



Sounding

Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes

Calendar 2022

- 1/29 Annual Banquet@Common Market; CANCELED
- 2/1 General Meeting**
- 2/6 Club Dive
- 2/8 Board Meeting
- 2/15 Program
- 2/20 Club Dive
- 3/1 General Meeting**
- 3/6 Club Dive
- 3/8 Board Meeting
- 3/15 Program
- 3/20 Club Dive
- 4/3 Club Dive**
- 4/5 General Meeting
- 4/12 Board Meeting
- 4/19 Program
- 4/24 Club Dive
- 5/1 Club Dive**
- 5/3 General Meeting
- 5/10 Board Meeting
- 5/15 Club Dive
- 5/17 Program
- 6/7 General Meeting**
- 6/12 Club Dive
- 6/14 Board Meeting
- 6/21 Program
- 6/26 Club Dive
- 7/5 General Meeting**
- 7/10 Club Dive
- 7/12 Board Meeting
- 7/24 Club Dive

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACTIVITIES, & REMINDERS

- **In the News: Rob Robison** named **Diver's Market Diver of the Year**. For more information, go to: < <https://www.diversmarket.com/pages/Newsroom.cfm>> and click on News.
- **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: <jsomes@gmail.com>
- **Club General, Board, and Program night meetings are now via Zoom only 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 2020.**
- **Mass Non-Commercial Lobster License Updates:2021 Non-Commercial Lobster Permits Extended Through February 28, 2022:** Due to delays in the processing of 2022 permit renewals and the new MassFishHunt permitting system, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has extended the validity of 2021 Non-Commercial Lobster Permits through February 28, 2022. Valid 2022 permits will be required beginning on March 1, 2022. For more info go to:<<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MADMF/bulletins/3050011>>
- **Bay State Council: Dues have increased from \$5.00 to \$10.00.** Neptunes members pay \$8.00 to join BSC and the Club covers the remaining @2.00 per person balance. For an update on the **Back Beach Lawsuit**, please check out this link: <https://www.gloucestertimes.com/news/broken-phone-leads-back-beach-neighbor-committee-to-drop-deadlines/article_e300d7a2-2dea-11ec-bbdd-

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• **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 enhance stories, so please include them if you can. Don't forget

Annual Awards, 2021

Diver of the Year

Rookie Diver of the Year
& Artifact of the Year

Largest Lobster 2021

Chuck Zarba

Rob Foley

Todd Alger



Whitney Glass Bottle, 1883-1919

4.33lbs.



Photo of the Year
Matt Meyer

Video Clip of the Year
Todd Alger



Flabellina verrucosa
(Pebble Beach)



Mola Mola
(Click on photo above to watch)

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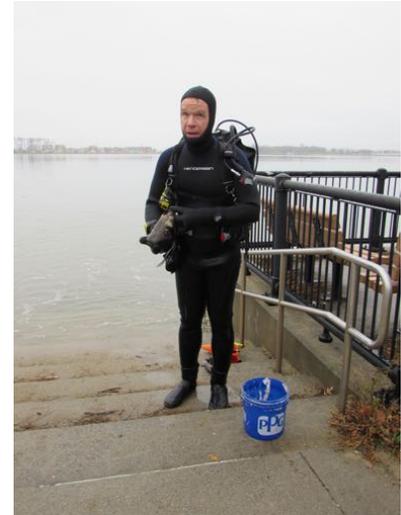
ACTIVITIES & DIVES



Sober Up Dive, January 1, 2022.

Story by *Todd Alger*, photos by *Theresa Czerepica*

New Year's Day 2022, was a beautiful day for diving, at least for this time of year. The air temperature was in the 50s, which was awesome for the New Year's dive. I could actually feel my hands when I took off my dive gear. I arrived at the dive site at around 9 a.m. There were a lot of Neptunes there already, but some



regulars were missing. After some conversation, it was confirmed that there were Neptunes out with Covid, which took away from the number of divers who made the dive. We had four Neptunes dive

Pleasure Bay: **Todd Alger, Adrienne Murphy, Joe Kilcommons, and Jason Brown.** Joe swam out the furthest but no one had a 2022 lobster license and no one brought back lobster. **J a s o n** managed to find a very nice bottle. He said he saw an outline in the sand and dug it up.



Jimmy Walker and **Billy Burchill**, two intrepid Neptunes, dove into the VERY cold water wearing only bathing suits, L Street Brownie style.

A large contingent of Neptunes provided shore support.

