



Neptunes Sounding Newsletter

Calendar, 2017

6/6 General Membership Mtg

6/13 Board Meeting

6/18 Club Dive

6/20 Program TBA/newsletter assembly

6/25 Club Dive

7/22 Second Annual Pig Roast

7/4 General Membership Mtg

7/11 Board Meeting

7/18 Program TBA/newsletter assembly

8/1 General Membership Mtg

8/8 Board Meeting

Club Officers, 2017

Todd Alger - President
Doug Eaton - Vice President
Rob Robison - Secretary/Newsletter
Theresa Czerepica - Treasurer

Board of Directors: John Blackadar, Tom Guild, Ken Hayes, Garrett Kane, Joe McAndrews, Jay Theriault, Rob Vice, Jeannine Willis, Chuck Zarba

southshoreneptunes@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Welcome: Please join us in welcoming **New Member Mary Rose Largess!**

July 22 Second Annual Club Pig Roast, Irish Cultural Ctr. (Canton). Early bird special price \$25/pp **until** July 4; afterwards, \$30/pp. Register/purchase tickets online at [<http://southshoreneptunes.org/>](http://southshoreneptunes.org/)

August 6 Summer Outing at Duxbury Beach - A nice family event

Newsletter Delivery: Our printing costs doubled this past year; as a result, we need your help to cut costs. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please inform the newsletter editor, Rob Robison, at [<robisonr25@yahoo.com>](mailto:robisonr25@yahoo.com).

May - June Dives

Stories by Rob & Tommy Lo

Photos by Rob, Garrett K, Steve B. , & Tommy Lo

Sunday May 21, 2017, Scallop dive. Former Neptunes Rob Christian, Peter Ninh, Bonnie Zeller, and I headed to Marblehead Neck for a scallop dive on a beautiful sunny Sunday morning near the harbor and surrounding channels, which were filled with beautiful sail and pleasure boats out enjoying the sun, water, and fresh air. Steve Bonnarrigo dive mastered us. We found 13lbs. of scallops (shucked)—Peter carries a portable scale. Among the four of us we saw a skate,

some lobsters, a flounder or two and a now - endangered ocean pout in addition to all of the scallops.



Water temp. was 44°F, vis on the bottom @ 10', max depth 49'.



Similarly, in **Boston Harbor Sunday June 11, 2017. Tommy Lo** submitted the following **Scallop Dive** story and photos: Doug, Todd, and I went out with Garrett and his dad, Matt, on their boat looking for scallops. We all met at Todd's house beforehand to load the boat, launched at the Wessagusset boat ramp (AKA the George Lane Beach Boat Launch), and headed out of the Back River to the super secret scallop bed.

On our first dive I came up with a full bag and a third of a second bag of scallops. Doug and Garrett filled a bag, while Todd filled about a third of a bag. On our second dive, the roles were reversed. Doug, Garrett, and I each filled a quarter of a bag, while Todd managed to catch a full bag of scallops. We had two great dives each and Matt did a great job at the helm. One lobster was caught.

