



Sounding

Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes

Calendar 2019

9/21/Club Flea Market (tent).
 9/28 Club Dive 8AM
 10/1 General Meeting
 10/8 Board Meeting
 10/12 Club River Run on North River
 10/15 Program TBA/newsletter assembly
 10/27 ClubDive, from clubhouse, 9AM
 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, ProgramTBA

2020

1/1 Sober Up Dive Pleasure Bay
 1/7 General Meeting
 1/14 Board Meeting
 1/18 Annual Awards Banquet
 1/21/Newsletter Assembly & Program TBA

ACTIVITIES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & REMINDERS

- Online club U-853 t-shirt store: <<http://Southshoreneptunes.noslowturtles.com/store>>
- Saturday Sept 7 Shark Dive on the Snappa,' CANCELED due to weather. Refunds are coming. Contact Ken for details :617-462-3920 or email <kenhayesedl@gmail.com>
- Saturday Sept 21 Club Flea Market at Hanover Tractor Supply Parking Lot on Rt 53
- Saturday Oct 12 Annual North River Run . Meet at the 3A bridge parking by 12 noon.
- °Weds. Jan 1, Sober Up Dive, Pleasure Bay plus more
- Saturday, Jan 18 Annual Awards Banquet. The Common Market, Willard St in Quincy. \$35/person
- Spring 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 at a later date.

EVENING PROGRAM

There were two delightful and well-attended evening programs in

August. On Tuesday, August 20, we were regaled with a video, stories, and artifacts from the first divers to reach the wreck (1977) of the Chester A Poling, off Eastern Point Gloucester, MA: Neptunes Bill Burchill, J o e Donahue,

Paul Adler, and Joe Hohmann. Thanks, guys, for a great informative evening!

On Thursday, August 29, we hosted





Canadian cave diver Jill Heinerth, underwater explorer extraordinaire, author, photographer, lifetime Boston Sea Rover, PBS and National Geographic star, inaugural Canadian Geographic Explorer in Residence, and inaugural Women’s Diving Hall of Fame member, for a book signing of her newly published autobiography, *Into the Planet*. After the signing, she made a presentation of its contents. If you were not able to attend, you missed what was one of the finest if not the finest presentation this writer has ever attended in the dive world. Just outstanding in every way. Thanks, Jill, for sharing your exploits, fears, and successes. What a worthwhile experience for



anyone to have had the opportunity to enjoy first hand!

Special thanks to Theresa C and Chuck Z for the photos.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER CLUB ACTIVITIES & DIVES

Bay State Council Treasure Hunt and snorkel event, Sunday Sept 15. As Todd Alger wrote, The BSC put on a great event with everyone who registered the opportunity to raffle for thousands of dollars worth of fantastic prizes donated by our local dive shops and scuba manufacturers. And hopefully some of the great new divers we met will decide to join the club.



Neptunes Snorkel Team. L-R:Mar Z, Todd A, Rob V, PaoloC, MarRL, Garrett K

Todd also reported on the club’s **victorious snorkel team**: The Neptunes being two time defending champions of the BSC Snorkel event, our goal was to put together another championship team for 2019. Captain Rob Vice tried to ensure we would have a six person team because we have found out the hard way that having a six-person team is key to winning. We had a solid five of **Rob Vice, Todd Alger, Mary Rose Largess, Garrett Kane, and Mark Zipeto**. However, finding that sixth Neptune proved to be a challenge. We asked a handful of Neptunes and possible future Neptunes who had completed the diving event to join the Neptune’s snorkel team. After a few Yes’s that changed to No’s, we finally nailed down Ken Hayes who agreed to do it if we could not find anyone else. It was at that point that a dive friend named Adriano came to the rescue. Adriano had come to the BSC Treasure hunt event for the first time, and he was putting together his Tri-State snorkel team, which consisted of a bunch of his free-diving friends. Luckily for

us, they had one too many competitors, and that is how we recruited **Paolo Costa** on the team. Ken did not have to change into snorkel gear.

Once we found out about the Tri-State team, we knew it was not going to be easy to win. But we went into the water and did our best to find as many marbles as possible. As usual Rob Vice was MVP gathering 199 marbles from the bottom of the cove. Paolo was second on our team with 62, and I took third with 58 marbles. Altogether our team had a total of 372 and the Tri-State team had 363. Mary Rose was not feeling well and only was able to collect 9 marbles before she left the water. But that just goes to show you that those 9 marbles were crucial because we only won by 9. We had a great time winning our third consecutive title, and look forward to some new members breaking into the starting lineup next year.