Clockwise:Adrienne Murphy,;Jason Brown;Story-tellers 1 & 2; Jimmy Walker & Bill Burchill flexing



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They were **Paul Green, Theresa Czerepica, Tom Guild, Rob Foley, Sokol Prifti, Ken Hayes, Jay Theriault** and **Adrienne's dad**.

After the dive, we headed to Darcy's for post dive food and drink. Because of the Covid surge, we decided to use caution and sat outside. The Darcy's staff was kind enough to turn on the outdoor heaters, and with the warm weather and the heaters the crew that went to Darcy's had a great time. At Darcy's: *Todd Alger, Paul Green, Joe Kilcommons, John Blackadar, Billy Burchill, Theresa Czerepica, Tom Guild, and Ken Hayes.*

Kayak Diving 2021 and Before (or From Yesteryear to the Present, sort of). *Story, still photo, & video clip by Todd Alger*

It was late summer of 2003. All summer I had been diving with **Bob Bell** and we had both just joined the Neptunes. I had been talking to Bob about trying out kayak diving and he was eager to give it a shot. We just needed a day we were both available and I could borrow my kayak diving buddy's kayak and truck. We decided on a Saturday in August to do it. We planned on launching from Minot Beach and diving Collamore Ledge, which is a little over 1 mile from the beach. This was a typical kayak dive we were doing in those days.



We packed up the kayaks, got to the beach, and began gearing up. Unfortunately, the weather had not cooperated with us that day. It was a tropical storm. It was not raining but the seas were very big. We debated on whether we should stop at that point and go home, but we decided we'd keep going with the dive. We unloaded the kayaks from the truck and loaded all of our gear into the kayaks. We paddled out to the site and the waves were very large and crashing over the boats. I set the anchor line and the line connecting the boats was really being yanked upon. The cleat on the boat actually became loosened when we checked it after we were finished and were back on the beach.

Because of the weather, we debated canceling the dive and just paddling back in, but decided since we were already there, we might as well dive. We got to the bottom and the surge was the worst I have ever experienced in my entire diving career. It was whipping us back and forth around 20' on each surge. The sea grass was a blur, as it flashed in front of my eyes. We did not let that stop us but continued chasing bugs for the entire dive and just tried to hang onto rocks during the surge. At the end of the dive, we finally decided enough was enough and it was time to go back to the beach.

We did not do our second dive. I am not sure if we would have been able to switch tanks anyway because of the waves. I tried and failed to pull my anchor up and had to leave the anchor behind. The

4

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waves were so big, I actually surfed my fully loaded kayak onto the beach.

That was the last kayak dive I did until 2021. The main reason was that I joined the Neptunes and could go out in motorboats any time I wanted. In those days there were more boats than divers sometimes.

In summer of 2019, I noticed that Lanes Cove had built kayak racks. One of the biggest obstacles in Kayak diving is transporting the kayak and finding a put-in spot near where you want to dive. The Lanes Cove kayak rack solved those problems. After some research I found that anyone could have access to them by signing up with the Gloucester harbormaster. I mentioned this to Rob Vice, and he surprised me by saying he'd love to do it. So we put our names in for kayak rack slots in the fall of 2019.

We got our slots in 2021. We did multiple kayak dives from Lane's Cove this year. Rob was out of the country for a month during the height of dive season, which cut into our plans to do some more challenging kayak dives like the Poling and a few other ideas we have, but we still got a ton of kayak dives in and really enjoyed the experience.

Check out the short video I took of Kayak diving to get a feel of it. The video is of our last kayak dive of the 2021 season. It shows set-up, a bit of paddling, and the steps to get into the water from a kayak. Click on the link below to watch the video.

<https://youtu.be/RiWrbKRJSk8>



Duxbury Beach and the Snowy Owls, Dec. 1-7, 2021. Story and photos by Rob Robison

Following Thanksgiving, I spent 10 days in self-isolation due to exposure to COVID 19. As part of my routine, long 3-5 mile walks along Duxbury Beach helped maintain fitness and connection to the outdoors and watery world. I made three such walks on Duxbury Beach in search of the Snowy Owls.



