



Sounding

*Newsletter of the
South Shore Neptunes*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACTIVITIES, & REMINDERS

Calendar 2020

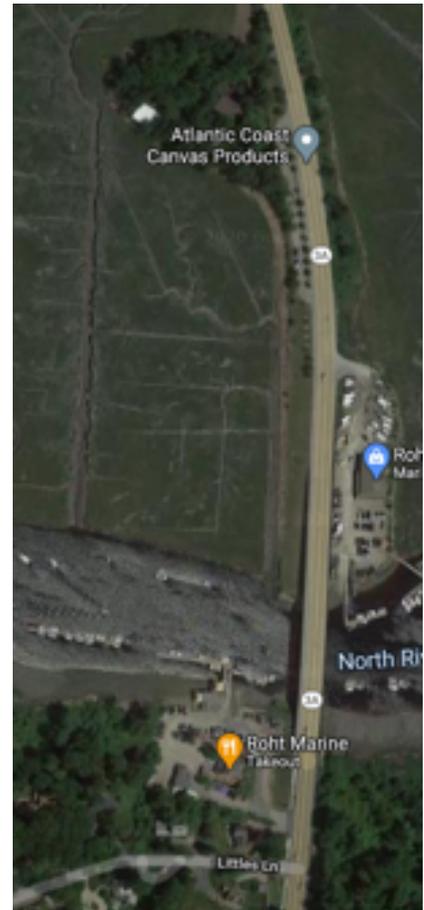
- 9/1 General Meeting 7PM
Zoom
- 9/8 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 9/12 BSC Treasure Hunt
Rescheduled for 2021 TBA
- 9/15 Program 7PM John
Blackadar and others: Early
club dive trips to Isles of
Shoals, Bonaire & more; Zoom
- 9/20 Tropical Fish Rescue
Rescheduled for 9/18/21
- 9/26 SSN Flea Market
CANCELED
- 9/27, River Run @ North River
9:30 AM
- 10/6 General Meeting 7PM
Zoom
- 10/13 Board Meeting 7PM
Zoom
- 10/? North River Run Float rain
date TBA
- 10/20 Program 7PM TBA Zoom
- 11/3 General Meeting 7PM
Zoom
- 11/10 Board Meeting 7PM
Zoom
- 11/17 Annette Spaulding
presentation on Connecticut
River Artifacts UPDATE Zoom

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.

(North) River Run Sept. 27. Meet at the 3A pull off parking lot left of the Drop Pin for Atlantic Coast Canvas Products (See photo insert), across the



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street from Roht Marine (on the right), at **9:30 AM** ,on Rt 3A south bound, heading toward the 3A bridge over the North River. **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.

New site: www.divecommando.net>. With the help of Neptune **Jon Willis**, I am creating (slowly) a new site to publish slide and video montages of the best of the photos and video clips I/we make each month or particular period of time. Right now, you can find two slide shows, one made from the first three dives off Commando this season, and the other chronicling the shore dives made from February to July16, 2020. Hope you will visit and enjoy www.divecommando.net>!

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER CLUB ACTIVITIES & DIVES

Diving from the Privateer and the Sandra Jean. *Story by Doug Eaton; photos by Tommy Lo. Saturday, September 5.* I went diving with Neptunes **Tommy Lo, Todd Alger, Rob Vice, and Joe Kilcommon** on Tommy's Privateer. We left QYC at 8 a.m. and headed for the outer harbor. When we passed the Hull Gut, the water was too rough. We changed sites and motored to the Outer Brewsters. The water 64°, air temp 82°, vis was 10-12ft.

For the 2nd dive we headed over to Martin's Ledge. The water had calmed down, so we geared up for a nice dive. I got to see a nice Sea Raven while chasing bugs. Ending the dive, we headed back to the QYC for a burger, beer, and lots of fish stories. Great diving with this group.



On the 6th we went out on the *Sandra Jean*. **Capt. Kevin, Tom Lo, Todd Alger, Rob Vice, Chuck Zarba, Ken Hayes, Joe Kilcommon, Amanda Eaton,** and prospective new member, **Lee Moore.** We left the QYC at 8 a.m. On the way out we saw a Mola Mola. Arriving at Negative Ledge, everyone



Mola Mola dorsal fin

geared up and jumped in. While changing tanks after the dive, a pilot whale stopped in for a visit.

