

Neptunes Sounding Newsletter

Calendar, 2017

- 8/1 General Membership Mtg**
- 8/8 Board Meeting**
- 8/15 Program: East Coast Tech Divers Talk on Rebreathers**
- 8/16 - Bay State Council Mtg**
- 9/5/General Membership Mtg**
- 9/12 Board Meeting**
- 9/19 Program TBA, newsletter assembly**
- 9/30 Sat Neptunes Flea Market; rain date Sun Oct 1**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Welcome: Please join us in welcoming **New Members Sotheavy Young & Reagan Li!**

A 6:30 PM dinner for Carl Ingve who is recuperating from a serious illness at his daughter's home, on **Thurs 8/17, at El Sarape Weymouth.** Call Jeannine to confirm: 617-365-5588.

8 26 Sat.- Rebreathing demos by East Coast Tech Divers. Cost \$15.00 Hathaway's Pond from 9am to 4pm. Get more info and reserve a spot at <https://www.netechdemo.com/>

Shark Dive charter opportunity slated for mid September. Stay tuned for more info as details become available.

Newsletter Delivery: Our printing costs doubled this past year; as a result, we need your help to cut costs. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please inform the newsletter editor, Rob Robison, at [<robisonr25@yahoo.com>](mailto:robisonr25@yahoo.com).

August Dives & Outing

Club Officers, 2017

Tood Alger - President
 Doug Eaton - Vice President
 Rob Robison - Secretary/Newsletter
 Theresa Czerepica - Treasurer

Board of Directors: John Blackadar, Tom Guild, Ken Hayes, Garrett Kane, Joe McAndrews, Jay Theriault, Rob Vice, Jeannine Willis, Chuck Zarba

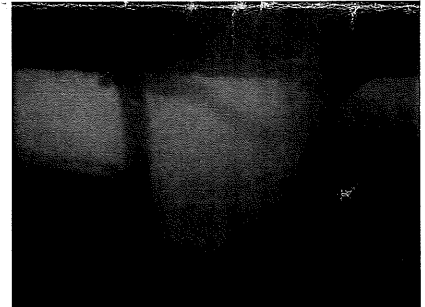
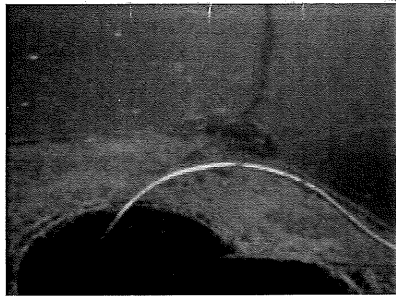
southshoreneptunes@gmail.com

Stories & photos - Rob; Outing photos - Theresa C & Tommy Lo

July 25 – July 31 Columbus/Circleville OH. As the Neptunes fully understand, it is not every day nor every dive club that can celebrate a 60th anniversary of continuous existence. The Columbus Sea Nags, a dive club I have belonged to now for nearly 11 years, 8 of those as newsletter editor and 7 of those as president, turned 60 in January of 2017, and celebrated the blessed event as the oldest dive club in Ohio in continuous existence with a club dive and cookout on Saturday July 29 of this year. I took advantage of this momentous occasion to drive down to Columbus a bit early to see our daughter, visit with non-dive and dive friends alike, and participate in the club's

activities.

I arrived early enough in the week to hook up with a bunch of buddies called the Tuesday Night Dive Group at the Circleville Dive Center (AKA the Twin Quarries in an earlier iteration) on Tuesday the 25th for a late PM dive and customary follow-up supper at Gibby's sports bar in Circleville. Visibility was 2 -5 feet due to a deluge of recent rain, which had washed soil and other types of runoff from the fields into the water, In reality, it was also typical for late July and early August, when the heat builds up and destroys the vegetation in the shallow quarries. This creates blackout conditions in the southernmost tip of the South Quarry from the decomposition process. Despite the low vis, I saw a large catfish swimming beneath me as I dropped in for the dive, only to disappear into the gloom before I could put a camera lens to it.



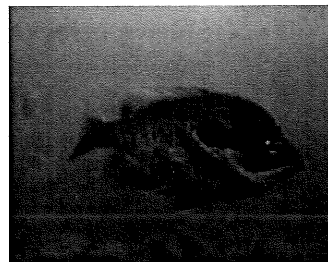
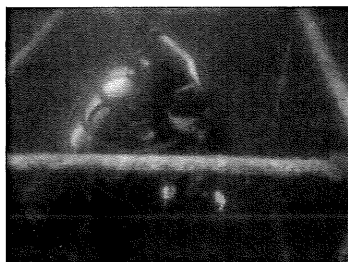
Motorboat prow & hatch, juvenile bass, Looking through the Jeep

Later, I found a large 2-4lb lunker bass, which was a nice sight, along with myriad bluegill and other assorted varieties of pan fish. It was great to see Steve King, Cleve Bartlett and his grandson Landon, Randy were new additions to the group. Dive stats: 77°F, 16' depth, 52 min, 2' - 5' vis.

