



## NEADC Monthly Meetings

**General Meetings**  
*Third Wednesday of  
the month, 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**

*Free Diving*  
Nick Fazah

*Before each General  
Meeting, join us from  
5:30 to 6:30pm for the  
"Eat and Greet" at Jose  
McIntyre's on Milk St.*

### **Save the Dates!**

**Sunday, July 31**  
*Great Annual Fish Count*  
**Saturday, August 27**  
*Tropical Fish Rescue*

**Check out [www.neadc.org](http://www.neadc.org)  
for more information**

Join us on *Facebook* for  
last minute dive options,  
event photos and more.

### **Not getting our E-News?**

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

## ***Saving Spotfins at the NEADC's Tropical Fish Rescue*** *by Tom Bergendahl*

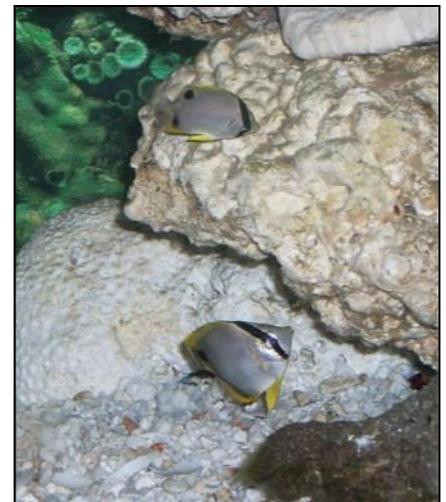
Last August 29<sup>th</sup>, was a perfect day for a fish rescue. The weather cooperated with sunny skies, temperatures in the 70s and minimal waves at Fort Wetherill, Rhode Island and many divers and their families participated. Having seen the prior year catches of spotfin butterflyfish, four spot butterflies, cowfish, trumpet fish, puffers, damselfish and snowy groupers, I was determined to rescue a few tropical fish myself from the coming ravages of cold waters and a harsh New England winter.

Diving at Ft. Wetherill is the easy part, visibility is the challenge. On a good day 10-15 feet of visibility is standard. The good news is that catching tropical fish doesn't really require great visibility, only patience and a couple of nets to corral the potential rescued fish.



Of course they don't cooperate. They swim and dart behind rocks, into crevasses, around boulders and rocky outcroppings and under rocks. After all, how did they know they were being rescued? It took a bit of observation to try and figure out where they were going to go. Fortunately, the juveniles don't swim as quickly as the adults. The spotfin butterflyfish I caught tended to hang out in 15 to 25 feet of water around rocky ledges, walls or outcrops. They ranged from roughly nickel-sized to quarter-sized. Other tropical fish were found in the eel grass and shallow waters.

From the net they went into my collection bucket, a small cooler filled with saltwater sitting in one of the gear areas of my kayak. Other divers rigged up plastic jugs with netting or and clipped the jug onto their BC or gave it to a buddy to hold. Innovation and creativity are very helpful when collecting tropicals! At the beach, I had a 5 gallon bucket with sea water ready to transport the fish home to a temporary quarantine tank to make sure there were no health issues. A few weeks later, I released them into my main 55 gallon saltwater aquarium.



Biomes Marine Biology center in North Kingston was also the recipient of some of the tropicals. At the end of the day, we had collected 20-30 tropicals and participated in a great educational event for club members and guests. Thanks to everyone who participated in organizing, set up and cooking!

**Don't miss the Tropical Fish Rescue Saturday, August 27!**

## **2011 NEADC Officers**

**President:** Rick Rosa  
president@neadc.org

**Vice President:** Uma Mirani  
vicepresident@neadc.org

**Business Manager:**  
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**Program Director:** Al Bozza  
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**Membership Director:**  
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membership@neadc.org

**Secretary:** Anna Krowczynska  
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**Environmental Affairs:**  
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**Webmaster:** Steve Whitford  
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**Newsletter:** Joy Marzolf  
newsletter@neadc.org

### **Dive Coordinators:**

**Boat Dives:** Tom Bergendahl  
boatdive@neadc.org

**Shore Dives:** Dan Sprague  
shoredive@neadc.org

### ***From your Membership Director, Shawn Cormier***

The weather is warming up and the summer planning is in full swing, but don't forget to renew your New England Aquarium Membership and Dive Club add-on before it expires in order to keep receiving emails and newsletters.

