



Sounding

*Newsletter of the
South Shore Neptunes*

Calendar 2022

March
3/30 Meetup at Precinct -10
Bar Quincy 7PM
April
4/3 Club Dive
 4/5 General Meeting
 4/12 Board Meeting
4/19 Speaker: Sarah McCormack: Whale & Dolphin Conservation
4/24 Club Dive/Beach Clean-up. Little Pond@ Morton Park (Plymouth)
May
5/1 Club Dive
 5/3 General Meeting
5/10 Program: Ben Haskell - NOAA Dept Supt.:New Perspectives Managing Historic Shipwrecks in Stellwagen Bank
5/15 Club Dive
 5/17 Board Meeting
June
 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

- **April 19 Sarah McCormack**, Stranding Coordinator for WDC North America Whales will be speaking on Whale & Dolphin Conservation, Rescue, and Response Program and how to become involved.
- 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*.
- 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-b399db5595cd.html?fbclid=IwAR0OzQI8Of33-TKmL1_Vo5MmPcpN8d0oup5GrOKIRllQIK-FZHP8Jz5ndPc>

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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



March Evening Program

Special thanks to **Bob Mannino**, director of the Nantucket Lighthouse Museum, for his presentation on the history of lightships and in particular the historic Nantucket lightship and its rescue, preservation, and conversion into a museum. If you weren't able to be present of zoom to see the slides and learn about the history of this famous lightship, you missed an great presentation. Thanks again, Bob

Next month, we welcome **Sarah McCormack**, Stranding Coordinator for WDC North America Whales .org

EVENTS & DIVES

Events



Sunday, April 24. Mark your calendars! The South Shore Neptunes are pleased to partner for the first time with Diver's Market of North Plymouth to conduct a Beach Cleanup at Little Pond in Plymouth's Morton Park. Diver's Market, a PADI Five-Star Facility, has been serving Plymouth area and Cape divers since 1985. They have been conducting these cleanups for over 30 years. Well-known owner, Wayne Gomer, offered "The Little Pond Beach Cleanup at Morton Park, which we conduct every fall and spring, is our way of giving back to the community and the Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department for allowing us to conduct dive training free of charge in a clean safe

environment." We couldn't have said it better!

Divers will need to arrive early to register, beginning at 10:00 AM, with John Blackadar and Bill Burchill, who will check them in and out of the water. Diving cleanup starts at 11:00 AM. Prizes will be awarded for the most unusual or interesting finds. Those who participate will be able to have their tanks refilled for free at the dive shop immediately following the cleanup. Morton Park has picnic tables, so bring a picnic lunch, some nonalcoholic beverages, and enjoy the pond area. Let's make this a great day to get wet and help the community at the same time! More details next month!



Wednesday, March 30: Meetup at Precinct-10 Restaurant at 7:00PM. Looking for a dive buddy anyone? Here's a flier about our **meetup for divers at 7:00PM on Weds., March 30, at Precinct 10, in Weymouth.**

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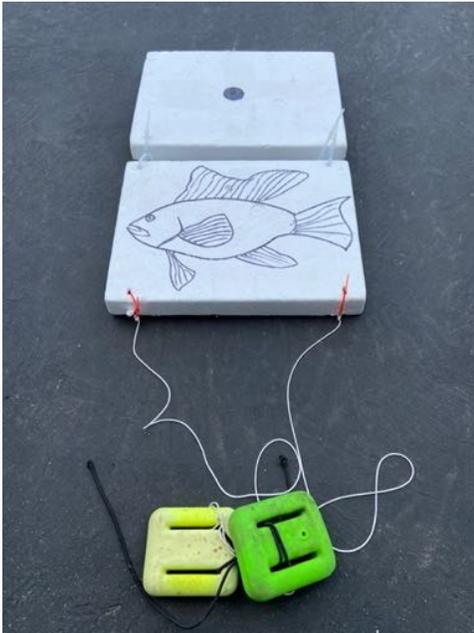
From

JOHN & KATHY BLACKADAR

Come to the meetup, get acquainted with divers who really dive, and maybe find a buddy or two or more! Hope to see you there. See **Page 8** for flier details!

