



Soundings

January 2023

Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes

Upcoming Events

01/28/2023	Annual awards Banquet
01/29/2023	Club dive
02/05/2023	Club dive
02/19/2023	Club dive
02/21/2023	Guest Speaker David Robinson
02/25/2023	Polar plunge special Olympics
03/05/2023	Club dive
03/11/2023	Club dive
03/18/2023	Sea Rovers Film festival
04/02/2023	Club dive
04/16/2023	Club dive
05/06/2023	Bonaire trip

Letter from the Editor

Congratulations to 2023 Officers and Board. I look forward to the events and activities Adrienne Murphy (President) and Ken Hayes (Vice-President) will work on this year.

I want to thank **Rob Robison**, personally and on-behalf of the club, for all his hard work in putting the newsletter together. He did an excellent job these past years and pushed everyone for content and keeping us all informed. I have some big fins to fill.

We'll have our first Awards Banquet since the pandemic began back in 2020, it's been over two years! The plan is to present awards for 2020, 2021 and 2022 at the banquet!

Want to advertise in the Soundings newsletter? For details contact newsletter@southshoreneptunes.org

– Rob Vice
2023 Secretary (secretary@southshoreneptunes.org)

South Shore Neptunes ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

WHEN: Saturday, January 28, 2023

WHERE: The Common Market
97 Willard Street, Quincy, MA

Cocktails (cash bar): 6:30 PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM

Chicken, Fish, Beef Buffet and a Cheese Platter

Reservations are CLOSED

Remembering
Local Scuba Pioneer

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General Meeting Report

- Spaces are still available for the Bonaire Trip. Contact John Blackadar or Debie Isroff at Wayland Travel (debie.isroff@frosh.com or 800-552-0300) if interested
- Marshall Reynard has donated his seafaring books to the club to be borrowed by the members
- New Members all voted unanimously to be members of the South Shore Neptunes:
 - Alexander Solda, sponsored by Rob Foley
 - Mike O'Brien, sponsored by Tommy Lo
- Club Dives and Activities coming up:
 - February 5 and 19 @ 9 AM
 - March 5 and 11 @ 9 AM
 - April 2 and 16 @ 9 AM
 - May 21 and 28 @ 9 AM
 - June 11 and 25 @ 8 AM (observe the earlier times start in June)
 - July 2 and 22 @ 8 AM
 - August 6 - Duxbury Beach Outing (family event, no diving)
 - August 13 and 26 @ 8 AM
 - September 10 @ 8 AM
 - September 30 - River Run (lazy float, no diving)
 - October 15 and 22 @ 8 AM
 - November 12 and 26 @ 9 AM (observe later times start in November)
 - December 10 and 17 @ 9 AM
 - January 1 and 28 @ 9am

Motions

1. Motion to survey how many members would like to receive a hard copy newsletter requested the board to decide if there should be a charge for it. Motion Passed
2. Motion to have the Board review the online store and simplify finances by John Blackadar and seconded by Jay Theriault. Motion Passed. Board to respond at next General Meeting.

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Happy Diving

From

JOHN & KATHY BLACKADAR

Dive Reports

August 25, 2022 - Fort Wetherill

51 minutes, vis 10-20 ft, 67°F, 28 ft max

Excerpt from Jon Willis' Website

Jon Willis went diving with Rob Robison and guest Peter Ninh to Fort Wetherill. Jon bought a new camera, a GoPro Hero 10, and posted a video on his website:

<http://www.jw-ocean-stuff.net/posts/2022-08-21/>



January 1, 2023 - Pleasure Bay Sober Up Dive

35 minutes, vis 7-15 ft, 39°F, 34 ft max

Story and Slide Show by Rob Robison

I arose @ 6:15AM New Year's Day to assemble my gear and load the car for the Neptunes' morning "Sober Up Dive" at Pleasure Bay in Boston Harbor. The forecast was a small craft advisory with winds gusting anywhere from 25-50mph.

When I arrived, the day was clear and sunny with temps in the high 40s and a strong steady breeze. Peter showed up shortly after I did, and we began to put our gear together. Peter dives wet—I don't know how he does it—and I dive dry at this point in the season. Old mutual friend and dive buddy, Mike Vaughan, showed up, donned his drysuit, and waded into the water with

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us but decided to dive solo. Turns out there was a tear in his drysuit boot, unfortunately, that was leaking, and forced him to end his dive early.

