



NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM DIVE CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER

April 2005

NEADC Website: www.NEADC.org

NEADC GENERAL MEETING

Immersion Theater at New England Aquarium
Wednesday, April 20, 2005
6:30 p.m.

Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation

Presented by Caroly Shumway

The Aquatic Biodiversity Initiative highlights the value of science in addressing pressing questions in aquatic biodiversity, the interdependence of humans with other species and ecosystems, and the importance of changing human behavior including our exciting fieldwork in Lake Tanganyika with video and lots of pictures. What can DIVERS do to conserve species and ecosystems?

Caroly Shumway is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in Biology, and Senior Scientist for Biodiversity, Depts. of Research & Global Marine Programs for The New England Aquarium

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Submit your news for the next Newsletter by
Monday, April 18, 2005!

This is for the **MAY EDITION** of the NEADC Newsletter.
Submissions must be in writing, preferably via
Email to newsletter@neadc.org. Thank you!

NEXT INFORMAL MEETING

Wednesday May 4, 2005
The home of Dick and Nancy Whitehouse
2406 Simmons Rd.
Middleboro, Ma.

- Take whatever route is best for you to reach Rte 495 South.
- Take **Exit 6** for Rte 44, turning **RIGHT** at the bottom of the ramp onto **Rte 44 East**.
- Continue on Rte 44E after the rotary (exit is about 2/3 of the way around) towards Plymouth.
- Take a **LEFT at the 4th light** onto Rte 105 North; PLYMPTON(sp?) RD.
- After 1/2 mile RTE 105 bears LEFT onto **THOMPSON ST.**
- (follow the signs for Oak Point)
- Follow Thompson St for 2.4 miles then turn **LEFT** onto **PLAIN ST.**
- Take your **1st RIGHT** into Oak Point.
- If gate is down enter **565** into keypad. This will ring our phone and we can open the gate. If the gate is open just drive on through.
- Once past the gate, take the **1st LEFT** onto **FOX RUN**
- Then your **1st LEFT** onto **SIMMONS RD.**
- Watch for block numbers on lamp posts on left side of the road.
- You're going to take a **LEFT** onto the **2400 Block**
- Our house is number **2406**, 2nd house on the right. Putty color; white trim; black shutters.

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NEADC Voice Mail

Please call (617) 973-0240.

NEADC Website

Look for updated information
on our website,
www.neadc.org, graciously
hosted by
Jake and Linda Richter.

FROM YOUR SHORE DIVE COORDINATOR: Rick Rosa

Shore Dive Planning Meeting:

The planning meeting is an annual event to pick the schedule and locations for the upcoming shore dive season. It is at 6:30 on Wed., April 27th (a week after the April formal) at Jose McIntyre's (<http://www.irishconnection.com/jose.html>) upstairs in the function room. RSVP to: shoredive@neadc.org.

We need volunteer shore dive leaders to have another successful shore diving season. Prizes will be given to volunteers at the end of the season as a token of our appreciation.

Dive leaders from last year: be sure to contact me by email and set something up for your gift, and please come to this year's meeting.

You don't have to be an expert diver or Divemaster to coordinate a dive (technically, you don't even have to dive!), you just have to be able to answer the phone and reply to emails. Usually, it involves picking a site, giving directions, and watching the weather the day of the event. If you can't make it, please email me with dates and places you'd like to lead a dive (father's day dive, clean up dives, pumpkin carving dive, Christmas tree dive, etc.).

Free food and prizes for dive organizers - what could be better!

New England Diving:

The dive season starts in April (for the brave) and lasts until late October/November depending on the weather. Last season, we managed to schedule dives for every weekend in the season. I'm hoping we can do the same this year. Please consider the tides when picking a dive site and time.

Every Saturday, after the formal Aquarium meetings, we have new member dives for new divers, new members to the club, or divers who haven't been in the water for a while. Join us and get back in the water!

FROM YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR: Alicia Lenci



Don't need your old scale? Donate it to the NEADC. We are in need of unwanted bathroom scales for our cleanups. This will enable us to get more accurate weight measurements of the trash we remove from the beaches and the ocean. With your help, we can make a difference. Contact: Alicia, environmental@neadc.org or 617-285-6737.

