



Air Bubbles



The Newsletter of the North Shore Frogmen's Club

January 2022

President's Message

By: Dylan Langelier

It is such an honor to be writing my FIRST President's Message to all the Froggies (adopted family for many of us)! We "made" it to 2022, and I wish only positive things to come this year, after the past two we have endured. Endured yes, and in many ways prevailed, thanks to ALL of you! I take this responsibility of doing my part in helping guide the club with the utmost respect for the past Presidents who helped keep this club going for the past 64 plus years successfully, while also looking towards and challenging the future growth of the club. I can only hope that when reflecting next year that it will be filled with more celebrations, club events, new members, a lot of time under the water diving and MOST IMPORTANTLY good health and wellbeing for all!

In my brief tenure as President, we held two time-honored events. We kicked off January with our annual New Year's Day Dive and given the challenging weather we had, it was a good turnout AND even included some new faces and hopefully future members of the club. Most importantly we kept the tradition running strong, with Daryl Findlay and Jack Munro earning longest-running, consecutive New Year's Day Dive honors (Jack says that Daryl is winning the friendly competition)! In December, we held another treasured tradition, the annual Froggie Pizza Party which was held at the Onion Town Grill in Danvers, MA (our current and welcomed club home). The pizza, drinks, atmosphere, Yankee Swap, and most importantly the amazing people made the night!

Now onto the year ahead, starting with the annual Planning Meeting to schedule the Calendar of Events, graciously being hosted by the Egizis (THANK YOU Vinny and Vange!) on Saturday January 15th. So, keep your eyes peeled for announcements of hopefully many fun events to come over 2022. To the greater club audience, as this planning is about all of us and your input is valued, if you have suggestions for events/topics that interest you please email me at President@NorthShoreFrogmen.com before January 15th to be added to the list of potential events that will be scheduled. That said, I genuinely want to hear from you all throughout the year so please reach out early and often as that I believe is the founding principles of a successful club (at least in my eyes).

I want to end this message with a request, I would like to see continued understanding and support of all our differing viewpoints and I challenge each of US to always strive to DO BETTER. This is a club that truly has become an extended family to me (in only three short years) and like any family (mine included) we will disagree with one another on topics across the board. Like my bio-extended-family being from Buffalo, NY and me from New England with the Patriots and Bills "rivalry" (I cannot tell you how many years my uncle would say "this is the Bills year" only to lose in spectacular fashion taking their place underneath the Patriots in the standings). This will be "hopefully" the only time mentioned.

Now onto 2022!

Member Recognition

By: Dylan Langelier

December Diver of the Month - Daryl Findlay

Daryl, a constant die-hard Froggie, consistently showing up EVERY Sunday to be a true steward of the club, always willing to give a helping hand, wealth of knowledge always working to perfect the craft of diving and underwater photography AND always finding cool new gadgets to take underwater.

December Member of the Month - Bill Werner,

Bill, the outgoing President guiding the club through another COVID year with calmness and dry humor. Bill has always stepped up to help in any way needed to keep the club going. I know that Bill cares a lot about the environment and the term “sustainability” means so much to those causes near and dear to Bill’s, and many of our own, hearts. That said, Bill wears that sustainability mindset on his sleeve and even continued to pay his dues (among other contributions) all while being an officer exempt from paying dues. Thank you, Bill, for all you do and for always being a supportive advisor and sounding board for my ideas!

Froggies Have Been Busy...

Thursday Night Meetings at Onion Town Grill



Ancient Caves Movie – October 30th

Froggies had a fun field trip in Boston, going to the Imax Theater at the New England Aquarium in Boston.



President's Banquet – December 4th

Donned in tropical-wear, Froggies enjoyed an evening of Fellowship, Mexican food, and 2021 Membership Recognition. Member of the Year was the team of Vange and Vinny Egizi and Diver of the Year was a tie between Susan Copelas and Daryl Findlay.



MONTH

December 2020
January 2021
February 2021
March 2021
April 2021
May 2021
June 2021
July 2021
August 2021
September 2021
October 2021
November 2021

MEMBER OF MONTH

Susan Copelas
Ellen Garvey
Mary Howard
Vinny & Vange Egizi
Alexine Ranieri
Ray Porter
Daryl Findley
Vinny Egizi
Annette Spaulding
Dylan Langelier
Ray & Mary Howard
Vange Egizi

DIVER OF MONTH

Susan Copelas
Daryl Findlay
Ray Porter
Ricardo Caivano
Daryl Findley
Adam Hartnett
Vinny Egizi
Dylan Langelier
Annette Spaulding
Mary Howard
Alexine Ranieri
Tim Waryas





Officer Turnover – December 9th

Out with the old, in with the new! Farewell and thank you 2021 Officers: Bill Werner - President, Ray Porter - Vice President, Mary Howard - Treasurer, and Dylan Langelier - Secretary. Hello and good luck 2022 Officers: Dylan Langelier - President, Ray Porter - Vice President, Mary Howard – Treasurer, and Vinny Egizi – Secretary.