In the meantime, Peter powered up his scooter, we inflated our BCs, I grabbed his left elbow, and the scooter dragged us out to our descent point, where we dropped down to a depth of about 20 feet. Pleasure Bay's bottom is covered with silt and so are most of the shells, oysters, and sea vase clusters, and more. So, when we touched down, clouds of silt billowed up around us. I did a 360 trying to locate Peter and could not, so I turned on my video cam light and waited on the bottom. Sure enough, Peter found me within a minute. We took a heading and began to fin along the bottom. In less than no time, Peter grew animated and grabbed what turned out to be a 2.86 lb. female lobster, a very nice way to start the New Year.

We continued along and found goodly amounts of shell rubble littering the bottom, some oysters, which cannot be legally harvested from this bay, partially coated with compound sea squirts, clusters of sea vases coated with silt, a skate egg case, a few sand shrimp, a Winter flounder partially hidden in the muck, a couple of Rock crabs, but no more lobsters.

Peter navigated us in ever widening circles in a vain attempt to find the mud hole where we discovered last year's King Kong lobster, to no avail. We were too far away from that spot. Others in the dive club talked about finding a ghost lobster trap open on the bottom hosting a very large lobster and a Sea Raven. Oh well, can't find everything.

About 25 minutes into the dive my fingers and toes started to freeze up. Five minutes later we called the dive and headed up from 34 feet. Our dive in the 39° water ended around 32-35 minutes after we started. Our vis was anywhere from 7-10 to 15 feet.

We motored back to the beach, quickly changed into dry clothes, and kitized with passers by and some of the other Neptunes, friends, and guests. Peter headed home early, and I stayed behind to hobnob a bit and enjoy some of the chili that the club brought for all those who dove. We divers were 11 of the 19 Neptunes, friends, and Neptune wannabes who actually showed up. There were an additional 4 - 6 people, potential club members, who wanted to see what all the commotion was about as well.

Then, it was time for the long drive back to Kingston, where I unpacked my gear, took a long hot shower, and fell asleep right after the Patriots game kickoff. I awoke just in time to witness the

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Pats score the winning touchdown against the Dolphins, a small consolation after the Buckeyes' agonizing one-point defeat at the hands of the 'dawks New Year's Eve.

Special New Year's thanks to Peter, a very loyal dive buddy, who helped make this dive possible for me, and to the Neptunes who brought the chili, donuts, and hot drinks for those who dove or just chose to watch the goings on.

Click the link to watch the 1 minute video of the dive or paste it into your browser:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ixYpF2f-EFuXl7SarYj0pwipc4MIe9oU/view?usp=sharing> (Titled "Sober Up Dive 1:1:23.mv4")

Safe living, safe diving, and keep diving into it, everyone.
This is dive number one for the 2023 log book. Yeah!

Rob Robison

January 1, 2023 - Pleasure Bay

Sober Up Dive

Sokol Priti's account given at the General Meeting

Sokol thought he had members behind him, but ultimately lost them. He wound up finding an abandoned lobster trap and made a short YouTube video about it. He said the water was clear and that he did not feel the water was cold.

Dive Safely
Dave Clancy

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Other Announcements and Activities

Sunday, January 15, 2023 - Ladies Scuba Diving Gathering

Flanders Field Restaurant, Hanover, MA



On January 15th at Flanders Field Restaurant in Hanover, MA. We had a ladies scuba diving gathering.

This was to get women of all experience levels and abilities a chance to get together and talk diving. There was a lot of interest and excitement over it. The New England weather was a little uncooperative, but we had 8 ladies that braved the oncoming snow and we had a great time. From NH to Cape Cod, from many years of diving to just getting certified it was a fabulous group.

As requested, we will do this again and maybe mother nature will work with us.

