



Sounding

Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes

Calendar 2021

3/2 General Meeting 7PM Zoom
 3/9 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom
 3/13 (Sat) Club Dive 9AM at Clubhouse
 3/16 Authors' Book Talk 7PM Zoom, Dangerous Shallows, In Search of the Ghost Wrecks of Cape Cod, by Eric Takajian & Randall Peffer
 3/21 Club Dive 9AM at Clubhouse
 4/6 General Meeting 7PM Zoom
 4/11 Club Dive 9AM at Clubhouse
 4/13 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom
 4/20 Evening Program:
 4/25 Club Dive 9AM at Clubhouse
 5/1/Clubhouse Cleanup
 5/4 General Meeting 7PM Zoom
 5/8 (Sat) Club Dive 9AM at Clubhouse
 5/11 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom
 5/12 BSC Meeting 7PM
 5/18 Evening Program:
 5/23 Club Dive 9AM at Clubhouse
 6/1 General Meeting 7PM Zoom
 6/8 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom
 6/15 Evening Program:
 7/5 General Meeting 7PM Zoom
 7/12 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom
 7/19 Evening Program:
 7/? Club Dives TBA
 6/8 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom
 6/12 (Sat) Club Dive 8AM at Clubhouse

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACTIVITIES, & REMINDERS

- **ANNUAL DUES-\$35-ARE DUE ASAP**, if you have-not yet paid.
- **Annual Banquet 2021 - Canceled due to COVID restrictions**
- **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 write ups. **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.
- **Newsletter:** To help add interesting content to the newsletter during these unusual times, please send me (robisonr25@yahoo.com) 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.
- **John Blackadar** has been pushing for a Neptunes snowman building contest. We are going to need some more snow for that to take place.

• **Don't forget** to visit the **club store** at <https://bit.ly/SSN-Store> for the latest in club swag.



FEBRUARY CLUB DIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Evening Program: Blackwater Diving in Hawaii, presented by Zach Whalen. For the uninitiated, black water diving is

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Calendar 2021, cont.

- 6/15 Program TBA
- 6/19 Sat) Club Dive 8AM at Clubhouse
- 7/6 General Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 7/11 Club Dive 8AM at Clubhouse
- 7/13 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 7/20 Program TBA
- 7/25 Club Dive 8AM at Clubhouse
- 8/1 Duxbury Outing (tent)
- 8/3 General Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 8/8 Duxbury Outing (rain date)
- 8/10 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 8/14 Club Dive 8AM at Clubhouse
- 8/17 Evening Program TBA
- 8/29 Club Dive 8AM at Clubhouse
- 9/? BSC Treasure Hunt TBA
- 9/7 General Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 9/12 Club Dive 8AM at Clubhouse
- 9/14 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 9/21 Evening Program TBA
- 9/ 25 Club Dive 8AM at Clubhouse
- *10/2 Neptunes Flea Market
- *10/3 River Run
- 10/5 General Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 10/12 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 10/17 Flea Market Rain Date
- 10/19 Evening Program TBA
- 10/24 Club Dive 8AM at Clubhouse
- 11/2 General Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 11/6 (Sat) Club Dive 9AM at Clubhouse
- 11/9 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 11/16 Evening Program TBA
- 11/28 Club Dive 9AM at Clubhouse
- 12/5 Club Dive 9AM at Clubhouse
- 12/7 General Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 12/12 Club Dive 9AM at Clubhouse
- 12/14 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 12/21 Elections
- 2022
- 1/1 Sober Up Dive Pleasure Bay
- 1/4 General Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 1/11 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 1/16 Club Dive 9AM at Clubhouse
- 1/18 Evening Program TBA
- *Note: Tentative dates for the 2021 Boston Sea Rovers Annual Clinic



