



New England Aquarium Dive Club, Inc.

www.neadc.org

Winter Newsletter 2012

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!

February 15

Tracking and Saving
Endangered Sea Turtles
Wayne Sentman

March 21

Special Member Event!
Behind the Scenes at the
New England Aquarium's
Rescue and Rehab Center
in Quincy

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

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!

Join us at Boston Sea Rovers in Danvers **March 10th and 11th!**

This year Boston Sea Rovers is again back at the *CoCo Key Resort* in Danvers. Daytime seminars include fantastic presentations from around the underwater world including topics such as wreck diving, underwater photography, exotic locations and amazing marine wildlife. Additional programs during the show include workshops on underwater photography, free diving and specialty programs for dive professionals.

The famous Saturday Evening Film Festival will be hosted by National Geographic photographer Brian Skerry. Some of the featured filmmakers will include BBC/Discovery Channel's Rick Rosenthal, underwater explorer and rebreather pioneer Jill Heinerth and Nancy McGee, former partner to Stan Waterman.

The exhibit hall will offer a wide range of booths from travel destinations to dive shops, dive gear and, of course, our own *New England Aquarium Dive Club* booth! Come by and visit us at the show. You can even volunteer to help us spread the word about the club! Check out the presentations, new gear, exotic trips and maybe win a prize! The Boston Sea Rovers sponsors have also donated fabulous prizes for the raffles including *full sets of scuba gear* and much more!

New...

Fabulous Marine Environmental Art Exhibit **Sponsored by Grand Circle Travel**

See how local, national and international artists are helping to educate the public about marine debris through their amazing and beautiful art work.

Expanded Kids Day, Sunday, March 11th

Bring your kids to experience a touch tank from the New England Aquarium, build a coral reef in the pool, check out art activities with artist Michelle Lougee and find out about careers with sharks and snorkeling with manatees. There will also be a special appearance by the stars of *Gus Outdoors*, a children's TV series. Come meet Gus, the child host, and check out new footage from some of his upcoming episodes. Staying the weekend? You can get discounts on water park admission with advanced reservations.

Introduce your Non-Diving Friends to Diving!

This year, the Boston Sea Rovers clinic will again include *Discover Scuba* in the hotel pool. This is a great chance for show attendees to try out SCUBA! Maybe you know someone who has been snorkeling and has thought about learning to dive. This is a great chance to try diving with help from some of our local dive shops.

See www.bostonsearovers.com for tickets and weekend details.

2012 NEADC Officers

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Shore Dives: Dan Sprague
shoredive@neadc.org

From your Membership Director, Bob Munson

Membership has its privileges...

Don't miss our upcoming meetings including a talk on "Tagging Endangered Sea Turtles" in February and our special Member Event "Behind the Scenes at the Aquarium's Animal Care Center" in March. Don't forget, meetings are also a great chance to win a dive in the New England Aquarium's Giant Ocean Tank! Doesn't playing with Myrtle the turtle and other tropical creatures in warm water sound great?

Fun events are in store for 2012, so don't forget to keep your membership current to receive updates! If you are an Aquarium member, but not a NEADC member yet, you can even add the Dive Club to your Aquarium membership at meetings! We have a lot in store for 2012, so check in on our website, follow us on Facebook, or attend a meeting to find out more.

From your Program Director, Al Bozza

Join us for exciting events this season!

Annual Whale Watch *Saturday, April 28th, 11am meet at 10:30am*

Our annual whale watch trip will travel to Stellwagen Bank Marine Sanctuary, a rich feeding ground for whales, dolphins, sea birds and other marine life. This area is home to large whales, including increasing numbers of humpback, minke, pilot and right whales as well as white-sided dolphins. On board naturalists are available to talk with you about the animals we see including behavior, conservation status and migration patterns. **Discount ticket rates!**

Annual White Water Rafting Adventure *Sunday, May 13th*

Our destination is the Deerfield River in the Berkshires of Massachusetts. This beautiful ten mile rafting trip through mild white water is the perfect outing for families and friends. Calm sections allow your guide to fill you in on local history and to enjoy the breathtaking scenery of the Berkshires. After an exciting class III stretch we stop along the river for a nice picnic lunch. The second half of the trip allows opportunities to get out of the boat and float.

