



Soundings

March 2023

Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------|------------------------|
| 04/01/2023 | Wing it for Diving |
| 04/02/2023 | Club dive |
| 04/04/2023 | General Meeting |
| 04/11/2023 | Board Meeting |
| 04/16/2023 | Club dive |
| 05/06/2023 | Bonaire trip |
| 05/19/2023 | Ragnar race fundraiser |
| 05/21/2023 | Club dive |

Letter from the Editor

The Club thanks Roy Chamberlain for his Knife Sharpening class and the importance of having sharp dive knives.

Blackie (John Blackadar) called me the other day regarding the Sargassum in the Eastern Caribbean and the potential impact to Florida. The "Sargassum Sub-Regional Outlook Bulletin¹," indicates "There is still twice as much (202% more) sargassum visible out in the Atlantic as seen this time last year." However, they are expecting less Sargassum in the Southern Caribbean.

—Rob Vice, 2023 Secretary & Editor

Letter from the President

Hello all you wonderful Neptunes!

It is coming to that time of year with weekends filled with diving, so make sure you have all your gear ready, equipment serviced and your licenses. Yes, I know some of you hardier souls have never stopped diving through the winter. We love hearing of your adventures.

Who else is getting very excited for Bonaire? This will be my first trip there, only my second vacation designated for diving, and I am counting the days. If you have not signed up yet, what are you waiting for??

Our club has been growing in numbers and it will be wonderful to see more divers join the monthly club dives and get more involved in the club. This will be great for the newer divers to learn from the more experienced ones. Also for the seasoned divers to see and feel the newbies excitement and joy of something they have already loved for so long.

Doesn't it bring you happiness to share with others what you love? Is that not why we all joined the club to be around others that get you?

Happy diving your president and resident mermaid,

— Adrienne

Fluctuat nec mergitur

March General Meeting Summary

- **Special Olympics Polar Plunge, Feb 25 at Nantasket Beach**
 - Adrienne lost one shoe in the water. Raised over \$1200 for the cause. Hopefully, more members will join her next year and help raise even more. Thanks to all that supported the cause.
- **Bonaire Trip**
 - Spaces are still available. Contact John Blackadar or Debie Isroff at Wayland Travel (debie.isroff@frosh.com or 800-552-0300) if interested. There are over 30 people going. Blackie will take non-divers snorkeling!
- **Ragnar Race** - South Shore Neptunes largest fundraising event May 19-20
 - Rob Foley provided an update that we will run the same three sites as the previous year and are still looking for volunteers. Still looking for ideas on Themes for the exchanges.
- **New Members**
 - Matthew Ramos (Rob Robison), Terry Ramos (Rob Robison), Paul Morgan (no sponsor yet) and Kevin Murphy Furgeson (Tommy Lo) (not voted in yet)
 - The following were voted unanimously becoming members of the club:
 - Jack Doyle, sponsored by Ken Hayes
 - Maria Yacino, sponsored by Doug Eaton
 - Brett Graveline, sponsored by Doug Eaton
 - Robbi Laak, sponsored by Rob Robison
 - John Wang, sponsored by John Sullivan
- **Bay State Council**
 - Blackie provided a brief history and relation to Marine Fisheries.
 - Zoom Only meeting 7:30 pm on March 8.
- **Guest Speakers**
 - March 21 - Roy Chamberlain will go over keeping your dive knife in order.
- **Online Payment**
 - Motion to Table Theresa's discussion of the Online Payments and Store to the Board Meeting by Jay T, Seconded by Rob Robison. Bill Burchill added comments.
- **Budget**
 - Budget was presented and accepted as read.
- **Sea Rovers**
 - The Movie is Sold out for March 18th with a waitlist of approximately 48 people.
- **Mass Diving in Natick, MA is Closing ETA April 30, 2023**
 - Big sale on everything, he is retiring after 35 years.
- **Underwater Ruby** (Updated March 12)
 - Monday, 8:15-10:00 PM, Avery Elementary School Pool, 366 High St., Dedham, MA.
 - Wednesday, 6:45-8:30 PM, Brookline High School Pool, 115 Greenough St., Brookline, MA.

Motions

1. Motion to table the Online Payment discussion to the Board Meeting
-

Other Announcements and Activities

April 1 @ 1:00 PM - Wingin' It for Diving!

The Tactical Integration Project (TRP) is hosting the fourth annual wing eating contact at the Hamilton Bar and Restaurant, 1366 Beacon Street, Brookline, MA 02446. There will be up to 30 teams of four competing for the chance to have their names inscribed upon a four foot "Winging It" trident trophy for eating 100 wings (25 of which will have the Tactical Tear Jerker hot sauce) in the shortest amount of time.

