



# Sounding

## *Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACTIVITIES, & REMINDERS

#### Calendar, 2020

##### 2020

1/1 Sober Up Dive Pleasure Bay

& after party at Jay Theriault's

1/7 General Meeting

1/14 Board Meeting

1/18 Annual Awards Banquet,  
\$33/pp

1/21/David Robinson, Director,  
Mass Board of Underwater

Archaeologists

1/28 Newsletter Assembly

2/4 General Meeting

2/8 Dinner Night Out - Details

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2/11/ Board Meeting

2/15 Whydah Pirate Museum

Yarmouth, MA - Details Page 2

2/16/ Club Dive from

clubhouse.,9 AM

2/18 Andy Martinez slide show

2/23 Club Dive from

clubhouse.,9 AM

3/3 General Meeting

3/6 - 3/8 Boston Sea Rovers

Annual Clinic Danvers, MA

3/10 Board Meeting

3/17 Program Newsletter

4/2 General Meeting

4/9 Board Meeting

4/16 Ted Maney Salem State

(pending);Newsletter

5/7/ General Meeting

5/14 Board Meeting

5/16-23 Club Dive Trip -Bonaire

5/21 Program Newsletter

6/4 General Meeting

#### •ELECTION RESULTS 2020

**President:** Rob Vice

**Vice President:** Todd Alger

**Secretary:** Rob Robison

**Treasurer:** Theresa Czerepica

**Newsletter Editor:** Rob Robison

#### Board of Directors: 9

Bill Burchill

John Blackadar

Doug Eaton

Ken Hayes

Garrett Kane

Mary Rose Largess

Tom Lo

Jay Theriault

Chuck Zarba

**Bd Alternate:** Jeff Fennell

#### •2019 AWARD WINNERS

**<Best Artifact:** John Pell - Old Milton Springs beverage bottle

**Biggest Lobster:** Bob Bell - 3.8 lbs

**Best Photo:** Rob Robison - Agitated Black Sea Bass Fingerling

**Best Video (New Category)** Rob Vice - "The U-853"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpJxc1hClnQ>

**Diver of the Year** - Todd Alger

**2nd place Diver of the Year:** Doug Eaton

**3rd place Diver of the Year:** Chuck Zarba

**Rookie Diver of the Year** - Tori Steffy

**Best Float (River Run):** Doug Eaton - Tiki Bar

**Life Member:** Jeannine Willis

## Announcements continued

- **Sat Feb 8 Dinner Night Out.** 5:00PM, Inn at Bay Pointe, 64 Washington Ct, Quincy, MA. Tel: 617-472-3200. Sign up with John Blackadar (781-826-2505). Leave a message if he doesn't pick up
- **Sat Feb 15 Whydah Pirate Museum** Yarmouth, MA. 11AM - 4PM  
<[www.discoverpirates.com](http://www.discoverpirates.com)> 674 Rt 28, West Yarmouth, MA. Tickets: Seniors \$16.95, Adults \$18.95, Youth \$14.95. Children 4 - Under FREE. Sign up with John Blackadar (781-826-2505). Leave a message if he doesn't pick up
- **May 16—23, 2020, Bonaire Club Dive Trip:** Blackie reminded members he will be taking sign ups shortly for the club dive trip to Bonaire. Contact him at **781-826-2505** for details. Leave a message if he is not available.

## DECEMBER /JANUARY CLUB ACTIVITIES & DIVES

**Sober Up Dive 2020.** *Story by Tommy Lo. Photos by Theresa C and Tommy Lo.* New Year's Day dawned with sunny skies and no wind. The air temp was 37 degrees. We met at 9 am at Pleasure Bay South Boston, and after a few minutes of socializing, we suited up for our 64th Annual Sober Up Dive. The dry suit divers were **Chuck Zebra, Matt Mayer, Doug Eaton, Todd Alger** and a very moist **Rob Vice**. The wet suit divers were **Tommy Lo, David Burchill, and Jon Willis**. During my dive, I saw some crabs, snails, hermit crabs, feather dusters, and a weird clam or oyster. I did not see any lobsters. Vis was about 5 to 8 ft during this 45 minute, 20' deep dive. The water temp, I was told, was around 41 degrees, but three different dive computers indicated 36°, 38°, and 39°F. As the morning progressed, the winds picked up and made it feel a bit chiller than it was for the spectators: **Tim and Kelly Burke, Meaghan and Mattie Neville, Theresa Czerepica, Charlie Matthews, Lenny Picot, Jimmy Walker Billy Burchill, Paul Greene, Andy Dolan, Tom Guild , Ken Hayes, and Doug Meyer.**



**Matt Myer** caught a contender for the largest lobster for 2020, weighing in at 3.86 lbs., while **Todd** and **RV** each brought in an “oversized” that had to be returned to the Sugar Bowl because they didn’t have gauges. **Tommy** found a well encrusted mask, and Rob V dug up a few bottles.