FROM YOUR WEBMASTER: Steve Whitford

The new diving season is almost upon us! The dive planning meeting is coming up soon, but if you want to dive, and can't find a buddy, you can use the forum. I'm looking forward to some of the diving trips this year (going on at least one), and if anyone knows of more, send me an email, and I'll put it on the Dive Travel page (http://www.neadc.org/lng_trips.htm).

The Newsletter is published on the website as well as in paper format. Everyone should get an email notification when the newsletter is ready, unless you've opted out. If you don't get these emails, you can update your address, and mailing preferences on the website. These emails also contain important reminders and dive club news, and are usually limited to once-a-month.

Looking forward to some great diving this year!

FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Brad Bonn

Due to extenuating circumstances, I am no longer able to spend the necessary time to edit the monthly NEADC newsletter. I very rarely back down from a responsibility that I say I will take on, and so this is very difficult for me to do. I want to thank all the officers for their support and understanding in this matter, and I wish good luck to Robert O'Neill who will be having this baton passed to him in my place.

I hope to have a new job with more reasonable hours soon, so my life will not end up being consumed by work completely. Otherwise there's no time for the more important things in life, like diving!

Best wishes to everyone and thank you again for this opportunity. Hopefully in the near future I'll be able to contribute more to the club as I had initially hoped. –Brad Bonn

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dr Charlie Ellis, an associate professor of biology at Northeastern University, will talk about embryo and larval development of marine invertebrates. These amazing animals have some interesting and complex development patterns. Come learn about how these familiar animals started their lives.

This lecture is free to the public.

"Embryos in the Sea"

Dr Charlie Ellis

Associate Professor of Biology

Northeastern University

Tuesday April 12, 2005

Light refreshments served at 6:30PM.

The lecture begins at 7:00 and is roughly an hour long.

The Marine Science Center is wheelchair accessible.

430 Nahant Road, Nahant, MA 01908

Call Tracy Hajduk for more information

or email t.hajduk@neu.edu

<http://www.marinescience.neu.edu/outreach>

Phone: 781-581-7370 ext 321

6th Annual Morehead City, NC Trip

Join NEADC member Jim Carozza aboard the *Diver Down*

June 23 - 27, 2005.

This is limited to 18 people (* only 8 spots left as of 3/17/05). We are invited guests of the Laurel Divers Dive Club of PA who have reserved the whole boat and a deposit of \$135 is due now to hold your reservation. The remainder is due by April 25. The cost of the diving is \$270 for the three days of diving (Fri, Sat, & Sun) or \$90.00 per day for a two tank dive. Tanks and weights are not included. Tanks and weights can be reserved ahead of time through Diver Down shop. This does not include accommodations. We usually stay steps from the boat at the Fisherman's Inn and the rates are very reasonable. Cookout on the dock Saturday night included. We plan on driving down again this year. It takes about 14 hours straight thru from Boston area.

This is advanced wreck diving and Nitrox certification is highly recommended. Great visibility and warm temps! You will see some sand tigers and maybe more on this trip!

If interested please contact Jim at James.Carozza@bos.frb.org ASAP to reserve your spot. "First come first served" or "no payment no spot confirmed or held".

Links:

www.diverdownscubadiving.com

www.clis.com/fishermansinn



A Dream Dive into History: The Sunken Fleets of Bikini Atoll

By Brad Bonn

After the end of World War II, there was a massive push in the U.S. military to understand and master the technology which had ended the conflict in the Pacific so abruptly. A site which was far away from shipping and air lanes was chosen in the Pacific Ocean. The nearby local population of Bikini Atoll was asked to "temporarily" relocate for "the good of mankind and to end all world wars."

After they had done so, two atomic bombs, each roughly the power of the bomb dropped on Nagasaki were detonated near the Marshall Islands chain. Each one exploded near the center of a "guinea pig" fleet of decommissioned U.S. and foreign vessels. Needless to say, nearly all of the ships sank immediately, with a few others slipping beneath the waves within several minutes. The island chain was also the site of the first H-bomb explosion, which was far more powerful than anyone had anticipated, putting out nearly 15 megatons of explosive power. (This is the equivalent of 15 *million tons* of TNT piled up and detonated simultaneously). The site was so identified with the nuclear tests that the two French fashion designers Jacques Heim and Louis Reard named their new swimsuit the "Bikini." The bathing suit showed the most skin of any other at the time, and its creators claimed it would make "an Atomic impression."

