



Calendar 2018

4/29 Club Dive,@clubhouse 9 AM
 5/1 General Meeting
 5/5 Clubhouse cleanup
 5/6 Club Dive,@clubhouse 9 AM
 5/8 Board Meeting
 5/9 BSC Meeting@clubhouse 7PM
 5/11 RAGNAR Cape Cod Relay Race
 5/15 Andrew Martinez & Newsletter assembly
 5/19 Dinner Nite Out 5PM @Marias Braintree
 5/20 Club Dive,@clubhouse 9AM
 5/23 Night dive, location TBA
 5/27 Boat & scallop dive: Contact Jeannine for more info
 6/2 U-Boat Dive off Block Island \$108 pp., max 7 divers
 6/5 General Meeting
 6/10 Club Dive,@clubhouse 8 AM
 6/12 Board Meeting
 6/19 Program TBA & Newsletter assembly
 6/20 Night dive, location TBA
 6/23 President's Clambake Party, details TBA
 6/24 Club Dive,@clubhouse 8 AM
 7/1 Club Dive,@clubhouse 8 AM
 7/3 General Meeting
 7/10 Board Meeting
 7/15 Club Dive,@clubhouse 8 AM

Neptunes Sounding Newsletter

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- Pay your \$35.00 club dues!
- **May 11 RAGNAR Cape Cod Relay Club fundraiser.** To volunteer, contact **Jeannine**: <jeannine@gianninamia.com>
- **May 19 Dinner Nite Out, 5:00PM**, at **Maria's (Restaurant) Braintree**, 240 Quincy Ave. **We need 20 people** to have a room of our own.
- **May 27 Boat & scallop dive: Contact Jeannine for more info**
- **June 2 U-Boat Dive** near **Block Island**. Cost \$108 pp. See **Todd Alger** for more info.: todd.alger@gmail.com
- **June 23** President's Clambake Party. Details TBA

Board Meeting, 4/10./18

- **Jeannine** and **Mary Rose** have audit data & are arranging time to meet with Theresa to conduct the review of club finances for 2017
- The club is working on ordering new club gear with logos. Embroidered pieces will cost \$7.00, *plus the cost of the shirt*. Orders will be taken as soon as details are finalized. The club will order 5 extras for those who are unable to submit their orders with payment at the given time and for newcomers. **Todd Alger, Doug Eaton, Mary Rose, and Rob Vice** are forming a committee to come up with a new T-shirt design to be silk screened.
- The **club** is **looking for a new venue** in which to hold the **October Flea Market**. Contact **Tommy Lo** with suggestions: <lodiver@yahoo.com>
- **Pig roast** will be offered again in 2019, on an alternate year basis.
- **Rob** will seek out **speakers** for June - September. Send ideas to him at: <robisonr25@yahoo.com>

MARCH APRIL ACTIVITIES AND DIVES

Stories and photos by Rob Robison, video clips by Jon Willis

Since late March there has been a flurry of diving activity, as attested by the following stories. Enjoy!

Gull Cove, Portsmouth, RI, Saturday March 24. **Jon Willis** and I decided to beat the bad weather forecast for Sunday and made a dive at Gull Cove in Portsmouth, RI. The weather was sunny and chilly that Saturday morning. Jon was testing out his new PVC

Calendar 2018 (cont.)

- 7/17 Program TBA & Newsletter assembly**
- 8/5 Duxbury Beach outing**
- 8/7 General Meeting**
- 8/14 Board Meeting**
- 8/19 Club Dive,@clubhouse 8 AM**
- 8/21 Program TBA & Newsletter assembly**
- 8/24-26 NC Wreck Diving trip .See P. 6**
- 8/26 Club Dive,@clubhouse 8 AM**
- 9/2 Club Dive,@clubhouse 8 AM**
- 9/4 General Meeting**
- 9/11 Board Meeting**
- 9/16 Bay State Council Treasure Hunt & Coastal Cleanup (tentative)**
- 9/18 Program TBA & Newsletter assembly**
- 9/22 NE Aquarium Tropical Fish Rescue**
- 10/2 General Meeting**
- 10/7 River Run**
- 10/9 Board Meeting**
- 10/16 Program TBA & Newsletter assembly**
- 10/28 Club Dive @clubhouse 9 AM**
- 11/4 Club Dive @clubhouse 9 AM**
- 11/6 General Meeting**
- 11/11 Club Dive @clubhouse 9 AM**
- 11/13 Board Meeting**
- 11/20 Program TBA & Newsletter assembly**
- 12/2 Club Dive @clubhouse 9 AM**
- 12/4 General Meeting**
- 12/9 Club Dive,@clubhouse 9 AM**
- 12/11 Board Meeting**
- 12/18 Program TBA & Newsletter assembly**
- 2019 Calendar**
- 1/1/2019 Club SoberR Up Dive, Pleasure Bay**

