

Soundings

Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACTIVITIES, & REMINDERS

Calendar 2023

January

1 Sober Up Dive -
Pleasure Bay 9AM; post
dive party at Darcy's @
12PM

3 General Meeting 7PM

10 Board Meeting 7PM

15 Women's Meet Up
FlandersField Rest.,
Hanover, 3PM

17 Program : Master
Scuba Diver Susan

Copelas on Women
Divers' Hall of Fame &
How It All began

28 Annual Awards

Banquet B Common
Market (Quincy) See
Flier, P..20

29 Club Dive 9AM TBA
February

7 General Meeting - 7PM

14 Board Meeting 7PM

21 Program TBA

25 Special Olympics Plunge . Details
TBA

March

4 - Boston Sea Rovers 69th Annual
Clinic/Film Fest

• Check out a new interesting website: idivenewengland.com :

• **Women Club Members Only, Jan. 15 FLANDERS FIELD Rest. Hanover; 3PM**

• Underwater • Rugby hours: Monday eves ONLY: 8:30-10:00 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.

• Newsletter: To help add interesting content to the newsletter, 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

EVENTS

ELECTION RESULTS

Officers 2023

President -

ADRIENNE MURPHY

Vice President

KEN HAYES

Treasurer

THERESA CZEREPICA

Secretary/Newsletter Editor

ROB VICE

DIVER'S MARKET SCUBA CENTER

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ELECTION RESULTS cont.

Board of Directors 2023

John Blackadar	Chuck Zarba
Doug Eaton	Bruce Lane, Alt 1
Paul Greene	Alex Wieck, Alt 2
Tommy Lo	Rob Foley, Alt 3
Sokol Prifti	Alisa Daniels, Alt 4
Rob Robison	John Sullivan, Alt 5
Jay Theriault	

Contest Entries

Underwater Photography

King of the Mountain

(*Flabellina verrucosa*)

Submitted by Rob Robison



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Happy Diving

From

JOHN & KATHY BLACKADAR

Underwater Photography, cont.

Face to Face

Submitted by Sokol Prifti



Artifact of the Year

Bottle

Submitted by Jason Brown



REMEMBERING
Local Scuba Pioneer
JOHN BALDI

MA REG SHOP #644 TOM DENNEHY
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COLLISION SPECIALISTS
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR – ALIGNMENTS
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Abington, MA. 02351 781.792.1744.F

Largest Lobster

3.83Lbs

Submitted by Alex Wieck



Video of the Year

Links to Underwater Video Entries can be found by copying and pasting this link in your browser and scrolling toward the bottom of the page:

<https://southshoreneptunes.org/contest.html>

Submitted by Todd Alger

[Chester Polling Dive](#)

Submitted by Jason Brown

[Wreck of General Butler](#)

Submitted by Doug Eaton

[Flounder](#)

Video of the Year, cont.

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SCUBA Diving: Submitted by Sokol Prifti - <https://youtu.be/fHnrECN6PFO>



& DIVES

Diving Fajardo Puerto Rico. Early December 2022. Story, video clip and links by Jason Brown

In early December, I did a nice Caribbean dive (#32 & #33 overall) in Fajardo, in Northeastern Puerto Rico. I had a great experience booking with Sea Ventures Fajardo (<https://divepuertorico.com/>).* Both the parking and dive shop are located close to the boat dock in the same marina. Sea Ventures also has a complete set of gear for rent (\$30!) if you don't want to travel with any gear down to Puerto Rico.



Both of the dive sites were at about 65 feet to a sandy bottom, about 1/4 mile from the Eastern shore of Palomino Island (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isla_Palomino).* The water was in the 83°-85° F range, warm enough for just a bathing suit and a rash guard! There's quite a bit of low coral reef in this section, with a sandy drop-off from 20 feet deep to more than 70 feet deep. From the boat, you can see where the light blue-green water abruptly changes to a darker blue as the sand drops away. The dive operator is also involved with coral restoration, which involves anchoring metal frames to the bottom and seeding them with pieces of coral.

