



Sounding

Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACTIVITIES, & REMINDERS

Calendar 2022

July

5 General Meeting
 10 Club Dive 8AM
 12 Board Meeting
 16 Women's Dive Day.
 8AM-12PM See Flyer P12
 16 ~~CANCELED~~ Nantucket
 Lightship Museum
 Outing: Cookout & museum
 visit starting at 4PM. Details
 in cover letter
 23 NEADC Annual Fish Count.
 Details P.13
 24 Club Dive 8AM
 30 CLUB CANAL CRUISE.
 Details PP 2; 14

August

2 General Meeting 7PM
 7 Duxbury Outing (Tent)
 9 Board Mtng 7PM
 14 Club Dive 8AM
 28 Club Dive 8AM

September

6 General Meeting 7PM
 11 Club Dive
 13 Board Mtng 7PM
 18 BSC Treasure Hunt@Stage
 Fort Park, Gloucester, Tent.

20 Program TBA

25 Club Dive

October

30 - 2 Boston Sea Rovers
 Annual Clinic Doubletree
 Hilton Danvers

- **Women Club Members Only Night Out.** Details TBA. Watch for a special email in the near future!
- Info on **Women's Dive Day Saturday, July 16** can be found on **P. 12** of the newsletter. If you intend to participate, **purchase your parking pass** from the Gloucester Website **TODAY!**
- See **Page 13** for details on the **NEADC Annual Fish Count Saturday, April 23.**
- **Club Cape Cod Canal Cruise Saturday, July 30.** See **Pages 2 & 14** for complete details and ticket purchase info
- **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.*
- 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.

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EVENTS ...



Born: To **Megan and Rob Foley** on June 19, 2022, Father’s Day, a 7.7lb., 20”long baby boy, **Levi James Foley** (L). Congratulations to Megan and Rob!

Also, to the daughter and son-in law, Marisa and Chris Almonte, of Neptune Life Member **Rich Bowers**, his second granddaughter, **Quinn Lorraine Almonte** (R).

Recovering: **Annetta Burchill**, wife of **Bill Burchill**, and **Bill Burchill**, from recent illnesses.

In Memoriam:The father and father-in-law of Neptune Life Members Teri Hayes and Kenneth Hayes, **Paul Gillis**, passed away June 29, 2022. For arrangements and obituary see: [<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/paul-gillis-obituary?id=35650980>]. The Neptunes extend Teri and her extended family our deepest sympathies.



Club Event

CAPE COD CANAL CRUISE

<https://hylinecruises.com/schedules-rates/cape-cod-canal-cruises/Saturday July 30, 2022, Onset, MA.>

Canal Boat Tour: Begins at the Onset Town Pier, tours the Onset Harbor Bay and the Cape Cod Canal. Returns to Onset Town Pier.

Duration: 1:30 PM. - 3:30 PM

Tickets: 30 minutes prior to departure from **Blackie** who **will have the tickets** to distribute.

Cost:\$22.00 per adult; children are \$13.00 ea., ages 5-12 with ID.

Reserve tickets/more info with **Blackie** at **July 12** Board Meeting or by calling him at 781-826-2505 (Messages) or 781-910-4643.

SEE ALSO PAGE 14 for COMPLETE INFO

Remember, if you reserve tickets, you own them!

& DIVES

Club Boat Dive, July10, 2022. *Story and photos by Tommy Lo & Rob*

Divers **Joe Kilcommons** and **Sokol Prifti** assembled for the club dive at Quincy Yacht Club, where Tommy keeps his 21’ Privateer while **Jason Brown, Rob Foley, Ken Hayes, Shayne Kennedy,** and **Matt Meyer,** and **Jeff**, a friend of Lenny’s boarded at the Old Colony Yacht Club in Dorchester, home port to **Lenny Picot’s** 34+ foot Luhrs Cabin Cruiser. The two boats rafted up near Graves Light in outer Boston harbor for a two-

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Happy Diving

From

JOHN & KATHY BLACKADAR

tank dive in cold and at times choppy water. Fortunately, no one fed the fish on this dive trip. A seal that had bitten **Paul Greene** on a dive the previous day and chewed on **Todd Alger's** fins, was spotted sunning itself on the Graves Lighthouse riprap and frolicking in the water. Despite the sighting, it was a great dive trip. Many lobsters and one flounder were brought back on board and kept the spirits high



on the way back to port. Apparently, Lenny's boat experienced a raw water leak and lost the services of one of its two engines on the return trip, which was otherwise without incident. All returned safely.



