



Sounding

Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes

Calendar 2021

9/25 *President's Party 2:00 pm at Mick Morgan's Pub, after party at Chuck's le garage*

9/26 *Club Dive 8AM from former Clubhouse*

10/2 *Neptunes Flea Market CANCELED*

10/2-3 *Boston Sea Rovers 8 AM - All day long*

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*

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;Nominations for new club officers

12/12 *Club Dive 9AM at former clubhouse*

12/14 *Board Meeting 7PM*

Zoom;Nominations for new club officers

12/21 *ELECTIONS*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACTIVITIES, & REMINDERS

- The Club welcomes **new members Rob Foley**, an electrical engineer, and **Ramon Casado**, dean of middle school students for Boston Public Schools. Congratulations!!
- **Underwater Rugby hours:** *Wednesday* nites 8:00-9:30 PM at Westwood HS pool. Club member Tori Steffi is moving to Florida—The SSNeptunes wish her the very best—and has a Women's #10 Henderson wetsuit 7/5 mm suit and Aqualung BC available. Contact **Joe Gomes** if interested. Also, Joe Gomes is working on a history of underwater rugby and needs photo credits and any sorts of media that could help him illustrate the sport across time. He can be reached at: <jsgomes@gmail.com>
- **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 for providing us free meeting space. **Program Night**, usually, but not always, the 3rd Tuesday of the month, is **ZOOM only!**
- **Please note: All Club activities and programs listed on the Calendar are live now**
- **Bay State Council: Angelo** has resigned as president. Jim Nannery, VP, will be in charge until new elections are held. **Blackie** will man the booth at this fall's Boston Sea Rovers Clinic.



- **Boston Sea Rovers Clinic, Oct. 2-3, 2021.** The Sea Rovers Show is an annual event with workshops, daytime presentations, and world renowned international film festival. Click here for the online program, ticket, and hotel information: <<https://bostonsearovers.com/clinic-home/>>. BTW, the **Neptunes will be at the show with our own table in the exhibit hall**, so drop by, say Hi, and let's talk diving!
- **Newsletter:** To help add interesting content to the newsletter during these unusual

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Calendar 2022, cont.

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

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 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.

ANNUAL AWARD ENTRIES DUE NOVEMBER 30!

NOMINATIONS Tuesday, December 7 & 14

ELECTIONS Tuesday, December 21

DUES-\$35-ARE DUE BY ELECTION NIGHT!

In Memoriam

The South Shore Neptunes mourn the loss of **Genevieve Czerepica**, mother of Neptunes Treasurer, **Theresa Czerepica**, who was 97 years old. The club has made a donation to the American Heart Association in her memory.

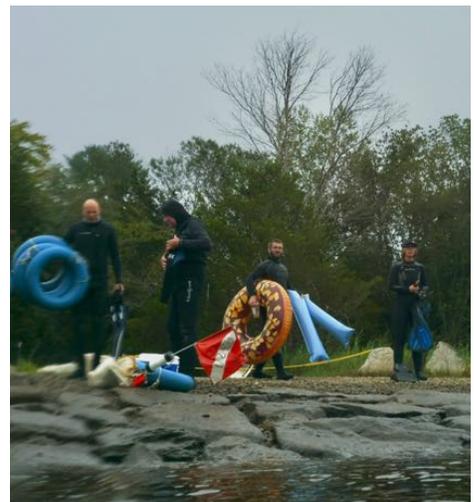


RECENT DIVING

2021 Annual North River Run with the South Shore Neptunes. Saturday, September 18, 2021. *Story by Rob Robison; photos by Theresa Czerepica & Rob*



Nineteen South Shore Neptunes and friends, the largest participatory contingent in recent memory, assembled at the canoe launch on Bridge Street in Norwell with a wide variety of assorted flotation and wetsuit gear, to float the 2 1/2 hour journey down the scenic and very tidal North River to the 3A Bridge and exit



point at Roht Marine.

After stowing our gear, we repaired to Bill and Netta Burchill's

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From

JOHN & KATHY BLACKADAR



nearby home in Marshfield for the annual post-River Run chowder and chicken salad fest. There, we ran into Blackie, Jay Theriault, and his mother, Evelyn, as doughty as ever. What a wonderful fitting way to



end our time together on the river! Thanks Bill and Netta!

