



# Air Bubbles



The Newsletter of the North Shore Frogmen's Club

April 2021

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## NSF President's Message

By: Bill Werner

As I ponder what to write, I wonder who reads this? I have no Pearls of Wisdom to impart. Everyone is well aware that the past year has been inconvenient for social get-togethers indoors. We are continuing the scheduling of outdoor activities, allowing people to get together in relative safety with use of masks, social distancing, and fresh air.

With the start of the new year, as mentioned previously, we had our annual New Year's Day dive followed by a well-attended picnic in Stage Fort Park. Our hikes have been well attended, starting with our hike in the Assabet River Wildlife Refuge. After this hike we held an impromptu picnic in the parking lot. Our next hike was in the Harold Parker State Forest followed by a driveway picnic at Mary and Ray's. Our most recent hike was in the Plum Island Reserve, specifically, the Sandy Point State Reservation at the end. We followed this with a stop for victuals and liquid refreshment at the Riverwalk Brewing Company. Our next hike is scheduled in the Bradley Palmer State Park. Perhaps you will consider joining us! These hikes are not strenuous and they offer an opportunity to join your fellow members for fresh air, sunshine, and camaraderie.

We also scheduled a couple of dive events where we provided heat and hot beverages. The first was to the Dog Bar breakwater in Gloucester. This February 21<sup>st</sup> day was cold and windy but we had 4 divers in the water! The dives were followed by clam chowder, pastries, and other hot beverages catered by Mary and Ray (after Ray entered the water...in a wetsuit!). Our next dive, where we had hot beverages post dive, was to Old Garden Beach. We had 2 divers in the water and once again, Mary and Ray provided surface/shore support and heated hot chocolate and soup post dive. Of special note: Mary did a most commendable job of collecting trash while the divers were submerged. Greater detail is provided in separate articles for those who wish to read more.

Finally, so far, on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 6 adventurous and inquisitive Froggies and Dan ventured to the Diablo Glass School to try our hands at either making decorative paper weights from molten glass or cutting and fusing glass to make snowflakes. Ellen Garvey and Ken were our instructors and provided excellent guidance and kept us all safe from self-inflicted burns. After the glass class, 4 of us ventured out to sample micro-brews in a nearby establishment.

With warming spring weather and increasing vaccination rates, we will be able to plan more in-person events, both outdoors and indoors. With this in mind, we are planning museum visits, a visit to the Aquarium, Additional hikes, canoeing and kayaking, and brewery visits. As previous emails have announced, we are scheduling our annual trip to visit Annette in Vermont the last week in July. We also must start planning for Sea Rovers, a Bay State Council Treasure Hunt and multi-club picnic, as well as our end-of-year banquet. I believe we are all hoping and counting on getting the pandemic under control and putting it behind us. It will take time to get back to some semblance of normal.

With warming ocean and air temperatures and the return of lobsters, I hope to see more of our members showing up for Sunday dives...after all, we are a dive club. LET'S GO DIVING!

For those who don't like online visits, I hope you'll start joining us for in-person activities in the near future. This Club will not work without your participation!

Cordially,  
Bill

## **Member Recognition**

By: Bill Werner

January Diver of the Month: **Ricardo Caivano** for being one of only a few divers on New Year's Day

January Member of the Month: **Ellen Garvey** for being instrumental in Zoom and Mailchimp

February Diver of the Month: **Ray Porter** for diving the Dog Bar in a wet suit

February Members of the Month: **Mary Howard** for being active in all Club activities

March Diver of the Month: **Daryl Findlay** for being our most active winter diver and promoter

March Members of the Month: **Vange and Vinny Egizi** for being very active in club activities and support

## **NSF Winter Dives (Followed by Hot Beverages!)**

By: Bill Werner

In 2021, the continuing year of COVID, we have held 3 dive events that included surface support. This support included providing propane heat post dive, hot food and beverage, and diving gear assistance where needed. Many years ago, the Club had members who used to provide this service routinely during the winter dive season.

