

Soundings Newsletter

Massachusetts' Oldest Dive Club



2010 CLUB MISSION

2010 will be a year to refocus on the club's mission. A key part of the club's mission is "to establish and promote comradeship among divers, to engage in activities which promote diving, and to encourage safe diving. To promote diving, the members shall engage in underwater exploration, research, and conservation." Historically, this has been accomplished through the illustrious efforts of the Underwater Search and Recovery Team.

With the passage of time we will now look to focus our diving on underwater exploration, research, and conservation by partnering with ecological and environmental

conservation organizations that target Boston Harbor, Massachusetts Bay, and Cape Cod Bay and the varying tributaries.

We have already identified two promising opportunities in this area. One is with the New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance.

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President's Message

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the past administration officers of the club for their hard work and dedication in 2009. It is through their efforts that the South Shore Neptunes have been able to continue rebuilding. Special thanks to John Blackadar, *Blackie*, who for many years has put his heart and soul into the Neptunes. Without his dedication the club would in all likelihood not exist today.

As the new officers and board take the helm in 2010 there are some exciting plans in the works. We will have a new focus ion 2010, one that looks to the historic strengths of the club membership but then also looks forward to new horizons. Will talk more about this in this edition as well as future editions of *Soundings*. I ask as many of you as possible to read of our new focus and to come to club meetings and events in support of our mission.

Steve Marshall
President

2010 CLUB MISSION - CON'T



Partnership Opportunities -

New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance and COASTSWEEP provide unique opportunities for the South Shore Neptunes to enrich the marine environment

As reported on the NECWA Website (www.necwa.org), "The New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance - NECWA is an environmental organization based in southeastern Massachusetts that conducts research on coastal marine wildlife and participates in educational outreach in the New England community. Projects like NEBShark and the Marine Wildlife Research Project allow NECWA staff to study the unique marine wildlife that live and feed off coastal New England. NECWA shares the results of these studies with local organizations and with interested members of the public. By combining research with educational outreach, NECWA can more effectively increase public awareness to the issues that threaten our coastal marine habitats and the species that live there."

As reported in the 2009 COAST

SWEEP flyer, "COAST SWEEP is part of the [International Coastal Cleanup](#) organized by The Ocean Conservancy in Washington, DC. Participants all over the world collect marine debris and record the types of trash they collect. This information is then used to help reduce future marine debris problems.

So remember 2010 is shaping up to be a great year. New and exciting things are coming as we seek expand our involvement in environmental and ecological activities. Our skills as divers can be of great use in these areas assisting other individuals and organizations in protecting the giant pool in which we all play. So remember when we divers call out "THE POOL IS OPEN", we can help to ensure the pool is a clean and vibrant one.

REMINDERS

2009 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

The 2009 SSN Annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for January 30th. We've reserved the big room again at the Common Market in Quincy. Dinner will be served buffet style, and there will be a live band and dancing.

The cocktail hour will run from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, and dinner will start at 7:30 pm.

Everyone that attended last year's banquet had a great time, so don't miss out. Reserve your place at the table today.

To reserve your Banquet tickets, contact Past President John Blackadar, or Treasurer Theresa Czerepica.

Tickets are priced at \$30.00.

February SSN Meeting Schedule

- Regular Membership Meeting - February 2nd
- Board Meeting - February 9th
- Third Meeting - February 16th

February Bay State Council Meeting Schedule

- February 10th
- Snow Date February 24th



2010 LOBSTER LICENSE

Remember to renew your lobster license for 2010. The 2010 licenses are now available on line at <http://WWW.SPORT.STATE.MA.US/>

Information on permits can be found at the Marine Fisheries website http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dmf/recreationalfishing/rec_permits.htm#top

PAST EVENTS -NEW YEAR'S DAY DIVE

A fun time was had by all who enjoyed a dip in Pleasure Bay. While the water may have been cold the energy and excitement created the warmth. Divers included Tim Burke, Andy, S, Doug Eaton, and Rich Bowers. Bubble watchers were Ted Hotz, Theresa Czerepica, and Steve Marshall. Two were diving dry and two were wet (BRRR).

It was a moon tide and the resulting currents in Pleasure Bay were quite strong. Many people commented on never having seen the water so high in the bay. Theresa noted, IT'S UP TO THE THIRD STEP!!

Like all dives safety is paramount. When diving in cold water with strong currents, keeping watch of your bottom time and position is important so you can exit when you want and before the cold becomes too extreme.



PAST EVENTS - NEW YEARS DAY PARTY

The New Year's Day "Sober Up" Party was held at Jay Theriault's house. Thanks for a great time Jay. There was a good turn out, bountiful food, great conversation, a excellent camaraderie.

Jay is the annual host of the New Year's Day party and, as usual, this was a great start to the New Year.

**DIVE SAFETY TIP**

Dive safety is paramount. A key to being fully prepared is to have a Dive Emergency Plan. A Dive Emergency Action Plan (EAP). An EAP is site specific and consist of emergency numbers for DAN, EMS, emergency numbers, medical facility locations and contact numbers, and location of O2 and other first aid equipment.

Dive-Flag.com

The January 5th Regular Meeting

The status of the 2009 Annual Awards Banquet was discussed. The function room at the Common Market Restaurant is booked for January 30th, announcements will be posted on the club website and Face Book site, and the Diver & Rookie of the Year trophies and life Member plaques are on order.

The January 12th Board Meeting will be a planning meeting. Club officers and board members will schedule club events and dives for the 2010 diving season.

