

Soundings Newsletter

Massachusetts' Oldest Dive Club



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday August 1st South Shore Neptunes annual beach party. See Flyer inside newsletter

Saturday September 18th is the Coastal Sweep project. Meet at the EDIC pier in So Boston. Boat leaves the dock at 0800 and returns at 4:30pm. Read the details on starting on page 1

President's Message

Well the summer is finally here and the weather is warm. The club's summer events are also in full swing. In June we had the George's Island picnic coordinated by Angelo Correnti, July there will be a dinner night out coordinated by John Blackadar, and in August there is the annual gala at Duxbury Beach.

In amongst these activities we are diving and the water is getting warmer. We had divers report on dives on the Chester Poling, Hardings Ledge and the Pinthis. Dives are planned for Brant Rock as well as boat dives departing from Quincy Yacht Club. While these are scheduled club dives many folks are diving on their own. I encourage divers to make use of the membership list to contact others who may like to dive as well.

This past Tuesday, July 6th, we had what I would say was the best turn out at a club regular meeting in a very long time. It is great to see members coming to the meetings. I encourage each member to try to join the club meetings. We are planning a great deal of activities and your input and participation is both welcomed and appreciated.

One of the main dive events,

Coastal Sweep 2010

Significant progress has been made to identify a site and obtain permission to perform the underwater clean-up for 2010. Thompson Island has been selected and we have been working closely with the Activities Coordinator, Sarah Swanson, to select the day and plan the activities. The date selected is September 18th and the clean-up will be from 8 AM to 4 PM. As of today, there are 16 divers and 7 beach participants.

On Saturday, July 10th, President Marshall visited Thompson Island. He was accompanied by Laura Medrano, Director of Dive Kulture. Both spoke with Bill Dowd, Waterfront Operations, of Thompson Island. Bill was very excited about the prospect of having many of the divers participating coming from Dive Kulture as a main focus of Thompson Island is environmental education. As noted on Thompson Island's website, www.thompsonisland.org.

Boston's Island Classroom provides young people with courses in environmental education, peer leadership, challenge and wilderness adventure, designed to unleash the potential in every student."

The opportunity to bring young people from the inner city of Boston, many of whom, according to Laura Medrano, may never have left Boston before, is something truly exciting and worthwhile. Additionally, with graduate students and faculty from UMASS Boston Department of Environment, Earth, and Ocean Studies also participating, the young people from Boston will be able to have a first hand look at the opportunities that come with furthering their education. In speaking with Bill, it was determined the best spot for the clean up would be at the docks and just to the west-southwest toward the mooring area. This is where most of the trash is typically found on the beach and is also the safest area in terms of having divers in the water.

Continued page two colmun one

Laura raised the point of the divers from Dive Kulture all being certified but not necessarily having a significant number of dives. Therefore, we want to really emphasize the safety, which we do anyway. President Marshall is continuing to solicit volunteers, experienced divers, who can buddy up with the Dive Kulture divers. The ideal ratio would be one experienced diver for each of the 10-12 divers from Dive Kulture.

At this time, the current plan is for President Marshall to coordinate one or two survey dives of the site. These will likely happen in late July or August. He will take some underwater video, visibility permitting, to document the conditions prior to the clean-up. Additionally, this will provide for the opportunity to more fully document the dive site and prepare to lay out boundaries. The clean-up itself will be documented as well both underwater, visibility permitting, and again post clean-up. Laura Medrano has volunteered to accompany President Marshall on these survey dives. Additional participants from the South Shore Neptunes would be ideal as well.

LETTER TO TOM MENINO

My name is Steve Marshall and I am the president of the South Shore Neptunes, a SCUBA diving club headquartered in Quincy, MA. We are coordinating an underwater clean-up around Thompson Island on September 18th as part of COASTSWEEP and the International Clean-Up day efforts.

The connection with the City of Boston is that many of our volunteers are coming from Dive Kulture an organization in Boston. As stated on their website, www.dive-kulture.org, "Designed for at-risk, inner-city teens, Dive Kulture is the first program in the nation to offer scuba certification together with jobs in the environmental industry. The program offers therapeutic outreach to youth and their

families by trained clinicians. Graduates are eligible for five years of aftercare with program staff." As of today, we have approximately 12-15 SCUBA divers from Dive Kulture and a host of beach volunteers to assist in this effort.

