



Neptunes Sounding Newsletter

Calendar 2018

- 2/6 General Meeting
- 2/13 Board Meeting
- 2/18 Ice Dive Lake Winnepesaukee
- 2/20 Diving with the Roatan by Rob Robison;
Newsletter assembly
- 2/25 Club Dive,@clubhouse 9AM
- 3/4 Club Dive,@clubhouse 9AM
- 3/6 General Meeting
- 3/10-11 Boston Sea Rovers
Annual Clinic, Doubletree Hilton, Danvers,MA. Info at BOSTONSEAROVERS.COM
- 3/13 Board Meeting
- 3/18 Club Dive,@clubhouse 9AM
- 3/20 Program TBA & Newsletter assembly
- 4/3 General Meeting
- 4/10 Board Meeting
- 4/15 Club Dive,@clubhouse 9AM

- 4/17 Program TBA & Newsletter assembly
- 4/29 Club Dive,@clubhouse 9AM
- 5/1 General Meeting
- 5/5 Clubhouse cleanup
- 5/6 Club Dive,@clubhouse 9AM
- 5/8 Board Meeting
- 5/15 Program TBA & Newsletter assembly
- 5/20 Club Dive,@clubhouse 9AM
- 5/23 Night dive, location TBA
- 5/27 Boat & scallop dive
- 6/5 General Meeting
- 6/10 Club Dive,@clubhouse 8AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- Pay your \$35.00 club dues!
- Mark Your Calendars: MARCH 10-11 Boston Sea Rovers Annual Clinic, Doubletree Hilton, Danvers,MA. Info at BOSTONSEAROVERS.COM See P. 7 for flier.

2018 ELECTION RESULTS

Chuck Zarba, President
 Doug Eaton, Vice President
 Rob Robison, Secretary & Newsletter
 Theresa Czerepica, Treasurer

Board Members

Todd Alger
 John Blackadar
 Tom Guild
 Ken Hayes
 Mary Rose Largess
 Tommy Lo
 Jay Theriault
 Rob Vice
 Jeannine Willis

Alternates

Gerardo Bacchus - alt
 Garrett Kane alt
 Joe McAndrew - Alt

Presidential Appointments

Audit Jeannine & Mary Rose Largess
 Banquet -TBA
 Flea market -TBA
 Librarian Historian Garrett Kane
 Maintenance Joe McAndrew
 Web master Tommy Lo and Rob Vice
 Social media Todd Alger
 Raffle chair Mary Rose
 Membership Tommy Lo, Ken Hayes & Todd Alger
 Photographer Teresa Czerepica & Tommy Lo
 Store inventory Tom Guild

Sargent at arms Jay Theriault
 Equipment officer Geraldo Bacchus
 Competition director Ken Hayes

Calendar 2018, cont.

DECEMBER - JANUARY: Activities and Dives

6/12 Board Meeting
6/19 Program TBA & Newsletter assembly
6/20 Night dive, location TBA
6/24 Club Dive,@clubhouse 8AM
7/1 Club Dive,@clubhouse 8AM
7/3 General Meeting
7/10 Board Meeting
7/15 Club Dive,@clubhouse 8AM
7/17 Program TBA & Newsletter assembly
8/5 Duxbury Beach outing
8/7 General Meeting
8/14 Board Meeting
8/19 Club Dive,@clubhouse 8AM
8/21 Program TBA & Newsletter assembly
8/26 Club Dive,@clubhouse 8AM
9/2 Club Dive,@clubhouse 8AM
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
10/9 Board Meeting
10/16 Program TBA & Newsletter assembly
10/21 Club Dive,@clubhouse 9AM
10/28 Club Dive,@clubhouse 9AM
11/4 Club Dive,@clubhouse 9AM
11/6 General Meeting
11/11 Club Dive,@clubhouse 9AM
11/13 Board Meeting
11/20 Program TBA & Newsletter assembly
12/2 Club Dive,@clubhouse 9AM
12/4 General Meeting
12/9 Club Dive,@clubhouse 9AM
12/11 Board Meeting
12/18 Program TBA & Newsletter

Diving Key Largo

Story & photos by Jon Willis

Key Largo. While I'm admittedly a newly minted diver, I've been a friend of the club for 7-8 years already. I've listened to all those great stories about Bonaire, Turks & Caicos, Belize, Cozumel... I never once heard anyone mention Key Largo.

