



# Sounding

## *Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACTIVITIES, & REMINDERS

#### Calendar 2021

**1/1 Sober Up Dive at Pleasure Bay. Meet @ PB, 9AM; Splash time, 10AM**

**1/5 General Meeting 7PM Zoom**

**1/12 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom**

**1/17 Club Dive, from Club House @ 9AM**

**1/19 Evening Program: Zachariah Whalen, videographer for YouTube channel stellar underwater adventure vlog, Johnathan Bird's Blue World, on Black water Diving in Hawaii**

**2/2 General Meeting 7PM Zoom**

**2/9 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom**

**2/16 Evening Program: TBA**

**2/? Club Dives TBA**

**3/2 General Meeting 7PM Zoom**

**3/9 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom**

**3/16 Evening Program: TBA**

**3/? Club Dives TBA**

- **Newsletter:** To help add interesting content to the newsletter during these unusual times, please send to [newsletter@southshoreneptunes.org](mailto:newsletter@southshoreneptunes.org) any first hand accounts, stories, photos, or both about your exploits as a Neptune for potential publication. Photos or clippings enhance stories, so please include them if you can. Don't forget to provide contact info in case I have questions.
- **New Underwater Rugby hours:** Tuesday nites 8-9:30 PM at Westwood HS pool.

**Club General and Board Meetings** are now being held **on Zoom** until further notice. See **Club Facebook page** for pics and brief writeup. **Please note: All other Club activities and programs listed on the Calendar or not, which are in conflict with the stay-in-place quarantine, are also CANCELED until further notice.**

**Bay State Council:** The Council's attorney is awaiting the response of the plaintiff's regarding the beach access suit.

**Don't forget to visit the club store at** <http://southshoreneptunes.noslowturtles.com/store/> for the latest in club swag.

- **New Date: The Boston Sea Rovers** announced that their annual clinic will be held **October 2-3, 2021**, instead of in March of next year. See flyer at the end of the newsletter.

- **Evening Program: Elections!** Thanks to all the candidates and club members!

### ELECTION RESULTS

#### Club Officers 2021

President **Rob Vice**  
Vice President **Todd Alger**

Treasurer **Theresa Czerepica**  
Secretary/Newsletter **Rob Robison**

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### Board of Directors, 2021

John Blackadar	Paul Greene	Tommy Lo	Doug Meyer, Alt. 1
Bill Burchill	Tom Guild	Jay Theriault	Adrienne Murphy, Alt. 2
Doug Eaton	Ken Hayes	Chuck Zarba	Matt Meyer, Alt. 3

### Awards 2020

#### Best Photo



*Red Sea Raven — Rob Robison*

#### Best Artifact



*Navy Coffee Mug — Chuck Zarba*



*Largest Lobster (4.13 lbs.) — Todd Alger*



To view video go to: <http://bit.ly/>

#### Best Underwater Video:

*Great visibility and Sea Creatures from Canoe Beach, Nahant— Todd Alger*

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Happy Diving

From

JOHN & KATHY BLACKADAR

## DECEMBER CLUB DIVES AND ACTIVITIES

**Pebble Beach.** Tuesday, December 15, 2020. Story by Rob Robison; photos by Matt Meyer and Rob.

A week and half ago, I received a text from Neptune Matt Meyer wondering if I could make a dive with him on Tuesday the 15th. My calendar was clear so I said, "Sure." We met at Beverly Burger King Service Plaza on Rt 128 at 9:30—it was Matt's day off—and decided on Pebble Beach. Great decision! Strong westerly winds had flattened out the water on a gorgeous but chilly sunny day.

We geared up, grabbed our cameras, waded into the very light surf near high tide, and headed straight out for the shallow reef in swim right

front of us, instead of making the long to the underwater rock island far to the down the beach.