Dives

Club Dive. Sunday, March 20, 2022. Ken Hayes & Todd Alger reported that they and club divers Sokol Prifti, Tommy Lo, and Rob Foley, who was the only one truly prepared to get wet, dove into breakfast at Mckays Breakfast and Lunch Restaurant. Apparently, it was warmer there than in the water.



John's Pond (Carver, MA) Diving Adventure. Sunday, March 20, 2022. Story and Photos by Rob R and Jessica

Ninh

Yesterday was an interesting day. Peter and I met at John's Pond on time at 9:30 sharp. Before starting to gear up, Peter showed me the short lanyards and clips he had made and assembled to attach the new spearguns we had purchased to our BCs. He also made a load assist device, necessary because the bands are VERY difficult to load. And he fashioned a target out of foam, complete with a drawing of a fish on the target square.

As we were putting on our

equipment, a young lady and perhaps her mother came by. We explained our gear and showed them our target and spearguns, which titillated their curiosity. They left as we entered the water, which turned out to be 45,° at 13,' according to my dive computer.

There were a couple of false starts. First, Peter needed to add more weight to submerge the target. The extra weight turned out to be insufficient, so he wrapped it around a log. However, the bottom was much siltier than we had been led to believe. The target was invisible from the turbidity we had stirred up with our feet and fins on entry. We decided to move into the



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shallow water, where the bottom is sandier, but the target turned away from us, due to slight wind and current, and the water remained occluded. Peter wanted me to shoot first, so I slowly turned with the target until it was facing me, made my only shot of the dive from about 10-15' away, and missed. Drat! My bad luck! I was not prepared for the recoil the powerful gun produced, which exceeded in actuality what I had understood from the literature and the dive shop owner's description. Clearly, the definition of "slight" is in the mind of the definer. Of course, it just could be that I am a terrible shot. By the same token, when it was Peter's turn, he loved the recoil because it confirmed the gun's power. These are beasts! By the way, Peter hit the target on his one and only attempt.



While he was shooting, I was standing out of harm's way, learning how to reload the gun. Our Pathos Roller Spearguns have a special butt above the pistol grip that extends a bit beyond it to assist with loading. Because our dive suits don't have pads on the chest to protect our suits and us from the strain and stress of loading the guns underwater, we bought pad vests to wear for protection. However, the vest pad surfaces were too slick, causing the gun butts to slip off when reloading in the water. In my case, the gun turned on its side and one of the (shark fin) tabs on the spear, used to hold the loaded rubber band in place, snagged on my dry suit and created a pinpoint leak. The flooding in my pant leg was instantaneous! That ended the morning dive. I was at the dive shop bright

and early this morning having it repaired.

After stowing our gear, we stopped at McDonald's for lunch and some post dive chitchat, BS, and planning for our followup before heading home. It was a great adventure with a great dive buddy. Can't wait for Part 2. Maybe I'll get lucky and even hit the target!

Club Dive at Pemberton Pier (Hull). Sunday, March 6, 2022. *Story by Ken Hayes; photo from Sokol Prifti*

Neptunes **Doug Eaton, Todd Alger,** and **Sokol Prifti** dove Pemberton Pier in Hull at the Gut, across the street from Hull High School. Vis was about 8' on a cool easy dive. No word on water temp or depth. Apparently, Doug lost a fin on his 30 minute dive, Sokol found a bottle, and he and Todd lasted nearly an hour in the drink. I think they all wound up at Darcy's afterwards to celebrate the remainder of the day.



Sokol Prifti

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South Quarry at Circleville (OH) Dive Center. Saturday, March 5, 2022. *Story and photos by Rob Robison*

I met up with my Ohio dive buddy, **John Skobel**, at the Circleville Dive Center, while on a sojourn to Columbus, OH to visit our daughter Lindsey. It was a wonderful warm day;



however, the water looked milky. After suiting up and a few false starts, we dropped in and down to the truck bed platform to orient ourselves and discovered 5'vis trying to become 3.' To say it another way, vis was as bad as it has ever gotten this time year. It was extremely difficult to take photos of any value due to the high concentration of particulate matter in the water. We circled two-thirds of the quarry. By the time we were in the home stretch, I needed to get out of the 42°F water because my neck seal was leaking and I was getting soaked from head to toe on this 41 minute dive. Our max depth was 18'.

