

Neptunes Sounding Newsletter

GET YOUR PARTY SHOES ON!

Upcoming Events

7/5 7pm General Membership
Mtg

7/12 7pm Board Meeting

7/16 5pm PIG ROAST

7/19 General Membership
Meeting ETHAN GORDON

7/23 FISH COUNT Lanes Cove

7/24 Shark Cage Boat Dive

7/26 Movie Night Out

7/27 NIGHT DIVE

7/31 Club Dive, meet at 8am

Doug Eaton as President

Todd Alger as VP

Jeannine Willis as Secretary

Theresa Czerepica as Treasurer.

Board: John Blackadar, Ken & Teri
Hayes, Jay Theriault, Rob Vice,
Deb Osborn, Joe McAndrew, Tom
Guild

Alternates: Tommy Lo, Rob
Robison, Rob Christianson, Carl
Yngve.

Now that Summer is here in full force, our social and dive calendar is **very full**. Be sure to save these dates so that you won't miss them.

We start the month with our first ever PIG ROAST. It is a fund raiser for the club and everyone who loves to eat is invited. Todd Alger has been working hard in organizing this pig roast on July 16 at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton. Come Out and Support the Club while having a great time. <http://www.southshoreneptunes.org/roast.html>

The famed Ethan Gordon will be at the club on the third Tuesday to present his stunning underwater photography. I personally can never get enough of Ethan's photos. Come hear some underwater photography tips from Ethan on July 19.

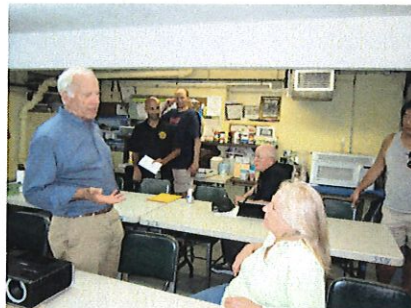
The annual fish count is Saturday, July 23. The club will be counting the fish at Lane's Cove. We will start at 9 AM.

July 24 is a shark cage boat dive out of Point Judith Rhode Island. Ken Hayes is the contact and we still have room on the boat for more divers and non-divers alike.

And of course there's our annual DUXBURY BEACH OUTING on Sunday August 7 from 9-4. The cost is the same \$15. Help is always appreciated at the set up and at the teardown.

Our April guest speaker, Peter Shelly from Conservation Law foundation, was rescheduled for June 21st.

Peter spoke about the legal challenges that they have in protecting Cashes Ledges. Other underwater sites have been easier to protect. They really need us to contact our legislatures to voice our opinion on why it's so important to protect Cashes Ledges. It has



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Here's a list of all the events we have planned for 2016

August dives: 12-night, 14th, 18th

Sept dives: 4, 9th-night, 18th

Oct dives: 16, 23rd river run

FLEA MARKET, start bringing in your items for the fleamarket to the club

Nov dives: 13th, 27th

Dec dives: 4th, 11th

ELECTION NIGHT 12/20

taken years to bring it back from the edge of the abyss and draggers would ruin it in less than a month.

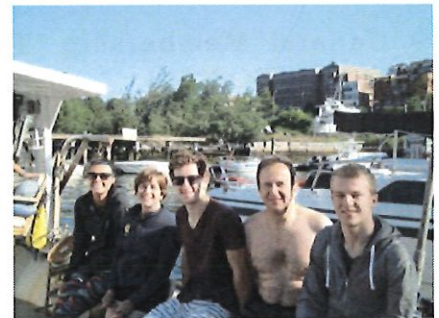
BE CAREFUL OUT THERE: SANDWICH, Mass. —Authorities have identified the man found dead in the waters of Town Neck Beach in Sandwich Saturday. According to the District Attorney's Office, Michael Dearth, 55, of Orleans, was diving for lobsters when he was found in his diving gear, floating in the water near his boat. Neighbors noticed the diver's buoy line had not moved since 10:30 a.m. and called police. Two kayakers paddled out to investigate and started tugging on the line with no response. Sandwich fire officials said they entered the water in an attempt to rescue Dearth, who was unresponsive. Dearth's cause of death was not immediately clear.