—Adrienne Murphy, South Shore Neptunes President

Special Olympics Massachusetts

Saturday, February 25th, 2023, Plunge at 12:00 PM

Nantasket Beach - 212 Nantasket Ave Hull, MA 02045

We are fundraising for Special Olympics Massachusetts which is an organization believing that sports are the gateway to building confidence, lifelong friendships, and becoming leaders in the community just as it has with our scuba club The South Shore Neptunes. Please consider joining the plunge or donating via <https://fundraise.specialolympicsma.org/team/6806>

Dr. Greg. Skomal, "Living with Sharks," presented by Cedar Hill Retreat Center

March 10, 2023 from 7-9 PM

First Parish Church Duxbury, 826 Tremont Street (Rt. 3a), Duxbury, MA

Mark your calendars! Cedar Hill Retreat Center of Duxbury, MA is pleased to announce that Dr Greg Skomal will speak on "Living with Sharks," Friday March 10, 2023, from 7-9 PM, at First Parish Church Duxbury, 826 Tremont Street (Rt. 3a). He will also be available immediately following his presentation to autograph his books, "The Shark Handbook" (\$20.00), which

will be available for purchase onsite.

Dr. Skomal is an accomplished marine biologist, underwater explorer, filmmaker, photographer, and author. He has been a fisheries scientist with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries since 1987, and currently heads up the Massachusetts Shark Research Program. Greg has been an avid SCUBA diver and underwater photographer since 1978. He has written dozens of scientific research papers and has appeared in a number of film and television documentaries, including programs for National Geographic, Discovery Channel, BBC, and numerous television networks. His most recent book, *The Shark Handbook*, is a must buy for all shark enthusiasts. He is a Boston Sea Rover and a member of The Explorers Club; his home and laboratory are on the south coast of Massachusetts.

Tickets go on sale online February 1, 2023, for \$25.00 per person. All proceeds will benefit the Cedar Hill Retreat Center. For tickets and more information about our speaker, go to the Cedar Hill Event page at http://cedarhillcenter.org/cedar_hill_events.aspx

The Boston Sea Rovers 69th Annual Film Fest

March 18, 2023 at the New England Aquarium IMAX Theater 7:30 PM open

The filmfest will be at the NE Aquarium's IMAX THEATER, March 18, 2023. Doors open at 7:30 PM, show starts at 8:00 PM. Cost is \$40 per person. Check the website below for a list of the filmmakers presenting. Cash bar reception to meet the speakers following the program.

For tickets, go to <https://boston-sea-rovers.idloom.events/boston-sea-rovers-69th/register> Only 300 tickets are available to the general public. To date 111 have been sold!

The Boston Sea Rovers' recommend the Harborside Inn a few blocks away for those wanting overnight accommodations. For restaurants, Stateside Provisions and the Bostonia were recommended.

Ragnar Club Fundraiser

May 19-20 at Various Locations and Times

Rob Foley, chairman of the Ragnar Committee

The folks at Ragnar are starting the planning for the spring New England race a little early this year. Most people are familiar with Ragnar but for those that are unfamiliar with Ragnar it is a company that plans and hosts relay races around the country. They have a big operation that requires countless volunteers and staff to complete the races. The Ragnar New England race is composed of over a hundred teams of 12 or less that start in the town of Groton, CT and end in Quincy, MA. The Race is 200-ish miles long and makes its way through three states (CT, RI, and MA), again, relay-style.

This is a Huge Fundraiser for the club in May. We need your help!

This year it is being run on May 19-20 and we can use all of the volunteers that we can get. We will be volunteering at exchanges (relay points) on the 20th. Luckily we will not have overnight

exchanges or exchanges far from SSN home base area with the earliest being a 530 AM start time.

New to this year is a best exchange bonus for decorating or having a theme for our exchanges. Voting is done by the racers in the event for the prize money which is \$300 for first, \$200 for second and \$100 for third. Not a lot of exchanges participate in this and we have three so it is likely we could win some money if we can keep the costs down to make it worth it! Think of some ideas and bring them up to the committee. I have the idea of doing Dino Divers. That is, we wear the blow up dino costumes with the BC and a plastic makeshift dive tank.

Please send an email to the Ragnar Committee (ragnar@southshoreneptunes.org) or Robert Foley at r.m.foley256@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.

South Shore Neptunes



Information Page

Want to **Go Diving** and **Need a Buddy**?
Call or Text the **Club Hotline: 617-804-5637**

Don't forget to visit the club store: <https://bit.ly/Neptunes-Store>

Update your profile, access the membership roster via the Membership Portal:
<https://Members.SouthShoreNeptunes.org>

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