



New England Aquarium Dive Club, Inc.

www.neadc.org

Summer Newsletter 2009

NEADC Monthly Meetings

**Eat and Greet
First Wednesday
6:30pm**

Locations Vary
*Come eat, relax and chat
with members and your
NEADC board*

**General Meeting
Third Wednesday
6:30pm**

**NEAq Harborside
Learning Lab**
*Come hear one of our
fabulous guest speakers,
find out where members
have been diving and maybe
even win a dive in the Giant
Ocean Tank!*

June General Meeting:
Dominica, the Nature Island

July General Meeting:
New England Fish ID
refresher

*Join us at 5:30pm for food
and fun before each
General Meeting at Jose
McIntyre's*

**Check out www.neadc.org
for more information!**

Not getting our E-News?

Please make sure we have
your email! Updates can be
made right on our web site!

New England Dive Season is HERE!

While a few intrepid divers continued to dive this winter, many divers are eager to get back into the water this summer and fall. We hope you will join us on a dive or at one of the upcoming events this dive season.

Join us on:

July 25th: 8th Great Annual Fish Count, Stage Fort Park

Picnic, prizes and lots of fun! Help us help REEF! Dives are planned at seven shore locations around Cape Ann, along with dives at Nubble Light, York, ME. Pre-registration is required. **All divers have to do is dive and record how many and what kinds of fish you see!** Every survey form submitted after each dive will count as an entry into the raffles for the diver. In 2008, this was the largest fish count in the US! So far we have over \$8,000.00 worth of prizes! See our website for more details or find our more at our next meeting!

NEW! Free parking and shuttle service from the High School

September 12th: Tropical Fish Rescue and BBQ, Fort Wetherill, RI

A great event for family and friends. All are welcome! Touch tank for the kids and much more!

Think BLUE this dive season!

As divers we often see sights underwater that other don't including sharks, sea stars, lobsters, fish and many other types of creatures in their natural habitat. Unfortunately, we often see signs of human activity such as discarded fishing line or plastic bags. This dive season, each of us has a great opportunity to help our oceans.

Some easy ways to help:

Buy/re-use cloth shopping bags and prevent balloon releases

Each year large numbers of plastic bags and balloons (some with "Congratulations Class of...") end up in our waters. They are often deadly to leatherback turtles and other marine life that can become entangled and often eat them mistaking them for jellyfish. What goes up will come down!

Help remove trash at dive sites

While above or in the water, help keep our dive sites clean by removing trash, entangled fishing line or other discarded materials and debris when possible.

Be an ocean friendly seafood shopper!

Check out the New England Aquarium website for
[environmentally friendly seafood options](#)

Spread the word! Small steps by many can lead to big changes!

2009 NEADC Officers

President: Rick Rosa
president@neadc.org

Vice President: Uma Mirani
vicepresident@neadc.org

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membership@neadc.org

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newsletter@neadc.org

Dive Coordinators:

Boat Dives: Jim Carozza
boatdive@neadc.org

Shore Dives: Dan Sprague
shoredive@neadc.org

From your Membership Director, Charlie Benoit

Membership has its privileges...

Are you looking for a dive buddy or an excuse to get in the water? Our regular E-communications will keep you up on the latest shore and boat dives along special events such as the Great Annual Fish Count. If you have an email address, and are not currently receiving the E-newsletter, let us know. Contact me directly, or you can update your email address on our website, by clicking the "Update Your Profile" button.

Don't forget our monthly meetings and a chance to dive in the NEAq's Giant Ocean Tank as Priscilla Smith recently did. Doesn't playing with nurse sharks in tropical waters sound fun?

If there is anything that I can do to assist you regarding your membership, don't hesitate to contact me at **membership@neadc.org**.



Diving the Giant Ocean Tank

by Priscilla Smith

Wonder what it is like to pet a nurse shark? You, too, might have the opportunity if you get to dive in the

GOT! Think a shark is smooth and silky? Think again – it's very rough. This is just one of the unusual things you can get to experience. I also found out that Myrtle, the turtle, loves a good back scratch and can get pretty bold when she wants something - and who is going to argue with a 550 pound turtle! The fish are not afraid of you and some of them, like the French angel and the puffer fish, come up and stare you in the eye! I got to see parts of the reef and sea life that I never knew was in there when watching from outside – never knew there was a drum fish or a high hat in the tank!

