



# Soundings

September-October 2023

## Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes

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### Upcoming Events

11/6/2023	General Meeting
11/14/2023	Board Meeting
11/12/2023	Club dive
11/26/2023	Club dive
12/5/2023	General Meeting
12/10/2023	Club dive
12/12/2023	Board Meeting
12/17/2023	Club dive
12/19/2023	SSN Election night
1/1/2024	Club dive

We had a few people sign-up on the membership portal. Reach out if you're having difficulties and we can get you squared away.

Register your Membership Profile or login at:

<https://members.SouthShoreNeptunes.org>



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)

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### Summary

Ahoy, land lovers and scuba enthusiasts!

As we bid adieu to the sweltering summer days and ease into the crisp embrace of autumn, we hope you've had a fantastic September and October, filled with adventures above and below the water's surface. While some might be content sipping their pumpkin-spiced lattes on dry land, the daring among us have been carving pumpkins underwater, mingling at a bar and even taking lazy river runs! There's also work that was done. Including cleaning and painting the container and finally getting logoed polos and hats!

# September General Meeting Summary

- **Old Business**

- Embroidered Shirts
  - Motion from August General Meeting: The club to allocate \$2000 for embroidered shirts and hats. Motion Passed.
- Bay State Council Treasure Hunt is on Sept 17 with prizes for nearly everyone entered into the Scuba or Snorkel Events
- Beach Cleanup with the New England Aquarium Dive Club and Surfrider Foundation. Nantasket Beach, September 23 at 10 am
- Annual River Run - September 30 at 12:30 pm, park in the lot on 3A near Roht Marine. The River Run started in 1974 with Bill Burchill inviting people back to his home for chowder after swimming down the river. Bill would like a headcount to know how many people to prepare for.
- Speaker Night - September 19. Rob Robison will share pictures and video take by Jon Willis and Rob Robison from the club trip to Bonaire
- Club Container growth cleanup on Sept 20 at 6pm
- MeetUp at the Common Market outside tent brought in five candidates with three from Milton, one from Needham and one from Hingham. It was a good event with a good turnout. Adrienne will run another one further south.
- Duxbury Beach Outing had 78 people with Tommy Lo, Ken Hayes, Joe Kilcommon and Jay Theriault cooking. Blackie ran the tug of war and the kids won as usual. There was lots of help breaking down which was greatly appreciated.

- **New Business**

- Motion from the Board: For the annual beach outing, reimburse Chuck and Ken for parking of \$25 each. Seconded by Doug. Motion Passed
- Ragnar - Rob Foley received a request if the club is available to volunteer for the rade from Crawford Notch to Franconia Notch on September 15-16.
- Used Gear for Sales: Tommy Lo, Rob Foley and Matthew Ramos all have gear for sale.
- Discover Scuba Class at Diver's Market with a discounted rate of \$65 for anyone interested. The class will be in a pool at 2:30 pm.
- Election Night - December 19, the Common Market is booked and the club will provide pizza and possibly salad. There will also be a cash bar.
- Speaker Night: Rob Robison is working on coordinating with iDive for October or November for the online 3rd Tuesday meeting.
- Nitrox Course: John Blackadar is looking into setting up a Nitrox Course for the club
- Pumpkin Carving Competition Dive was mentioned and suggested to run with Wayne from Diver's Market
- Club Boat Dive scheduled for Sunday September 10 at 8 am.

## Motions

1. Motion from August General Meeting: The club to allocate \$2000 for embroidered shirts and hats. Seconded by John Blackadar. Motion Passed.

