



# NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM DIVE CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER

December 2005/January 2006

NEADC Website: [www.NEADC.org](http://www.NEADC.org)

## NEADC GENERAL MEETINGS

Conference Center at New England Aquarium

Wednesday, Dec. 21 2005

6:30 PM

### ANNUAL SHOW AND TELL

Club members present their stuff! Contact Al Bozza at [programs@neadc.org](mailto:programs@neadc.org) if you would like to be a presenter.

Conference Center at New England Aquarium

Wednesday, Jan. 18 2006

6:30 PM

### BRITISH COLUMBIA WITH JONATHAN BIRD

Join Jonathan Bird on a journey to the waters of British Columbia, land of the world's largest sea star, nudibranch, octopus and anemone! With colors exceeding those on many tropical reefs, and invertebrate life as thick as anywhere on Earth, British Columbia is widely regarded as one of the world's greatest cold water dive destinations. You won't need a dry suit for this presentation though...sit back and learn about BC diving with no shivering. From delicate basket stars and pink soft coral to deadly cannibalistic sun stars and wolf eels that eat urchins from divers' hands, BC is truly an amazing place. Jonathan will also have copies of some of his latest books that will be personally autographed and available for sale. One will be raffled off prior to the presentation.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Submit your news for the next Newsletter by

**Monday, Jan. 23, 2006!**

This is for the **FEBRUARY EDITION** of the NEADC Newsletter. Submissions must be in writing, preferably via

E-mail to [newsletter@neadc.org](mailto:newsletter@neadc.org). Thank you!

## NEXT INFORMAL MEETINGS

Wednesday Jan. 11, 2006 (Second Wednesday!)

6:30 p.m. at Jose McIntyre's

160 Milk St. Boston

Come and socialize with former officers and meet your new officers. Music, free appetizers, cash bar and no newsletters to fold!! Hope to see you there!

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.

Wednesday Feb. 1, 2006

6:30 p.m. at the home of Al and Wendy Bozza

8 Crossbow Road, Norfolk MA

Phone: (508) 528-4933

**Directions from Route 495:** Take Route 495 South to Exit 15 (Route 1A). Take Route 1A toward Wrentham, following it about 2 miles to the lights in Wrentham Center. Staying on Route 1A, go straight, through the traffic lights and follow Route 1A and Route 115. Take a left onto Route 115 and follow it for about 2 1/2 miles to a stop sign. Take a left at the stop sign onto Union Street. Follow Union Street for about 1/2 a mile and take a right onto Grove Street. Take your first right onto Crossbow Road and follow the road around to the left. Our house is at the end of the cul-de-sac, up a long driveway.

**From Route 128:** Take Route 128 South to Route 95. Take Route 95 South and get off at Exit 9 (Route 1). Follow Route 1 South for about 5 miles, passing Foxboro Stadium on your left. After you pass Foxboro Stadium, at the first set of traffic lights, take a right onto Pine Street. The Lafayette House will be on your right. Follow Pine Street for about 1/4 of a mile to a stop sign. Take a right. This puts you on Route 115. Follow Route 115 for about 2 1/2 miles to a stop sign. Take a left onto Union Street. Follow Union Street for about 1/2 a mile and take a right onto Grove Street. Take your first right onto Crossbow Road and follow the road around to the left. Our house is at the end of the cul-de-sac, up a long driveway.

**From Route 93:** Take Route 93 South to Route 95. Take Route 95 South and get off at Exit 9 (Route 1). Follow directions above.

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**2005 New England Aquarium  
Dive Club Officers**

**President**

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[president@neadc.org](mailto:president@neadc.org)

**Vice-President**

Scott Matey  
[vicepresident@neadc.org](mailto:vicepresident@neadc.org)

**Business Manager**

Julia Cichowski  
[business@neadc.org](mailto:business@neadc.org)

**Boat Dive Coordinator**

Leah Neal  
[boatdive@neadc.org](mailto:boatdive@neadc.org)

**Shore Dive Coordinator**

Rick Rosa  
[shoredive@neadc.org](mailto:shoredive@neadc.org)

**Newsletter Editor**

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[newsletter@neadc.org](mailto:newsletter@neadc.org)

**Program Director**

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(508) 528-4933  
[programs@neadc.org](mailto:programs@neadc.org)

**Membership Director**

Trish Katzman  
[membership@neadc.org](mailto:membership@neadc.org)

**Secretary**

Anna Maria Krowczynska  
[secretary@neadc.org](mailto:secretary@neadc.org)

**Environmental Affairs**

Alicia Lenci  
(617) 285-6737  
[environmental@neadc.org](mailto:environmental@neadc.org)

**Webmaster**

Steve Whitford  
[webmaster@neadc.org](mailto:webmaster@neadc.org)

**NEADC Voice Mail**

Please call (617) 973-0240.

