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Air Bubbles

The Newsletter of the North Shore
Frogmen's Club

September 2017

Volume 60, Numbers 9



NSF 60th Anniversary Event

Please note: While this survey did not work as intended, interested members can still submit their preference(s) by submitting an email response or at a meeting.

Which of the following events you prefer?

[ON THE WATER - Afternoon or dinner cruise on a boat out of Cape Ann.](#)

[OUTDOORS NEAR WATER - Afternoon or evening cookout in a park in the Salem / Beverly area.](#)

[INDOORS NEAR WATER - Evening event at a function hall near water.](#)

[RESTAURANT / FUNCTION HALL - Evening event at a restaurant function room somewhere in Cape Ann.](#)

Please do not forward this email as its survey link



Message from the President [Jim D'Urso](#)

!!! DIVING AGAIN - YEA !!!

President's Message

"Even castles made from sand fall to the ocean." Jimi Hendrix

Hi Froggies and friends,

Just arrived in Key West. It's been several weeks since Hurricane Irma hit. The damage especially to watercraft was evident however the people here are resilient. Most of the shops and bars are up and running. Cruise ships are coming daily and crowds are celebrating the sunsets at Mallory Square. Dive boats heading out each day. It was heartbreaking however to see the widespread destruction of several other Keys on the ride down from Miami. The highway was lined with damages boats, jet skis, mobile homes, trailers, and debris piled 20-30 ft high. Many half sunk boats remained near and along the shores. Some residents have lost their homes and all their belongings. Some of the beaches that harbor turtle nesting ground are gone. The turtles have been around for millions of years and they will find a way to survive. The ocean can be both beautiful and destructive and should always be respected.

My choice for Diver of the Month is Adam Hartnett who has been getting out for most club dives and had a recent close encounter with a Minke whale while doing a shore dive in Rockport.

My choice for Member of the month is Bill Werner. Bill continues to support and organize club events including this month's Annual Picnic and the Canoe and Kayak trip.

Keep diving my friends, remain safe, and remember those that were affected by the recent hurricanes,

Jim D'Urso President NSF

Upcoming Events

Calendar view and details on website [here](#)

Sunday Dives - Dive with a buddy!

Meet every Sunday between 8:30-9 AM at Burger King on Rte 128 in Beverly; depart for dive site at 9 am. (Winter Hours)

Election of new officers and photo/video contest are held on November 30th at 8pm. Please consider running for a position, nominating a great candidate, and/or volunteering to help with club activities - such as finding speakers, helping with the banquet setup, etc.

Meetings:

Usually Thursdays at
Palmer's Cove Yacht Club
74 Leavitt Street
Salem, MA

- Thursday, November 9th, 8 pm: Cape Anne Shipwrecks by Capt. Ray Bates
- Saturday, November 18th, 10 am meet in China Town for Dim Sum followed by movie at NEAQ IMAX theater.
- Thursday, November 30th, NSF Club Officer elections and photo/video contest
- Saturday, December 2nd, NSF Annual Banquet at PCYC.

Meetings start at 8PM; Social gathering at 7:30. Most of the "business" is accomplished at the first meeting of the month. The last Thursday of the

month has no meeting - purely a social gathering (with dive talk, of course).

NOTE: The last Thursday of the month is a meeting of the Photo Society at Undersea Divers. We have a number of NSF photographers and videographers as members.



Captain Ray Bates is our speaker for our November 9th meeting. He is an historian, author, scallop diver, lobsterman, and captain. He has written 2 books on the history of maritime disasters along Boston's North Shore. His talk and books should prove to be most interesting. I hope we will have a great attendance for our speaker.

2017 PHOTO CONTEST

Get those photos printed and make submissions for the contest to Mary Howard!

Bring them to the next couple of meetings, or by November 20th at the latest!

Photo Contest "Rules":

Submissions are to be made by members of the North Shore Frogmen's Club only.

Submitted photos must have been taken since October 1, 2016.

Photos are to be submitted as prints, maximum size no more than 8 1/2" x 11".

Submitted photos may not be matted or framed.

Please label photos as to orientation (i.e. UP ↑), as there is no guarantee that I will be able to tell what you think the orientation is.

Note the category on the back of each photo (see 6 categories below).

Provide any photo titles you may wish to have displayed with your pictures. (I will not make up any titles, and titles really add a certain something for voters!)

Maximum of 6 submissions per category per photographer.

For the Movie/Video Category:

Submissions are to be made to Ellen Garvey. Please contact Ellen to find out best way to submit your videos and what her restrictions are. She will figure out how best to display them. Photo Categories:

Cold Water

Species Interaction (between species) in cold water

Warm Water

Species Interaction (between species) in warm water

Above Water / Dive Related (must have some sign(s) of diving activity in the picture)

Movie category I'm looking forward to seeing some fantastic photos from Club members!!

Mary Howard

**Bay State Council of Divers
Information**



On Sunday, September 17th, the Bay State Council of Divers held their annual treasure hunt at Stage Fort Park. The NSF held our annual club picnic along with the MWDC in conjunction with the treasure hunt. As in past years, the NSF and MWDC host a big picnic barbecue to feed club members, for free, while asking for a \$5 donation from hungry nonmember divers.

The day had beautiful weather but with thick fog over the harbor. This made for

an interesting dive for the divers and snorkelers and a challenge for monitors attempting to keep track of participants. Mary Howard was the in water kayak monitor - as she is every year. She made sure no one swam off into the fog. In spite of the fog, there was a good turnout and every one had a great time.