## Bay State Council Annual Treasure Hunt

Story by iDive New England and shared on the South Shore Neptunes' Club Facebook Page



The turnout at today's annual event was incredible! There were well over 100 people that came out for what was supposed to be a rainy and windy day with Hurricane Lee (with a potentially altogether canceled event.) 🙌🕶️ Bay State Council of Divers took a hard pivot from original plans and put on an insane land adventure paired with a giant SCUBA themed trivia with some Stage Fort Park history that got raving reviews. It was great to see and hang with so many other organizations. Boston Sea Rovers, Metro West Dive Club - MWDC, North Shore Frogmen's Club, South Shore Neptunes, The Tactical Reintegration Project (The TRP), COASTSWEEP. We had a blast, saw some giant prizes go home to happy divers and had some great food at the annual cookout. Thank you Bay State Council of Divers for having us. We look forward to joining again next year. #idivenewengland #scubadiving #adventureon

## Club Container Cleanup

On Wednesday, September 20, 2023 a group of Neptune volunteers as well as a friend of Joe McAndrews (Mike) arrived at the storage container in Walpole, MA to do some maintenance on our club storage container. The weather was ideal for the mission ahead. It was necessary to first remove the brush that had enveloped around the rear and sides of the container before implementing our upcoming plans to tackle the rust areas on the container at a later date. So we got to it. With loppers in hand, chainsaws and brute strength, we made short work of the matter. A few members arrived late and were able to help and join in on the accomplishment. We were now set to schedule and prepare for Phase 2 of the maintenance effort at a later date. The volunteers were: Ted Hotz, Rob Robison, Mike O'Brien, Joe McAndrews and his friend Mike, Paul Greene, Bruce Lane, Ken Hayes, Chuck Zarba and myself.



## Dive Reports

### September 3 - Lanes Cove

43 minutes, 5 ft viz, 52°F, 45 ft max depth

Story and picture by Paul Morgan (see more posted on Facebook)



We had a couple of fantastic dives on Sunday morning at Lanes Cove. Myself and fellow club members Adrienne Murphy, Ken Hayes, Sokol Prifti and Evan Bodell enjoyed the lovely sunshine. I logged 2 dives at 42-45 feet depth and 4-5 ft viz. The 1st, at around 10 am had low tide and therefore was a good scrabble to get in. After a 43 min dive the tide had come in substantially and we had a slight surge, so decided to do a surface interval with my feet still in the water, and fully kitted up!! I therefore did my 2nd dive on the same tank, taking 40 mins, max depth 42 feet. Spent my dive time chilling around the rocks, kelp and enjoying the quiet!

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### Late August - Great Barrier Reef, Queensland Australia

(3 dive days, 7 dives total) Story and pictures by Jason Brown

In late August, my wife and I embarked on an exciting 2.5-week trip across the diverse landscapes of Australia. Our adventure took us through four distinct regions of this remarkable country: Melbourne and Sydney in the southwest, the pristine wilderness of Tasmania in the south, and the tropical paradise of Cairns in the north.

Our primary reason for venturing to Queensland was to explore the underwater wonders of the Great Barrier Reef through scuba diving. Cairns, being situated in the Southern Hemisphere, offered us a delightful respite from winter's chill. August and September mark the conclusion of the Southern Hemisphere's winter, and in Cairns, we were greeted with sunny days and temperatures hovering around a pleasant 80 degrees Fahrenheit, like Florida during the Northern Hemisphere's winter months.

To fulfill my diving aspirations, I arranged for three days of diving excursions with three different operators, each of which provided us with exceptional experiences that left us with unforgettable memories of our Australian escapade.

#### Day 1: 2023-08-30 Quicksilver Dives



On the first day, I set sail with Quicksilver Cruises, whose website you can explore at <https://quicksilver-cruises.com/> . The boat is docked in Port Douglas, just an hour's scenic bus ride from Cairns, and this transfer was seamlessly included in the booking. The professionalism of the staff left a lasting impression; there was an impressive crew on board, ensuring everything ran smoothly.

The vessel traveled to a large dive platform, where all the necessary equipment was there. To combat the elements, I had the choice of a Lycra suit for UV protection and safeguarding against jellyfish, as well as 5mm wetsuits for added warmth. Fortunately, visiting during the winter season meant that jellyfish were not a major concern.

