



Sounding

Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACTIVITIES, & REMINDERS

Calendar 2020

11/3 General Meeting 7PM
Zoom

11/10 Board Meeting 7PM
Zoom

11/17 Annette Spaulding
presentation on Connecticut
River Artifacts UPDATE Zoom

12/1 General Meeting 7PM
Zoom. Nominations for new
club officers

12/8 Board Meeting 7PM
Zoom. Nominations for new
club officers

12/15 ELECTIONS

2021

1/1 Sober Up Dive at Pleasure
Bay. Splash time TBA

1/5 General Meeting 7PM
Zoom

1/12 Board Meeting 7PM
Zoom

1/19 Evening Program TBA

Newsletter: To help add interesting content to the newsletter during these unusual times, please send me (robisonr25@yahoo.com) any first hand accounts, stories, photos, or both about your exploits as a Neptune for potential publication. Photos or clippings enhance stories, so please include them if you can. Don't forget to provide contact info in case I have questions.

New Underwater Rugby hours: Tuesday nites 8-9:30 PM at Westwood HS pool.

Club General and Board Meetings are now being held **on Zoom** until further notice. **See Club Facebook page** for pics and brief writeup. **Please note: All other Club activities and programs listed on the Calendar or not**, which are in conflict with the stay-in-place quarantine, **are also CANCELED until further notice.**

Don't forget to visit the **club store** at <<https://hangouts.google.com/call/2nubGQzycrWwT8H0MnIXAGEE>> for the latest in club swag.

ANNUAL AWARD ENTRIES DUE NOVEMBER 30!

NOMINATIONS December 1 & 8

ELECTIONS December 15

DUES-\$35-ARE DUE BY ELECTION NIGHT!

New Date: The Boston Sea Rovers announced that their annual clinic will be held **October 2-3, 2021**, instead of in March of next year. See flyer at the end of the newsletter.

Evening Program: Special thanks to **Ethan Gordon**, past president of the Boston Sea Rovers and former editor of *Fathom Magazine*, for his stunning photos and lively presentation on diving and recreating on Fiji!

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER CLUB ACTIVITIES & DIVES

Diving for Junk or Bugs *Sunday, Oct. 10, 2020. Story by Doug Eaton*

After not diving Saturday because of the weather, **Chuck Zarba** and I dove the Back River. Looking for what ever we could find, we did OK. I came out with 13 old bottles and Chuck with his find of 2 bottles, a Coke bottle from Brockton and 1941 milk bottle with a Mass BB seal on it. We compared bottles and decided to get some food. About that time, we got a call from **Rob Vice** telling us to meet him and **Todd Alger** at Todd's house for pizza and beers. We reached Todd's and found out they went to Canoe Beach. So we argued who had the better dive. No brainer, Canoe Beach! We just weren't going to tell them that. All in all, everyone had a good day diving.

Diving the Weekend of Oct 3-4, 2020 *Stories by Doug Eaton; photos by Paul Green and Chuck Zarba*

I went diving with **Tommy Lo** and Rob Vice on 10/3. We meet QYC at 8 a.m., loaded gear on Tommy's no name Privateer boat, and headed for Negative Ledge. We suited up and jumped in, me for a short dive because my tanks were low on air, only 1500 psi. I landed on the ledge, set my compass, checked my air, and went hunting. After 25-30 min I ended a nice dive with a water temp of 59°, air temp in the 70s, and vis about 15ft. Back on the boat waiting for Rob V and his new 120 tanks, I changed tanks for another short dive. After all of us returned to the boat, we headed back to QYC for a burger and beer and telling fish stories to end the day.

On the 4th I joined **Capt. Kevin** on the **Sandra Jean** with Neptunes Tommy Lo, Todd Alger, Rob Vice, Chuck Zarba, Paul Green, **Matt Meyers**, and **Ken Hayes**. Heading out to Negative Ledge, it's fun to watch everyone trying to be the first one geared up and in the water. Todd is hard to beat. The dive was nice: water temp 59°, air in the 70s, vis a good 15ft.



Chuck's bottles; photo by CZarba

After the hunt and everyone back on board the boat, we decided to head over to the Roaring Bulls for a 2nd dive. Another great spot to dive. We all found some bugs and enjoyed the day, ending it back at QYC for beers and more story telling. This boat is a must to dive from and a great group of divers to be with. A big thanks to Tommy for setting up the dives.

North River Run *Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020. Story by Doug Eaton; photos by Paul Green*

On Sept. 26, 11 Neptunes found themselves at Mary's Landing in Marshfield, all of them getting ready to partake in the river run. After everyone got suited up, **Bill Burchill** shuttled people to the Norwell Bridge St.



