



NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM DIVE CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER

August 2006

NEADC Website: www.NEADC.org

NEADC GENERAL MEETING

New England Aquarium
Conference Center
Wednesday, August 16, 2006, 6:30 p.m.

August's Speaker:
Ethan Gordon-Photographer

Ethan Gordon has become well known for his underwater as well as above water photography. Over the last few years he has become a popular presenter at the Boston Sea Rovers Annual Clinics. Ethan's beautiful photos from dive locations around the world are frequently published in magazines from Sport Diver to Skin Diver to Fathoms magazine.

Coming in September:
Photographer Andrew Martinez

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NEXT *Meet and Greet* MEETING

Wednesday, September 6, 2006, 6:30 pm

At the home of:

Charles & Christina Benoit (H) 781-545-9193
6 Beach Plum Lane (C) 617-513-0908
Scituate, MA 02066

From Route 3 Southbound:

Take exit 13; Take a LEFT at the top of the ramp onto Rt. 53 North. Stay in the left lane to avoid getting back onto Rt. 3. Follow directions listed below.

From Route 3 Northbound:

Take exit 13; then take a RIGHT at the top of the ramp onto Rt. 53 North. Follow directions listed below.

Directions:

At the first traffic light, take a RIGHT onto Rt. 123 East. Stay on Rt. 123 for approx 8 miles (through Norwell). When you reach the traffic light Rt. 3A; go STRAIGHT across 3A, and immediately bear to your LEFT onto Country Way.

Follow Country Way for approx 1.5 miles.

Turn hard LEFT on Elm Street (soft left will put you on Cudworth St).

Beach Plum Lane is second LEFT. We are the first house on the corner (light green house with cream trim).

PS. Watch your speed on Rt. 123; Norwell is notorious for handing out tickets!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Submit your news for the next Newsletter by
Monday, August 21, 2006!

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

**2005 New England Aquarium
Dive Club Officers**

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NEADC Website

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

FROM YOUR PROGRAM OFFICER – Al Bozza

To help encourage our members to begin looking at our wonderful website I am going to be the first to try to promote this practice. So please go to our website and look at some of our wonderful events and speakers that are coming up in the next three to four months. You can also now see and plan for our "Eat and Greet" meetings. Since we won't be folding newsletters, it will turn into a nice social event--where we will have scheduled club members and guests showing off their photos, movies, or collectables.

Dive Trips

Through a combination of my last eight years as Program Director, discovering some truly amazing locations during my travels and utilizing the experiences and knowledge of many of our great club members, I have put together an incredible schedule that should offer something to everyone. The following are the upcoming events and future trips.

August, 2006 - Les Escoumins, Quebec, Canada - More information to follow.

September 1-10, 2006 - Darwin Island, Galapagos – Sold Out

September 17, 2006 - Jamestown, RI - Tropical Fish Collecting/Barbeque

Fort Wetherill, Jamestown, Rhode Island. Free food and drinks (hot dogs, hamburgers, sausages, etc.) a great family event, especially for the kids. We will also be seining which is dragging a fish net through shall water up onto the beach and discovering all sorts of marine life. There will also be regular diving, volleyball and music. Bring your kite too! I will have extra collecting nets and aerators for anyone who needs them.

October 20-25, 2006 - Great White Shark Diving - Isla Guadalupe, Mexico

The world's ultimate shark dive adventure is closer than you think. Join us this year (2006) to discover huge Great White Sharks with our upscale shark vessel in the industry's largest shark cages. Divers seeking a weeklong encounter with the ocean's ultimate predator no longer need to travel over 5000 miles to South Africa or Australia. This newly named "Bio-Sphere Reserve" located 210 miles into the Pacific has it all...and we can take you there! Imagine diving in 100' vis with water temps of 74 plus degrees, surrounded by up to seven great whites. These 5-day trips are only available during October and part of November at a cost of \$ 2,650.00 per person.

December 9, 2006 - NEADC Holiday Party

American Legion, Burlington, MA. Saturday 7-11 P.M. More information to follow.

2007 Schedule of Trips:

January 2007

- Dominica - January 20- 27, 2007

- Ski/winter trip, Bethel, Maine

February 2007

- Manatees, Crystal River, Florida

May 2007

- Spotted Dolphin, Bahamas **SOLD OUT**

November 2007

-Norway with Orcas and Sea Eagles - We are collaborating with Norway's leading Orca whale expert, Tiu Simila, to offer you a fantastic whale watching encounter that includes both whale watching from a small boat and for our customized itinerary, a chance to snorkel with the Orcas!!!

