



Soundings

May 2023

Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes

Upcoming Events

06/06/2023 General Meeting
06/07/2023 Bay State Council
06/11/2023 Club dive
06/13/2023 Board Meeting Zoom
06/18/2023 Charter Dive w/ Boston Scuba
06/25/2023 Club dive
06/25/2023 Charter dive w/ Boston Scuba
07/02/2023 Club dive
07/11/2023 General Meeting Zoom
07/18/2023 Board Meeting Zoom
07/22/2023 Club dive
08/06/2023 Duxbury Beach Outing

Summary

May was a busy month with the Bonaire Trip with 36 Neptunes and Friends. We also had the Ragnar Race, which is the largest fundraiser of the club the past few years.

Please send your reports, gear for sale, stories from years ago or anything else that you would want to have in the newsletter to:

newsletter@SouthShoreNeptunes.org

Summer is kicking off and we have lots of new members ready to get in the water. Please remember to share your dive plans if you have space for more divers.

–Rob Vice
2023 Editor

Letter from the Editor

After a week in Bonaire (story in the following pages) spoiled by 30+ ft visibility and ~80 °F water, it's time to dive local again. Found out last week, the water temperature is around 57 °F in the outer harbor, seems pretty warm for this time of year.

Another big event for the club was volunteering for the Ragnar Race (club fundraiser). Sounds like we had a great turnout for all the locations. Look to next month's newsletter for a report.

If you're interested in helping out with the Newsletter, please let me know. Anything from a simple story, adjusting the layout or even an extra set of eyes can make this even better.

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

Sincerely,
–Rob Vice, 2023 Secretary and Editor

May General Meeting Summary

- **Bonaire**
 - 36 people going, 12 non-divers. Blackie will have a van and will take people downtown if they aren't diving. Remember your passports, pay both the STINAPA and Tourism Tax.
- **Group Order of Shirts**
 - Motions from the Board and sample artwork were presented:
 - Both motions were withdrawn for further discussion due to disagreement with the changes of the logo to support embroidery. Blackie will seek out the old artwork.
- **Ragnar Race** - South Shore Neptunes largest fundraising event May 19-20
 - Rob Foley mentioned a request to have volunteers for the finish line, at a minimum a site coordinator. Ken Hayes also indicated exchange 28 could use some help as well.
- **New Members**
 - Paul Morgan (sponsor Sokol Prifti), Glenn Savoy (sponsor John Sullivan) and Calvin Stephenson (sponsor Ken Hayes) (not voted in yet)
 - The following were voted unanimously becoming members of the club:
 - Matia Diamond (sponsor Adrienne Murphy)
 - Santiago Rojas-Carbonell (sponsor Rob Robison)
- **Speaker Night**
 - Bill Burchill asked if the club was going to support the speaker with some funds.
- **John Blackadar Talk at the Tactical Reintegration Project (TRP)**
 - Rick Hovey would like to personally thank Blackie for speaking to the TRP about diver safety, recovery and Bay State Council of Divers. TRP would like to get involved with the Bay State Council as a result of the talk. The TRP is very thankful.
 - Blackie reported it was nice to talk to military people and brand new divers. It's possible we will start seeing some of them at the club. Billie Walker went with Blackie, he's a Vietnam vet. The new divers out of TRP are really looking to dive. Blackie will do a few more talks as well.
- **John Baldi Zoom Meeting to celebrate 100 years from his birth**
 - A few members were present including Blackie. They had a toast and a celebration to John Baldi's contribution to the dive industry.
 - A story of John Baldi in Bonaire, had him walking up the 72 steps with Captain Don, John said it really felt like a thousand steps. The name stuck. John Baldi was also a founding member of the South Shore Neptunes.
- **Other Events**
 - **Ladies Luncheon** - May 21 Luncheon MeetUP in Hanover, MA
 - **General Meetup** - May 31, Precinct 10 possibly and will be posted in multiple areas
- **Bay State Council**
 - Charlie Matthews donated a display booth. Jay Theriault will design the booth graphics.
 - Meeting scheduled for June 7 at 7:30pm. Unsure if the meeting will be on the USS Salem.
 - Paul Adler: Jim Nanery from Metro West dive club may want the club to help out with the big picnic at the Treasure Hunt this year. Jim will come talk to the club at the next board meeting on May 16.

