



Neptunes Sounding Newsletter

Calendar 2019

- 1/1/2019 Club Sober Up Dive,
Pleasure Bay
- 1/8 General Meeting: Discussion of
amendments to Club by-laws
regarding awards
- 1/15 Board Meeting; newsletter
assembly
- 1/22 Diving NC Wrecks, by Rob
Robison;
- 1/26 Annual Banquet at Common
Market, Quincy
- 2/5 General Meeting
- 2/12 Board Meeting
- 2/19 Annette Spaulding (tent) on
Diving for Relics & History;
newsletter assembly
- 3/5 General Meeting
- 3/9-10 Boston Sea Rovers 65th
Anniversary Annual Clinic,
Doubletree Hotel Danvers
- 3/12 Board Meeting
- 3/19 Program: Sally Snowman Boston
Lighthouse keeper; newsletter
assembly
- 4/2 General Meeting
- 4/9 Board Meeting
- 4/16 Marine Fisheries (TBA);
newsletter assembly
- 5/7 General Meeting
- 5/14 Board Meeting
- 5/21 Diving the Philippines by Rob
Robison; newsletter assembly

ACTIVITIES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & REMINDERS

• 2019 ELECTION RESULTS

OFFICERS

- President: Chuck
- Vice President: Doug Eaton
- Secretary/Newsletter: Rob Robison
- Treasurer: Theresa Czerepica

Board of Directors

- Todd Alger
- John Blackadar
- Tom Guild
- Ken Hayes
- Garrett Kane
- Mary Rose Largess
- Tommy Lo
- Jay Theriault
- Rob Vice

Alternates

- Tori Steffi
- Gerardo Bacchus
- Mark Zipeto
- Amanda Eaton

• **Dues are due!** Please bring or send a **\$35.00** check, **payable** to the **South Shore Neptunes**, to the next meeting ,if you haven't done so already. You **cannot vote** at meetings without being paid up.

• Jeannine Willis is running for the Newton Wellesley Breast Cancer Center in the 2019 Boston Marathon. The club has authorized a \$50.00 donation to support her effort and will keep a donation jar at the meetings for additional cash donations. Please help support her cause, as you are willing and able, by contributing via this link:

<https://www.crowdrise.com/ninawillis?lang=en-us#projects>

- **Bonaire Club Dive Trip:** Blackie announced we should save our \$ because he's planning a club dive trip to Bonaire for sometime in the spring of 2020. Details will be spread upon the club at a later date.

LATE NOVEMBER — EARLY JANUARY DIVES

Late November. Diving Cozumel. *Story & photos by Jon Willis*

For the third time today, my early morning calm is shattered by my three traveling companions chorusing, "Grassy-us seeeenyore!" in a giggly falsetto. This is why other countries hate us, I think to myself. Our divemaster, Mostro was imitating bad gringo accents for us, and Jeannine, Teri, and Ken took this up with well... gusto. Every chance they got, they thanked our wonderfully unflappable hosts in this manner. Truth be told, I think the Mexicans got a kick out of it, too.

Without a doubt, Cozumel is the bomb. All 6 dive days, we had air temperatures in the mid 80's, water temperatures in the low 80's, and for the most part, sunny skies every day. The early morning dives were down on Palancar Reef, at depths between 80-100', while the second dives were toward Chankanaab, and ranged between 45 and 60 feet. I think our 'worst' visibility was around 75' but after several days of 100+, it's really hard to tell (or quibble).



Ken & Teri



of video of a sea turtle foraging on the reef, from away. Teri demonstrated a rather peculiar talent as Whisperer. The first time, on the boat she was able to hitchhiker onto her flip flop, then summarily deposit it into the ocean. The second, while on her balcony, one lights on Rather than squashing the little guy, she flicks it away and forefinger into the waiting beak of a passing bird. this stuff up...

We split our time between two dive operators. The first three days were with Manta Raya Divers, and the last three were with Eco Divers. Both operations were professional and friendly representatives of the island, but there were definitely differences between the two. Fernando at Manta Raya runs a very

For sea life, we were treated to sea turtles every day, a bull shark, a nurse shark, several spotted rays, arrow head crabs galore, tons of banded coral shrimp, French and Queen Angel fish, spiny lobsters, an octopus, the usual complement of Caribbean tangs, parrot fish, snappers and the like, and last but definitely not the least; a splendid Toadfish. Ken Hayes was



Jeannine, Ken & Teri

able to get eight and a half minutes about a foot our Cucaracha coax a into the her sleeve. with thumb Can't make

tight ship. The boat is well maintained and they leave the marina on time. Two tank dives are \$95, and 100 cf tanks are available for an extra \$10. Eco Divers, on the other hand, is a much more laid back bunch. Things run, but they run on 'Island Time'. That said, they are a friendly and easy going bunch. They bring snacks and cold drinks (sorry, no *cervezas*) and they didn't charge extra for 100 cf tanks. Two tank dives were only \$75. If you're not allergic to surprises, I'd certainly recommend diving with them.

