

# Soundings Newsletter

## Massachusetts' Oldest Dive Club



### UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday June 27 George's Island Picnic. Start time 0900 on Georges Island. Boats leave Quincy Yacht Club at 0800.

Sunday June 27; Jeannie Chamberlain's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in Marshfield.

### President's Message

Well I have learned a great deal trying to move forward on our mission of enhancing the environmental quality of Boston Harbor and surrounding areas. It's amazing how wanting to volunteer can be such a difficult effort. I have made multiple inquiries to various agencies that control the Boston Harbor Islands and other areas. The most promising contact to date has been the organization that manages Thompson Island. Thompson Island is not managed by the National Park Service (as the other Boston Harbor Islands are). I will be in contact with the volunteer coordinator for Thompson Island during the first week of June so more to come on that.

The other area of great interest and frankly great effort on the part of club members was dealing with flood of the clubhouse. The Board is greatly appreciative of the efforts of Joe McAndrews and Tom Curran for all the work to control the flood waters and then bring the clubhouse back on line. Thanks to all the efforts to clean up the aftermath and then paint the floor. Thanks to the Angelo Correnti and Tommy Lo for coordinating our temporary meeting space at the Quincy Yacht Club. Finally, thanks to John Blackadar, who,

### Welcome to our newest member; Matt Meyer!!

At the recent board meeting, the board unanimously voted in Matt Meyer as a [student] member! Join us at the next general membership meeting to cast your vote for the future of our club. Matt hails from a line of austere divers. You know the most recent and life member, Doug (his father). What you may not know (nor does Doug or Matt) is that this diver lineage started back several hundreds of years. While researching Matt's background (as we only let the best of the best in the club), it was discovered that his ancestors were

As the over harvesting of sponges depleted the supply, his family was forced to strap on a tank and dive deeper. The family's fortune was safe for awhile. Then came the creation of artificial sponges. But the Meyer family was resourceful and began diving for sea urchins. The sushi crowd was beginning to expand outside of the Far East and the demand for urchins drove up the prices and the Meyer family is living happily ever after.

## Happenings From Other Dive Clubs

**The New England Aquarium Dive Club** in conjunction with the Reef Environmental Education Foundation {REEF} will be hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast Great American Fish Count. This will take place on **July 24 at Stage Fort Park** in Gloucester. There will be free raffle and door prizes. These dives will be 7 shore locations around Cape Ann along with dives at Nubble Light in York ME. Last year, 119 divers conducted 146 fish and invertebrate species. For more information, contact Bob Michelson at 781-848-8870 or [pbm.inc@verizon.net](mailto:pbm.inc@verizon.net).

**NEADC's ANNUAL TROPICAL FISH RESCUE and BBQ** will be held Sunday August 29 (9:30-4:30) at Fort Wetherill in Jamestown RI.

Discover how to seine (gently catching marine life with a net); enjoy the dive without a 7mm wetsuit; save the lives of fish that will perish once the waters turn colder. Be rewarded with a BBQ and the kiddies can experience the touch tank for the New England sea creatures.

Contact Al Bozza at [programs@neadc.org](mailto:programs@neadc.org) or 508-528-4933

All proceeds benefit the Cotting School

## Scuba Diver Death

By Stefanie Geisler, Globe Correspondent

A 42-year-old scuba diver died Wednesday afternoon after he was found floating unconscious off Good Harbor Beach in Gloucester, officials said today.

John C. Denaro, 42, of Carlisle, was seen floating in about 2 feet of water in the beach's private section at about 1:30 p.m., Gloucester Police Chief Michael

Lane said. "He was wearing a wetsuit and one fin and no mask. He was about 25 feet away from the sandbar."

"Denaro had extensive diving experience. He had come to Gloucester with two others. They were going to the beach, and he was going to go diving off to the side.

Paramedics removed Denaro from the water and attempted to resuscitate him. Denaro was diving by himself.

No foul play is suspected at this time, Lane said. An autopsy is expected to be completed.