From top L-R: Matt; baby Hermit crab; \*SugarKelp with hitchhikers; Baltic Isopod; \*Flabellina verrucosa

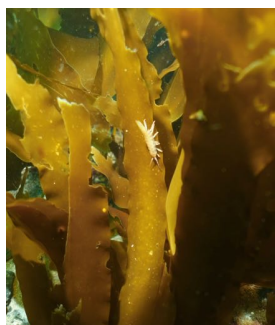


Baby Moon snail X5



put us in about 12' of water, submerged, adjusted our gear and headed due south through the heart-out clarity one associates 35'-40,' in 42° water. Along the the sand toward the reef, we

A brief swim where we buoyancy, and eat-your-with vis of way across found a small Hermit crab, some Moon snails, a sea clam, and finally the reef at about 18'. Almost as soon as we arrived, myriad nudibranchs could be found hiding in the Sugar Kelp, Dulse, and various kinds of seaweed and moss covering the rocks and small boulders. They were everywhere. Not having dived this part of Pebble Beach in quite some time, I had forgotten about the river of Sugar Kelp that runs across the reef from east to west, parallel to the beach. It was simply beautiful. We spent nearly 40 minutes of our 47-minute dive photographing every nudibranch we could find, plus a small baby/juvenile Sea Raven and a Baltic Isopod that were hiding among the fronds and underneath



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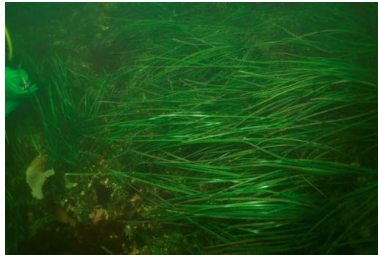


the small ledges and crevices. We hope you enjoy a few of our better photos from the morning's dive, as much as we delighted in finding the critters and flora in their home environment. **\*Special thanks to Matt for the outstanding Baby Hermit Crab and *Flabellina verrucosa* (nudibranch) photos he took on the dive.**

**Plum Cove in December.** 12/13/20. Story & photos by Rob Robison

Peter Ninh and I drove to Gloucester's Plum Cove on a very foggy Sunday morning. The water was flat and portended to be relatively clear. While we suited up, the heavy fog lifted quite bit and began to roll out way beyond the cove mouth, as we entered the water just before the end of slack tide.

Peter dragged us out with his scooter to a new spot he had discovered the last time we dove the cove. Dropping down, we touched bottom at around 18 - 20'. Vis was about two arms lengths or 6-7' with some surge.



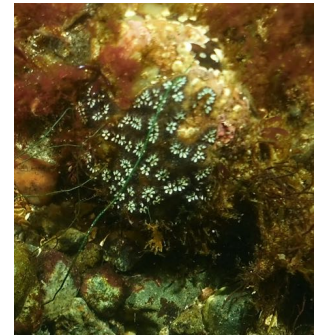
We followed a large rock formation ridge north along the coast. About 15 minutes into the dive we began to notice we were being pushed by a current that was growing stronger as the tide ebbed. At around 26-28

minutes, we called the dive, so we wouldn't find ourselves half way to Maine, surfaced, and motored back to the beach using his scooter. Just as well. We were moving too fast and the surge was too strong to be able to take many decent photos. Still, we had a blast in the 42° water, at our max depth of 21 feet.

**Wreck Diving in Hathaway's Pond.** Friday, December 4, 2020. Story and photos by Rob Robison



It's funny how a 40+ minute dive has such a dramatic grip on my day. Nearly always, I wake up early and stay in bed half asleep until I know I must haul out and hustle to put everything together, in order to leave the house and reach the dive site on time, a relative leisurely 9:30 AM at Hathaway's Pond in Barnstable.



Golden Star tunicate (Above);  
Compound Sea Squirt  
swallowing Club tunicate



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Rich Bowers and I suited up slowly and waded into the water. He needed to work on his weights for drysuit diving and was clearly light. Twice we submerged, only to find he needed more. The third time, I lost him, surfaced, and found his flag and him near our destination, the sunken cabin cruiser, Field and Sea. Nearing his float, I followed the bubble trail down to nearly 30', where Rich awaited my arrival. A few fin kicks later we were staring at the wooden bow of the cruiser, with its rusting anchor smiling at us from the port bow.

Rich rounded the bow to the explore the starboard side from bow stem to stern, while I remained on the port side and did the same shooting photos through the glassless windshield, port openings, as well as across the wide open stern. We reached the transom almost simultaneously and spotted a grinning Jolly Roger crew member with a mask waiting for us on the bottom of the pond no more than 10' away. Rich mugged for a few photos; then, we headed back to the cruiser. It was open enough to penetrate the forward cabin easily, but not the bow compartment, though Rich made a cautious attempt.

