

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM DIVE CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER

February 2002

NEADC Web Site: www.NEADC.org

NEADC GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 6:30 p.m. February 20, 2002 at New England Aquarium Immersion Theater at the base of the Boston Harbor Garage. Guest Speaker is **Kelly Rakow** of New England Aquarium on her recent blue water jelly fish collection expedition. Kelly is in charge of the jellies at NEAq (Kelly's Jellies). Jelly fish, as any home aquarium enthusiast knows, are among the most difficult creatures to maintain. In addition to the collecting trip presentation, she will discuss maintaining these fascinating creatures in captivity.

Holly Martel-Bourbon will be at the meeting to give information on the upcoming Sea Rovers weekend and to sell DISCOUNT tickets to NEADC members.

Don't miss this great meeting!

ELECTIONS: The positions of Newsletter Editor and Secretary will be voted at the February 20, 2002 Meeting.

NOMINEES:

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Chris Watt

Stacey Knapp

SECRETARY

Anna Krowczynska

INFORMAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 6:30 p.m. March 6, 2002 at the home of Al and Wendy Bozza. ALLERGY ALERT: Three large and friendly dogs and one tiny little baby boy. See page 2 for Directions.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Submit your news for the next Newsletter by

Saturday, February 23, 2002!

for the **MARCH EDITION** of the NEADC Newsletter.

Submissions should be forwarded by e-mail at

newsletter@neadc.org, Thank you

THIS MONTH'S CONTENTS

Officers/Voice Mail/Directions	Page 2
Members' Advertising	Page 2
From the Officers	Page 3
Announcements	Page 5
Sea Rovers and Bertucci's Pizza Party	Page 6
Annual Whale Watch	Page 7
Florida Diving by Jacki Kronenberg	Page 9
Calendar	Page 10
Membership Application	Page 12

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

If your address has changed recently please fill out this form and mail it to:

Karl See, Membership Director, New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston, MA 02110

OLD ADDRESS:

Name: _____
Street: _____
City: _____
State/Zip: _____

NEW ADDRESS:

Name: _____
Street: _____
City: _____

President - Maryhelen Shuman-Groh, P. O. Box 70,
Raynham, MA 02767; (508) 821-4704, president@neadc.org
Vice President - Caroline Starita, (978) 251-1520,
vicepresident@neadc.org
Business Manager - Steve Groh, (508) 821-4704,
business@neadc.org
Boat Dive Coordinator - Veronica Atlantis 781-272-1387,
boatdive@neadc.org
Shore Dive Coordinator – Peter McCarthy
shoredive@neadc.org
Newsletter Editor - OPEN
newsletter@neadc.org
Program Director - Al Bozza (508)-384-1377,
programs@neadc.org
Membership Director – Jim Carozza (617) 973-3821
membership@neadc.org
Secretary - OPEN
secretary@neadc.org
Environmental Affairs - Alicia Lenci (617) 889-1486,
environmental@neadc.org
Webmaster - Bryce Flynn (508) 543-9761
webmaster@neadc.org

NEADC VOICE MAIL SYSTEM: Please call (617) 973-0240

DIRECTIONS TO INFORMAL MEETING:

Hosted by Al and Wendy Bozza, 7 Sharon Ave, Norfolk, MA, 508-384-1377. **Allergy alert:** THREE dogs!!!!
From Rte 128 take exit for Rte 95 S. Take Exit 9 to Rte 1 South. Follow Rte 1 past Foxboro Stadium. Take a Right at the set of traffic lights onto Pine Street just after you pass the End Zone Motel and Lafayette House on the Right. Follow Pine Street to stop sign and turn Right. Continue to follow Pine Street/Rte 115 for about one mile to a set of traffic lights (Rte 1a & Rte 115). Turn Left at the lights onto Rte 1a. Sharon Ave is the first Right off of Rte 1a (Canoe Rental & Bait Shop on the corner). Our house is the second house after the Canoe/Bait Shop. Dive Flag on the mailbox. From Rte 495, take exit 15 for Rte 1a through Wrentham Center and straight through one set of traffic lights. Continue on Rte 1a for about 1 mile; Sharon Ave is on the left directly after the Eaglebrook Saloon.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISING

NEWSLETTER AD POLICY: Dive related ads for NEADC Members will be free with the following stipulations: 1. Must be current NEADC member; 2. Ad must be 25 words or less; 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. Website does NOT contain member advertising.