As already documented in the last Air Bubbles, the New Year's Day dive and picnic was the 1<sup>st</sup> of these events.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> event was actually a rescheduled trip to the Dog Bar Breakwater in Gloucester to seek Nudibranchs. On February 21<sup>st</sup> a group of 5 Froggies met at the breakwater where 4 members suited up to dive. This was a chilly, windy day! Our attendees were: Mary, Ray, Daryl, Ricardo, and Bill. We set up a propane heater, table and stove. As the four divers: Ray, Daryl, Ricardo, and Bill suited up and prepared to dive, Mary was preparing to serve us hot clam chowder and hot chocolate post dive. While 3 of us were diving in drysuits, Ray was brave enough or foolish enough to dive in a wet suit. We were in the water for varying lengths of time but none of us spotted any nudibranchs. Daryl was trying out his new Paralenz video camera along with his usual SLR type camera. Daryl managed to get video of a sea raven. Bill was using his Olympus TG5 and found nothing of great interest to photograph. Visibility was okay and water temperature was about 35 degrees. This was warmer than the air temperature. Post dive, we enjoyed hot food and great company!

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> dive event, with surface support, was to Old Garden Beach on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Daryl and Bill were the divers and, once again, Mary and Ray provided much appreciated surface support with gear assistance and hot beverages post dive. Mary also used her surface time to collect a full bag of trash from the area. The day was sunny and cool, with air temperatures just below freezing. In the ocean, the visibility was great and the sea temperature was 37 degrees. Daryl and Bill both located a number of species of nudibranchs and barnacles to photograph. Daryl located fish. This was a very enjoyable dive. For those divers who are unaware, winter diving, while cold, offers a completely different perspective on New England marine life. Most of the fish and lobsters disappear and the nudibranchs make their appearance. An added bonus for Bill was the use of a battery powered heated shirt/vest for the first time. This was generously loaned by Daryl and made the dive much more comfortable for the second half. Thank you Daryl! Post dive, we all enjoyed hot soup and hot chocolate. So a huge shout out and thank you to Mary and Ray. They both pack and bring a stove, cups, utensils, and hot chocolate. Various members bring soup, chowder, or homemade chili (thanks Vinny and Vange for the chili).

The availability of hot provisions post dive is much appreciated and, hopefully, can become more common on our winter dives; as it was in the, relatively, distant past.

## Winter Dive at Dog Bar Breakwater in Gloucester – February 21<sup>st</sup>

Photos by: Mary Howard



Three hearty souls!



Ricardo, Bill, Ray, Alexine, and Daryl



Ricardo fully dressed;  
Ray almost naked!



I spy, Mary!"



"After-party!"

## Winter Dive at Old Garden Beach - March 14<sup>th</sup>

Photos by: Daryl Findlay and Bill Werner



## NSF Winter Hikes (Followed By Hot Beverages!)

### Hike #1 - Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge – January 17<sup>th</sup>

By: Bill Werner



On a chilly Sunday, 10 Froggies met up to hike in the wildlife refuge located within Stow, Hudson, Maynard, and Sudbury. Our group consisted of Mary, Ray, Vinny, Vange, Alexine, Amy, Judd, Ricardo, Daryl, and Bill. Historically this land was farmland before becoming part of Fort Devens during WW2. On many of the trails visitors pass concrete storage bunkers built during WW2 and serviced by a rail system. These bunkers are overgrown with trees after over 75 years.

Our hike was about 5.7 miles, along wide trails with little change in elevation...unless you climbed a bunker. We had no snow on the ground but there were a few wet areas and some people did get wet feet. However, our gallant Daryl piggybacked Vange over one particularly wet area. He didn't offer that service to anyone else...hmm. Fortunately, this was not a particularly cold day. Even though this is a wildlife refuge, we were not hiking at the right time



of year to see much of the life present in warmer seasons. Our hike did take us past many wetlands and we stopped at several spots around Puffer Pond for the views. There are two aluminum fishing piers built over the pond which provide great views. We did not see any significant bird activity and, of course, it was the wrong time of year for reptiles and amphibians. The wetlands are normally a great area to see beavers and their lodges, Great Blue Heron, Ospreys, Ducks, Geese, Swans, and many other bird species. We should have another hike now, in the spring, because the wetlands come alive at this time of year.