The relocation of the islanders of Bikini, and the damage to their lands resulted in a massive lawsuit which put the U.S. Government \$563,315,500 in debt to the population. This amount has still not been paid in full, although the cleanup of the islands is proceeding, and several residents have moved back. Today it is now safe to travel there and walk around, but there are limits on water and plant life which can be safely consumed.

The people of Bikini have turned to tourism as a source of revenue, and as a way to spread the history of the Islands. The sunken fleet has been free of radiation for years, and Navy divers have been on the site to disarm potentially hazardous ordinance left on some of the ships, making it a potential dive site for any decompression-certified divers. Now, it is a wreck-diver's Mecca. Dozens of vessels from the great aircraft carrier *Saratoga*, to the Japanese battleship *Nagato* lie in peace on the bottom, most of them upright. Fantastic visibility makes them brightly lit even at 170 feet, and since no human beings have been present fishing in the region for so long, wildlife has exploded. All manner of creatures from giant manta rays, countless sharks, reef fish and coral have all made their home in the now-dormant war machines. Currently, "Bikini Atoll Divers" (www.bikiniatoll.com/divetour.html) offers a week-long tour with 12 guided decompression dives on the most notable wrecks, plus food and accommodation on the islands for US\$2,850. Besides obvious briefings, aptitude tests and preparation for the diving, tourists are also shown videos and participate in lectures on the history behind the Island, it's people, and the bombs which changed the world forever. Dives to the atoll return with incredible footage of airplanes still inside the *Saratoga's* hangars, submarines turned into fish habitats, and the guns of battleships still proudly aiming forward despite their watery grave. But for many visiting the site, the sheer volume of history stacked neatly on the bottom of the ocean in steel, makes all other highlights of the journey secondary. I for one, intend to go there and see it for myself. Being a volunteer educator for the aquarium tends to make me biased towards seeing nature on a dive, but I'm also a naval history buff, and Bikini Atoll has both in great quantities. What more could you ask for?

The biggest downside to a diving trip here (besides the obvious cost) is that you need to be certified in a few technical diving areas. Decompression diving is the most important, but divers are also recommended to be cave diving certified as well, if you want to try penetrating the wrecks. There are openings everywhere, and exploratory divers have left permanent guide lines through some of the passageways. And if you're not feeling daring enough to head deep into the ships, the *Saratoga's* hangars are semi-enclosed and can give you the same kind of inside view, without being completely surrounded by the wreck.

More information about the islands and dive trips to them can be found on the official website (www.bikiniatoll.com).

New England Aquarium Dive Club
Spring 2005 Shore Diving and Event Calendar

The leaders for a dive may cancel or modify their dive plans so please contact him or her prior to the dive date. Likewise, if you confirm attendance but then cannot attend a dive for any reason, please notify the dive leader as soon as possible, so that the group does not wait for you at the meeting site on the day of the dive. *Note: Meeting minutes are posted on www.neadc.org.*

Date	Time	Event	Contact	Location	Notes
Apr 20	6:30pm	Dive Club General Meeting	www.neadc.org	Immersion Theater, New England Aquarium	Dinner following meeting at local restaurant
Apr 23 (sat)	10am	Earth Day Cleanup / Dives	Alicia (617) 285 6737 environmental@neadc.org	Cape Ann	
Apr 27 (Wed)	6:30pm	Shore Dive Planning Meeting	Rick Rosa shoredive@neadc.org	Jose McIntyre's	Lead or coordinate a drive in 2005!
May 4 (Wed)	6:30pm	Informal Meeting and Newsletter Assembly	Michael Schruben president@neadc.org	The Whitehouse's Middleboro, MA	
May 18 (Wed)	6:30pm	Dive Club General Meeting	www.neadc.org	Immersion Theater, New England Aquarium	Dinner following meeting at local restaurant
May 22 (Sun)	TBA	BSC/South Shore Neptunes Annual Treasure Hunt	Alicia (617) 285 6737 environmental@neadc.org	TBA	

REMINDER: If you would like to participate in a club dive, *PLEASE* make sure you contact the dive leader at least a day or two before the dive date. Dive leaders may cancel or modify their dive plans. Likewise, if you confirm attendance but then cannot attend a dive, please notify the dive leader as soon as possible, so that the group does not wait for you at the meeting site on the day of the dive.