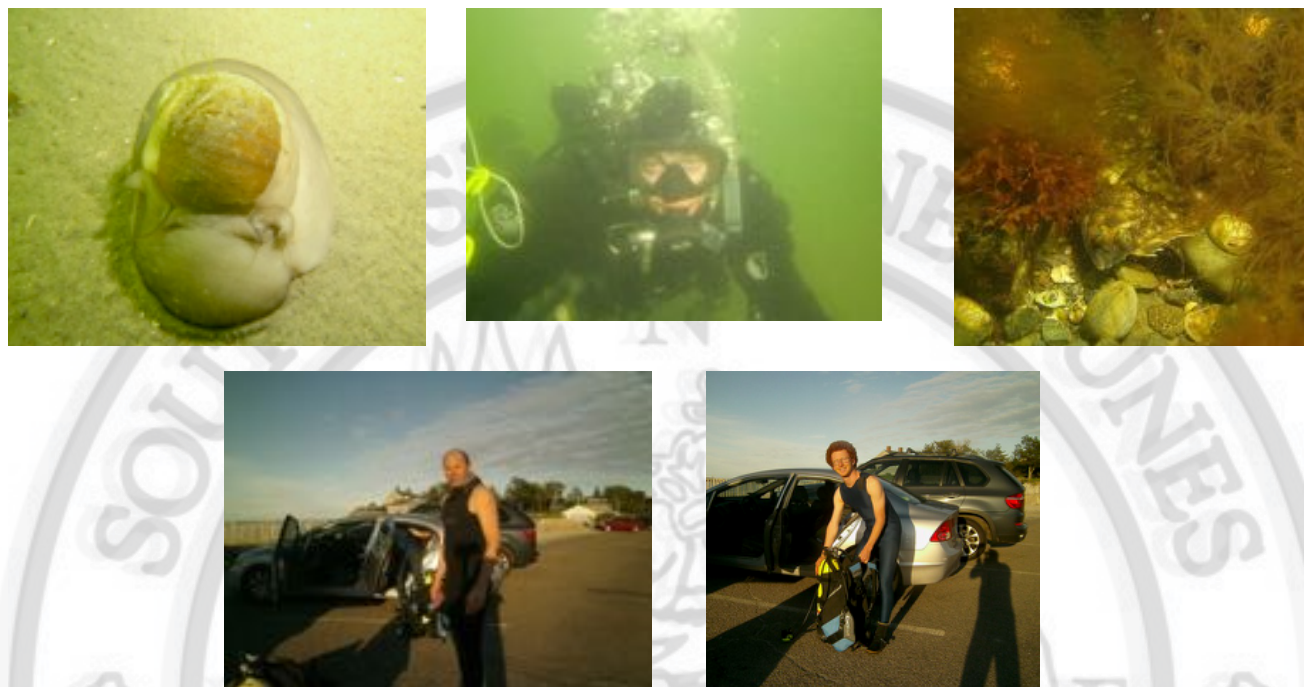


It was a beautiful day and we all had a great time.
Thanks Matt and Garrett!

Wednesday May 24, 2017, Early night dive. I met Neptunes Todd Alger and Chuck Zarba at Sandy Beach in Cohasset for a late PM, early evening dusk-to-night dive. Todd was waiting for a new diver, Jacob Regenstein, who wanted to join us but was running extremely late thanks to traffic congestion. I think he was driving down from Walpole. I was already partially suited up, so Chuck quickly donned his gear and joined me for the first plunge. We hit the water, dropped down immediately, and began a slow swim straight out toward the large exposed rock, centered off the middle of the beach. After traversing the wave-dug trench where the seaweed accumulates, we began to find the glacially tilled bottom and signs of life such as some small crabs, baby hermit crabs hiding in empty snail shells, a moon snail or two, a sea/surf clam, a few short lobsters, and a flounder.



Vis ranged from 8'-15', water temp was a balmy 52° on an incoming tide, and we spent about 31 minutes grokking in the hydrosphere at 18' beneath the waves.



(L - R) Moon Snail, Chuck Z, Flounder, Todd, and Jacob.

By the time we returned, Jacob had arrived and had his suit on. Todd loaned him a few pieces of equipment he was missing—his only previous experience was in the Caribbean we learned. After everyone had finished their dives and stowed their gear in the cars, we headed to Comella's Homemade Italian Food in Hingham on Rt. 3A for a forgettable pizza and beer dining experience. Darcy's Tavern, we really missed you! Regardless, it felt relaxing to get wet and enjoy some post dive camaraderie with Jacob, a Brandeis student, who has taken a year off his studies to work on drones before returning to school this coming fall en route to completing his senior year and graduating. We look forward to diving with Jacob again in the near future!

Friday, May 26, 2017. A Morton Pond Plunge. My local dive buddy, Brian Smith (Pict at left), and I planned to dive Plymouth Beach at Bert's (defunct) Restaurant, but recent weather conditions had turned the waters into a sea of sand, scuttling our plans. So, Brian and I headed over to Morton Pond, one of our two bailout dive sites, and began suiting up. Unfortunately, the tank I was using blew an O-ring (neither of us had any extras!), scuttling my dive. Fortunately, Brian was able to get wet. He reported 52° in the pond on a 45-minute dive.

Saturday, May 27, 2017. Ft. Wetherill. Bonnie Zeller, her buddy Lisa Ledwith, former Neptune Peter Ninh, and I met bright and early at Ft. Wetherill for a Memorial weekend plunge. When we arrive, the lot was already full of divers with their sea kayaks, an engaged couple—Matt and Sam (soon-to-be) Pegolo, some guys trying to launch their motorized inflatable, and a couple of tech divers hoping to practice with their rebreathers, among others.

As we suited up, a number of the divers who had gone out before we were ready began returning and complaining about zero vis. Interestingly, we had decided on Ft. Wetherill because we knew the Cape Cod Bay side of the ocean was stirred up and thought the Rhode Island side would offer better conditions. Nope!



Matt & Sam



Peter



Lisa, Bonnie & Peter

Undeterred by all of the negativity—the tech divers reported zero vis at 60' out past the big rock mount beyond the cove—the four of us headed across the cove under water on a 210° compass run hoping against hope that we would find some better vis on the far side. When we finally reached the wall of rock on the other side of the cove, we all looked at each other and decided to surface and swim back topside. There was no vis to be found anywhere, zero! All was not lost however, because I had brought some hazelnut coffee to perk and some Ballpark Franks to grill on my Coleman propane-powered portable camp stove. Lisa chipped in some burger patties and Ruffles chips. So, we enjoyed a mini feast right there in the parking lot before heading home to enjoy the remainder of the weekend.