It is a weird feeling being in the tank. I was in my own little world swimming around, totally oblivious to the outside world until I looked up and focused on the windows – and there were all these people watching and waving!

Many thanks to the Aquarium and to Trish Katzman, the volunteer diver that took me in the tank, for such a great experience! I am ready to go again!!

Travel with Ethan to Chuuk (Truk Lagoon)

You don't have to be a wreck diver to enjoy Chuuk. Yes, almost all of the dives are conducted on wrecks, but these wrecks are so big and have been underwater for so long, that diving them is truly like diving an artificial reef. There are over 60 known wrecks and many are covered in both hard and soft corals. Marine life of all kinds call these ships home now. From small Pacific reef fish and invertebrates to reef sharks and eagle rays, there is plenty to see. The wrecks are the remnants of Japan's WWII merchant marine fleet, sunk by the U.S. during Operation Hailstone. From Japanese Zero fighters to ammunition, beer bottles, tanks, trucks, weapons and more, you'll see a true piece of history on display.



The water is warm and generally very clear with little to no current. The depth of the dives range between 30 to 120 feet, with a couple of opportunities to see special wrecks deeper than that. During the week there will be presentations and photo reviews to help you get the most out of your camera with a focus on wide angle photography. There's no better place in the world to push your camera to the limits than photographing the historic wrecks and marine life of Truk Lagoon (Chuuk).

Visit www.ethangordon.com for views from previous trips in the Chuuk galleries.

NIGHTS: 28 February - 7 March 2010 | \$2,995*

*Additional fees: port fee \$60. Prices subject to change without notice.

For more information, or to book, call **1-800-794-9767**

Mass Diving

247 W. Central St. Natick, MA 01760
www.massdiving.com (508) 651-0698

MASS Diving is a PADI-5 Star Training Facility and Travel Center offering all levels of SCUBA instruction and the largest selection of SCUBA equipment in New England. Come by and check out our new **expanded** showroom or shop online! Early summer is also a great time to get your gear serviced!

Join us this summer for our MASS Diving Programs. We offer guided shore dives, boat dives, and PADI Specialty Dives including Nitrox. See our website for details.

Want to travel? Check out **group travel** on our website

Freeport, Bahamas— October 9-13, 2009

Utila – November 7-14, 2009

Fiji – May 6-22, 2010

Maldives – September 14-28, 2010

(Whale sharks, mantas and more!)

Stop by and visit the only dive center in Metrowest!

From your Program Director, Al Bozza

Stay tuned to your E news and NEADC.org for exciting speakers and events in 2009.

Don't miss our summer special events:

July 25th-Great Annual Fish Count

September 12-Topical Fish Rescue and BBQ

Upcoming Monthly Speakers include:

June:

Dominica, the Nature Island: Al Bozza and Jim Carozza

July:

New England Fish ID refresher with Bob Michelson

Stay tuned for future speakers including:

Andy Martinez

Jonathan Bird

Greg Skomal

Greg Stone and more.

From your Dive Boat Coordinator, Jim Carozza

Boat diving is fun!

Easy entry and exit, many options for dive sites and the company and friends you meet on boats makes it a great way to dive.

Stay tuned to the E news, website and future newsletters for trip dates as they are added. Our upcoming Boston Harbor trip is full, but let us know if you want to join the waitlist.

Have any trips you would like to propose to the club?

Email us at: boatdive@neadc.org.



**319 Court St, Plymouth
508-746-3483**

Safety first!

Has it been a while since your gear has been serviced? Don't forget to get your tanks, regulator and BC checked out on a regular basis before you get in the water. Your local dive shop can help make sure your gear is working properly.

**Upcoming trip:
Freeport, Grand Bahamas October 24th - 31st 2009**

Join Dan Sprague at The Ocean Reef Yacht Club in Freeport, Bahamas, the home of Grand Bahama Scuba. Scuba Diving Magazine rated Grand Bahama Scuba the Best of the Bahamas for 2006!

There are reef dives with beautiful swim throughs from 20 to 60 feet as well as amazing wreck dives. You can visit an old Tug Boat at 45 feet, an old Military Landing Craft at 85 feet, and of course, the World Renowned Theo's Wreck, the 230 foot freighter that sits at just over 100 feet!