**NEADC Website**

Look for updated information  
on our website,  
[www.neadc.org](http://www.neadc.org), graciously  
hosted by  
Jake and Linda Richter.

## OFFICER ELECTIONS

Elections for the 2006 New England Aquarium Dive Club board were held at last month's November General Meeting, on November 16. You'll notice many of the same names in the same positions: Scott Matey as vice president, Julia Cichowski as treasurer, Al Bozza as program officer, Steve Whitford as webmaster, Robert O'Neill as newsletter editor, Alicia Lenci as environmental officer and Trish Katzman as membership director. Rick Rosa left the shore dive coordinator position to take the helm as president, and Anna Krowczynska moved from recording secretary moved from shore dive coordinator. A couple of new names were added to the roster: Val Feehan as secretary, and John Feehan as boat dive coordinator. Busy schedules kept dive club president Michael Schruben and boat dive coordinator Leah Neal from running again, but we thank them for all their hard work this past year.

2006 Officers:

President – Rick Rosa  
Vice President – Scott Matey  
Secretary – Val Feehan  
Treasurer – Julia Cichowski  
Webmaster – Steve Whitford  
Newsletter – Robert O'Neill  
Environmental – Alicia Lenci  
Shore dive – Anna Krowczynska  
Boat dive – John Feehan  
Membership – Trish Katzman  
Programs – Al Bozza

## FROM YOUR PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Al Bozza

A couple of events coming up in the New Year that I want to draw your attention to:

Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> New Year's Day Dive at 10 am, Fort Wetherill, Jamestown, R.I.. Warm truck with comfortable seating, nice music, hot coffee, hot chocolate, hot cider, cookies and muffins, and of course a cold water dive. If you plan to attend please let me know so I can accommodate everyone.

Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Long weekend winter/ski trip near Sunday River, Maine. Up to 4 nights are available. A seven bedroom, three bathroom, 5200 sq. ft. waterfront home that sleeps up to 26, with game rooms(ping pong, pool table and wet bar), hot tub, grill, 2 washers and driers, fireplace, large deck,( towels, linens, and wood are also provided) Cost is \$300 per bedroom !!! and includes some drinks, BBQ/party Saturday night and some snacks. There is skating on the pond, great skiing nearby and snowmobiles available to rent down the street. We will be snowshoeing, tubing, going on a sleigh ride, doing cross country skiing and having a great time. This will sell out fast so e-mail me and reserve a spot. For individuals wanting to come I will put groups together that can share bedrooms.

## **FROM YOUR SECRETARY: Anna Krowczynska**

This is the last time you'll be reading my musings under this title. Since 2002 I've been the club's Recording Secretary (this is an official title) and because of my new job that is interfering with attendance at the club meetings I am passing on my pen into the able hands of Val Feehan, new club Secretary.

But, since I've enjoyed being on the Board (to all of you who ever considered running for a Board member position, but were afraid of commitment, I will say consider the rewards) and enjoyed incentives that go with it: I've dove twice in the GOT, went on an officers boat dive this year and met a lot of interesting people. Hint to all members – if you are shy and don't know how to start the conversation wear something with the Club logo. Immediately someone (hopefully this cute Guy or Gal) will ask you whether you are working for the Aquarium, met the shark under water etc. and you are perceived as a really cool person. Also, sitting at the NEADC booth during the Sea Rovers I had a chance to chat with Michelle and Howard Hall and legendary Stan Waterman who stopped by to tell us what a great job NEADC is doing. But I am digressing, I've decided to hang around the NEADC Board a little longer and next year I will be a Shore Dive Coordinator. I do hope to see all of you at some time beneath the Atlantic surface.

The local diving season is drawing to a close – big lobsters migrated towards deep waters to spend the winter there, big fish is gone too and what's left are small creatures. Most of the dive boats are taken off the water (your only choice to boat dive in winter is Cape Ann Divers). The viz is great, too bad that there is not too much to see. In winter months I do interrupt my skiing and snowboarding for a tropical dive trip – this March I went to Honduras, next March I am going to Philippines, and plan to start my local dive season early, maybe even in April, weather permitting.