If you would like any additional information on these or any other events, please contact Al Bozza at programs@neadc.org or (617) 212-9108

FROM YOUR BOAT DIVE COORDINATOR – John Feehan

“Diving is fun, Diving is fun”, if you know this mantra, then you have probably enjoyed a trip on the Gauntlet with Heather Knowles and Dave Caldwell. And in fact, diving with Northern Atlantic Dive Expeditions is a lot of fun. On July 8th, NEADC chartered the Gauntlet to dive both the Chester Poling and Halfway Rock. The Gauntlet is a 36 foot Northern Bay design dive boat used only for diving. It has a large equipment table in the center of the deck on which people gather their gear and don their equipment. On both dives, half of the divers geared up while the other half waited. This was an efficient and comfortable way to prepare for a dive.

Dave Caldwell led the dive to the Chester Poling (of course advanced divers could just as easily descend without his guidance). We were fortunate to find pretty good visibility. This was only my second dive on the Poling and both dives have been this year. I understand that in years past, the ship was covered with anemones, but no longer. But that doesn't mean that there is no marine life, as we saw sea stars, some anemones, sponges, a sea raven and of course cunner. With the good visibility you could clearly see the detail of the ship and it was spectacular. All too soon, it was time to head up and leave the Poling behind.

Heather Knowles led the second dive to Halfway Rock. This is a pinnacle that rises from the ocean floor at about 100 feet and rises sharply above the water line. As we descended, we certainly noticed the temperature change. The nice warm water was gone and replaced by a bracing 46 degrees! The payback was clear water and wonderful scenery. Except for the lower visibility and 46 degree temperature, you could almost believe you were in the Caribbean (OK the temp sure does remind you that you are in NE). Sponges, corals, mussels, sea stars, fish, anemones other stuff created a cacophony of color. I could have stayed forever, or until I started shivering (oh wait, I was shivering). Back up the line we went after about 20 minutes of superb diving.

Before you could say “that was great!” we were on our way back to shore. Soon we were having dinner at a local restaurant and reviewing the day's dives. Everyone had a great time.

I personally enjoyed this dive not only for the wonder of diving such great sites, but also for the camaraderie before and after the dive. Diving on a boat with strangers is fun. But diving with people you know makes for a truly wonderful experience. It was great to dive with my wife, Valerie, Dan Sprague, Peter Kaplow and Joy Marzolf.

As boat dive coordinator, I am more than willing to book another trip on the Gauntlet for those who are willing. HOWEVER, in order to do so, I will need people to contact me soon. Then once I book a charter, I will need people to sign up quickly and not wait until the week of the trip (too much anxiety on my part). Let's go boat diving!

FROM YOUR WEBMASTER – Steve Whitford

There are some changes in store for the Dive Club website. With the newsletter being only available online, the website will be the public face of the club. I will be streamlining the site and adding some new features to make the most out of it. Some things in the works are a section on trip reports and a larger section for photos. I will keep all the current info, so you will still be able to look up tide charts, or find out about invasive species, but it will be (hopefully) easier to get around. I welcome ALL feedback, and certainly any submissions or dive reports.

On a personal note, one of my diving goals that I have been working up to is to dive the U-853. It is a German U-boat whose deck is resting at 110' off the coast of Rhode Island. It is definitely an advanced dive, and was wondering what kind of interest there was in organizing a club boat dive to the wreck, or even if a few of us wanted to plan a semi-NEADC trip? Send me an email and let me know, webmaster@neadc.org

FOSSIL DIVE – by Val Feehan

We all arrived and met up at the hotel on Venice Island late Thursday afternoon. Venice is a relatively small island off the city of Venice, Florida. We were there to participate in the shark teeth/fossil dive with Florida West Scuba. We took a drive to find exactly where the dive shop was located and to introduce ourselves. Steve, the owner, was there along with his staff. The shop is literally loaded with shark teeth of different varieties and sizes. There's a very impressive collection of large megalodon

teeth and various whale and manatee bones on display. It's a pretty interesting dive shop to visit, and a great preview of what we hoped we'd find on our dives.

Friday morning we all met up and headed over to the dive shop. We signed the usual waivers then boarded the boat, **The Hammerhead**, and set up our gear. In a relatively short period of time, the boat was full (12 divers) and we were off. The ride out to the first site took only about 10 minutes. Once at the site, folks who had done this type of diving before geared up and entered the water. For us first timers, we stayed on board for a brief presentation on the dive, the type of teeth we'd be likely to find, and also the type of bones we'd find. Steve is a retired geologist, so he's the best person to tell us what to look for and where. Once we felt we had enough info, we each jumped in with a flag and off we went to search for teeth.

