

Soundings Newsletter

Massachusetts' Oldest Dive Club



South Shore Neptunes Member Aids in Medical Relief Efforts in Haiti

South Shore Neptunes Member, Lt. Col. David E. Rodberg, is assisting in medical evacuation efforts in earthquake ravaged Haiti. David is the brother of Karen Correnti. He is a medical crew director with the 94th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. As reported in the January 25, 2010 edition of the MacDill AFB newspaper, *Inside MacDill AFB*, "This particular AE mission, spanning the evening of Jan. 22 to the morning of the 23, was one of the largest and most complicated ever flown in a C-130. "It was the most complex AE I've ever done," said Lt. Col. David E. Rodberg, medical crew director, 94th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. "Unlike in a combat situation with standard gunshot wounds and blast injuries we are

dealing with crush injuries. On this flight we had depressed-skull fractures, burns, spinal cord injuries, amputations, not to mention neo-natal care." Lt. Col. Rodberg went on to say "I'm so proud to be a part of this mission. My team was outstanding. The crew up front, flying the plane, was wonderful, one of the best we've ever had," Colonel Rodberg said." Well from all of us at the South Shore Neptunes we are proud of your efforts David and those of your team. The Neptunes are also proud of all the men and women in the military who have served and are serving our country with distinction and honor. For the full article go to: <http://www.macdill.af.mil/story.asp?id=123167051>

President's Message



Well it is hard to believe that we are already in March. Soon we will be looking to launch our boats and really get back into the swing of diving. While waiting for spring, I had the fortune of being able to take a trip to Australia in February, fortunate that my company paid the bill. On that trip I met up with a fellow diver, Dave Thomas, of EcoDivers. EcoDivers is an organization in Sydney focused on environmental conservation and marine research. They are involved in many projects which we, although as a volunteer organization, are interested in pursuing. I was able to talk extensively with Dave about his experiences in developing successful projects. He had some great pointers. First, in choosing a clean up project we should choose a location and focus our efforts on that location. Don't look to do too much in a short period of time. Choose something manageable.

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South Shore Neptunes Clean Up Site Adoption

At our third Tuesday meeting in January we laid out our dive calendar for the year. You can see the calendar on our webpage, www.southshoreneptunes.com.

Also, in both January and February at our regular and board meetings we discussed our 2010 mission.

- **To support the club goal of promoting diving by engaging in underwater exploration, research and conservation**
- **To engage the membership in volunteer opportunities in support of environmental support activities**
- **To identify and engage with other organizations and the public in support of similar activities**
- **To promote expanding membership by identifying and recruiting members with interests in scuba diving and environmental conservation activities.**

As mentioned in the President's Message this month, we plan on participating in the 2010 COAST-SWEEP effort, which is part of the International Coastal Clean Up. (See the February issue of *Soundings*.) One of the key items we need to do is to select a site in or around Boston Harbor to focus our clean up efforts. As a club we should have a consensus on the site. We could choose a Boston Harbor Island, a local beach, harbor, or river as our "adopted site". Members may have an interest in certain locations and should submit suggestions to any board member or officer of the club. Our goal is to select a site in April and begin working with all necessary parties, e.g. the National Park Service, appropriate law enforcement agencies, and other organizations, in order to identify any permit issues and to obtain all the required permissions

in advance of our clean up efforts. We will select one site on which to focus our efforts. Please submit your suggestions as soon as possible either at a club meeting or directly to one of the club board members or officers.

Once the site is selected, we will identify dive dates, either currently planned dives or newly scheduled dives, to document the site's condition and prepare our clean up plan. The clean up plan will in all likelihood involve multiple dives as well as possibly beach clean up efforts. The goal is to publish the clean up plan and related dive schedules in our May issue of *Soundings*.

