



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 Pepper
 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. **Make checks payable to South Shore Neptunes**, and mail to **South Shore Neptunes Dive Club, P.O. Box 690716, Quincy, MA 02169**
- **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.

MARCH CLUB ACTIVITIES AND DIVES

Evening Program: Book talk on ***Dangerous Shallows***, by authors **Eric Takajian and Randall Pepper**. We were fortunate to have on hand for

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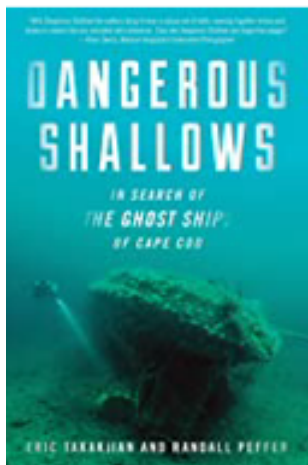
617-365-5588

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 HuntTBA
9/7General 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
12/5Club Dive 9AM at Clubhouse
12/7General 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
1/16Club Dive 9AM at Clubhouse
1/18 Evening Program TBA
*Note: Tentative dates for the 2021 Boston Sea Rovers Annual Clinic




the March evening program tug boat captain, general manager for Quest Marine Services, noted wreck hunter/dive charter captain, and author Eric Takakjian, along with his co-author, emeritus English instructor for Phillips Andover, Academy and boat captain, Randall Pepper, to discuss their recent book, *Dangerous Shallows: In Search of the Ghost Wrecks of Cape Cod*. We were regaled with wonderful stories about the exploits of Eric and his team of serious tech divers who routinely discovered virgin wrecks and dove on them to depths of over 300 feet. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this type of diving, equipment requires doubles, trimix and multiple bailout tanks, or a rebreather and bailout tanks for 20-30 minutes dives well beyond sport diving limits, with decompression stops often of 2 hours or more. Eric spoke of currents that were so strong one could be blown off the wrecks or down line and of having to attach themselves to the anchor line at the bottom to be able to return safely to the surface. He also spoke of one poor soul who was blown off a wreck, and after completing his decompression stops found himself miles from the dive boat in dense fog. The captain devised a rescue plan and "mowed the lawn" so to speak in search of the lost diver through the night and found him alive and floating on the surface the following morning. Incredible, don't you think? Thanks for a great evening, you two!



Polar Plunge Special Olympics Fundraiser at Nantasket Beach.* Saturday, March 6. Story & photos by **Adrienne Murphy**, pictured at left in shark costume with friend before her plunge. Brrrrrrrrrr!

On March 6th I did a polar plunge for Special Olympics where I have collected over \$1200 so far and was

accompanied by a wonderful group of friends.

 <<https://fundraise.specialolympicsma.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donordrive.participant&participantID=11082>>

*Ed. Note: The Neptunes have made a \$50.00 donation to Special



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Happy Diving

From

JOHN & KATHY BLACKADAR

Olympics in support of Adrienne and her cause.

Recent Diving

Return to Old Garden Beach. Sunday, March 14, 2021. Story and photos by [Rob Robison](#)

Having missed the Saturday Neptunes Club Dive because of inclement weather, Peter and I decided to go for it the next morning, Sunday, March 14. We met at the Burger King Service Plaza on State Rt 128, en route to Rockport at 9AM. We agreed to look at Pebble Beach first and then check out Old Garden.



Pebble looked OK, but the wind and waves seemed strange, so we headed over to nearby Old Garden Beach for a different point of view. In spite of the difficult entry, the wind, waves, and water were more to our liking, so we parked and assembled our gear on what began as a clear sunny but chilly (36°) Sunday morning.

As we suited up, a diver I recognized, a North Shore Frogman named Darryl, had dropped by to check out the water. He was frustrated

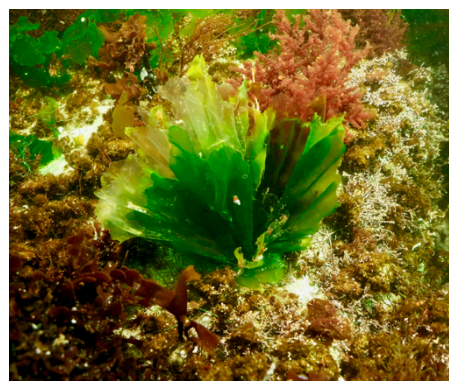
because he couldn't find anyone to dive with. We invited him to join us, but he had not brought his gear along with him. Maybe next time.