Wishing you all Happy and Healthy Holidays and great diving in the New Year!

Don't forget about the Tropical Party on Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> at Jose McIntyre's in downtown Boston – wear your favorite Hawaiian shirt. And if you were a shore dive leader this will be your chance to pick up this cool gadget you've always wanted to possess as a reward for your trouble.

## **FROM YOUR WEBMASTER: Steve Whitford**

In the coming months, look for a redesign of the website for the 30th anniversary of the club. Especially now, I'm looking for photographs for the club scrapbook. Any photographs of NEADC activities (from any time) will be great, and they'll become a permanent part of the website.

I'm leading some winter dives, and hopefully invasive species survey dives, so if you're interested in joining me - or you want to lead your own - send me an email ([webmaster@neadc.org](mailto:webmaster@neadc.org))

The dive shop locator is done, and it is online at: [http://www.neadc.org/lds\\_locator/](http://www.neadc.org/lds_locator/) I'm going to be continuously improving it, and I need everybody's help. If you spot any inaccuracies for the shops, let me know. I took the info from dealer locator websites, so many of the stores might not exist anymore or might not even be scuba related. Also, let me know if you have any suggestions about improving it.

## **FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Robert O'Neill**

Diving gets a little slower for most of us around this time of the year, and the newsletter likes to take a little time off too. As is our custom, the final newsletter of the year is a double issue, covering December and January. Until the next edition reaches you in early February please check in with our Website for any developments. As we never tire of reminding you, 2006 will mark the club's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, so don't forget to keep an eye out for upcoming celebrations and events.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE BOSTON SCUBA SHOW** scheduled for February 25, 2006, at the Marlboro, Massachusetts HOLIDAY INN and RESORT headlines Capt. Spencer Slate (NAUI Board of Directors member) from Key Largo presenting "THE RIGHTING OF THE SPEIGEL GROVE!" Directed by Alan Budreau, the show will also feature: SUBS SUNK ON THE EAST COAST (some within easy reach), by Dave Clancy; and new video by Fred Calhoun and the crew of EASY DIVER featuring Dave Norman, Jerry Comeau, Peter Donahue, and Cathy Myers...and narrated by Pat Walsh; and Cousteau's Classic (up-dated) THE SILENT WORLD. The show starts at 10 AM and runs through to 4 PM. Various NAUI dignitaries (including northeast regional representative Angelo Fiore) will be on-board for Q & A and general discussion following the show.

Tickets at \$20.00 per person may be acquired through the mail (recommended) by writing to Cecile Christensen, 2 Ocean Ave. ((1-H), Magnolia MA 01930. Checks payable to Cecile Christensen. Tickets will be available at the door also. Show phone is 1-978-525-3432...there's a machine on the line. We'll get back to you promptly.

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### **"New England Aquarium Rescue and Rehab," With Connie Merigo**

Northeastern University Marine Science Center Evening Lecture Series, Tuesday January 24, 2006

Ever wonder what happens in the Rescue and Rehabilitation department of the New England Aquarium? What are the animals they commonly see? What treatment do these animals get while at the Aquarium Medical Center? What causes the strange event know as a mass stranding and why are these events more common in Massachusetts? Connie Merigo, from the New England Aquarium Rescue and Rehab department, will talk about the inner workings of the Rescue and Rehab program. Hear all about daily procedures, mass stranding, research and data gathered by the Rescue and Rehab program and most importantly what you should do if you see a marine mammal.

This lecture is free to the public. Light refreshments served at 6:30PM. The lecture begins at 7:00 PM 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 at 781-581-7370 ext 321 or email [t.hajduk@neu.edu](mailto:t.hajduk@neu.edu)

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

Marine Science Center Evening Lecture Series

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### **Join the mid-winter Fun! Party At Jose McIntyre's on January 11!**



Join the fun and thank the 2005 Officers, 2005 informal meeting hosts and 2005 dive leaders. Also meet the new 2006 Officers. 2006 is the club's 30th Anniversary! There are already many fun activities planned. 160 Milk St Boston, MA, (617) 451-9460.