We were down only about 23 feet, a shallow dive. There was no time limit—dive until you needed to come up. Each person had their own flag (required) and could do their own thing. At first we all tried to stay together in a small group, but that quickly went by the wayside as the visibility was stirred up to only a few feet in any direction. I lost sight of my dive buddies, John and Rick, pretty quickly. They apparently lost sight of each other, too. We all basically went our own way in search of teeth and fossils. I started finding the teeth pretty quickly, and it was exciting! In fact, it was so exciting I forgot to hold onto my flag, and after about 10 minutes realized I didn't have it any longer! Ugh! (I hate holding the flag, as does everyone else). I searched around for it and quickly realized I wouldn't be able to see it. So I surfaced and gave light tugs on the flags around me—it was amazing at the surface to see so many flags, but you could not see anyone underwater! I thought, wow, there are this many people around me? I couldn't see anyone underwater! Anyway, I glanced in the direction of the boat, and there was my flag, a short swim away. I sheepishly swam over to it and grabbed it, and then hooked it around my arm this time, vowing to myself not to do that again.

After close to two hours I finally decided (with 500 psi left) it was probably a good idea to head back to the boat. I didn't have quite the amount of teeth that I wanted, but I knew I had one medium-sized tooth that was probably a good find, and a piece of some sort of bone that looked pretty good. Also a few of those really nice sand dollars (couldn't resist). I got back to the boat and most everyone else was there. Rick came up a minute later, and one other fellow just after him.

John came back with about a few dozen teeth, some manatee bones and whale bones. I got probably three dozen teeth, including a pristine Mako shark tooth and a whale tooth. Those were both good finds. Rick came up with quite a few teeth, some really nice ones. We all came up with various stingray stingers, sailfish barbs, stingray mouth pieces, and I even got a piece of the roof of the mouth of a puffer fish. We felt we did pretty well for our first dive. The "old timers" came up with loads more—of course! All in all, it was a really good dive for everyone.

The next dive site was 5 minutes away in a little deeper water (around 31 feet). This dive was to find the megalodon, or giant shark, teeth. We did stick together as a group on this dive, and the vis was better, but we didn't find much. I found a medium sized tooth and Rick I think found a few teeth, but none of us found the big megalodon teeth on this dive. When we got back to the boat, others were already on it checking out their booty—there were quite a few megalodon teeth found, along with various fossils of bone, scallop shell impressions, and other fossil artifacts. It seems you really have to know what you're looking for to find the large teeth. We didn't get discouraged. We decided we'd try to get on the boat on Saturday to try our luck again. Saturday morning we arrived at the dive shop to see if there would be any no-shows. Luck wasn't on our side, everyone showed up for the charter that morning. So we opted for shore diving instead. We got tanks, weights and a flag and headed over to Service Park Beach (recommended). Service Park is on the north side of Sharkey's Pier and is a pretty nice beach for scuba. We did a quick plan of what we were going to do, geared up and headed out into the water. We did a long surface swim out to a point past the end of Sharkey's pier, then dropped down and swam a little further out until we found the ancient riverbed, and everyone immediately started searching for and finding shark teeth. We all found much more here than the previous day, mostly because we now knew what to look for and how. After almost two hours, Rick ran low an air and we decided to head back into shore.

We checked out our booty and were extremely happy! We all had a pretty good haul of teeth, including some really nice Mako teeth Rick found. I, of course, picked up more sand dollars along with the shark teeth. John had a really good catch, too, much better than the previous day. We had originally decided to do only one dive, but now that we saw how much teeth we found, we were eager to get back out and search again. So John took the tanks back to the dive shop to get them refilled while Rick and I waited. Rick met up with a few other divers at Service Park who had literally buckets of the megalodon teeth! It was incredible how many they had. Rick asked where they were diving to find those and how to find them. The divers indicated the

spot we just dove was a pretty good spot and told Rick what to look for. We could not wait for John to get back so we could get out there and find the megalodon teeth!

After about an hour we were doing the long surface swim back out, everyone eager to get started searching on our 2nd dive. It was everyone's goal to get a megalodon tooth on this dive. We would be diving close to the same spot as the first time, and on the surface we discussed what we should be looking for once we dropped down. Then we all descended to the bottom and began our searches.

We were all finding lots of teeth, mostly tiger shark, but didn't seem to have much luck with the larger teeth. Finally after about 2 hours 10 minutes, Rick was low on air and we had to turn back and swim in. Much to our dismay, none of us found a megalodon tooth. But we had a really, really good time, and now can say we did a 2 hour 10 minute dive! We could have gone even longer if Rick hadn't run out of air (sorry, Rick). We all really wanted one more try at finding these large shark teeth, but it was pretty much time to go and we had to fly the next day, so we were cutting it close for the no-fly time. Shark fossil diving is a real treat. We all had a terrific time, and we certainly look forward to doing the trip with the club again next year! Al, include some shore diving it in, OK?

