



# Sounding

## *Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACTIVITIES, & REMINDERS

#### Calendar 2022

April

...

4/24 Club Dive/Beach Clean-up. Little Pond@ Morton Park (Plymouth)

May

5/1 Club Dive, 8AM

5/3 General Meeting

5/10 Board Meeting

5/15 Club Dive 8AM

5/17 Program: Ben Haskell - NOAA

Dept Supt.:New Perspectives

Managing Historic Shipwrecks in

Stellwagen Bank

5/20-21 RAGNAR Race Fundraiser

June

6/7 General Meeting

6/12 Club Dive 8AM

6/14 Board Meeting

6/21 Program

6/26 Club Dive 8AM

July

7/5 General Meeting

7/10 Club Dive 8AM

7/12 Board Meeting

7/24 Club Dive 8AM

August

8/2 General Meeting 7PM

8/7 Duxbury Outing (Tent)

8/9 Board Mtng 7PM

8/14 Club Dive 8AM

- Underwater Rugby hours: *Wednesday* nites 8:00-9:30 PM at Westwood HS pool. 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, Board, and Program night meetings *are now* in person (attend only if you are feeling well) or by Zoom until further notice. The **Annual Banquet** has been **postponed indefinitely**. On the other hand, All Club Outdoor Activities listed on the Calendar *remain live with social distancing rules in effect, as per 2022*.

- **MATE ROV Underwater Robotics Competition Sunday, May 1** @ Mass Maritime Academy 's Clean Harbors Athletic Center. Open to the public. Diving volunteers needed. Here are links describing the event < <https://materovcompetition.org/thechallenge>>and ways to volunteer:

< <https://vmodcui.active.com/volunteer/jobs?eventGroupId=2286331>>. For more information contact Neptune Marcus Gay: <[mog2402@gmail.com](mailto:mog2402@gmail.com)>

- Newsletter: To help add interesting content to the newsletter, please send me ([robisonr25@yahoo.com](mailto:robisonr25@yahoo.com); or [newsletter@southshoreneptunes.org](mailto: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

#### April Evening Program

Special thanks to **Sarah McCormack** ([sarah.mccormack@whales.org](mailto:sarah.mccormack@whales.org)), Stranding Coordinator for WDC North America at Whales.org, located at 7 Nelson St, Plymouth, MA. If you encounter a stranding on the beach or a wounded animal in the water, call the WDC Stranding Hotline at 866-688-6872 or NOAA at 866-755-6622. Thanks, Sarah!

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### EVENTS & DIVES



**Club Dive.** Sunday, April 3, 2022. *Story by Ken Hayes and Sokol Prifti. Photos by S Prifti.*

**Ken Hayes, Rob Foley, Adrienne Murphy and Sokol Prifti** met next to the parking lot of the old club house and drove to the North Shore’s Lane Cove for a Sunday morning 45-minute dive in 41°-42° water, reaching a max depth of 26’-30’. Vis looked to be 5’-10’ based on the video clip. They enjoyed calm water and air temps in the 45°- 48° range. Ken said there was not too much to see. Afterwards, they drove



around Cape Ann’s Rockport checking out other dive site possibilities for future exploration. Sounds like they all enjoyed a nice day and dive on Massachusetts’ northern Cape.

**Part 2 — Reconfiguring Spearguns and Pond Practice.** Sunday, March 27, 2022. *Story by Rob Robison; photo by Jessica Ninh.*

Peter came over at 9 AM and fashioned new, longer bands out of the tubing I had ordered to make the speargun easier to load. He had already done the same with his. The top band was entirely too short. Turns out he couldn’t cock the top band either, and he’s 2X—3X stronger than I am! When he finished, we drove over to Little Pond at Morton Park.

The weather was sunny and very windy when we arrived at the pond. Unfortunately, it was a beautiful spring day for the trout fisherman, too, who were out in droves. There was no place to dive anywhere around the pond that wasn’t populated with fishermen, who most certainly would have been annoyed with us had we decided to make a dive there. So, we made a collective executive decision to drive 10 minutes down the road to John’s Pond and give it another try. Nirvana! We had the pond to ourselves.

We unloaded our gear, Peter set up the target, and we went to work practicing our shooting with the new bands he created, which were much easier to load because of their longer length, even though they are the same diameter as the ones he replaced. After a couple of shots, he decided we should remove the roller band, the one on the bottom, and spend this summer learning how to use the guns on one band before adding the complexity of the roller band next year. He was right. It was much easier to handle the guns with one band instead of two. Plus it’s difficult enough to learn how to do the complicated line wrap wearing 7 mm neoprene gloves. As a result of these changes, we both began hitting the target with every shot. We still have work to do perfecting our aim so that we can make head shots. Reliability will come with more practice.

