



# Soundings

June 2023

## Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes

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### Upcoming Events

07/02/2023	Club Dive
07/11/2023	General Meeting Zoom
07/18/2023	Board Meeting Zoom
07/22/2023	Club dive
07/26/2023	Night Dive
08/06/2023	Duxbury Beach Outing
08/08/2023	General Meeting Zoom
08/13/2023	Club dive
08/15/2023	Board Meeting Zoom
08/26/2023	Club dive
09/10/2023	Club dive
	Bay State Council Treasurer
09/17/2023	Hunt

### Summary

The dive season is really picking up, there are more stories to publish, but 13 pages is already a lot. I'll try to include them in following months' newsletters depending on how much we have coming in.

We had the U-853 dive, two club dives and some other boat dives reported.

We have an article about Cliff Theriault, who would have been 100 years old on June 25, 2023.

**Note: July General is on July 11 and board on July 18!!**

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](mailto:newsletter@SouthShoreNeptunes.org)

–Rob Vice  
2023 Editor

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### Letter from the Editor

June has been a busy month and with it the need to really utilize the club hotline to coordinate diving on boats or finding out where the club dives will be. It would be great to get club dives with 10+ people like we have had in years past with carpooling to aide in the parking situations at some of the best dive sites.

In this month's newsletter, there's a basic how-to on the membership portal that has been up and running for almost two years. This was initiated in an attempt to centralize the membership roster and ensure we have the most up-to-date information on our members and also ensure we're reaching out to those that may have forgotten to pay their dues or whom we just may not have heard from in a while. Please direct any questions to [secretary@SouthShoreNeptunes.org](mailto:secretary@SouthShoreNeptunes.org) regarding the portal

Sincerely,  
–Rob Vice, 2023 Secretary and Editor  
[newsletter@SouthShoreNeptunes.org](mailto:newsletter@SouthShoreNeptunes.org)

# June General Meeting Summary

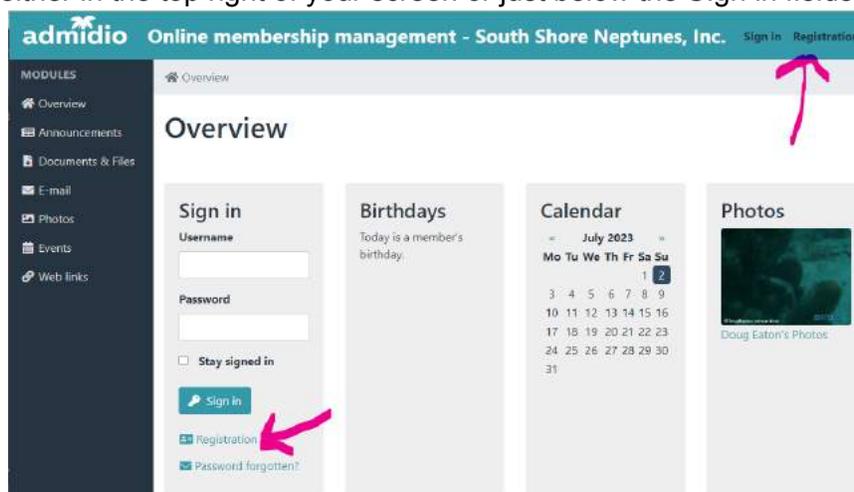
- **Bonaire**
  - 36 people went with 21 divers. 5 people had a bit of illness while there. Erica Hayes saw an octopus off the beach and one of the best things seen was the flamingos flying by the dive boat and the seahorse. Rob Robison pointed out, we had our own space at the restaurant with a maitres d' for anything we may need. The night dives tended to have some really large tarpon.
- **Ragnar Race**
  - Adrienne Murphy thanked Rob Foley for coordinating this year. Rob Foley thanked all the volunteers and indicated the club should receive approximately \$3400 from Ragnar. Rob Foley will continue to coordinate the future Ragnar events for the club. Everyone had a great time, even with the rain.
- **New Members**
  - Will Tinney - Moved to Wyoming for a year and now is back. He is involved in TRP and would like to join the club again.
  - The following were voted unanimously becoming members of the club:
    - Paul Morgan (sponsor Sokol Prifti)
    - Glenn Savoy (sponsor John Sullivan)
    - Calvin Stephenson (sponsor Ken Hayes)
- **New Business**
  - The Annual Summer Outing (Duxbury Beach Outing) was discussed for August 6 with a rain date of August 13. The beach permit is not yet pulled. This is a family and friends event (bring the kids) and not a club dive day.
  - Summer Season Diving discussed meeting at the former clubhouse at 8 am and that the dive location is chosen then depending on the wind. Please call/text the Hotline [see the second to last page of this newsletter] for any club boat dives to find out which launch to head to.
    - June 11, club dive
    - Doug chartered Boston Scuba for June 25, contact him if you would like to go
    - Wed June 28 for night dive 6:30 pm at Ocean Bluff
    - Wed July 26 for night dive 6:30 pm at Gun Rock
- **Other Events**
  - Kayak Race on the North River, July 30. Seven miles and loads of fun. Contact Adrienne Murphy
  - Back River - Cookout and Museum Tour: Doug is going to contact Scott (ranger of the museum) for late July or August. It can be a dive day in addition to the museum tour.
  - Dinner Night Out - Jay suggested we may want to bring these back.
- **Bay State Council**
  - Meeting scheduled for June 7 at 7:30pm. Unsure if the meeting will be on the USS Salem.
  - Alex Fernandez, out of Falmouth, is trying to get access to private beaches. He's also trying to go after the towns charging for parking and those that take state funds for sea wall projects and the like.