The water is warming up, folks, and so is the action. Time to think about getting wet if you haven't done it already. Let's dive into it! Oceans of fun await!

Rob

From the Log Book

EXCLUSIVE: 'DISCOVERY' TREASURE HUNTER MAY HAVE FOUND COLUMBUS'S ANCHOR USING A MAP FROM SPACE

BY **ABIGAIL JONES** ON 5/4/17 AT 11:03 AM

The next sentence you are about to read might sound like a movie idea conjured up from the depths of oddball film star Nicolas Cage's psyche: Professional treasure hunter, armed with a map from outer space, sets out to unearth hundreds of shipwrecks around the world—and finds a centuries-old artifact that just might be Christopher Columbus's anchor.

Real life beat you to it, Mr. Cage: This actually happened.

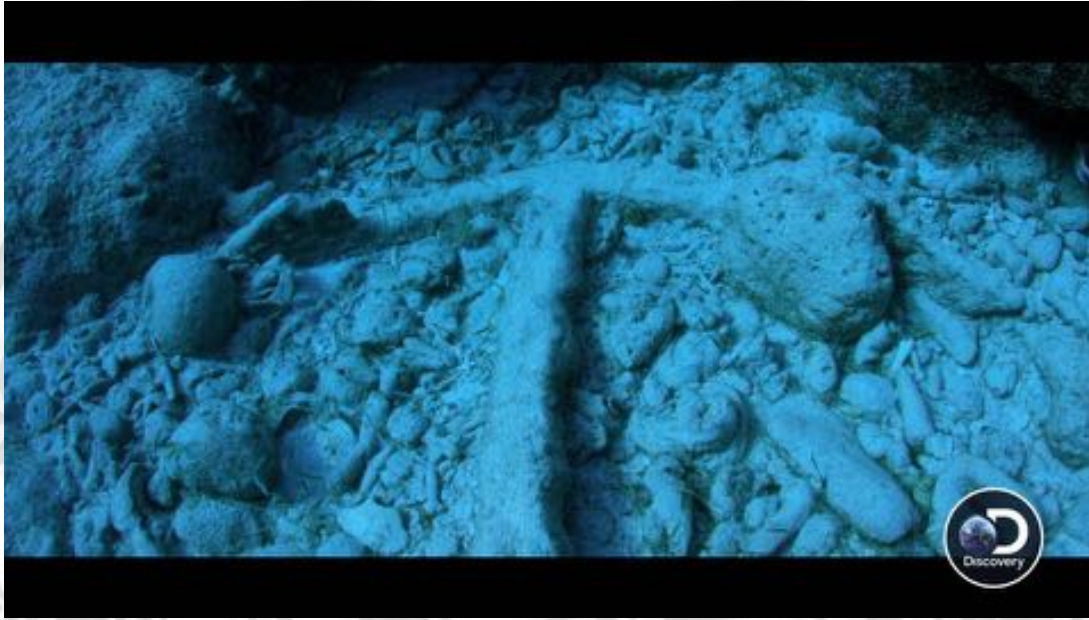
That treasure hunter is Darrell Miklos, and a new Discovery docu-series, *Cooper's Treasure* (Tuesdays at 10 p.m.), has been following him as he searches for underwater treasure, guided by the ghost of his dear friend, the late NASA astronaut Gordon "Gordo" Cooper.

In the 1960s, Cooper was one of NASA's original space pioneers—the youngest of the "Original Seven" astronauts, the first to sleep in space, and the last American to make a solo trip to space. On one of his missions, Cooper was using long-range detection equipment to search for nuclear sites when

he claimed he noticed a series of anomalies—dark patches that showed up on photos he took of Earth. He believed they were shipwrecks.

He spent decades tracking the coordinates on his space map against known shipwreck sites. Cooper died in 2004, but not before bestowing hundreds of documents upon his longtime friend, Miklos, who set off with Discovery cameras in tow to find out if that map from space would lead to buried treasure.

It did.



Treasure hunter Darrell Miklos believes he's found one of Christopher Columbus's anchors off the coast of Turks and Caicos. DISCOVERY CHANNEL

Two days ago, Discovery leaked a 30-second clip of an upcoming episode with an extraordinary reveal: Miklos and his crew believe they may have found an anchor that belonged to one of Columbus's ships that sailed between Spain and the New World.

"As soon as I saw it, I knew what it was: an early 1500s anchor. I knew in my mind that we were onto something so historically significant, just by the first line of site," Miklos tells *Newsweek* in his first interview about the discovery. "A lot of four-letter words came out of my mouth. I was shaking... And the beauty of [the anchor] laying there. It looked so elegant and ladylike to me. It seemed so fragile. There was something tender about that anchor."