Saturday and Sunday I dove with my live-aboard travel buddy, Donn Ellerbrock, (esp. winter) dive buddy with Donn and me on North Q. Visibility was a bit —the South Quarry is heavily used by Central Ohio students--and the water was a few degrees cooler, due to areas and deeper



with my live-aboard travel along with my year-round John Skobel, who caught up Sunday in the dive center's better due to less dive traffic

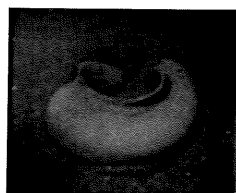
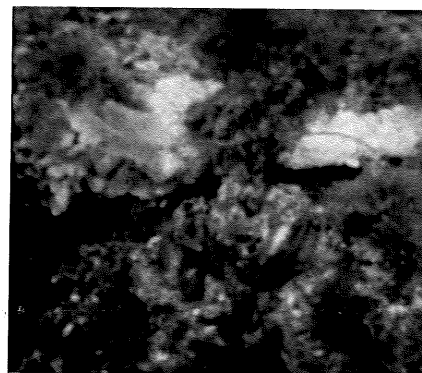


Looking up & finding sunshine, JohnSkobel in training maze, Black-eared pumpkinseed

Special thanks to *Todd Tomlinson*, who owns the dive shop at the dive center and manages the quarries, for his friendship and long-time support of the Sea Nags and diving in Central Ohio. *Sat. dive stats: 74°F, 48 min., 16' depth, vis hazy 7 - 10 ft. Sun. dive stats: 68°F, 55 min, 18ft. hazy 10' vis.*

Old Garden (Aug, 2) and Plymouth Long Beach (Aug. 5). While driving back to New England, I received a phone call from former Neptune Mike Vaughan, who wanted to me to dive with him on Weds. Aug 2 up at Old Garden Beach in Rockport. He was taking his daughter and her friend Matt diving, the latter for the first time post certification. I met up with them at the Beverly Service Center/(Burger King) on Rt 128. Along the way, we stopped at the Cape Ann Dive Center to fill tanks, then headed straight to Old Garden Beach.

While suiting up the heat was such that I couldn't wait to hop in and cool off in the refreshing water before Mike and his crew were ready. We assembled in the water and headed out on a 60° course. Submerging onto the sand around the 15-20' mark, we found the rocks and followed the ledge as it sloped down toward the 40-foot level. Along the way, I saw a nice flounder and took a few photos. Mike caught a nice keeper bare handed and stuffed it in his game bag. Matt was worried about his buoyancy and a potential abscess in one of his teeth in his lower jaw, plus this being his first dive after earning certification, his nervousness was palpable. He wound up exhausting more than half of his air supply in the first 15 minutes. When we reached the sand and gravel bottom at 40 feet, I noticed he only had 1250 lbs. remaining. I signaled Mike and Michelle that I was taking him back to the beach. We arrived back at our starting point, for a total elapsed dive time of 30 min., about the time he reached 500lbs of remaining air. Mike and Michelle returned a half hour later.



L - R) MikeV, Michelle, Matt; Winter flounder closeup, lobster in a ledge, Moon snail egg case, Quahog shell with juvenile Hermit crabs

Dive 2 went much better. Matt calmed down, sipped his air like a pro, and we all enjoyed at 50+ minute dive. During the dive, Mike caught a soft keeper and pulled out a 3-4 pounder that was just a bit too big to be considered legal. I missed a couple of nice flounders attempting to take them by hand. Such is life. All in all, we had a great day on the water. *Dive 1/Dive2 stats; 56°/63°F, 30 min/51 min., 38'/33' depth, 15-20' vis.*

Plymouth Long Beach Aug 5. Brian Smith and I had been planning a dive on (*The Sport Commando*, my 15.5' Zodiac RIB with a 50 horse Evinrude *e-tech* on the back, for over a week and the weather predictions had been Go; however, on dive morning fog was rolling in across the coast from the South Southeast, so we opted for Plan B, a shore dive at Plymouth Long Beach at 8:30 AM.

As Brian and I suited up, we were queried by a couple strolling the beach about what we planned to do, what we would see, etc. The woman in particular, seemed very interested. We answered as best we could and hit the water as planned. The low tide was just starting to ebb slowly back out to sea. As we swam along underwater, there were numerous baby lobsters, some star fish, a baby flounder, some Hermit crabs, a few orange sponges, an abundance of breadcrumb type sponges, pockets of beautiful eel grass, tidbits of sea lettuce, and bouquets of green fleece. However, what really caught our attention was the abundance of crabs. At first it just seemed like there were more than usual; however, after we turned the dive at about the 30-minute mark, we ran into a boulder literally coated with crabs of all sizes, almost like an eruption. I took a lot of photos trying to capture the scene, not one of which adequately reflects what we saw—swarms of crabs covering every nook and crevice of the boulder from all sides top to bottom plus carpeting the surrounding submarine terrain. What a dive!



Eel grass, Hermit crab, Sea fleece, Crab on kelp

Interestingly, on return to shore, we found that the woman whom we had met pre dive and her partner had left us a rock coated with glitter gold paint inscribed with the words, "You rock," in black paint for us to remember them by. It was a fitting end to a beautiful Saturday morning dive. *Dive stats: 59°F, 46 min, 14' depth, vis @ 15 - 20'.* Enjoy the hydrosphere folks. Summer diving is in full swing. Let's keep diving into it!



Rob

Duxbury Outing

Thirty-one sun worshipping Neptunes, family members, including 10 kids, and guests enjoyed Sunday Aug 6 at the annual Duxbury Beach Outing. Below are some photos of the event courtesy of Tommy Lo and Theresa Czerepica. Thanks to all who organized, set up, cooked, cleaned up, and transported. The Outing is truly a labor of love! Photos follow next page.