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**Happy Diving**

**From**

**JOHN & KATHY BLACKADAR**

It was after 3 by the time I reached the house and unloaded my gear on the backside walkout. I promptly fell asleep on the couch for a 2-hour plus nap. After not having slept much the night before and spending at least an hour and a half in the 45° pond water at a monster depth of 5'-7', I was tired and cold. Burgers at Mikey Ds before heading home were insufficient warmup food, to be sure.

**A Spontaneous One-Week Dive Trip to Cozumel.** Saturday to Saturday, April 2-9, 2022. *Story by Rob; Photos by Robbi Laak, Carol and Rob Robison* Boston Sea Rovers Secretary, **Robbi Laak**, and I were having lunch down at the bar in Sandwich's Daniel Webster Inn and just shooting the bull, when



While working on my gun, Peter felt the need to explain why he was squatting, as he made the necessary technical adjustments. Apparently, it is an Asian tradition to work this way. I asked permission to use this photograph. At first, he declined, fearing the reaction of his wife. When he got home and explained it to her, she said, "Squat away." I loved the fact that he continues to honor his cultural traditions, despite having lived in the U.S. for a long long time. Peter is a wonderful friend, fantastic dive buddy, and highly creative mechanical engineer and machinist who can solve problems with his own inventive designs on the spot. Best of all, he loves diving as much if not more than I do.

all of a sudden, he let

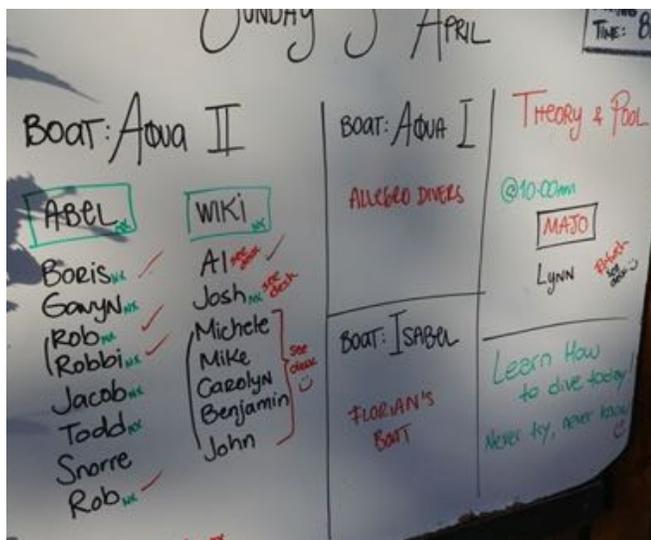


me know he was planning a dive trip to Cozumel for early April, and his partner had dropped out. He asked if I would like to go with him, and having nothing better to do, I replied as quickly as I could without coughing up a swig of beer, "Absolutely!" After returning home and telling my wife, **Carol**, about this serendipitous opportunity, and being the expert on Mexican culture that she is, she asked if she could go to.

A quick phone call to Robbi confirmed the more the merrier. By the time I had awakened the next morning,

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(L) 1st dive boat assignment. Snapper school above. Below L: Coral encrusting sponge & Yellow tube sponge with Arrow Crab in opening; Pork fish below.



Carol already had scoped out the best flights and made reservations for the two of us. We shared the info with Robbi, and by noon we were all ticketed round trip for what turned out to be a delightful week's stay on the beach at the Occidental Hotel Dive Resort in Cozumel, Mexico.

After checking in to the hotel, Robbi and I walked down to the beach, found the Dive Paradise dive shop, squared away our dive calendar and equipment needs for the week—100 cu ft tanks with Nitrox—then, headed back to our suite of two rooms for a long nap before supper. Naps were a necessity after a 3AM early bird wakeup call for our run to Logan International Airport.