“muck diving without the muck done at night,” according to Jonathan Bird videographer, Zach Whalen. “Ocean critters rise up to the surface from the deep to feed in the upwellings.” Boats that cater to divers in search of such

adventure venture farther out to sea with divers attached to 20’ long lines suspended beneath the vessels to see what surfaces in the darkness. To some extent the absence of light shelters critters from their predators who otherwise would become meals in the light of day. Divers wear hoods and gloves to protect themselves from some of the stinging plankton that co-mingle with the otherwise non-stinging soup of critters that appear throughout the dive. Included here are four of the many beautiful photos Zach regaled us with in his presentation, which was attended by 38 Neptunes, plus a number of guests from MetroWest Dive Club and the North Shore Frogmen. For those interested in learning more about the animal life that can be seen on Hawaii’s black water dives, Zach recommends the book, *A Field Guide to Black Water Diving in Hawaii*, by Jeff Milisen, the divemaster of his excursion to Hawaii. It’s available on Amazon. Thanks, Zach, for such a wonderful and informative evening!



Recent Diving

Weekend weather has been horrific for diving, by and large. Despite a sporadic day or two weekdays hither thither and yon, a couple of small weather windows opened, one of which was the weekend of Feb. 13-14. Peter Ninh and I were able to take advantage of the break in action on Valentine’s Day.



A Mid-Winter Dive at Gull Cove, 2/14/21.

Story and photos by Rob Robison

I hadn't made a dive since the Neptunes' Sober-Up Dive January 1, due to inclement weather every weekend until this one, Valentine's Day. Peter Ninh and I agreed to

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Happy Diving

From

JOHN & KATHY BLACKADAR

meet at Gull Cove, Portsmouth, RI, a good safe dive spot in which to get wet when the weather has been tumultuous everywhere.

We met at the cove around 11:00 A.M., the water was glassy calm on this gray and overcast Sunday morning. It's not usually an exciting dive, like the ones on the North Shore or farther north or Boston Harbor, but if you look hard enough, there's always beauty to be discovered. As we were suiting up, a young man sporting a scraggly Captain Ahab-style beard, driving a blue pickup, rolled down his window and asked us if we were "diggin'"

(for clams). We said "No." He repeated the question as if he hadn't heard or to be sure he understood our answer, and again we replied "No!" He asked a third time, and I pointed out we were just diving to take a few photographs and that was it. He seemed at once worried that we might be trying to work the beds he covered, and yet finally he was sufficiently satisfied with our answer to just drive off.

Our 26-minute dive at high tide, to a max depth of 23', in 34° water, with no more than 4' of vis, offered its share of treasures. Afterwards, Peter and I lunched at McDonald's on the way home in an appropriately social distance manner. Great fun was had with a great dive buddy! Thanks, Peter!



Clockwise: Pre-positioned flag on empty beach. Snail fur covered Longwrist Hermit crb, spider crab slowing consuming Slipper snail. Ocellated Lady Crab. Forbes Starfish slowly penetrating & opening a Slipper snail.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Given the difficult sea conditions and inclement weather, none of us has been out enough to add more current dive stories; hence, I am retrieving one from the archives to remind us of the joys winter diving can bring.

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Sunday, February 23, 2020. Club Dive at Canoe Beach (Nahant). *Story and photos by Doug Eaton and Chuck Zarba.* On this bright sunny, 50° Sunday morning, Neptunes **Ken Hayes, Doug Eaton, Chuck Zarba, and prospective Neptune Ross Thomas,** met at the clubhouse and beat the expressway for Canoe Beach in Nahant. After checking in at the police station for permission to dive, they suited up—Doug and Chuck dove dry, while Ross (1st NE dive) and Ken dove wet—and dropped 32’ down into 36° water. Vis as an excellent 20’, which made it relatively easy to spot tons of hermit crabs, plant life, and at least two oversized lobsters, but no keepers—yet—during our 32-minute dive!