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Happy Diving

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Jeff Finnell & Ken Hayes with kayak & air mattress

boat ramp. Paul Green and **Theresa Czerepica** took pictures while everyone waded into the river. We had a few floats, a tiki bar, and a kayak. **Jeff Finnell** in the kayak was taking video and Paul was taking photos. The day was perfect, and everyone behaved themselves going down river. The only casualty was a lost fin. After getting changed, Doug Eaton, **Amanda Eaton**, **Justin Colantouni** (guest), Ken



Return of Doug and the Tiki Bar. It floats!

Hayes, Chuck Zarba, **Jeanine Willis**, Paul Green, **Doug Meyers**, Matt Meyers, Rob Vice, and Jeff Finnell went to eat and DRINK MILK (Ed. note: 😂) until the end the day at the Roht Bar near by.

North River Run II Saturday, October 17, 2020. Story and photos by **Rob Robison**

Having missed the September North River Run because I was out of town (See Diving Ohio Quarries below), I beseeched Todd Alger to do it again. Without question it is my favorite dive event of the year. Club members **Doug Eaton**, Paul Greene, Ken Hayes, **Carol Hamilton**, Chuck Zarba, **Adrienne Murphy**, and I, with ferry support by Bill Burchill and photo support by Theresa Czerepica, assembled in the Rt 3A parking area across the street from Roht Marine Boat Yard and Ships Store, just before the bridge over



Adrienne & Carol

the North River, around noon. We changed into our wetsuits, loaded our floats and gear into Bill B's truck, and headed for the launch area on Bridge Street in Norwell.

When we arrived, it was plain to see that the offshore storm surge had reached all the way to the Bridge St. canoe launch, our starting point, and beyond upstream. High tide was any number of feet above its normal. We waded into the river and began our downstream drift with the current



Doug and Ken

closer to 2 than 1:30 p.m., on what turned out to be a beautiful clear-skied sunny day. The wind, which had been gusting to over 30knots, subsided as we began the downstream float. At first, we had to kick mightily because at slack tide there was no movement, but once around



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the first bend, the current picked up helpfully and we were off. Along the way, we ran into the usual occasional boaters who were amazed to watch our party do its thing, but there were very few boats remaining on the numerous moorings dotting the length of the river. The fall foliage, which was ablaze along Rt 3, was much delayed on the river except for one spot, perhaps due as much to the warming effect from the water as to the lack of rain and a decent cold snap. Ken spotted 4-8 hawks gliding lazily in circles above us, taking advantage of the thermal lifts they encountered. A blue heron was startled by our sudden appearance on the water and made its escape flying off on a low trajectory across the river to the far side, its color reflecting noticeably from the glint of the afternoon sun.



We rested from time to time on a few docks yet to be pulled from the water, and then, suddenly, we reached the last bend before the 3A bridge, where the river widens, moored boats still proliferate, and Roht's Marine Bar and Grill stands on the site once occupied by Mary's Boat Livery. About this time, Adrienne lost one of her fins, somehow, an unfortunate yet frequent occurrence on this river. You'll have to ask her to describe how it happened. In the distance we could see Theresa waiting for us under the 3A bridge, taking photos with her Cannon, as the current accelerated us toward the boat ramp haul out and docks on the other side.



Paul with dive flag & float



Chuck in heaven

Afterwards, we supped at the marine bar and grill, drank a few brewskis or Margaritas, and allowed the alcohol and plates piled high with seafood to warm us up from our two-hour+ float. What a great time to share with fun dive buddies on a Saturday afternoon. Thanks, guys and gals! Couldn't have done it without you! Suffice it to say, those of you who couldn't make it missed a glorious day on the water. Maybe next time.



Roht's Marine Bar & Grill beckons

Diving Ohio Quarries *Stories and photos by Rob Robison*

If you have never dived in a quarry, it can be as interesting as diving in the ocean—you never know what you might see—as dull and uninteresting as the worst dive you have ever experienced, or something in between. Every time I return to the Columbus, OH area I make a pilgrimage to the

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Pavillion, change shack, & quarry

Circleville Dive Center, some 23 miles or so south of the state's capital city and its two diveable quarries.

The setting is beautiful, and access to the water is easy, thanks to the steps that lead into it. The pavilion, benches, and tables make gear assembly a breeze. There are changing shacks, gear-drying racks, and port-a-potties to ensure comfort and area cleanliness. A well stocked dive shop, open weekends and for a few hours in the PM on dive Tuesdays, provides air fills and service for balky equipment, as well as sales or rentals in case divers want or have forgotten important equipment. Most of all, one has to love the easy comfortable diving. Granted, it's not deep in the most frequently dived, spring-fed South Quarry—max depth is only 23'—but it can be very interesting. There are to be sure man-placed toys

underwater for divers to explore like the Piper Cub, the Cessna fuselage, the ambulance, school bus, various platforms for assembly and training, sunken motor boats, car wrecks, and more.