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**

FOR SALE: NIKONOS IV UNDERWATER CAMERA

- with 35 mm lens and new "o" ring set. Never flooded. Purchase camera and lens for \$200 and get a temperamental SB101 strobe free!
-Very good condition men's medium **wet suit** \$50 Never used "DEEP SEE" xxl tropical shortie wet suit. I think it is closer to XL than XXL and may be mislabeled. \$50
Call Dick Whitehouse (617) 469-9529

FOR SALE: DUI CF200 DRY SUIT

Crushed neoprene back-entry design with latex seals, blue/black, warm-neck color, rock boots, cargo pockets on thighs. Also comes with inflator hose, thermal coveralls. Zipper recently replaced; minor wear on knees.
Dry suit was worn by 5'10", ~200 lbs female; can easily be worn by male or female diver.
I just bought a new CF200 – with fewer features, it cost over \$2,100!
So this one is a BARGAIN at: \$895
Anna Flynn (508)543-9761 annaflynn@mediaone.net

PHOTOGRAPHY COURSE WITH JONATHAN BIRD

Emmy Award winning underwater cinematographer and Skin Diver Magazine contributing photographer Jonathan Bird is teaching comprehensive underwater photography courses in tropical locations throughout 2002 and 2003 starting in August on the Fiji Aggressor. Learn photography from a pro while diving the best spots on Earth. Details at: www.oceanicresearch.org/jbird.html

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT Maryhelen Shuman-Groh

Let's review 2001 - NEADC again ended the year in the black financially. We ran several successful and well attended events last year: kicked off the New Year (and true Millennium) with the annual Rhode Island dive; the Bertucci's Pizza Party on Sea Rovers Weekend in March sold out; more than 50 members attended the Annual Whale Watch in April; the 'Dry Dive' is becoming an annual tradition with Max Arias leading a tour of the popular dive sites on Cape Ann; in May NEADC entered team in the Bay State Council of Divers Annual Treasure Hunt for the first time and won a prize; in July we hosted our annual Picnic on one of the best days we've had in Rhode Island; in October the 25th Anniversary of the Dive Club was marked with a semi-formal event at the Aquarium and members past and present came from all over the country; and we went DIVING. These are just some examples of the activities of 2001 and a preview of what's in store in 2002. Welcome to another year in NEADC!

As always, the Club can only be as active and varied as its membership makes it. Please offer your suggestions of dive sites, diving activities, social activities, group events, whatever, to the officers you have elected. Better yet, volunteer to lead a dive or organize an outing! Write an article for the newsletter! We're told by every editor and dive writer in the country that the place to begin a career in diving or dive writing is at your local dive club - here we are just waiting for you to test your skills on us. Here's wishing you all a safe and happy new year of diving fun! Look forward to seeing you soon.

FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR Jim Carozza

I would personally like to welcome all new members and potential members to the New England Aquarium Dive Club for 2002.

This year we are planning lots of F-U-N activities and hope to see more members involved. After months of contract negotiations I have managed to enlist and get elected my friend, Peter McCarthy as your new Shore Dive Coordinator for 2002. Peter came a little cheaper than what Tom Brady is going to request so I thought I got a real bargain. Peter is also a certified instructor working with Northeast Scuba in Somerville, MA and brings some added skills to the club. I plan to assist Peter with more shore dives and social activities along with all the other Officer's of the club to make 2002 a great year! If you are new to the club please introduce yourself if we haven't formally met. I'm available to answer all club questions on membership and if I don't have an answer I will be sure to get one for you be sure. I can be reached directly at the web site under "Contact - Membership Director" for any questions via e-mail.

On behalf of all the Officer's welcome again to the club and I look forward to a great 2002 diving season.

Morehead City Trip

June 28-30, 2002

3 days of wreck diving off the North Carolina coast

Only 2 spots left

\$100.00 deposit ASAP

Balance of \$140.00 due by February's meeting.

