



# NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM DIVE CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER

February 2006

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

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## NEADC GENERAL MEETINGS

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Conference Center at New England Aquarium  
Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2006  
6:30 PM

### THE NORTHEAST REEF FISH IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM, by BOB MICHELSON

Participants of this workshop will learn how to use the REEF Environmental Education Foundation's Northeast Fish Identification Program. Sponsored by the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, this photography based curriculum teaches how to identify 56 species of local finfish by using photography as the teaching tool. The program shows how to identify these creatures by using body shape, size, fin structure and location, body markings, coloration and habitat as identification keys. Memory clues are used in aiding to make this learning experience fun for SCUBA divers and snorkelers of all skill levels. The Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary provides all required support materials needed to begin conducting fish surveys in The New England region.

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## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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Submit your news for the next Newsletter by  
**Monday, Feb. 20, 2006!**

This is for the **MARCH EDITION** of the NEADC Newsletter. Submissions must be in writing, preferably via E-mail to [newsletter@neadc.org](mailto:newsletter@neadc.org). Thank you!

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## NEXT INFORMAL MEETINGS

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Wednesday March 1, 2006  
6:30 p.m. at the home of Home of Scott Matey and  
Priscilla Murphy  
7234 Avalon Drive  
Weymouth, MA 02188

### Directions:

From Boston...93 South to Route 3 South. Route 3 South to Exit 16A (Weymouth / Route 18 North). Exit and merge onto 18 North. Stay straight for approximately a mile and half until you reach a traffic light T-intersection. A CVS will be on the corner. Turn right onto Washington Street (also route 53) and take immediate left into Avalon Ledges. Follow road and signs, staying to the left for building 7000 (it is tucked in the back corner of the property). Park in any available space (they are not reserved). We are on the top floor, number 7234. If the front door to the building is locked, please call up (781-335-0636). See you all soon!

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**2005 New England Aquarium  
Dive Club Officers**

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**Vice-President**

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**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.

**FROM YOUR SHORE DIVE COORDINATOR: Anna Krowczynska**

Happy New Year! I know that looking at the snow on the ground and thermometer showing low temperature is hard to get excited about shore diving in the New England. But, spring is around the corner and soon it will be again time to answer the urge to submerge in the Atlantic Ocean.

We are going to kick off the season with a Shore Dive planning meeting in the middle of April. If you never led a shore dive and would like to get a cool dive related gadget at the end of the season this is time to put your name on the calendar. If you are unsure what is your role as a shore dive leader just ask any officer or club member who already done that.

Before season begins, probably sometime in April, I would like to organize the Dry Dive on Cape Ann. This is a tour of popular dive site showing their location, parking spots, brief description of underwater terrain etc. Each participant will get a nifty map of dive sites.

My other project is to publish on our web site list of different shore dive spots in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Maine. If you have a favorite spot and would like to share it location with other members, please drop me a line. I would like to include location, driving directions from Boston, site description (topside and underwater), amenities etc. And if possible a picture. In the meantime, keep your scuba skills sharp; check the PG Dive for the bleach dives. Also mark your calendar for scuba related events: The Boston Scuba Show on February 25 at Holliday Inn in Marlborough (the main event Capt. Spencer Slate is going to talk about The righting of the Spiegel Grove), Sea Rovers in Copley Hotel, Boston on March 4-5 (if you have time, please help us with manning the booth, you will have an opportunity to meet famous people who always stop at NEADC booth) and last, but not least ORG Annual Fundraiser on April 29 at Nevins Hall in Framingham. You will have there an opportunity to meet Marty Snyderman who will present "Sharks in the Wild".

**FROM YOUR WEBMASTER: Steve Whitford**

There are a number of diving-related events coming up. In addition to Sea Rovers in March, there is also The Boston Scuba Show this month, the Blue Lobster Bowl and Beneath the Sea in March, and Metro West's Annual Wrecks Symposium and the ORG benefit in April. Everything is on the events page of the website. In the website, I've added a new link to the "Current Conditions" pull-down menu. It's a page on the buoy system website that shows wind speed, and direction, and wave height for the buoys in the gulf of Maine. A great tool for checking last minute conditions before diving (or a cool thing to play with)! I'm looking forward to another great year of diving, I'm in the middle of a Divemaster course, and I've already got a bunch of things I want to accomplish diving-wise this year.

## 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 SPIEGEL 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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## **BOSTON SEA ROVERS ANNUAL UNDERWATER CLINIC DISCOVERY & EXPLORATION, MARCH 4-5**

The Boston Sea Rovers 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Underwater Clinic is a two day program dedicated to "Raising the level of knowledge of the underwater world." The clinic features: a world renowned film festival where international underwater film makers present their most recent works; daytime seminars focused on hands on training; and last, but not least, is an exhibit hall filled with equipment, travel destinations, dive clubs, and more. It is held at Boston's Fairmont Copley Plaza.