Post dive story telling took place at QYC with Tommy Lo, Todd Alger, Paul Greene, Ken Hayes, Rob Foley, Sokol P and Joe Kilcommons. What a great day to be on the water!

The Big Ones that Got Away! Friday, July 8, 2022.

Story & photos by Rob

This story began two or three days prior to the Friday morning dive we made at Beadle Rocks from the Sport Commando, when I made the acquaintance of Alisa Daniels, who told me a little about herself and her interest in diving during the week. She mentioned she knew Mike Vaughan, a frequent dive buddy. Needing a



weekday dive partner, I decided to offer her an opportunity to dive with me on the Sport

Commando, my 15.5' Zodiac, powered by a 50 hp Evinrude e-tech engine. She took me up on it.

Alisa and I met at the Marshfield Town Landing in Green Harbor, loaded up Commando, and launched on a gorgeous Friday morning with flat seas and an air temp to die for, not too hot, not too cool. It was perfect. As

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Commando's 50 ponies powered us across the water to the dive site, Alisa let on that she had divemastered for many of Al's classes at South Shore Divers, so many of you who have traded with Al may actually know her.

We anchored easily, struggled into our respective wetsuits and gear, and back rolled into the water. After taking a few photos, we headed down the anchor line, cognizant of the south-to-north running current. Once on the bottom, 33' below the surface, we set the anchor more snugly into the sand and headed into the current. It seemed like a good spot to search on the rock sand line.



Shortly after beginning to hunt for critters to photograph, I realized due to the current we were on the wrong end of the reef. We were quickly reaching the end of it and heading for acres of sand instead of more productive areas to explore. So I made an ad hoc decision for us to swim in concentric circles radiating from the anchor, to keep us from straying too far from the boat while remaining in the more productive areas of the reef. It turned out to be a good move. We ran into several lobsters of varying sizes, some of which would have been keepers, had we brought our game bags along. We found a doormat flounder that was nigh 20" long leaning up against a huge boulder, which served as a camouflage background for the flat fish. Alisa also wanted me to look on the other side of the boulder where she had seen a big bug, but unfortunately it had not enjoyed the commotion and had withdrawn underneath the rocks and disappeared back into its cave.



We meandered a bit further and came to a crevice, where staring me eyeball to eyeball was a very large Codfish (Above left), the likes of which I haven't seen in 40 years! I was so startled, it took a long instant or two to realize what I was actually seeing. By the time I recovered enough to point my camera in its direction, the fish began



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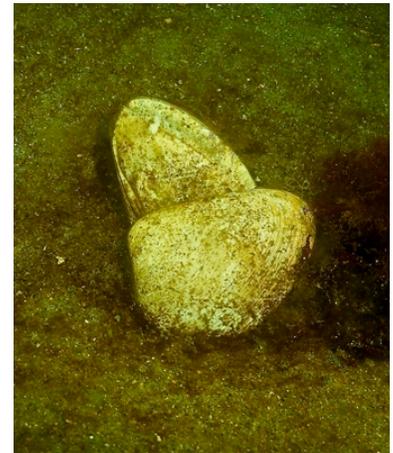
to swim away. I was able to take a shot looking down at the cod, but the distance from the camera and my wide angle lens disguised its true size. I estimated it between 6 - 10lbs!

Continuing along slowly and within a minute of the cod experience, I found myself gaping at a very large fish head in the seaweed. It was a huge striped bass! As I moved my camera into position, the striper sensed the heat from the twin 4500 Lumens video cam lights and shot off, not to be seen again on this dive. Wow! I've never seen an adult striper underwater.