If you have any questions about your membership, contact me. Have a great summer and I hope to see you at a dive or at our big annual events. Let's go diving!

### ***From your Program Director, Al Bozza***

This is the first year that New England Divers will have the opportunity to participate in more organized group dive activities right up till the end of September.

**Sunday, July 31st**, we host the largest Great Annual Fish Count (GAFC) in North America. After the Fish Count dives, we will gather at Stage Fort Park in Gloucester for lunch and the Fish Count Raffle. More fabulous prizes again this year! For more information, dive locations and to register for this event, please see [www.neadc.org/gafc](http://www.neadc.org/gafc).

**Saturday, August 27th**, the Tropical Fish Rescue and BBQ will be held in Fort Wetherill, RI. Fun for all ages!

**September** marks the end of the season with the Bay State Council Treasure Hunt/Multi Club Picnic.

There will also be a multi-club family event on George's Island on Sunday, July 10th with a BBQ, music, volleyball, and swimming. Diving is not allowed directly from the Island but there will be boats available to take divers off shore for diving. If you would like to attend or receive additional info email me at [programs@neadc.org](mailto:programs@neadc.org).

Next year, DUI Dog Days in May will also be expanded to kick off the summer event season. It will include prizes, a picnic and various club and vendor tables.

Stay tuned to [www.neadc.org](http://www.neadc.org), the NEADC Facebook page and E-News with more information about upcoming events.

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# **Mass Diving**

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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! Don't forget 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? See **group travel** on our website!

**Grand Cayman:** August 13/15-20, 2011  
**Grand Cayman:** November 12-19, 2011  
**Cozumel:** February 4-11, 2012

**Phillipines:** March 3-17, 2012  
**Fiji:** May 3-May 19, 2012  
**Maldives:** March 14-28, 2013/ October 2-16, 2013

***Stop by and visit the only dive center in Metrowest!***

## ***Trip Report: Diving in India by Uma Mirani***

On a recent vacation to India, I had the opportunity to get in a few dives in Goa. Located on the west coast of India, south of Mumbai, Goa is the smallest state in India and is a popular resort destination for vacationers. Sun Village Resort in Arpora, Goa is home to Barracuda Diving India, a PADI 5-star dive shop. Offering daily two-tank boat dives, the operators are very accommodating to divers of all experience levels. They took us to dive sites near Grande Island, a small, uninhabited island off of the coast of Goa, about a 45 minute boat ride from shore.

Our first dive was on an old cargo ship that had sunk in the early 1950's, and was home to a variety of marine life including barracuda, sweetlips, scorpionfish and moorish idols.



The second dive site was a cove with a swim-through that caused it to become somewhat of a drift dive. At this site, we saw a variety of sea cucumbers, plate and table coral, sea whips, butterfly fish and a variety of other fish and invertebrates. The visibility was approximately 8-10 feet and water temperature around 78 F.

Overall, it was a very comfortable and pleasant dive experience and would recommend it to anyone traveling to Goa.

## ***From your Webmaster, Steve Whitford***

Follow us on Twitter!

You may have noticed a new box on the NEADC website. It's called Twitter and can be used to send short messages for everyone to see. I've put it on the website so people can post dive site conditions, last minute dive openings, and anything else the club might be interested in. Lets face it, if you use Twitter, you would probably brag about what a great dive you had anyway - now the rest of the club can see. Whenever you tweet something other divers would want to see, include "@NEADiveClub" in the message, and it will appear on the website (and for anyone following the dive club's messages).

Twitter accounts are free, and there are apps for smart phones, and even ways to send updates as text messages. Go to [twitter.com](http://twitter.com) if you want to post messages. If you already use Twitter, follow NEADiveClub to get updates in your own feed.

Keep watching Facebook and Twitter, I plan to have timely notices go out that way, rather than the home page. So far I've posted some last minute dive boat spots that the captain needed to fill, along with links to some interesting articles about invasive species. I definitely see more of that happening in the future!

As always, if there's something you want to see on the website, let me know. I'm always looking for new items and photos for the site!

## ***From your NEADC Shore Dive Coordinator, Dan Sprague***

Our NEADC shore dives are a good opportunity to brush up on your fish ID, play scientist for a dive and help us count fish for REEF! In addition to the Great Annual Fish Count, we will run "Fish Count" dives through the dive season.



