



# Sounding

## *Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes*

Calendar 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACTIVITIES, & REMINDERS

7/6 General Meeting 7PM Zoom  
 7/11 Club Dive 8AM at former Clubhouse  
 7/13 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom  
 7/20 Program TBA  
 7/25 Club Dive 8AM at former Clubhouse  
 8/1 Duxbury Outing (tent)  
 8/3 General Meeting 7PM Zoom  
 8/8 Duxbury Outing (rain date)  
 8/10 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom  
 8/14 Club Dive 8AM at former Clubhouse  
 8/17 Evening Program TBA  
 8/29 Club Dive 8AM at former Clubhouse  
 9/? BSC Treasure Hunt TBA  
 9/7 General Meeting 7PM Zoom  
 9/12 Club Dive 8AM at former Clubhouse  
 9/14 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom  
 9/21 Evening Program TBA  
 9/25 Club Dive 8AM at former Clubhouse  
 \*10/2 Neptunes Flea Market  
 \*10/3 River Run  
 10/5 General Meeting 7PM Zoom  
 10/12 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom  
 10/17 Flea Market Rain Date  
 10/19 Evening Program TBA  
 10/24 Club Dive 8AM at former Clubhouse

- **Divers' Market now offers Nitrox!** Call (508) 746-3483 for more information.
- **Underwater Rugby hours:** Wednesday nites 8:00-9:30 PM at Westwood HS pool.
- **Club General and Board Meetings are now in-person at The Common Market in Quincy at 7PM**, but will also be available via Zoom. Club members are encouraged to attend the meetings in-person and order food or drinks before or after the meeting to support The Common Market providing us a room for free. **Please note: All Club activities and programs listed on the Calendar are live now**
- **Bay State Council: UPDATE** on the Back Bay Neighborhood Assoc. (BBNBA) lawsuit, courtesy of **Jay Theriault** and the *Gloucester Daily Times*, against the Town of Rockport. The Back Beach Neighbors' Association is now suing the town of Rockport and the city of Gloucester, claiming historical ownership of Back Beach. For the rest or the story, go to:  
[https://www.gloucestertimes.com/news/local\\_news/neighbors-claim-they-own-back-beach/article\\_3754ee49-6842-5b34-a172-80dcf96a4610.html?fbclid=IwAR2drUhx9JzMSr9GfNjMNUlN-kkOXbHqdyFj2GEEF7w0F9hDsXTwe48#utm\\_campaign=blox&utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=social](https://www.gloucestertimes.com/news/local_news/neighbors-claim-they-own-back-beach/article_3754ee49-6842-5b34-a172-80dcf96a4610.html?fbclid=IwAR2drUhx9JzMSr9GfNjMNUlN-kkOXbHqdyFj2GEEF7w0F9hDsXTwe48#utm_campaign=blox&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social)
- **Tim Burke, South Shore Neptunes Life Member and former member of the Quincy Underwater Recovery Team**, run by Dive Chief John Blackadar and other members of **The South Shore Neptunes**, was in the news on Sunday, June 6. According to CBS News affiliate WBXZ-TV, reporting from Quincy, a 19 year old Brockton teenager, Elissandro Silva, drowned Sunday trying to recover a ball from the harbor waters. Tim, former member of a police dive recovery team, happened to be in the area with his boat and dive gear, heard the screams from shore, and with the aid of Quincy Fire, recovered the victim, who was in critical condition and transported to South Shore Hospital, where he was pronounced dead: <https://boston.cbslocal.com/2021/06/06/>

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### Calendar 2021, cont.