Miklos and his crew were searching off the coast of Turks and Caicos when they discovered the 1,200- to 1,500-pound bower anchor resting at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. They quickly set out to verify their discovery. Miklos says the size of the anchor and details about its shape and design line up with other ships from the Columbus era. "If you think of the early Colonial period, there was only one group of people out there: Columbus, the Pinzon brothers, and the Columbus fleet," he says. Miklos also thinks the anchor met a violent end—the crown was bent and the anchor ring was broken, suggesting it was detached from its ship during a storm. (He tells the story of a ship that Martin Alonso Pinzon, one of the Pinzon brothers who voyaged with Columbus, supposedly tried salvaging along that very route in the early 1500s.)

"The importance of the anchor...is its age and nationality," says Jim Sinclair, a consulting archaeologist on the show. "The anchor has all of the attributes or characteristics that early period Spanish ships of

exploration carried. While it is impossible to say this is from any particular ship, it remains a tantalizing clue and a possible link to Columbus and the Pinzon brothers.”



Miklos and his crew were searching off the coast of Turks and Caicos when they discovered the 1,200 to 1,500-pound bower anchor resting at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. DISCOVERY CHANNEL

Now, Miklos is focused on proving the provenance of his anchor. “They didn’t build these things with stamps on them that say, ‘Built by Columbus,’” he says. “We’re still assessing the area to see if we can find other wreckage, and the more you find from that period, the more substantial evidence you have. But everything we’ve seen thus far, I truly believe the anchor comes from one of the ships in Columbus’s fleet.”

He’s already found pottery shards believed to be an olive jar painted with indigo paint and a Majorcan pot, both of Spanish origin, that can be used to date the wreck to the Columbus era. Several iron and bronze spikes found nearby also help date the materials to Columbus-era ships. This summer, Miklos heads back to Turks and Caicos to see what else he can find in that vast underwater cemetery.

“If we continue our search along that trail, I believe we stand a very good chance of finding shipwreck material related to that anchor,” he says. “That’s what we’re hoping for: something momentous. That’s the point of finding anchors, they’re like underwater arrows, pointing in the direction of that lost ship.”

Miklos’s father, Roger, also is a treasure hunter, and in the early 1980s he claimed he’d found the Pinta, one of the three ships in Columbus’s first voyage. But the discovery, near the Bahamas, was controversial. Even his own son now doubts it. “I do believe that the wreckage and material he found probably comes from that same era. I won’t say it is the Pinta—I don’t believe that it is,” Darrell says. “I don’t want to follow my dad’s footsteps. I want to make a substantive discovery done in my own way—a proper way, utilizing scientific methodologies everyone can respect. This is not ‘Miklos the Sequel.’ This is ‘Cooper’s Treasure.’ It’s me on a quest to find what it is Gordon sent me out there for.”

Miklos was a boy when he started hanging out with Cooper, and over time they developed a close friendship (and mentorship), despite their 36-year age difference. “I remember the way he talked: his

pregnant pauses, his mild manner. You'd think someone so mild-mannered wouldn't be a superhero, but he truly is a superhero. He's an incredible human being, and I miss talking with him probably more than anybody can imagine. I met his daughter recently. Oh, it was emotional for me. She looks so much like her dad... She said, 'I know why my dad picked you. You're the right one for the job.'"

Miklos says it would take him 1,000 years to investigate all 60 anomalies on Cooper's treasure map if he only had one crew. If he had 50 boats, he'd need 50 years. "I hear Gordon all the time in the back of my head: 'You're on the right trail!'"

Source: <<http://www.newsweek.com/discovery-treasurehunter-darrell-miklos-christopher-columbus-anchorcoopers-594407>>, with special thanks to Snag-A-News editor, Gerry Kubatska

Parting Story & Shots

On Saturday May 20, SSN members Todd Alger, John Blackadar, Theresa Czerepica, Doug Eaton, Rob Robison, Jay Theriault, Rob Vice, and Chuck Zarba visited Joe Hohmann's house in Roslindale to see his basement museum full of treasures from his days as a frogman, commercial diver and wreck hunter. Visit to Joe Homan's house was awesome. He enjoyed it as much as we did. The tour started outside



his house with his anchor. Everything is displayed neatly on shelves in his basement. About 20% is purchased, the rest was his own finds. He has bottles from the Wreck of the Rhone in the British Virgin Islands. He has traveled all over the world as a commercial diver and collected 'treasure' wherever he went, including a porthole from the Pinthis (Scituata) and one from a German U Boat, both pictured below left.



We enjoyed a wonderful Saturday morning . Thanks, Joe!