



Sounding

Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes

Calendar 2019

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
 3/24 Club Dive 9AM
 4/2 General Meeting
 4/9 Board Meeting
 4/14 Club Dive 9AM
 4/16 Diving the Philippines by Rob
 Robison; newsletter assembly
 4/28 Club Dive 9AM
 5/4 Clubhouse Cleanup
 5/5 Club Dive 9AM
 5/7 General Meeting
 5/14 Board Meeting
 5/18 Dinner Night Out, Bay Pointe
 Restaurant, 5PM
 5/19 Club Dive 9AM
 5/21 Program: Jack Chapin,
 Environmental Police
 6/1 Saturday Club Dive 9AM
 6/4 General Meeting
 6/8 U-Boat dive block Island/Pt
 Judith, contact Todd A
 6/11 Board Meeting
 6/16 Club Dive 9AM
 6/18 Program TBA; newsletter
 assembly
 7/2 Club Meeting
 7/9 Board Meeting
 7/16 Program TBA
 7/27 President's Party @ Irish Cultural
 Center. Details TBA

ACTIVITIES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & REMINDERS

- Dues are due! Please bring cash or send a \$35.00 check, payable to the South Shore Neptunes
- **Saturday, May 18, 5PM, Dinner Night Out, Bay Pointe Restaurant,** Bay Pointe Restaurant 64 Washington Court, Quincy MA. (617)-472-3200
- **Saturday Sept 7 Shark Dive on the Snappa', (SnappaCharters.com)** Boat Location Address: 33 State Street Narragansett, RI 02882. \$100 deposit to **Ken Hayes** immediately reserves spot and obligates your total financial participation. Cost \$200-\$225. Balance due BEFORE trip departs. Contact Ken for details :617-462-3920 or <kenhayesedl@gmail.com>
- **Spring 2020 Bonaire Club Dive Trip:** Blackie announced members should save their \$ because he's planning a club dive trip to Bonaire. Details will be spread upon the club at a later date.



IN MEMEORIAM

The South Shore Neptunes express their deepest condolences to the family of Martin Blake, retired Quincy police officer, former Neptunes treasurer and Life Member, and member of the Quincy Yacht Club. For a photo and complete obituary, go to: <<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/southofboston-ledger/obituary.aspx?n=martin-f-blake&pid=191853945&fhid=20823>>.

We will miss him.

FEBRUARY/MARCH CLUB ACTIVITIES & DIVES

February 19. The evening program featured underwater archaeologist, historian, Boston Sea Rovers friend, and a trustee of the Connecticut River, **Annette Spaulding**, who logs an





average of 117 dives annually. Her impassioned program featured stories about finding an historic sunken bridge, Native American petroglyphs, period arrow heads, a World War II bomb (See bomb fin & more at left), and much much more. It was a delightful evening. Thanks so much, Annette!

March 9-10. Boston Sea Rovers 65 Anniversary

Clinic. *Story by Tommy Lo; photos by Rob Robison*

On the weekend of March 9 and 10 the Boston Sea Rovers held their annual symposium. The SSN had their usual booth at the show. We had plenty of help setting up and manning the booth on Saturday morning.

Members were able to attend some of the speakers' daytime seminars. Included was Annette Spaulding who came to the club as a guest speaker last month and had a wonderful display of artifacts she found in the Connecticut River. We were also invited to stay at her house and do some diving with her this summer. DAN's Dr. Frauke Tillmans, who we heard recently as a guest speaker for the North Shore Frogmen, also was a presenter at the Sea Rovers show. Additionally, I

watched a wonderful video all shot from an iPhone 7 Plus in a \$300 underwater housing.