By the way, more photos from the outing can be found on Page 12.

RAGNAR Reach the Beach Team Relay Road Race, 2021, September 17.

Story by Rob Robison; photos by Jeannine Willis & Rob

Neptunes **Jeannine Willis, Jess Hayes,** and I helped officiate the 2021 RAGNAR Reach the Beach Team Relay Road Race on Friday, September 17. Teams of 6 - 12 runners from all over the US, who run the more than 200-mile, 24-hour road race from Bretton Woods (NH) to the ocean, participated in the fundraiser for their favorite organizations or charities. Everyone got into the swing of the race, as evidenced by the costumes in the photos left. What a blast! For more photos visit the club's Facebook page.



Mola Mola Dive at Graves Light, September 4, 2021.

Story, photo, and video clip by Todd Alger

On September 4, 2021, Neptunes **Joe Kilcommons, Rob Foley,** and I set off from the Clipper Marina on Joe's boat for a two-tank dive trip. We made our first dive at Graves Light and the dive was beautiful. The visibility



was about 20 feet and the fish life made you feel like you were swimming in an aquarium.

As we were doing our between-dive tank change and eating and drinking, we noticed what at first looked like a white garbage bag with a seagull picking at it. We realized it was a Mola Mola. I quickly said, "Let's grab our mask and fins and snorkel with the Mola Mola." And that is what we did.

I have been on a couple of boats in the past where we did this and it was always very hard. Previous Mola Mola seemed to like to tease us divers and dive deep or swim away as we approached. This fish

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allowed us to swim right up to it and take some great pictures.

After we swam with the fish, we did our second dive. Joe was lucky enough to have the Mola Mola swim with him underwater and it circled his dive flag before swimming away.

Here is the video I shot. Click on the link or copy and paste it into your browser:

<https://youtu.be/T7KuA3rx0ds>

An (Un)Forgettable Dive Day at Ft. Wetherill. Saturday, August 28. *Story by Rob Robison; photos by Ramon Casado & Rob R*

New Neptunes, **Rob Foley, Ramon Casado,** and former Neptune, just returned from a stint in New York, **Charlie Perretti,** and I were to meet at Ft Weatherill at 9:00AM. Thirty minutes into the drive I realized I

had left my semi-dry suit, regulator, mask, fins, and snorkel on the back porch and had to turn around and return home to retrieve them. As a result, I was about 45

minutes late to the dance. Sheesh!

Having texted the group of my predicament, they were able to adjust their departures to the dive site to better coincide with my own arrival. They were already getting dressed when I drove into the absolutely packed parking lot.

The place was literally crawling with divers, instructors, and their classes.

We lumbered into the water, found an unoccupied area, and finished putting on our fins and determining our dive plan, based on the conditions, and then submerged. The vis was too murky to take a group photo, so

we just began our dive heading toward the west side of the cove. As we finned along, there were patches of eel grass, numerous fingerling Black Sea Bass, small or juvenile sized Black Sea Bass, a Blue crab molt, many schools of minnow sized Cunner fish, and an encrusted clam shell. Just as we reached the westside wall, a very tiny, recently hatched squid appeared in my field of vision. I attempted to take a photo but my camera unexpectedly flashed a Memory Full message. Drat! I had forgotten to reinstall the memory card after offloading Friday's dive photos onto my desktop computer.



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With no photographic capability remaining during the dive, I spent the time pointing out to the others critters such as the keeper Tautog that would have made Peter's speargun trigger finger twitch with excitement, a nice-sized Blue crab that scurried across the bottom, beautiful patches of Dulse swaying in the current, and the



abundant Sea Walnut jellyfish floating about.

Because of all the commotion in the water from other divers and a shorter than usual dive, we did not see the usual Sea clams, whelks, occasional doormat-sized fluke (Rob Foley was the exception), and Horseshoe crabs that have been frequently observed there over the past few years. I was also hoping we would find some Sheepsheads and Northern puffers, but unfortunately, they did not make an appearance, either. Maybe next time with a little luck.



Despite the misadventures, everyone enjoyed the balmy 71° water. Special thanks to my dive buddies Charlie, Ramon, and Rob F. for their companionship and joy diving into it with me. All in all, diving together was a whole lot of fun!