In addition to the divers from Dive Kulture, we also have volunteers from UMASS Boston Department of Environmental, Earth, and Ocean Studies (EEOS). It is my hope that the divers from Dive Kulture will not only have an opportunity to participate in a worthwhile environmental clean-up effort but will also be able to have a positive interaction with the participants from UMASS and thus see the possibilities and benefits of higher education.

The South Shore Neptunes is one of the oldest dive clubs in Massachusetts, tracing its history back to 1955. Most of the founding members were also members of the Quincy underwater search and recovery team. Our mission in 2010 and forward is:

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

More information can be found on our website, www.southshoreneptunes.com

Read more of Pres. Marshall's letter to Mayor Menino on the Neptunes website.

which will be discussed in more depth in its own article, is the upcoming underwater clean-up scheduled for Thompson Island on September 18th. This is an event being coordinated by the South Shore Neptunes and it is very important that we have good club representation at the event. At the July 6th club meeting I passed around a sign up sheet and we have four members who have committed to the date and two members who are tentative at this point. This is great but we could use more participation. Participation does not have to be diving but can be beach coordination. This is the first opportunity for the Neptunes to demonstrate their commitment to the club's 2010 objectives (see the insert box on the left for the club's 2010 objectives).

If you are interested, please contact me at president@southshoreneptunes.org or via cell phone at 617-833-1178.

ITEMS OF NOTE:

DAN O2 Oxygen Kit
We have the oxygen kit back at the club house
vicepres@southshoreneptunes.com

Minutes of the SS Neptunes Regular Meeting, June 1, 2010

President Steve Marshall reviewed the upcoming June Events Calendar. We have the Marine Wildlife Trip on the Capt John boat out of Plymouth on the 13th. Anyone not planning on attending this event is invited to a dive at Ocean Bluff at 10:00am. We have a Dinner Night Out on the 14th. Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact Angelo Correnti before the 14th. We have three events on the 27th. The first is the combined Georges Island picnic and club dive. Boats will be leaving from QYC at 8:00am. Anyone needing a boat ride to the island should meet at QYC. The second event is Jeannie Chamberlain's birthday party at the Chamberlain's home in Marshfield. Let Roy know ahead of time if you plan to attend. The third event is the Blessing of the Fleet at Marshfield Yacht Club. Joe McAndrew will set our membership recruiting booth for the event, so if you would like to volunteer to help out, contact the President, the Vice President or Joe McAndrew. There was some discussion regarding the plaque of appreciation prepared for the Common Market Restaurant. All agreed that the club officers and board members would meet at the Common Market on June at 6:00pm to present the plaque and have a quick bite to eat before the board meeting.

President Marshall reported on the status of the club's plans for the Coastal Sweep Project. Steve suggested that Thompsons Island may be the best site for our Coastal Sweep project. Steve reported that he has contacted Chris Bush of the DEP, and has initiated communications with the Thompsons Island Public Affairs people. He expects that they will get back to him soon to discuss

our island cleanup proposal. There was a brief discussion regarding the status of the Newsletter. The June issue is nearing completion and will be sent out as a soft copy. Work on the July issue will begin soon, and it will be sent out as a hard copy.

John Blackadar reported the Bill Walker recently had two heart valves replaced. Bill is home from the hospital and is doing well. He should be able to have visitors in a few weeks.

Vice President Rich Bowers suggested that money donations made to the club for the purchase of specific items should always pass through the club accounts. This will insure that we have a good paper trail of the donation and the expense when it is time to process the year end audit of the club's finances. As an example, Rich cited Jay Theriault's cash donation to purchase a new club printer. Jay would make his donation by a check written to the club, the treasurer would issue Jay a receipt for the donation, and the club would purchase the item with a club check. After some discussion, all agreed we should handle all future donations in this manner.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Bay State Council's Annual Treasure Hunt. The Treasure Hunt will be held at Stage Fort Park in Gloucester on Sept 26th 2010. The Treasure Hunt Announcement flyers are ready to go, and John Blackadar and Vice President Bowers reported that they started making calls for prize donations. Vice President Bowers also announced that he will make sure that the Treasure Hunt Flyer gets published in the Northeast Dive Magazine in time for the event. Our attendance goal this year is to get 100 divers into the water.

President Marshall announced that we need to have all members sign a new Diver Release Form. All agreed the best way to handle this would be include a copy of the release form in next club news letter. President Marshall also announced that he has modified version of the PADI Boat Owners Release Waiver Form that he plans to use on his boat. This form is written for pleasure boat owner diving, not for commercial diving operations. Boat owners that would like a copy to use on their boat should contact President Marshall.