Overall, Puerto Rico was a nice surprise - warm weather, warm water, and good diving close to my hotel. I made a 90 second video of footage I captured with my GoPro, included at the Youtube link below. The dive boat staff were professional, with all of the freshwater tanks, dry storage, and snacks I expected from a good dive boat - I expect to go back soon!

Video link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zhk4LH_4v1s*

More Information on this specific dive excursion: <https://divepuertorico.com/tours/fajardo-reefs/>* and general information at <https://divepuertorico.com/>.*

Jason Brown, West Roxbury

*Ed. Note: Copy and paste links into your browser for best results.

Dive Safely
Dave Clancy
 |Check out my website...
Hunting New England Shipwrecks
www.wreckhunter.net



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Circleville (Ohio) Dive Center - South Quarry. Saturday, December 10. *Story & photos by Rob*

Following the Tuesday night, Dec. 6 General Meeting, I packed up my dive gear and an overnight bag and drove to Columbus, Ohio to visit my dermatologist for a followup to the surgery I had in late July and to have a skin check. I took advantage of the trip to make a dive in the South Quarry at the Circleville Dive Center with long time Ohio d i v e



buddies

John Skobel, Brent Bautista, Steve King, and newcomer Mark Dyer.

We unloaded our gear under the pavilion and suited up in our drysuits suits in the changing shack. Fortunately, Brent had

brought an electric space heater and had already preheated the shack by the time I arrived.

Once geared up, we clambered down the stairs, slipped into the water, dumped the air out of our BCs, and headed for the 18 wheeler flatbed platform. On the way down a few bluegills flitted about, as if to greet us. The vis was anywhere from 3' - 7'. While trying to take a few video clips with my new SeaLife ReefMaster 4X, I noticed a familiar sensation: water seeping down my neck seal. I had forgotten to ensure it was properly set. Drat and double drat. I knew I was in for a soaking in the 43° water. I would not be dry at all.

We floated along fairly easily and saw most of the sights. Forty-two minutes into the 19' deep dive, the seepage had reached below my waistline, which was about the same time we had returned to the entry point. I signaled to my buddy John I was calling it quits because I was soaked from head to toe.



Sure enough, nothing was dry when I removed my drysuit and sopping undergarments. Burgers, iced tea, coffee, and great conversation awaited us at Gibby's, the local goto restaurant in Circleville, where we traded stories, caught up with each other, and enjoyed each other's company. Afterwards, it was time to hit the interstate and make the return trip to Mass through a light to moderate snow storm that followed me all the way back home. It's always a bit sad leaving such good friends behind.

Club Dive - 40 steps (Nahant). Sunday December 4, 2022. *Story by Sokol Prifti.*

There was a big crowd at the old clubhouse place! Surprisingly, **Billy Burchill, Blackie, Ken Hayes, Tommy Lo, Todd Alger, Paul Greene, John Wong, Mike O'Brien, Rick Hovey,** and I showed up; however, only 4 of us were ready to go diving that morning - John, Mike, Rick, and I! After some back-and-forth, the group decided to go up north, and I thought 40 steps Nahant might be a good place to go! For the rest of the group, it was an early breakfast.

It was a beautiful day when we arrived, sunny, flat ocean, and gorgeous water! Initially, we decided to dive as a group, but then we split in two pairs, John and I and Mike and Rick. We planned the dive and once we hit the water, the water temperature was 47°F and visibility was awesome! We swam through beautiful formations under water, but John had problems with his buoyancy, as did Mike from the other group.

After fixing the problem, we continue the dive to a maximum depth 26-28 feet, for about 45 minutes, and after that we discussed buoyancy and weight belt issues.

I caught three lobsters, and on the way home, we thanked again the Nahant Police Department for letting us dive in the ocean and enjoy the day!

**Diving White Beach.** Sunday December 4, 2022. *Story & photos by Rob Robison*

I made it to the rendezvous point, the Beverly Service Plaza Burger King, ahead of time and met up with Neptune Matt Meyer. We drove over to White Beach, a new dive site for me, in Manchester-by-the-Sea, where John Updike used to live at the time of his death. We were both wearing our drysuits in salt

water for the first time this late fall Sunday morning.