EDUCATION SECTION

Northeastern Marine Science Center Lectures

Murphy Bunker, 430 Nahant Road, Nahant, MA 01908

Salem Sound Coastwatch

Salem Sound Coastwatch has many other activities listed on its website:

www.salemsound.org

New England Aquarium – IMAX Films

- Galapagos 3D: Natures Wonderland
- Great White Shark 3D
- Amazon Adventure 3D
- Saving Sea Turtles

These movies appear to be fairly stable. We will be planning a trip to the aquarium to see one or two with a stop in China Town for Dim Sum before.

Date Set: November 18th, Saturday at 10 am to meet for Dim Sum followed by NEAQ IMAX film or films.

Member's Corner



DIVER OF THE MONTH Adam Hartnett

Adam is one of our most active Sunday divers and supports virtually all club activities and dives with whales at Old Garden Beach!

MEMBER OF THE MONTH Bill Werner

For supporting club activities such as the joint club picnic and the Ipswich River canoe and kayak excursion.



Fun stuff we did last month

Club members were involved in a variety of activities in September...

Our annual club picnic held in conjunction with the MWDC and the Bay State Council Treasure Hunt. Members of the Finatics, the North Shore Divers, and other clubs were also present. We had great weather - if you didn't mind fog over the cove and near shore. We had abundant food and drink, great company, and everyone appeared to have a great time.



John Ferrier and Jack Munro went on a live-aboard dive trip to Saba and Saint Kitts. Jack wrote an article about their experiences. Perhaps there will be pictures in the future. Thank you Jack for the article.

More articles about fun dive trips are entertaining to the members and always welcome.

Saba & St. Kitts By Jack Munro

John Ferrier & I arrived on St. Martin and the boat had a van there to meet us. We got something to eat and waited for the other divers to arrive. Only one other diver, a woman named Jennifer from Washington DC, who was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army, showed up, so we loaded our gear and personal things and drove to the marina where the Caribbean Explorer II was docked. John & I sat around & talked while Jennifer had something to eat & we waited for more divers. Two more divers arrived, Allison & Carol, who were from the same Midwest dive club. After meeting the crew, we loaded our gear into our respective staterooms & got underway for Saba, an island 28 miles SW

of St. Martin.

When we arrived in Saba, our cook, Kathy, made dinner for us & our crew; Captain Ernie, Dive Master Brett, Dive Master Rachel, and Tim, the purser, also a Dive Master & mechanic. We got all of our dive gear and nitrox bottles set up for the morning dive, then we talked, had a cocktail, & retired after a long day. Sunday, after breakfast, we made our 1st dive, "Ladder Labyrinth" with Brett, 40 to 60 feet. 1 ½ hours later, our 2nd dive with Rachel, was on the same reef but in a different direction, all of us had underwater cameras, but Jennifer, the woman from Washington DC, had a huge setup with multiple strobes. For the remainder of the trip that's how it went, 3 dives in the morning, stop for lunch, two in the afternoon and a night dive. The Captain dove several times with us, but always a dive master, sometimes two.

We had briefings before every dive, lines along the boat, a mooring ball and a line to bottom anchor or wreck itself. Our times were watched and safety stops observed. The stern had 2 heavy steel ladders, stern lines to hang off & weighted lines on the stern to do safety stops on.

After 3 days & 15 or so dives on Saba, we moved to the island for a land tour by small boat to a small town called "the bottom" – the first town on the way up the hills of Saba. Saba is a small hilly island with about 1500 residents. The day of our tour, we first went to a church, a glass-blowing studio, and a few other places before heading back to the boat. That day we did one afternoon dive, ate dinner, did a night dive, then we headed out to St. Kitts.

We tied up on the mooring for the night and got our stuff ready to dive in the am, one of the 14 places we dove on this trip. On Friday am after only 2 dives, we went ashore on St. Kitts – a far bigger island than Saba, with 47,000 people, 1000s of goats and 100s of monkeys. This island, compared to Saba, had heavy traffic, lights, and cops until we got inland a bit. There's a brewery, a big medical school, and a large plantation that used to process sugar cane into rum years ago. The plantation is now a museum now dyes fabric with bright colors for sale and export. At the top of the mountain was a fort, Brimstone Hill Fortress, built by the British and is at least 3000 feet high and took 100 years to build. It still has in access of 20 plus cannons, each weighing up to 5 tons. We headed back to the boat to finish packing and drying our wet gear so we'd be ready to leave in the morning. The next morning we said our 'goodbyes' and we were off to the airport. Once a day, American Airlines flew out of St. Kitts & the flights filled up fast, especially because we were expecting hurricanes. There were other smaller airlines/planes that flew between the islands. Jennifer had to return to work, so she flew out first. The other two

women were staying a few extra days , but John & I stayed overnight at a hotel by the beach then flew home Sunday. When the boat we had been on left St. Kitts, it was going for a weeklong overhaul in the Marine Railway in St. Martin for painting & repairs before the next group of divers arrived.

Vermont 2018

We're looking forward to the 2018 Vermont trip to Annettes. If you enjoy fresh water diving, canoeing, kayaking, campfires, great food, and great people; you should consider coming up for a day or two or a full week.

On September 7th, we scheduled a restaurant visit instead of a meeting. A group of about 15-20 Froggies showed up at the British Beer Company for dinner and drinks. A good time was had by all! Laura also joined us and appeared to enjoy a pretzel.



Actual Local Diving



Meeting Summaries

Mary Howard, Secretary



Dive Travel Opportunities

December 2-9, 2017

February 24-March 3, 2018

March 24-April 3, 2018

January 17-26, 2019

June 8-20, 2019

Bonaire with Undersea Divers

Bonaire with Undersea Divers

Fiji with Undersea Divers

Maldives Live-aboard

Tubbataha to Atlantis Dumaguete



NSF is Supported by



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2016 Officers and Committees

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