Commando Diving Beadle Rocks (Rexhame Beach). Friday, August 27. *Story by Rob Robison; photos by Rob &*

Eric Cantor

Neptune newbie and brand new diver **Ramon**

Casado,

Peter Ninh,

and I

enjoyed a

perfect day

on the flat,

relatively

calm ocean

water

aboard

Commando

on a

beautiful

Friday

morning. After



loading our gear into Commando, we launched from the Marshfield Town Landing in Green Harbor and

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slowly made our way through the channel passage to the ocean.

The tide was at its lowest and apparently the exposed algae and sludge gave off an odor pungent enough to nauseate Peter. Fortunately, he didn't quite succeed in feeding the fish. Neither Ramon nor I

detected anything amiss odor wise. Once clear of the harbor and speeding on our way to Beadle Rocks, Peter felt better.

I forgot to mention, Ramon came with brand new gear, purchased the day before, and had not had the opportunity to spend any time assembling it before hand. Peter, a master at helping newbies with their equipment, had him squared away in short order.

Once we had anchored and geared up, we back-rolled one by one off Commando, grabbed the anchor line, and headed down through a veritable swarm of translucent jellyfish and Salps, a member of the tunicate family of planktonic creatures that float and drift about the ocean, to the bottom some 42' - 44' away.

We managed to score a perfect hit, landing almost smack dab on the rock/sand line. The warp of a long lobster trawl, strung with traps every 10-yards or so, guided us north along the reef. Along the way, we found a variety of starfish, some short lobsters peeking out from underneath boulders and rock ledges, a small Shorthorn Sculpin, a few crabs, some small schools of Cunner, and what looked to be a fat 6" - 10" Winter flounder.



All too soon, it was time to turn the dive, head back to the anchor line, which we reached on the nose, and ascend to the relative safety of Commando up above. Our 45-minute dive, in 58° water, with vis ranging from 15' - 20', yielded one keeper, caught by Peter, and some photos by yours truly. It was a delightful first boat and Commando dive in the North Atlantic for Ramon, the first Commando dive for Peter, and a



wonderful time for all three of us.

On the way back to Green Harbor, we ran into a school of porgies fish jumping like crazy, evidently being chased by bluefish, stripers, or both.

Back on dry land, Angus cheeseburgers at The Hop Restaurant beckoned for lunch. Yum! Then, we went our separate ways home. After putting Commando away at Jesse's Marine in Plymouth and stopping by the dive shop for a new tank inspection, sticker,

and fill, I crashed for a long 2-3 hour nap. It was a great way to end a superlative dive day with outstanding dive companions. Thanks you guys!



Boston Harbor Dive. Sunday, August 15. *Story and photos by Tommy*

Lo

5:30 Am awoken by a text.

Met up with Todd and Ken at 8 a.m. at Quincy Yacht Club (QYC). We discussed looking for scallops and decided to give it a go. As we passed Lovell's Island, the winds and the waves made us change to plan B. Found a calm spot leeward of the winds and waves. I kept thinking, "The tiny ship was tossed."



When we arrive at the Graves, we found that Boston Scuba had the same idea and was already there with divers in the water. We saw a seal on one of the rocks and another swimming around in the water. We anchored a little north of Boston Scuba. Todd and Ken geared up and rolled into the water. They caught a few lobster and by then the weather had calmed down.

For the second dive we went prospecting for new scallop beds; regrettably, we did not have any luck with the scallops.

Club Dive. August 14, 2021. *Story & photos by Tommy Lo*

Todd and **Ken** and I met 8 a.m. at the clubhouse. New Member **Rob Foley** turned up for the dive, too. Since there were only 4 of us, we decided to go for a boat dive. Off we went to QYC.

First dive

The current was running, after Todd geared up and rolled into the water, the lobster boat, Teena Babes, came by and was going back and forth about 15ft off my stern stalking me. I'm thinking here we go the fight is on. I asked if he needed me to move the boat so he can retrieve his traps. He said no and asked if we could check one of his intake ports. One of his pumps was not pumping a lot of water and he



thought it might be clogged. Ken obliged and I had him tie up to me. We dropped a couple of lines for ken to hang on to and he was able to find the ports and confirm there was no blockage that he can see (must be something further in his plumbing)

Rob geared up and met Ken at the anchor; I stayed on the boat in case someone got caught in the current. Rob, being a new diver, went through his air fairly quickly, and soon they were back to the boat and I was in the water. Current was still running and vis was not too good near the surface. The Vis got better the deeper I went, but I hit one area where it was really dark. Not a lot of lobster to be had.