Motions

1. Motion to pay Roy Chamberlain \$50 for putting on the knife class by Jay Theriault seconded by John Blackadar. Motion Passed. Other Announcements and Activities

May 6 – May 13 - Bonaire Trip

Story by Rob Vice, photos scraped from the South Shore Neptunes Facebook



It's hard to imagine getting a large group on one plane with only a minimal amount of headaches, now take it up a notch and have 36 people on that flight and a suggested arrival time to the airport of 4:00-4:30 am. For the most part, it was two uneventful flights from Boston → Newark → Bonaire arriving around 2 pm to the resort.

When we arrived at the resort, we had fruit punch with (or without) prosecco, sat through the resort briefing and filled out some paperwork, finally got the room keys. The rooms were nice, but I'd have to say the air conditioning could use a significant improvement. I do like to complain from time-to-time. At least the AC cooled the room a couple degrees and took some of the humidity out.

The resort did not have lots of fancy features, but it did serve the purposes we were there for. Good food, drink and easy access diving (and for those that rented trucks, easy access shore diving). Toucan Diving Bonaire took care of us and led our large group to various sites around Bonaire including the islet, Klein Bonaire. The dive leaders and dive masters showed us sea turtles, spotted eagle rays, moray eels and even hunted lionfish to share with us at the conclusion of the trip. Here's the list of dive sites off the boat:

Capt. Don's Reef, Sharon's Serenity, Angel City, Lighthouse Point, 1000 Steps, Andrea 2, Rock Pile, Knife, South Bay, Munk's Haven, Red Slave, Salt Pier

A few of us also went on shore dives to sites including Tolo (Ol' Blue), Oil Slick Leap, Weber's Joy, Invisibles, Aquarius, White Slave, Something Special and Alice in Wonderland. Shore diving was incredible with the reef within feet or with a short surface swim over the sand regardless if on the northwest or southwest shores. We did not dive the East side, which had very large waves observed from the beach.



We also had another “rock” painted with the club graphics. This time, a concrete trip hazard in the bar area of Toucan Diving. We also found the original rock that was painted in previous years.

The return flight had a bit of a hiccup in Newark due to weather and plane issues, I heard some of the group got in around 3 am.

Overall, I was able to get 18 dives in between the boat, a bunch of shore diving with Todd Alger and a night dive with Doug Eaton and Matt Meyer. We had a really good trip and want to thank our meal host, Quincy; captain of the boat for Toucan Diving, Jeroen; and Matthew, Brandon, Luiyi, Rugene (AKA Spider) who were our dive masters leading us about. I also want to send thanks to anyone else I may have missed.

The club will most likely host a movie/picture night for everyone that wants to share what they took on the trip and to answer any questions or share more stories.

May 12 – 14 - Underwater Rugby Nationals, Arlington, VA

Story and Photos from South Shore Neptunes Facebook Post

The Boston Narwhals placed 3rd in the 2023 US Underwater Rugby National Championships. See the results on uwrugby.org



Dive Reports

April - For Wetherill and Long Beach

Rob Robison reported diving five times in the last four weeks in Fort Wetherill. He also did an excellent night dive and wound up getting in on a Friday at Plymouth's Long Beach. All of his photos and stories are available on his Facebook page, most of which are shared on the club Facebook page.

April - Quincy Yacht Club

Tommy dove a mooring and indicated the water is cold and his work gloves are cold [note, I, Rob Vice, have seen Tommy's work gloves. They are more like swiss cheese than work gloves.]

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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