



Sounding

Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes

Calendar, 2020

- 3/3 General Meeting
- 3/6 - 3/8 Boston Sea Rovers
Annual Clinic Danvers, MA
- 3/10 Board Meeting
- 3/17 Program Newsletter
- 3/21 Club Dive Newport, RI
- 3/28 Club Dive
- 4/2 General Meeting
- 4/9 Board Meeting
- 4/16 Ted Maney Salem State
(pending); Newsletter
- 4/21 Club Dive from
clubhouse, 9 AM
- 4/28 Club Dive from
clubhouse, 9 AM
- 5/2 Clubhouse Cleanup 8 AM
- 5/3/ Club Dive from
clubhouse,
8 AM
- 5/5 General Meeting
- 5/10 Club Dive from
clubhouse,
8 AM
- 5/12 Board Meeting
- 5/16-5/23 Trip -Bonaire
- 5/21 Program Newsletter
- 6/2 General Meeting
- 6/9 Board Meeting
- 6/14 Club Dive from
clubhouse,
8 AM
- 6/21 Newsletter/Program TBA
- 6/28 Club Dive from
clubhouse,
8 AM
- 7/5 Women's Dive Day
- 7/7 General Meeting
- 7/11 Club Dive from

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACTIVITIES, & REMINDERS

March 21 Newport, RI Overnight and club dive. Contact Todd Alger (todd.alger@gmail.com) for more info.

May 16—23, 2020, Bonaire Club Dive Trip: DEADLINE! If you haven't done so already and intend to go, send a \$200 deposit payable to Wayland Travel, % Deb Isroff, 308 Commonwealth Rd., Wayland, MA 01778 ; tel: 508-653-4600 **by Friday Feb 28. DEADLINE!**

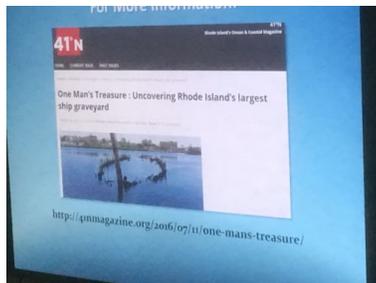
JANUARY/FEBRUARY CLUB ACTIVITIES & DIVES

January Speaker. *Photos courtesy Tommy Lo & RR.* Newly installed director of Underwater Archaeology for Massachusetts, David Robinson, was on

hand to introduce himself and share his underwater exploits diving,



discovering, and excavating Rhode Island's largest



underwater shipyard gravesite! This was an incredible endeavor that kept everyone enthralled and probably wore him out! Thanks, David!

Dinner Night Out. *Photos courtesy Theresa C.* Saturday, February 8. Nearly 30 Neptunes and guests assembles at Bay Pointe Waterfront Restaurant for a Saturday



Night Out dinner together. Organized by **J o h n Blackadar**, our special events ring master, we dined on sumptuous servings of chicken, fish, or



beef, drank a few pops or other adult beverages, and enjoyed not only the waterfront view, but socializing in the very friendly and cozy atmosphere of the restaurant with its spectacular view of the marina and Town River.



Whydah Museum. Saturday, Feb. 15. *Story by Tommy Lo and RR.* Photos courtesy Tommy Lo & RR John was also responsible for organizing our field trip to the Whydah Pirate Museum in West Yarmouth, MA, which houses some of the \$400 million dollar treasure and artifacts Barry Clifford and his salvage team have extracted and preserved from the wreckage of the only pirate ship ever recovered. The Whydah was captained by the notorious buccaneer, Sam Bellamy.

Some of us met at the clubhouse to carpool down, while folks who live further south met at Blackie's house to carpool to the museum. There were 25 Neptunes and guests in all. As you walk into the museum, you are greeted by the restored ship's anchor. On my (Tommy's) last visit to the Whydah Museum in



Provincetown, Clifford and his crew had found the ship's anchor and were running water over it as part of the restoration process. It was great to see that they were able to preserve the anchor. The ship's bell was excavated and is currently sitting on display in water. Hopefully, they will be able to remove it from the water and shine it up.

