



Neptunes Sounding Newsletter

And the Year Winds Down

We have been having another successful year with the cycle of life weaving in and out. We are all growing older and last time checked, none of us are getting any younger. We're pushing through and making memories as we go. The year was warmer than usual and we experienced a tough drought and we still have not made up for it. I know that you don't want to hear this, but we really need some solid snow fall this winter. Diving can wait, Mother Nature cannot. Of course, she will do what she does regardless of our plans and desires. Remember to think of the long term and you'll be exactly where you need to be.

RUN, DON'T WALK! November 30 is the deadline to submit your entries for the club's Artifact & Photo of the Year.

Our Election Night is the third Tuesday, Dec 20. Not only do we elect next year's officers, we get a chance to eat, drink and be merry! Come one, Come all! We start at 7pm.

SAVE THE DATE: We booked the Common Market for our Annual Awards Banquet on January 28, 7-11pm. The price is \$32. (In case you were wondering; the last time we increased the price of the banquet was way back in 2009.)

The dates are carved in stone for the Bonaire Trip! Saturday May 27 through Saturday June 3. We will be staying at the all inclusive Plaza Beach Resort. A deposit of \$100+ per person is required to hold your spot. We have coordinated with a travel person for the flights. **ACT NOW!**

As you may know, Paul Green is home and recovering from his quintuple bypass surgery. He is feeling much stronger is and is cautiously welcoming visitors and assistance for meals and driving to/from his therapies. Please call him before dropping by.

Joe McAndrew is recovering nicely from his knee replacement surgery. It doesn't seem to have slowed him down much. He did attend a Bruin's game and take a spin on the Zamboni during the period time outs. He apparently won big on the contest though I'm not sure how big... Maybe

Upcoming Events

11/27 Club Dive, meet at 9am

11/30 7:30pm BSC Meeting

12/4 Club Dive, meet at 9am

12/6 7pm General Membership Mtg

12/11 Club Dive, meet at 9am

12/13 7pm Board Meeting

12/20 ELECTION NIGHT

1/1/2017 Sober Up Dive

Awards Banquet Jan 28

Doug Eaton as President

Todd Alger as VP

Jeannine Willis as Secretary

Theresa Czerepica as Treasurer.

Board: John Blackadar, Ken & Teri Hayes, Jay Theriault, Rob Vice, Deb Osborn, Joe McAndrew, Tom Guild

Alternates: Tommy Lo, Rob Robison, Rob Christianson, Carl Yngve.

southshoreneptunes@ gmail.com

he'll treat us at the Banquet!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MAY 27-JUNE 3 Bonaire

Trip

CLUB DIVES

Matt and Doug went to Folly cove on a Sunday Oct 23. 25' visibility. Beautiful day. Last time that Doug dove this location was way back on Nov 12, 1989! That was before Matt was born. They saw a big torpedo Ray, completely buried except for the eyes.

Diving Gull Cove
Story by Rob Robison

Sunday, October 30, 2016, South Shore Neptunes Peter Ninh, Mike Vaughan, and I met at Gull Cove State Launch Ramp, RI for a relaxing morning dive in waters protected from the wind and weather. Bright skies and an air temperature hovering in the mid 50s to low 60s augured well for a beautiful experience. As we suited up, a kayaker fisherman returned from an early morning outing while another guy fished down on the point outside the cove; otherwise, we had the cove all to ourselves. On this dive I was trying out my new red filter for the video cam light I have been using. Red filtered light is supposed to be easier on the eyes of the fish when taking photos.

By the time we had finished gearing up, the tide had changed to outgoing. Fortunately, we began our dive soon enough to avoid being bothered by any ebbing tidal current. As we dropped in, seaweed bent in the direction of the water flow. Visibility was 20' or better; the water temperature vacillated between 52°-53°F depending on depth and location; and our maximum depth reached 27', as we crisscrossed the channel on a slow deliberate 51-minute dive. All of us came back with half-filled tanks!