Denaro's gear will be inspected by the State Police dive team, Lane said. "It appeared that the tank was pretty full when they took possession of it," he said.

The tanks will be tested early next week, but the initial examination shows that Denaro's gear was in working order, said Steve O'Connell, a spokesman for the Essex district attorney's office.

"This was probably a medical issue, but we'll await the autopsy results before determining the cause of death," he said.

as usual, worked tirelessly to ensure the clubhouse was restored.

Finally, thanks to everyone who searched for and found a refrigerator for the clubhouse. At one point in time we had more refrigerators than we had space for. Amazing what a bit of "encouragement" can do. Tom Curran was the winner and found us a really great one.

### ITEMS OF NOTE:

#### DAN O2 Oxygen Kit

We are looking for our DAN o2 kit. If you have it or know someone who might, please contact [vicepres@southshoreneptunes.com](mailto:vicepres@southshoreneptunes.com)

#### Bill Walker and Netta Burchill

are home from the hospital. Please call or write Bill and Netta and let your fellow member know you care

### **Minutes of the SS Neptunes Regular Meeting, May 4, 2010**

This was the first meeting in the clubhouse since the March flood. The meeting room has been cleaned, the floor has been repainted and the place looks great again. The President thanked everyone for their help in getting the place back in shape so quickly.

Jeannine Fabian presented the 2009 Audit Report to the membership. Jeannine had presented the report to the Board of Directors during the April 13<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. The Board accepted the report and voted a recommendation that it be presented to the general membership at the next Regular Meeting. Jeannine highlighted the more important items covered in the audit, including monies paid to National Grid for heat, saved by printing our own newsletters and monies not made because we didn't run many raffles. A motion was made to accept the 2009 Audit Report as presented. The motion was seconded, and the motion was passed.

There was an extended discussion regarding the replacement of some of the clubhouse appliances and electronics. The soda refrigerator died a few weeks ago, and the DVD player and microwave were damaged in the March flood. Motions were made to spend up to \$100.00 for a used refrigerator and up to \$50.00 for a new DVD player. Both motions were seconded passed by votes of the membership in attendance. Tommy Lo volunteered to check the want ads for a used refrigerator and to purchase a new DVD player. President Steve Marshall volunteered to donate a small microwave and Joe

McAndrew volunteered to loan us two small refrigerators until a larger one can be purchased.

President Marshall reported on the status of the club's plans for the Coastal Sweep Project. Steve has been working with Vivian Li of the Boston Harbor Association and Chris Bush of the Boston Conservation Commission to identify a suitable clean-up site. They will get back to him with a list of possible clean-up sites. The primary stumbling point is still the disposal of hazardous materials that might be brought up. Steve said that the New England Aquarium Dive Club has run Coastal Sweep projects in the past and suggested that we might want to contact them for advice on site selection.

Bill Burchill announced that the Marshfield Yacht club is sponsoring a Blessing of the Fleet celebration on June 27<sup>th</sup>, and he suggested that it might be a good opportunity for the club to set up the membership recruiting booth. Unfortunately, the club picnic on Georges Island is scheduled for the same day. All agreed that this would be a good opportunity to recruit new members, and we should be able to find a few members who don't plan to attend the picnic who would be willing to man the booth. Volunteers willing to man the booth should contact President Marshall or vice president Bowers.

V.P. Rich Bowers announced that all supplies of the club rule book and the club's color flyer were destroyed in the March flood and new copies will need to be printed. After much discussion, all agreed that we need to review the club rulebook and make any updates to the book before we go to press. The board members were asked to review the rulebook

to discuss any needed changes at the June board meeting. Items like the club's new student membership need to be incorporated. Rich's goal is to get through a review of at least the first five pages, the bylaws, and the first six Articles of the rule book during the June board meeting. Rich recommended that we use the website version of the rulebook as a baseline.

V.P. Bowers brought up the subject of a club dive logbook. He suggested that we should be maintaining a record of all club dives for club historical purposes. John Blackadar reminded members that in the past, we always maintained informal records of club dives. However, this tradition died after we lost the dive team truck. All agreed that we should be maintaining a log of club dives, though no one could recommend a way to make it happen on a regular basis.