Not to be outdone by the L-Street Brownies, **Jimmy Walker** and Tommy Lo took a dip in the bay with their swim suits on after the dive. Doug bailed on swimming back to the beach; instead, he climbed out onto the rocks for the long walk of shame back to the beach. Ken ran down the Sugar Bowl causeway with a wagon to pick up Doug’s gear, so they would have to carry it all the way back to the parking lot.

Todd’s day started with a mayday text for a spare full tank, when he realized his full tank turned out to be empty. Rob Vice was able to come to his rescue by bringing a full tank and saved the day. However, after spending plenty of time maintaining his dry suit, RV’s dry suit became a full fledged wet suit during the dive. (Zipper was not closed completely)

Everyone made it back to the beach and we all had a great dive to start off 2020!

### The afterparty

We later converged at Jay’s house for his New Year’s Day party. Evelyn, Jay’s Mom, had put out plenty of food for a large crowd of very hungry Neptunes. We spent the afternoon eating, drinking, and catching up with some long lost Neptunes, as well as exchanging some well-embellished dive stories. Thanks Evelyn and Jay! A great time was had by all!

To watch a short video of one Neptune’s dive into Pleasure Bay on New Year’s Day, check out **Jon Willis’s** clip here: < <http://www.jw-ocean-stuff.net/posts/2020-01-01/>>.



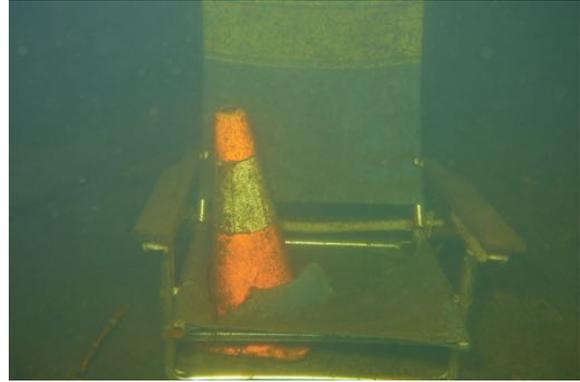
**Diving the Back River. Sunday, Dec. 15. Story & photos by Doug Eaton.** **Chuck Zarba** and I dove the Back River on a sunny Sunday in search of artifacts. As per usual, the vis was 2-3 feet, the water temp was 50°, and the air was around 47°. During our 45-minute, 20’ dive, we found some bottles; in particular, a Hires Root Beer bottle. When was the last time you saw one of those? We had a great time!



**Morton Pond, Plymouth. Tuesday, Dec. 17. Story & photos by Rob.** After a misfire a week ago, Brian Smith, my Divers Market dive buddy and I connected on a wintry snow and sleeting morning to make a dive in the local pond. North of us cars were slipping and sliding while we donned our gear and readied for a plunge. After donning our fins and starting down, I unexpectedly experienced difficulty submerging. In my haste to get ready, I had forgotten to put on my integrated weight pouches. Double drat and then some!

With considerable effort I returned to my car to retrieve and insert the weights into their specially

designed pockets. Now properly geared up, off we went down the submerged incline toward the icons of the pond. Last month, we missed them, but not this time. There they were for all to see in their silted glory at around 19': the snowman, the penguin, the alien, the US flag, Slow-Down man, etc.



Brian, who suffers from chilled waiting for me to retrieve dive but not our pleasure. We very short run time, but we were over. Cups of steaming great friend and dive buddy, who dive in New England waters every year in a row, topped off a Thanks, Brian!



frostbitten fingers, had gotten my weights, so we shorten our enjoyed 20' vis, 36° water and both dry and happy when it Dunkin' and coffee rolls with a helped me realize at least one month for the third consecutive beautiful morning underwater.

**Annual Banquet.** *Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020.* More than 50 Neptunes and their guests attended the Annual Banquet at the Common Market on Willard Street in Quincy. Some photos from the event have been posted on the Club's Facebook Page already by Tommy Lo. The photos found here are courtesy of Tommy Lo, Theresa Czerepica, Chuck Zarba, and Rob Robison.