## Other Announcements and Activities

### Online Membership Portal

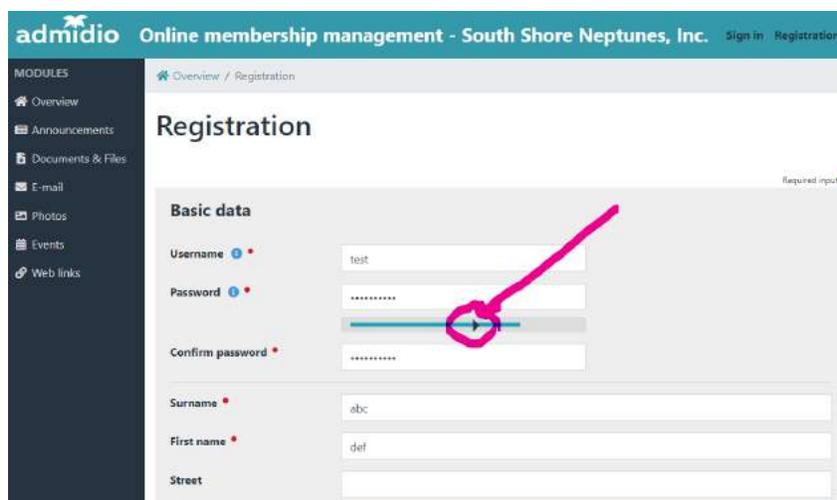
The club made the decision to centralize our membership roster and we first tried HubSpot, but realized it is a marketing tool that will not always allow us to keep in touch with our members. It still works very well for our newsletter, but another option was sought out without adding cost to the club. The new package is an open source software (free/donation) called Admidio (<https://admidio.org>). The software allows us to keep up to date information with history of changes and also the ability for members to keep contact information up-to-date. The membership portal is available at <https://members.southshoreneptunes.org/> and also has been included in the second to last page of the newsletters since January 2023. The software has many options including photo albums, event listings, bulk PDF form generation, allows us to track dues payments and even record awards.

If you have not already created a profile, from the main page of the portal, click on "Registration" either in the top right of your screen or just below the Sign in fields:



On the Registration screen there are many optional fields and a couple required fields. The required fields are marked with a red dot and follow: Username, Password, Confirm Password, Surname (last name), First name, E-mail, Authentication Code.

A very special note about your password, there is a colored bar. If your password difficulty does not go beyond the arrow, your registration will not be accepted. I encourage you to use a password management software (i.e. LastPass, OnePass, Chrome, etc.) to assist in creating a secure password.



The screenshot shows the 'Registration' page in the admidio system. The 'Basic data' section includes the following fields:

- Username: test
- Password: [masked with dots]
- Confirm password: [masked with dots]
- Surname: abc
- First name: def
- Street: [empty]

A red arrow points to the Password field, which has a strength indicator bar below it. The bar is currently yellow, indicating an acceptable password strength.

Password Strength must not be “red” or significantly below the arrow (yellow is acceptable and just below).

After registering, we will approve your access and allow you to see the membership rosters and to update your information. Once signed in, you can update your information by going to the “My Profile” link at the top of the page. Or to view the rosters, go to “Groups & roles” on the left panel of options when you’re logged in.

Please direct any questions or issues with the online membership portal to [secretary@SouthShoreNeptunes.org](mailto:secretary@SouthShoreNeptunes.org).

## Remembering Cliff Theriault

Cliff Theriault was one of the early pioneers in scuba diving on the South Shore. He was a good friend and dive buddy of “The Great John Baldi” owner of South Shore Skin Divers, Quincy, MA. Cliff was a member of The South Shore Skin Divers Club based out of John Baldi’s shop for many years. They went on dive trips to Puerto Rico and Bonaire together. Fred Lane was also a member of this dive club. Bruce Lane, his son, is a current member of the Neptune’s Dive Club.