For additional information, visit our website: www.neadc.org. For tickets or additional questions, contact programs@neadc.org or call 774-571-5170.

Don't forget to save the dates for our big summer events! (see pg. 6)

Mass Diving

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

**Visit us in the Exhibit Hall at
Boston Sea Rovers!**

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! Winter 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? See **group travel** on our website!

Curacao: April 14-21, 2012

Fiji: May 3-19, 2012

Roatan, Honduras: July 28-August 4, 2012

Grand Cayman: October 27-November 3, 2012

Maldives

March 14-28, 2013

October 2-16, 2013

Stop by and visit the only dive center in Metrowest!

February Speaker Preview...

Tracking and Saving Endangered Sea Turtles

Wayne Sentman, The Oceanic Society

Wayne will talk about sea turtle tagging research in Suriname, Hawaii, and Yap, Micronesia. Find out more about efforts to track and study leatherback and green sea turtles. Information presented will include new opportunities for individuals to participate on a current Oceanic Society green turtle tagging project in Ulithi Atoll (Yap).

Wayne will also talk about the increasing threat that plastic marine pollution poses for global marine turtle conservation.

Want to learn more about marine debris?

Check out the ***Marine Environmental Art Exhibit*** sponsored by ***Grand Circle Travel*** at Boston Sea Rovers March 10-11.

Wayne will also be speaking at Boston Sea Rovers. See www.bostonsearovers.com for details including talk times and tickets.



From your Webmaster, Steve Whitford

The ***New England Aquarium Dive Club*** website is constantly evolving to keep pace with new technologies. Let us know if you'd like to see anything new on the website.

If you don't already "Like" us on Facebook, you're missing out! See photos from previous events, check out new dive dates, general news and events. See the link on our website to our page. As always, stay tuned to the E-News, website, Facebook, and Linked-in pages for the latest in club news.

From your NEADC Shore Dive Coordinator, Dan Sprague

As the new Dive Season approaches, we're adding some new options! We would still like to see people post dives on the website for others to join. After all, it's a great way to try a dive site that you've always wanted to learn or to share a favorite site that you love to dive.

Not sure what your weekend plans are? Do you wait to see what the weekend weather looks like before scheduling a dive or picking a dive spot? For this upcoming dive season, we also plan to offer more "last minute" dives through our Facebook page to take advantage of great dive days. You can even post a dive there yourself during the season! It is a great way to reach other members, find dive buddies and more last minute!

New this upcoming season is an official Monthly Club Dive. I'll be picking a date in April for the Shore Dive Planning Meeting to discuss details and look for volunteers. In May we'll also be doing the Dry Dive on Cape Ann where you'll get the chance to check out some of the dive sites. We'll have Jerry Shine's book on hand for reference and some other great resources. So keep your eyes on the calendar, and as always, you can contact me with questions at shoredive@neadc.org. Want to coordinate a dive? Let me know and I'll make sure it gets on our website and shore dive calendar.

I'm looking forward to the new season and, in October, I will be running my annual trip to the Bahamas. I hope you can find time to join us on a dive here in New England and in the sunny Bahamas!

**March Meeting: Members Night
Behind the Scenes at the Aquarium's
NEW Animal Care Center**

This year we are going behind the scenes at the New England Aquarium's new *Animal Care Center* in Quincy!

Where are many new animals first brought when they come to the NEAQ? Where do endangered sea turtles come to heal and prepare for release? Where are samples taken after marine animal strandings? Quincy! Come for a truly unique behind the scenes tour of this important but rarely seen part of the aquarium.

Due to limited space, **this event does require pre-registration. See our website for times.** Please RSVP to vicepresident@neadc.org if you will be attending.

Need to renew your membership to attend? You can renew at the February meeting or

**From your Dive Boat Coordinator,
Jim Carozza**

Are you ready for some boat dives?

