecast of rain, I would be inclined to cancel also.

Wind will have a much more adverse effect on the quality of a dive. Wave action is enhanced if the wind is coming onshore. A protected site would be one that clearly has the wind from offshore. The morning of a dive would be a good time to check the latest forecast, paying close attention to the wind speed and direction. If the weather is calm with wind speeds from 0-5 in any direction, you are probably safe to dive anywhere you choose. If the speed is moderate (5-15) you should select a dive site where the wind will be offshore. If the wind speed is high (15 or greater) you should precisely select a protected spot or better yet, wait until another day.

Since many days have moderate wind speed, it would save time and sanity to be able to use the latest forecast with a map or nautical chart as a tool to predict the dive sites with the least probability of wave action. Consider some possible scenarios; (see figure 1) Let’s say there is a moderate wind out of the west, both Pebble Beach and Old Garden Beach are likely to be calm for diving. On the other hand, let’s say there is a moderate wind from the south-southeast, then Old Garden would be a better choice. This is a simple formula to follow and can narrow site choices in minutes. I can remember many times when meeting at Burger King for a club dive that a 'look and see' approach was chosen by the group. Picture four or five cars and trucks driving from one site to another to check each prospective dive site. I call this the “grand tour”. This takes a considerable amount of time and gasoline and can usually be avoided.

It’s not a perfect world so obviously the arrival at the selected site will only give the final verification of the conditions. The above approach clearly doesn’t work when there is a major storm system at sea, even a hurricane centered in Bermuda can give rough seas in what should appear to be a protected area. This article is not meant to imply any hard and fast rules for site selection but rather a guide that will often help in making pre-dive decisions.

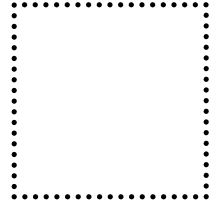
MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR THE BAY STATE COUNCIL OF DIVERS

The **BAY STATE COUNCIL of DIVERS** is a non-profit organization representing the organized divers of Massachusetts. Activities of the Council focus on diving related legislation and the promotion of recreational diving in the Commonwealth. Membership dues are \$5/ year. Please mail your dues today, to: **PO Box 518, Quincy, MA 02169**

Name _____
Address _____
City / State / Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____
Scuba certified? () Yes () No Membership type () New () Renewal



The North Shore Frogmen's Club Inc
PO Box 3604
Peabody, MA 01961-3604



Upcoming Events!

- Nov 25: No Meeting
- Dec 2: 2005 Officer Elections!!!
- Dec 4: Annual Club Banquet!!!
- Dec 16: Video Night
- Jan 1: New Years Day Dive & Party



“Winter” Sunday Dives: Meet at Burger King on Rte 128 in Beverly, at 9:00AM ready to depart for dive site at 9:30AM.

The North Shore Frogmen's Club Meetings
are held every Thursday night at 8PM (except Thanksgiving) at:

The Franco-American Club
44 Park Street
Beverly, MA

Directions: From Rte 128, take the Rte 62 exit, #22E, towards Beverly. Turn RIGHT onto BRIDGE ST at the new light after Danversport Yacht Club. At the end of Bridge St, turn LEFT onto RIVER ST. Turn RIGHT onto FEDERAL ST, turn RIGHT onto PARK ST. Free parking in lot across from Franco-American Club.