CLUB DIVES

Lots of members have been doing lots of diving. Story & photos by Rob Robison

The Graves Lighthouse sits well outside of Boston Harbor serving as an initial harbinger to mariners entering the great harbor to beware of the rocky granite shoals, outcroppings, and enormous boulders above and below the waves surrounding it. Formerly run by the US Coast Guard, it was sold at government auction and is now being restored as a

summer cottage for a local well-to-do owner. Never having dived it before, it was with great relish I signed up with East Boston Scuba's (EBS) boat charter to dive the lighthouse Fourth of July weekend along with Neptune secretary Jeannine Willis. We met at the Neptunes' clubhouse at 7 AM, transferred gear to my Rav4, and headed into town to the East Boston pier. After signing in and loading our gear on board, we found ourselves in the company of Capt. Pat, EBS instructor Ron Close and his class who were on the charter to finish demonstrating skills in order to become certified.



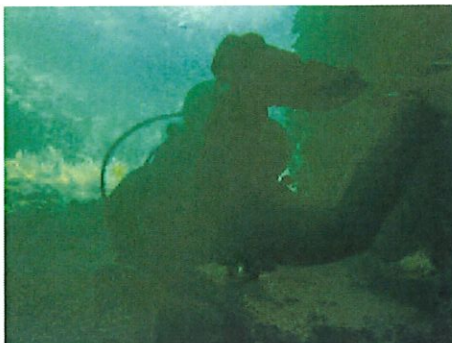
By the time we reached our dive destination, two other boats were already anchored and had divers in the water. Pat found a spot north of the lighthouse, just above the two the small rock islands shown on the map and a bit to the right, where we could dive unmolested, and set the anchor in about 30' of water. We were instructed to swim parallel to the light house and rocks and dive no deeper than about 45' or so for best results. He also admonished us to avoid the channels and currents that would become problematic should we venture down deeper and farther away from the beacon than we were.

Jeannine suited up and hit the water first, disappeared in a flash, and was off hunting lobsters. I hopped in a bit later, took my time descending using the anchor line, landed on a huge granite slab, and began to drift with the surge in search of the same game.



Following a southerly trajectory, I swam up, down, and around enormous rocks, boulders, and ledges festooned with long blades of kelp and seaweed, saw a few shorts, and finally landed a nice select. Though I brought it with me, my pole spear stayed on board. It was just as well because there was nary a flounder or spearable fish in sight. Hiding under the ledges, rocks, and small caves, were lots of small fry cunner and an occasional large one. Having been bitten once on the lip hard enough to draw blood by a small female guarding its nest years ago, I did not intrude too much on the fish hideouts I discovered. Forty-six minutes later I surfaced, swam over to the

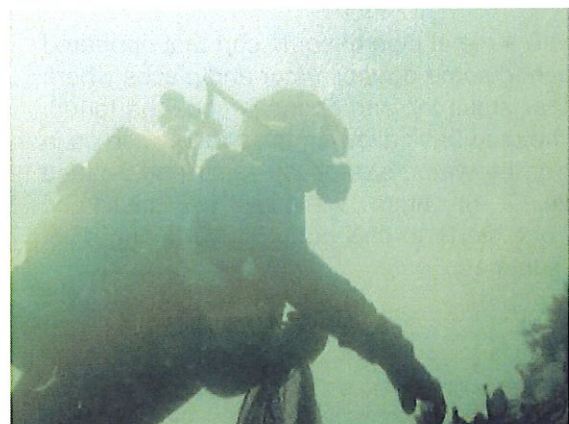
boat and was back on board. Jeannine was still hard at it. About 14 minutes later she surfaced with one keeper as well. Semi-cloudy vis. of about 10 – 15'; max depth 47', water temp. 50°. During our surface interval, Capt. Pat shared stories of the enormous schools of Pollock that he had seen out in the area along with the story of the finback whale that sported of the City of Salisbury, popping up and down, islands, and diving in and shoals. With spotting the to dive together on dive two, islands and the lighthouse to seals, and then swim back small rock island on our return bag behind and brought my outfitted with two strobes in hopefully more colorful headed for the gap and found because of the variable



about between the divers and the Wreck recently. He also pointed out the seals sunning themselves on the rock around the lighthouse rocks and seals in mind, Jeannine and I decided swim through the gap between the rock the other side of the island in search of through the gap between the upper two to the boat. This time, I left my game camera along instead, which I had hopes of taking some crystal clear and photos. Once back in the water, we ourselves unable to take a straight line submarine terrain and surge. After

popping up to retake our bearings, we altered course and began a path to the swim through that seemed promising. Along the way I spotted two harbor seals that appeared and disappeared in the blink of an eye.

Suddenly, we found ourselves on the other side of the light house and north-south-oriented islands. We followed the rocks until another passage seemed to beckon and headed back across the mini gulf toward our boat. Along the way, we found a seal that seemed to be sleeping or resting, took a photo, which startled the animal, and kept on going. We also found a semi-cave to swim through-- beautiful!--and someone lobstering, so we knew the boat was not far away. We surfaced to take our bearings one more time and discovered we were directly in front of the boat and about 50 yards away.