Because Powder Point Bridge was closed for repairs, I entered the beach area via the Marshfield side and drove slowly along the deep potholed sandy dirt road. Up ahead, I saw what looked to be a lot of cars parked along the road way. Drawing nearer, a gaggle of photographers with tripods and monster telescopic lenses were congregated in a singular spot and focused on a couple of fence posts at least 30-40 yards away. I drove past them to the paved parking lot and slowly walked back to where the photographers had taken

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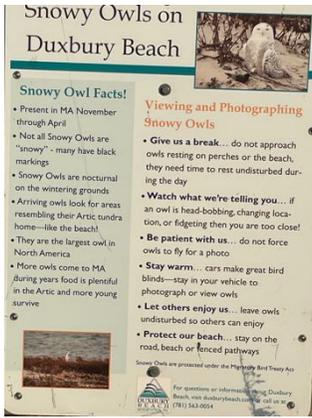


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up their station. In the distance two snowy owls could be seen perched on a couple of the fence posts. It was the first time I had ever seen them live in the wild, so to speak. However, they were too far away for my iPhone camera, so I moved on and walked the beach as intended.



A few days later I returned, parked once again in the paved lot, and started my walk toward Gurnet Point. Usually, I walk the beachside first and return via the sandy dirt road that runs parallel.

However, due to the high winds that day, I started along the road intending to return via the beach, which would be more protected from the wind. This was a fortuitous choice because along the way, I ran into the photographers' gaggle once again. The owls had moved farther south along the beach front. Only this time, the owls were much much closer--incredible! In fact, they were close enough in range, I was able to take some half decent photos of them, although the images are not always as sharp as one would wish.



I also took advantage of the mid afternoon light to photograph the beach grass in its winter garb. It reminded me in a far off way of the grassy field from the 1948 painting, Christina's World, by Andrew Wyeth. Additionally, a number of surf clams littered the beach, deposited on shore from recent powerful storms, and other items of interest became subject matter, as well.

I hope these photographs imbue you with a modicum of the same joy I experienced while walking Duxbury Beach in early December 2021. *For more photos, go to the club FB Page under Posts.*



Peter demonstrating neutral buoyancy

Hathaway's Pond. Sunday, January 9, 2022. *Story & photos by Rob Robison*

Around Christmastime, I found myself exposed once again to COVID 19. The ensuing 10-day isolation period caused me to miss the South Shore Neptunes traditional New Year's Day Sober Up Dive, one of my two most favorite dives each year. So, you can imagine the elation and pent up energy that flooded this author when he tested Negative this morning and joined forces with his erstwhile winter



dive buddy, Peter Ninh, at Hathaway's Pond in Barnstable for his first dive of the New Year.

We met around 9:30 AM. The ice and snow were still on the ground from the storm a few days prior and the sky was overcast and somewhat gray. A few long wafers of tissue paper-thin ice could be seen offshore floating about, soon to be melted away by the ever-warming winds, as air temperatures eventually rose from the high 20s,

low 30s, to the high 40s.

As we suited up and waded into the water to put on our fins, Bill Jeter, a wonderful diver who routinely patrols the water and shore of the pond, drove up to see who was getting wet and wished us well. Then, we submerged and followed the underwater stone path to the Entry Exit sign and headed in a westerly direction and down to a depth of 26'.

The winter world we encountered was perfectly still in the 38°F water. No fish, snails, crawdads, or other living critters could be seen through the 10' vis and haze. Approximately 20 minutes later, we



emerged. Ever the hunter, Peter spotted a weight pouch for a BC on the bottom near my feet where I was removing my fins before walking out of the pond. Turns out, it belonged to one Tom Fitzgerald, who works for Divers' Market. I was able to return it to him within a day of the find. He was very happy, to say the least.

Back to the story: Bill greeted us as we climbed out and wondered aloud where the tech diver plebes were he had seen at the pond not so long ago with their electric heated drysuits.

Conditions were perfect for a training run in those types of undergarments.

Removing our gear, it was evident I was soaked from head to toe because I had forgotten to check my neck seal in my haste to get wet. Water was dripping off me like rain running off a roof. Peter razzed me because he was in his 7 mm wetsuit with some Under Armour long johns and two neoprene vest layers to keep him wet and warm.



Once our gear was stowed, we said goodbye to Bill and decided to celebrate another fabulous adventure in the underwater world by munching on loaded 1/2 lb. Angus cheeseburgers at KKatie's Burger Bar in downtown Plymouth. Yum! Where there's a will to dive into it, there's a way with a good dive buddy like Peter.

For more photos, go to the club FB Page under Posts.

Safe living ,safe diving into it,

Rob

PARTING THOUGHTS & SHOT

Happy New Year!



Welcome to 2022!



GO ON TO NEXT PAGE



South Shore Neptunes

Information Page

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

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Treasurer	Theresa Czerepica	
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Secretary	Rob Robison	
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