After a short absence from the NEADC Board I'm back and ready to run boat dives for 2012!

Captain Jim Sullivan, owner of Boston SCUBA and an NEADC Member, is now running charters year round out of East Boston. We'll schedule some charters this season with him including lobstering, scalloping and possibly some wreck dives around Boston Harbor. NEADC members also save \$10 on each of his trips!

This season we are also planning more of our popular Seal Dives to Isle of Shoals leaving from Rye, NH. If you haven't done this trip, you don't know what you are missing! I will also be running charters to the paddle wheeler "*Lady of the Lake.*" My new 32' boat is on Lake Winnepesaukee out of Gilford, NH and there is parking at the slip. It has a huge swim/dive platform, shower & fridge. About 5 minutes out, the "*Lady*" is 125 feet long, in about 30 feet of water and a nice wreck to explore. I will also have my scuba compressor aboard this year for fills. **Dive safe & dive often!**



Diving the Kittiwake by Laura Casey

The USS Kittiwake, a former submarine rescue ship of 251 ft, began its life in 1944 at the end of WWII. In February 2010, it began preparation for a new life. In Virginia, the ship went through a tremendous amount of remediation work and in December 2010, she was finally moved to her new home in Grand Cayman and sunk January 5, 2011.

She now lays on the ocean floor creating an artificial reef at recreational diver depths. Much of the wreck, including the bridge, recompression chambers and original fire fighting cannon is easily recognizable by divers. She is now showing signs of life with new marine growth and plenty of hiding places for fish both large and small.

Boston SCUBA Inc.

256 Marginal Street, East Boston, MA 02128

www.bostonscuba.com

(617) 418-5555

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**NEADC members
save \$10
per dive trip!**

Check out our new shop right in Boston!

Trip Report: Waiting for Mantas in Hanifaru Bay by Anna Krowczynska

The Maldives, a chain of atolls in the Indian Ocean, is a popular dive site for European divers, but much less known to American divers. One of the reasons is the long flight to Male, usually through Dubai or Qatar. The Maldives is the flattest country in the world, with a highpoint of just 2.4 meters (about 7.2 feet). A third of the Maldives' estimated 300,000 population live on the capital island of Male. The population is Muslim, so alcohol is banned on the islands, but there is plenty of it in the resorts and on live-aboards. The smallest Muslim nation in the world, it has a long-standing multi-party democratic political system. Unlike many other Muslim countries, women also play a prominent role in the Maldivian society, with many civic and businesses leadership positions.



The Maldives is known for some of the most magnificent marine life seen anywhere in the world including whale sharks (an animal at the top of most divers "must-see" list), rays, turtles and sharks. My single reason for going there was to witness the masses of manta rays that congregate to feed in Hanifaru Bay in the Baa Atoll. From May through November, currents and upwellings carry huge amounts of plankton into the bay attracting hundreds of mantas. I was traveling with a group lead by Jonathan Bird, who was planning to shoot an episode about manta rays for his TV series *Jonathan Bird's Blue World*. Our home for 10 days was the Maldives Aggressor, a 115 foot schooner carrying 20 passengers and crew of 10. The sails weren't just for decoration and we used them whenever weather and winds were favorable. As always on an Aggressor live-aboard, the service and food were superb.

Our first trip to Hanifaru Bay ended in disappointment, no mantas! We saw a few mantas at the cleaning stations, but not hundreds of mantas feeding on plankton. So, we sailed to explore other dive sites on Baa and Noonu atolls. There were plenty of different fish from Napoleon wrasse, sweetlips and gray reef sharks to leaf-fish, soapfish and batfish, but only few manta rays.

Finally, a week after boarding the boat we got the signal that mantas were coming to Hanifaru Bay. We quickly sailed there and we weren't disappointed. For a few hours each afternoon the bay was full of mantas. They were gracefully gliding around, never touching each other (or divers) with their mouths wide open gorging on plankton. The view was unforgettable – some people were snorkeling, other using scuba gear and everybody was either filming or shooting stills. I got several hundred shots of mantas, even some good ones!