This is for Dive boat costs only.

Room and travel to be discussed. Contact Jim Carozza at 617-966-0111 or

e-mail James.Carozza@bos.frb.org

for more info.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS Alicia Lenci

Volunteer Divers Needed!

Learn more about **New England Artificial Reef Society (NEARS.ORG)** and how to participate at the next Bay State Council of Divers Meeting: February 13, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting held at The South Shore Neptune Club house building at the Corner of Quarry and Joyce Streets in Quincy. To reach the building take the Furnace Brook Parkway exit from the Southeast Expressway and follow Furnace Brook Parkway to Quarry Street (at the second set of traffic lights). Turn left on to Quarry Street and travel one short block to Joyce Street. The Dive Team headquarters is the small stone building on the right.

Contact: Alicia Lenci, NEADC Environmental Affairs:

617 889 1486

FROM YOUR SHORE DIVE COORDINATOR Peter McCarthy

About Your Shore Diving Coordinator

For those of you who don't know me, please allow me to introduce myself. I'm an attorney in Boston, practicing in the areas of wills, real estate, business consulting, and trial litigation. I was originally certified to SCUBA dive in 1989, and became a SCUBA instructor in 1999. I teach diving classes regularly through United Divers in Somerville, MA. I love diving, and love teaching others how to dive!! In addition to diving, I enjoy all types of outdoor activities, particularly hiking and downhill skiing. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve as the club's Shore Diving Coordinator this year, and am looking forward to an exciting year!

About Our Shore Diving Schedule

I've drafted a schedule of proposed shore diving dates for the rest of this year, and through the first part of 2003. The schedule was discussed at the informal meeting on February 6th. If you were unable to attend this meeting, the schedule is also being posted on the club website. As I've mentioned during the general meetings, we will add either a social or continuing education component (or both) to as many of our shore dives as possible this year! You'll notice that the draft schedule only lists proposed dates, and leaves locations, social activities, and continuing education topics blank. These areas are open for selection by the Shore Dive Leaders who sign up to run the dives.

Shore Dive Leaders Needed

We need volunteers to lead shore dives for the club this year!! As a *Shore Dive Leader (SDL)*, you get to choose the dive location, social activity and continuing education topic for your designated date! Then, you simply greet club members at the designated dive site that day, "teach" them about your continuing education topic, and rally them together for any related social activity. An easy, but important, role!

If you have a favorite dive site in this region, this is a GREAT way for you to enlighten others and show them "your" site! The **social aspect** of the dive can be whatever you would like it to be (such as going to breakfast, lunch or dinner together either before, during or after the dive; going on a short sightseeing walk in the local area; or even just having a cup of coffee together at a local café). The only requirement for the social aspect is that it should be something that is appropriate for *all* club members (and their family members) who show up for the dive, including children.

The **continuing education component** is also open to your own creativity, with the goal being for you to teach your fellow members something that may help to increase their knowledge about diving. *You do NOT need to be a SCUBA instructor to volunteer as an SDL!* If you ARE an active status scuba instructor

and want to teach an actual diving skill, that's great. The continuing education aspect of our shore dives, however, is actually meant to be much simpler than that. We have an INCREDIBLY diverse club, with a TREMENDOUS amount of collective knowledge and experience! Regardless of your certification or experience level, each one of you knows something helpful or interesting about diving that you could share with your fellow club members (many of you know LOTS of things). This is your opportunity to share your knowledge with them!! Perhaps you went on an enjoyable dive trip and would like to share some photos or a story about that particular place. Or, you may have made a mistake on a dive and learned an important lesson, and want to prevent others from making the same mistake. Maybe you own a particular piece of diving equipment that works very well (or doesn't work well at all), and sharing your knowledge will help a fellow member make an informed decision before purchasing a similar piece of equipment. The only requirement for the continuing education aspect of a dive is that the topic must relate to diving. There are NUMEROUS ways that all of you can make our shore dives enjoyable for other members. Use your imaginations and creativity!!