The water was flat and calm, but one could tell there had been recent storm activity from the piles of seaweed on the beach. We dressed at a leisurely pace and helped each other with various pieces of gear. Drysuit diving requires more complex gear assembly. Then, we lumbered across the sand and waded into the lapping water.

Once our fins were snugly on our feet, we deflated our BCs and headed





for the bottom, a scant 8 feet down. I struggled mightily and unsuccessfully to reach the bottom, much less stay there, realizing intuitively I had forgotten to add 4lbs. of lead to my weight pockets. So, I trudged back to shore and picked up the extra weights and waded back out in the water so Matt could help me with them.

Once squared away, we headed back down, this time successfully, but there was very little to see, save a starfish, some crabs, a couple of mussels, and lots of seaweed in the 4-7' vis. We mutually called the dive 24 minutes later and exited the 47° water, having reached a max depth of 14', but happy with having made our first ocean dives of the winter season clad in our drysuits. Most importantly, we remained totally dry! Victory!

We celebrated our good fortune at a local breakfast bar before heading back home.

Special thanks to Matt for his patience helping me suit up and remove gear afterwards. I'm just not as flexible as I used to be. Having a good dive buddy is key to enjoying the underwater world, regardless of age. Matt's one of the best. Unfortunately, I don't have as much opportunity to dive with him as I'd like. We both agreed to try to rectify that situation next year!

Little Pond Bail Out Dive. Saturday, November 26, 2022. *Story by Rob Robison; surface photos by Sokol Prifti.*

Although the long range forecast for the week posited Saturday as the prime dive day of the weekend, when the time came to get wet, Neptune dive buddy Jason Brown and I decided Little Pond in Morton Park (Plymouth) would make a more suitable dive site than Plymouth Long Beach, where the vis had turned to zero and the waters a bit too rough for an easy, trouble free entry.

Before heading to our revised dive site, I checked on another prospective Neptune dive buddy for the day, Sokol Prifti. Apparently, he had overslept and decided he wanted to join us. So, he threw on his clothes, filled his dive bag with the essentials, and hustled down. He arrived just as Jason and I were about to finish suiting up. Unfortunately, in his haste





Sokol had left a dive boot behind and couldn't make the dive after all. So, he beach-mastered for us and took the bulk of the photos. Thanks, Sokol!

Jason and I completed our preparations and headed across the sand and into the water, where we put on our fins, and I turned on my new GoPro-style underwater camera to give it the first of what will be many shakedown attempts before a winter trip to the equator. We submerged immediately and drifted down below over the sand lip toward the icons, which we found by following the readily visible guideline that led us to the flag. Jason had never seen the figurines before, which are not shown in this epistle because I mistakenly had turned off my camera when I thought I had turned it on. This mistake was made numerous times before I finally got the hang of it toward the end of the dive. Fortunately, anything remotely animated, besides us, was

nowhere to be found, meaning I didn't miss taking any shots of things heretofore unseen. Thank goodness!

Twenty-three minutes after beginning the dive, Jason and I emerged from 19', in 47° waters, to be welcomed by Sokol and glorious sunshine, as opposed to the 5'-10' lugubrious vis we experienced during the dive.

We packed up our gear, took a group selfie, and headed off. Sokol needed to go home, and we decided grub was in order first. We settled on the 3A Café in North Plymouth, where we were served a

wonderful, old fashioned, American breakfast, washed down with mugs of steaming hot coffee. Then, it was time to hurry off on our separate ways, Jason to Boston, and I to nearby Kingston. The Michigan vs Ohio State game beckoned. Evidently, I shouldn't have hurried to watch that match after all. 😊

Oh well. There's always next year. In the meantime, safe living and safe diving with great dive buddies, like Jason Brown and Sokol Prifti, folks. It doesn't get any better than this.



Egypt Beach (Scituate). *Story & photos*

by Sokol Prifti. Last Saturday, November 19, 2022, I woke up and the weather seems to be gorgeous and promising! I thought it would be a good day for scuba diving, plus the fact that same week I had fully serviced my regulator. I had two strong reasons to go diving!

