



Soundings

April 2023

Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes

Upcoming Events

05/02/2023	General Meeting
05/06/2023	Bonaire trip
05/16/2023	Board Meeting Zoom
05/19/2023	Ragnar race fundraiser
05/21/2023	Club dive
06/06/2023	General Meeting
06/11/2023	Club dive
06/13/2023	Board Meeting Zoom
06/25/2023	Club dive
07/02/2023	Club dive
07/04/2023	No Meeting
07/11/2023	General Meeting

Summary

This month's newsletter is a little light on Dive Reports and pictures. Why?

We're not getting many reports submitted. Please send your reports to: newsletter@SouthShoreNeptunes.org

We also take stories and pictures from the Facebook page.

This month, we do have a special article on John Baldi, which this month is 100 years since his birth.

Next month we'll have a club Bonaire report as well.

—Rob Vice
2023 Editor

Letter from the Editor

We are having an excellent year with many new members coming in, excitement and passion for the club and working through the challenges that come with it. Many of our newer members want to get out diving. So as the water warms up, don't forget to hit up the club hotline to find out who is diving or if you're looking for a dive buddy.

Call or Text 617-804-5637

We also hope to see more showing up at the Club Dives. Note, the dive location is typically chosen at the former clubhouse in Quincy. If you live a distance away, you can call or text the hotline if you want to find out where the club is going and if you want to meet up at the location. All club dives are chosen based on what everyone is comfortable diving and why the location is chosen from the clubhouse. At times, a location may be fixed in advance with an alternative location depending on the weather.

Sincerely,
—Rob Vice, 2023 Secretary and Editor

April General Meeting Summary

- **Wingin' It for Diving - Tactical Reintegration Project**
 - Rick Hovey reported we had two teams at the event with a great turnout for its fourth annual event. The event raised approximately \$12,000 via team registrations, spectators, silent auction and 50/50 raffle. The Neptunes teams did not win, but everyone had a great time. The club supported with \$50 for the event.
- **Bonaire Trip**
 - There are 36 people going, 21 are divers!
- **Ragnar Race** - South Shore Neptunes largest fundraising event May 19-20
 - Rob Foley mentioned everything is in order for the event and the club's largest fundraiser. Still looking for ideas on Themes for the exchanges.
- **New Members**
 - Santiago Rojas-Carbonell (sponsor Rob Robison) and Matia Diamond (sponsor Adrienne Murphy) (not voted in yet)
 - The following were voted unanimously becoming members of the club:
 - Matthew Ramos, sponsor Rob Robison
 - Terry Ramos, sponsor Rob Robison
 - Kevin Murphy-Ferguson, sponsor Tommy Lo
 - Daniel Shaffer, sponsor Tommy Lo
- **Bay State Council**
 - Back Beach Lawsuit
 - Jay announced that the neighborhood lost its apparel. The beach is open to the public, consider having a night dive there.
 - Looking for someone to help with creating a display similar to what the club put together last year.
- **Magnifique Shipwreck**
 - Doug Eaton, Rob Foley, Bill Gallagher and Chuck Zarba are working with a permit from the Boston Underwater Archaeology Board to search for the wreck. Unfortunately, they cannot have anyone else helping out due to the terms of the permit.
 - Rumors, there are a lot of cannon balls on it. Doug indicated, this is a fact.
 - John Blackadar mentioned possibly using the Quincy Police equipment, including their sonar. Bill Gallagher has his own sonar as well.
- **Back River Museum**
 - Doug Eaton would like to have a club picnic at the Back River Museum this summer. More details to come.
- **Discussion on Group Order of shirts**
 - Polo and v-necks embroidered
 - Rockland Athletic will set up quality shirts and things for the club. They can also set up a free online store to order more (without the bulk discounts of a group buy).

Motions

1. Motion to move the May Board Meeting from May 11 to May 16 due to the Bonaire Trip and July 4 General Meeting. Seconded by Jay Theriault. Motion Passed.
-

Other Announcements and Activities

John Baldi was an early pioneer in Scuba. He opened the first dive shop on the South Shore in 1951 on Hancock St. in Quincy. He owned and operated the Dive shop for 50 years. He brought on Howie League while Howie was in high school. Howie and John eventually partnered after Howie married and had 2 children.

Below is John on Plymouth Beach decked with his hand made wetsuit, triple tanks and twin hose regulator. Wetsuits were not originally manufactured. Skindivers had to custom make wetsuits in the early days of diving.



The wood ovals below are a pair of goggles John carved from wood and were fastened with cord. The dive mask was John's first. He made it from a tire inner tube. These were from pre-scuba days. John served in the Navy in WW2 and was based in Florida where he enjoyed free diving before scuba came along.



April 30th will mark 100 years since John's birth in Quincy. He passed away in 2013 at age 90. True to his cool ways, before passing on he told family and friends "he was off on a new adventure". He was not afraid!

All who knew him, dived with him or hung out at the shop know why he will always be remembered as "the Great John Baldi".

Submitted by John's wife,
Cheri Herbert Baldi

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

Story by Rob Vice

The event was about eating 100 wings (75 in a mild sauce and 25 in a Tactical Tear Jerker) in less than 9 minutes. Reports at the event indicated it is possible to eat all 100 wings in about 4 minutes. Individual competitive eaters can eat well over 100 in 10 minutes, we are not them.

Before each round, 75 wings were brought out in the Hamilton sauce and 25 of the Tactical Tear Jerker were brought out with a bagpipe entry and servers wearing hazmat suits with respirators.