Reasonably priced trip!

- The condo costs \$225 per person
- A ten dive package costs \$300
- Airfare usually runs \$300-\$450

Non divers are also welcome, as there is a lot more to do than diving. This trip is filling up fast, -the first unit is almost full!. (They can always get another unit, but you have to book early)

Sign up for this trip by the August general meeting!

Questions? Contact Dan at shoredive@neadc.org or Rick at president@neadc.org.

*From your NEADC Shore Dive Coordinator,
Dan Sprague
Shore dive season is here!*

Finally, the weather has warmed and many of us are itching to get into the water. Check out our shore dive schedule for some great location. We have shore dives scheduled through fall, but more are being added each month to the website. Want to dive a site and it is not on the schedule? Sign up to coordinate a dive! To learn more, check our [shore dive calendar](#) on our website. website.

If you want to participate in an NEADC shore dive you should contact the designated coordinator at least **2 days** prior to the dive date. 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.

Dive Kulture

Dive Kulture is a Boston-based community program that offers scuba Open Water diving certification, environmental education, job placement and social support services to at-risk youth from the greater Boston area. These youth need programming that builds self-esteem, teaches coping skills and provides access to academic and employment prospects.

Dive Kulture began with a pilot group of twelve teens at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Chelsea and Dorchester in April 2008. Of the 12 teenagers who started, nine finished last year's program and are now certified scuba divers. All were successfully placed in summer jobs including work in the environmental and aquatics fields. Some have been specifically asked to return for another year.

Ultimately, the founders of Dive Kulture are treating scuba as a more than just a recreational pursuit. We hope that scuba will serve as a gateway into commercial diving—a vocational track and opportunity for long-term employment. On a broader scale, the work of Dive Kulture contributes to the reduction of violence and crime in Boston, by redirecting the energy and time of the city's at-risk and proven-risk youth into the positive and productive outlet of scuba diving.

Are you a diver interested in supporting Dive Kulture? We are currently looking for help from the diving community in the following main areas:

1. Scuba gear donations: Do you have any equipment you don't use sitting in your basement or garage?
2. Volunteer time: Have time and want to help out in your community? Help coordinate events and outreach for internships and summer jobs.
3. Funding: Donations or help with fundraising is needed. Perhaps your employer supports charity programs?

Find our more at www.dive-kulture.org or email contributors@dive-kulture.org

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First Dive of the Season by Charles Benoit

Shawn Cormier and I decided to brave the early spring Atlantic waters back on April 26th in order to log our first dive of the season. Typically, the first dive of the season is used to re-acquaint oneself with one's gear. You tolerate the chilly water for about 20 minutes, see very little life, and come out of the water as cold as a popsicle.

I must say that we were pleasantly surprised. Not only did our wet suits keep us toasty in the 46 water, but there was also good vis, an abundance of life, and several treasures found along the way! Navigating straight out off Pegotty Beach in Scituate, we first located an old boat anchor buried in the sand. A little further out, when we hit the rocks, we found several medium sized lobsters (actually large for this time of year!) and a few sculpin. Shawn then spotted something floating in the water column above our heads. I recognized it (with the help of Andy Martinez's book) as a Siphonophore, a long, rope-like, hydrozoan colony made up of different individuals, each performing separate functions for the grouping.

We continued out on the same heading, and turned the dive at about 35 minutes, amazed that we lasted as long as we did. During the return towards shore, Shawn came across a discarded BC weight pouch (9 lbs inside), but the most incredible find was yet to come. In about 10 feet of water, I spied a red Sea Raven; at least I thought it was a Raven... Upon closer examination, I realized that when my eyes followed the Raven's tail right to left, they came to the pectoral fins and then the mouth, then another set of pectoral fins, and another mouth!



Dinner time?

After a brief underwater dance and an obligatory high-five, Shawn and I continued to shore with perhaps one of the best *one that got away* stories. Not only because we witnessed rare behavior for a Sea Raven, they are reported to eat only small fish and bottom dwelling invertebrates, but because we got the pictures to prove it!

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- Dive Club



Burlington, MA
781-272-5164



If only another 1/2" ...

