



Sounding

Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes

Calendar 2021

- 7/6 General Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 7/11 Club Dive 8AM at former clubhouse
- 7/13 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 7/20 Program TBA
- 7/25 Club Dive 8AM at former 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 former clubhouse
- 8/17 Evening Program TBA
- 8/29 Club Dive 8AM at former clubhouse
- 9/? BSC Treasure Hunt TBA
- 9/7 General Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 9/12 Club Dive 8AM at former clubhouse
- 9/14 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 9/18 River Run 11 AM
- 9/19 BSC Picnic at Stage Fort Park
- 9/21 Evening Program TBA
- 9/25 Club Dive 8AM from former Clubhouse
- 10/2 Neptunes Flea Market **CANCELED**
- 10/2-3 Boston Sea Rovers 8 AM
- 10/5 General Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 10/12 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 10/17 River Run Rain Date
- 10/20-22 RAGNAR Race Fund Raiser
- 10/19 Evening Program TBA

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACTIVITIES, & REMINDERS

- **Underwater Rugby hours:** *Wednesday* nites 8:00-9:30 PM at Westwood HS pool.
- **Club General and Board Meetings are now in-person at The Common Market in Quincy at 7PM, but will also be available via Zoom.** Club members are encouraged to attend the meetings in-person and order food or drinks before or after the meeting to support The Common Market providing us a room for free. **Please note: All Club activities and programs listed on the Calendar are live now**

• **Bay State Council:** There is no new information about the most current lawsuit from the Back Beach Assoc. (BBA) against the town of Rockport. Those in attendance who frequent the beaches of Rockport all spoke to the positivity of the towns people towards our diving community and their displeasure with the BBA and the unnecessary legal expenses they are forcing the town to incur.

Jim Nannery said he would telephone survey the dive shops across the state to gauge support for prizes at the BSC fall Treasure Hunt, scheduled for Sept 19. Tentative activities include a snorkel event, perhaps a navigation challenge event, all day diving, and picnic. There will be **no Women's Dive Day or Fish Count** this year.

• **Eric Cantor** recently earned certification as a rescue diver. Congratulations, Eric!

• **Newsletter:** To help add interesting content to the newsletter during these unusual times, please send me (robisonr25@yahoo.com; or newsletter@southshoreneptunes.org) any first-hand accounts, stories, photos, or both about your exploits as a Neptune for potential publication. Photos or



Eric is 2nd from right

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Calendar 2021, cont.

- 10/24 Club Dive from former clubhouse 9 AM
- 11/2 General Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 11/6 (Sat) Club Dive 9AM at former clubhouse
- 11/9 Board Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 11/16 Evening Program TBA
- 11/28 Club Dive 9AM at former clubhouse
- 12/5 Club Dive 9AM at former clubhouse
- 12/7 General Meeting 7PM Zoom
- 12/12 Club Dive 9AM at former 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 from former clubhouse
- 1/18 Evening Program TBA

clippings enhance stories, so please include them if you can. Don't forget to provide contact info in case I have questions.

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

RECENT DIVING

Club Dive in the Back River. Sunday, July 11, 2021. *Story & photos by Chuck Zarba*

Neptunes **Doug Eaton, Jeff Finnell,** prospective new member, **Jason Brown,** and I assembled at the old club house where **Tommy Lo** was waiting to send us off. We assembled our gear near the WWI Pier and jumped into 63° water, reaching a depth of 21,' during high tide. Visibility was virtually zero! Despite the inability



Jason Brown



Chuck's bottles and mua

to see much of anything, Jeff, who dove without a hood for nearly an hour and a half, found some munitions and the bottom of a 5.5 gallon jar that was approximately 12" - 14" in diameter. I came up with a number of bottles and a coffee cup. Unlike Jeff, I was up and out after 20 minutes for fear of damaging the coffee cup.

Post-dive, I had to rush off to a barbecue, and Jason had other obligations, as well, while Jeff and Doug found Darcy's very appealing.