- 11/2 General Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 11/6 (Sat) Club Dive 9AM at former Clubhouse
- 11/9 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 11/16 Evening Program TBA
- 11/28 Club Dive 9AM at former Clubhouse
- 12/5 Club Dive 9AM at former Clubhouse
- 12/7 General Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 12/12 Club Dive 9AM at former Clubhouse
- 12/14 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 12/21 Elections

2022

- 1/1 Sober Up Dive Pleasure Bay
- 1/4 General Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 1/11 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 1/16 Club Dive 9AM at former Clubhouse
- 1/18 Evening Program TBA

\*Note: Tentative dates for the 2021 Boston Sea Rovers Annual Clinic

[mound-street-beach-quincy-drowning-elissandro-silva/>](mailto:robisonr25@yahoo.com)

- **Newsletter:** To help add interesting content to the newsletter during these unusual times, please send me ([robisonr25@yahoo.com](mailto: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.
- **ANNUAL DUES-\$35-ARE DUE ASAP**, if you have-not yet paid. **Make checks payable to South Shore Neptunes** , and mail to **South Shore Neptunes Dive Club, PO Box 690716, Quincy, MA 02169**
- **Don't forget** to visit the **club store** at <https://bit.ly/SSN-Store> for the latest in club swag.

### Evening Program

Our **June 15 Program Night** speaker was well known and highly regarded underwater photographer/videographer **Rudy Whitworth**, president of Seahorse Productions, LLC. Eighteen Neptunes, friends, and guests were dazzled by the stunning video clips of the flora and fauna of Malaysia/Borneo's Mabul, Kapulai, and Sipadan Islands. Rudy showered us with 24 species of Butterflyfish, 8 species of grouper, all 5 species of turtles, which measured 5-6' in length, schools of Horse-Eye Jacks and other species numbering in the thousands, immense bait balls, schools of barracuda as large as 1,500 at a time, White Tip, Black Tip, Silver Tip, Whale, and other sharks, multiple species of rare shrimps, and much much more. It was truly a sight to behold. Thanks, Rudy!



### Born

*Reported by Jay Theriault:* The Youngest Neptune! Say hello to **Oskar Douglas Kane**, born today , June 9, 2021, at 09:58 a.m., to Neptunes **Garrett** and **Mary Rose**



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Happy Diving

From

**JOHN & KATHY BLACKADAR**

**Kane:** "We weren't expecting him this early, but he's healthy and doing well. We aren't sure what his length is, but he's 5 lbs., 2 oz. He has a great personality and the hospital staff love him. Can't wait to take him home."

### RECENT DIVING



**Quincy Yacht Club Lost and Found, Sunday, June 6.** *Story & photos by Tommy Lo*

The Miss Judy was recently launched, and the owner took his friends for a ride around the harbor. As they were trying to dock at the Quincy Yacht Club, the Captain heard something hit the boat and the RPM's on one of his engines went up. The cause of this was he lost a propeller.

While gearing up to search for the prop, I unclipped my lift bag and left it behind, not wanting it to drag in the mud and stir up the bottom. So, I went into the muddy waters of QYC in search of the missing bronze propeller.

After a 20 minute search I found the propeller with only 1 blade sticking out of the mud. I pulled it out of the mud and started swimming back to where Miss Judy was tied up. Then I face planted into the mud. The weight of the propeller drove me into the muddy bottom. I did this 5 or 6 times under water until I felt I was close the dock. I tried to swim for the surface but the propeller was too heavy. I then laid on my back with the propeller on my chest and filled up my BCD with air... a great idea but it didn't work.

Now I'm lying on my back in the mud with a 50 lb. propeller on my chest. I got myself vertical and swam for the surface. Made it this time. I came up right next to Miss Judy. As I handed the propeller to the guys on the boat, I made sure they had a good grip on the propeller before I let go, since I was right underneath it.



Another job well done.

Moral of the story: Always use a cotter pin to secure the propeller!

**U-853, June 5, 2021.** *Story & photo by Matt Meyer*

I met fellow Neptunes **Todd Alger, Chuck Zarba, and Doug Eaton** in Narragansett, RI for our annual charter to the wreck of the U-853. We were also met by **Dan Clifford**, a friend of Chuck's. Weather was nice and cool with sea conditions of 3-5ft swells.

Upon arriving at the wreck site, I proceeded to chum the waters. It wouldn't be a U-boat charter without me chumming. The dive itself was good; 20ft visibility and 50°F temp at depth. Everyone on the boat



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did approximately 30 minutes total in the water.

Of the five divers, three of us dove dry. Of the three of us that dove dry, two of us ended up wet (Doug and I). I leaked through my neck seal down to my knees on the first dive; I was too wet to do a second dive. Overall, it was a very nice outing. Looking forward to next year!