As we made our way through the museum, numerous

artifacts were on display. In one of the displays there were small bits of gold. I remembered reading in the book, *Expedition Whydah*, the treasure hunters were using a turkey baster to pick up bits of gold between the rocks. In case you were wondering, the wreck is buried in the sand underneath 20' of water on the south side of the Cape. To find artifacts the treasure hunting crew took readings with a magnetometer and then used mailboxes, box-like contraptions placed over the salvage ship's prop, to redirect the thrust of the propeller downward to blow away the sand on the ocean floor. Then, divers would descend and search for the artifacts on the bottom.

Part of the museum tour is setup like an old pirate ship. It was great to see all of the restored relics in the museum. There was one part that had a few cannons and another where they had an Iron Maiden. You could even touch a few of the doubloons and pieces of eights.



The tour ends at a work-in-progress area where they had artifacts, encased in concreted material from the ocean, soaking in water as part of the restoration process. When the concretion is removed from the artifacts, they can be restored and then added to the display. In one of the displays in the lab area, human remains were found that were traced to a northern European lineage via Ancestry DNA.

The best part of the trip was meeting Barry Clifford. He came out and spoke with us for at least 30 minutes, autographed copies of his books, and posed for photos. All in all, we enjoyed a memorable 2-3 hours in his extremely well curated museum. With a little luck, we may be able to hold a club meeting there sometime in the near future. So stay tuned.

Afterwards, we dined at Capt. Parker's seafood restaurant, which is directly in front of the museum. Excellent fare for a great day that was had by all. Thanks, John!

February Speaker. *Photo by T. Lo.* Well-known author, diver, and underwater photographer extraordinaire, **Andy Martinez**, was on hand Tuesday to remind us why we love diving the New England waters. His mesmerizing photos depicting the habits and life cycles of crabs, nudibranchs, and other organisms were fascinating, colorful, and truly educational. Whether a novice or veteran diver, everyone came away with a new deeper appreciation for the underwater world we are so fortunate to be able to enjoy, which is so near at hand. Thank you, Andy!!



Sunday, February 23. Club Dive. Canoe Beach (Nahant). *Story and photos by Doug Eaton and Chuck Zarba.* On this bright sunny, 50° Sunday morning, Neptunes **Ken Hayes, Doug Eaton, Chuck Zarba, and prospective Neptune Ross Thomas**, met at the clubhouse and beat the expressway for Canoe Beach in Nahant. After checking in at the police station for permission to dive, they suited up—Doug

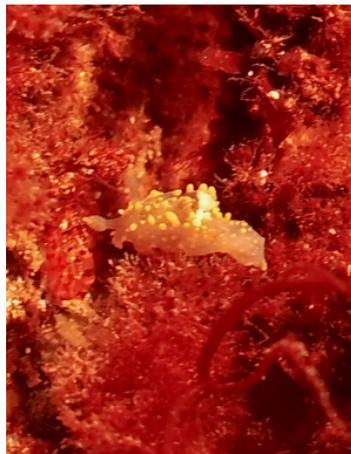
and Chuck dove dry, while Ross (1st NE dive) and Ken dove wet—and dropped 32' down into into 36° water. Vis as an excellent 20', which made it relatively easy to spot tons of hermit crabs, plant life, and at least two oversized lobsters, but no keepers—yet—during our 32-minute dive!



LR: Ross, Doug, Ken, Chuck

Sunday, February 16 & 23. Old Garden Beach. *Story and photos by Rob*
My Divers of Mass Bay winter dive buddy, who dives wet, and I (dive dry) tracked the weather all week long and decided now was the time to make a run for the North Shore. As luck would have it, we reached Old Garden and found the seas to be flat as a pancake and the vis to be 30 feet or more.