Jeannine snorkeled back in and I took the underwater route coming up right on the anchor line for once.

Back on board, we discovered that Jeannine had not seen the first two seals, and that my strobes never fired. Those who know me as the anti-Edison will take extreme delight in learning that I had mistakenly set the camera on video cam lighting instead of strobe lighting, which is why there is not better clarity and color in the underwater photos accompanying this article. Sorry about that! Better luck next time, folks. Hope springs eternal.

July 3. Dan Ron is a new diver. He dove Green and Calf Island on Tommy's boat. First dive and no one found any Scallops. 47 degrees Cold! Fixed an electrical problem b/w dives so they wouldn't get electrocuted. Todd found an artifact. Ken got 1/3 bag Scallops. Dan got a few blurry photos. Tommy got a lobster.

July 1. 9pm Plymouth beach night dive, 40 visibility. Matt and Doug Meyer. 54 degrees.

July 1. Doug went out on Timmy's boat with Michelle Bell. She got 12 lobsters. They dove the City of Salisbury.

Diving Ocean Bluffs (Brant Rock, MA)

Story by Rob Robison

For the Duxbury First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church's Service Auction fundraiser, I offered a two-tank scuba dive for one or a one-tank scuba dive for two off my 15.5' Zodiac. Mike Gardner won, so we waited until both of our schedules cleared to get started. Mike wanted to do a few shore dives before rolling off my boat, which

worked out well for me because my engine is in the shop getting cleaned out after in-taking some water condensation from the fuel tank on an outing earlier in May.

We met at Ocean Bluffs on Friday morning (6-23-16) to make a shore dive. Fortunately, Mike has a local parking permit, so we offloaded my gear next to the central stairs at the Bluffs, and then I parked my car a block away. After suiting up, Mike and I hit the water on a gorgeous morning with clear skies, reasonable air temp (mid to high 70s), and clear water—at least 25'- 30' of vis, which is fabulous for New England. The incoming tide and swells made it a bit strenuous swimming out to our drop down point; consequently, we made a mutual decision to submerge and continue underwater, which is much easier than fighting the surface conditions. Mike on the bottom The last time I dove this area was around 1991. At that time, there was plenty of sea life from in close to shore to all the way out as far as you could swim on the surface or underwater. Storms in the ensuing years have changed the bottom significantly. Much of the rock and boulder bottom has been pushed on shore leaving huge patches of sand behind. Increasing ocean temperatures, overfishing, runoff, and other forms of pollution have had a noticeable effect on the underwater life around this area. I was sad to see that the sand areas were devoid of much life—no moon snails, whelks, hermit crabs, horseshoe crabs, baby, juvenile, or adult flounder, and the like that used to populate such areas. A bright note was that there were literally billions of tiny black specks clinging to any substrate they could find. On closer inspection, these black specks turned out to be mussel spat. Google tells us that Mussel spat develop from a floating larval stage. The larvae attach themselves to seaweed or ropes and develop into miniature shellfish 0.3 mm long – about the width of a needle tip. These were a bit larger than a needle tip, since they were visible to the naked eye. At first blush, they look like gypsy moth droppings, but if you look carefully you can see they are clearly mussels in a very early stage of development.

Mussel spat in sand As Mike and I unhurriedly drifted along, we followed a metal pipe of some sort that appeared at odd moments on our zig zaggy underwater path, until we finally reached some deeper water and places where lobsters and other small fish such as Cunners (a type of wrasse), other small fry, and sponges could be found. We turned the dive sometime after reaching a depth of 25' and slowly headed back allowing the tide to wash us in to shore. Eighty minutes after beginning the dive, we clambered out of the water, stowed our gear and headed down to the Brant Rock Hop for lunch and to warm up. Despite 7 or 8mm wetsuits, an hour and 20-minute submersion, and a relatively warm 57°-58°F water temp., one starts to chill during such a long dive. Regardless, it was a great way to spend a Friday morning in the early summer.