For more information visit [www.searovers.org](http://www.searovers.org)

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## **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM sponsored by Oceanic Research Group, Inc.**

Oceanic Research Group, Inc. is offering a scholarship for deserving students pursuing marine-related undergraduate or graduate studies. Oceanic Research Group is a volunteer, 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, environmental organization based in North Reading, MA. Its mission is to promote the conservation of the marine environment through education.

The scholarship is open to undergraduate students entering the junior or senior year or graduate students with an overall GPA of at least 3.0/4.0 and demonstrated financial need. Students must be United States citizens and enrolled or accepted in an accredited United States college or university beginning with the 2006 fall term.

The application deadline is February 15, 2006. It is available on the Oceanic Research Group website at: <http://www.oceanicresearch.org/scholarship.htm>.

The scholarship will be awarded at the Oceanic Research Group Benefit on April 29, 2006.

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## 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).

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## NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY MARINE SCIENCE CENTER EVENING LECTURE SERIES

Sustainable Aquaculture of Softshell Clams on Massachusetts' North Shore:

Restoration, Enhancement, Industry.

Dr. Joe Buttner, Associate Prof. Salem State College & Jack Grundstrom, Shellfish Culturist

Tuesday, February 7, 2006, 7:00PM

Aquaculture is used to harvest much of the seafood and shellfish that we consume today. Dr. Joe Buttner, coordinator of the Northeastern Massachusetts Aquaculture Center, will present the mechanics behind aquaculture, specifically for Soft-shell Clams. Aquaculture occurs on the North Shore, both privately and publicly. Jack Grundstrom, a lifelong resident of the North Shore and a shellfish culturist, will let us in on the ins and outs of this business. Find out why this type of producing has become so popular over the years and what influence it has on the marine community and our community.

This lecture is free to the public.

Light refreshments served at 6:30PM.

The lecture begins at 7:00PM 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>

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# TRIP OF A LIFETIME

## FISH ROUND UP

### Or Tropical Adventure in Bahamas with New England Aquarium Dive Experts.

Certified Scuba Divers age 18 and older are invited to join the staff of NEAq Dive Department on a fish collecting trip to the Berry Islands, Bahamas from April 22nd through May 3rd, 2006.

Bring back not only pictures, but also colorful reef fishes and invertebrates that will populate the GOT and other tropical exhibits. And you will have bragging rights as a supplier of creatures for NEAq.

This unusual working vacation is open to both beginners and experienced divers, and is a great opportunity to dive with and learn from NEAq aquatic experts. This eight day adventure features dive sites in the Bimini and Berry Islands area, with a visit to Atlantis in Nassau. The last day of the trip is spent in Miami, preparing fishes for shipment to Boston.

The estimate trip fee is approximately \$3500-\$3800. The fee includes airfare, shipboard accommodations on the R/V Coral Reef II (meals, board and cocktails), up to five dives per day (weights and tanks are included) and a rare opportunity for a check dive in the GOT.

For more information, or to reserve a space, call Sherri Floyd, Senior Aquarist /Expedition Leader or Sarah Zibailo GOT Aquarist at 617-973-5248, or e-mail Sherri at [sfloyd@neaq.org](mailto:sfloyd@neaq.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.

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

## BOOK CORNER: Anna Krowczynska

Winter time with its dark, cold days and long nights is a perfect time to curl up in front of fireplace with a hot drink and a good book to help pass the time.

This month I would like to mention two books, one is a Field Guide and the other a true story about the Mary Celeste and the mysterious disappearance of her crew during a trans-Atlantic crossing. Everybody who reads this Newsletter should know by now about my fascination with sharks. Because of that I didn't hesitate to purchase what promotional literature called the first comprehensive field guide to the world's sharks, written by Leonard Compagno and Sarah Fowler, and superbly illustrated by Marc Dando.

"Sharks of the World" covers all of 453 shark species discovered so far on this Blue Planet – each entry has a line drawing of the side view and the underside of the head or other diagnostic features (teeth for example), and clearly presented information about identification, habitat, biology, behavior, distribution and conservation status. The book includes also over 125 full color illustrations. There is a quick ID Guide for different similar species and geographic distribution maps for each species. The Introductory Chapter covers body structure and shark physiology, and briefly: their behavior, legends, research and conservation. From the legend section I've learned that biblical animal that swallowed Jonah could have been a Great White instead of whale since there are records of White Sharks discovered with animals completely intact in their stomachs and sharks can certainly disgorge their stomach contents.

In my opinion what is missing from the introductory section is a description of the biomedical research done on sharks (one day a shark may save your life) – people are studying sharks extremely sensitive nervous system, their hormones that could help to develop drugs for treating cardiovascular disease in humans and a new kind of powerful antibiotic steroids called squalamines that were discovered in shark stomachs. And although shark cartilage can't prevent, nor cure the cancer, the study of shark immune system and special enzymes that inhibit vascularization can lead one day to development of a new cancer drugs. And this is only beginning of things that we can learn from these magnificent creatures.