Final thoughts; Go! We've already planned our return trip. The place and people are absolute magic. Can't wait to go again.

JW

January 1, 2019. Sober Up Dive, Pleasure Bay (Boston Harbor) *Story by Rob Robison. Photos by Rob & Tommy Lo,*

With the New Year come resolutions and new experiences. The start-up dive was no different. I assembled my dive gear and took it out back and around to the side of the condo complex, where I usually pick it up and load it into my car. This is much easier than hauling it up steep stairs from the basement and out the front door, and it eliminates a lot of dings to walls and woodwork, not to mention wear and tear on yours truly. Next, I gathered up my camera gear, headed out the front door, jumped in the car, drove to the gas station to fill up, and then pointed the car north to the expressway and Boston's Pleasure Bay.

At the exit to Pleasure Bay, the drive takes us by the bath house where the L Street Brownies make their traditional (since 1902) plunge into the bay, as a part of their New Year's Celebration. You can find lots of photos of that on line. Brrrr! This year, the surface water temp was a "mild" 41°F and the air was uncharacteristically in the high 50s, as opposed to last year's -2°F!



Anyway, upon arrival at the Pleasure Bay parking lot, I met my buddies Jon Willis, Rich Bowers, Peter Ninh, Mike Vaughan and Dough Eaton. In the course of conversation, I began opening the rear hatch of my car to start getting

dressed, only to discover I had left ALL of my gear back home at the condo complex sitting next to the fence. Talk about embarrassing! I won't hear the end of this one for a long time, if ever, I'm sure. About the same time I made this unfortunate discovery, club pres. Chuck Zarba, Matt Meyer, Rob Vice, Todd Alger appeared and started getting ready to dive as well.

Everyone except yours truly was getting a good yuck out of the situation, and wound up making the dive into the 38-40°F bay water with 5'-12' of vis. Here's a link to the video clip from the dive by Jon Willis: <http://www.jw-ocean-stuff.net/posts/2019-01-01/>. You may have to copy and paste the link into your browser if it doesn't activate when clicked.



So, while they dove, I returned home to collect my gear and return it to its rightful place in the basement, take a shower, and

head back for the post dive PM party at Jay Theriault’s house in Milton. It is always a great feast of delicious ham, chili, shrimp, meatballs, hot cider, cookies, cake, cheese cake, and more! THANKS, Jay! While there, I learned that Todd Alger had found two good sized lobsters (3lbbers?) plus a keeper in the bay, Mike Vaughan scored at least one keeper, and the rest came up empty handed. My understanding is that the morning was rounded out by Garrett Kane and Mary Rose Largess, who arrived a little late and were the last two club members to make a brief dive together in the bay. Bystanders included **Tim and Kelly Burke, Ken Hayes, Charlie Matthews, Doug Meyer, Theresa Czerepica ,and Tommy Lo.**



Finally, I don’t know about your New Year’s Resolution but mine has to be to conduct a gear check before I drive off on any dive adventure. Another worthy one comes to mind from Dodge Morgan, the Maine publisher and sailor who in 1990 set a world record for singlehanded circumnavigation of the planet in his 60’ custom sailboat, American Promise. It was constructed by renowned naval architect and boat builder, Ted Hood: “Any goal, one day at a time.” With that, let’s dive into 2019 and make this New Year a memorable one for diving, for others, and for ourselves!

Rob

PARTING SHOTS

HAPPY NEW YEAR, everyone!

Special thanks to all those who contributed to the newsletter in 2018, and made it the success that it has become:

Tommy Lo
 Phil LoCicero
 Matt Meyer
 Peter Ninh
 Rob Vice
 Jay Theriault
 Mike Vaughan
 Jeannine Willis
 Jon Willis

Todd Alger
 Rob Christian
 Eric Cantor
 Theresa Czerepica
 Doug Eaton
 Ken Hayes
 Teri Hayes
 Garrett Kane
 Chuck Zarba



South Shore Neptunes

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

WHEN: *Saturday, January 26, 2019*

WHERE: *The Common Market*
97 Willard Street, Quincy, MA

Cocktails: 6:30 PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM

COST: \$33.00 per person

Please **RSVP** to a Club Officer or Board Member by **Tuesday January 22, 2018**.