Old Garden 3

Story by Rob Robison

Just as the Energizer Bunny keeps on going, so, too, does Old Garden keep on giving and giving. Neptunes Lisa Ledwith, Peter Ninh, Mike Vaughan, and I met on Sunday the 26 in front of Macy's, consolidated our gear into two vehicles, and drove off to Old Garden Beach. Because Lisa was bringing her camera and new housing, I decided to leave my catch bag and pole spear behind. I had enough fish in the freezer from last week. I figured Lisa and I would pair up to take photos while Mike and Peter carried on the hunt. However, Lisa was missing some clips to secure the camera to her BC and decided to hunt along with the guys. Our revised plan was to drop down together for a group photo underwater before beginning to search for take home fodder. Unfortunately, that plan failed to materialize. After donning our gear, we began to swim out to the rock/sand line. All of a sudden, Mike, Peter, and I heard a loud hissing noise. My tank valve O-ring had blown. Peter turned off the air for me, and I headed back to shore for a quick repair while they continued on to make their planned dive. By the time I had returned to the water, the rest of the Neptune dive group had disappeared from sight. I shot a 30°Azimuth and stayed shallow around the rock sand line @24' looking for subjects to photograph. I saw a huge moon sail on the way out to the rocks. It must have been feeding on something because its mantle was fully extended in an orgiastic manner. While combing the seaweed and kelp on a large boulder, I spied a tiny nudibranch, but couldn't photograph it because the surge kept causing the kelp and seaweed to cover the nudibranch faster than I could focus and take its portrait. Another boulder was festooned with a solitary stalked tunicate that reminded me of Popeye the sailor's girlfriend, Olive Oil. Also, I found a club tunicate and what is perhaps a type of sea vase standing on end, several doormat-sized flounder, & a Pollock school of juveniles (no photo). Dive stats were:24'; 46 min; 54°; vis 20' or better.

On returning to shore, I found Lisa, Mike, and Peter already up and taking a break before deciding whether or not to do a second dive. As we shared our dive stories, Mike opened up his cooler and showed off his 2.5 – 3lb keeper. He and Lisa had chores to do back home and decided to call it quits after the first dive. Peter and I had the time and energy, so we changed tanks and headed back out for a second plunge into the brine. This was a

great decision because the tide was half to three quarters high, bringing with it more fish life. Peter found a granddaddy lobster at least 6 – 8 lbs., which he pulled out, measured, and then sadly released because it exceeded size limitations. The previously mentioned juvenile Pollock school appeared & disappeared frequently in search of food and remained just beyond camera range.

We spotted numerous flounder, including 3 or 4 doormats, and a Striped Bass school appeared in the sandy shallows. By the way, the incoming tide also dropped the water temperature from 54° to 48° at our max depth of 41'. Visibility was anywhere from 10' –30' or more, depending on the location, and we stayed submerged for at least 50 minutes. The weather, water, flora, and fauna were simply glorious and provided a great way to spend the day with fellow Neptunes who enjoy diving into it. With that in mind, I hope to see you soon, if not already, cavorting in the liquid planet.

PIG ROAST

The South Shore Neptunes Dive Club Cordially invites you to attend our 2016 Pig Roast

When, Where and Cost;

Saturday July 16, 2016. Cocktail hour 5 – 6 (Cash Bar) Dinner 6 – 7 times are approximate

Irish Cultural Center in Canton MA cost is \$25 per ticket. <http://www.southshoreneptunes.org/roast.html>

Who is invited

The party is for all members of the dive community including their family and friends. Feel free to invite people who you feel would enjoy the party.

Theme

The party will have a Caribbean / Dive / Beach theme. Plan on hearing music you would expect to hear on a Dive vacation. Wear your best post dive apparel.

Why

To have FUN!! The Neptunes are hosting the party as an opportunity for the Dive community to get together and party and have fun, right smack in the middle of our dive season.

Menu

Cheese board, Roasted Pig, Grilled Lemon Pesto Chicken, Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers, hot dogs, Fire Roasted Vegetables over Mixed Green Salad, Rice Pilaf, Pasta Salad and Dessert

Cost and Payment

Now that you have decided to attend our party, you can securely purchase a ticket online following this link. The cost of the party is \$25 per ticket. Cash Bar. All food is included in ticket purchase

NOTE that there are a limited number of tickets to be purchased due to the limitations of the venue. Please purchase your tickets as early as possible. Once we reach our limit, the ticketing will be shut off and no more tickets will be available.

Annual Duxbury Beach OUTING

SUNDAY AUGUST 7

9 am - 4 pm

Tug of War
Three-Legged
Wheelbarrow Race
Pinata
& Sack Race

- MENU INCLUDES**
- BBQ CHICKEN
 - HAMBURGERS
 - HOT DOGS
 - ITALIAN SAUSAGES
 - CORN ON THE COB
 - WATERMELON
 - ICED TEA, LEMONADE

No one has ever gone hungry at our Picnic
Bring Your Appetite!

\$15 per person; children 5 and under are free.