Pizza Party – October 30th

By: Vinny Egizi

The 2021 Annual Pizza party was a huge success. President, Dylan Langelier, was able to reserve the function room at the Onion Town Grill, where a variety of amazing pizzas were prepared: Buffalo chicken, Margherita, Mushroom, Sausage, Cheese, yummmmm. Twenty-three people attended the event including: four officers, sixteen froggies, and three family members. Fifteen people brought a gift and participated in the Yankee Swap and there were three winners in the dollars box, general, and mystery prize raffles. Ellen Garvey won the dollars box, John Sears won the mystery prize, and Vinny Egizi won the general raffle, a 99 Restaurant gift card, which Ray promptly gave to Vange, her favorite restaurant! The only part missing was John Marren, who was still recovering from his recent ankle surgery...get well soon, John, and hurry back to Froggie events!



New Year's Dive & Party – January 1st

Despite the rainy weather, it was a great event and approximately 15 showed up to Stage Fort Park, including two prospective new members! Five hearty souls went in! The group stayed warm with hot chowder, hot chocolate and of course Alexine's fantastic baking!



How Two Friends Helped Crack a 39-Year-Old Cold Case Involving a Missing Teenager from Chelmsford

Article by Emily Sweeney appeared in The Boston Globe on November 12, 2021

Submitted to Air Bubbles by Hans Hug

The recent discovery of an old car in the Concord River is helping to solve the mystery of a Chelmsford teen who went missing in 1982.

Hans Hug: "It was very gratifying to help the family who is still shattered after nearly 40 years, but my work on their behalf took the edge off it. At least they can bury her now."

When Hans Hug and Bruce Stebbins began searching along the bottom of the Concord River in August, they weren't sure what they'd find. "We had no idea," said Hug. Hug, 67, of Exeter, N.H., owns Sonar Search & Recovery, a business that specializes in underwater search and recovery operations. Stebbins lives in Billerica and has a remotely operated vehicle (known as an ROV). Together, on August 21 the pair set out on the river on a boat with the hopes of finding the car that was once driven by Judy Chartier, a 17-year-old Chelmsford resident who went missing in 1982.

Using side scan sonar equipment made by EdgeTech, a company based in West Wareham, they were able to detect several potential targets to check out. Hug described the technology, which uses sound to create three-dimensional images of objects underwater, as "ultrasound on steroids." Working independently, Hug and Stebbins scanned a 2½-mile stretch of the Concord River, from Lowell into Billerica.

Hug dropped a device known as a towfish down into the water, and they towed it behind the boat while Hug watched the images of submerged objects appear on his laptop. They did this for "the complete width of the river," said Hug. "I'm watching in real time everything the towfish goes over," he said. "In fact, we found the car that day." One of the images they saw at the bottom of the Concord River would later turn out to be the 1972 Dodge Dart Swinger that Chartier was driving on June 5, 1982, the date she disappeared. Friends said they last saw the 17-year-old around 2AM. leaving a party in Billerica. Hug said the car first appeared as a "rectangular anomaly" about 30 feet from the embankment of the river.

At that time, "I could not say positively it was a car," he said.

This view from Hans Hug's laptop shows an example of what a submerged vehicle looks like underwater from Hug's sonar. (This is not Judy Chartier's Dodge, it's a different vehicle.) Hug and Stebbins met in 2020 and became fast friends due to their shared interest in underwater exploration. Stebbins was familiar with the Chartier case, and had a hunch that her car might have disappeared into water near the party in Billerica where she was last seen alive. Hug said Stebbins later mentioned their mission to a Billerica police sergeant, who in turn informed Chelmsford police. Hug said on Oct. 1 he and Stebbins met with a Chelmsford police detective and explained what they were looking for, and the police gave them the green light to continue their search. They then returned to the Concord River to get a closer look at their submerged targets. Using Stebbins's ROV, which Hug describes as a "swimming robot," they were able to positively identify one of their targets as a 1970s Dodge. The first thing they saw was the round headlights. "The minute we knew we had a car, we were really excited," said Hug. "That's a classic 1970s headlight." Upon further inspection, they could see the word "Dodge" embossed on the hubcaps. Then they saw other aspects of the design matched the description of a 1970s Dodge Dart. "This car was in really rough shape," said Hug. "But it said Dodge on the hubcaps. We knew we had a car...we knew we had a Dodge Dart. We looked at each other in astonishment, and were like, 'No way!'"

Hug, an experienced scuba diver, then returned to the river and went into the water to get a closer look at the vehicle himself. “The visibility was anywhere to zero to three feet,” he said. “Absolutely brutal.” He said there was milfoil, an invasive type of aquatic plant, that was about four feet long growing in the back seat of the Dodge. “The car itself was a mess,” said Hug. Hug was extremely careful not to disturb anything underwater, in order to preserve any evidence from what could be a decades-old crime scene. Hug said the location where the car was found was not far from the party that Chartier attended when she vanished in 1982. Hug said he and Stebbins informed the State Police of their findings, “and the rest is history.” “It was a bittersweet find,” Hug said. “We experienced major excitement ... mixed with sadness. Because we thought, ‘Yes it’s probably Judy’s.’”