There was some discussion about the 2010 Boston Sea Rovers Show on March 6th and Fred Calhoun's Dive show on February 27th. The Rovers day time show has been cancelled, but we still need to prepare a combined SSN and BSC table for Fred's show.

The January 12th Board Meeting

There was a general discussion about the SSN Newsletter. The Board agreed on a recommendation that the club publish an electronic copy every month and a hard copy every other month.

The subject of Membership and Advertising Committees was discussed. The Board agreed that we need to find new ways to increase the visibility of South Shore Neptunes among the diving community and the Board was asked to present ideas at the next Board Meeting.

There was discussion about reinstating Competition Dives. The Board agreed on a recommendation that the club run at least one Competition Dive and Roy Chamberlain volunteered to be the Competition Director.

President Marshall announced that he has contacted members of The New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance and the South Shore Natural Science Center regarding ways that the club can assist them in their environmental preservation work. The Board agreed that association with these organizations will help us to increase the visibility of South Shore Neptunes among the diving community and may help us to recruit new members.

The January 19th Third Tuesday Meeting

President Marshall announced that he has contacted members of the Coastal Sweep group regarding ways the club can assist them in their environmental clean-up work. The membership agreed to assist the Coastal Sweep group and we will plan a clean-up project for the September – October time frame.

The membership scheduled point dives, non-point dives, dinner nights out and other club events for the 2010 dive season.

Calendar 2010

- Feb 7** Point Dive Meet at Club House 0830
- Feb 17** South Shore Science Center 7:00 Basking Sharks
- Feb 20** Newsletter articles due
- Feb 21** Non Point Dive Meet at 0830
- Feb 27** Boston Dive Show Fred Calhoun 10:00
- Feb 28** Reception for Dave Clancy at Roy Chamberlains house 10:00
- Mar 6** Sea Rovers evening at IMAX
- Mar 14** Point Dive Meet at Club House
- Mar 20** Alfredo's Dinner Night Out / Newsletter articles due
- Mar 21** Non Point Dive Meet at Club House
- Mar 26, 27, 28** Beneath the Sea 2010 Meadowland N.J.
- Apr 11** Point Dive Marblehead Light Dive
- Apr 17** Foxwoods Trip
- Apr 20** Bring your knives to the Club House for sharp Steele
- Apr 20** Newsletter articles due
- Apr 25** Non Point Dive Brant Rock Meet in Brant Rock 0900
- May 02** Rain or Shine Dive equipment sale or swap
- May 15-16** DUI Dog Days
- May 16** Point Dive Stage Fort Park Meet at Friendly's 0830
- May 20** Articles for Newsletter articles due
- May 22** Stephen Marshall's pool opening party
- May 30** Non Point Dive Location to be announced
- Jun 12** Point Dive Captain John's
- Jun 15** Angelo's Day out
- Jun 20** Articles for Newsletter articles due
- Jun 27** Non Point Dive Picnic at Georges Island

UPCOMING EVENTS

NECWA

BASKING SHARK TALK

Krill Carson of the New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance will be giving a talk on the Basking Shark and Ocean Sunfish at the South Shore Natural Science Center on February 17, 2010. The talk is part of the "Water Watch" series at the Science Center. According to the The Science Center "The basking shark, *Cetorhinus maximus*, is one of the largest fish in the world, second only in size to the whale shark. Although giants in size - reaching lengths of 38 feet and weighing up to 8,500 pounds - basking sharks feed on zooplankton, which are tiny organisms that drift in the ocean. Join Carol "Krill" Carson as she regales us with stories of these gentle giants and how citizen scientists are being trained to provide sighting information on basking sharks and ocean sunfish observed from a beach or from a vessel offshore."

The NECWA looks for volunteers to sight these magnificent animals. South Shore Neptunes is seeking ways to assist in this effort, either by seeking opportunities to sight these sharks while diving or to participate in a sighting expedition on the Captain John boats out of Plymouth, MA. The officers of the club are working to schedule a date for Krill to speak to the club or possibly at the Bay State Council meeting. There will be more information to follow as the talk is scheduled.

INTO THE DRINK**CLUB TALK**

John Pell, one of our alternate directors is arranging for the crew of *IntoTheDrink* to speak at an upcoming club meeting. *IntotheDrink* is also a supporter of Dive-Kulture. Dive-Kulture is the Boston based organization that assists inner city kids to learning to trust other people. This is accomplished through training the kids to scuba dive.

COASTSWEEP 2010**UNDERWATER CLEAN-UP**

South Shore Neptunes will serve as a coordinator for COASTSWEEP 2010. According to the COASTSWEEP website "Local coordinators are the people who organize COAST SWEEP cleanups. They are assisted by the COASTSWEEP coordinators who work with each local coordinator to ensure he/she has all of the assistance and supplies necessary for a safe and successful clean up". The clean ups take place in September and October each year. We will be conducting underwater clean up activities. These may be coordinated with onshore clean up activities. We are beginning to plan now so we can seek out volunteers for both efforts.

Calendar 2010

June 13 Marine Wildlife Sighting Trip on Capt John's boat

June 27 George's Island Picnic

August 1 Duxbury Beach Annual Outing

September 26 Bay State Council Treasure Hunt

October 2 FLEA MARKET

October 30 Roy & Jeanne's Halloween Party

Contributors**STEVE MARSHALL**

Steve Marshall, President South Shore Neptunes