Why not try coordinating a dive this season? Maybe there is a dive site that you've always wanted to try or a favorite site that you would like to share with your fellow divers. Leading a dive doesn't mean you have to know the dive site well or be an expert. You just pick a date, time and meet-up location and be the contact person. Sometimes the fun of diving is helping other divers improve their skills and sometimes it's so you can learn a few tricks from them. Add dive dates to the Shore Dive Calendar each month at the Eat & Greet (before the General Meeting) as well as during each General Meeting. We will post the info on the website as soon as possible. As always, you can contact me at [shoredive@neadc.org](mailto:shoredive@neadc.org) with the info, and I'll make sure it gets up to the website or Facebook. Don't forget dive coordinators also get one of our famous "Dive Leader" T-shirts! Who knows, you might even find a great regular dive buddy! If you've lead a New Member Dive in the past, let us know if you plan on leading more this year.

## ***Trip Report: British Virgin Islands & the RMS Rhone by Eric Husgen, NEADC Member***

Every 5 years I take a real vacation. This April, to celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, my wife Katie and I chose the British Virgin Islands. Although not a dive vacation, I scheduled a day to dive and, after some research, chose the wreck of the RMS Rhone.

Recommendations to dive with Sail Caribbean Divers were well founded, and I found myself being shuttled across Sir Francis Drake Channel to their large dive boat docked on Salt Island. On a brilliant, sunny day with no clouds and a steady breeze, we geared up. Mike, the shop owner, told me a wetsuit was not necessary, and I was the only one to dive with just a bathing suit. The captain reviewed what we would see during our dive plan, using specific hand gestures to articulate the many attractions this dive offered.



I was the second in the water, and waited as the group assembled. A large sea turtle was swimming on the surface just off the starboard bow. I looked down and could clearly see the bow of the Rhone 75 feet below in crystal clear water. I descended the fixed line and found myself first to the bottom. I was impatient to start as a woman in our group seemed to struggle at the surface to descend. My mask was leaking, I had some salt water in my mouth, and I was over-breathing. I started to feel anxious and questioned myself about whether I wanted to continue. (My last dive had been in November and resulted in me having to rescue my buddy, a stressful experience despite the good ending.) “Amateur,” I thought, and calmed myself. After that I was fine. Visibility seemed to be limitless, probably 100 feet, and I wasn’t at all cold without a wetsuit.

Finally together, we swam around the bow towards the midsection. The ship lay on her side, split in two by the explosion of her steam boilers which had sealed her fate. She was covered in beautiful corals, anemones and sea urchins. Colorful tropical fish surrounded us. The beam was a whopping 40 feet wide, and we swam inside her back towards the bow, natural light pouring in, the walls covered in orange cup corals. She was 310 feet long so there was time and distance to savor the experience. We exited through the bow and saw the mast clearly visible on the bottom. The movie *The Deep*, where Lou Gossett famously lost his head to a morey eel, was filmed on the site so forgive me for not poking my head inside the hold to see the spotted morey. I somehow missed Fang, the resident barracuda, but I did manage to see the very large Caribbean lobster.

The wreck is so large, it’s a two tank dive. The captain moved the boat to another fixed line to explore the stern, then told the story of the RMS Rhone during our surface interval. The RMS Rhone was the first steam vessel to cross the Atlantic Ocean, the best in her class. She traveled from her home in England to the Caribbean and South America. Through a series of unfortunate errors, she was caught in a late, estimated Category 5 hurricane on October 29, 1867. When cold sea water reached the hot steam engines, she exploded and split in the middle. Because it was customary to tie the passengers tightly to their beds during a storm, “sleep tight”, over 200 souls were lost.

The stern was in shallower water, but still a respectable 65 feet deep. After baking in the sun on deck, I was initially cold returning to the water, but quickly adjusted as I enjoyed the kaleidoscope of the colorful fish around me. The giant propeller, boiler, and crankshaft was clearly visible along with the fancy white tile floor that the passengers had danced on 135 years earlier. The dive master repeated the hand signals the captain had used to identify what we were seeing, down to the silver spoon that Captain Woolley used to stir the rum in his tea before he was swept overboard by a giant wave. After swimming through another small compartment and around the scattered sections of the stern, we had time to swim through a fish filled channel close to nearby Black Rock before ascending after about 43 minutes of bottom time.