Along the way, we saw a bottom paved with the shells of all sorts of mollusks, and we found sponges, jellies, whelks, blue crabs, spider crabs, including one in the process of cracking a clam, long siphons from razor clams, numerous corrugated egg sacs (we think) from an as yet unidentified inhabitant of the hydrosphere, and plenty of human debris—an empty potato chip bag, beer bottle, a tire, a buried white container of some sort, and a plastic bag. It's easy to see that carelessness or thoughtlessness when handling trash around the oceans, lakes, and streams, given the longevity of plasticized bags and objects, is an eyesore that keeps on giving or polluting, as it were. Also encountered was a lone pair of sunglasses, the loss of which probably dampened that person's Halloween spirit, and a discarded car tire providing some shelter to a needy spider crab.

We returned to our starting point refreshed and exhilarated by yet another plunge into the hydrosphere. I hope many of you also found time to enjoy some of the underwater wilderness this past weekend and finished in time to watch the Patriots. Their resounding victory over (T) Rex Ryan's Bills punctuated a perfect ending to a wonderful day. As you can see, I'm still diving into it and loving it. I hope you are, too.

Pebble Beach, Sunday, Nov. 6, 2016. Neptunes Rob Christian, Peter Ninh, and I met at the Burger King Near Rockport on our way to Pebble Beach on a gray Sunday morning. Winds were out of the Northwest. Beyond the rock outcroppings farther out to sea, we could see large whitecaps breaking on the bows of freighters plying the seacoast waters; however, close to shore in our dive area the water was relatively flat, although there were some swells. Air temps were in the low 50s, so it was bit chilly suiting up. Only one other dive team could be seen on the beach. They had arrived before us and were getting into the water as we began gearing up. After hitting the water and heading down, we all felt better.

You can tell the season has changed and the water is cooling off. It was 52° on this day, well below the high 50s, low 60s of a few short weeks ago. Animal activity has dropped off measurably. Lobsters are hiding farther back in their holes if they are around and haven't yet moved out to deeper waters. Many crabs are burying themselves more thoroughly into the sand and rock as well. Everything seems to be coming to a standstill. Fish life is scant. We did see a common Sea Raven on the move and a few moon snails out in the open on the sand. One was attempting to feed on a razor clam. The stalked anemone clusters, attached in formation under the boulders, were closed up, and Rob C. and Peter each caught a keeper lobster. We enjoyed a 69-minute dive with 7' – 25' of vis depending on our location. It was a refreshing relaxing dive, just fitting for a gray Sunday morning.

Hathaway Pond, Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016. Brian Smith, a South Shore dive buddy of mine from the Plymouth Divers Market shop, and I met at Hathaway Pond down on the Cape@ 9:00AM for a freshwater dive. For those of you who haven't been there, the pond sits down in a kettle-like depression and is surrounded by very tall pines, which block the sun to a degree. The wind whipped off the pond, adding a numbing refrigeration effect. It was so chilly my left thumb and forefinger went absolutely numb, making it extremely difficult to completed the insertion of my BCD's weight pockets into their slots. Once in the water we were regaled with 30+ feet of vis and 52° water @ 30', which warmed us up believe it or not after shedding the effects of the wind chill. Apparently, the pond is used for training new divers so we ran into some interesting grasses with grape-like oxygenated bulbs, a wooden training platform in disrepair sporting a religious plaque of some sort, a fishing lure, a sunken wooden cabin cruiser, a few bass fish fingerlings, apparently a few trout that swam under me, according to Brian, an unidentifiable automotive wreck, and a sunken yet erect canoe. Neither Viagra nor Cialis was needed, evidently, for it to maintain its position.

As our dive came to a close and we slowly ascended the sandy bottom to our entry point, the sun rays reached down through the water in a glorious display of light. It was a wonderful way to spend Saturday morning.