Because of my recent trip in the search of Tiger Sharks in Bahamas I turned to the entry about them. I was surprised how mellow the female was that we encountered, but the Guide said that (tiger sharks are) "potentially harmful, responsible for fatal attacks on people, but often unaggressive when encounter underwater. Valuable for dive tourism". How very true.

I would recommend in a heart beat this Field Guide to any person interested in sharks.

Before Christmas I was perusing the New England book section in a bookstore where I came across the book by Brian Hicks entitled "Ghost Ship, The mysterious true story of the Mary Celeste and her missing crew". For a long time I was fascinated by tall ships so I was curious to read the story of the Mary Celeste, still considered by many sailors and historians alike the greatest maritime mystery of all time. Built in 1860, the brigantine was cursed from the moment she was launched, her first captain died on board during the maiden voyage, in London she rammed and sank an English brig, later she was abandoned after a storm drove her ashore at Cape Breton. In December 1872 the 100-foot brigantine was discovered drifting through North Atlantic without a soul on board and

showing no clue why it was abandoned. Finally, in 1885 the Mary Celeste was driven onto the reef in Haitian waters in attempt to get ride of cursed ship and claim the insurance money and left there. In 2001 Clive Cussler's NUMA dive team found the remains of the ship entombed in a coral reef off the coast of Island of Voodoo, in a place where it was supposed to be.

Even if you read Clive Cussler book "The Sea Hunters II" and know the most probable solution to the Mary Celeste mystery you will find Hick's book a page turner. The author not only provides a detailed history of the ship, but also gives a fascinating portrait of the seafaring Briggs family (Benjamin Spooner Briggs commanded the Mary Celeste during her most famous voyage and disappeared with his wife, baby daughter and the crew from the ship). I've found quite fascinating details of the salvage hearings in Gibraltar (Mary Celeste was found by crew of Dei Gratia and brought to Gibraltar to claim a reward) and every possible speculation from a voodoo course to alien abduction that was used to explain fate of the Mary Celeste crew.

In 1884 London's prestigious Cornhill Magazine published "J. Habakuk Jephson's Statement" allegedly written by a New England physician who claimed the ship's crew and passengers were systematically killed during the trip by a disgruntled mulatto from New Orleans and his life was spared by a miracle. Despite several mistakes in the article (starting with the name of Captain - Tibbs not Briggs - and the port from which vessel left the U.S. - Boston, instead of New York) and the fact that Cornhill Magazine was the premier fiction magazine in England at that time, the story spread quickly on the both sides of Atlantic and was repeated for year. But the most interesting is the fact that the "Statement" was written by the future author of Sherlock Holmes novels and short stories – Arthur Conan Doyle.

I am not going to reveal the solution to the mystery, just in case you want to read the book, but I found it very probable and the whole book a very good read.

### **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 halfpage 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.**

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.

## NEADC DIVE AND EVENTS SCHEDULE

### New England Aquarium Dive Club Winter/Spring 2006 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	Event/Purpose Location	Location	Meeting Time / Details	Contact
February				
Feb. 15 (Wed.)	Club General Meeting	NEAq Conference Center	6:30 PM	Rick Rosa (president@neadc.org)
Feb. 25 (Sat.)	Boston Scuba Show	Holiday Inn, Marlboro	10 AM -4 PM	Fred Calhoun 978-525-3432
March 1 (Wed)	Club Informal Meeting	Home of Scott Matey (See Page 1 for Directions)	6:30 PM	Rick Rosa (president@neadc.org)
March 3-5	Boston Sea Rovers	Fairmont Copley Hotel, Boston		See Rovers Website
March 4	Blue Lobster Bowl	MIT Campus (See Announcements section for details)	8 AM -8PM	
March 15	Club General meeting	NEAq Conference Center	6:30 PM	Rick Rosa (president@neadc.org)
March 24-26	Beneath The Sea	Meadowlands Expo Center, Secaucus, NJ		See Beneath The Sea Website
April	NEADC Whale Watch		TBA	Al Bozza (programs@neadc.org)
April	Club Whitewater Rafting Trip		TBA	Al Bozza (programs@neadc.org)
April 1	MWDC 14 <sup>th</sup> Annual Wrecks Symposium	Keefe Technical High School, Framingham		See MetroWest Dive Club Website
April 29	Ocean Research Group Annual Fundraiser	Nevins Hall, Framingham	6:30 PM	See OCR Website

## Social Get-togethers for Everyone

by Trish Katzman, Membership Director

**Come meet at Jose McIntyre's prior to our next General Meeting on Wednesday, February 15 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.

# SCUBA SHOW

**February 25, 2006**

# SEA ROVERS

**March 3-5, 2006**

See page 3 for details



Central Wharf, Boston, MA 02110