We were able to rinse our gear and take freshwater showers on board before riding back to Hodges Creek Marina on Tortola. Exploring the RMS Rhone with Sail Caribbean Divers was the highlight of my SCUBA career and my vacation to B.V.I. For more information, visit [www.sailcaribbean.com](http://www.sailcaribbean.com). Their dive shop at Hodges Creek Marina on Tortola is a PADI shop.

### ***Trip Report: Bonaire by Shawn Cormier***

Imagine a place where the water is like bath water, crystal clear, with an abundance of sea life and beautiful corals. Well, that is Bonaire. You can roll out of bed and into the water at will. With tanks and lockers by the docks and a quick gear up, you are in the water for your 20th dive of the week.

Recently, a few members from the New England Aquarium Dive Club traveled to Bonaire for a weeks stay at Captain Don's Habitat. It is certainly a diver's haven. With outside seating for breakfast, lunch and dinner, outdoor pool, volleyball, two dive boats and their own dock and dive shop, there was always something to do. Jumping off the dock it is just short surface swim to depths of 120' plus. The wall varies between 30 and 80 feet with a few wrecks mixed in for fun. Whether it is a pre-breakfast dive (yeah, I know... need the morning coffee) mid-morning, mid-afternoon or even a night dive, the sea changes each time. You never know what awaits you. From giant groupers to mating squid, frolicking turtles to dancing sea horses and lobsters living large, each dive is another experience to talk about over dinner.



The flight down to Bonaire was about 4.5 hours from Newark. Good planning on our part gave us an extra day of diving. After flying at midnight, we were able to squeeze in the dive briefing and get in the water the same day. There were also many good restaurants in town and places to visit. The island is rich in history from the days of slave trading and salt mining. On our last day before flying (boo hoo) our group decided to drive around the entire island on 4-wheelers. That was a blast and another experience I will never forget!

### ***From your Vice President, Uma Mirani***

It was great to see so many members at the ***Member Only Behind the Scenes tour*** at the Aquarium in March.

And now, the start of another great dive season! As always, during the off season our board has been working hard to organize and plan the upcoming events including the ***Great Annual Fish Count*** in July and the ***Tropical Fish Rescue and BBQ*** in August.

We have also been putting together our shore and boat dive schedules, booking more great speakers for our monthly meetings and organizing beach cleanups. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings and events!

## **South Shore Divers**

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## ***Diving Eastport Maine and Deer Island New Brunswick, by Anna Krowczynska***

Eastport is the easternmost city in the continental United States and, in the 19th century, was known as the sardine capital of the world. Today, the old canneries are gone (you can still see lots of bricks underwater along the shore) and the historic downtown fills with tourists coming to explore each summer, going on whale watching trips, admiring the largest tidal whirlpool in the western hemisphere known as an “Old Saw” or visiting Campobello Island where president Roosevelt had a summer home.

It is also a divers paradise – if you have seen Andy Martinez poster “Splendor of the New England,” or read his books about the marine life of north Atlantic, you’ve seen the pictures taken underwater in Eastport.

The diving here is challenging – water is cold (a dry suit is highly recommended) and timing of the dives is critical because of the largest tides in the world (50 plus feet). You can only dive twice a day during the slack water, the lull between tides, otherwise you are risking ending up spinning round and round in the “Old Saw” or being swept out to sea. But diving here is spectacular! You come face to face with a barrage of color and life. Massive yellow sponges cover the rocks, the northern red anemones grow to an impressive size, sea stars of all sizes, shapes and colors litter the floor. Large lobsters prowl the bottom (don’t even think of taking them for dinner, since this is prohibited both in Maine and Canada). Sculpin, sea raven and ocean pout lay atop outcroppings, while Montague shrimp and red-gilled nudibranchs are staking ground between them. You can also see the head of the wolfish sticking out of his hole and school of pollock circling around.



There is no boat diving in Eastport, only shore diving. The most popular is The Old Pier and Dawson Beach. For the best diving you need to take a ferry to Deer Island and dive the Point and The Old Custom House known also as a Cat Can. We stayed at Harris Point (motel rooms and cabins) whose owner is friendly towards divers and doesn’t mind dry suits and undergarment hanging from the clothes lines. The view from the shore at Harris Point is spectacular. Where else you can enjoy barbequing and watching whales breach out of the water at the same time!