VP Bowers initiated a discussion about how the club should be using its Twitter, Facebook and Website media tools. All agreed that Twitter would be best used to provide daily updates on what we are doing, dives, dinner nights out, etc. The Face Book medium would be best used for general discussion of dive related topics, including up-coming events, dive site and dive gear recommendations, and photograph exchanges, etc. The Website medium would be best used to provide the diving public with information about the South Shore Neptunes, including a description of who we are, information on how to contact us, listings of club rules, bylaws and membership application forms, schedules on planned club dives and events, and possibly a dive forum for in-depth discussion of best and worst dive sites, dive gear alerts and

recommendations, etc.

Dale Freeman recently visited the club during a meeting. Dale is a commercial diver, and he spoke about some of his recent wreck diving discoveries. Dale, owner of Triton Marine Services. and a former Navy diver also discussed some of the more recent commercial diving projects, including a project to run a water line out from Hull to Georges Island. **Dale's presentations are always stimulating and informative.**

**Minutes of the SS Neptunes Board Meeting; May 11<sup>th</sup>**

Roy Chamberlain reported that his wife Jeannie is home from the hospital and is doing well. Jeannie woke early complaining of severe chest pains and Roy rushed her to the hospital thinking that it could be a heart attack. After sixteen hours of tests, they determined that Jeannie was suffering from severe muscle strain. She had been digging post holes in the yard and had just over exerted herself.

VP Rich Bowers announced that the dead soda refrigerator has been replaced with a new, used refrigerator. He thanked Tom Curran and Joe McAndrew for handling the refrigerator replacement issue.

Rich announced that the certificate of appreciation for the Common Market Restaurant has been printed and framed. It was presented to the restaurant after the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

VP Bowers reported that John Blackadar contacted the post office and was able to regain the PO Box number we've been using. We had lost the box due to a recent snafu in the billing

process.

Roy Chamberlain announced that Bill Walker, aka Mr. Gadget from the cable TV show Divers Down, is going in for heart surgery soon. Bill has a heart valve problem that needs to be corrected.

VP Bowers announced that he was able power up the old printer without it blowing up. It doesn't print yet, but he suspects it may only require about \$90.00 in replacement parts to repair. Rich offered to purchase the parts on-line. After much discussion about the risks of trying to repair the printer versus buying a new printer, Jay Theriault offered to donate up to \$500.00 toward the purchase of a new printer. Carl Yngve offered to donate any portion of the printer cost that might exceed Jay's \$500.00 donation. The membership thanked both Jay and Carl for their generous donations.

There was a general discussion about the club newsletter. All agreed that we should stick to the original monthly newsletter plan of hard copies for January, March, May, July, September, and November and soft copies for February, April, June, August, October and December.

President Bowers announced that a number of divers are planning to dive the wreck of the Pinthis in June to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its sinking. Rich said there are three boats going out, and all are full.

**From the BSC Meeting:** Andrew Jay came for Mat Brevard to speak to the Bay State Council members about their project, Mass Oyster ([www.massoyster.org](http://www.massoyster.org)). Their purpose is to restore oyster reefs to their previous habitat now that

**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. If for some medical reason you cannot get to the Neptunes we will come to you! All you need to do is call 508.591.0006 to arrange a pickup.

We need your help to keep the club alive.

Every little bit helps! Donate your tanks today!!

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

(BSC mtg con't)

the Boston Harbor & surrounding water is cleaner and may be able to sustain oyster beds. This would not be for harvest as the conditions are still much too polluted. If the oyster beds can be restored, it would help with cleanup of the harbor areas, as oysters filter 30 gallons of water a day. Studies suggest that this could result in triple the number of fish currently living in the areas of interest. They have seeded oysters in an area near the Constitution wharf, considered a good area since there is a lot of policing there (to keep people from harvesting), and a lot of people pass through and ask what they are doing. They have been seeding now for a couple of years.