L-R: Ross T, Doug Eaton, Ken Hayes, Chuck Zarba

FROM THE LOG BOOK

Photo gallery: Pirate remains found in Whydah wreck

7 PHOTOS

3:55 p.m. EST Feb. 15, 2021



WEST YARMOUTH -- 02/15/21 -- Explorer Barry Clifford talks about the human remains that have been found within this concrete taken from the Whydah shipwreck off Wellfleet. The remains of at least six pirates have been discovered in concretions taken from the Whydah shipwreck off Wellfleet. The ship went down in 1717. Barry Clifford discovered the Whydah wreck in 1984. MERRILY CASSIDY/CAPE COD TIMES



WEST YARMOUTH -- 02/15/21 -- Barry Clifford talks about this concrete that holds human remains in addition to other pirate treasure. MERRILY CASSIDY/CAPE COD TIMES

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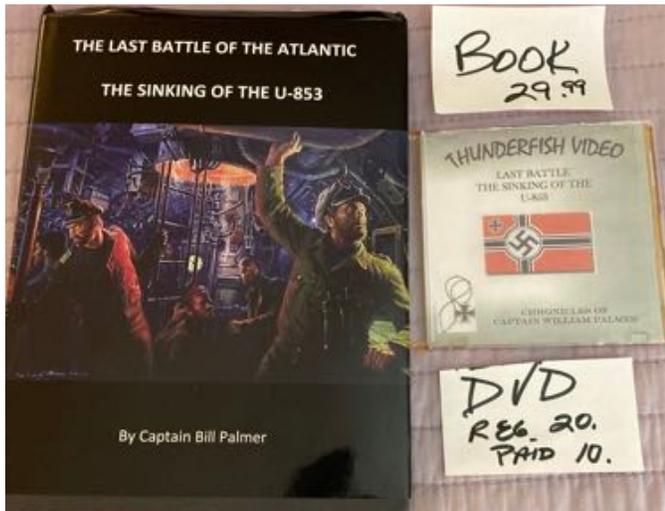
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For the rest of the story go to: <https://www.capecodtimes.com/picture-gallery/news/2021/02/15/photo-gallery-pirate-remains-found-whydah-wreck/6755740002/>

PARTING THOUGHTS & SHOTS

For the Library



Photos courtesy Katherine & John Blackadar. Prices reflect what John paid by ordering direct from Capt. Bill Palmer

The Last Battle off the Atlantic: Thanks to Blackie, I had the opportunity to read *The Sinking of the U-853*, by Capt. Bill Palmer, the story of the last German U-boat sunk by US forces off the East Coast of the United States at the close of WWII, which also details the search and discovery of the boat and its final resting place off Block Island in Rhode Island Sound. Although not particularly well written or edited, the book is an easy and very interesting read, with excellent photos and delightful stories not only about the sinking of the submarine, but also about the divers and their efforts to explore the sunken U-boat in search of what turned out to be fictitious valuable cargo and treasure purportedly aboard the vessel. Captain Palmer also chronicles three tragic diving deaths, as reminders to would be

dive explorers of what fate may await the inexperienced or unprepared who attempt to explore the sub, which lies at the limits of sport diver depths. Finally, the DVD video that accompanies the book, which must be purchased extra, is excellent. Captain Palmer literally takes the viewer on a dive that explores both the outside and the inside of the sub. Warning: Human remains are evident.

As mentioned last month, John Blackadar has purchased a copy of the book for the club library along with a companion DVD of the story. Check with John if you would like to read it or watch the DVD. Also, you can purchase the book for \$30.00, plus shipping, through Amazon, or you can order the book and the DVD, sold separately, directly from Capt. Palmer via his publishing company: *William Palmer % Thunderfishbooks (sic)*, 956 Old Rock Hill Road, Wallingford, CT 06492-3964.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

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CLUB INFORMATION

Club Hotline: Call or text 617-804-5637.

Let's Go Diving!

Don't forget to visit the **club store** at

<https://bit.ly/SSN-Store>

for the latest in club swag.



Club Officers

and

Board of Directors

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