# **Burlington SCUBA**

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## ***From your Dive Boat Coordinator, Tom Bergendahl***

I am looking forward to the upcoming season and coordinating lots of great dives this year. Last year’s dives were the 4<sup>th</sup> of July afternoon and night dive out to Graves Light and a trip to dive and see seals off the Isles of Shoals. Hopefully we will get out to those sites again, as well as others.

I will also continue to offer my “Intro” to kayak diving to club members who would like to try it. It is a great way to do some offshore diving at sites like Marblehead Rock, Children’s Island and others. Please check the club’s dive calendar as the season continues. Please suggest sites and/or trips if you don’t see it on the schedule. We will also be posting last minute dive opportunities this season on Facebook.

## *New England Aquarium Dive Club Membership Form*

*To join or renew, visit us online at [www.neadc.org](http://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)

<input type="checkbox"/> Associate	\$85.00	+	\$15 (Dive Club Membership)	=	\$100.00	Free Admission (Member + 1 guest)	IMAX Passes NA
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$135.00	+	\$15 (Dive Club Membership)	=	\$150.00	(Member + 3 guests)	2 passes
<input type="checkbox"/> Ambassador	\$185.00	+	\$15 (Dive Club Membership)	=	\$200.00	(Member + 5 guests)	4 passes
<input type="checkbox"/> 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](http://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 _____
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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

***From your Environmental Coordinator, Bob Munson***

There are many ways to help the ocean! Join the **Teva Cleanup** at South Boston's Carson Beach on June 11. Teva, in coordination with Eastern Mountain Sports, the Ocean Conservancy, the Urban Harbors Institute, and CZM, will host beach cleanup event at DCR's Carson Beach. The cleanup will kickoff Teva's new initiative to protect global waterways called "A Pair for a Foot," where a linear foot of water will be protected with each pair of Teva shoes sold. Please **RSVP to [coastswEEP@umb.edu](mailto:coastswEEP@umb.edu) by June 9<sup>th</sup>** so that they can get a final head count for supplies and lunch.

**Teva's "A Pair for a Foot" Cleanup**

**When: Saturday, June 11. 10:00 AM      Where: Carson Beach, South Boston – Meet at the bathhouse.**

Limited parking is available. Carson Beach is accessible via the JFK/UMass T stop on the redline-about a 1/2 mile walk from the T station to the Bathhouse. Supplies, snacks, and lunch will be provided, however please consider helping us reduce the waste generated at this event by bringing a pair of reusable gloves (such as gardening gloves) and a reusable mug.

***Think BLUE whenever you can...and help spread the word!***

***Check that the seafood you purchase is sustainably harvested before buying it.***

*Not sure how? Check the list from the New England Aquarium on the Conservation page!*

***Clean up as you go!***

*Recycle what you can and properly dispose of trash wherever you go. When you dive, or just visit a beach, bring a bag and pick up trash you see at the site. Every little bit helps our oceans!*

## **NEADC Summer Calendar 2011**

*Check [www.neadc.org](http://www.neadc.org) for the latest updates*

### ***June***

- 11** Teva's "A Pair for a Foot" Cleanup
- 15** Monthly Meeting: Free Diving

### ***July***

- 20** Monthly Meeting
- 31** Great Annual Fish Count\*  
*Stage Fort Park, Gloucester*  
*\*Food and Fabulous Prizes!*

### ***August***

- 17** Monthly Meeting:
- 27** Tropical Fish Rescue and BBQ  
*Fort Wetherill, RI*

### ***September***

- 21** Monthly Meeting
- 25** Bay State Council Treasure Hunt

*Shore Dives and Boat Dives will be added to the website, Facebook and Twitter.*

*Check the website, come a fan on Facebook or follow us on Twitter for the latest information.*

*Save the Date for:*

***Boston Sea Rovers March 9-11, 2012  
NEW WEEKEND!!!***

***Thank you to the members who volunteered to help at Boston Sea Rovers in March!***

We are looking for volunteers to assist with the GAFC and Tropical Fish Count this summer. If you are interested, please contact [vicepresident@neadc.org](mailto:vicepresident@neadc.org).