



Neptunes Sounding Newsletter

Calendar 2018

- 6/2 U-Boat Dive off Block Island
\$108 pp., max 7 divers
- 6/5 Ted Maney: Mussel farming on
Stellwagen Bank; General
Meeting
- 6/10 Club Dive,@clubhouse 8
AM
- 6/12 Board Meeting
- 6/13 BSC meeting 7PM
- 6/19 Newsletter assembly & shirt
order deadline
- 6/20 Night dive, Sandy Beach,
Cohasset , 5 PM
- 6/23 President's Clambake Party,
See Announcements above
right
- 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
- 7/17 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 .
- 8/26 Club Dive,@clubhouse 8AM
8 AM
- 9/2 Club Dive,@clubhouse
8 AM
- 9/4 General Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS



• Ted Maney, from Salem State, gave an outstanding presentation on aquaculture in the state of Massachusetts and his mussel farming project on Stellwagen Bank. After the June 5 meeting presentation, we convined at Darcy's Pub over pizza and beer while the Red Sox and Bruins battled against their opponents on the ever-present sports tubes overhead. Thanks Ted!!

- June 23 President's Clambake Party 1600 Boston/Providence Highway, Walpole, MA. Check your email for the latest or contact Tommy Lo at <lodiver@yahoo.com>.

MAY - JUNE ACTIVITIES AND DIVES

RAGNAR Relay Race generated \$750 for the club. Thanks to Jeannine, John Blackadar, Billy Burchill, Theresa C., Ken, Teri & Erica Hayes, Rob Robison, & Marlene Walker.

Dinner Night Out at Maria's: A huge success. Blackie thanked everyone who participated—**29 total!**

Underwater Rugby: Jay Theriault reports the following: May 26-27, 2018 our team, The Boston Narwhals, took home first place at the 21st North American National Underwater Rugby Tournament in Pompano Beach, FL, ranking us as the US Champions for this season. We are proud to say we will be representing USA at the World Championships in Berlin, Germany 2018.

Congrats also to the DC/BOSTON Woman's Team for placing first in the woman's tournament at 21st North American Underwater Rugby Tournament! National Women's Team Champions.

Calendar 2018 (cont.)

- 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

For complete results for men and women, go to: <http://www.uwrugby.org>



Neptunes in the picture: 3rd from left, Mike Picot; 6th from left, Life Member - Tim Burke; 7th from left, Laurie Picot; 11th from left, Life Member - Joe Gomes.



DC-Boston Women's Underwater Rugby Team

Dives. U-835. On **June 2**, Neptunes club members **Todd Alger, Chuck Zarba, Doug Eaton, Garrett Kane, Matt Meyer, Rob Vice**, and Neptunes guest **Dan Clifford**, boarded the Canned Air Dive Charter boat in Point Judith, RI, and headed out to toward Block Island to dive the sunken WWII German submarine, U835. Calm seas and clear vis of 25'+ and 50° water were hallmarks of the two-tank Nitrox dive. Max depth reached was 130' by Doug.



Rob Vice found an encrusted red helmet with two underwater photo-video cam lights attached, one of which still worked, which he promptly submitted for artifact of the year. Those who had dived the wreck before lamented the loss of the periscope, which had been sawed off by some marauding pirate of a diver in the interim. Regardless, all came back happy and tired. Check out the photos on the club Facebook Page, taken by Rob Vice, of the colony of nudibranchs that encrusted the submarine and correlated images from the trip.

May 25- June 3. During the past week and a half it felt good to be a retiree. With extra time on my hands I made good use of it to make 8 dives, nine if one includes a Sandy Beach evening dive on Weds. May 23, which was reported in the last newsletter. In any event, these next dives included a night dive at Plymouth Long Beach with Plymouth area Divers Market dive buddy Brian Smith (no photos). Water temperature was 46°. We reached a depth of 16 feet as the very low tide turned and was starting to flood back in. Brian was recovering from a medical procedure, so our dive time was limited to 28 minutes. To be honest, the dive was uncharacteristically unremarkable. It just felt good to get wet.