If you've previously thought about becoming more involved in the club in some way, but felt you did not have the time, this is the *perfect* opportunity! Volunteering as an SDL is an EXCELLENT way for you to not just become more involved in the club, but to actually assume a *leadership role* through a *very small commitment of time*. We will have roughly 50 shore dives scheduled for the year, and we have approximately the same number of club members attend any given general meeting. If *each* regular attendee of our meetings volunteers to lead a *single* shore dive this year, we will have an INCREDIBLY INTERESTING and FUN year of shore diving!!

I will be accepting SDL volunteers on a first-come, first-served basis. Almost all of the proposed diving dates fall on either Saturdays or Sundays. For the most part, the dates were randomly chosen, so if you would like to volunteer on a particular weekend but the scheduled date poses a problem, we can modify it if necessary. Also, if you are interested in volunteering as an SDL for a mid-week or holiday dive, we can add additional dates to the schedule.

At the end of the year, I will be asking all of our members to vote on the most interesting and fun shore dive that we had for the year, and recognize the SDL who ran that dive. I expect it will be a fiercely competitive "election," and know those voting will have a tough decision to make!!

FROM YOUR OUTGOING SECRETARY Brandy Derickson

I'm sorry that due to a change in my work schedule, I have to resign as secretary. However, you have not seen the last of me! I plan on more Fish ID seminars, fish count dives, and just diving in general. Hope to see you all at Sea Rovers and out in the liquid blue (actually, I guess it is more green around here....)!

P.D.I.C. PRESENTS

THE 52ND EDITION OF THE BOSTON SCUBA SHOW

DIRECTED BY ALAN BUDREAU

A TRIBUTE TO BOBBY BOYLE

(With Friends) Don Whitehead, Dave Norman, Dave Clancy, Fred Calhoun

Celebrate Robert Boyle's time in the scuba business Spend a day with friends, great pictures and presentations by New England's premier in-water photographers, cinematographers, videographers and wreck site web-masters Applaud 'Scoop' Boyle's receipt of The Paul Revere Spike Award

February 16, 2002. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Holiday Inn and Resort (free parking) Routes 495 and 20 in Marlboro, Mass.

Tickets at \$10.00 each at the door or in advance by writing to: Cecile Christensen, Apple Ridge 2-6, Maynard, MA 01754. Checks payable to PDIC (show phone 1-978-897-0877)

MORAY WHEELS ANNOUNCEMENT

Hi everyone!

By now most of you have gotten the newsletter about dissolving the club. I wanted to stress that we are **just dissolving our non-profit tax status**. We have money we haven't used in a long time and we haven't had many students to teach. Rusty won't be able to teach like she once did and her and Dave will be away for the winters. Don and Linda, who have helped with classes, have also moved away for the winters. MIT Pool is no longer available to us as Dave no longer teaches there. What we decided to do was to give Northeast Passage the bulk of our funds and they will handle the scuba classes for us. We are welcome to participate and help as usual. We are also invited to participate in the many other classes, modules, trips and events that they offer. All members will be granted a full year of membership to Northeast Passage.

The Moray Wheels will still exist. We will still have parties and trips and be involved with teaching disabled diving.

I look at this as a positive experience for everyone. Old friendships will continue and new ones will form. Some of you may find other sports and activities that you enjoy.

After the Holidays we will plan the Post Holiday party and talk about the Spring Trip. Being together for these things are my fondest memories of the Club. I have no doubt that we all have many future memories yet to be formed!!!!

Dissolving the tax status takes the burden off of some of us that have been preparing the long forms and making sure the by-laws are followed.

I hope you all have a wonderful Holiday Season and a very peaceful and adventure-filled New Year.

Love,
Karen and Ed Nelson

The Boston Sea Rovers Announce the 48th Annual Underwater Clinic and Film Festival

January, 2002 - BOSTON, MA - The Boston Sea Rovers, one of this country's oldest and most prestigious dive clubs, have announced they will be sponsoring their 48th Annual Underwater Clinic on March 2nd & 3rd, 2002 at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, St. James Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts. This year's two-day show upholds their time-honored tradition to "Raise the Level of Knowledge of the Underwater World". Features of the Clinic include forty daytime seminars covering every aspect of scuba diving and the marine environment, a dozen detailed workshops on advanced diving techniques, a world class evening film festival, and, with over sixty booths, the largest display of dive equipment and services in New England for the year. Tickets for the evening show are \$20 per person, as are tickets for the Clinic Saturday, that includes exhibit displays and the diverse programs offered. On Sunday, admission is \$15, children under 12 are free, and admission for students with valid ID and Senior Citizens is only \$10. Daytime events run from 8:45 AM - 5:00 PM on Saturday, March 2, and 9:15 AM - 4:00 PM on Sunday, March 3.