My interest in the place started at the beginning of December. I had just gotten certified at the tail end of the summer. With only 19 dives between August and November, I just wasn't in the mood for my season to end. With my trusty web browser, I googled 'best beginner dive vacation' or something similar. On that day, the search engine gods smiled on Key Largo. I followed that search up with the string 'key largo dive center'. Oddly enough, there was a business with that very name.



<http://keylargodivecenter.com/>

Their home page says, "Only 6 divers max on our dive boat, free divemaster/guide included". OK... File that away. So I play some 'what-if' on kayak.com to see what a flight, cheap room, and rental car will run me. Five minutes later, I have my credit card out. Flight, room, and car are booked. The next morning I called the dive shop and asked about scheduling some dives. Two tank

outings are \$99, nitrox is \$12 more. I booked 4 straight days with them.



Day one. I'm up at 4:00 am, two hours before my alarm. I put my gear together, stow it in the car, then stumble across the highway to Doc's (<http://docsdinerkeylargo.com/>).

They're a proper breakfast & lunch place. Coffee, an omelet, and toast will set you back about \$10 (plus tip). They were my go-to breakfast for the remainder of the trip.

Now it's off to the dive shop. They give me the bad news. They had some cancellations, so we're going to be 'cross-boated' to another outfit. They're still providing my guide. This turned out to be a non-issue as Key Largo Dive Center and Rainbow Reef worked together quite seamlessly. All paperwork and business related stuff was handled between the two companies with zero fuss, and the 42' Newton they put us on was hardly crowded.



<http://www.rainbowreef.us/>

Virtually all of my experience, besides a week of snorkeling in Bonaire, is between Rockport and Boston Harbor. I'd grown used to 15' of visibility and 50 degree water. I was far from disappointed when confronted with 70' of visibility and 74 degree water. I was also quite happy to learn that it only takes 18# of lead to sink a 3mm wetsuit, vs. the 30# I need for my 7mm.

My guide on this dive was Jim Hoefling (at right), a Key Largo native, PADI Instructor, and retired Air Force Master Sergeant . The man knows those reefs and wrecks inside out. Brilliant story teller as well.



Day two. This day, I'm diving with Nate from Key Largo Dive Center. We're cross-boated again, but it's no big deal. Rainbow's boat was half empty again. Nate seemed to have the uncanny ability to find sharks. Two nurse sharks and a reef shark on the same day. Pointed out a lot of interesting critters; spiny lobster, sea turtles...





Days three and four were more of the same. Great visibility, warm water, lots of marine life. What I couldn't figure out is why nobody in my circle dives here. Granted, you don't get the depth and clarity that you get at some places, but the place has plenty to offer. Best of all, if you need a CVS or a Walmart, they're just down the road.

On my last day there, I visited the History of Diving Museum in Islamorada FL. Never saw anything like this in my Open Water class, although I believe the guy in the Burger King crown reminds me a little of Roy.

Something I never knew was how much the Boston area contributed to this sport. These Morse helmets were designed and built here. The last part of the exhibit was their collection of suits.



In case you go, here are some great links:

Dive Shops

<http://keylargodivecenter.com/>

<http://www.rainbowreef.us/>

Restaurants

<http://sharkeysgalley.com/> -- Lasagna so good it will make you cry

<http://www.skippersdockside.com/> -- Bahamian.conch.chowder

<http://docsdinerkeylargo.com/> -- Breakfast

<http://www.snooks.com/> -- Fine dining

Video from the trip. It's a great insomnia cure (Ed Note: Worth a long look!)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2qrgua2h9U&list=PL8M_LKxpUfkpU5GolzTnpOGCGJnFZuZk2

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Soberup Dive & Followup

The Neptunes' Annual Sober Up Dive on New Year's Day was cancelled for the first time in collective Club memory, due to air temperatures near 0°F, wind chill approaching -20°, as well as an ice-coated beach and frozen Pleasure Bay water. A number of stalwarts managed to at least show their faces.