Second dive

As we arrived at Martin’s Ledge, Teena Babes was there pulling his traps. We

anchored and Todd, Ken, and Rob went in. I think Friday’s heat and dive took a lot out of me, so I decided not to do a second dive. It was around slack tide, so no current. The boat was anchored in 25 ft of water and it drops off to around 50ft on both sides of the ledge. A few lobsters were found and I had to chase after Ken and Rob as they drifted away when they did a safety stop.



We went back to QYC for some food and beers. Rob really enjoyed the dives, but Sunday’s dive with Chuck may change all that. We shall see.....

Anyhow, a great day was had by all.

Tommy Lo

Diving the Chester A Poling. Saturday August 14, *Story & Photos by Rob Robison*

I joined fellow Boston Sea Rovers Jake Stout, Rob Weintraub, Ryan Hunter, and Russell Laman, the new intern, on the Cape Ann Divers II for the afternoon trip to the wreck of the Chester A Poling. The dive boat departed its Gloucester berth at 1:00 p.m., after disgorging the bulk of the Sea Rovers who were on the morning milk run to dive the fabled wreck. For a great synopsis of the wreck’s history and how it found its way to the bottom during



a brutal winter storm in 1977, not far from the entrance to Gloucester Harbor, go to: <http://www.seconndivers.org/new-england-diving/wreck-of-the-chester-a-poling/>. Be sure to follow the link embedded in the article. It should describe how the cook tragically lost his life, the only fatality from the sinking.

As luck would have it, we five had the boat to ourselves, meaning we had plenty of room to spread out, assemble and don our gear easily without bumping into anyone, and enjoy unfettered time on the wreck itself. Unfortunately, Ryan became seasick, in spite of having taken some dramamine ahead of time, and Russell was just along for ride, having already dived on the morning trip. That left only three of us to giant stride off the boat fantail on the first dive, drop down the descent line 83 feet to the wreck, and explore what there was to see in the gloomy 15' - 20' viz.



Ambient light at 83' is like twilight dark; that is dark, but not completely pitch black. The light emanating from my twin 4500 Lumens video cam lights did a great job of brightening the immediate vicinity. Exploring the deck of the wreck, I saw it was covered with schools of juvenile cunner, some slender finger sponge clumps, a burgundy Sea Raven, a small cluster of



mussels, a few juvenile winter flounder, a Sea Lemon, numerous lined anemone clusters, not to mention numerous Aeolis type nudibranchs, a small cod and a small pollock, a colony of Tubularian Hydroids, and loads of starfish. I missed seeing the Cloned Plumose Anemone, sad to say. Still, I enjoyed two great dives. Special thanks to Rob Weintraub and Jake Stout who watched out for me on Dive 1, and to Jake for buddying with me on Dive 2. Suffice it to say, the 51°F water is really chilly at nearly 3 atmospheres on the second dive in a wet suit.



As far as I'm concerned, diving into it really just doesn't get any better than this.

Marshfield Boat Dive. Wednesday, August 11. *Story and photos by Eric Cantor and Rob.*

Neptune Eric Cantor and I had been negotiating for a while on a mutual dive day and finally decided that we could get together at the Marshfield Town Landing and make a dive on the Commando on Wednesday Aug. 11. Eric brought along good friend and



newly certified diver Scott Walter to fill out the boat. As we were loading commando Scott realized he had forgotten to bring his wetsuit, although he had his boots, mitts and gloves. I advised him not to dive, but Scott was hell bent on getting wet, so Eric loaned him a 1.5 mill Neosport short sleeve rubber shirt to wear.