The next morning, **Saturday May 26**, I met Peter Ninh at South Shore Plaza and headed north to Old Garden Beach in Rockport for a good old fashioned meat dive. I left my camera behind so I could hunt lobsters and shoot flounder unencumbered. We combined for 6 lobsters, 1 crab, and 7 flounder. A very nice two-tank dive with water temperatures registering 43° at 44 feet and 45° at 40 feet on dives lasting 54 and 45 minutes, respectively. We had great morning hunting with visibility reaching 25' - 30'. It felt good to be alive, although I'm certain our prey would not have agreed after being captured or speared for the pot or the frying pan.

Sunday morning, May 27, it was rise and shine to catch up with **Jeannine Willis** at the clubhouse and drive into Boston Scuba for a scallop dive in Boston Harbor aboard the Keepah. Also joining us were (L-R) **Mark Zipeto, Rob Christian, Rob R, Jeannine W, Doug Eaton, and Chuck Zarba**. We suited up and dropped in on an overcast morning in seas that were not as rough as one might have anticipated. The current, on the other hand, was the strongest yours truly has



ever encountered in Mass waters. Once on the bottom, there was no ability whatsoever to move more than a few inches either direction, except the direction of the current, such was its force. If a scallop was more than an arm's length away, no amount of kicking could help you reach it. About half way through the first dive, my pressure gauge and console somehow unsnapped and floated freely. The current whipped it up and out of my reach. Not being able to gauge depth, bottom time or air pressure, I aborted the dive with 5 scallops bagged, rose back to the surface, and clambered back aboard the boat. This event recurred on dive two, so I gave up in disgust and returned once again to the boat and watched everyone else wind up with the scallops I had left behind. Oh well. Better luck next time! Many thanks to Capts. Pat and John, who served as first mate on this trip, for their excellent work!

Saturday June 2. I joined a Divers Market boat dive for an Advanced Open Water class out of Gloucester on the Cape Ann Diver II (<https://capeanndiver2.com>), owned and captained by former commercial diver and PADI Dive Master Jonathan Morneau, and First Mate Jeff. I was fortunate to be buddied with Peter Renaud, who was just on board for the dives like I was. He had dived Paddock Rock (dive 1) many times as well as the wreck of the New Hampshire (dive 2) and was able to squire me around so I could take photos of the sights without having to worry about where I was in relation to the boat all the time. We enjoyed each other's company and the dives. He was a great spotter!

Sunday June 3. Neptunes Jon Willis, Ken Hayes and Rob Christian joined Bonnie Zeller, Peter Ninh, and me at **PebbleBeach** for a meat dive (no photos).



We chose Pebble because of the



wind shift from Westerlies to Easterlies. Although the water was OK, the waves were a bit tough in close to shore, but not totally unbearable, or so I thought. We donned our gear, entered the water, and kicked our way along the shoreline in order to line up with the rock pile farther out and headed down. Peter went into hunt mode and took off like a rocket scouring the bottom Hoover-style, bearing witness to his nickname, the human vacuum cleaner. Bonnie somehow got left behind. I attempted to slow Peter down, but my efforts were in vain. Eventually, Bonnie caught up with us, and I nailed a flounder for her that she had spotted. It was a nice 16 incher. I picked one up as well, but it just barely made the limit. When we reached the half way point air wise, Bonnie and I turned the dive and left Peter to navigate the back side of the rock pile solo. On the way back in, the surge picked up but I was able to walk in through the surf or so I thought. At the last moment, I was tumbled by a high wave, which threw me on to the beach face first. Tough way to end what was otherwise an excellent day on the water. Peter landed 2-3 lobsters, Rob Christian took home 4, Bonnie and I each took home a flounder or two.

Eastport, ME June 9 - 13. My wife and I had the good fortune to be able to drive up to Eastport, ME to dive with Andrew Martinez, our recent speaker, author, and photographer on *Marine Life of the North Atlantic*, his Maine dive buddy, Dave Whittemore, a radio engineer who also is an expert underwater photographer, and three friends of theirs, Bill, Andrea, and Fung. Eastport sits on the US side of the St Croix River and Canada is on the opposite side. From our motel, RV, and campground setting we could see Deer Island (Canada). From our dive sites, we could see Campobello, the island where FDR and his family retreated summers.