Surprisingly, after spending 45 minutes submerged in the 77-degree waters, I found myself getting a bit chilly, particularly in the breaks between dives. The onboard indoor spaces were air-conditioned, which, while comfortable, didn't help maintain the post-dive warmth. Consequently, following the first dive, I opted for a 5mm shorty wetsuit to ensure I stayed comfortably warm throughout the rest of the dive day.

The destination was Agincourt Reef, and you can learn more about it at <https://www.queensland.com/us/en/things-to-do/attractions/p-56b2608eaeaaaf773cf3615-agincourt-reef> . Quicksilver proved to be an "all-in-one" operator, not solely focused on diving but offering an array of reef-related activities on their expansive platform anchored at the reef, which you can explore here: [https://quicksilver-cruises.com/reef-tour/obr\\_platform/index.html](https://quicksilver-cruises.com/reef-tour/obr_platform/index.html) .

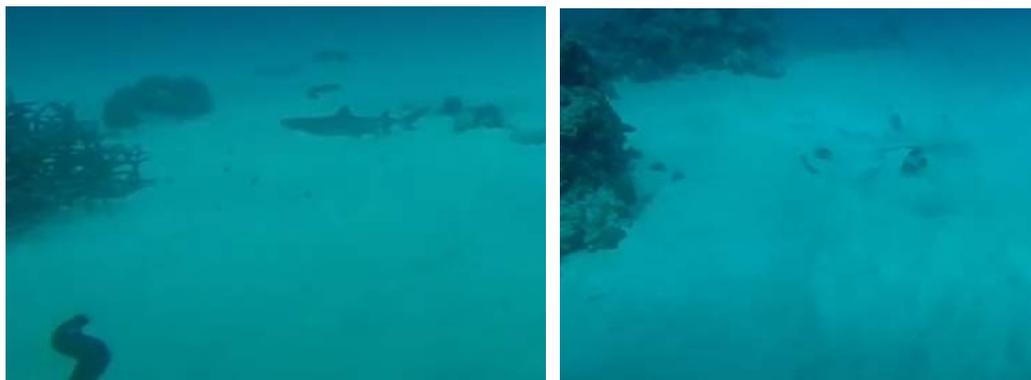
The certified diving experience was laid-back and recreational, precisely the kind of adventure one seeks when vacationing far from home. I had the privilege of diving in small groups, guided by an expert instructor, which enhanced the overall enjoyment of this remarkable underwater journey.

Sandy bottom down to 37 feet, lots of staghorn coral. Saw clownfish, turtle, barracuda, a giant clam!

- Dive 1: 37 ft, 44 min, water 77 deg F

Dive 2: 36 ft, 43 min

**Day 2: 2023-08-31 Silverswift Dives**



Second dive day was with Silverswift (<https://www.silverseries.com.au/silverswift-cairns/>). This boat docks directly in Cairns, so I could walk there from my hotel. This was a more dive-focused outing, and the staff were also excellent.

Again, the reef has a sandy bottom dotted with coral structures. The Great Barrier Reef sits in roughly 40 feet of water at the edge of a shelf about 30-40 miles from the coast. I happened to be there for the recent "Supermoon", which made the low tide extremely low - so low, that the top of the reef sticks out of the water at the lowest tide. Seeing the reef stick out of the water, as well as the waves breaking over the edge, is a strange thing to see when you are out in the ocean out of sight of land!

A couple of wildlife sightings: a Cowtail ray, almost 2m across, digging in the sand, and a white tip reef shark, taking a nap in the sand.

- Dive 1: 62 ft, 46 min, water 75 deg F, 45-60 ft viz
  - Flynn reef (Tracy's site)
- Dive 2: 29 ft, 43 min
  - Flynn reef (Gordon's site)
- Dive 3: 41 ft, 47 min
  - Moore Reef (Crevis site)

### Day 3: 2023-09-01 Diver's Den



Third and last dive day was with Diver's Den (<https://www.diversden.com.au/products/snorkel-and-dive-day-trip-from-cairns/>). Again, this boat docks directly in Cairns, so I could walk there from my hotel. This was the most dive-focused outing of the three, and I would recommend this operator if you wanted to do anything more than just recreational diving.