At the end of the trip we flew over the Male atolls in a seaplane. TransMaldivian Airways operates 23 De Havilland DHC 6 Twin Otter aircrafts and have regular flights from Male to far flung resort atolls. Overall, the Maldives are a magical place, worthy of enduring a very long flight.



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www.southshoredivers.com

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**Burlington, MA
781-272-5164**

From your Vice President, Uma Mirani

Greetings to all of our Dive Club members! Dive season is approaching at a snail's pace, but we are already in the planning stages for our events. We have many great things lined up for the season including the **Great Annual Fish Count** in July and **Tropical Fish Rescue** in October. We hope you'll join us for these events and more! If you are one of the hearty who dive in New England year round, send us news and/or pictures of any local dives or if you are traveling any dive trips that you have taken.

Thank you to those members who have volunteered to help at our events in the past. We are currently looking for volunteers to assist with the booth at Boston Sea Rover in March. If you are interested, please contact:

vicepresident@neadc.org

Save the Dates!

Join us for our BIG Annual Events!

Saturday, July 28th

11th Great Annual Fish Count

Picnic, prizes and lots of fun! Help us help REEF and contribute to science! Ours is the largest fish count in North America! Dives are planned at several shore locations around Cape Ann with lunch and the raffle at Stage Fort Park, Gloucester.



Winning raffle prizes at the GAFC by Joy Marzolf



*Diving Fort Wetherill, RI at the Tropical Fish Rescue
by Joy Marzolf*



*Up Close and Personal at the Tropical Fish Rescue
by Joy Marzolf*

Sunday, October 7th

Tropical Fish Rescue and BBQ, Fort Wetherill, Jamestown, RI

A great chance to share ocean fun and cool creatures with family and friends. All are welcome! Diving, snorkeling, seining, a touch tank for the kids and don't forget the BBQ!

More information to come! Stay tuned to monthly meetings and your E-news.

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	\$85.00	+	\$15 (Dive Club Membership)	= \$100.00 (Member + 1 guest)	NA
___ Patron	\$135.00	+	\$15 (Dive Club Membership)	= \$150.00 (Member + 3 guests)	2 passes
___ Ambassador	\$185.00	+	\$15 (Dive Club Membership)	= \$200.00 (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 _____	

****An 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

Think BLUE!

Plastic bags, toothbrushes, toy cars and pens...what do they have in common?

We find them all in marine debris!

When not recycled or properly disposed of, plastic often ends up in our oceans and can be hazardous to marine wildlife including endangered sea turtles. Learn more at our February General Meeting!

How can you help fight marine debris?

- * See how art is being used to educate the public about the problem of marine debris at the **Boston Sea Rovers Marine Environmental Art Exhibit**, sponsored by **Grand Circle Travel** on March 10th and 11th in Danvers.
- * Clean each dive: Bring a bag each time you dive and pick up trash when you see it.
- * Reduce plastic consumption: use reusable cloth bags for shopping and refillable water bottles.
- * Recycle plastic when you are finished with it.
- * ***Spread the word with people you know!*** Small steps by many can lead to big changes for the ocean!



NEADC Winter Calendar 2012

Check www.neadc.org and Facebook for the latest updates



February

- 15** **Monthly Meeting: Wayne Sentman**
 Tracking and Saving
 Endangered Sea Turtles

March

- 9-11** **Boston Sea Rovers Workshops**
- 10-11** **Boston Sea Rovers Daytime Seminars**
- 10** **Boston Sea Rovers Film Festival**
- 21** **Monthly Meeting:**
 Members Behind the Scenes at
 the NEAq Animal Care Facility

April: Shore Dive Planning Meeting

- 18** **Monthly Meeting**
- 28** **Whale Watch**

May: Dry Dive

- 13** **White Water Rafting**
- 16** **Monthly Meeting**

June

- 20** **Monthly Meeting**

Save the Dates!

Saturday, July 28

Great Annual Fish Count

Sunday, October 7

Tropical Fish Rescue and BBQ