

Soundings Newsletter

Massachusetts' Oldest Dive Club



President's Message

August is here and the summer seems to be moving by quickly. The weather has been great for diving and many of us have been out most every weekend. The weather was also great for the annual outing at Duxbury beach. So let's hope the weather holds for the remainder of the summer and we get some more excellent diving in before things "ice up".

On another note this has been a great year for new members. We have eight new members of the club and one more who is pending. This is excellent news for the club and we need to keep the membership drive going.

One great message we are able to give people who are interested in joining the club and who actually do join is that as a club we are doing a great deal of diving. We have a great balance this year of dive and non-dive activities. Our club point dives that typically occur on Sundays are well attended, members are diving

Welcome to our newest members:

David and his wife welcomed a healthy baby boy on Friday August 6.

Conor Joseph Rodberg came into this fine world at 10:21am in Atlanta GA.

Weight 7 lbs, 4 oz

Height 20 inches.

Sister Dara, who turned 4 on August 8, is the boss of Conor.

NEW APPLICANTS:

We have several new member applications that the Board voted on and will be having their second general membership vote on Tuesday September 7.

LET YOUR VOTE COUNT. Join us to determine the fate of these fine young divers...

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday August 29; Tropical Fish Hunt. Fort Wetherill RI.

Saturday Sept 18 Thompson Island Clean Up.

Saturday October 9; Annual Flea Market in Hanover.

October 19 (Third Tuesday); special guest speaker. "The Portland"

October 23, SSNeptunes Halloween Bash at the scary home of the Chamberlain's.

NEPTUNES PICNIC: AN UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS

For all those that volunteered time and effort, THANK YOU as the picnic was another roaring success.

The food was hot & delicious. The weather was perfect (as was the tide). Blackie the game master executed his craft to the delight of the children and adults. Yes, the GIRLS beat the boys again in tug-of-war.

There were several regulars whose presence was missed. Please be sure to come back next year if you missed this past one.

For those who were not able to attend, you missed a SPECTACULAR event!



at other times as well both with other members and on their own excursions. We also have had some great family events - Angelo's George's Island picnic, dinner night out at the Links, and of course the annual outing. There was a great turnout at each of these events. Look for more events in the coming weeks and months.

We are also in the final planning stages of the Thompson Island Clean-Up dive. We have a great turnout anticipated for that event as well. At this point we have thirty six people participating, with 26 divers and 10 beach helpers. This is a fantastic turnout but we need more, particularly more Neptunes. Please try to make time on your calendar to participate in this dive in any way you can.

So with the summer almost over we can look forward to a fun filled fall. Many activities are coming up, the flea market, the hunt for Roy's head, and of course Roy's Halloween party. In amongst that busy schedule LETS GO DIVING!!!

Thompson Island Clean-Up

The Thompson Island clean-up organized by the South Shore Neptunes is in the final planning stages. On Saturday, July 10th, President Marshall and Laura Medrano of Dive Kulture met with Bill Dowd, Waterfront Operations Manager for Thompson Island Outward Bound. The dock and mooring area on Thompson Island was selected as the clean-up site.

On Saturday, July 24th President Marshall and Alternate Board member John Pell did a survey dive around the mooring area. The conditions on that day were not favorable, visibility was near zero. The tide was rising and there was quite a bit of silt in the water. Another survey dive will take place on August 21st. At that time, Board member John Blackadar will accompany President Marshall and others to perform what is hoped to be a more extensive survey, conditions permitting. The tide on August 21st will be a falling tide in the morning which is the same as the tide on September 18th, the day of the clean-up so the intent is to get a feel for how conditions will be on that day.

Other planning efforts are underway as well. On Tuesday, August 17th, there was a planning meeting at

the South Shore Neptunes Clubhouse. There, all aspects of the dive were discussed.

This should be a great effort and one that receives favorable publicity. President Marshall has spoken with a freelance reporter who may be attending the dive, She will be writing an article for the Southend News and will pitch the article to the Christian Science Monitor and the Boston Globe.

On Thursday, August 12th, President Marshall attended a meeting of the North Shore Frogman. Laura Medrano and Jay Ganson of Dive Kulture were presenting. Laura was kind enough to include a slide in the presentation about the upcoming clean-up and invited President Marshall to come and speak about the clean-up. The Frogmen were very interested in the entire presentation and were also interested in ways that we may be able to have more inter-club activities.

President Marshall notes, "Please make every effort to participate in this clean-up. It is a great way to both promote the South Shore Neptunes as well as to forward our new mission set out at the beginning of this year".



Annual Tropical Fish Rescue and BBQ
Sunday, August 29th, 2010
9:30am to 4:30pm
Fort Wetherill, Jamestown, RI

This is a great family event, especially for the kids!

We will be seining; which is pulling a fish net through shallow water, up onto the beach, and discover all sorts of marine life, letting the children help gather the fish and marine life collected in the net. There will be a large touch tank set up, for all to enjoy, with lobsters, crabs, starfish, baby tropical fish, etc. As we gather our catch, let our experts teach you about the tropical fish you can observe in our on-site holding aquariums. There will be organized regular scuba diving as well as designated tropical collecting areas. Never caught tropical fish before?