Plymouth Long Beach. Saturday, July 18, 2021. *Story and photos by Rob Robison*

Peter was already there waiting for me, when I reached Plymouth Long Beach at 7:20 AM. About 5 minutes later, **Patrick Larivee,** a new prospective Neptunes club member, drove up, too. We all dressed in relatively short order and headed for the water, which was flat calm.



Peter & Patrick ready to dive

After taking a few photos of Peter and Patrick, we submerged in 5'-6' of water and crossed the sand

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perpendicular to the waves and ripples running parallel to shore, as we slowly moved into deeper water. Along the way, we ran into a moon snail's sand collar/egg cluster. I looked inside and lifted it gently searching for tiny critters taking cover or snacking on it and found a sliver of a sand shrimp hiding underneath it. If you look closely enough in the photo (at left), you can see its eyes and segments of its body and tail.



Next, we came upon a squid egg cluster that looks somewhat like an off-white synthetic wash scrub that's used in the shower in lieu of a wash rag. That find was followed by the sighting of a very tiny reddish sculpin, well camouflaged, nested in red hooked weed on top of a medium-sized boulder. A tiny green crab was hidden on the bottom in sand, while a rock crab, festooned with bits of various colored sea weeds and sand, was sitting on top of the sand unaware of a large fat spider crab or Arctic Lyre Crab moving toward it in hopes of garnering a meal.



Moving deeper we began to see hints of lobsters peeking out warily from their caves and small starfish clinging to boulders underneath burned-out looking kelp fronds. Just as I was about to photograph one of the lobsters, Peter's arm reached across my field of



Baby sculpin

view and extracted one from its hiding place—short!

And so it went for 40 minutes before we made the turn back to the beach. I found a Sea Lemon nudibranch (Bottom right), took some shots of the eel grass field, and found a number of large Hermit crabs, as we finned slowly along the bottom.



Sixty-four minutes after we began this 15' dive in 60° water, Patrick, Peter, and I surfaced in 4'-5' of water back on the beach and ended the dive. We enjoyed beautiful sights, 15'-25' of vis, and Peter smiling because he had harvested two nice lobsters.

After a 40-minute break, Peter and Patrick took Peter's scooter out for dive 2, a 26' deep, 53-minute affair, hoping to spear some Tautaug; instead, they brought back 4 more lobsters.

Peter and Patrick had other things to do after the dive, so I moseyed over to



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Sandy's Beach Bar and Restaurant, near the entrance/exit from the beach, and lunched on an outstanding shrimp plate, washing it down with two very cold cans of Bud —excellent—right on the beach! A great way to top off a great dive morning and a splendid day on the beach with two great dive buddies. It just doesn't get any better than this!



Pebble Beach before the Storm. July 8, 2021. *Story and photos by Rob Robison*

Neptune Matt Meyer and I met at the Beverly Burger King Service Plaza at 11:00 AM for a midday dive at Rockport's Pebble Beach. The sky was lightly overcast and the water was relatively flat with some light rolling surge. Residue from last weekend's storm killed the vis for the first 5 - 10 yards of surf from the beach, but once beyond it, the water appeared reasonably clear.



We suited up, traversed the treacherous pebbles, cobbles, and small boulders to the beach, and lumbered into the water, Matt loaded with dive flag and lobster gear, and yours truly dry-suited, heavily weighted, struggling to don fins and

manage camera gear in the occluded shallow area.

Once ready, we made a short swim out to about the 15' depth mark, submerged, and easily found each other in the 10'-15' vis. I took a photo of Matt; then, we headed south toward the rock sand line. Along the way, Matt found a large surf or sea clam, the kind Howard Johnson's used to grind up for their famous chowder for the unsuspecting masses in the Midwest and beyond.



The urge to lobster must have gotten the best of Matt because the next thing I knew, he had disappeared into the gloom. In the meantime, the surge and tidal current had turned me around a couple of times before I was able to get back on track. Eventually, I reached an area with large to giant boulders harboring juvenile lobsters underneath. Nearby was a medium-sized boulder. When I peered beneath the wig of sugar kelp covering most of the big

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stone, I spied a big boy, somewhere between 2-5lbs, in a crevice underneath the boulder. Hard to tell the size more precisely due to magnification and the fact that I did not pick it up, just photographed it. It remained wedged in tight against the boulder, so it was difficult to find a photographic angle that would illustrate exactly how large its claws actually were. I moved clockwise to my left about half way around the boulder and found another lobster, slightly smaller, at least Select size, also

burrowed under the massive stone.