The spectacular Saturday Evening Film Festival, one of the most prestigious in the underwater world, is host this year to world premiers from some of the most recognized names in the business, featuring Master of Ceremonies Peter Benchley, Chuck Nicklin, Wes Skiles, Mike deGruy and Phil Nuytten. Cinematographer Chuck Nicklin will be sharing some of his latest works, as well as highlights from over 30 years spent behind the camera, and explorer Wes Skiles will be featuring footage taken, on, under, and inside Godzilla, the world's largest iceberg. Noted filmmaker Mike deGruy will be premiering some incredible marine life behavior footage, and scientist and engineer Phil Nuytten will be providing us with a glimpse of his visions of the future of deep-sea exploration. The Saturday Evening Film Festival runs from 8:00 PM to 10:30 PM, and will be held at the John Hancock Hall, in Boston.

The informative seminars that run throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday feature over forty world-class experts from all venues of the undersea world. As an example of just one of the many highlights of the schedule, Stan Waterman will be world-premiering two new films from exotic locales.

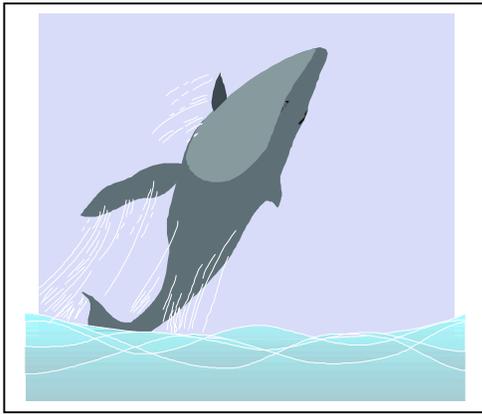
The Sea Rovers are a not for profit, volunteer organization dedicated to increasing the awareness and appreciation of the marine environment. The entire show is handicapped accessible. A portion of the proceeds benefits scholarships, and SeaMark, an organization dedicated to helping children with disabilities. Anyone interested in purchasing tickets or obtaining further information should call (617) 424-9899, write to the Boston Sea Rovers, P.O. Box 935, Bedford, MA 01730-0293, or visit our website at www.bostonsearovers.com.

SEA ROVERS WEEKEND NEADC PIZZA PARTY AT BERTUCCI'S! SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2002 5:30 P.M.

We have reserved space at Bertucci's on Stanhope Street just around the corner from the Fairmont Copley Plaza (and a few blocks from Hancock Hall where film festival will be held) for a PRE-ORDERED dinner between the days' events and the Film Festival on Saturday.

Salad
Pasta Dishes
Variety of Pizza
Rolls and butter
Coffee, Tea and soda
(alcoholic beverages can be purchased and paid for separately)

For anyone who has searched for dinner accommodations between the shows, you know the advantages of having a place big enough for all the people who want to get together and of having a meal ready so that we can eat, socialize and get to the Film Festival on time! Join us! PIZZA PARTY \$21.00 pp (*including tax and tip*). WANT TO GO? Reservations required by February 23, 2002. Call Maryhelen (508) 821-4707 or e-mail Emesge27@aol.com.



NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM DIVE CLUB 2002 WHALE WATCH, 9:3 a.m. SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2001

Join us for an early Spring journey onboard the Voyager II for a day of seeking the great *Rights*, *Humpbacks* and *Atlantic White-sided Dolphins* on Stellwagen Bank. Voyager II is the whale watch vessel of the New England Aquarium and is crewed by knowledgeable and enthusiastic naturalists who will identify and provide information on the species we will see. They also conduct an informational tour as we motor out of Boston Harbor. The Voyager II is equipped with educational materials including a computerized fluke identification station, Loran and chart station, live-well and whale biofacts.