We had two teams from the Neptunes: Mike O'Brien, Rick Hovey, Dan Shaffer and Rob Vice. The second team was: Bruce Lane, Shane Kennedy, Allie Genovese and her guest.



When the event started, all the teams just grabbed the wings and started eating. One after the other, with some strategies to strip the bones as quickly as possible. Our team made the big mistake of chewing the chicken to reasonable swallowable sizes for a normal human, definitely not a competitive eater strategy as we found out at the last four minutes of the round and just a few more wings to get into the hot ones. With just two minutes left, we got into the hot ones. I ate two in the remaining amount of time while the others had either one or two before the final buzzer.

The heat, well it was intense. I've had "The End" from the Pepper Palace, which is about six million Scoville units. I'd say these wings were not as extreme, but still caused hiccups, watery sinuses and my head to feel the intense heat. A few others were seen crying or just in pain. Regardless of the heat, the worst part was just the sheer amount of chicken consumed. This was iterated by all the participants from the club.

Later we hung around and shared stories with Paul Adler, Paul Greene, Adrienne Murphy, Ken Hayes, Carol Hamilton and a few others. Apologies, for missing names here, I should have taken notes.

Dive Gear for Sale

Robbi Laak has a friend selling equipment and considering all reasonable offers:

- Medium/Large Bare drysuit (all seals and zipper replaced in 2019)
- Two HP 100cf steel tanks (bought new in 2019 and never used), will need a visual for sure and maybe a hydro
- Scuba Pro regs (last serviced in 2019)
- BCD w/integrated weights and spare Reg
- 2 dive computers (1 new in box that I won at Sea Rovers) the other last serviced in 2019
- Mask, Fins, etc

Contact Peter peter.neil.jr@verizon.net 508-523-9503

Dive Reports

March 25 - Half-Moon Beach

Reported at the General Meeting by Rick Hovey

Colin MacGee wanted to get some bottom time in, so they headed to Stage Fort Park to dive Half Moon Beach for an early evening dive before sunset. However, they ran into some issues including tool problems. They were able to harvest some mussels and the visibility was excellent. They made it out of the water just before dark.

April 2 - Club Dive - No Dive

Jason Brown and Tommy Lo showed up at the former clubhouse and the decision was not to dive.

April 2 - Fort Wetherill, Jamestown, RI

14 minutes, vis 5 ft, 42°F, ~10 ft max depth

Story and Photos by Rob Robison (see Facebook as well)

Just before turning off the light and calling it a day [the night before], the last thing I read was about the gale force winds and tossed salad seas I could expect on the morrow. Up before daybreak, Peter had anticipated my concern and texted me saying we'd be fine in Ft. Wetherill's Divers' Cove. So, I loaded the Rav4 and headed southwest to Jamestown, RI and Ft. Wetherill, with slightly clearing overcast skies and the predicted gusting winds blasting the car and forcing a swerve or 2 or 3. Peter and I were to meet at 9 and Mass Director of Underwater Archaeology, David Robinson, who lives but 5 minutes from the cove, was supposed to drop in to say Hi, as well.



I rolled into the lot 10 minutes early and found only one car, occupied by Matt Bilski, a frequent diver at the cove and a prolific poster of underwater photos and footage. He was trying to decide whether it was a go or no go situation for diving. Actually, the water didn't look that bad from the parking lot. In fact, the conditions a week ago were much worse. David showed up shortly thereafter as did Peter. David, who wasn't diving regardless, thought the dive conditions looked a bit sketchy as well, but when Peter joined up with the two of us, he intoned, "We're going in." And we did.

I was first in the water with Peter close behind. We put on our fins in conditions silted up by our sloshing around on the sandy bottom. We finned out on the surface to a good drop spot. Just before dumping the air out of our BCs, we were startled to see a large fishing vessel anchored out in the channel with its stern facing the cove, and headed down.

We landed in about 10' of water and immediately found ourselves in waters agitated by the surge and swells. Peter's float line became slightly entangled with his tank, which was easily remedied. Vis was around 5'. We stuck close together, as we finned along easily, but the churning of the water left and right, backwards and forwards, which when coupled with the near complete absence of animal life, made stomachs feel queasy and fostered a mutual desire to call it quits early. One of my camera lights was misbehaving, so I was particularly glad to return early.

We turned the dive and on the return, ran into a few critters that had escaped our eyeballs in all the excitement; to wit: a spiny sea urchin, a fat Forbes starfish--looks like it had had a good winter feeding on local clams and other delectables. Also, we ran into a very large horseshoe crab being mounted by a smaller one, clearly an X-Rated undersea National Geographic-style moment. We did our best not to disturb the love birds.



Fourteen minutes after submerging in the 42° water, we emerged from the cove, greeted three painters hard at work capturing the idyllic moments of the cove, shed our dive gear, packed it up, and headed off to our old faithful Burger King for a couple of Whoppers, which supplied a perfect ending to another good dive in the liquid planet.

Worthy of note, over the past 8 days, the ocean water has warmed from 40° to 42°, practically a heat wave, don't you think?

Spring is in full swing, as are the Red Sox, who won today's 3-game rubber match with the Orioles. It feels like all is right with the world. We just need a bit more sunshine, balmier weather, and increased dive activity to keep our spirits high and stoke the desire to dive into it for another season of excitement and wonder in the hydrosphere.

Safe living and safe diving, everyone.

Rob Robison

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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