About this time, I decided to surface and see if I could find Matt's flag. So up I went and sure enough, his flag was about 20 to 25 yards dead ahead of me. I re-submerged and slowly moved in his direction until realizing I could not catch up with him. I was too heavily weighted and bulky in my drysuit to keep up. Still, I continued meandering in his direction across the mixture of rock, sand, and seaweed figuring we'd eventually cross paths. I spied an adult rock crab with unusually large claws, plenty of tunicates, Orange Sheath, Compound Sea Squirt, and a baby turtle-like Golden Star.



At the 30-minute mark, I turned north for the beach and headed straight back. Along the way, there were more keeper lobsters, and once I regained the sand, a very juvenile Moon Snail. Fifty-three minutes later, I reached a point where I could stand and remove my fins. As I broke the surface and looked around, Matt's flag popped out of the surf about 20-30 yards away. We had returned to our starting point at about the same time on parallel tracks.



Post-dive conversation revealed he had found 5 keeper lobsters on his dive but had not seen the big one! Our computers indicated the water temp was 57° - 58°F, at a max depth of 26'. We both enjoyed a wonderful dive in water as balmy as New England diving allows.

Old Garden 2. Sunday, June 27, 2021. *Story and photos by Rob Robison*

Peter Ninh, Mike Vaughan, and I wound up at Old Garden Beach on an absolutely beautiful Sunday morning, 86° air temp, very high humidity, marred only by 20mph winds, thankfully from the SW, heading out to sea. Inshore, we were perfectly fine. Just like 2 weeks ago, the beach area and parking were filled with early birds from a couple of dive classes, plus a few early morning divers. So, we offloaded our gear on the grassy lawn in the small park, and parked our cars a few blocks away.

I brought my drysuit this time and was glad for it. Mike dove dry, too, and Peter wore his wetsuit. Because of the heat and humidity, I reduced the number of undergarment layers that I wore

underneath, but still was over heating until I reached the water to put on my fins. Mike and I partnered to stay a bit shallower, look for tiny critters, and hopefully bag some flounder. Peter took his scooter out and down to 55' in search of lobsters.



My Nitrox-filled tank was only 60% full and Mike was a bit underweighted, as we dropped down in @15' of water close to the rock sand line. On the bottom, the sand was littered with sand dollars, empty clam shells, and Moon Snail egg cluster collars. A lone juvenile flounder

flitted by.

As we reached the beginnings of the rock and boulder area, around 18' or so, we could see they were coated with layers of kelp, Irish Moss, Hooked Weed, and more. We wove in, out, around, and under the glacial remains in search of anything photographable or edible or both.



To our surprise, a few of the boulders were encrusted with spiny urchins, which haven't been seen in any quantities in quite some time at Old Garden, although they are present in larger quantities at other dive sites along the North Shore.



Thirty-four minutes after submerging, I was down to 350 psi at @25' depth mark. It was time to surface from the 50°-51° H₂O and @10'-15' vis and return to the beach, whence we came. Mike was soaked in his drysuit from a leaky seal, but had two lobsters to show for his efforts. I had taken quite a few photos. Peter showed up about half an hour later with a bag full of lobsters—7 to be exact.

We stowed our gear and made plans to stop for iced coffee before splitting up on the long trek home. Peter needed to stop at an Asian grocery to pick up some specials for his wife. Mike and I decided chowder at Darcy's would hit the spot. Then, it was home after a great day on the water with some great dive buddies. Better grab your gear and dive into it, folks. We are having a lot of fun!



Safe living and safe diving into it, folks!

Rob

PARTING SHOT...



and THOUGHT

The lobsters are out there!

GO ON TO NEXT PAGE

SOUTH SHORE NEPTUNES CLUB INFORMATION

WANT TO GO DIVING AND NEED A BUDDY?

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

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