## It's Blue Lobster Bowl time again!

The 9th Annual National Ocean Sciences Bowl, known in Massachusetts as the Blue Lobster Bowl, is scheduled for Saturday, March 4, 2006 on the campus of MIT in Cambridge. The event is hosted by the MIT Sea Grant College Program and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

For the past eight years, scores of volunteers have helped to make the Blue Lobster Bowl a terrific experience for hundreds of high school students from across the state. I hope that many of you will choose to volunteer again in 2006.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** throughout the day (8:00am-8:00pm). Volunteers can choose to participate for part or all of the day, come early to help set-up, and/or stay late to help clean-up. Be a part of the volunteer crew that makes the day happen for all of the participating teams. The 24 teams (that's 120 kids and 24 teachers) will thank you. Plus, you'll get a Blue Lobster Bowl vest or sweatshirt and a few meals.

Moderators, scorekeepers, timekeepers and runners are needed throughout the round robin-style competition.

Training provided. For more info about the National Ocean Science Bowl and Massachusetts Blue Lobster Bowl go to:

[http://www.coreocean.org/Dev2Go.web?anchor=nosb\\_home\\_page](http://www.coreocean.org/Dev2Go.web?anchor=nosb_home_page)

Come and encourage future marine scientists. To join the NEADC team of volunteers for this event please contact Alicia Lenci, [environmental@neadc.org](mailto:environmental@neadc.org).



## Don't let Your Gear Dry Out!

Need an excuse to dive this winter?

Want a safe place to try out your new dry suit or gear?

Are you a beginner and don't want to wait 6 months to practice your new skills?

Want to learn how to collect scientific data underwater?

Think about joining me this winter for easy shore dives off of Cape Ann and participate in surveying for the Top Ten Invasive species ([www.neadc.org/invasives.html](http://www.neadc.org/invasives.html))

Top Ten Invasive Species

Green Crab

Sea Squirt

Star Tunicate

Orange Tunicate

Colonial Tunicate

Dead Men's Fingers

European Flat Oyster

Asian Shore Crab

Chinese Mitten Crab

Veined Rapa Welk

Winter months are times of great visibility

I will be mapping the cove and surveying for invasive species from November to May off Plum Cove in Gloucester, MA. And then monitoring this site throughout the year.

Why Plum Cove?

This is an easy beginner site and safe for winter diving. It also has rocky sandy and eel grass habitat. Also parking is not an issue since this area is not restricted to non-residents from October to May. This type of survey has never been done at this cove. Many new divers want to help collect this information and need practice doing so.

Bring your own dive gear (little extra weight for shallowness) and a camera (if you own one). Training, slates and a hot beverage will be provided.

Dates: TBD. Saturdays and/or Sundays depending on tides and weather.

In interested or for more information contact: Alicia Lenci, [environmental@neadc.org](mailto:environmental@neadc.org)

## CLASSIFIEDS

SCUBAL N8 aluminum underwater housing for Nikon 8008s. This is the finest housing ever made for this workhorse camera with an outstanding viewfinder. Includes Nikonos flash synch connector and TLC tray and handle. Does not include ports or lens gears. \$200. Contact Jonathan Bird (978) 664-9091.

LARGE SEAQUEST ADV SPECTRUM 4 BCD \$125 only used about a dozen times, but has been sitting in a basement for several years. Not weight integrated, and has very large pockets. Contact Steve at [swwhitford@yahoo.com](mailto:swwhitford@yahoo.com)

## 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.**

## NEADC DIVE AND EVENTS SCHEDULE

### New England Aquarium Dive Club Fall/Winter 2005 Shore Diving and Event Calendar

If you plan to participate in a shore dive you should contact the designated leader prior to the dive date to let him or her know that you will be attending. Decisions to cancel or modify dive plans (due to weather or other factors) are left to the discretion of the individual leaders who organize the dives, and confirming your attendance beforehand will help ensure that you are notified of any last minute changes. 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. Also, there are too many open dates to list this season. Please look at the calendar and volunteer for an open day.