camera frame he had built to hold his GoPro and two backup knockoffs, while I was attempting to test a new Sea Dragon strobe that had been sent in replacement of the defective one that died after one day on my January Roatan trip. Additionally, I was testing out a new weight configuration for my new dry suit.



Upon arrival at the cove, I found Jon had beaten me to the site by at least 30 minutes, if not an hour as per usual, and was busy chatting up an old salt about

the fishing and bottom contents.

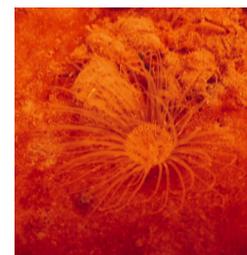
We donned our gear and submerged down the submarine slope into dark green-hued waters (Photo at right by JW).



We followed the channel contours a bit traversing the cove and found abundant knots of half-slipper snails pulsating slowly in the 37° degree water. Interestingly, near each knot there seemed to be at least one of the snails on its back, broken off from the pack and showing its insides as if there had been an attempt to eat it that had not been completed. We spotted the corrugated paper-like



egg case of a whelk, as well as a juvenile, a couple of crabs that appeared to show evidence of the shell wasting disease that has plagued the lobster population of the Rhode Island sound, and



one that was alive but buried up to its eyeballs in the mud for protection from the chill and storms. A spider crab was likewise submerged in the mud and moved unwillingly when tickled by yours truly. I think the highlight of the 22-minute, 20' dive was

the pulsating juvenile lion's mane jellyfish that swam by.

We bottomed out at about 20' with @10-15 feet of vis. on the way back to shore, as the tide rolled in and the current increased toward the end of our dive. You can watch Jon's video clip of our underwater sojourn here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lZ26d66pQL0&feature=youtu.be>

In case you were wondering, my camera shots have a red tinge because I fouled up the settings; hence, some are presented in black and white format for easier viewing. And my weight configuration did not work. Back to the drawing board. On the other hand, Jon's new contraption for his video cams worked well!

Diving Pebble Beach Saturday, March 31, 2018. Bonnie Zeller and I met up at South Shore Plaza, threw her gear into my car and headed north to the Beverly Burger King Service Center on Rt. 128. There, we met up with **Neptune Jon Willis**, Peter Ninh, and our other dive buddy, Emerson Clauss, and drove off toward Pebble Beach in Rockport.

As we neared the beach, there was a sign indicating the road was closed to through traffic. A mound of large cobble stones lining nearly the entire length the beach side of the road, over 5 feet high, had been bulldozed off the dirt road to make a barely drivable two-way path on the former road. In fact, the cobbles along the edge were such that we all had to switch to 4-wheel drive to ensure traction.

Peter and I suited up first, so he could help me properly get weighted in my new dry suit, and for lack of a better word, bear suit undergarment, which is unusually buoyant. Many thanks to Peter for helping me get squared away on the weight issue.

After all that effort, I took a break while everyone else made the dive: 37°, 26', vis @ 10', 37 minutes. Post dive conversations indicated that the current was so strong, they sucked down their air too fast, couldn't make progress easily, and returned sooner than expected because they were low on air from the exertion. They did find one large moon snail. Jon videoed the dive with his GoPro. Here are the links to his film of the actual dive:

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFZzlQgHNxY>

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TVqV5QQGIY>

While the rest of the crew was enjoying the underwater wilderness, I stowed my gear and watched as some people, who drove by us in a Prius and a Chevy van, headed further east along the road and became mired in the sand. A tow truck was summoned and couldn't make the tow because of the sand. A local policeman drove up in his cruiser and admonished us for driving on the beach road when it was posted "closed;" however, he didn't ticket us because technically we had not attempted to drive all the way through to the other side and out. I'm unclear whether or not he ticketed those who found themselves more than hub deep in the soft sand still covering the section of the road that had not been cleared of stones and sand.