NOTE: The opinions expressed within this newsletter are those of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the New England Aquarium or the New England Aquarium Dive Club.
 The Editor reserves the right to edit all submitted material for the sake of grammar, clarity, and space.

ADVERTISING GUIDELINES

Dive related ads for **NEADC Members** will be free with the following stipulations:

1. Must be current NEADC member in good standing.
2. Ad may be up to the half page size, depending on space availability. For larger ads, the member will be charged for the additional space at the current rates.
3. Ad must be submitted electronically.
4. Ad must be sent to the Newsletter Editor *prior* to Deadline.
5. Ad will be placed for one month only (ads may be renewed by resubmission as stated above).

NOTE: This will NOT affect Website policy.

COMMERCIAL and NON-MEMBER ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page \$90/insertion; Half Page \$50/ insertion
 Quarter Page \$30/insertion; Eighth Page \$20/insertion.

10% discount for 4 or more insertions per calendar year.
 20% discount for 8 or more insertions per calendar year.
 Send questions and submissions to the Newsletter Editor.
Ad fees must be paid in advance.

Social Get-togethers for Everyone

by Trish Katzman, Membership Director

Come meet at Jose McIntyre's prior to our next General Meetings on Wednesday, February 16, and Wednesday, March 16, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. for drinks, appetizers, dinner, or to just say hi. Or if you are more of a late night person, we usually walk together to a dinner place after the meeting.

We offer both an early and later get-together to meet the variety of styles of our 500 members. These get-togethers are meant to help answer questions and talk with new or less active members. If you are an active member, come out with us and help us greet people!

If you don't know anybody, just ask for me and I'd love to tell you about the latest club news and hear about your interests in diving. Hope to see you there!

Directions to Jose McIntyre's at 160 Milk Street, Boston:

- Jose's is walking distance from the Aquarium.
- Park in the garage next to the Aquarium.
- Turn left when exiting the garage.
- Cross the street at the light.
- Walk straight to the upcoming block and look to your right.

New England Aquarium Dive Club Membership Form

Type of Membership: New _____ Renewal _____
Has your address changed since last renewal? No _____ Yes _____ previous town _____

New England Aquarium Membership Categories: **Choose One:**
(Membership in the Dive Club requires current membership in the New England Aquarium)

- Individual \$45.00 + Dive Club Membership \$15.00 = \$60.00
- Couple/Family \$80.00 + Dive Club Membership \$15.00 = \$95.00
- Quatermaster \$100.00 + Dive Club Membership \$15.00 = \$115.00
- Master Mariner \$150.00 + Dive Club Membership \$15.00 = \$165.00
- Friend of Aquarium \$250.00 + Dive Club Membership \$15.00 = \$265.00

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____ (Dive Club dues plus Aquarium membership)

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ E-mail _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

____ Check here to receive the newsletter electronically. ____ Check here to receive other club information electronically.
Note: Contact information will be used for Aquarium and Dive Club purposes only.

Please make your check payable to "New England Aquarium" or charge to:

____ MasterCard ____ Visa ____ Discover ____ American Express

Signature _____

Account # _____ Expiration _____ Amount \$ _____

Mail to: Membership Department, New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston MA 02110

New members receive a New England Aquarium membership card marked "DIVER". **IF YOU ARE ALREADY A MEMBER OF THE AQUARIUM**, send your membership card, Dive Club dues payment, and this application to the Membership Department. Your membership card will be returned marked "DIVER". If you have any questions, please call the Aquarium Membership Office at 617-973-6555/6564.



Central Wharf, Boston, MA 02110