Simply incredible!

Our track led us to a number of trawl lines and lobster pots, one of which contained a nice lobster and what appeared to be a live shorthorn sculpin, which was keeping it company in the trap. I'm unclear as to the sculpin's happiness finding itself caged with a large live lobster.

About 42 minutes into the dive, we both felt chilled in the 51° water, surfaced, clambered into Commando, stowed our gear, and headed back to the harbor and nearby Haddad's Ocean Café for fried haddock, fish tacos, and beer. It was Alisa's first dive of the season and my first off Commando this summer. We dove very well together--there definitely will be more boat dives this summer--and enjoyed a remarkable first summer-of-22 dive off the Zodiac.



Empty sea clam shells suitable for soap dishes

Divining the Wreck of the Vandenberg in the Florida Keys. July 2022. *Story by Rob Christian; photos from FINZ DC website.*

Over the 4th of July holiday I took a trip down to Key West with a friend, a non-diver. Most of you probably know the struggle of trying to get some diving in when your traveling partner doesn't dive. My strategy was to not think of it as a dive trip and when I did get some dives in, it was just the cherry on top. The Keys at the peak of summer aren't for the faint of heart, with 90+ degree days at 100% humidity. But hey, the tickets were cheap (at least back in March they were). I did a couple reef dives, but they were a bit lackluster, dived out and way too warm, even with no suit on, so I won't go into detail in this article. But fortunately, the General Hoyt S. Vandenberg wreck was another story and made for some great diving. I had the opportunity to do two 2-tank dives during my trip, once in the morning and the other at night.

First, a bit about the wreck. The Vandenberg (<https://finzdivecenter.com/dives/vandenberg-dive/>) was a former military troop transport that served as a ship to bring back troops from the

5

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Pacific during WWII. The vessel is 522 ft and was sunk about 7 miles offshore Key West in 140 fsw on May 27, 2009, with the purpose of creating an artificial reef and recreational dive site. She consists of a single level main deck with two structures, one topping out at about 60 fsw and the other at about 70 fsw. The main deck rests at about 100 fsw. This wreck is a tech diver's paradise, with the entries below deck nice and wide and entering into spacious rooms, and with three below deck levels (at least, from what I could see). I imagine this wreck is surpassed in the area only by the USS Spiegel Grove. My dives were within recreational limits, with only brief penetrations into the hold, perhaps in the next life I'll come back as a tech diver! But there was plenty to see, both of the vessel and the

surrounding teeming sea life, with brilliant anemones, giant grouper, barracuda, parrotfish, angelfish, and all the other colorful sea life of the upper Caribbean.

My first dive on the wreck, a two-tank morning dive, was with Captains Corner, a larger operation on a vessel that could fit about 20 divers and hosted 10 that morning. Once we got out of the harbor, I fortunately found the sea was a bit cooler. But with 86 degree surface temps, not by much! We hooked up to a mooring attached to the stern structure and were graced with calm seas and an easy entry. Vis was about 20 feet, not bad for a local Mass dive, but the local divemasters later just complained about how bad the vis was. Don't they have it easy? Once I reached the deck, at about 100 fsw, I was shocked to see the temperature on my computer chime in at 82 degrees. Surely a problem with my computer? Nope, later I learned that was the temperature, confirmed by other divers. I was immediately glad I passed on wearing my 3 mm suit. I enjoyed a 30 minute dive with a divemaster as a buddy, as we had an odd number of divers and I was the lucky solo diver who didn't get hitched with a diver that probably hadn't dived in over a year. The divemaster pointed out features such as an underwater 9/11 memorial consisting of two slabs of stone from the twin towers and a room within the first level below deck with the flag of the Grateful Divers (a charitable organization of dive ambassadors founded in 1995 by Grateful Dead drummer Bill Kreutzmann, an avid diver). An uneventful ascent and safety stop was followed by a similar second dive. A highlight for sure as I returned to non-diver activities for the remainder of the day.