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADS

The Coastal Ocean Science Academy (COSA) is a 2 - week summer marine science academy for incoming 9th or 10th grade students. The program is a field-based hands-on experiential learning that explores the coastal marine environment of Massachusetts. COSA is based out of Northeastern University's Marine Science Center in Nahant, MA and will run from August 10-26, 2006.

For More Information: www.marinescience.neu.edu/COSA/index.htm

(781) 581-7370 ext.338 or e.blume@neu.edu

(781) 581-7370 ext. 321 or t.hajduk@neu.edu

Have 80 cubic foot aluminum cylinders in excellent condition, July 06 hydro and visual, ready to dive. \$80 each. Would like to buy 72 cu ft or other galvanized steel tanks. Will pay \$35 if out of date, but probably OK; \$70 if in date (hydro 2002 or more recent).

Alan Budreau abudreau@aol.com; 781 724-8746

The Division of Marine Fisheries is looking for volunteers to help with eelgrass transplanting. There are two basic tasks for which they need divers: harvesting and planting. For those of you new to the process, we transplant eelgrass much like you transplant flowers in your garden (except for the obvious difference that it's under water). Harvest involves digging up small clumps of eelgrass with a trowel and collecting it in a dive bag (provided). Planting involves staking the shoots into the sand with a bent bamboo skewer to hold it in place until it can root. Dives are shallow (<15'), so you usually need extra weight. The harvests take place in Nahant, and we can either meet you there or bring you around in the boat from Weymouth (weather permitting). Planting takes place in Boston Harbor, and we launch from Weymouth. We would generally start between 8 & 9 AM, and go til 2 or 3. We provide snacks, water, and t-shirts, and all harvest/planting-related equipment. You need to supply all your dive gear, including tanks (usually 2 needed).

Date	Day of week	Task	Help needed
Sept. 12 (13)	Tue/Wed	harvest	divers +bundler
Sept. 14(15)	Thur/Fri	hand plant	Divers (1-4)
Sept. 18(19)	Mon/Tues	harvest	divers up to 6
Sept. 20 (21)	Wed/Thurs	hand plant	divers (up to 6)
<i>First date given is preferred date. Dates in parentheses are back-up weather dates</i>			

Contact: Alison S. Leschen, Coastal Ecologist, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

50A Portside Dr., Pocasset, MA 02559 Phone: (508) 563-1779, ext. 142 email: alison.leschen@state.ma.us

For more info: <http://www.neadc.org/eelgrass.html>

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 ADVERTISING POLICIES

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 Summer 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.

Date	Event/Purpose Location	Location	Meeting Time / Details	Information/Contact
Every Monday	Bleach Dive/Scuba skills Refresher	West Suburban YMCA in Newton Members MUST Register in Advance. Review your skills or test a new piece of gear in a controlled environment.	6 pm-9 pm	Contact: Genevieve Stewart genevieve@pgdive.com
Aug. 16	General Meeting Guest Speaker: Ethan Gordon	NEAQ Conference Center	6:30 pm	Rick Rosa
Sept. 6	Monthly Eat and Greet	See Front Cover for details and directions	6:30 pm	
Sept. 17	Annual Tropical Fish Hunt & BBQ	Jamestown, RI		Al Bozza
Sept. 20	General Meeting Guest Speaker: Andrew Martinez	NEAQ Conference Center	6:30 pm	Rick Rosa

NOTICE: FINAL PRINTED NEWSLETTER

To all NEADC Members:

Due to the increasing cost of producing the newsletter, the NEADC board voted to discontinue paper distribution. Beginning in September, the newsletter will be distributed electronically. If you would like to continue to receive the newsletter, please ensure we have your email address by sending it to the membership director at membership@neadc.org.

The newsletter will also continue to be posted on the NEADC website where it can be viewed at www.neadc.org/newsletter.html.

The Board also encourages members to submit articles for the new electronic format. We believe that the electronic newsletter can be greatly improved by having members submit pictures and comments about recent dives that they have enjoyed. Lets celebrate diving in New England by sharing our dive experiences!

Please bear with us during this time of transition as we learn how to best produce and publish an electronic version of our club's newsletter. As always, we appreciate your feedback.

Sincerely,
The NEADC Board of Directors



Central Wharf, Boston, MA 02110