Afterwards, we headed to the local burger and beer joint, Gibby's, to sample their finest. As we were sitting down to eat, **John Guegold** and **Steve King** found us and shared a few libations. They had finished their dives ahead of us in the North Quarry and had already eaten. It was just like old times: good food, good drink, and good dive buddies to share the afterglow of the day's underwater exploits.



Diving in San Diego. January 20-22, 2022. *Story, photo, and video clip by Jason Brown*

I made five excellent dives in San Diego in January to the Point Loma Kelp Beds and Coronado Islands in Mexico. I highly recommend Water Horse Charters (<https://www.waterhorsecharters.com/>) for these trips; they have a good operation, and comfortable boats, especially for an all-day outing.

The first two dives were in 50 feet of water, with kelp plants that start at the bottom, and reach all the

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way up to the surface! The water wasn't very warm, about 55°F, so I brought my gear and 7 mm wetsuit all the way from Boston.

The second dives were an all-day trip to the Coronado Islands, south of San Diego and off the coast of Mexico. The islands are rocky and not that interesting, but they are home to many sea lions and colorful fish. These dives varied from 25-50 feet, and almost as many sea lions! I made a 3-4 minute video of some of the footage I captured with my GoPro, before the battery died on me. There's a still below of the sea lions swimming around the group.

Overall, San Diego has warm weather and cold water in the winter, so it isn't as warm as Florida or the Caribbean, but it was a nice winter getaway for my wife and me. I plan to go back and dive the wreck of the HMCS Yukon, which was sunk just off San Diego as an artificial reef.

Video link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IWphXn_3O8

**Club Dive at Pleasure Bay (Boston Harbor).
Sunday, February 27, 2022.** *Story by Todd Alger*

Doug Eaton, **Rob Vice**, and I met at the old clubhouse for the club dive. We discussed diving in Hull but decided the tide was wrong to do a Pemberton pier dive and decided upon Pleasure Bay in South Boston.

It had snowed the Friday before the Sunday dive day, and we started off by scouting the entry near Sullivans. Because of the snow on Friday that entry was very icy, and we decided to go to our usual Pleasure Bay entry spot that we always use on the New Year's Sober Up dive. We felt that it was much safer to enter there.

RobV and I were diving wet and Doug was diving dry. Due to the gear, differences in timing, and Doug getting frozen hands before entering the water, Doug decided to pass on the dive. Rob and I made our way down to the water and started putting on our fins. It was at this point that I realized I had made a big error. I had gotten new dive boots for Christmas and was wearing them for the first time on this dive. Unfortunately, I had not tested to see if they fit into the pocket of my Jet fins until entering the water. They did not. It became very apparent that the new boots were the size of my dry suit boots. I did have the fins I use for my drysuit in the car but decided not to go through that hassle. My dive consisted of grabbing Rob's leg and sinking down about two feet to run a test on my second stage to see if it leaked. This new DIN regulator has never worked correctly and I sent it to Oceanic to get it fixed. This was my first dive using it after coming back from Oceanic. It still leaked. My advice is to not buy an Oceanic reg and to be very wary of any company under the Huish umbrella.



L - R: Rob Vice, Doug Easton

RobV did his dive. His dive was 20 minutes and his max depth was 20 feet. He found a few bottles but nothing worthy of entering in the annual artifact contest.

It was Sullivan's second day open of the season, and we took advantage and had a nice lunch there. We beat the crowd, which seemed to get bigger and bigger as we devoured our hot dogs and burgers. It was a very enjoyable dive day.

PARTING SHOTS

Special thanks to **Theresa Czerepica** and **Sokol Prifiti** for these photos from the Nantucket Lightship presentation:



Clockwise from left: Ken Hayes, Chuck Zarba, Bill Gallagher, Alex Wieck, Joe McAndrews, Bill Burchill, John Blackadar, Theresa Czerepica, Sokol Prifiti, María & Rob Vice, UNK object from Nantucket Lightship



PARTING THOUGHTS

It is that time of year: Time to get ready to get wet and dive into it.

Spring is here! The pool is open!

Safe living and safe diving everyone!

Rob

**SOUTH SHORE NEPTUNE'S
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Information Page

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Let's Go Diving!

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