



# Sounding

*Newsletter of the*

## *South Shore Neptunes*

### ACTIVITIES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & REMINDERS

#### Calendar 2019

**10/26/ North River Run**

(tentative) Look for email update!

**10/27 ClubDive: North River Run**  
(tentative)

**11/3 ClubDive, from clubhouse,**  
**9AM**

**11/5 General Meeting**

**11/12 Board Meeting**

**11/17 ClubDive, 9AM**

**11/19 Program : Andy Martinez,**  
underwater photographer &  
author/newsletter

**12/1 Club Dive, 9AM**

**12/3 General Meeting**

**12/10 Board Meeting**

**12/15 ub Dive, 9AM**

**12/17 Newsletter assembly**

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**2020**

**1/1 Sober Up Dive Pleasure Bay**

**1/7 General Meeting**

**1/14 Board Meeting**

**1/18 Annual Awards Banquet,**  
**\$33/pp**

**1/21/Newsletter Assembly &**  
**Program TBA**

**5/16-23 Bonaire Club Dive Trip**

- Online club U-853 t-shirt store: <<http://Southshoreneptunes.noslowturtles.com/store>>
- **Saturday Oct 12** Annual North River Run RESCHEDULED due to weather to Oct 26 or 27. Watch your email!
- Weds. Jan 1, Sober Up Dive, Pleasure Bay, plus more
- Saturday, Jan 18 Annual Awards Banquet. **The Common Market**, Willard St in Quincy. \$33/person
- **May 16 - 23, 2020 Bonaire Club Dive Trip:** Blackie announced members should save their money because he's planning a club dive trip to Bonaire. Details will be spread upon the club in the near future. Stay tuned!
- Rugby team traveling to Berlin 11/20-11/25 to compete for the Berlin Cup.

### SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER CLUB ACTIVITIES & DIVES

#### Weds. August 25. Dive in Search of Missing Person.

Story & photos by John Blackadar

On Sunday, August 25, 2019, Todd Alger, Doug Eaton, Rick, a friend of the deceased's family, and I helped search a local pond looking for a missing Hanson woman



named Sandra Crispo. We searched off Ocean Ave in Hanson in West Monponsett Lake in an area of the lake that the family, specifically her daughter Lainey McMahon, requested that we search. We spent about an hour and a half searching



the area. The visibility was good and the depth was only 4-5 feet, so we were able to snorkel. Unfortunately, we were unable to locate the missing woman.



slightly rippled because the incoming tide was butting against a stiff westerly breeze blowing over our heads out to sea. Fortunately, the weather did not create conditions detrimental to a successful dive.

We suited up quickly and headed for the water. Dropping down, I looked over to see John fiddling with his gear. In the excitement inherent in

getting wet, he had forgotten to connect the pressure hose to his BC. Once squared away, we proceeded with the dive and encountered a field littered with empty clam shells, providing evidence of a great feast by man or perhaps marauding seals. There were lots of hermit crabs of varying sizes and decorator crabs hiding in the emerald green eel grasses and among the fronds of green sea fleece. Small Forbes

starfish were abundant, and baby flounder could be seen flitting about, though not in copious numbers. Rock and Jonah crabs, both single and copulating pairs, were everywhere as per usual. Even a few lobsters peeked out from their deep burrows under the rocks. The only keeper we saw must have



lost a few battles because it no longer possessed either of its two arms or claws. We left it in peace. Another sauntered across the sand missing an entire arm and claw and sported only half of the remaining pincher. Although Irish Moss abounded, kelps were noticeably absent, perhaps due to the effect of all the wind storms this year from winter through summertime, but also perhaps due in part to water degradation. At the same time, I was glad to notice that an abundance of what I think was an ugly invasive sponge species has seemingly disappeared, leaving scant few vestiges behind. I hope it doesn't return any time soon, if ever.

We ended the day on a great note: 72 minutes bottom time, 10-15' of vis in 58°-60° water, depending upon whose dive computer one is to believe. Sandy's Bar and grill beckoned us to celebrate our delightful morning dive with delicious sea scallops and burgers for lunch, plus some cold cans of Corona to help wash it all down. You can find Jon's video of our dive here: <<http://www.jw-ocean-stuff.net/posts/2019-09-28/>>.

Sunday, September 29. King's Beach in Newport, RI. A couple of long time dive buddies and I met at King's Beach, instead of heading north to Cape Ann, because of the strong winds out of the north. Although we could feel the wind at our backs, as we gazed out at the ocean, and see the ripples on the water with the incoming tide, we recognized it would be a decent day underwater. A group of early bird divers, who were hitting the water while we assembled and donned our

gear, and a whole passel of kayakers, who were arriving as we set up, felt the same way. The parking lot was full!

The three of us hung together and dove in search of tropicals and other critters. From the outset the water was full of Black Sea Bass, from fingerlings to juveniles, and the occasional lunker hiding deep in the caves. One spied a 16" Black Sea Bass, while the other located a 24" Tautog and a very tiny butterfly fish that darted out in the open then disappeared into the back of a hole before I could take a snapshot. Small schools of Cunner and Rock Gunnels swam about the rock ledges and near the openings in the rocks. Jelly fish swarmed everywhere. A few starfish and crabs could be seen as well. Our vis was about 10'; bottom time: 73 min.; max depth: 23'; water temp: 63°.

After the dive, we headed to lunch at Flo's Drive In in Portsmouth, where the three of us dined on platters of fried

clams and fried shrimp. What a great way to spend a Sunday morning and early afternoon! Thanks, everyone!!

#### **Hathaway's Pond. Sunday, October 6, 2019. Story & photos by Rob**

*Robison*

Given the week's heavy winds from the north and east, Neptune **Jon Willis** and I decided to make a dive down on the Cape in Barnstable at Hathaway's Pond. On reaching the park a bit before 9 AM, I noticed a number of divers had already suited up and were in the



water, a harbinger of things to come on this bright sunny day.

Jon arrived shortly after I did. We suited up and wasted no time wading into the water from the beach. Vis looked like it would be great. We dropped down early and meandered slowly across the gentle slope to the ledge and steeper descent toward the bottom, looking for the lines installed to help divers find the points of interest in the pond. Success! The first one was in plain sight, so we followed it in an easterly direction, found the swim through hoop, but not much else.

 Suddenly, our line stopped. Looking around, we discovered another one heading in the opposite direction but angling north and descending, we surmised, toward the sunken cabin cruiser on the far side of the pond. As we descended, we found a soccer goal-style swim through, but again not much else. Evidently, many of the old "toys" and junk, which used to create some interest during the dive, have been removed.

We continued swimming slowly down the line until a group of divers came toward us. They stirred up so much silt, we decided to abort the remainder of the dive and return another day.

Included here are the few decent photos I was able to take of the school of freshwater bass fingerlings that shadowed us, plus some underwater vegetation, and an interesting looking old log. The red hue is due to an improper setting I made on my camera. Sorry about that.

After the dive, Jon and I repaired to Jesse's Marine in Plymouth, where he helped me reinstall a rubber gasket on my outboard that enables me to flush the engine with a garden hose. Thanks, Jon. Then, it was time for lunch and home to watch the Patriots find it in themselves to eventually destroy the Buffalo Bills.

Dive stats: temp: 63°, vis: 20', depth 26', bottom time: 28-30 min.

Dive into it folks. The fall water has been and will continue to be fine for the foreseeable future.

*Rob*