After I checked the website of Haydee of New England, I decided the better place to go it was South Shore!

So I ended up going at Egypt Beach, Scituate!

The air temperatures were at 40° to 41°F , and in the water it was 51° Fahrenheit!

After suiting up and submerging, I figured out that the visibility was about 15 to 20 feet, and the water was calm! I dove for about one hour and enjoyed every single second of it !. I reached a maximum depth of 16 feet and I ended up catching three lobsters!

It was a beautiful day, and hopefully we'll see more days like that, so we can continue to dive in the winter!



GO ON TO NEXT PAGE

PARTING THOUGHTS &...

New Year's Resolution from Dodge Morgan, former world record holder for the fastest single-handed circumnavigation of the earth by sail:

"Any goal, one day at a time."

&

"A good snapshot stops a moment from running away."

- Eudora Welty, Southern novelist



Santa Undersea

Cartoon & Poem

By Jim Hamilton

*Mostly bird but partly fish
Penguins seem quite mermaidish
Happy both on land and sea
They help Santa joyously*

*Underwater Rudolph changes
Gains some fins and rearranges
Santa, though, needs scuba gear
For delivering Christmas cheer*

"No! No!" You say, "These must be lies!

He doesn't swim. I'm sure he flies.
And Rudolph doesn't change himself.

A penguin, too, is not an elf."

Though you may doubt this soggy fable

Let's hope this year that you are able

To make a holiday wish come true
For someone near and dear to you

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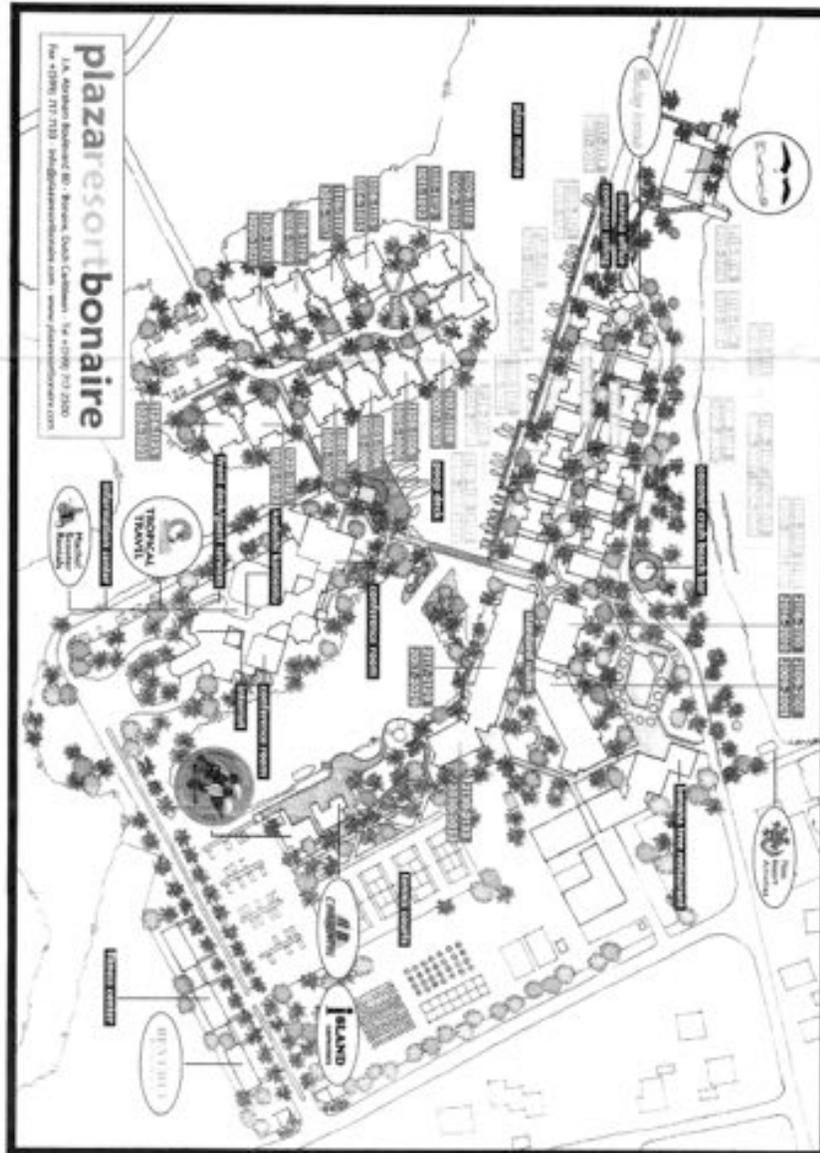
...PARTING SHOT