Old Garden, Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016. I met Neptunes Peter Ninh and Mike Vaughan in Macy's parking lot at South Shore Plaza Sunday morning at 8 only to discover Mike was unable to dive, due to a leg made sore from an extremely painful leg cramp. So Peter and I pooled our gear in his 4Runner and headed to the Burger King near Rockport to link up with new diver, Bonnie Zeller. Apparently, neither Neptune VP Todd Alger nor Neptune Pres. Doug Eaton, who had also been invited, could make it, either, so just the three of us wound up in the small parking lot adjacent to the Old Garden beach park, our dive site on this sparkling Sunday morning. Westerly winds warmed the air and the sunshine revealed clear waters below as we geared up. After Peter had donned his new wetsuit, he discovered he had forgotten his dive mitts and was about to scrub the dive, when the couple suiting up next to us overheard our conversation and loaned him a well-worn but serviceable pair. Heaving a sigh of relief, we trudged down to the water, strapped on our fins, and headed out to the drop down site, where we found vis ranging from 7' – 25 or 30' and water temperatures, 2 degrees colder than last week, now at a balmy 50°F! It will be time to breakout the dry suit if the H2O plunges much further. Just like the weekend before, animal life at Old Garden has slowed down dramatically. No sign of flounder or Pollock. Just crabs and small hermit crab types, some interesting soft coral and anemone formations, plus a very occasional lobster or two. Peter found one keeper; the rest were babies. We did see one beautiful red Sea Raven, whose color was enhanced by the red filter on my video cam light. Still, the three of us thoroughly enjoyed our 64-minute dive in the hydrosphere. We were just sorry there were no other Neptunes around with whom to share the joy. Dive into it everyone! It's still loads of fun this time of year, and I am having a blast underwater. I hope you are, too!

FOR SALE

Joe Mortland is selling his 1977 Pacemaker that is 26 feet long and 9'8" wide. It was repowered in 2013 and has a Chevy 350. It is an inboard, is fresh water cooled, electric flush toilet, AC/DC refrigerator, sleeps 4, fly bridge, enclosed head, Bimini top and varied extras. The boat, for its age, is in excellent condition and Joe used it for many years while diving. He is asking \$3,000

If anyone is interested they can either call Joe at 781-985-4334 or ED at 781-929-0884. The boat is located at 21 King Oak Terrace, East Weymouth.

Ed has a ton of dive equipment for sale. Couple of things of interest - High Intensity Dive Light (custom built), double hose regulator, Dive Watch and tons of other dive gear.

From The Huffington Post: Scientists studying the aftermath of one of the worst coral bleaching events in history along the Great Barrier Reef have returned with some bad, albeit expected news: Much of that ecosystem is now dead.

A team of researchers from Australia's ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies went back to check up on a swath of reefs that lie along the entire stretch of the Great Barrier, which saw some areas up to 95 percent bleached earlier this year. In total, 83 reefs were surveyed in March, many of which were profoundly impacted by a period of prolonged heat that turned once colorful coral formations ghostly white. Scientists anticipated mass casualties. And those predictions have come to fruition, according to Gergely Torda, a researcher with the National Coral Bleaching Taskforce that recently revisited many of those sites. "Basically we have seen the better [healthier] part of the reef so far," said Torda, midway through a secondary survey of those initial reefs. "But it confirms what our predictions were for the portion of the reef that would eventually die."

Bleached corals, named for when they turn bright white, aren't actually dead. But the color change happens in times of stress, usually when water temperatures become too warm and force the vivid algae that lives inside corals to leave. Corals can recover, but if temperatures are too warm for too long, the structures can die.

Torda's team, led by Professor Terry Hughes, has only seen about 50 of the initial 83 reefs at this stage, mostly in the healthier and only somewhat-bleached regions near the lower and middle sectors of the Great Barrier. But mortality is high enough that eventual forays into what was once the most pristine sector of the reef — the 400-mile stretch alongside the northernmost part of Australia — will most likely reflect dire results.

Reefs around Lizard Island, an epicenter of coral research off Far North Queensland, have "pretty much no coral left," Torda said. "In March, we measured a lot of heavily bleached branching corals that were still alive, but we didn't see many survivors this week," said Andrew Hoey, a Taskforce researcher working on the island, in a press release. "A lot of the survivors are in poor shape."

Although the full scale of death won't be known until November, none of the horror is unexpected. Researchers have warned the ongoing effects of climate change could continue to wallop sensitive coral ecosystems with increased frequency, and severity.

However, despite the urgent need for action, scientists have warned against writing an obituary for the reef too soon. Hughes told The Huffington Post after Outside magazine published a controversial article declaring the structure dead this month that this was far from the case.

Torda said there is hope for the most hard-hit regions of the reef to heal, but recovery efforts are usually "measured in decades in a very optimal scenario." Even if the world were to halt all production of fossil fuels tomorrow, the planet is still locked in to continued warming over that period that could very well hit the Great Barrier while it was down, he said. "This unfortunate event is now probably a wake-up call to the public, to policy makers, and hopefully we'll have a positive outcome," Torda added. "The question that I have is: 'Is it too late or not?'"