L - R Theresa C, Doug Meyer Doug and Matt Meyer

Despite this diving setback, we repaired to **Jay Theriault's** for his wonderful **New Year's Day** repast that included circular cut ham, a huge shrimp tray, assorted sliced cheeses, mulled cider, meatballs, and much much more. If you missed it, shame on you. The rest of us feasted and thank Jay profusely for the delightful spread and fellowship. Thanks again, Jay!

Todd Alger and **Rob Vice** dove **Sunday January 14 at Pleasure Bay**. The air temperature was a chilly 16°; the water was 33°F. When Todd spit in his mask, his saliva froze by the time he needed to rinse it out. Todd also had trouble getting out of his wrist seals at the end of the dive, he was that cold. Rob swam over a bed of bay scallops, though neither of them found any lobsters. One bottle was found on the dive.

Parting Message by Todd Alger, 2017 President

A Message from your Ex-President

I write this message to thank all my fellow Neptunes for their help and friendship during my year as President. It is almost shocking to realize how much time, effort and downright generosity many of our members give to the club. Many of our club members donate an inordinate amount of their own time and some also give financial donations and also use of cars and trucks and trailers and even their own workmen to pitch in. I want to thank everyone for their support and for their work for the club.

Going into my year as President, I had a few goals:

- 1 I wanted to continue the efforts we had made with our online social marketing by focusing on putting tons of content on Facebook as real-time as possible and creating a Google presence as well. I believe we did a great job on this and would like the club to continue working on and expanding this effort. We now are visible on Google maps and Yelp. On Google maps do a search on South Shore Neptunes and then you can give us a five star rating and add any pictures that you think would be good. The same with Yelp, give us a five star rating and add any pictures you would like.
- 2 Another goal was to increase outside membership and internally see if we could bring more people to meetings. We were able to recruit 11 new members. This was due to our increased online presence and to our work with South Shore Divers in Weymouth. They have been great to work with and are sending us folks interested in diving. Also, they have had us to speak to their open water classes and their help accounted for more than half of our 2018 class of 11 new members. Internally, I feel like our meetings have really exploded size wise. It is common place now for 25 of us to show up for Tuesday meetings and to fill a big table at Darcy's after the meeting. The older guys keep telling us how they used to have too many people for the tables (only chairs). Maybe we can get back to that...

The first two goals were Presidential. The next were more personal.

- 3 The Neptunes have won many diving competition trophies, but we had not won one in a long time. Rob Vice and I decided we would do our best to change that fact in 2018. After much recruiting we managed to get 6 participants to join us in the Bay State Council competition dive and bring back the first place trophy to the Neptunes!!! You can see it on our mantle.
- 4 For a few years, I have been talking about a challenge to Neptunes to do a Massachusetts dive at least one time in all twelve months of the year. A few of us took up this unofficial challenge and for the first time in my life I did dive all twelve months in MA waters. I also know of at least two other Neptunes who did so as well, **Rob Robison** and **Chuck Zarba**. I challenge the members to continue diving all twelve months in Massachusetts waters.
- 5 Anyone who has been diving with me knows my seasonal diving goal does not change. **CATCH THE BIGGEST LOBSTER!!!** Thanks to my previous employer giving me the summer off, I was able to really hone my skills this summer and I may have caught the biggest lobster under the big



gauge of all time, 4.89 lbs. Before this year, I was doubtful if there was such a thing as a 4lb lobster under the big gauge (Ed. Note: I was , too, until he finally produced the evidence!:-)) but I have now seen it for myself (two times). I found out it is possible if you can get a male with huge claws.

Going forward I feel like the club is in good shape, but we need to keep pushing with our recruiting both online and with new divers. I think we have done a good job with getting new divers in the water ,but we can always do better. We need to continue doing tons of diving and inviting anyone who wants to join us on a dive.

For those members who don't go to meetings but are thinking of popping in, I would suggest following our Facebook page for upcoming meetings and looking back to see the dives we have done and the speakers we have brought to the club. We had many extraordinary guest speakers last year and even an unforgettable field trip to a member's home to see more artifacts than I could imagine in one diver's home. I HIGHLY recommend showing up at the club for guest speaker night. You will not be disappointed. The folks we bring in have great stories to tell, but they are also just regular divers like us and have been to many of the same places.

Thanks for a great year!!

Todd Alger, President 2017