Labor Day Weekend Dives. Sunday, Sept. 1, King's Beach, RI. A couple of dive buddies, plus Bonnie Zeller, and I wound up at King's Beach at 8:30 AM to see what the Rhode Island shore had to offer. What awaited us was 3' - 8' of vis and 63° water. The four of us suited up, one went out to the left to spearfish, while the rest of us headed straight out and down. One of our group quickly got lost and left Bonnie and me to fend for ourselves in the poor vis, heavy with particulate matter from the previous storms. We missed the rock island to the left and stayed pretty much in the sand seeing just a few black Sea Bass juveniles, a Boring sponge, a couple of green crabs, some small skittish Tautogs, and a small school of Scup. The 'togs and Scup were too fleet to capture on camera.



After the dive, we wound up at Flo's Drive-In for her "Famous Chowda" n Clam Cakes for lunch before heading home.

The following day was **Labor Day. Club Pres. Chuck Zarba** and I had agreed to take new Neptunes **Will Tinney** and **Jeff Finnell** diving my neck of the woods down at **Plymouth Beach**. Neptune **Jon Willis** joined us as well.



L-R: Jeff Finnell, RobR, Jon Willis, Will Tinney

It was a beautiful morning that greeted us before 8AM on the beach. We had arrived early to avoid paying the \$20.00 parking fee. The King tide was extremely low and out and had just begun making the turn back toward the beach, as we suited up and headed toward the water. It was too low for any of us to get down, so we trudged back to shore and waited for the tide to rise.

Meanwhile, Jeannine Willis, Jon's wife, made an appearance so she could get wet on this fine day. We suited back up and headed back to the water. All but one of our newcomers was able to get down. After several futile attempts to submerge—evidently, Jeff needed more lead—Jeff and I returned to shore and our vehicles and waited for the rest of the crew to finish

their dives. Visibility was 1-3 feet, nothing to write home about, that's for sure, which made the two of us feel better. Clearly, we didn't miss much on this fine day.

Will and Jeff packed up and headed home, while Jeannine, Jon, and I sampled the outstanding fried scallops and fisherman's platter at the convenient beach bar and grill, Sandy's, next to our dive site. It was a great way to end a dive day, sharing stories and food with two great dive buddies.

Diving the Historic Connecticut River in Vermont with Local Historian and Underwater En, Annette Spaulding, Aug 22 - 25. Annette Spaulding's inspiring February presentation and an open invitation to visit and dive with her, spurred **Chuck Zarba**, club president, and me to contact Annette and set up a



weekend dive experience in late August. I drove to Chucks's house, where we loaded my Rav 4 and headed out to Annette's 16 acre ponderosa in Rockingham, VT. En route we made a pit stop at East Coast Divers to pick up Boston Sea Rovers promo materials for the 9 presentations she's facing this fall. Four hours later we rolled into her driveway and waited for her return. Fittingly, she was out on one of her 100+ annual dives, most of which occur within the 268 miles of the 406-mile-long Connecticut River flowing through Vermont. When she drove up, Annette

was dressed in her wetsuit, damp from a recent plunge in the river.

Annette organized three dives for us: Sumner Falls, Lower Bellows Falls, and the Putney Boat Ramp. **Friday, Aug 23:** We drove to **Sumner Falls**, in Hartland VT, where John Sumner's logging mill had been destroyed in a mid 1800s Hurricane

(<http://ghostsofnewengland.blogspot.com/2011/09/phantom-loggers-of-sumner-falls.html>). We dove this site because of the potential presence of mill tools, many of which had been found by Annette on previous dives. On this dive, Annette and Native American paleo presence. with vis that ranged from 15' - 20', in small mouth bass that constantly finding a length of heavy logging chain, back to shore. It was donated to the discovered 2/4 casters of an upside of various shapes—flat, round, oval, plies for Annette, who did not find a lost searching for as well



Annette's car died and self-revived. A unsuccessfully to help. Apparently, patch of 4' deep water during a recent had affected her electronic ignition. It continue drying out, and started just leave.

We enjoyed a delightful lunch on the fly of ham and cheese, which tasted incredibly delicious after our 70 minute underwater exploration of the falls. The livery owner informed us that the smell we detected in the river mud was from liquid manure the nearby farmers had recently spread on their fields, and it had run into the water. As soon as we returned to Annette's place, we all disinfected our gear as quickly as possible.