My second trip to the wreck was with FINZ (finzdivecenter.com), a smaller dive operation crewing a 6-pack vessel. The marina was a bit further away from the central features of Key West, but only by 15 minutes, and was more the type of operation I prefer, well worth the short trip. The vessel was crewed by two operators, the divemaster, a lovely young lady named Ashley from Texas, and the captain, a quieter young gentleman but highly competent boat operator. This was a night dive on the Vandenberg, my favorite type of dive as a self proclaimed night owl. I was diving with one other couple who had dived within the year. I could tell right away this was going to be one for the books. We anchored on the same mooring as my previous morning dive and were immediately put on a world class tour of the ship by Ashley.

Ashley knew this wreck like the back of her hand, and provided a tour she'd clearly put some thought and effort into getting down pat. What I found particularly enjoyable about this tour is that she managed to guide as if we were inside the wreck from the beginning. She leveraged this by changing levels using fixtures such as exterior stairs and coming in and out of the tower-type structures. She demonstrated an amusing performance of "standing" on the bow of the ship by getting very negatively buoyant and crossing her arms as if she were to jump off into the void. She showed much of the same features as my previous dive and we saw much of the same sea life. But we also got a tour of a room that was dedicated to POW-MIA troops, with the well known blag flag on display.



When all was said and done, I found myself thinking, "How many alive today have had the privilege of being on a shipwreck at 100 fsw in the pitch black?" Perhaps 10,000 out of 7.8 billion? In between dives, we enjoyed the sunset during our surface interval, a hell of a show in itself, diving aside. These two night dives were definitely ones I will remember and talk about with my fellow divers.

Should any members find themselves down the Keys, it is well worth the trip to Key West to dive the Vandenberg, and I personally would recommend diving with FINZI!

Rob Christian



Plymouth Beach. Remarkably, we all converged on the site at nearly the same time, suited up and traipsed over

Plymouth Long Beach PM Dive. Thursday, June 30, 2022. *Story by RobR; photos by Patrick Larivee & Rob R*
Neptunes Patrick Larivee, Adrienne Murphy, Joe Peters, plus Diver's Market Divemaster Brian Smith, and I joined up at Plymouth Long Beach around 5 PM on the last day of June to make a low tide dive at





the sand to the 60° — 62° water and waded in.

We split up into two groups, arrange our gear, masks, fins, and float flags, and headed out, reaching a max depth of somewhere between 7' — 8.' A number of you will think such shallow diving is not enjoyable; however, nothing could be further from the truth. Patrick



caught two nice lobsters; Joe and I reached the lobster traps and found two Selects inside of one of the pots we saw. I spotted some skeleton shrimp(Above right)

and Isopods, an unidentifiable egg

case, along with numerous squid egg cases, interesting moon snails, starfish, and crabs, plus some beautiful Green Fleece, submarine weeds, and at least one flounder, which was observed by Brian.



Afterwards, we landed at Sandy's Beach Bar and Restaurant, adjacent to our dive site, where Brian and I were joined by our wives, and where we all quaffed ice cold brews and other tasty

adult beverages, while reliving our 51- to 60-minute dives, feasting on great seafood, and enjoying the early evening sea breeze and water view. What a delightful way to spend the last day of June 2022!

Graves Light Club Dive. Sunday, June 26, 2022. *Story and photos by Rob R*

This morning 's club dive was a boat dive with on **Tommy Lo's** 21' Privateer, powered by a new Suzuki 175. Neptunes **Paul Green, Joe Peters** and I met up at





the old club house parking lot and were joined by **Rob Vice** who came over to chit chat but was not able to make the dive today. Joe and I drove over to the Quincy Yacht Club to catch up with Tommy and his friend, Jay, while Paul headed to South Shore Yacht Club to join **Todd Alger and Alex Wieck** on Alex's 24' Parker.

Tommy had propped the gate open with a chair, so we could offload our gear and cart

it to the gangway down to the dock, where his boat was tied and bobbing in the light breeze. Once loaded, we cast off for an area near Graves Light, found Alex and Paul and Todd nearby Alex's Parker 24 and rafted up.