**Old Garden Beach, Sunday, June 13.** *Story & photos by Rob Robison*

Peter was waiting for me when I drove into the Beverly Service Center Burger King parking lot at 10 minutes to 7



Above: Sea Grape; R: Lumpfish

AM. We had agreed to meet early in order to hopefully get a jump on the anticipated crowd of divers at Rockport's extremely popular Old Garden Beach. Believe it or not, by the time we reached the parking area, the park and waters were jam packed with divers. Although stunned, we offloaded our gear, parked our cars, dressed, and made ready to dive.

A friendly guy, named Chris Kinnon, was suiting up next to us, so we invited him to join our tiny group. We hooked arms with Peter, who was leading the way with his scooter tow, and out we went.

We dropped in at the 41' mark, with 30+ feet of vis, and began to scour the bottom for lobsters (Peter), and anything that could be construed as photogenic (Chris and I). Fields of beautiful Green Hair Weed, boulders, glacial till, sugar kelp, and more covered the bottom as we searched. Almost immediately, I spied a keeper lobster in a crack and pulled it out, only to discover it was an egger!

Peter had better

luck and found a nice keeper shortly thereafter.

As we finned along, I had the presence of mind to check on Chris who was motioning frantically for me to take a look at what turned out to be a Lumpfish. I took about 5 photos of the unusual inedible fish, which sports a sucker on its belly to attach itself to rocks or boulders and blend in with the underwater foliage. What a great find! I haven't seen one of these in New England since the early 80s! I was convinced



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they had all but disappeared.

About that time, I started shivering uncontrollably and headed up from 45', after only 20 minutes into the dive, and hooked on to Peter's dive flag, so we wouldn't separate and could finish the dive together. The water was a chilly 49°F. My 4-year old 8/7 semi dry suit just can't keep me warm enough at s u c h

temperatures anymore. I can't tell how much of it is due to my tender age of 72, the suit's reduced capability after 3/4 years of hard use, or both. Chris surfaced 16 minutes later, and Peter remained down for more than an hour in his 7 mm wet suit. When Peter finished diving, we scooted back to the beach together, once again arm-in-arm.

Chris had other obligations and declined a second dive. Peter and I changed tanks and planned our next dive in shallower waters, where we found 4 flounders and a lobster to accompany the 4 he had caught previously on the first dive. My bottom time improved markedly on the second dive. I lasted 57 minutes at 10'-26,' in 56°-58° water, while Peter waxed me again, remaining down under for over an hour.



Clockwise: Peter with our catch; Knotted Wrack, SandCollar/MoonSnail Egg Case, Jon Willis

Once back on dry land, we divided our catch, headed for Dunkin's iced coffee, and then drove home after a great day of diving and sight seeing underwater. (Ed. Note: See Facebook Post of the same article for more photos.)

**Two different types of dives in different locations in one day, Friday, June 18.** Story and photos by Rob Robison



**Neptune Jon Willis**, who hasn't been diving in a year and a half, and I met at Plymouth Long Beach at 7:30 AM Friday morning. We were pleasantly greeted by a high tide,



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sunny clear skies, and equally clear waters. Think 20'-25' of vis. Having lost about 40 lbs or more during the pandemic, he was trying out his new wetsuit and wanted to be certain of the weight he needed to wear before making a Commando dive. I put on my semi-dry, knowing that the water would be somewhere in the mid 50s. We enjoyed a leisurely (he likes to video GoPro style) 52-minute dive in 55°-56° water that was made remarkable when we found a Sea Lemon nudibranch. We saw two short lobsters and lots of crab molt carcasses, as well as one lobster molt carcass. Afterwards, we headed to the 3A Café for breakfast—yummy! **Photos above:** L-R Lady Crab, Orange Sheath Tunicate suffocating Club Tunicate;

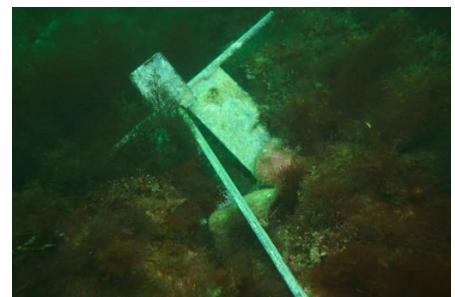
*invasive Sea Lemon nudibranch leaving a trail.*