Neptunes Bonu\$ Buck\$

In May 2007, we launched an annual raffle called, *Neptunes Bonu\$ Buck\$*. For a mere one dollar per ticket, anyone could purchase as many tickets as they desired throughout the year. The culmination of this year long raffle would occur during the *Annual Awards Banquet*. If the winner was not at the *Banquet*, s/he would receive 50% of the monies collected, but if the winner was present, s/he would receive 75% of the monies collected. The remaining monies collected would go directly into the *Club Treasury*. At our 2007 Annual Awards Banquet, our first *Neptunes Bonu\$ Buck\$* winner was Vic Benson! The following year, Fred Goforth went home as the big raffle winner. At our recent 2009 Annual Banquet, the winner of our third *Neptunes Bonu\$ Buck\$* was Teresa Czerepica!

Congratulations Teresa!

Many thanks to everyone who purchased a ticket which helped make *Neptunes Bonu\$ Buck\$* a

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Second, document what we do. Take videos or pictures before our clean up effort begins and continue that documentation as we go. In other words, document our progress and most importantly our success. Third, publicize what we do. Use our video and or pictures to involve the public whether that is through press releases or simply sharing our pictures and stories with others. For example asking the local dive shops to post our pictures and stories at their shops. I plan to reach out to the Urban Harbor Institute and the National Park Service about locations in Boston Harbor where we can focus our efforts. The plan over 2010 would be to choose a site, conduct some exploratory dives where we can document our starting point. We can conduct preliminary clean up dives over the course of the summer with the culmination being the COAST SWEEP clean up day in September. I am very hopeful that we can involve as many members as possible in our efforts this year. Our efforts will require divers as well as members on shore - whether that is through participation in a beach clean up or by assisting in the cataloguing of what we collect. So this will be a broad based effort. Plan on coming to assist in these efforts and we can make it a family affair. There will be plenty for all to do. There will be more articles in this and upcoming issues of *Soundings* that will describe our efforts and hopefully our successes.

(continued from Bonu\$ Bucks)

club success! We hope you had fun, and will join us again for the 2010 raffle!

March 9 Board Meeting Minutes

Vice President Rich Bowers introduced a contingent of grad students from U Mass Boston involved in the Coastal Sweep program. Coastal Sweep organizes cleanups at sites along the Massachusetts coast, and we volunteered the club's services to sponsor a site cleanup. As a Coastal Sweep sponsor, the club will elect a cleanup site, will obtain the necessary agency approvals to perform the cleanup, and will perform the cleanup. The U Mass students are not yet certified, but they are interested in getting their diver certifications and showed interest in joining the club.

Spectacle Island was suggested as a possible site for our Coastal Sweep cleanup site. However, the Island was used as a dump site years ago and it is likely that some of the trash in the waters around the Island may be hazardous and difficult to dispose of. President Steve Marshall will contact the appropriate authorities to determine if this is a feasible project.

John Pell, a member of the Membership Committee, presented a letter he composed that club members can give to non-member divers we meet that might be interested in becoming a Neptune. The letter introduces the presenter as a member of the South Shore Neptunes, and goes on to describe the club and its members, the types of diving we do, where we are located and lists the club website as a source of more information. The board reviewed the letter and agreed that it would be a good tool to bring in new members. The board agreed that the letter should be presented to the general membership at the next Regular meeting for their approval.

April 6 Meeting Minutes

The April 6th Regular Meeting was held at the Quincy Yacht Club. The Neptunes will be using the Members Meeting Room at Quincy Yacht Club as temporary meeting location for the month of April. Work has already begun cleaning up the South Shore Neptunes Clubhouse after the two March rain storms flooded the clubhouse basement. Power has been restored and we are in the process of drying out the building and those items that could be salvaged. The printer, TV, VCR, DVD player, the dehumidifier, the microwave and the coffee maker could not be salvaged and will have to be replaced. The plan is to wash the place down and repaint the basement floor before we move back in.

President Steve Marshall offered his thanks to John Blackadar, Tom Curran, Joe McAndrew and Rich Bowers for their help in the initial stages of the clubhouse cleanup.

President Steve Marshall reported that the club officers met with Competition Director Roy Chamberlain to plan competitions for the 2010 season. They developed a plan for two family friendly, theme competitions that members and their entire family can participate. The first would be held early in the season and would have a spring time theme, something like an egg hunt. The second would be held later in the season and would have a Halloween theme, something like find a "Roy's head" hunt. Prizes will be awarded for the winners, and families will be encouraged to bring a grill, pack a lunch and spend the day. Dates for the competitions will be announced in the newsletter.