South Shore Skin Divers Club, Whitman’s Pond, Weymouth, MA. February 1966, 16” of ice.  
(Left to Right - D. Layton, B. Olson (President), B. Atran, Cliff Theriault)

Cliff was a veteran of WWII, starting out as a paratrooper with the Airborne 501 st PIR at Camp Toccoa, Georgia. He was injured in a parachute jump in very high winds at Fort Benning, Georgia. President Roosevelt was visiting and observing the jump. The paratroopers were not supposed to jump in winds over 30 mph but because President Roosevelt was there, they said to jump anyway. Cliff separated three ribs from his sternum and fractured his collarbone on the jump. After recovering from his injuries, Cliff was transferred to the 234 th Engineer Combat Battalion and went into Omaha Beach in Normandy, France on D+3. He fought across France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany supporting the 29 th and 30 th Infantry Divisions. Using his valuable French speaking ability, Cliff was always on the frontline gathering intelligence on enemy positions and activities from locals. He received many decorations including the Purple Heart, French Legion of Honor, Army Commendation Medal, WWII Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 4 Stars and Arrowhead for the initial invasion.

Returning home after the war, Cliff was a master union carpenter and foreman for many years on large projects with Thomas O'Connor Construction Company. One of their projects was building the Air Force Texas Tower General Surveillance Radar System. While working on Texas Tower 3, they observed floating debris from the sinking of the ship SS Andrea Doria off Nantucket on July 26, 1956, after a collision with the MS Stockholm, which killed 51 people. He recalled many stories about the fierceness of ocean storms while working on the towers which shook the towers vigorously. One such story was the total loss of Texas Tower 4 where he lost some friends during a fierce January 15, 1961, nor'easter off the coast of Long Island in 185 feet of water, killing all 28 men aboard. Cliff finished his career as a Facilities Manager at The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.



Texas Tower 3 off Nantucket



Texas Tower 4



Andrea Doria Sinking

Of course, scuba diving was a passion of his and he spent many weekends diving with his many friends from the South Shore Skin Divers Club getting lobsters. After his son Jay Theriault was born, Cliff designed custom scuba equipment for him which he made from a fire extinguisher. He flipped the tank with the valve down like the French dive because the tank was too long for Jay's small frame which prevented the valve from hitting the back of the head. The backpack and shoulder straps were made of aluminum which hooked over the shoulders. A Velcro belt held the tank on at the waist. At age 5, Jay began his scuba diving with the customized equipment.

Later, when Jay Theriault joined the South Shore Neptunes Dive Club and the Quincy Underwater Recovery Team, Cliff pitched in and supported the Dive Team as a volunteer.



Jay Theriault's gear



Underwater Recovery Team truck

The Dive Team acquired a bookmobile to use as an Emergency Management Command Center for the City of Quincy. Cliff and several other members of the dive team pitched in using their expertise and quickly customized the vehicle for diving recoveries and disaster relief missions. The dive truck served the City of Quincy and other communities for many years. Later in life, Cliff enjoyed diving trips to Bonaire and the Cayman Islands.



June 25, 2023, marks Cliff's 100th birthday. He passed away in March of 2013 a few months short of age 90. He carried with him in life the lessons of the Great Depression and WWII where he developed his "can-do" and "gung-ho" attitude and a great sense of humor. He will always be remembered and missed by those who knew him.

Submitted by Cliff's son, Jay Theriault

## Dive Gear for Sale - Ed Bates

As I will be relocating in the near future I will be parting with my dive gear. Special pricing for SS Neptune Divers. Call 781-929-0884 if you are interested.

All The Best, Ed Bates

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## Dive Reports

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### June 11 - Club Dive - Canoe Beach & Forty Steps

Water temp 54 degrees

Divers Todd Alger, Rob Foley, Sokol Prifti, Paul Greene. Todd got 4 lobsters. Todd and Paul dove Canoe Beach. Rob Foley and Sokol Prifti also dove 40 steps.

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### June 25 - Club Dive - Lanes Cove



Left to Right: Sokol Prifti, Ken Hayes, Rick Hovey and Todd Alger  
All went diving at Lanes Cove

## May 26 - Graves Light & The Bulls

61 minutes, vis 5-15 ft, 50°F, 51 ft max depth - Graves

47 minutes, vis 5-20 ft, 48°F, 51 ft max depth - Bulls

Story by Rob Vice and Photos by Sokol Prifti

Alex Wieck invited us out on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend to start the summer season. Alex, Rachel (Alex's wife), Maria (my wife) and Sokol Prifti met at 9 am at the South Shore Yacht Club with the hopes of catching some lobsters. We were all very indecisive on where to dive and fixed on going to Graves Light and either doing a second there or heading to the bulls. The first dive at the Graves, I headed along the ledge at 45-50 feet and Sokol wound up going into boulders in deeper water on the other side and caught a good sized male (4.06 lbs) which set the bar for the 2023 largest lobster. I wound up catching only two lobsters that dive.