DIVER RELEASE FORMS

Along with this newsletter is the South Shore Neptunes diver release form. Due to the flooding in the club house and to update our records we are asking that ALL MEMBERS fill out a new form. Please send you form back to **South Shore Neptunes P.O. Box 690518 Quincy, Ma. 02269**

George's Island Outing

We all had a great time at Georges Island. The weather was perfect and Tom Lo and Angelo made sure we were all fed well. Ted Hotz and Stephen Marshall even had time to get a dive in. While some were diving Angelo was finding life members on the island. Funny how Angelo finds Neptunes no matter where he goes. Thanks to everyone who attended. Pictures are up on the web site. On the home page scroll down to Georges Island update and select the link to the pictures.

Donna and I would like to thank the Q.Y.C. for having us as overnight guests. We had a wonderful time and enjoyed the clubs offerings.
Rich Bowers

M.Y.C. Blessing

Joe McAndrew represented the Neptunes in true form as he covered our booth at the blessing of the fleet in Marshfield. Thanks Joe for all that you do for the club. Joe was a great rep for the club he was well liked by all that attended.

Minutes of the SS Neptunes Board Meeting; June 8th

Vice President Bowers reported that and Jeanne Fabian are working to complete the newsletter, and they expect to finalize it and get it issued by the weekend. Angelo Correnti announced that he has some information on the Fish Count Event and diving German U-Boats that Rich and Jeanne might want to include in the newsletter.

Mathew Meyer (son of Life Member Doug Meyer) submitted an application for Student Membership. Matt is 19 years old, has been diving for eight years, and is currently training for his Advanced Diver Certification. The membership in attendance voted unanimously to accept Matt's application. Matt will be eligible for his membership on the next vote at the July 6th regular meeting.

Angelo Correnti reported on the plans for the June 27th Club Dive and Picnic on Georges Island. Every one who plans to attend should bring their own food and drink. Angelo will bring a grill and a bag of charcoal for those who want to do some grilling. Boats are scheduled to leave Quincy Yacht Club at 8:00am.

There are two conflicting events scheduled for June 27th, Jeanne Chamberlain's 60th birthday party, and The Blessing of the Fleet at Marshfield Yacht Club.

President Marshall reported that we need to decide on a date for our Thompson Island Coastal Sweep Project. After some discussion, all agreed on September 12th with a backup date of the 19th.

President Marshall reported that he plans to take an Underwater Archaeology Certification course at Divers Market in Plymouth on June 26th. It will be a one day course, consisting of class work in the morning and a dive in the afternoon. The course will cost about \$150.00. Contact Steve or Wayne at Diver's Market if you are interested in this certification.

Jeanne Fabian reported that work on the newsletter is nearing completion. She needs a soft copy of the last BSC Meeting Minutes to complete the job.

Vice President Bowers announced that he planned to begin reviewing the Club Rule Book tonight. His plan devote some time at each board meeting to reviewing the Rule Book, one section at a time, until we have reviewed and updated the entire book. We don't have a deadline for the final review we just want to get it done right before we go to press with new book.

John Blackadar reported that Bill Walker is doing well at home after his heart surgery stop by for a visit.

From the BSC Meeting: Andrew Jay came for Mat Brevard to speak to the Bay State Council members about their project, Mass Oyster (www.massoyster.org). Their purpose is to restore oyster reefs to their previous habitat now that

Tanks For Cash

We collect another \$139.00 for the return of tanks and other metals. John Pell reminds us that not only tanks are recyclable. So we are asking once again for your help to support the club. This is a perfect opportunity for you to help out the club by donating your old tanks and scrap metals 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.

If you have other metal scrap items please contact Stephen Marshall or Rich Bowers to make sure your donation can be processed.

We need your help to keep the club alive.

Every little bit helps! Donate your tanks today!!

OVER \$200.00 to date. THANK YOU

(BSC mtg con't)

the Boston Harbor & surrounding water is cleaner and may be able to sustain oyster beds. This would not be for harvest as the conditions are still much too polluted. If the oyster beds can be restored, it would help with cleanup of the harbor areas, as oysters filter 30 gallons of water a day. Studies suggest that this could result in triple the number of fish currently living in the areas of interest. They have seeded oysters in an area near the Constitution wharf, considered a good area since there is a lot of policing there (to keep people from harvesting), and a lot of people pass through and ask what they are doing. They have been seeding now for a couple of years.