Congratulations to **Bruce Lane**, proud grandfather to twins Hannah and Hailey.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS & NEW YEAR!

PLAZA RESORT BONAIRE



We are going back to Bonaire!

Divers and non-divers rave about Bonaire. The hotel, the food, the beach and pool, and of course, the people!

We are going May 6, 2023 to May 13, 2023. The resort and dive pricing are outstanding. See enclosed room categories and pricing.

Airfare is NOT included. All of your food and drinks, including adult beverages, are included.

A \$300. Check or money order deposit is required by November 11, 2022 to hold your spot. This deposit needs to be sent to Debie at Wayland Travel. The address and contact information are at the top of the resort pricing package.

You must also call me or leave a voice mail at my office # 781-826-2505.

When you send your \$300. Per person deposit to Debie, you need to include, for each person, the 2-part picture page of your passport book, what type of room you would like, how many people will be in your room and who in your party are divers or non-divers. Ask Debie if you have any questions.

Flight information should be available as soon as we have deposits and a better count of how many in the group.

March 1, 2023 is when payment for the balance of the trip is due. A refund for the deposit is available until March 1, 2023 if you need to cancel.

Please call me at 781-826-2505 or Debie at Wayland Travel if you have any questions.

Just a note/suggestion on the dive packages from the previous trips and divers. Most divers opt for the two tank morning dives. Since unlimited shore diving is included free in the dive package, afternoon and evening shore diving anywhere from the island does not cost extra. You can ask me for details if you have any questions.

John Blackadar

10-12-22

Debie Isroff | Travel Advisor
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 this call.

THESE PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE AIRFARE. WE
 EXPECT AIRFARE TO RUN ABOUT \$900.

NOTE all the prices **DO NOT INCLUDE** the tourist tax which
 right now is \$45.50 and round trip airport transfers which
 are \$22.00 per person. That could change so that is why it
 is not included.

Everything else includes: Buffet style breakfast, lunch and
 dinner, small snacks during the day, unlimited local drinks,
 frequent daytime and evening activities, free Wi-Fi , room
 safe, beach towels, hotel taxes and service charges. Prices
 are based on per person basis under the occupancy and
 room types.

Junior suite laguna view-double occupancy

Six days afternoon single dive and unlimited shore:
 1656.00pp

Six days 2 tank morning dives and unlimited shore:
 1756.00

Six days of two tank morning dives and single afternoon
 dive and unlimited shore: 2056.00

Non diver price: 1224.75

Junior suite laguna view-single occupancy

Six days afternoon single dive and unlimited shore: 2461
Six days 2 tank morning dives and unlimited shore: 2561
Six days of two tank morning dives and single afternoon dive
and unlimited shore: 2861
Non diver price: 2029.75

Junior suite laguna view-triple occupancy

Six days afternoon single dive and unlimited shore: 1449.00pp
Six days 2 tank morning dives and unlimited shore: 1549.00
Six days of two tank morning dives and single afternoon dive
and unlimited shore: 1849.00
Non diver price: 1017.75

Junior suite laguna view-quad occupancy

Six days afternoon single dive and unlimited shore: 1346pp
Six days 2 tank morning dives and unlimited shore: 1446.00
Six days of two tank morning dives and single afternoon dive
and unlimited shore: 1746.00
Non diver price: 914.75