**Dive 2: Commando Dive off the Old Post Office (Brant Rock)**

Afterwards, I raced home to pick up fresh camera batteries and another tank; then, dashed to the boatyard to hook up Commando, stop at the bank for launch-fee cash, and finally reached the **Marshfield Green Harbor Town Ramp in Brant Rock** sometime after 12 noon. I was almost finished loading up Commando with dive gear, when Rob Christian arrived. We transferred his gear onboard, too, launched Commando for the first time this year, started the ponies, and motored out of the harbor.



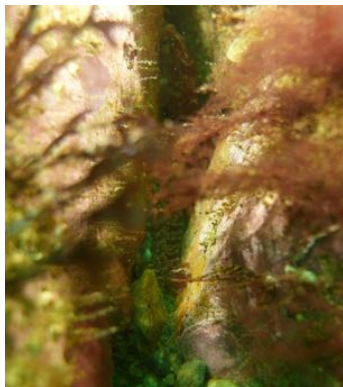
We hung a left, once clear of the harbor, as we sped past Blackman's Point, heading toward the Post Office and Beadle's Rocks. The westerly wind was very brisk and there was a slight chop. As a result,



we decided a short run to the Old Post office was the better option.

After anchoring and donning our gear, we backward rolled into the water and headed down. The surface current was off shore while the tide was incoming, creating a somewhat strenuous descent until we had dropped at least 15'-20;' then it was easy the rest of the way down to the 41' bottom.

Visibility was around 15' before the haze and penumbra overtook our sight lines, meaning we needed to monitor our compasses regularly. A juvenile Tautog was disturbed by our presence and shot away. I found it not long after and was setting up a photo op, but evidently it must have felt the heat from my video cam lights because it bolted again before I could press the shutter. Drat! Rob C found a tiny Rock Gunnel in a small crack and motioned me over to take a picture of it. I obliged and took several snapshots; then,



changed my lens setting to Macro and tried some more. Only one of the photos of the half dozen or so came out relatively OK.



*Lobster claws peek-a-boo; dive flag; view from Commando; Rock Gunnel in the crack*

The 50° water was chilling me to the bone, after a morning diving in the relatively balmy 55°-56° waters of Plymouth Bay, so 20 minutes after the dive began, I signaled Rob I was heading back to the boat. Based on our pre-dive plan, he continued his own dive. I found the anchor in short order and headed back up to Commando, which was bobbing and tugging noticeably on the anchor line in the stiff breeze. The replacement



inflatable tubes in late April have a different life line setup from the original tubes. This turned out to be an unintended blessing, making it easier to pull oneself up and into the boat, over tubes that seem even larger than the originals, without having to resort to the dive ladder I



had installed last year. BCs and camera gear clip on easier to the lines as well.

Forty minutes later Rob C returned up the anchor line with a lobster and a happy yet chilled grin on his face. He, too, was frozen.

After boarding and stowing our dive gear, it was time to ignite the 50 aluminum ponies and head back to the harbor. We were both famished and anticipating a post-dive seafood feast on the third story

outdoor deck at Haddad's Ocean Café, washed down with a few cold brewskis. We weren't disappointed, that's for sure.

As Rob C and I were finishing, my wife, Carol, appeared, and we enjoyed a late afternoon good time together on the outside deck with water view, while she caught up meal- and drink-wise. Then it was time to head home, return Commando to the boat yard, and basically collapse.

It doesn't get any better than this, folks. It's time to dive into it with a good dive buddy or two or more! The water is just beautiful and the camaraderie is unbeatable!

Safe diving and safe living everyone,

*Rob*

## PARTING SHOT...



*Paul Greene and giant lobster circa 1979-80, courtesy Dave Clancy*



and **THOUGHT**

**Happy 4th of July!**



**GO ON TO NEXT PAGE**

## **SOUTH SHORE NEPTUNES CLUB INFORMATION**

**WANT TO GO DIVING AND NEED A BUDDY?**

**Club Hotline: Call or text 617-804-5637.**

Don't forget to visit the **club store** at

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and

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