18 kts of speed on the way to Beadle Rocks. Once onsite and anchored, we quickly



put on our dive gear and backward rolled over the side into the water with Scott holding up the rear. We made our way quickly to the bottom, found the anchor well dug in and cradling one of several rock crabs strewn about the



ocean floor; however, we found ourselves positioned a bit too far out at 41'-42' in the middle of the sand. After taking a few photos, I offered to change locations or call it too far away to hear me clearly and the sand. So I returned to the boat to continue the dive. Eric wrote this dive: "[Our dive lasted] approx. 30 min at 42' down. [The water temp was] 59°, 94°air temp. Viz about but good to swim around. And new but he seemed to be OK with the



indicated we should go up, quits, but Eric and Scott were decided to continue diving in wait for them while they about the remainder of the min at 42' down. [The water 15 feet, not too much to see diver Scott forgot his wetsuit, water temp.]

They finished their dive relatively far weighed anchor and motored over

away from the boat, so I slowly to pick them up.

Although he wouldn't admit it, Scott was frozen, which he eventually acknowledged after quaffing a couple of beers, some oysters, and other seafood, while we lunched at Haddad's Ocean Café in Brant Rock Center. The fact that he lasted 30 minutes underwater at 42', in 59° water, without a wetsuit, was quite simply astonishing. More *cojones* than I'll ever have on that score. Regardless, the three of us enjoyed a great day on the water, stayed cool in spite of the heat and humidity, and finished off our dive experience with fresh seafood and ice cold brewskis at an excellent seafood restaurant. Diving into it like this really is living the dream. Best of all, there's still time left in the season to do it again and again, that's for sure.

From the ARCHIVES

The Patriot Ledger, Wed., June 7, 1989 25

Undersea treasures uncovered

By Elizabeth Thompson
The Patriot Ledger

BOSTON — Artifacts from sunken ships recovered by the Quincy Dive Team will be exhibited alongside ancient Roman treasures in a Museum of Science exhibit that opens June 17.

Called "King Herod's Dream... Caesarea on the Sea," the exhibit seeks to explain the methods of deep-sea archaeology that were used to recover the Roman statues, mosaics and kitchen utensils from the sunken city of Caesarea, a port built in 10 B.C. by King Herod on the coast of Israel.

The Quincy Dive Team, with 45 members one of the largest in the country, was called in by the museum to help visitors understand the technology of underwater exploration, said Rani Sarin, the museum's project manager.

"I was given a list of all the dive teams in the area, and Quincy seemed the most interested and best-equipped," she said. The team will show visitors the tricks they use to find treasures—in the dark and dangerous currents at the bottom of the sea.

In addition to performing live demonstrations of diving techniques, the Quincy team will display their own discoveries, including a bunker door from the last German U-boat sunk in World War II. Team leader John Blackadar pulled it from the submarine, which still lies 130 feet below the water's surface near Block Island.

Other Quincy team displays include portholes found by diver Bill Walker that belonged to the S.S. *Horatio Hall*, a passenger steamer that was rammed in the fog by another ship off of Cape Cod, near Chatham, in 1919.

Diver Joe Gomes will display and describe his discovery of a running light from the *City of Salisbury*, a ship full of zoo animals that sank in outer Boston harbor in 1938. "There were newspaper and radio reports that a python showed up on an island, and that a lion or tiger swam ashore," said Gomes, who has spent many days in libraries researching his finds.

Deep-sea exploration has come into its own in the last decade with advances in technology for breathing apparatus, masks and wetsuits, as well as in equipment divers use to retrieve lost objects. The divers at Caesarea, for instance, used an underwater vacuum to extract objects buried in sand, Sarin said.

The Quincy team will explain the new, and old, technology of diving in demonstrations that will be held on three Saturdays: June 24, July 15, and July 29. The team will also give a diving demonstration Aug. 19 on the Charles River behind the museum.

The main focus of the exhibit, however, will be the dozens of objects pulled from the city of Caesarea, half of which slipped into the Mediterranean Sea after the city was abandoned in the 13th century. Caesarea is the pre-eminent site for the study of ancient port cities, Sarin said, noting that the port of Rome now sits beneath an airport, and that in Athens heavy shipping traffic makes research impossible.

One of the most exciting discoveries in Caesarea has been a secret religious sanctuary of the Persian god Mithras. Archaeologists have also unearthed the tremendous sea walls that supported and protected the port, which was built over water.

The exhibit will continue through Sept. 10.



Greg Darr/The Patriot Ledger

John Blackadar of the Quincy Dive Team shows diving equipment of the 1940s to Rani Sarin, who is the project manager at the Museum of Science.



SOUTH SHORE NEPTUNES *Information Page*

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