Once Rich cleared the inside of the boat, I signaled it was time to return to the beach. He agreed, so we headed back. We hadn't swum more than 10 - 15 yards, when Rich tugged on my fin and indicated he had lost a

weight pouch. We turned back to the boat to begin what sadly turned out to be a fruitless search. He thinks it must have popped out of the retainer socket while he was exploring the inside of the boat.



Rich Bowers & Bill Jeter

We made it back to the beach easily, though Rich had to surface prematurely when we reached the 12-15' depth mark because of insufficient weight. Waiting for us after having already finished his own dive was Bill Jeter, one of the main creators of the underwater "toy" environment—the alien, the garden statue of the little boy reading a book, the Madonna, the garden tools and implements, the wrecked VW, cabin cruiser, motorcycle, etc.—for diver training and exploration in the

pond. Seems like whenever I am there, he is around to enjoy and participate in post-dive story telling. Just a wonderful guy and consummate diver.

On the way home, I stopped for a roast beef sub in Plymouth and an ice cream from Mark Zipeto's new ice cream and chocolates shop, Kilwin's, which he opened at the end of the summer in Plymouth



Harbor facing the rotary. Next, I dropped into the dive shop to refill my tank, and a mile down the road turned up the drive way leading to our townhouse.

After unloading my gear, I sat down in my easy chair to catch up on emails and the day's news and

promptly fell sound asleep. I didn't awaken until about half an hour before dinner time. That's what 41 minutes, in 48°- 49° pond water, at 33', with a great dive buddy will do to you.😂



**Wreck Dive 2 at Hathaways's Pond.** 12/12/20. Story & photos by Rob Robison

Brian Smith, divemaster for Diver's Market, and I dove the cabin cruiser wreck at Hathaways's Pond



looking for the weight pouch my dive buddy, Rich Bowers, lost the week before. Bill Jeter had beaten us to it and retrieved the weight pouch on Weds. Fortunately, he was on hand when we completed our dive and returned it. It made one diver I know VERY happy! Here are a few of the photos from the dive.

**Peggotty Beach (Scituate, MA).** Sunday, November 29, 2020. Story and photos by Rob Robison

Neptune **Rich Bowers**, Peter Ninh, and I met at Peggotty Beach (Scituate) on a bright, calm, and sunny Sunday morning. Just a few people meandered the beach. The water was flat, but the vis looked sketchy. Regardless, we suited up and waded into the water, put on our fins, and hooked arms with Peter, who ferried us out to the drop zone using his TUSA DPV.

As we sank down to the bottom 19' away, our thoughts concerning the vis proved accurate. It was between 3'-7' for the first 35-40 minutes of the dive. We cruised up and down the shoreline at between 19' and 15', searching the enormous boulders for signs of lobsters, flounder, nudibranchs, shrimp, or any other type of interesting life. Instead, we found juvenile Forbes starfish, a few crabs, a blood star or two, some golf balls, an antenna holder, a kid's giant super ball, and a short lobster or two or three. The last 10-15 minutes or so of the dive we followed a particular path that led us down to 23' - 26' and 18'-20' of much improved vis.

Nearly an hour after initiating the dive, we surfaced from the 46° - 47° water and motored back, courtesy of Peter's Diver Underwater Propulsion Vehicle, arm-in-arm, glad to have spent the time in the hydrosphere together. It's wonderful to share the experience of diving into it with a couple of great dive buddies on such a beautiful day. See club Facebook page for photos.

## PARTING SHOTS & THOUGHTS

**A Look Inside the Mouth of the Compound Sea Squirt at**

**Old Garden Beach.** Sunday, November 8, 2020. Story and photo by Rob Robison

Over the past few years an ugly looking invasive tunicate, the Compound Sea Squirt, has proliferated underwater. It covers rocks and boulders from the South Shore to the North Shore and even out beyond Graves Light. Like a weed, it abounds wherever it can find a toehold on the substrate and then multiplies exponentially, suffocating everything in its path. I thought it would be interesting to take a