If you can imagine our delight, we literally jumped into our as our legs could carry us and the beach. We both had had anxiously chomping at the bit addition, my new wide-angle try it out. You will notice the my forgetting to change one of



then you will appreciate the fact that gear and headed for the water as fast our equipment across the cobbles to enough of pond diving and were to return to the ocean world. In lens had just arrived and I was eager to strong red hue in some photos due to the settings, so most of the color is not



accurate. Hopefully, I'll have this camera squared away next time.

After a brief swim out from the beach at very low tide, we dropped in around 12 feet of water and slowly followed the rock sand line to the land of the of the giant boulders on the right hand side and



the slope that points down to the 42 feet mark. Along the way, we found *dubia*, Flabellina, and we tried unsuccessfully to lobster deep in its hole and a keeper hiding too deep to extract, plus a Cnidarian/ Cerianthid, some baby hermit crabs, a sedentary worm called a Red Terebellid, a large steak fry-sized nudibranch called a Sea Lemon, an invasive species from Asia thought to have arrived here three years ago in the ballast waters



numerous nudibranchs of the Palio Onchidoris varieties, a flounder that capture without a spear, a short another, which I didn't see, that was





of international ships, plus a whole lot more.

The vis was an incredible 30'+, the water temp a mellow 35°F at 30', and our dive time was 41 minutes. It was such a beautiful, joyous dive. Truth be told, we wish you could have joined us, it was such a stunning morning underwater. Maybe next time you will want to dive into it with us. We certainly hope so. So start getting your gear serviced and ready for the upcoming plunges into the hydrosphere in 2020!

Sunday Feb 23, Today, we experienced more of the same incredible environment at Old Garden, with Neptune **Jon Willis** joining us to boot. Bottom time was 45 minutes, depth 45,' temp 36°, vis 10' - 30+' at depth. A near-perfect day with a great

dive team! Here's Jon Willis' **video clip** to commemorate the dive: <http://www.jw-ocean-stuff.net/posts/2020-02-23/>. Thanks, Jon!!

Sunday, Feb 2, 2020. Another Morton (Little) Pond Dive Sunday, *Story by Rob Robison; photos by Rob and Rich Bowers.* I drove to Morton (Little) Pond to make a dive around 9 AM on Sunday morning because the ocean was still stirred up and the visibility shot from midweek storms. I was met there by Neptune Rich Bowers and a friend from Divers of MassBay. As we finished suiting up, a guy I see frequently at my dive shop, Jack Ahern, appeared. He and my buddies helped me finish gearing up.

As we headed down to the pond, two more divers, also from Divers Market, showed up to make a dive, one of whom I knew and had dived with a couple of summers ago on what is left of the New Hampshire wreck from colonial times.

Once in the pond with our fins on, we headed down and started cooling off. My new camera--Sea Life replaced my dead one with a brand new one for FREE!--was working fine, as were my new photo-video cam lights, but I couldn't figure why the red filter was on. Turns out I had it set for dives deeper than 25,' and we only maxed at about 20' or so. My last few shots came out with the right look, instead of a red one. Some photos I've changed to black and white because the red was too intense.

I've been using a 3-finger ultra warm 7 mm thick mitt, made by Waterproof, on my left and a 5-finger 7 mm glove on my right because it's easier to put on once I've donned the 3-finger mitt.



Who's the alien?



Also, it's more flexible and easier to use with my camera, although I can use 3-finger mitts on both hands with my camera as well. The trade off is my right hand gets cold much faster than the left. Five-finger gloves are no match for warmth when compared to 3-finger mitts of the same thickness, no matter what they tell you in the dive shops or those who wear 5-finger mitts claim. Anyway, my right index finger was beginning to freeze up, so I was just fine with cutting off the dive. It was a short dive because one diver in my group only had a third of tank left when we began the

dive. Water temp was 37°, vis around 15,' our depth was 20'; dive time was @15-16 minutes. Regardless, we enjoyed a great dive together. Steaming cups o' Joe and coffee rolls from Dunkin' completed a great morning diving in to it. You should try it! You might even like it!!

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**The South Shore Neptunes look forward to seeing you at this year's
Boston Sea Rovers 66th Annual Clinic!
Join us, won't you?!**