Tom Bergendahl will have kayaks available to use and offers an “introduction to kayaking or kayak diving”

There will also be volleyball, music, lots of raffles, and of course diving and a great variety of food.

Never caught tropical fish before? Let our experts show you how.

Extra collecting nets will be available.

All are welcome. Join us for a fun filled day!

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE COTTING SCHOOL

Tropical Fish Collecting

Tropical fish come up the gulf stream as eggs on broken seaweeds, hatch, and make their way into the warm eddies and nooks and crannies of the southern New England coast. The water this time of year can be in the low to mid 70's (yes, not a typo- like Florida in the winter) and you can typically wear 1/2 of a wetsuit, no gloves, and a hood only to allow being in the water for 4 hours plus. Seeing these little waifs is fun, trying to catch them is a challenge. Easy diving - no deeper than 25 feet - often 10-15 feet works; in fact snorkeling at low tide is as successful as diving at high tide! By the way, this is a win-win-win situation - the fish will die if not caught, by late fall because of cold water temps, the aquarium likes the juvenile fish (they don't need to collect as many in the Bahamas), and it's FUN for us!

If you...

- ▶ want to see some fish you don't normally find around here
- ▶ want to dive without a 7mm wetsuit in New England
- ▶ need fish for your own fish tank,
- ▶ want to help the Aquarium,
- ▶ or just want to save the lives of some fish (they'd die when the water turns cold in the Fall)

For directions or additional information, contact Al Bozza at Programs@neadc.org or 508-528-4933

Stellwagen Alive! is currently interviewing dive professional in the area for the position of Dive Community Ambassador. The Ambassador will work with dive shops along the Gulf of Maine to help them provide important local information about the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and its importance to our area and, in particular, its significance to the dive community.

Home to over 500 species of marine life, including more than 70 species of fish, 34 species of seabirds, and 22 species of marine mammals, Stellwagen owes its diversity to its unique location and shape. Deep ocean currents rise as they meet the sharp sides of its plateau, carrying nutrients up to the surface in a process called upwelling. These nutrients attract phytoplankton, and form the basis for a complex organic soup that is the foundation of Stellwagen's extensive marine food chain.

Stellwagen Alive! is on a mission—a mission to preserve Stellwagen Bank. We are all at risk of losing this backyard undersea treasure that we've depended on for centuries. Formed in 2007 as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, we actively partner with fishermen, scientists and local communities for ongoing efforts to save New England's unique marine sanctuary. With your help, we'd like to expand our connections to the dive community.

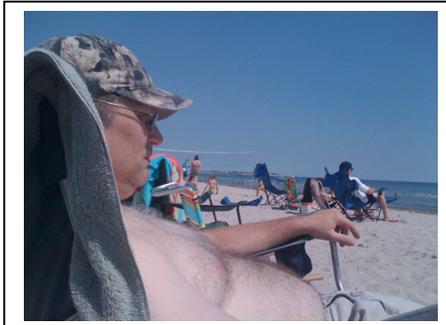
We'll keep you informed as we complete the selection process and hope that we can work with you to help you help divers understand the importance of this resource just off our shores.

In the meantime, we'd love to hear from you of any ideas you may

have about promoting diving in Stellwagen or how to involve your students and customers. Please visit our website at www.stellwagenalive.org to learn about us, and consider becoming a member of Stellwagen Alive!

Thank you!

Michael Cohen
Co-Chair
Stellwagen Alive!
www.stellwagenalive.org
www.facebook.com/StellwagenAlive



NOAA released the final management plan for Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary today. Based on years of scientific study and developed with extensive public input, the new management plan focuses on key issues affecting the sanctuary, including ecosystem alteration, wildlife disturbance, vessel traffic and its potential threat to marine mammals, water quality and invasive species. The plan will guide the sanctuary's resource protection and conservation efforts over the next five years.

The management plan is posted on the sanctuary's website at <http://stellwagen.noaa.gov>

Tanks For Cash

The South Shore Neptunes is asking for your help to support the club. The Neptunes have started a recycling program for your old aluminum and steel tanks. This is a perfect opportunity for you to help out the club by donating your old tanks today!!!

Bring by your old tanks to the Neptunes Club House any one of the first three Tuesday's of any month during normal meeting times. All you need to do is call [508.591.0006](tel:508.591.0006) to arrange a pickup.



IXNAY on the ORATORIUM-MAY

A proposal to ban lobster fishing over a vast stretch of the East Coast has been killed.

The board that advises the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission on lobster rules voted 7/22 to consider lesser reductions in the catch - or no new restrictions at all.

The vote came after lobstermen said a ban on lobster fishing from south of Cape Cod to North Carolina would destroy their businesses. They also said they're seeing signs that the species is rebounding.

A scientific committee recommended a five year moratorium to the board, citing the species' dire condition. Long Island lobsterman John German said he was relieved the moratorium was killed. But he said the industry can't survive any new cuts.