We did have an enjoyable hike and we all enjoyed the opportunity to socialize as we walked. After the hike, we had a picnic in the parking lot. We had Sam Adams and Mary and Ray came through once again by bringing a propane stove and providing hot beverages. The weather was perfect for a very enjoyable day. If you have read or skimmed this far, we do have additional hikes coming up as well as canoeing and kayaking...and even diving. I hope you'll consider joining us for at least some of these activities. With warmer weather, they will be followed by outdoor food and beverage.

### Hike #3 - Walk Along the Charles River – March 13<sup>th</sup>

Vange, Vinny, Ray, Mary, Mary's friend Dan, and long-time Froggies Patty DeClue and Linda Conners, enjoyed an invigorating walk through Boston and Cambridge. The walk along the Charles started at the Hatch Shell in Boston; continued across the Harvard Bridge (because we wanted to check out the number of "smoots," the humorous unit of length that used a MIT frat pledge's height to measure the length of the bridge - answer: 364.4 smoots plus one ear); traversed across the Longfellow Bridge and back over the Charles; and ended once again at the Hatch Shell in Boston. It was a chilly but brilliant day. Are the Froggies turning into a hiking club?



Please join us Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM  
at Bradley Palmer State Park in Topsfield for Hike #5!

## Hike #2 - Harold Parker State Forrest – February 28<sup>th</sup>

Ray planned a wonderful late-winter hike for Mary, Bill, Ricardo, Virginia, Daryl, Vange, Vinny, Alexine, Judd, and Amy at Harold Parker State Forrest, located in Andover, complete with individual maps! After the three mile trek through the woods, Ray and Mary invited the group back to their (nearby) yard for a warm fire, hotdogs, and some of Vinny's famous chili, where they were joined by Susan, Dodie, and Ron! Good times!



## Hike #4 - Plum Island, Ipswich - 3/21/21

It was a picture perfect day. Some of us paid the \$5 parking fee (some of us pledged to donate later). Some of us arrived really early (one of us arrived late). Some of us bird-watched (and saw common golden-eye ducks, red breasted merganser, brant geese, and more). But all of us, Daryl, Bill, Mary, Ray, Amy, Judd, Susan, Vange, and Vinny watched a daredevil stunt plane from the nearby airport and all of us walked on the pristine beach. Some of us ended up at Riverwalk Brewery in Newbury and some of us took lots of photos (thanks for the beautiful pictures, Daryl and Vinny). FUN FACT: Plum Island is a part of Rowley, Ipswich, Newbury, and Newburyport.

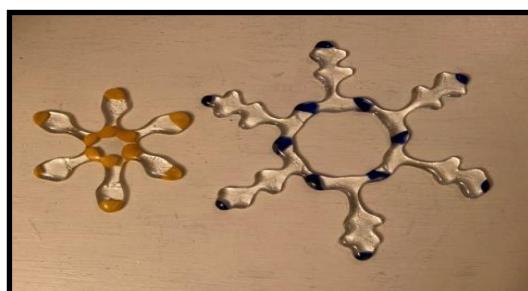


# Blowing and Fusing

By: Dylan Langolier

The Froggies had a wonderful time visiting Diablo Glass School (123 Terrace Street) in Boston on March 13<sup>th</sup>. We were graciously hosted by fellow Froggie AND Diablo Glass School instructor Ellen Garvey, with assistance by Ken. We were split into two groups, Ray, Bill, and I made paperweights in the kiln (or as Vinny says made “glass blobs”) and Vange, Vinny, Mary, and Mary’s friend Dan made snowflakes by cutting and fusing glass. As a first-timer participating in the hot glass work class, I was intimidated, to say the least, seeing the furnaces and were incredibly HOT, and stored the molten glass (and run 24/7 365).