Sokol Prifti and his 4.06 lb lobster

The second dive, I decided to head towards the channel off of the bulls. I took a heading directly perpendicular to the bulls in search of any lobsters out in the open, or more hopefully, scallops. At first dropping in on the anchor, the visibility was approximately eight feet. Swimming out to the channel, visibility improved to about 20 feet. I followed the line between the potato and basketball sized rocks and was able to grab a dozen scallops. Seeing as I didn't have a lift bag or line to haul up the catch, I took a return heading. I saw the anchor line and decided to ascend to drop off the scallops and look for lobsters. The visibility dropped to about 5 feet and I did not get any lobsters. The day turned out beautiful with temperatures breaking 80. The water was calm and the wives enjoyed the cruise.

## June 10 - U-853 - Point Judith, RI

38 minutes, vis 5 ft, 52°F, 120 ft max depth

29 minutes, vis 5 ft, 52°F, 125 ft max depth

Story by Rob Vice and Photos by Sokol Prifti

Todd Alger setup what's becoming the annual visit to U-853 out of Point Judith, RI meeting at 7am at Priority Fishing Charters with Captain Rick Bellavance and six SSN Divers: Todd Alger, Doug Eaton, Chuck Zarba, Sokol Prifti, Matt Meyer and me. Earlier in the week, Doug mentioned there might be a storm off the coast that could make for a rough day. Todd checked with him and heard everything was a "go" on Friday. When we got to the slip and loaded our gear, the weather indicated 1-3 ft seas. When we cleared the breakwater, it was surprisingly calm, probably the most calm we've had in the few years we've done this. The ocean had about 1 ft swells. We hooked up to the mooring and Rick made a make-shift belly line, as he forgot what he normally brings up. We split up into groups and headed down the line. As we expected the light to fade as we descended, around 85 feet or so I anticipated seeing the conning tower. It wasn't until about 4 feet away when the mooring reached the chain wrapped around the tower did I realize I was finally at U-853. The visibility was quite poor, the worst in my experience diving the sub. The general feeling that a few of us shared was the worry of getting lost with the poor visibility. Each time I hit the sand, I worried I may get off the sub and not find my way back. Even when hovering over the deck, at first it was tricky to discern the bow from the stern. Having previously dived the wreck, there were some tell-tale features that helped out for the second dive. Overall, the dive was lackluster, but the adventure and time spent with good dive buddies was worth it.



## June 18 - Attempt at Graves Light

46 minutes, vis 15 ft, 57°F, 55 ft max depth

44 minutes, vis 15 ft, 52°F, 56 ft max depth

Story by Rob Vice

Todd Alger, Shayne Kennedy, Paul Greene and I met at the South Shore Yacht Club to dive with Alex Wieck. We headed out in an attempt to make it to Graves Light, but the swell was well over 5 feet, possibly reaching 8-10 feet when we passed Green Island (I think). Given it was feeling really awkward trying to push through, we decided instead to do a scallop dive. Paul wasn't able to dive, so he worked the chase boat while we dropped into the channel for the sleigh ride of the strong current. The first dive, we all had about a quarter to half-bag of scallops. The second dive, we dropped upwards of the current and tried again, this time with a bit more success and practically no current, it seems we may have hit slack tide. We all went home with a good amount of scallops and enjoyed the dive.

## June 25 - Half Tide Rock & Boston Ledge

Story and photos by Doug Eaton



Left to Right: Joe Kilcommon, Doug Eaton, Chuck Zarba

Joe Kilcommon, Chuck Zarba and Doug Eaton decided to go scalloping on the Keeper out of East Boston. Loading our gear on the boat we headed out towards half tide rocks. They gave us a heading to go on before dropping us in. After 60 mins. I tied my flag line to my bag and ascended up to wait for the boat. Boarding the boat I saw Joe was already on, where we waited for Chuck. Chuck popped up and we got him on board. While shucking our catch, Jim [from Boston Scuba] asked where we wanted to go for the second dive. We decided to go to Boston ledge. Diving the ledge, I grabbed 2 bugs. While heading for the line to go up, I saw Chuck elbow deep grabbing a lobster. Everyone back on the boat enjoyed the ride back to East Boston, we were glad we ignored the weather forecast. We all had 4-5 lbs of scallops and lobsters for dinner. It turned out to be a great day of diving.

# 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](mailto: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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