*John Pell -  
Best Artifact  
Old Milton  
Springs bottle*



*Bob Bell  
Largest  
Lobster*



*Rob Robison  
Best Photo  
Agitated Black Sea Bass  
Fingerling*



*Rob Vice (pictured  
with guest María)*

*Best Video Clip*

*The U-853*

*<[https://  
www.youtube.com/  
watch?  
v=VpJxc1hClnQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpJxc1hClnQ)>*



*Clockwise from top left:*

*Todd Alger - Diver of the Year*

*Tori Steffy - Rookie Diver of the Year, accepted by Jay Theriault*

*Jeannine Willis - Lifetime Member, accepted by husband Jon Willis*

*Chuck Zarba - Past President*

*Rob Vice - President 2020*

*Ken Hayes - Memorial Award for outstanding service to the club*



**PARTING ARTICLE**, submitted by **Bob Wheadon**, Lifetime Member, via **J.Blackadar**.

**IBEW Members Discover Historic Shipwreck in Great Lakes, December 10, 2019**

When Bernie Hellstrom picked up an obstruction on his boat's sonar, he knew something big was there, but he had no idea how historic it was — or that he would discover it with an IBEW brother....

What Hellstrom found was the crash site of two Civil War-era ships previously thought to have sunk in another part of the Great Lakes.

Hellstrom, a Traverse City, Mich., Local 498 retired journeyman wireman, has long been a fan of the lakes. He even considered becoming a commercial diver as a young man....

A longtime shipwreck and Great Lakes enthusiast, Hellstrom has been monitoring the waters of Lake Michigan for years. In 1995 he was in charge of operations on a dive to the Carl D. Bradley, a ship that sank in 1958 some 380 feet below the surface. Part of that expedition was made possible by Hellstrom's homemade underwater camera, which *Popular Science* described as "ingenious."

As Hellstrom noted, back in the '90s there were very few underwater cameras available to people outside of universities or other specialized places. But with his IBEW training, he was able to make one from salvaged home security system parts and house it in a pressure-resistant watertight case. "They were amazed at what could be done with low-cost equipment," Hellstrom said. That camera, which can reach a depth of 1,000 feet, has served him well as he checks off potential Great Lakes shipwrecks from his bucket list.

The largest group of freshwater lakes in the world by total area, the Great Lakes have a history of marine transportation dating back to the 17th century, though traversing the waters has never been easy. Roughly 6,000 ships have sunk over the years, though one historian puts the figure as high as 25,000. Nearly 30,000 people have died in those shipwrecks, according to the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum.

"Having the sea-like features such as rolling waves, strong currents and great depths, these water bodies, also known as inland seas, offer a difficult time for sailors when traversing through the region," wrote *Marine Insight*.

So it wasn't uncommon for the trading vessels the *Peshtigo* and the *St. Andrews* to collide when they did on a dark and hazy night on June 25, 1878. Built in 1863 and weighing 384 tons, the *Peshtigo* was considered a giant ship at the time, with three masts and a length of 161 feet. The *St. Andrews*, built in 1857, was almost as long at 143 feet long with a weight of 426 tons. The *St. Andrews* was bound from Chicago to Buffalo, NY, with a cargo of corn, while the *Peshtigo* was bound from Erie, Pa., to Chicago with coal, which is now strewn along the bottom of the lake.

What wasn't as common though, was for the two schooners to sink 200 feet to the bottom of Lake Michigan and come to rest only about 10 feet apart. "That's very close. That's like a needle in a haystack," said St. Paul, Minn., Local 110 member and diver John Scoles, whom Hellstrom called when he picked up the signal

The IBEW brothers met through their shared interest in diving. Scoles, who also shoots video, happened to have an IBEW sticker on a piece of his equipment that Hellstrom noticed. "It's nice to meet a fellow electrician," Scoles said. "Bernie's a great guy. He's a comedian."

Hellstrom made the discovery in June while he was on his boat between Beaver Island and Fox Island, not far from his home near the northern part of Lake Michigan. "It was an exciting find, not at all what I expected initially," Hellstrom told the Michigan Building Trades newspaper.



Wreck discovered. Photo by John Jantzen

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For the rest of the story and many interesting photos, go to: [http://www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles/19Daily/1912/191210\\_DiscoverHistoric](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles/19Daily/1912/191210_DiscoverHistoric)



**The 66th Boston Sea Rovers Annual Clinic** is almost here (See below). You won't want to miss this year's event, March 7-8, which promises to be another outstanding experience in the world of diving.

**Early Bird discounted ticket bundles** will no longer be available as of February 1. Ticket sales are up 27% this year, so hurry to get the best price now on this year's events before discounted tickets are gone. For more ticket information go to: <https://bostonsearovers.com/ticket-sales/>

There are more than two dozen outstanding **workshops** being offered from Friday, March to Sunday, March 8. For more information go to: <https://bostonsearovers.com/clinic-home/workshops/>.

**Lodging.** There are a few **rooms** left at the discounted convention rate for those who wish to stay over night. Here is the link: <https://bostonsearovers.com/clinic-home/new-venue/>

**Volunteers.** The Sea Rovers are still in need of volunteers, especially y for Sunday. For more information and the signup sheet link, go to: <https://bostonsearovers.com/clinic-home/clinic-volunteers/>

We look forward to seeing you at this year's Boston Sea Rovers Annual Clinic!