The diving was superb, strenuous, and the waters extremely dangerous without a knowledgeable guide. Andrew and David have been diving Eastport for about 25 years now. I never could have attempted the dives we made without Andrew's encouragement and the help of his side kick, whose photo of the bald eagle stretching its wings up in a tree not 30 yards away from us at our motel site is pictured elsewhere in this article. Both guys were incredible —pleasant, affable, knowledgeable, and helpful. Andy is 72, David is 75. I'll start catching up to them in August when I turn 70 as well.

All the dives were shore dives, with long walks, difficult in drysuits when carrying heavy tanks and lead weights, over moderate to very craggy uneven ground with difficult terrain to negotiate. Had I not been working out this spring, it would have been impossible for me. As it was, I experienced some difficulty overheating too much before I could get into the water to cool down. This made it difficult to regain control of my breathing until I'd used up the first 1/3 of my tank way too fast and cost me at least 15 minutes of extra bottom time on every dive; however, water temps in the 42-43-44 range, with depths to over 60 feet made drysuit diving the better way to go. vis was around 20-30 feet. The biggest impediment to the dives, however, revolves around the tidal exchanges and accompanying currents, which have to be timed nearly perfectly. Here in Mass, our normal tides rise or fall between 8-9.5 feet. During King tides, our extremes reach 12.5-13 feet or maybe a little more. In Eastport the tidal exchange range is 18-28 feet! The channel between Canada and the US is over 400' deep, and the



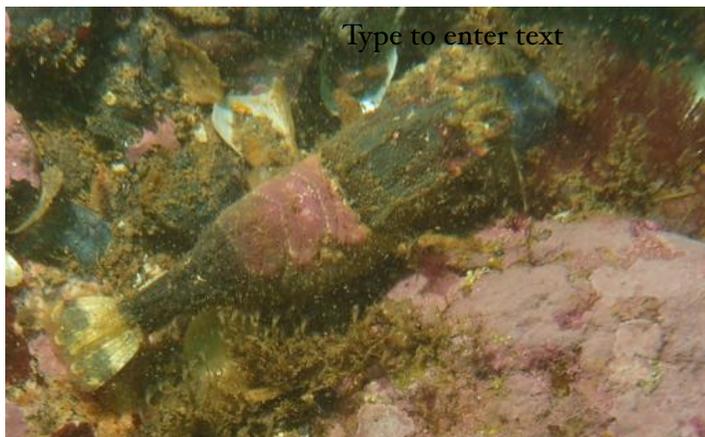
water is moving at a *very* rapid rate, constantly. At the same time, the water volume exchange due to the quantity and depth of the colder water plus the confluence of fresh and salt water bring a constant flow of nutrients, and therefore, a rich variety of animal life, which makes the diving so exciting. We saw minke whales out in the middle of the channel, and could also see one of the largest whirlpools in our hemisphere out in the bay across from our lodging site. The place was spectacular!

The food in Eastport was excellent. We ate delicious halibut, haddock, and crab for very reasonable prices. And a diner we found was particularly good in all facets of breakfast, lunch, quality, and price—lobster rolls were \$17.95! The scenery was absolutely stunning. The two underwater sites we mined for critter and visual nuggets were equally overwhelming in their compactness and richness of diversity.

To sum it up in a nutshell, I realized most of my dream there, fueled by reading Jerry Shine's books on his experiences underwater, his book on New England nudibranchs, and Andy's book on the North Atlantic marine life, to see great biodiversity and nudibranchs. I saw a sculptured shrimp and an Iceland Scallop for the first time along with a grubby, which I had never heard of, a shag-rug *Aeolis* nudibranch, a Daisy brittle star, which I hadn't seen in more than 30 years, an orange-foot cucumber, and a green slender sea star. I have to go back to see and photograph a wolffish and the field of hydroids I missed, plus find more of the nearly 30 varieties of nudibranchs Jerry Shine and Andrew have illustrated in their books and marine life app. About a half dozen or so photos are already posted on the club facebook page. What follows are a few other shots that turned out well and were of interest to me and hopefully they will be to you, too.

L-R Below: Horse mussel, nudibranch, frilled anemone, white anemone, vase tunicates, decorator crab





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L-R: Sculptured shrimp, orange foot cucumber, rock gunnel, urchin skeleton. Bald Eagle, by Dave Whittmore, 2018, with permission.



On behalf of the Neptunes,

Safe Diving and Happy Fourth of July, Everyone!

Rob