The highlight here was diving along the edge of the reef, as it faces the drop-off into the Coral Sea. We stayed under 60ft depth, but that just placed us in the middle of a coral cliff that faces outward into the open ocean, with a sandy floor that rapidly slopes down to hundreds of feet. The cliff offered a great chance to view the coral activity vertically, instead of horizontally across the sand.

- Dive 1: 59 ft, 46 min, water 77 deg F, 45-60 ft viz
- Dive 2: 57 ft, 35 min

Video link (a highlight reel of clips that I took during the dives):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxOpw2tj39Q>

Jason Brown, West Roxbury

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See more Dive Reports on the Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/SouthShoreNeptunes>

# October General Meeting Summary

- **Old Business**

- Embroidered Shirts and Hats were dropped off. The price will be set at the Board meeting.
- Bay State Council Treasure Hunt - Paul Adler reported the event went off well, the safety master canceled the water events the night before. Some changes need to be made and brought up at the next Bay State Council meeting.
- Charter Boat - Chuck Zarba met Karen from MetroWest that indicated there is a lobster boat available to charter for \$500 (for the entire boat) out of Saugus. Call Karen 508-272-5098
- Nitrox Course - John Blackadar is looking to partner with Al from South Shore Divers for the course
- Pumpkin Carving Competition Dive on October 22. Low tide is at 11:41 am. Location to be set later
- Beach Cleanup - The weather was iffy, but it was a really nice event. Surfrider had everything setup and brought everything from buckets, lists and gloves. With the weather, the turnout was less than expected.
- Election Night is December 19 with a cash bar, pizza and likely a salad
- Container Cleanup - No additional date set yet to paint. Chuck indicated the brush cleanup went well. Next steps are to sand down the rust and paint with DTM green paint, should only need 3-4 people. There were about 10 people that showed up. The earlier meeting time, 3:30 pm, threw some people off, it was originally set at 6 pm.
- Speaker Night - David Robinson on October 17 on wrecks. Rob Robison will have info at the next meeting
- Annual River Run - Rick Hovey's 6' flamingo should get a vote for best float as he was spinning around trying to get on it and falling off. Bill Burchill would like to thank Netta for starting the "chowda" after the river.

- **New Business**

- Annual Banquet - Date and Location set on January 27, 2024 at the Common Market.
- Member Info Update Letter - Rob Vice indicated there were 160 letters mailed and that we received 25 responses via phone, email or signing up in the online portal. Thanks go to Doug Eaton, Adrienne Murphy, Todd Alger and Alex Wieck for helping stuff envelopes.
- Second River Run will run October 15 at 12 pm. High tide is at 12:38 pm
- MeetUp on the South Shore on October 18 in Plymouth. Either the Plymouth Public House or the 99. More information to follow
- Artifact Submission: 6 oz coke bottle from 1939 Newburyport, MA recovered from Lanes Cove
- John Stella is back from Greece and was on an ancient wreck with 17 divers and brought up many artifacts. John Blackadar is going to try and get him to come in on a speaker night in the winter months. His last presentation to the club went very well.
- Environmental Committee hearing on public beaches is on October 11 from 1-5 pm in person or via Zoom. Theresa will send a link to Tommy Lo. Each person will get 3 minutes to talk. Or you can write in. This is similar to "free the beaches"

## Motions

1. Jay Theriault motioned to reimburse Bill Burchill \$75 for food for the party. Seconded by Doug Eaton. Motion Passed.
2. Todd Alger motioned for the Annual Banquet at the Common Market on January 27, 2024. Seconded by Tommy Lo. Motion Passed.

## Annual River Run - Rain Date - Oct 1, 2023

Story & photos by Rob Robison.