After almost 30 years in the club and attending many Sea Rovers shows, I took one for the team and attended my first film festival. The room was packed with 900 people. The festival was emceed by Brian Skerry, who introduced Dr. Bob Ballard, Dr. Sylvia Earle, BSR Diver-of-the-Year Joe Romeiro, Jonathan Bird, and BBC cameraman Roger Munns. In the



Geraldo & Mary Rose



Bill Burchill & John Blackadar



60s (L) & 70s (R) gear displays





Rob Robison promoted to Sea Rover status

film festival, I really enjoyed Roger’s closeups of a clownfish, how the film showed the clownfish and its mate working together to move a coconut shell across the sand (Coming soon on The Blue Planet II).

Sunday, due to the late night and daylight savings time change, I woke up late and rushed back to Danvers in a snow squall. It wasn’t until I got off the highway that I discovered you can lose control even with all wheel drive. Speed may have been a factor.

While at our booth, we met and spoke with many divers. Some expressed great interest in joining the club, and I hope to see some of them soon. We met a potential guest speaker, and we also heard the real story of the 76 lb. silver ingot found by the tin man in Scituate. We met a bottle guy who spent 30 minutes telling Chuck, Garrett, and me about some of the bottles on the table and what made them valuable. When his wife found him, she was not too pleased to see him near bottles and tried to pry him away. FYI: He has over 2000 bottles in his collection.

It was great to speak to some of the members of the other dive clubs and to see how they are doing. I met some divers from Salem and introduced them to the Froggies. I was surprised that these guys had never heard of them, since they were in their own backyard.

It was a great event and I am definitely looking forward to next year’s Rovers show.

Thanks to all who Helped: Chuck Z, Ken & Teri, Bill Burchill, Blackie, Angelo, Theresa, Geraldo Backus, Garrett, Mary, Doug, Amanda, and Rich Bowers. There were more helpers whose names got lost in the rum haze. Sorry about that!

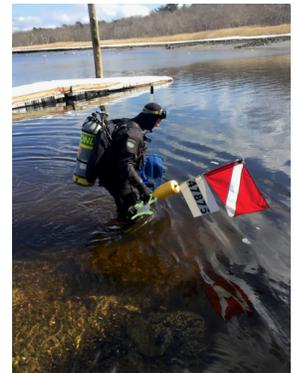
Thursday, Feb. 28. North River. In search of a fin. I met dive buddy and Neptunes President, Chuck



Zarba, down where the Rt crosses the He lost a fin the bridge river float last wanted to again, a 3rd or make his at the same him I would



at the marina 3A bridge North River. underneath during our October and search for it 4th time, and February dive time. I told help.



We arrived too early for

low tide, so we headed for the local breakfast and lunch café in Scituate and ate breakfast in Chuck’s case and lunch in mine, BS’ed for a bit, and headed back to the bridge. Chuck donned his gear and hopped in the water, which was still running out to sea harder than we had hoped, swam around for about seven minutes and found nothing more than a Simpson Springs soda bottle from the 60s. He did say there was a heck a lot of tangled anchor-type line covering the submerged rocks and saw no sign of the numerous cars, reportedly lurking underneath the bridge at apparently greater depths than he reached. The water temp was 32° at a max depth of 13’. Afterwards, Chuck and I repaired to the local 99 Restaurant bar for beers and a yuck before going home. No way he was going to find that fin on this day.

Sunday Feb. 17. Hathaway’s Pond. Despite a sunny day, Rich Bowers and I discovered that the water was too rough at Plymouth Beach due to the overnight wind shift, so we drove down to Hathaway’s Ponds, our Plan B. After just returning from having made 32 dives in an easy-to-don 3 mm wetsuit, with air temps in mid to high 70s, and water temps ranging from 76° to 83°F in the Philippines, it seemed

difficult putting on bulky undergarments, dry suit, and weight-laden tanks to make a dive. With low 30s air temps and biting wind whipping at us, we readied



(L) Rich Bowers setting up his GoPro. (R) Beer barrel



ourselves for submerging in 34 degree water. Evidently, my neck seal or wrist seal or both didn’t seat properly because 6 minutes into the dive my entire right arm was soaked. I surfaced 4 minutes later. Rich made it all the way to the sunken cabin cruiser across the pond, did his three minute safety stop, and surfaced looking for me. Fortunately, we both made it up and out OK and will dive again together. In younger days I would have tolerated getting soaked much longer, coupled with the low vis in very cold water, but evidently not anymore. I guess it’s taking me longer to readjust to winter diving after a warm weather, warm water trip than it used to. Oh well, at least there is always the next dive to look forward to.