It took me a few seconds to comprehend what I was looking at. This was definitely a Sea Raven, but it was in the process of swallowing another fish whole. From the looks of it, he had bitten off more than he could chew, literally! I signaled to Shawn to snap a few pictures, and as he did the Sea Raven started to shake violently. Before we knew it, the fish in the Sea Raven's mouth escaped, and landed about 5 feet away from his attacker, right in between Shawn and myself. Here was a fairly large Ocean Pout, at least TWICE the length of the fish that had just tried to eat him! I'm not sure who was startled more, Shawn and me, the Ocean Pout, or the Sea Raven that just lost dinner. In a few short seconds, the Sea Raven started chasing after his slippery meal again, but this time the Ocean Pout was too fast.

New England Aquarium Dive Club Membership Form

To join or renew, visit us online at www.neadc.org or fill out & send in the form below

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)				Free Admission	IMAX Passes
___ Associate	\$75.00	+	\$15 (Dive Club Membership)	= \$90.00 (Member + 1 guest)	NA
___ Patron	\$125.00	+	\$15 (Dive Club Membership)	= \$140.00 (Member + 3 guests)	2 passes
___ Ambassador	\$175.00	+	\$15 (Dive Club Membership)	= \$190.00 (Member + 5 guests)	4 passes
___ Ocean Explorer	\$250.00	+	\$15 (Dive Club Membership)	= \$265.00 (Member + 7 guests)	6 passes

For additional membership benefits and levels see www.neaq.org

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

**Email address is required for monthly NEADC e-Newsletters and event updates.
Contact information will be used for Aquarium and Dive Club purposes only.*

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

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

MC / V / DISC / AMEX Account # _____ Expiration _____

Signature _____

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

Thank You to Members of the NEADC from John and Valerie Feehan

Val and I started diving only a few years ago. We plunged in and immediately realized that we loved diving. Each time we dive we find something new and interesting so that it never gets boring. Last year, we even found coronet fish at Foley Cove! We are deeply appreciative of the NEADC for helping us to get our start in diving. When we first started, we were intimidated by the gear, the low visibility and the challenges of diving. We did not want to do our first dives alone and wanted the comfort of others who knew the area and could get us from shore to water and back to shore without having the additional burden of carrying the flag or navigating. On many of our first dives, we served as extensions on the fins of other divers.

One of the values of attending the club meetings, is that we have been able to learn so much about our local marine environment. We have attended fish identification courses, invasive species lectures and we have learned about local ship wrecks. In addition, we have met many wonderful people who we have joined us for dives or provided advice on the best places to dive locally.

We want to thank the club and Jim Carroza for the challenge set out last year, to see who would complete the most dives with the club. We ended up doing a lot of boat diving last year, a first for us as well as joining many others on shore dives. We appreciate the wonderful gifts of dive jackets for doing something we love to do anyway. This year, we hope that more of you will join us in the water and enjoy the pleasure of New England Diving.

NEADC Summer Calendar 2009

Check www.neadc.org for dive details and the latest updates on shore and boat dive calendars*

June

- 17 Monthly Meeting**
- 20 New Member Dive-Nubble Light, York, ME**
- 21 Kayak Dive– Marblehead**
- 30 Shore Dive-Folly Cove**

July

- 1 Eat and Greet Meeting**
- 15 Monthly Meeting**
- 17 Shore Dive: Brant Rock Night Dive**
- 18 Shore Dive– New Member Dive**
- 19 Shore Dive– Giant Stride High Tide, Nahant**
- 24-26 Lobsterpalooza IV**
- 25 Great Annual Fish Count, Stage Fort Park**
- 30 Shore Dive-Folly Cove**

August

- 2 Kayak Dive– Marblehead**
- 5 Eat and Greet Meeting**
- 19 Monthly Meeting**
- 22 New Member Dive-Nubble Light, York, ME**
- 28 Shore Dive-Folly Cove**
- 28 Shore Dive Brant Rock Night Dive**

September

- 2 Eat and Greet Meeting**
- 12 Tropical Fish Hunt: Fort Wetherill, RI**
- 16 Monthly Meeting**

Boat and *Shore Dives: See the E-News and NEADC.org for the latest schedule and updates

**** Be sure to contact the shore dive leader at least 2 days prior to the dive***

****New Member Dives:***

First Saturday during the dive season after the General Meeting

(see shore dive schedule at www.NEADC.org for details)