Peter and I negotiated the treacherous cobbles and entered the water successfully. The water seemed warmer than last week's 37°, and in fact was 39° - 40°, depending on whose computer you were checking. After a brief swim, we dumped the air out of our BCs, dropped down in 10'-12' of water, adjusted our gear, and headed out slowly. As we swam over a large rock or small boulder, something moved, and Peter began to gesticulate wildly, pointing out a critter for me to photograph. It was a very well camouflaged Shorthorn sculpin. Docile creature that it was, it allowed me to take multiple photos without so much as flinching a bit.

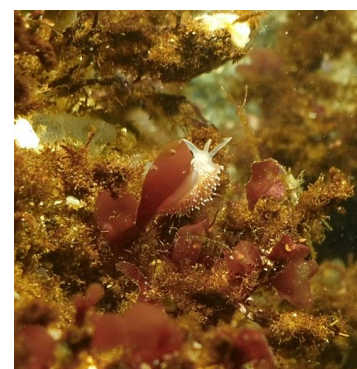
Over the next 20 minutes or so, we swam on, enjoyed 20' - 25' of vis, and found 4 - 5 different types of nudibranchs, some cnidarians or anemones, and some tunicates among others.

We turned the dive around the 24-minute mark, reaching a depth of 24', and surfaced 34 minutes after we had submerged right next to our entry point. Peter was a great navigator!

Folks, it doesn't get any better than this: diving with a great dive buddy on a glorious Sunday morning. It's time to start prepping your gear for all



Clockwise from left: Shorthorn sculpin; Sea Lettuce centerpiece, *Flabellina verrucosa nudi* on Dulse leaf



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the fun that is waiting for you in the liquid planet. Some of us are already enjoying diving into it. Why don't you?

Until next time, safe living and safe diving everyone!

Pebble Beach. Sunday, March 7, 2021. *Story & photos by Rob Robison*

As Peter and I reached Pebble Beach on this clear skied, near-windless, chilly Sunday morning, we were greeted by sunlight skipping, dancing, and

sparkling with seeming joy across the flat sea in front of us. It was as if the ocean was expressing its own happiness at the fast-approaching springtime.

The air temp was a crisp 25°F, while we shivered, hurriedly geared up, and headed into the nonexistent surf to finish putting on our fins. We hooked arms; then, Peter turned on his small underwater scooter and dragged us out to the drop point. It was obvious this was going to be a banner day for vis, which reached 40' in some places. The water temp was between 37° - 38° at 27' - 30.' We lasted about 32 - 33 minutes underwater in these pristine, near-freezing ocean temps.



Despite diligent searching, no nudibranchs were sighted, except perhaps a Rim-Backed. My photos were not good enough to be able to know for sure. I should have moved closer to take the pictures; both were too blurry to be able to positively identify what I had seen. The only other living fauna I saw were a few tiny brine or sand shrimp flitting about and one minnow-sized fish of some sort. A barnacle seed floated by, but I was unsuccessful photographing it, as well. Interestingly, with rare exceptions the overabundance of the invasive Compound Sea Squirt has all but disappeared. Perhaps it exhausted its food



Clockwise from left: Pebble Beach; FrondAeolis nudi on Sugar Kelp frond; Golden Star Tunicate (yellow variety); Orange Sheath Tunicate



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Mussel feeding time

supply, was scrubbed clean from the rocks and rills by winter storms, killed by pollution, or all three. Fingers crossed.

Afterwards, we returned to the Korean Grocery for items Peter can only find there, and then headed to Darcy's for lunch before driving the final leg home. It was a fabulous day on the water with a great dive buddy. Next weekend beckons.

Old Garden Beach. Sunday, February 28, 2021. Story & photos by Rob Robison

A week ago, Peter Ninh and I stood on the beach at Pleasure Bay freezing in sub-freezing windblown temps, in spite of the sunny sky. We looked at each other and mutually decided to postpone our dive another week because the forecast was for warmer weather and the prospect of making a dive in more beautiful underwater surroundings. Our bet paid off.

We met at the St Rt 128 Service Plaza Burger King and decided to head first for Pebble Beach, where we would dive if conditions warranted. Upon arrival, it seemed like the vis was not too great, and with the tide coming in, the surf, surge, and swell seemed a bit too challenging. So, we moved on to Old Garden Beach in Rockport and were richly rewarded for our decision.