Junior suite pool view-double occupancy

Six days afternoon single dive and unlimited shore: 1726.25pp
Six days 2 tank morning dives and unlimited shore: 1826.25
Six days of two tank morning dives and single afternoon dive
and unlimited shore: 2126.25
Non diver price: 1294.75

Junior suite pool view-single occupancy

Six days afternoon single dive and unlimited shore: 2601pp

Six days 2 tank morning dives and unlimited shore: 2701

Six days of two tank morning dives and single afternoon dive and unlimited shore: 3001

Non diver price: 2169.75

Junior suite pool view-triple occupancy

Six days afternoon single dive and unlimited shore: 1495pp

Six days 2 tank morning dives and unlimited shore: 1595

Six days of two tank morning dives and single afternoon dive and unlimited shore: 1895

Non diver price: 1063.75

Junior suite pool view-quad occupancy

Six days afternoon single dive and unlimited shore: 1380.63pp

Six days 2 tank morning dives and unlimited shore: 1480.63

Six days of two tank morning dives and single afternoon dive and unlimited shore: 1780.63

Non diver price: 949.38

Grand suite Laguna view-double occupancy

Six days afternoon single dive and unlimited shore: 1796.25pp

Six days 2 tank morning dives and unlimited shore: 1896.25

Six days of two tank morning dives and single afternoon dive

and unlimited shore: 2196.25

Non diver price: 1365.00

Grand suite Laguna view-single occupancy

Six days afternoon single dive and unlimited shore: 2741.25pp

Six days 2 tank morning dives and unlimited shore: 2841.25

Six days of two tank morning dives and single afternoon dive and unlimited shore: 3141.25

Non diver price: 2310.00

Grand suite Laguna view-triple occupancy

Six days afternoon single dive and unlimited shore: 1542.50pp

Six days 2 tank morning dives and unlimited shore: 1642.50

Six days of two tank morning dives and single afternoon dive and unlimited shore: 1942.50

Non diver price: 1111.25

Grand suite Laguna view-quad occupancy

Six days afternoon single dive and unlimited shore: 1415.63pp

Six days 2 tank morning dives and unlimited shore: 1515.63

Six days of two tank morning dives and single afternoon dive and unlimited shore: 1815.63

Non diver price: 984.38

Grand suite ocean view-double occupancy

Six days afternoon single dive and unlimited shore: 1883.75pp
Six days 2 tank morning dives and unlimited shore: 1983.75
Six days of two tank morning dives and single afternoon dive
and unlimited shore: 2283.75
Non diver price: 1452.50

Grand suite ocean view-single occupancy

Six days afternoon single dive and unlimited shore: 2916.25ppp
Six days 2 tank morning dives and unlimited shore: 3016.25
Six days of two tank morning dives and single afternoon dive
and unlimited shore: 3316.25
Non diver price: 2485.00

Grand suite ocean view-triple occupancy

Six days afternoon single dive and unlimited shore: 2251.25pp
Six days 2 tank morning dives and unlimited shore: 2351.25
Six days of two tank morning dives and single afternoon dive
and unlimited shore: 2651.25
Non diver price: 1820

Grand suite ocean view-quad occupancy

Six days afternoon single dive and unlimited shore: 1459.38pp
Six days 2 tank morning dives and unlimited shore: 1559.38
Six days of two tank morning dives and single afternoon dive
and unlimited shore: 1859.38
Non diver price: 1028.13

South Shore Neptunes

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

WHEN: *Saturday, January 28, 2023*

WHERE: *The Common Market*
97 Willard Street, Quincy, MA

Cocktails *(cash bar): 6:30 PM*

Dinner: *7:00 PM*

Chicken Fish Beef

COST: \$35.00 per person

*Please RSVP to a Club Officer or Board Member by
Tuesday, January 10, 2023*

South Shore Neptunes
Information Page

Want to Go Diving and Need a Buddy?

Club Hotline: Call or text 617-804-5637

Don't forget to visit the club store at

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



for the latest in club swag.

CLUB OFFICERS, 2022			BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022	
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