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Happy Diving

From

JOHN & KATHY BLACKADAR



All geared up for the 2nd dive. The air temp 82°, water temp 64° at 65ft. Vis was a good 15ft. After returning to the boat and banding the bugs, we drank some beer and headed in for the QYC. Had 2 great days of diving with this Neptunes crew. Thanks for getting us out diving, Tommy!

Castle Island (Boston Harbor) South Boston. Sunday Aug 30. Story by Doug Eaton;

photos by Chuck Zarba. **Chuck Zarba** and I enjoyed

great day diving for artifacts in Boston Harbor between the sluice of Pleasure Bay and the fishing pier in front of Castle Island. Depth was approximately 10' at high tide. The infamous Joe

“Fingers” McAndrews was on hand to help us with all of the gear and to keep the considerable number of onlookers entertained. Chuck found a brick and a pottery shard in the submarine mud flats. Dive stats were as follows: Air temp a very sunny 89°; water temp 65°; bottom time 1hr. Afterwards, we went to Café Maddie's; however, the wait list to be seated was too long. So we headed to Darcy's, instead, to enjoy a great post-dive experience on a glorious Sunday afternoon.



The Long Swim at Pebble Beach. Sunday Aug 30. Story by Rob Robison; photos by Rob and Eric Zettergren. I got up before 5 and gathered up my dive and underwater

camera gear, coffee thermos, water bottle, and cooler for it and any lobsters or flounder that might come my way, stuffed all of it in my car, and headed for the gas station to top off my fuel tank. Then, it was north to Macy's at the Braintree Mall to pick up Bonnie Zeller, who hadn't been diving in more than a month; however, she texted me she was ill and couldn't go. So, I headed to the North Shore and the Beverly Burger King Service Plaza to meet up with Peter Ninh, Mike Vaughan, and Eric Zettergren, a newcomer to our group.

We caravanned to Rockport's Pebble Beach and cased the water, which was roiled by strong WSW winds and big rollers breaking on the beach. While we were deciding what to do, Steve Bonnarrigo drove up and wanted to join us. I decided the surf was too strong for me, sat out the first dive, and watched the four suit up and get wet.

While they were diving, the winds calmed for a bit and the sea flattened enough I decided if anyone was going to make a second dive, I would suit up and go with them. Fortunately, all but Mike, who was



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having trouble with his legs, wanted to do another tank. I suited up happily, and waded into the water with them.

Peter was psyched about using his new underwater scooter by TUSA. So Steve and Eric linked arms with Peter, who held on to the scooter, on either side of him. I hitched on to Steve's elbow, while Peter used his expensive new toy to drag us all out to sea. The vis was a good 15-25,' depending on where we were; the water temp was 57°F; and our depth was maxed in the low 30s.

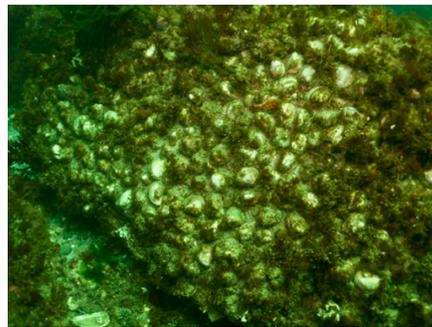


Steve suffered constant problems with one of his fins, and finally the blade broke. In the process, he burned through 3/4 of his tank, while the rest of us had only breathed ours down about a third. I decided to surface with Steve and return with him to the beach, so he wouldn't have to swim back by himself in case he experienced any other problems. Besides, when Peter's

hunting lobsters, he doesn't pay attention to much of anything or anyone else, and we were covering way too much ground too fast for me to be able to keep good photos at the



When we reached beach. Still, it was a was I so glad to have Because of that effort, was no sweat. The last made such a long full dive gear was back late 70s or early 80s!



up and take same time. So I was happy to call it quits. the surface, the winds had turned into a their direction favored our return to the 40-minute swim in full dive gear. Never been working so hard on my fitness. the return time I swim in in the



At the end of the day's dives, we discovered Eric had stuffed 4 nice lobsters in his bag, Mike had grabbed 2, and Peter had bagged 1. Yours truly did his best to record some of the action on digitally for you to enjoy. Despite the hitches, we all enjoyed a good day on the water diving together.