Todd as per usual was first in the water. Joe and I were nearly last. While the rest of the crew hunted lobsters, Joe and I explored the area around the anchor and the massive boulders, coated thickly with zebra mussels. We found some clonal plumose anemones, urchins, a Rock Gannel (At right with starfish & at top left of following page), and some rock crabs between the depths of 28 - 43 feet. Vis was about 7 — 10' and there was surge at the shallower depths, but the boulders shielded us from the surge the deeper we dove. Joe found two lobsters, one an egger and the other a short.

Dive 2, at Martin's Ledge, was shorter because I only had half a tank left to burn and also because I had forgotten to attach my dry suit inflator hose. I had to resurface to take care of that because the dry suit squeeze was intolerable without the use of the inflator. We reached 46' on the dive, saw a Tautog and a few lobsters but not much else, due to





the short bottom time.

As we stowed our gear, the wind changed direction and picked up appreciably, causing us to unraft and head for the our respective yacht clubs lickety split. It was a great day for all of us on the water.

Saturday, June 25. *Story by Tommy Lo; photo by Rob*

Neptunes member **Todd Alger, Shayne Kennedy, Paul Greene, Alex Wieck** (Below Right), **Rob Vice, Sokol Prifti**, and I went for a boat dive on my 21' Privateer. Todd and Shayne met Alex and his wife Rachel at South Shore Yacht Club where he keeps his boat. Meanwhile, the remainder of the motley crew met me at Quincy Yacht Club (QYC).

We met up at Graves Light and rafted the boats together for our first dive. We encountered rolling 4 foot seas but they weren't too bad. At shallower depths we could feel the surge but not at deeper

depths. We saw a lot of Tautogs, cunners along with a bunch of lobsters and crabs. In some areas the vis went down to a foot at around 40 ft, while in other areas it was much better.

For our second dive we went to Martin's Ledge, and again we rafted the boats together. The surge wasn't as bad at Martin's, and we suited up, went in, and enjoyed a great dive. As we stowed our gear and got ready to weigh anchor, we were slinging the bull but had to cut it short because one of the divers was really seasick. The weather was great and for the most part the vis was pretty good.

Once back at QYC, we had a lunch of Vietnamese subs, and we were joined by QYC past president Paul Cavallaro and his wife Stephanie. A great time was had by almost all of us.



Tommy Lo

PARTING THOUGHT...

Folks, the time is now to get wet and enjoy the current sweet summer weather window while it lasts. It doesn't get any better than this diving into it.

Safe living ad safe diving,

Rob

&

Lobsters photo
by **Patrick Larivee**

Divers L - R: *Joe Peters,*
Brian Smith, Adrienne
Murphy, Patrick Larivee



SHOTS





JULY 16, 2022 from 8 am - 12 noon

Stage Fort Park • Gloucester, MA

Cost: \$18 - includes a BBQ and free t-shirt.

Whether you love diving, snorkeling, the ocean or even know of someone who does...
come share the passion!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

8:00-8:30 am	Registration for divers	10:45 am	Raffle announcements/ group photo
8:45 am.....	Orientation meeting		
9:00 am	Dive & fish count	11:30 am -12:00 noon ..	BBQ
10:30 am	Diving portion ends		

Note: The harbor master will be at the event, plus we will have kayaks in the water for support, a rescue plan in place, and guides in water.

Grand Prizes:

**A dive in the GIANT OCEAN TANK at New England Aquarium AND
7 nights stay and 5 days of diving TRUE BLUE RESORT/ Aquanauts-GRENADA**

Raffle Tickets are \$20 each or 3 for \$50. You can purchase tickets on eventbrite or at the event.