Old Garden Beach Easter Sunday April 1, 2018. When backing out of my townhouse parking spot at 7:15 AM, heading off for the morning dive, I was confronted by a flock of wild turkeys, 5 hens, 2 jakes, and a Tom protecting the females. What a sight! It had been so long since I last saw the flock, I thought the coyotes had eaten them. Fortunately, that was not so.

Peter Ninh, pictured with sunglasses and a gray stocking cap below left, and I met at the South Shore Plaza in





Braintree, pooled my gear into his 4Runner, and headed north on I 93 & St. Rt. 128 through Boston to Cape Ann and Old Garden Beach in Rockport. We met up with Neptune Jon Willis (Center rear), and dive buddy Emerson Clauss (Right behind me). Along the way, I Face-Timed with our son, Scott, and his two kids, Alex and Ethan, who had just tumbled out of bed. Ethan is 2.5 yrs. old and had just gotten his first haircut, and Alex is 5 and hasn't had a haircut since I don't know when. It's a beautiful unruly tangle of blond curls and long locks held back with a head band. So, I told them about the wild turkeys and shared with them the sound of the long lost forlorn gobbler (imagine making the sound of a gobbling gobbler), just like I used to do for their dad over 30 years ago, and they howled with laughter, as did Scott. Then, I asked them if they had remembered my stories about Black Bart (think the Lone Ranger dressed in black, not white), who was "one tough mean

hombre." We always say this part in unison, which causes much mirth. All of this even had Peter, who was driving, in stitches as much as the grandchildren and Scott, who listened to those made up stories, too, when he was a child. It was a fun five minutes or so of conversation.

Old Garden Beach, not to our surprise, was buried in large cobble and paving-sized stones, which completely covered up all of the beach sand from the previous month's long string of storms. Despite that, we were able to make a great dive of 44 min. 35 ft. and 37 degrees, with 20/25' vis. Just beautiful! Worthy of note and in addition to the rock crabs, blood star, and brine shrimp schools, we saw a rounded pale orange-colored sea snail or slug of some sort about the length and width of a stubby steak French fry, which I could not identify, subsequently, in any of my books. I pointed it out to Jon, who was videoing with his GoPro, in hopes it would turn out and make up for the fact I had left my camera inadvertently in my car back at SS PLAZA. Unfortunately, Jon didn't realize his GoPro was not turned on, so neither of us has pictorial evidence to share. Drat! Double drat!

After we were all safely back home, I received a text from Peter telling me he found fluid underneath his car in the driveway and discovered his brake line had broken and his hand brake wasn't working. We all dodged a bullet on that one! Regardless, it was an Easter to remember.



Saturday April 7. Needing to get wet, **Jon Willis** and I met at **Morton Pond in Plymouth** for a fresh water dive. A few fishermen were trying out their lures in what seemed like a vain attempt to attract the trout that were still hunkered own in the depths of the pond. On



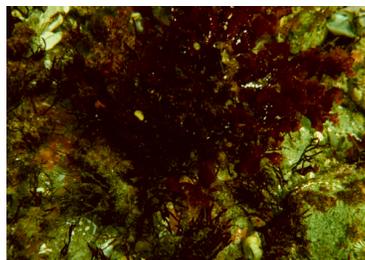
descending, we were met by feet of depth, and a quick 24 time. The alien, diver man, penguin, and American flag were rubber remnants of a bass lure. yellow beaded lure, missing the stands of monofilament line that enjoyed seeing clover like before ending the dive.