Lost and Found, Part 3, or All is Well that Ends Well. *Story by Rob Robison; photos by Peter Ninh, Rob Robison, and Mike Vaughan. Sunday, August 16.* If you have been following the Lost and Found Parts 1 & 2 saga on Facebook, you know by now that dive buddy Mike Vaughan found a Sea Life camera like mine and gave it to me to open and use the contents to help discover its rightful owner. With

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the help of Divers Market owner, Wayne Gomer, and Mass Divers store manager, Carol Murphy, the camera's owner, Jack Sargent, was identified and informed of the good news. He and I arranged to meet at the Beverly Service Plaza on the way to Cape Ann to repatriate the camera. Mike Vaughan joined me to realize the exchange, along with Peter Ninh and newcomer Eric Zettergren, who joined us because they wanted to go diving. You can easily discern from the photo that there never was a happier guy than Jack when he finally laid his eyes and hands

of the
v e r y

first dive he ever made with it.

Formalities finished, we caravanned to Plum Cove and up. The 64° water was flat and calm surface; however, the bottom was with seaweed and kelp debris, and severely bent over in many places recent storms. Similarly, the vis was



suited on the littered the eel grass was from the force of the disturbed to the point visibility averaged 5,' expanding to 7-10'



around in a few places along our dive path, but generally speaking, the particulate matter in the water column made for reduced vis. Still, we were able to observe a number of interesting sights: Longwrist hermit crabs, oysters, club tunicates, mussels, baby flounder, a skate, a Stripper schoolie that continually circled us, Golden Star Tunicates emulating the Milky Way on Sea Wrack fronds, Sea Grapes, Green crabs, and more. It was a great way to spend an overcast Sunday morning, diving into it with good dive buddies who enjoy each other's company and the thrill of exploring the liquid planet. If you haven't done so already, come join in the fun we are having. Without doubt, it is a blast!

A Very Short Dive, Indeed, at Beadle's Rocks with Jack Sargent!

Saturday Aug. 22. Story and photo by Rob Robison

I hauled it out of bed at 5:30 AM to assemble my gear, load it in my car, hitch up Commando at the boat yard, and drive to the boat launch to go diving. Jack Sargent, the guy who lost his camera, found by Mike Vaughan, and that he and I returned to him last weekend,



met me at Green Harbor. We loaded up the Zodiac and buzzed out to my favorite South Shore dive spot, Beadles Rocks, and made ready to dive on calm glassy seas.

After back rolling off the boat, Jack followed me down the anchor line. Unfortunately, the silt and particulate matter layer stretched all the way to the bottom, which I couldn't see until nearly face planting on it. Vis was no more than 1/2 foot. Just terrible!!

I was a bit worried because Jack wasn't right behind me, so I turned and followed the anchor chain I in reverse direction toward the anchor line. There was Jack, about 10' behind at the point where the anchor chain attaches to the line and starts to curve upward off the bottom. In fact, I almost ran over him, which would have happened had I not seen the light glinting off his exhaust bubbles. I stuck my hands in front of his face and motioned, "No vis. Let's go up," and he quickly nodded his head in agreement. So up we went. He was very happy with the decision, to say the least. Neither of us would have enjoyed the dive in the slightest and our mutual attempts at photography would have been wasted effort.

We stowed our gear and headed back to Green Harbor and an outdoor breakfast at the local breakfast and lunch café, called The Hop; then, headed our separate ways. I finished covering Commando at the boat yard just as the first raindrops splashed from the impending storm, and reached the front door with the first crack of thunder and genuine rain. Despite the inconveniences of the morning, Jack and I and enjoyed being on the water together, plus the camaraderie inherent in mutual shared interests and new-found friendship.

Folks, our great weather window for good summer diving seems to be slowly closing for the season. Soon, we will be back to dealing with variable weekend conditions and more limited opportunities to explore Neptune's wonders. If you haven't taken the time to get wet with old friends or new ones, time is running out. Fortunately, there's still some opportunity remaining to keep all of the fun moving in the right direction before it's time to break out the dry suits. I look forward to diving into it with you anytime the opportunity presents itself in the near future.