24th NATIONAL TOURNAMENT UNDERWATER RUGBY – Boston 2019

February 16-17. *Story & photos supplied by Jay Theriault*

The second National Tournament of the 2018-19 Season was hosted by the Boston Narwhals club in Quincy, Massachusetts at the Lincoln Hancock School Pool. Thirteen Club teams, including 5 Women’s teams, competed over the weekend of February 16-17, 2019. Boston fielded three Narwhal teams: Boston-A, Boston-B, and a Boston women’s team.

The club teams were divided into three groups having the defending champion Boston-A Narwhals as top seed in Group B, along with FLORIDA Krakens, CAMO (Montreal, Canada) and SAN FRANCISCO Sea Bass. Group A consisted of the top seed NJ Hammerheads team along with the CT-Mako’s (formerly East Haven Mako’s), TORONTO, and the Boston-B Narwhals team. The third Group consisted of all women’s teams: Boston Narwhal Ladies, CAMO, DC, and two Mako’s teams A and B women.

The Boston-A Narwhals and the New Jersey Hammerheads dominated their groups with the Boston-A Narwhals beating San Francisco 6-0 and CAMO 2-1 on the first day of competition.

Boston-B Narwhals struggled in Group A without a full complement of players or subs.

On the second day, Boston-A easily defeated the last remaining team in Group B, the FLORIDA Krakens, 6-0 and became qualified as a top seed in Group B in the semifinals. Boston-A Narwhals then played the second seed in GROUP A, TORONTO and defeated them while the NJ Hammerheads beat their second seed counterpart in GROUP B, FLORIDA Krakens setting up the final match of the tournament.

The highlight of the club tournament was the final game between Boston-A Narwhals and NJ



Hammerheads. These two teams have been battling it out throughout these tournaments. This time was not an exception. Boston went up early in the first half 2-0 with one of the goals scored during a penalty period levied on the NJ Hammerheads. The NJ Hammerheads later surprised Boston with a goal putting the Hammerheads within reach going into the final minutes of the game. One of the Boston players mistakenly subbed out on the wrong side of the pool and jumped back in when they were not allowed to re-enter on that side putting Boston in a penalty situation. The Narwhals were able to kill the penalty and no harm was done. The

Boston-A Narwhals were then able to control the pace of the game with a strong offense and defense to keep the NJ Hammerheads playing down in their own end of the pool with only a few minutes left in regulation. The Boston-A Narwhals killed the clock and time ran out for a final score of 2-1 making the Boston-A Narwhals gold medalists.

The women’s tournament had a round-robin with 5 teams in which The Connecticut Makos-A ladies dominated the group followed by Boston Narwhal ladies. The Boston Narwhal ladies took home a silver medal. Some of the Boston Narwhal women played on both the men’s and women’s teams and did Team USA practices, playing almost 20 games over two days making them iron women.



The final result is that the Boston Narwhals are likely to return to Berlin, Germany with two first place wins and a third deciding tournament scheduled for this May 25-26, 2019 in Pompano Beach, Florida. If the Narwhals can place 1st, 2nd or 3rd in that tournament, it will qualify them to represent the USA at the Champions Cup later this year in Berlin, Germany.

We wish to congratulate the Boston-A Narwhals and the Connecticut Mako Ladies on their gold medal wins and all the teams that participated. Special mention to Andrea Picot, Laurie Picot and Kim Forest for playing an extraordinary number of games as well as helping organize the food and Tim Burke for tournament logistics. (*Ed Note: Jay could be seen wearing his medal for weeks afterwards.*)