Plum Cove (Gloucester), I met up with Peter Ninh the



37°water, vis @ 10-15' at 20 minutes worth of bottom snowman, winter-clad still in place, as were the Also found ways a red and hook but retaining long had tethered it. We both flowering in the grasses

Sunday April 8. Jon W and following morning to



explore Plum Cove on Gloucester's north shore, where flat calm water at low tide greeted us while the sea raged outside the cove. Unbeknownst to us, what awaited was a spring fertilization rite. Myriad clam worms wriggled and writhed about on the surface of the

submarine sand spewing long streams of eggs or milt or both! A veritable orgy of fornicating worms



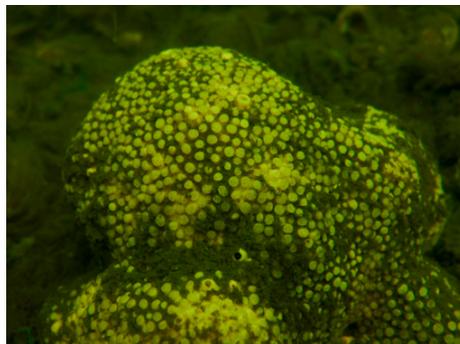
was everywhere. Also, we found a rough mantled nudibranch egg case, a lot of hermit crabs scurrying about, a big moon snail, some lovely sea lettuce, and more.

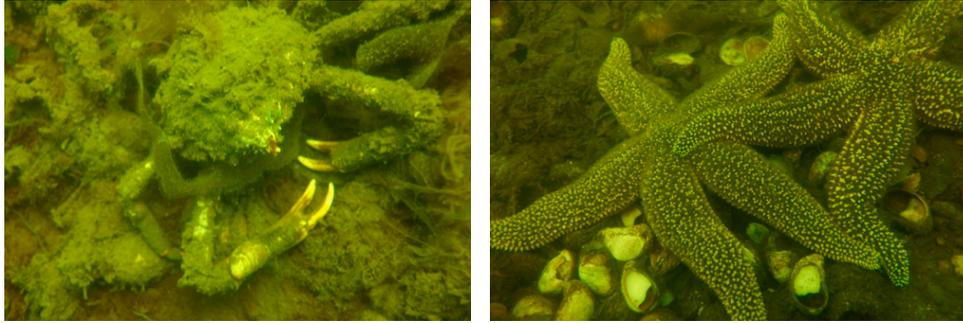


Twenty-five feet or so of vis in the 38° water and depths ranging from 13-16 feet made this a



very worthwhile and delightful dive. Jon found a small clam flipping itself across the sand, apparently changing locations and enjoying the sunshine easily penetrating the clear water. It was startling because none of us had ever seen a clam move across the sand: <http://ocean-stuff.daisyhillsoftware.com/posts/2018-04-08/>





Deteriorating weather conditions and the three-day weekend drew **Neptune Jon Willis**, Peter Ninh, and me out to **Gull Cove** again on **Saturday April 14**. Our original plan was to dive King's Beach or Fort Adams, but heavy winds and rough water prevailed in both locations. The waning tide greeted us in the cove, as we headed down to about 20', along with the warmest water temperature we have seen in many months, 44°, plus 10-15 feet of vis over the 32-minute dive. (See photos above)

Immediately upon submerging, a wave of diatoms passed by including a beautiful sea grape or comb jellyfish. It went by so quickly, I didn't have time to take a photo, but I found a facsimile in Fred Bavendam's wonderful book *Beneath Cold Waters: The Marine Life of New England*. Down East Books, Camden ME.1980, p. 36.

I had better luck with my camera this time and took some nice shots of a Boring sponge, a decorator or spider crab feeding itself, a small clam with its shell partly open, a starfish in a small field of cracked and devoured clam and half-slipper snails along with a pair of starfish in a similar situation and perhaps on the verge of mating if not devouring one another. Jon has some excellent video footage of a large shrimp, another pulsing lion's mane jelly crossing the water column, and more. You can find it here: [<http://ocean-stuff.daisyhillsoftware.com/posts/2018-04-14/>](http://ocean-stuff.daisyhillsoftware.com/posts/2018-04-14/)

As you can tell, in spite of setbacks with weather or gear, we are definitely having fun. Come out and dive into it with us. You never know what you may find or see in addition to having a whole lot of fun with people of like mind!

Rob

PARTING SHOTS



L-R : Chuck & Todd holding china bowl from shipwreck. Shrimp from JW's Gull Cove video clip. Blackie with framed Bonaire gift