Date	Location	Meeting Time / Details	Contact	Event/Purpose
December 2005				
Dec. 7 (Wed.)	Scott Matey's 103 Gainsborough St. #104, Boston	6:30 PM		Club Informal Meeting
Dec. 11 (Sun.)	TBA	Burger King 9 AM	Steve Whitford ( <a href="mailto:webmaster@neadc.org">webmaster@neadc.org</a> )	Dive
Dec. 20 (Tue.)	Back Beach	Back Beach 6:30 PM	Steve Whitford ( <a href="mailto:webmaster@neadc.org">webmaster@neadc.org</a> )	Night Dive
Dec. 21 (Wed.)	NEAq Conference Center	6:30 PM	Michael Schruben ( <a href="mailto:president@neadc.org">president@neadc.org</a> )	Club General Meeting
January 2006				
Jan. 1 (Sun.)	Fort Wetherill, Jamestown, R.I.		Al Bozza ( <a href="mailto:programs@neadc.org">programs@neadc.org</a> )	New Year's Day Dive
Jan. 11 (Wed.)	Jose McIntyre's 160 Milk St., Boston	6:30 PM		NEADC Mid-Winter Celebration. Help kick off the club's 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
Jan. 25 (Wed.)	NEAq Conference Center	6:30 PM	Rick Rosa ( <a href="mailto:president@neadc.org">president@neadc.org</a> )	Club General Meeting
February				
Feb. 1 (Wed.)	TBA	6:30 PM	Rick Rosa ( <a href="mailto:president@neadc.org">president@neadc.org</a> )	Club Informal Meeting
Feb. 15 (Wed.)	NEAq Conference Center	6:30 PM	Rick Rosa ( <a href="mailto:president@neadc.org">president@neadc.org</a> )	Club General Meeting
Feb. 25 (Sat.)	Holiday Inn, Marlboro	10 AM -4 PM	Fred Calhoun 978-525-3432	Boston Scuba Show

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.

## TRIP REPORT: CHASING TIGER SHARKS IN THE BAHAMAS by Anna Krowczynska

Call me Ishmael. OK, this is the beginning of Moby Dick in which Captain Ahab is chasing the white whale and ends up losing the ship with all but one hand. Our trip to the Little Bahama Bank wasn't that dramatic and everybody came back in one piece, but the obsession with finding a tiger shark was as great as Captain Ahab's desire to kill Moby Dick.

I was fascinated by the sharks even before I started to scuba dive; it was probably Jaws that made a great impression on my young and impressionable mind. Of course, the attitude of most people towards sharks has changed since the days of Jaws I, II and III, from terror and killing instincts to fascination and preservation. Point in fact – tribulations of the young female great white shark stuck in a Naushon Island lagoon near Woods Hole last September. Nobody was calling to kill her; everybody was rooting for the shark and cheered when she finally left the lagoon.

I've already swam with whale sharks, scalloped Hammerheads, sand tiger sharks, reef sharks, Galapagos sharks, black tips and nurse sharks, not to mention pesky dog fish that followed me in Lance Cove and interfered with catching lobsters, so I was a game when I read Jonathan Bird's announcement about a tiger shark trip in the Bahamas. He was trying to organize a good tiger shark trip for a while, but a couple of operators, most notably Jim Abernethy of Scuba Adventures charges an arm and a leg (pun intended) for the privilege of diving with tiger sharks in the Bahamas, where all the action is. Finally, Jonathan persuaded Wayne Scott Smith, who pioneered Tiger shark diving in the Bahamas in 1970, but had since switched to dolphin trips, to get back into the shark business. Ours was the maiden tiger shark adventure for Scottie and Dolphin Dream team; the next scheduled trip is with Shark Diver magazine in December, followed by March and February trips with Great White Adventures. So, the pressure was on to get the best tiger shark encounters possible. Scottie has his own secret tiger shark beach somewhere in the Little Bahama Bank, so he was pretty confident about finding them and giving us the time of our life.

For all of you who participated in Dolphin Trips on Dream Too, you should know that Scottie has a new, much larger boat named Dolphin Dream, 79 feet long ex traveler/shrimper that is still being converted into a pleasure/diving craft. Her previous name was God's Will, which is still visible on stern and a bow. The boat is very stable and spacious with private staterooms (rather smallish and without any storage space, but how much time do you spend down there and besides there is plenty of space in other places on the boat for all your belongings), two heads (third is being build) and a large salon and galley.

As with all Jonathan trips most participants were avid underwater photographers and/or videographers who brought tons of equipment on board. My roommate, Mike Storm, lucky for me, brought four underwater cameras, so when mine finally flooded (as Jonathan always says; there are only two types of underwater cameras: ones that have already flooded and others that will) I could borrow one from him.

This was a nine day trip and since all participants were experienced divers, this was no cage, but free dive tiger shark encounters. After all, we all have been warned by Jonathan that this is a serious trip for people who want to shoot picture/video of Tiger sharks, one of the most feared and elusive (no kidding, you will see later why) sharks in the sea, not a pleasure reef diving for new divers.