Strong winds and heavy rain forced the SS Neptunes to reschedule the annual (North) River Run from Saturday, Sept. 30 to Sunday, Oct.1, 2023. It was a beautiful sunny day as 17 South Shore Neptunes and friends gathered at the 3A Bridge parking area, across from Roht Marine. We suited up, hopped into Ken's truck, and headed for the Norwell Bridge Street Canoe Launch. Part of our entourage included Bay State Council President Jim Nannery, who was making his first river run ever. Maybe iDive NE will join us next time. Todd Alger, Alex and Rachel Wieck, arrived just after we took the group photo, as did Ken and Erica Hayes. Then, we all jumped in the river. The float lasted almost 3 hours because we had to wait for the high king tide to recede enough for the current to help move us downstream. What follows are some of the photos I took of our experience. Special thanks are in order to Paul Adler and Joe McAndrew, who helped with the chauffeuring, and Bill Burchill, who hosted us afterwards at his nearby house with a huge vat of clam chowder to consume after the long exposure to the North River's tidal waters. A couple of annual stalwarts who missed the Oct. 1 float and a few of us who just enjoyed the experience will reprise the event on Sunday, October 15. Instead of Bill Burchill's chowder, we'll hit the Roht Marine bar and restaurant, if it is still open, or some other establishment for post-float refreshment. If interested, watch your email for the exact time of the event. Dive into it, everyone! Rob

River Run #2 - October 17 Photos by Theresa Czerepica



## Diver's Meetup - Oct 18 at the 99 Restaurant

Some photos from the South Shore Neptunes Diver's Meetup, Oct 18, 2023. A fun Wednesday night at the Plymouth 99 with some wonderful divers. Great conversations with some good ideas floating around. People are looking forward to more dinner nights out so if you know of a place let me know and I will try and make it happen.



## Pumpkin Carving Competition - October 22

The Pumpkin Carving contest at Pemberton Pier, Hull and then to the Hull Lifesaving Museum. There were 11 Pumpkin Carving Divers. Most divers were in the water carving for 30 plus minutes and the detail of the carvings were very impressive considering the fact it was done underwater in poor visibility with a dive knife!!



## Club Container Painting

More work on the SSN storage container today with: Chuck Zarba, Bruce Lane, Paul Greene, Joe McAndrews and Jay Theriault., Thursday, October 26, 2023. Story and photos by Jay Theriault.



## Dive Reports

### Oct 7 - Back River



80 minutes, 8 ft viz, 63°F, 45 ft max depth  
Story by Doug Eaton

I met Chuck Zarba at the Back River for a day of hunting for artifacts. We geared up and entered the water at 12:30 pm. The air temp was 68 degrees. After a 1hr 20min dive, we met on the beach with our treasure. We cleaned the mud off everything and took some pictures of our artifacts, packed up our gear and headed to the Neptune's post dive spot Darcy's Irish Pub in Quincy for some burgers and beer. At Darcy's, we met up with our President, Adrienne Murphy, Vice President, Ken Hayes, and SSN member Will Tinney and his wife. We had a good time with the South Shore Neptunes as always.

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### Oct 27 - Canoe Beach, Nahant, MA

Story and photos by Rick Hovey & Colin Magee.

A morning sunrise freedive, Canoe Beach, Nahant, MA



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### Oct 28 - Pleasure Bay

Story by Doug Eaton



7 of us went to pleasure bay to bottle hunt. Rob Foley, Evan Bodell, Calvin Stephinson and Paul Morgan headed in first as I watched in disbelief as Evan walked in dressed in wet boots and clothes. I asked, "where is your hood?" He pulled his hoodie over his head saying, "right here." Chuck Zarba, Jeff Finnell and I followed. We all came back with artifacts. After being in over an hour, we checked out the findings. I could not believe Jeff found a 1947 dime. And of course Evan is the man of the dive, who needs a wetsuit. Just another day diving with Neptunes.

# 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)

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Boat diving off the LoggerHead  
Recommended by Paul Greene