Lots of other raffle prizes including MW-4300 video light, Aqualung roller duffel bag, Fourth Element jacket, prescription mask, shorty 3 mm wetsuit, DAN products, Princeton Tec deluxe pack, night squid dive with Jerry Shine for two, photo dive with Andy Martinez, Scuba Sherpa for a dive, Megalodon sharks tooth, 7 mm dive booties, mask, fins, custom made octopus Afghan, ocean themed quilt and matching pillows, handmade wood lobster pen, Basket of Spicy Hot Sauces, membership Historical Dive Society, dive skins, sea glass jewelry, box of handmade chocolates, signed copy Into the Planet by Jill Heinerth, One Love One Ocean gift basket, Atlantis signed jigsaw puzzle, poster by Valerie Taylor poster, Ocean Metaphor Book, Stream2Sea, photo by Andrea Dec.

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Join **REEF** and the
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for the

19th Northeast Great Annual Fish Count

Help count fish and win prizes!

Each year divers help researchers by surveying fish populations.
Join the largest survey in North America! Multiple dive locations
and *fabulous raffle prizes!*

Celebration Location: Stage Fort Park, Gloucester, MA

Date: Saturday, July 23rd, 2022

Time: 11:30am-2pm: Picnic, 2:30pm: Photo, 3pm: Raffle*

- * \$7 donation for lunch. Divers turning in surveys will receive 1 raffle ticket.
- * Must be present to win. Winners: pick your own prize!
- ** **PARKING : MUST BE RESERVED IN ADVANCE. CASH NO LONGER ACCEPTED @ GATE. SEE WEBSITE BELOW FOR INFO.**
<https://gloucester-ma.gov/299/Beach-Information>
- ***COVID Policy : We will be following all MA State & local policies & Masks are recommended but not required

Think **BLUE** this dive season! Join the NEADC in our *Clean Up Each Dive* campaign!

- Pick up trash whenever you can both above and below water
- At lunch, bring along a bottle for free drink refills!

Dive Sites: Multiple dive locations, pre-registration required.
For more information or to register visit www.neadc.org/gafc



Help count fish all season!
visit www.REEF.org



Canal Cruise

On Saturday, July 30, 2022, the South Shore Neptunes are getting together in Onset, MA, a boat tour, which begins at the Onset Town Pier, tours the Onset Harbor Bay and the Cape Cod Canal, and returns to Onset Town Pier. The cruise last 2 hours and begins at 1:30 p.m. Tickets, however, must be picked up from me 30 minutes prior to departure. I will have the tickets. The cost is \$22.00 per adult and children are \$13.00, ages 5-12 with ID.

The cruise company highly recommends you arrive by 12:45 to allow time for drop off, parking and any remaining ticketing. So plan ahead. We all know Cape Cod traffic is unpredictable!

There is a nice take out restaurant, with outside seating, at the pier. Parking is available as well as shopping and a beach. Light snacks, beverages and cocktails are also available for purchase on the boat.

The Onset Town Pier is located at 184 Onset Ave, Onset, Cape Cod, MA. More information is available at hylinecruises.com.

I will need to know by Tuesday, July 12 who is coming and to get payment. If you are not going to the meeting on the 5th you can **leave a message on my business phone at 781-826-2505 and send a check**. Space is limited so book early. Family and friends are welcome.

Having done the trip once before I can tell you its a great trip. I will be there around 11:30 to have lunch at the harbor. If you have a problem, call my cell phone at **781-910-4643**.

Look forward to seeing you all !!!

Blackie (John Blackadar)

South Shore Neptunes Information Page

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

Club Hotline: Call or text 617-804-5637

Club Officers, 2022		
President	Ken Hayes	
	edkenhayes@gmail.com	781-335-7807
Vice President	Adrianna Mucchi	
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Treasurer	Theresa Caspica	
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Secretary	Rob Pollock	
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Paul Greene	617-694-2579
Tommy Lo	617-494-4204
Jay Theriault	617-525-9221
Rob Vice	413-255-1377
Chuck Zarba	508-693-2480
Tom Guild, 1st Alt.	617-484-4234
Sokol Priftis, 2nd Alt.	781-532-5406
Matt Meyer, 3rd Alt.	508-947-7834