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We made the 8:00AM two-tank boat dive everyday, Sunday through Tuesday, and added a night dive Tuesday evening. Wednesday was a recovery day so that Robbi could attend a necessary



L-R: Robbi drifting to next cluster of coral towers @80'+;pass-thru; stingray & jack below

zoom meeting, after which we took him to a beach restaurant on the southeast side of the island, aptly Fisherman, where we ate a beach. We resumed diving on weather dashed everyone's hopes for well. It gave our gear an extra day to heading home or so we thought.



named, El Pescador/The scrumptious seafood feast on the Thursday; however, a turn in the diving on Friday morning. Just as dry before packing up and

As for the diving, the journal impressions I had of our experiences were as follows:

**Sunday - Tuesday** The diving had been good to great with vis ranging anywhere from 100' - 200' and water temps hovering around 81°F, regardless of depth. We wove through towers of coral heads at 82 feet, and drifted down Palancar Reef at around the 50' depth mark. I saw a couple of scorpion fish, one on the night dive, one yesterday on dive 2; a stingray and Jack tandem; a famous turtle named Carlos or Carlitos, apparently because of his age; what female lobster pair under a ledge on top of the ledge; a very large file fish, parrot fish, triggerfish, a under a ledge, and many Arrow



looked like a bull and plus another roaming barracuda, some large Nurse shark sleeping crabs!

On the other hand, I missed the four dive from being out of position in the had withdrawn too deep in their reached the spot. Also, we were particular type of toadfish that is Cozumel or Mexico or both to no avail. Maybe Thursday!

octopuses on the night current or because they holes by the time I searching for a endemic to either

**Friday** It was raining today and diving had been canceled by the time we reached the dive shop. The expectation for 20 knot winds around 10 AM or so was realized. Fine with me because I wanted today off,

Dive Safely

**Dave Clancy**

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*Rob R & turtle (above) ;Moon jelly*

anyway, to let my gear dry some more—didn't happen 'cause of the rain—and pack.

Yesterday's dives were interesting to spectacular. We made a dive to the deeper coral heads that have swim through caves and tunnels but very few fish; this was followed by a shallower dive across a twisting plain full of submarine surprises in the form of spotted eagle rays, turtles, perhaps the largest girthed green moray eel I have ever seen, and much more. However, the famed endemic Cozumel toadfish eluded us once again.

Today, we ate lunch at a restaurant, Ix Kool, well known and loved for its authentic Mayan food. Simply outstanding! Best meal of the entire week hands down!! We also toured San Gervasio, the Mayan archaeological site we had visited five years ago with Donn Ellerbrock from Columbus, who passed away not long after that trip. Unfortunately, nothing much has been restored since that time. We topped off the evening with a fabulous Mahi Mahi meal at a new restaurant on the waterfront in downtown Cozumel called Bajau.

Looking back on the week, the resort was very nice, the all inclusive food was excellent, and the booze flowed. The staff was terrific everywhere in the compound and at the dive shop, as were the boat crews and divemaster, and the grounds were simply beautiful. In and around Cozumel we found everyone we encountered to be helpful and friendly; just could not have asked for a better vacation or place to dive into it!

Safe diving and safe living, everyone,

*Rob*

P.S. Vis: 100' -200'; Water Temp: 81°F;Max Depth: 82';  
Dive Times: 51 - 60 min.



## PARTING THOUGHTS & SHOTS

**KUDOS** to Neptunes VP **Adrienne Murphy** for planning and organizing the first Club meetup at the Precinct 10 Restaurant in Weymouth. What a success! Nearly 30 divers, club members, and aspiring new club members, plus a former one reinvigorated, John Sullivan, attended and enjoyed a good time conviving, munching on appetizers, and enjoying a cold adult beverage or two or more. Thanks, **Adrienne**, for a great idea and event!

Below are a number of the newcomers who showed up. We enjoyed meet all of you..



# South Shore Neptunes

## Information Page

**WANT TO GO DIVING AND NEED A BUDDY?**

**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, 2022

President	Ken Hayes	
	edkenhayes@gmail.com	781-335-7607
Vice President	Adrienne Murphy	
	amarym21@yahoo.com	781-600-4113
Treasurer	Theresa Czernieca	
	tkuzom@yahoo.com	617-884-0697
Secretary	Rob Robison	
	robisonr25@yahoo.com	614-546-9018

### Board of Directors, 2022

Todd Alger	508-236-0736
John Blackadar	781-826-6996
Bill Burchell	781-733-4742
Doug Eaton	617-653-0225
Paul Greene	781-327-5304
Sunny Lo	617-484-4004
Jay Theriault	617-620-8021
Rob Vice	413-265-1877
Chuck Zarba	508-690-2480
Tom Guild, 1st Alt.	617-484-4004
Sokol Protti, 2nd Alt.	781-622-5406
Matt Meyer, 3rd Alt.	508-947-7634