As we geared up, Peter decided to leave his underwater scooter behind in the car because the entry was really difficult. It was high tide and the winter storms had coated

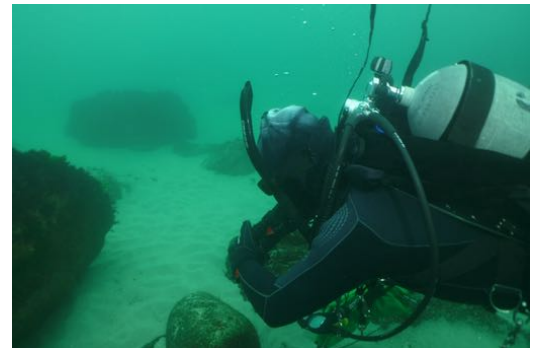


the beach with large cobbles, variously sized stones, and small boulders, making the footing on the traverse to the water all suited up extremely precarious, to say the least.

The water itself, though clear, was moving quite a bit, as evidenced by the swells and surge, making it difficult to put on our fins. I was able to make the entry successfully for two reasons: All the conditioning I've been doing



Clockwise: Peter ready to go; enjoying neutral buoyancy, juvenile Hermit crab; through the looking glass.



each other entering and exiting.

We dropped down a little early, and I had to struggle against my dry suit's buoyancy because we weren't quite deep enough, but it was worth the effort. The 25' of vis was gorgeous. Although we



Clockwise from above: Isopod fronting an Aztec-like face; Eel grass patch; Sea clam



didn't see much of anything living besides flora, the light and color were stunning. Surprisingly, the water temp had warmed to a welcome and balmy 40° at 24 - 25' from a lip-stinging 34° two weeks ago at the same depth. Spring is coming our way, however slowly. Attached are some of the photos from our 32-minute dive.

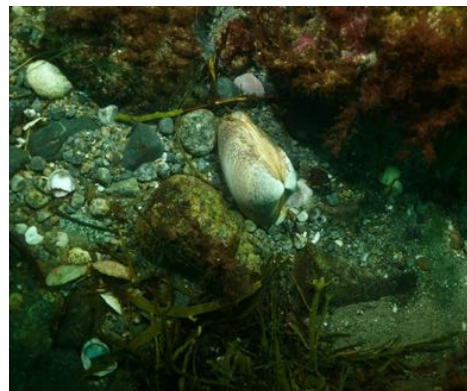
Just as we began stowing our gear about 35 minutes later, two

Neptunes showed up, father and son duo Doug and Matt Meyer, who went night and Commando diving with me last summer. They were waiting for two of Matt's friends to arrive before the four of them went diving.

In the meantime, Peter and I headed to a 5 Guys Burgers and Fries joint for lunch, before closing out our time together at the nearby Korean market, which sells some products at better prices and higher quality than his favorite Vietnamese grocery store. They also sell KF94 masks, so I bought some for my forthcoming dive trip. Thanks, Peter, for a great dive and international grocery store experience, which is always interesting, enlightening, and fun! Hope some of you will join us diving into it someday soon.

Safe diving and safe living, everyone!

Rob



THE ENVIRONMENT

Bonaire Bolivia Plantation Rescue

The last large public plantation in Bonaire, 'Bolivia', is under threat of development, putting cultural history, dynamic vistas, diverse natural areas, cactus forests, and populations of unique land snails in peril. The area needs stronger environmental management not massive construction projects.

You can help stop this natural area destruction by signing the Save Plantation Bolivia petition, which can be found on the first screen of my short documentary film about it on the Youtube channel at the bottom of webpage <https://www.saveplantationbolivia.com>. (Click on red box with Youtube arrow; then third film. It looks like it is playing at warp speed, but when you click on it, a slower version can be seen! There are also other recent films made by my colleague, Hendrik Whyts, about Plantation Bolivia.

It is the last film that I completed before the COVID pandemic curtailed everything!

George Buckley, Boston Sea Rover and Science Outreach Coordinator, Harvard Extension University

S.S. North American, one of the finest early cruise liners on the Great Lakes, by John Belliveau. A beautiful ship indeed! Reprinted here with permission from Eric Takakjian.

PARTING SHOT



GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

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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