Safe living and safe diving,

Rob

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Fall Diving in New England Waters, Sept. 2016

Story & photos by Rob Robison

Diving New England waters in the fall is never dull. Even if the lobster season has waned, there is always something to see. Case in point: Last weekend, I made two dives, one on Friday Sept. 23rd, with Michael Gardner at Plymouth Beach, scene of a number of night dives and daytime underwater excursions this past year. The second one followed the next morning on Saturday at Ft Wetherill, RI, with Neptunes Peter Ninh, Charlie Perretti, and Mike Vaughan. We were

searching for tropicals for Boston's NE Aquarium along with other divers from the Aquarium and various and sundry participating clubs and dive shops...

Dive 2. Ft. Wetherill Sept. 24, 2016. Saturday morning, I arose literally at the crack of dawn, threw my damp gear into the car, and headed to Ft. Wetherill, RI to meet up with Neptunes Peter, Mike, and Charlie in search of the tropical fish that migrate north annually with the warm Gulf current. Every year about this time, the New England Aquarium sponsors a tropical fish collection day and cookout to help bolster their collection efforts for their displays. Last year, Mike Vaughan and I were the only ones to find and bag three butterfly fish. This year, we were skunked; someone else found and bagged two.

By the time I arrived, Peter was returning from an early morning spearfishing dive during which a nice Tautog, and Mike and process of gearing up. I caught as possible and surprisingly



Charlie waiting patiently

j u s t

he bagged Charlie were already in the up as quickly found myself out in the water ready to go with Charlie before the other two.



Charlie with float line



Crack full of urchins



Mike hunting tropicals

Mike had struck up a conversation with a diver from United Divers Inc. of Somerville and was last in the water. Peter caught up with us later after having changed his gear configuration over from spear hunting to collecting.



Many-Ribbed Hydro-medusa

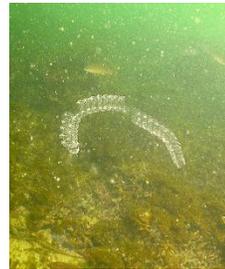


We divvied up the chores on the dive so that Mike would hunt the tropicals, Charlie would carry the float line, and I would take photos, while Peter provided general support. On the way out, we ran across a small cache of beer bottles on the bottom, two empties and one unopened, clearly a fisherman’s hot spot, plus a boulder crack full of sea urchins and many schools of Cunner small fry.

The 68° water temperature was so inviting we were blitzed by clouds of diaphanous comb jelly fish and their relatives. For example, I don’t know about you but I had never noticed nor do I recall ever having seen a parachute shaped hydrozoan called a Many-Ribbed Hydromedusa. It was surrounded by comb jellies and other relatives plus some from the tunicate family as well. In particular, there were many translucent worm-like critters that seemed to give off LED-style points of light arrayed in parallel columns. Thanks to NOAA scientist and Neptune Charlie Perretti, I have learned these transparent animals are called Salps (Below). Here’s a link to a great video about them if you are interested: <<http://planktonchronicles.org/en/episode/salps-exploding-populations/#descr>>.



On the way back to the exit ramp, Mike also spotted a large Lion’s Mane jelly, which we approached with great care because of their intensely painful stinging tentacles. A common star fish, a Scup, and a Northern puffer were also sighted.



Salps

Our max depth was 25,’ but we averaged around 10’ or so with a bottom time of 96 minutes and vis ranging from a cloudy 4-5’ to 7-10’. This may have been the last decent dive weekend for a while, given the current weather patterns. Regardless, I hope to see you out there getting wet a bit more this fall before the Polar Express winds arrive. Dive safely everyone and keep diving into it. You never know what you may find the next time you get wet.



L - R: Lion’s Mane Jelly & Northern Puffer

Rob

Go On to the Next Page

PARTING SHOT



"Ocean Overlord," photographed by Yung Sen Wu. Yung Sen Wu/Underwater Photography Guide

To see more go to: <<https://www.insider.com/ocean-photography-contest-winners-photos-2020-9>>. Link provided by Dave Clancy.

CLUB INFORMATION

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