See the TRP website for more details: <https://thetrp.org/event/wingin-it-for-diving>

May 6-12 - Bonaire Club Trip

I (Rob Vice) was looking in the old newsletters and saw from [March 2013](#)² to contact Blackie to go on the trip to Bonaire. It's amazing to see the club continuing to travel together over the years, and the first time since COVID.

We have at least 30 people signed up to go. If you are still hesitant to go, please contact John Blackadar, a club officer, board member or really anyone. If they have not been before, they will redirect you to someone who has.

I have not yet been myself, but I have heard of the amazing night dives and the fun everyone has had. Whether it was Theresa Czeripica getting in the water, Joe McAndrews [Fingers] drying up the island, Doug Eaton's account of all the aquatic life and the pier dives or Blackie ensuring that everyone, including non-divers, will have a great time while offering to take people snorkeling.

If you're interested Contact Debie (debie.isroff@frosh.com or 800-552-0300) or John Blackadar

Dive Reports

March 3 - Hathaway's Pond, Barnstable, MA

Vis 10-15 ft, 39°F, 31 ft max, air temp 38°F
Story & photos by Rob Robison

It had been two weeks since our last dive, Pebble Beach on the North Shore. Weather hampered us the following weekend of Feb. 26 and threatened to do so again this first weekend in March. So, we decided today was a perfect day to make a pond dive.

² <https://southshoreneptunes.org/newsletters/2013/March13.pdf>

Neptune Mike Whiteside, Peter Ninh, and I reached Hathaway's Pond down in Barnstable around 9:00 AM. Three other divers had arrived at the site before us and were in the process of entering the water, while we were suiting up.

Soon enough, we, too, found our way into the water, slipped on our fins, and dropped down together, immediately. None of us had dived the pond since late last fall, so it was a bit surprising to discover that the large wooden spool with the arrow indicating the way out was missing and some of the stones that lead to the tech lines were absent as well. Regardless, we found the line leading to the wreck of the Field & Sea, our key destination, passed by a couple of thrones on a platform, as well as the Madonna (See accompanying photos), and began the 15 - 20-minute underwater trek to the resting place of the wreck. By the way, the three divers who preceded us in the water zoomed by just as we passed the Madonna. They must have been finishing up their dive.



We followed the tech line past a number of floats, including a tire sporting a golf club, a trick-or-treat street sign, and more. Finally, we ran into the submerged log that looked somewhat like a Komodo dragon and realized we were less than 15' from the wooden cabin cruiser. Sure enough, the next stop was the up line to the bow of the wreck, which appeared lugubriously out of the heavy green haze.



As we cruised down the port side of the boat, I could see the spot where graffiti had been scrawled into the wood, plus a small school of juvenile bass. On reaching the stern, we headed toward Jolly Roger's remnants, whose resting place had been relocated somewhat. He was covered with silt, which I brushed off with my mitten hand, and took some mug shots of my two dive buddies and him; then we headed back.

Forty minutes after the dive began, we emerged from the 39°F water, having reached a max depth of 31', with vis ranging from 10' - 15' on average. Whoppers, hot coffee, and soda restored our juices and sent the three of us home happy as clams on a partly cloudy, 38°F Sunday morning.

If you haven't been thinking about diving, it's time to start prepping your gear for the coming season. Some of us have never stopped diving into it. Come join us. It's a great way to set aside the winter blues, and besides, spring will be upon us lickety split.

Safe living and safe diving everyone.
– Rob Robison

March 5 - Club Dive: Pleasure Bay, Boston

40 minutes, vis ~5 ft

Report by Mike O'Brien

Chuck Zarba and I met at the Old Neptune Clubhouse and decided to dive Pleasure Bay, South Boston. A few others met and went to breakfast at McKays in Quincy. Chuck and I suited up and did about a 40 minute dive. Visibility was about 5 feet. Chuck found a bottle on the dive. We then headed over to Sullivan's on Castle Island, which recently opened for the season, and enjoyed a hot dog.

March 11 - Club Dive: Pleasure Bay, Boston

38°F windy

Report by Colin Magee



Three Neptunes descended on Pleasure Bay to shelter from the windy conditions. Visibility was manageable when we weren't kicking up sand. No treasures found, two fins lost, unfortunately only one recovered. Water temp 38F.

South Shore Neptunes



Information Page

Want to **Go Diving** and **Need a Buddy**?
 Call or Text the **Club Hotline: 617-804-5637**
 Email: info@SouthShoreNeptunes.org

Don't forget to visit the club store: <https://bit.ly/Neptunes-Store>

Update your profile, access the membership roster via the Membership Portal:
<https://Members.SouthShoreNeptunes.org>

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