The experience was a GREAT one and highly recommended! Afterwards, we were treated to a professional glass blowing demonstration by Ellen and Ken, where a vase was created. We also enjoyed Mary’s oatmeal raisin cookies! Then Vinny, Vange, Dylan, and Bill went to Brenan Behan Pub in Jamaica Plain to relax.



## A Celebrity In Our Midst

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, our own Ellen Garvey was interviewed by Chronicle's Shayna Seymour about glass blowing and Diablo Glass School, a subject Ellen knows very well. Ellen was awesome! She talked about her craft and helped Shayna make a paperweight.



### **Reef.org Book Club - Soul of an Octopus – March 11<sup>th</sup>**

By: Dodie Carvalho

In January, I was driving to Vermont and listening to public radio, in the car when there was a book review of The Soul of an Octopus by Sy Montgomery. The discussion about an octopus's ability to communicate and move was fascinating. I've only seen one octopus in West Palm Beach **many** years ago when learning to dive. The idea of their possession of intelligence fascinated me and I was determined to read the book.

Shortly thereafter, Susan Copelas told me that Reef.org was having a virtual book club discussing this book, and she invited me for a BBQ and to join her on March 4<sup>th</sup> to attend Reef's discussion of the book. I have to say I'm not a great reader, but I absolutely couldn't put the book down. The knowledge I learned about the lives of octopuses, and their ability to communicate and befriend humans was fascinating.

The Zoom meeting was sponsored by Reef.org and only required your free membership to attend. There were about 75 people tuned in. At the beginning of the meeting the author, Sy Montgomery, a native of NH, talked about her development of a love for octopuses. She also answered questions about her other books on certain animals she befriended from around the world. Sy is a wonderful speaker and I felt her part in the evening was far too short. We subsequently broke into small groups to discuss details of the book.

The Soul of an Octopus shares Sy's wonderful experiences at the New England Aquarium. She made many close friends with the animals as well as with the employees, the vast majority of whom are volunteers. Her discussion about the refurbishing of Boston's aquarium was fascinating as she described what it was like moving the animals' from their homes to their new surroundings; their frequently attempted, and sometimes successful escapes from their tanks; and the goals achieved in their new habitats, which can now be viewed as a visitor.

Her greatest love was for the octopuses. She was so enamored by their intelligence that she subsequently learned to scuba dive, in order to observe these amazing creatures in their natural habitats, while on a trip with the Aquarium to Cozumel. When she was there, she also met Jan Nadeau, a fellow Froggie, who was also on the trip. Sy shared her problems with ear equalization and movement as a diver, and then her great ecstasy when she saw octopuses in their own environment, including witnessing mating rituals.

As a Club we have gone to the Aquarium (following dim sum in Chinatown). I am really looking forward to doing that again, this time with more focus on the octopus tanks and meeting some of Sy's octopus friends. Let's do it, Froggies! And read the book - you'll love it!

# Meeting Minutes Summaries

By: Dylan Langolier

## January 14, 2021 (virtual meeting)

ATTENDANCE: 4 officers, 9 members. DISCUSSION: Recent outing to Diablo Glass School.

## January 21, 2021 (virtual meeting)

ATTENDANCE: 3 officers, 7 BOD members, 6 members. DISCUSSION: 1) Lynn Funkhauser presentation on February 11<sup>th</sup>. 2) Re-registering the club as a non-profit? 3) Glass blowing and glass fusion workshop at Diablo Glass School on March 13<sup>th</sup>. PRESENTATION: “Science Hour” talk by Dr. Vincent Pieribone, of Ocean X. The discussion was about the Adventures of Ocean X and the future of ocean science.