I really delight in the way one can observe the seasons through the changes in underwater life. In the fall, the marine grasses that grow turn golden and then begin to recede in density. Sometimes, freshwater jellyfish abound if only for a week or two. In winter, the underwater world is stark, just as it is topside, and feels absolutely silent. Virtually all life has gone into hibernation. On night dives the schools of bluegills and other panfish can be observed suspended motionless in mid water column, stacked in formation like cord wood. Ice divers crack the surface and explore its winter mysteries from mid January to mid February, as conditions permit. In the spring, the grasses begin to waken, turn green, and proliferate. Observant divers can see them oxygenating the quarry by off gassing air bubbles. Small schools of bass and pan fish appear, and an occasional catfish or two that have been hiding deep under the wrecks emerge. By summer time, these critters are fattening up, as are the snails that have been scurrying about doing what snails do. And if the weather turns blazing hot, increasing the shallow quarry's water temp to absurdly high levels, some of the vegetation begins to rot in the west corner where the toilet rat resides and turns the visibility as black as ink, sucking nearly all of the oxygen from the water in that part of the quarry.

With all this in mind, I met Columbus Sea Nags dive buddies, **John Skobel** and **Steve Woods**, plus new Tuesday Night Divers, **Chuck Walters** and **Chuck Niece**, at the Circleville Dive Center's South Quarry for a ritual plunge into the quarry on **Tuesday, September 29**. A number of other Tuesday night divers were otherwise occupied or the numbers would have reached about 7 or 8 divers plus yours truly.



L-R: Rob, Steve Wood, John Skobel, Chuck Walters, Chuck Niece

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We suited up and dropped down on the flatbed platform for a photo op of the group, which included a school of pan fish. Once all the photos had been taken, we headed south towards the billiards table to pay our respects to deceased dive buddy Donn Ellerbrock, a portion of whose cremated remains, lie underneath to memorialize his passing. We continued on past the catamaran, the toilet rat, sunken canoe and motorboat, the tub lady and her new partner, plus the red cross mobile and Cessna fuselage.

We sliced past the EMT ambulance, the motor boat Ginny Ann, the Jeep and Ford Bronco wreckage, another motorboat decorated for Halloween with a diver skeleton, the Piper Cub, and the school bus.

Unfortunately, the vis was a measly 5'-7' at best on our 56-minute dive and was also reduced to a great extent by an invasive species called bladder weed, a type of hibiscus that spreads like dandelions. Left unchecked, it will probably choke off the quarry in a few more years, which would be a shame for all those who love to dive in



Toilet rat in need of a wipe

Central Ohio. The water temp was a warm 66°, and our depth maxed at 20'.



Afterwards, we repaired to Gibby's Bar and Restaurant, a Circleville stand-in for



Darcy's Village Pub, for cold beer, burgers, and sandwiches with great dive buddies, before undertaking the 40-minute drive to Columbus.

Prior to this dive experience, I met John Skobel and another former Sea Nag, **Brent Bautista** on the preceding **Saturday, September 26**, in **Lancaster, Ohio**, at the **Lakeview RV Trailer Park**, which is built around another quarry. Its setting is beautiful, as well, and boasts a quarry depth of 51'-53'. Usually the quarry is colder, especially in its deep visibility-challenged trench, and the vis is less appetizing than Circleville's. On this day our vis was slightly better than Circleville's, reaching 10-15 hazy feet at best. The water temp was 69° - 71°, depending on how deep each of us was on our 62-minute, 28' max depth dive.



This quarry also offers interesting underwater sights so see: a Frito-Lay delivery truck, a sunken cabin cruiser, a twin Beech, and other wreckage for divers to explore, but the underwater distances to traverse are long in between items and the terrain a bit boring. Although there are fish to be

seen, the quarry is fished heavily by the trailer park residents, thereby reducing the number and richness of the encounters.



I hadn't dived this quarry since around 2010, so I was surprised to find some new items



suspended the in the water, to the 15' Beech and found the bowling along the



Cockpit Roger not so jolly!

heretofore unknown to me: a bowling ball and a bicycle mention but a few. We followed contour line north to the twin

ball way.

Also sighted was a turtle swimming along lazily, but it was too far away for me to see or photograph. On the return leg, we ran into the bicycle suspended in mid water column and the cabin cruiser, always fun to explore. The Frito Lay truck marked the beginning and end of the dive. John Brent, and I enjoyed a beautiful day and a warm water dive . It was a great way to spend a Saturday morning, leisurely diving into it with a couple of wonderful old dive buds.



John, Rob, & Brent; photo courtesy Brent Bautista

PARTING SHOTS & THOUGHT



GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

The Boston Sea Rovers are moving to the FALL!
Join us October 2nd/3rd 2021



That's right, you read it correctly, the Boston Sea Rovers has moved to fall dates for the foreseeable future!

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE



COVID Diver gone shopping?



Happy Halloween!

CLUB INFORMATION

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