Saturday, Aug 24, Lower Bellows Falls. We arrived late in the morning on another sparkling day **below the hydroelectric dam**. One gate was open, generating a very slight current.



focused on looking for more tools Chuck and I reached a depth of 26', 72-73° water. I photographed the encircled us, while Chuck was busy which he lift-bagged and floated historical society. We also down logging cart, polished stones some with holes—which we left in gold wedding band she was

kayak/canoe livery owner tried Annette had driven through a heavy downpour, and the water just needed some air time to fine when we were ready to



Annette was looking for tools and evidence of a steamship. We saw remnants of the steamship pier above water. Underwater, either Annette or Chuck found the top end of a glass oil lamp and a plate shard. Annette showed us the wagon wheels she had discovered, along with some sort of a



gear with a shaft. Together, we explored a deeper part of the river Annette had not yet visited. We found carriage wheels, a steamboat gear, and mill stones. Treasure hunter Chuck unearthed a pike pole used in logging to keep the logs in order. Large and small mouth bass abounded because Annette feeds them crawdads by hand, and they were looking for easy pickings. Large fresh water mussels coated the bottom in many different places. We saw antique ceramic insulators, too. The vis was 10'-15', temp 73°, 31' depth, 51 min. dive time. It was a wonderful dive.



Sunday, Aug 25 Putney Boat Ramp on CT River. We swam around a

submerged island, surrounded by hundreds of thousands of fresh water mussels, a found piece ostensibly from the toll house for a primitive hand-pulled flat-bottom ferry, similar to the one seen in the Clint Eastwood movie, *The Outlaw Josey Wales*.



Once again, the bass surrounded us expecting to be hand fed, while we continued searching for more proof of the ferry's existence. We were looking for a brass ring used for the cable of the ferry. Dive conditions were these: depth 33', temp 75 degrees, dive time 72 mini, vis 15-20' under the penumbra.



There are not enough words to thank Annette for her hospitality, rich knowledge of the Connecticut River and its history, and dive expertise. This was one of those unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime experiences with someone who will eventually become known as an icon of the diving community, if not already. THANKS, ANNETTE!

Boston Harbor Club Dive, July 21. *Story & photos by Tommy Lo*

I was able to secure the Sandra Jean and Captain Kevin for the club dive, and I was able to get **Doug, Chuck, John Pell, Jon Willis, Paul Greene, Rob Vice** and I for the dive. **Ken Hayes** came along to take up space. We were also joined by Matt and Tina Lyons from Quincy Yacht Club (QYC) looking to fish.

We met at 8 and loaded up; the ride out was relatively calm and flat; we could see plenty of fish splashing the surface along Toddie Rocks (the 9A can to Point Allerton); meanwhile, all the fishing boats were out by Boston Ledge.



We suited up and went in. Kevin reported that once we got in the winds and seas picked up. It didn't rock the Sandra Jean much but it would have rocked my 19' Privateer. We estimated 13-18mph wind with white caps. Depending on where you were, the visibility was anywhere from 5ft to a clear 15 to 20ft. I found an area where the lobster holes were so deep my arm could not reach the back of the hole. There were some unconfirmed reports that some of the guys were fighting for lobsters underwater, just like we did back in the good old days. It turned out to be team work gauging the lobsters.

We bagged a bunch of lobsters and decided to try our luck on the second dive elsewhere. Our second dive at Tewkesbury Rock we had to let out more scope on the anchor line, as the anchor was being dragged across the bottom. The dive was great except butterfingers (Chuck) dropped Paul's weight belt. John Pell went after it and found it next to the weight belt we dropped to mark the location of Paul's weight belt, just like cufflinks. John got to use his lift bag and his wreck reel. Doug retrieved the weight belt we dropped to mark the location.

Tina caught a "Doug tuna," but Matt was quick to cut the line before the hook was set into the Doug tuna. Doug later retrieved her lost fishing tackle.

The ride back to QYC was a bit choppy, and we could feel the heat as we got closer to land. On the way in we didn't have any Stella Doras ;instead, we had Tina's homemade cookies that were delicious. We had a great day diving that was followed by a few beers at the QYC bar.



Well, folks, as you can see, what a month it has been with Neptunes diving into it everywhere and having a blast. Join us next month for even more adventures!

Rob



Flea Market and Craft Fair

Saturday Sept. 21, 2019
8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Rt. 53 HANOVER
Tractor Supply parking lot



Admission 50 cents
Sponsored by



The South Shore Dive Team
Volunteer Underwater Recovery Unit

\$15.00
a table



For
table space
call



\$15.00
a table

(781)-391-1034 or (781)-826-4696

www.southshorenepunes.org

The Hotline (617)-804-5637

All kinds of items !



FOOD !



Set up time 6:30 A.M.
Rain Date Sat. Sept. 28, 2019