## January 28, 2021- (photo society - no meeting)

## February 4, 2020 (virtual business meeting)

ATTENDANCE: 4 officers, 5 BOD members, 10 members. DISCUSSION: 1) “Science Talk” and should the club joining more zoom/events with other clubs in those areas? 2) Mary gave updates on the Bay State Council meeting. There is a federal suit from town of Rockport regarding the “Back Beach” neighborhood and parking, and wanting to restrict divers’ access to the shoreline in that neighborhood. 3) Bill W. is planning a hike at Eastern Point Lighthouse on February 7<sup>th</sup>. 4) Easter Egg dive on May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Beverly (hosted by Vinny and Vange). 5) May 15<sup>th</sup> St. Patty’s Day party is being at Ray and Mary’s.



## February 11, 2020 (virtual meeting)

PRESENTATION: Lynn Funkhauser on the Yukaton.

## Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> (virtual business meeting)

## February 25<sup>th</sup> (photo society – no meeting)

## March 4<sup>th</sup> (virtual business meeting)

PRESENTATION: Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute

## March 11<sup>th</sup> – (virtual meeting)

## March 18<sup>th</sup> – (virtual meeting)

## March 25<sup>th</sup> – (photo society – no meeting)



## St. Patrick’s Day on May 15<sup>th</sup>

**1:00 PM – 5:00 PM (weather permitting)**

Because of the pandemic, we did not celebrate St. Patrick’s Day as a Club in 2020 AND we have not celebrated it yet in 2021. We plan to host an out-door party at our house in Reading. We will provide corned beef, potatoes, carrots, and cabbage. **Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.**

Please bring a chair (and a side table if you have one) and can transport easily.

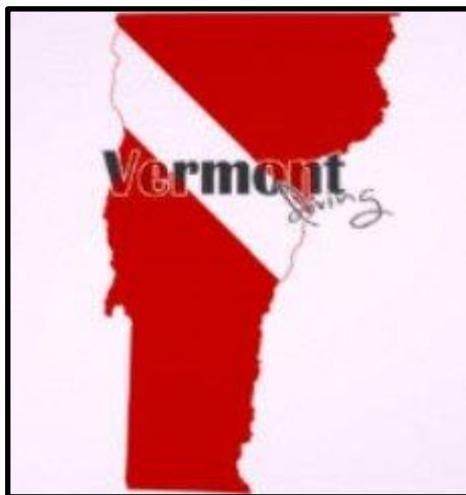
If you need the address, please email [m.m.howard@comcast.net](mailto:m.m.howard@comcast.net).

*Ray and Mary*

# **2021 NSF VT DIVE WEEK**

July 24<sup>th</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>

(Saturday to Saturday)



The planning for this year's NSF VT DIVE WEEK has begun!! Please plan on spending some, or the whole week, with us at Annette's' house in Rockingham, VT (just north of Brattleboro and just south of Harpoon Brewery). This annual event has a bit of everything for Froggies, Family, and Friends of the North Shore Frogmen, including freshwater diving (rivers and lakes), kayaking, great food, evening campfires while watching the stars, satellites, and at times the ISS (International Space Station), treasure hunting, and of course socializing with each other!! COVID will dictate the slight possibility for event cancellation, but as of now, we (and Annette) are planning on the event.

## **Schedule of Events for the Week:**

### **Saturday July 24<sup>th</sup> - Arrival Day**

Pack your car, take a leisurely Saturday drive, and set up camp.

There is plenty of land on Annette's property to pitch a tent or park a camper.  
(You can also make other lodging arrangements.)

### **Sunday July 25<sup>th</sup> - Friday July 30<sup>th</sup>**

Diving, Kayaking, etc.

The actual, daily schedule will be set up as we get closer to the event.

### **Saturday July 31<sup>st</sup> - Departure Day**

(Some may kayak before leaving.)

## **RSVP**

You may come for all or any part of the week.