On Nov. 2, Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan announced that the 1972 Dodge Dart Swinger was recovered and confirmed to be Chartier’s. During a subsequent search of the same area, police divers were able to recover human remains and personal items. Ryan thanked Stebbins and Hug for their efforts, which helped crack a case that had stymied local law enforcement for decades. “As we remain focused on uncharged cases in Middlesex County, we are thinking creatively about both traditional law enforcement tools and non-traditional partnerships,” Ryan said in a statement. “In this case we are extremely grateful for the work of Hans and Bruce who helped us to locate Judy Chartier and her car after nearly four decades.”

Treasurer’s Report

By: Mary Howard

Members who would like to remain on the Mailing List need to renew their dues now. Dues can be brought to a meeting; mailed via check to the Club PO box @ PO Box 3604, Peabody, MA 01960; or paid via the PayPal link on the website. Regular dues for a single membership is \$42 per person (\$52 with BSC membership). Paying dues by PayPal increases payment by \$1 to \$43/\$53 per person. Regular dues for a couple membership (by cash or check) is \$63 per couple. You can do the math for the rest. Regular dues for an associate membership (by cash or check) is \$21 per person.

FYI - The Bay State Council of Divers (BSC) increased their dues, after many, many years, from \$5 to \$10 and that is reflected on the PayPal app.

Secretary’s Minutes

By: Vinny Egizi

December 16, 2021

Meeting Start Time: 7:12 PM

Meeting End Time: 8:35 PM

Attendance:

- Officers: 4
- Members: 4
- Guests: 0

Presidents Opening Remarks:

- Bill talked about COVID variants and vaccine types

Dive Talk:

- Susan has been doing trips
- Andrea has been diving
- Dylan asked if we could dive this time of year in a wet suit
- Discussed methods of staying warm

- Dylan purchased a changing tent which we can use during winter dives
- Discussed diving after surgery and protecting stitches
- Discussion whether ocean water will help the healing process
- Shall we plan a dive trip for the club?

Secretary's Report:

- Dec 2nd Saturday meeting minutes read and accepted

Treasurer's Report:

- We have money
- Banquet budget is being finalized

Membership Committee:

- Only a few dues paid so far. Will continue to collect in 2022.
- Discussion regarding our active member list (about 70+ members)
- 30+ paid members
- Mailchimp administration shall remain with Bill W and Mary H

Program Committee:

- Will set up programs during planning meeting

Newsletter Committee:

- Air Bubbles articles are due by Dec 31st
- Dylan to do the President's Message (including MOM and DOM)

IT Committee: None

Correspondence:

- RSVP for Pizza party to be sent out
- Also include deadline for Air Bubbles

Old Business:

- Pizza Party – Dec 30th
- Need sign up to plan for pizza amount
- Yankee Swap planning to be done

New Year's Day Dive

- Dodie's house for party
- Need to plan location based on access, tides, and weather
- Need to send out dive

Banquet:

- MOY and DOY gifts given out (canvas bags)

New Business:

- Official turnover of officers
- Dylan President, Ray Vice President, Mary Treasurer, Vinny Secretary
- BOD creation
 - 4 officers, Bill W, and Susan C for a total of 6
 - Two open spots which may be filled
 - Ask Daryl F
 - One other possible selection
- Dylan gave his opening speech and expressed his excitement about being the President
- Possible hike on Jan 8th
- Jan 15th Planning Meeting
 - Meeting at Vinny and Vange's house at Noon
 - Possible BOD meeting prior to the meeting at 10:00 am
 - Vinny to send MailChimp message out regarding all upcoming events
- Discussion about getting the raffles back in 2022

General Discussion:

- Discussed fun 2021 VT Trip and fun activities
- Raffle:
- Discussion about getting the raffles back or accumulating dollars box
- Winner of Dollars Box – Mike Denneler

December 30, 2021 (Pizza Party)

Meeting Start Time: 6:54 PM

Meeting End Time: 9:00 PM

Attendance:

- Officers: 4
- Members: 16
- Guests 3

New Business:

- Annual Pizza Party in lieu of regular meeting
 - Yankee Swap
 - Raffle:
 - Dollars Box - Ellen Garvey
 - Mystery Prize – John Sears
 - General Raffle – Vinny Egizi

The North Shore Frogmen's Club

has business meetings and presentations every Thursday, except the last Thursday of the month, at Onion Town Grill, 175 Water St., Danvers. Meetings begin at 7:00PM (dinner option at 6:00 PM). There are also social events and weekly Sunday dives!



Air Bubbles

The next edition of Air Bubbles will come out on April 15th. If you would like to submit an article, please email it to Vange Egizi at vangiemassagain@yahoo.com by March 30th.