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President Steve Marshall reported his progress on the Coastal Sweep Project. Steve reported that our plan to do an underwater cleanup around Spectacle Island was not well received by Bruce Jacobson Superintendent of the Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Board. The island was used as a dump years ago, and he is concerned that there may be hazardous materials in the waters around the island that would be difficult to dispose of if we brought them up. It looks like we will have to choose another site for a cleanup.

Vice President Rich Bowers reported on this year's Beneath the Seas Show in New York. Rich reported that the representatives from dive travel agencies and tech diving gear manufacturers were there in force, manning the largest booths. The major diver certification agencies were also represented, but they were manning much smaller booths (a reflection on the current state of the economy). Rich also reported that he exchanged contact information with a New York agency that works to preserve NY diver's rights much like our own Bay State Council. In between all this networking Rich manage to fit in a presentation on shark diving.

Vice President Rich Bowers initiated a discussion about how the club should be using its Twitter, Face Book and Website media tools. All agreed that Twitter would be best used to provide daily updates on what we are doing, dives, dinner nights out. The Face Book medium would be best used for general discussion of dive related topics, including upcoming events, dive site and dive gear recommendations, and photograph exchanges. The Website medium would be best used to

provide the diving public with information about the South Shore Neptunes, including a description of who we are, information on how to contact us, listings of club rules, bylaws and membership application forms, schedules on planned club dives and events, and possibly a dive forum for in-depth discussion of best and worst dive sites, dive gear alerts and recommendations, etc.

Dale Freeman, owner of Triton Marine Services and a former Navy diver, discussed some of the more recent commercial diving projects he has been working on. He is currently working on a project to run a water line out from Hull to Georges Island. Dale's presentations are always stimulating and informative.

Tanks For Cash

The South Shore Neptunes is asking for your help to support the club. The Neptunes have started a recycling program for your old aluminum and steel tanks. This is a perfect opportunity for you to help out the club by donating your old tanks today!!!

Bring by your old tanks to the Neptunes Club House any one of the first three Tuesday's of any month during normal meeting times. If for some medical reason you cannot get to the Neptunes we will come to you! All you need to do is call 508.591.0006 to arrange a pickup.

We need your help to keep the club alive. Every little bit helps! Donate your tanks today!!

CALENDAR

Apr 17 Foxwoods Trip

Apr 20 Bring your knives to the Club House for sharp Steele

Apr 20 Newsletter articles due

Apr 25 Non Point Dive Brant Rock Meet in Brant Rock 0900

May 02 Rain or Shine Dive equipment sale or swap

May 15-16 DUI Dog Days

May 16 Point Dive Stage Fort Park Meet at Friendly's 0830

May 20 Articles for Newsletter articles due

May 22 Stephen Marshall's pool opening party

May 30 Non Point Dive Location to be announced

NEW ENGLAND STYLE CLAM CHOWDER

- 1 can 51 oz chopped clams
- 4 slices hickory smoked bacon, minced
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp flour
- 4 med potatoes, peeled & diced
- 3 cups milk or half & half
- 3 tbsp butter
- 2 tsp oregano
- 2 tsp dill
- 2 tsp dried parsley
- 2 bay leaves
- salt & freshly ground pepper

Drain clams & reserve juice. In a stockpot, bring clam juice, potatoes, & bay leaves to a boil. Reduce heat & simmer until potatoes are tender.

In a separate, heavy bottomed kettle, sauté bacon, butter, onion, oregano, & parsley over low heat. Do not allow to brown. Add flour to make a roux & continue to cook for several minutes.

Add the hot clam stock through a strainer, a cup at a time, and whisk until smooth. Add the remaining potatoes, clams, and stock and bring to a simmer.

Add the milk or half & half, black pepper, and dill weed and return to a simmer. Add salt, if needed. Serve at once with oyster crackers.

Compliments of Cooks.com
<http://www.cooks.com/rec/view/0,1848,134185-247194,00.html>