Our group consisted of divers not only from US, but also Belgium and Canada. NEADC was represented by yours truly, Jonathan Bird and Linda and Kerry Hurd. Robin wasn't accompanying Scottie this time since she is expecting their first child in April. For all of you who haven't known Scott and Robin got finally married last November after 14 years of courtship. Albums with wedding pictures were on display in the salon.

My first surprise after boarding the boat (after I've got over her size) was large amount of big bags containing dog and cat food. To my relief I've learned that those are not for our consumption, but rather that the Dolphin Dream is

carrying a relief supply for the Hurricane Wilma stricken Grand Bahama Island. Besides great quantities of pet food and couple pieces of appliances, we were bringing baby food, some medicine as well as beer and wine.

We left The Riviera Beach Marina late for the night crossing of the Gulf Stream and woke up in the morning in Bahamas some distance from the North End on the Grand Bahamas where we were officially entering Bahamas and dropping the relief supply.

Crossing was very smooth and around noon we were at the West End quay. After quick formalities at custom and immigration we formed a human chain to unload all the relief supply. After emptying all nooks and crannies where the bags were stashed they formed an impressive mound on the shore. Soon locals came with trucks to pick up supplies. According to one woman from the Humane Society we brought enough dog shampoo to keep clean all the island dogs for a year.

We left North End around 2 pm and sailed to the spot called Bull-Pen for a check out dive. This is a typical Caribbean Reef with lots of colorful fish and reef sharks.

Our boat was carrying over 700 pounds of frozen fish to be used as a chum and special white plastic chum tubes. Someone from the crew painted Jonathan's name on one of the chum tubes. The chum tube was lowered into water and we all were waiting for sharks to come. There was no feeding frenzy since only one small reef shark show up and tried to swallow the tube.

But since this was only the first day I went to bed full of expectations of shark encounters to come while the boat was moving towards Scott's secret Tiger Shark Beach to begin the serious chumming.

On Monday, when my co-workers at Waters were drinking their first cup of coffee I was on deck catching more fish for chumming. Despite my lack of fishing acumen (I never caught anything besides dog fish in the ocean) I was catching yellow fin jacks. The best fisherman turned out to be Pierre, a Canadian dentist, who was catching fish right and left, including ocean trigger fish, remoras and even a frigate bird.

Our wait for the tiger shark had begun. Again, Jonathan had warned us that we would not give up after three days and start to do something else when people get bored. We had a lot of chum on board and still kept adding more fish to it, besides the place was known to Scott as a play ground for Tiger sharks, so we didn't expect a long wait. One thing we didn't take under consideration was very active Hurricane season that stirred up the Caribbean Sea and drew the tiger sharks, smart animals as they are, towards deeper waters.

In the meantime I was reading about tiger sharks that are one of the largest species (up to 24 feet long), mostly pelagic, solitary and feeding in shallows at night.

"The Tiger shark is second only to the White shark in number of reported attacks on humans. Its large size and voraciousness make it a formidable predator in the ocean. Tiger sharks can be curious and aggressive towards humans in the water and must be considered with a great deal of respect."

I was ready to meet the Tiger shark face to face. Unfortunately they were nowhere to be seen.

On Tuesday morning the first sharks came to the boat, not the expected tiger, but rather lemon sharks. We were divided in two groups: videographers and still photographer and were taking turns on the shallow sand bottom to take pictures of sharks. Scott moved the boat to another spot closer to the drop off and we kept chumming, but no more sharks made an appearance. During the evening when we were watching Star Wars Episode III – "Revenge of the Sith" the boat shook and we got stuck on the sand bar. Apparently Scott was musing earlier that the spot may be too shallow for Dolphin Dream at the low tide, but dropped the anchor anyway. Now he was trying to get the boat off the bottom. Before the Anakian transformation into Darth Vader the boat was floating free again and we moved to deeper waters.

On Wednesday we had the first Tiger shark encounter, unfortunately only from the boat, because the shark was spooked by two remoras that were parking under the boat. So much for the fierce reputation of the Tiger shark. Pierre swore to catch both remoras and turned them into chum.

By Thursday everybody was getting antsy, there is only so many episodes of "South Park" you can watch in a row and most book on board were in Japanese (dolphin trips seems to be very popular with Japanese) so Scott and Jonathan decided to go north in a search of dolphins.