To help us plan the dive sites, food required, and other details, please RSVP to *Vinny Egizi* (*Vinnymass@yahoo.com*) as soon as you can. *Include the days you plan on attending (arrival date and departure date) and estimated times.*



Dive The World Adventures

# Dive the Maldives

Aboard the Manthiri  
With Susan Copelas as your Guide  
February 16 to 25, 2023

Boat Package Includes:

Airport transfers in Male

10 Days/9 Nights aboard the Manthiri based on double occupancy, **2/16/23 to 2/25/23**

Approximately 4 dives per day, or 3 day dives and 1 night dive, for 8 1/2 days - approx 34 dives

Meals, bottled water, juices, coffee, and tea (alcoholic and soft drinks are for sale and reasonably-priced)

Tanks and weight belts

\$6 per day green and 12% food/services taxes

Additional Costs:

Airfare

1 Night at the Hulhule Hotel based on double occupancy with airport transfers (\$195 at this time)

Day room at the Hulhule Hotel based on dbl occupancy with airport transfers (if needed)

Nitrox, crew gratuity, soda, beer, wine, hard liquor, meals in transit, DAN & trip insurance

**Package Prices**

**Maldives Transfers & Boat Package \$4499 (Airfare and hotel are not included in price)**

**Hulhule Hotel (suggested) 1 Night (dbl occupancy) \$195 (Est, 2023 prices not available)**

**Trip Insurance Highly Recommended**

**Airfare: Approx. \$1200 (Exact Price available 11 months prior to departure)**

Pricing is based on double occupancy. Non-refundable unless spot is sold

Prices may increase or decrease slightly due to fuel surcharges, taxes, etc.

**Initial Deposit: \$500.00 upon signup \$2500 due June 1, 2022 balance \$1499 Oct 2022. Monthly payment plan available email Susan Copelas....copelas@gmail.com if interested**

## Upcoming Events

By: Ray Porter



In addition to the regular Sunday NSF Dives, the following events are open to Club Members:

Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> - **NSF Hike at Bradley Palmer State Park** (Changed from the 18<sup>th</sup>)

Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> - **Regular Sunday Dive** for those not too tired from the hike. Nudibranchs are still out and Ocean and air temps are warming.

Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup> - **Annual Beach Cleanup** - Both above and below water clean-up options are available. Site to be determined

Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> - **Annual Easter Egg Dive** - A great way to get a jump on the summer dive season. See NSF Facebook or Website calendar for details

Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> - **Spring Hike** - Another alternative to the NSF Sunday Dive. Details to be provided

Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> - **St. Patrick's Day in May** - This is the much delayed St. Patrick's Day event, to be held outside. Toast the dead relatives and past club members. Bring something to share

Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> - **Peabody Essex Museum** - See the special Exhibit on Ship Wrecks

Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> - **New England Aquarium Outing** - the NEAQ is open to visitors and groups. Join us to support this great aquatic experience

Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup> - **Maine Dive Trip** - Travel with the NSF Club to Portland, ME for a diving adventure.

Canoe and Kayak Excursion to be added in the near future - stay tuned!

### 2021 Dues Are Due Now!

A new Buddy List will be going out soon. The list will include, and be sent, to those members who are “in good standing” (whose dues are paid).

Dues can be paid by check to North Shore Frogmen’s Club, PO Box 3604, Peabody, MA 01960 or by using PayPal via the Club’s website membership page (<http://www.northshorefrogmen.com/membership.php>) , plus a \$1 service fee.

### The North Shore Frogmen’s Club

currently has virtual meetings and presentations, via Zoom, every Thursday, except the last Thursday of the month. Meetings begin at 7:30PM. There are also occasional, outdoor, social events and weekly Sunday dives. Contact [officers@northshorefrogmen.com](mailto:officers@northshorefrogmen.com) for more info.



### Next Air Bubbles – July 15<sup>th</sup>

Please submit newsworthy items by June 30<sup>th</sup> to Vange Egizi at [vangiemannagain@yahoo.com](mailto:vangiemannagain@yahoo.com).