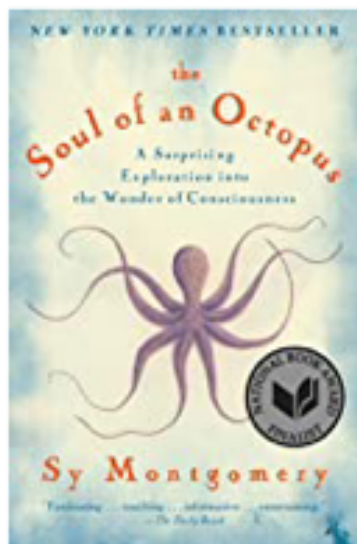
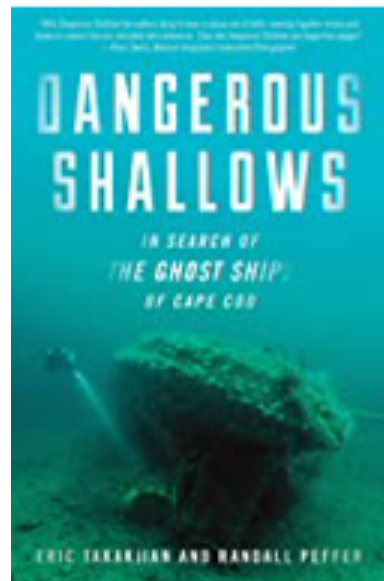
peek down its destructive maw. See what you think (Left). Then, go back to Page 4 and see what this mouth can do.

### Holiday Gift Suggestions for the diver who has everything

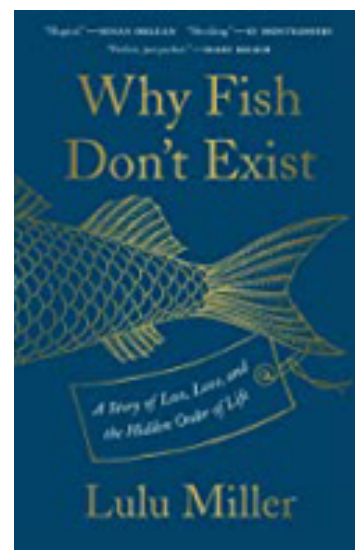
#### Books

**Dangerous Shallows:** *In Search of The Ghost Ships of Cape Cod*, by Eric Takakjian and Randall Pepper. Lyon Press, 2020. Guilford, CT. This is a wonderful first person narrative of the principal author's search for major shipwrecks, undiscovered virgin

shipwrecks in particular, with his wife and wreck diving buddies, many of whom you will recognize as active New England divers even today. Dives to nearly all of the wrecks originate from one of his two boats, the Gray Eagle or Quest. Although virtually all of the wrecks included are found at tech diving depths, below 130', the personal stories he tells about his efforts and emotions in their discovery, plus his way of transporting the reader into the minds of the captains, officers, crew, and passengers' experiences and thoughts transform this book into a compelling narrative that transcends a number of the wreck diving books that read like so many file cards strung together. I couldn't put this book down, the stories were so gripping and the diving so fascinatingly real.



Two books have come to my attention that I have not yet read, but are on my reading list: ***The Soul of an Octopus***, by Sy Montgomery, and ***Why Fish Don't Exist***, by Lulu Miller. The former is about a free diver's study of an octopus and all of the strategies it uses to hunt and to avoid predation. Its ending may startle you. Lulu Miller's labor of love concerns Stanford's "first president and foremost ichthyologist of his time," whose irreplaceable fish collection is lost in a fire and who suffered many other setbacks throughout his life. Given the uncertain times we live in today,



his undiminished optimism provides us with a model for hope.

All three of these books are available on Amazon.

Pets

What more could any diver want for Christmas?



*Happy Holidays and  
Happy New Year!*



GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE



*The Boston Sea Rovers are moving to the FALL!*  
**Join us October 2nd/3rd 2021**



That's right, you read it correctly, the Boston Sea Rovers has moved to fall dates for the foreseeable future!

## CLUB INFORMATION

**Club Hotline: Call or text 617-804-5637. Let's Go Diving!**

Visit the Club swag store: <https://bit.ly/SSN-Store>



### Club Officers

<u>President</u>	Rob Vice	413-265-1977
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<u>Secretary</u>	Rob Robison	614-546-9018
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<u>Treasurer</u>	Theresa Czerepica	617.884.0697
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### Board of Directors

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