We found a pod of bottlenose dolphins that are not as friendly as Atlantic Spotted dolphins are and didn't want to stick with us after we jumped into water. So we moved to a reef called Muriel Gardens for a dive with a reef sharks. Several sharks were patrolling the reef and when Trevor brought the chum tube from the boat they came very close to investigate. This gave us a lot of opportunities to shoot pictures of the reef sharks.

Once back on the boat Scott gave the show of shark wrangling using a big fish on the end of a line that he was snatching back the moment shark tried to eat the fish. Soon, sharks changed tactics and caught the fish, so Scott attached another one. Everybody on the dive platform was shooting pictures or videos. Thanks to wonders of digital photography some could see results immediately. I, on the other hand, was using the old fashioned film and I am still waiting to see the results.

On Friday we went back to the same spot where we previously was chumming and keep chumming and chumming since time was running out. Wind picked up and surface wasn't as calm as day before. Pierre was catching more fish, but tiger sharks were nowhere to be seen. We were getting desperate. So far, we had seen only one Tiger shark and taken only surface pictures.

We were watching some more episodes of "South Park" and making of the movie "Abyss" that was much more interesting than the movie itself. Some people were editing footage shot so far. Everybody was trying to hide their disappointment. So, Scottie made a decision to catch shark on the hook during the night.

If you are the PETA member stop reading right now, because you may get very upset with the rest of the story.

On Saturday morning, before dawn we were awakened up by the shouts – get up, get up we've got a Tiger shark. I ran to the dive platform in my pajamas and saw the young female shark, around 6 feet long, in a state of tonic immobility being held in an upside down position at the back of the diving platform.

It was still dark, but we wanted to get night footage, so everybody suited up and the first team of videographers entered the water (they don't need as good light as photographers, besides they didn't want our strobes flashes on their film). Trevor tied a rope around the shark's tail and let her go as far as line permitted. I was impressed with her behavior – she didn't struggle or try to get away, but was behaving like typical teenager with whatever attitude. When she was trying to lie down on the sand, Trevor was coxing her to resume swimming. She was pretty relaxed during the whole ordeal. After everybody got enough night shots we got back to the boat and waited for sun to rise and give us an opportunity for more daylight shots. The visibility was getting worse and the current was getting stronger so finally the time came to release the shark. We formed a line, Trevor removed the rope from her tail and she swam away probably wondering what this was all about.

Everybody was ecstatic since after a long wait we got our promised Tiger shark encounter.

The same day we visited Robin's Reef where Scottie was hoping to encounter the great hammerhead and more reef sharks. The reef was pretty, lots of coral heads forming fantastic shapes with swim-throughs, chimneys and canyons. There was lot of reef fish, but no sharks. For our final dive everybody wanted to get back to Muriel's Garden to shot some more reef sharks footage.

It was time to get back to Florida, so during the night we crossed Gulf Stream again and got back to Riviera Beach Marina around 4 am. After clearing custom and immigration at 9 am we got back on the solid ground after almost nine days spend at sea. We took the last group photo on the boat and headed back to the Airport. In the marina I've spotted the Dream Too – how small was this boat comparing to the Dolphin Dream.

So, against all the odds I've added another shark to my list of personal encounters with this amazing fish.

## Social Get-togethers for Everyone

by Trish Katzman, Membership Director

**Come meet at Jose McIntyre's prior to our next General Meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 19 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)

- |                          |                    |            |                              |   |          |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------|------------------------------|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual         | \$45.00 +  | Dive Club Membership \$15.00 | = | \$60.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Couple/Family      | \$80.00 +  | Dive Club Membership \$15.00 | = | \$95.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Quartermaster      | \$100.00 + | Dive Club Membership \$15.00 | = | \$115.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Master Mariner     | \$150.00 + | Dive Club Membership \$15.00 | = | \$165.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 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.

# HURRICANE RELIEF

**NEADC MEMBERS:** If you or any members of your family have been affected by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita and require assistance, or if you would like to make donations, please contact Al Bozza at [Programs@neadc.org](mailto:Programs@neadc.org) or any other NEADC officer. New England Aquarium Dive Club is currently putting together donations and has access to furniture and emergency housing (in Florida) and may be able to offer other help. Please contact us today!  
**THANK YOU!**



Central Wharf, Boston, MA 02110