When: Sunday, April 28 2001 at 9:30 a.m. Boat returns between 2-4:00 p.m.

Where: New England Aquarium, Central Wharf. Meet in front of the Whale Watch Kiosk on the Aquarium Plaza.

What to Bring: Lots of warm, weather resistant clothing and water-proof no-slip shoes. The

weather can be wet, wild and cold on Stellwagen even if it is warm and sunny dockside so bundle up!

Food service available on board or you may bring your own. (NO GLASS or ALCOHOL, please.)

Binoculars, Camera and Film

LOTS OF ENTHUSIASM

Sea sickness *preventative* is HIGHLY recommended

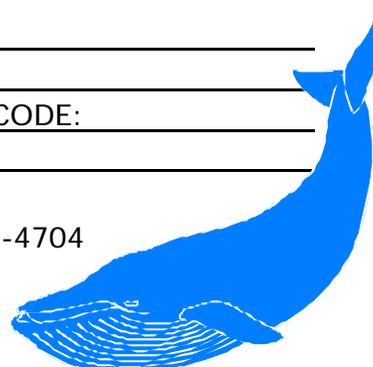
Tickets: Tickets are \$22 adult \$15 child under 18 (children must be at least 3 yrs. old and 30" tall) and must be paid with reservation

No. of Adult Tickets _____ X \$22 = \$_____
No. of Child Tickets _____ X \$15 = \$_____. TOTAL \$_____

Please make checks payable to NEADC (New England Aquarium Dive Club, Inc.)

NAME: _____
STREET: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____
PHONE: (____) _____ E-MAIL: _____

For more information, please contact Maryhelen at (508) 821-4704
e-mail sgroh@mediaone.net



Florida Dive Charter Operation's Sets the Standard for New Divers by Jacki Kronenberg

With family in Florida, I visit the Sunshine State on a regular basis. This has given me the opportunity to go out with a number of scuba charter operations on both of Florida's coasts and in the Keys. One operation, Scuba Quest of Sarasota, has distinguished itself in my mind for both the quality of the service it provides and its commitment to diver safety.

Most of Scuba Quest's clientele appear to be inexperienced divers. I often meet folks who are just getting certified or dive only a few times a year. By being both efficient and informative, Scuba Quest succeeds to meet the needs of both its novice and experienced divers while running a professional and safe operation.

The dive day begins with participants meeting at the dive shop. At that time, paperwork is handled and rental gear selected. Before the group heads off to the marina, a member of the crew gives a 5-minute briefing on boat facilities, weather conditions and tentative dive itinerary. Divers are prompted to do a 'mental check' to make certain they have all necessary gear. The crew loads rental tanks onto a pickup truck and the group meets ten minutes later at Scuba Quest's dock at the marina.

When gear is unloaded, it is placed on the dock next to the dive boat. Divers are instructed to set up their first tank. At that time, the dive master pairs divers without buddies based on experience. (I really appreciate this. Because I don't have a buddy on these trips, it saves me the discomfort of having to ask around.) Buddy pairs are then instructed to do a check of each other's equipment.

Systematically, tanks are handed to crew and secured at the back of the boat. Divers are then instructed to hand over fins, masks and weight belts for placement in a large pail located near the tanks, then pass their dive bags inside for storage in the front of the boat away from seating and walking areas. Once all gear is loaded, everyone boards.

On board, the captain introduces the crew and informs passengers about the itinerary. He points out the boat's safety features and ice chest as well as drinking water, emphasizing the need to stay hydrated during the trip. With crew members in position at the wheel and around the periphery of the boat, and passengers seated in the middle, the boat departs for a half hour ride westward to a 60' depth.

At the dive site, with anchor in place, divers are instructed that it's time to dress. The captain describes the site in detail and how to navigate it. Inexperienced or nervous pairs are notified that a member of the crew will dive with them.

Buddy pair by buddy pair, divers are called to the rear of the boat where they select their gear from the pail and then sit, facing outward, on the back of the boat. A crew member outfits each diver with his or her tank and BC and checks the equipment, conversing with the diver to note if there are any concerns. The diver then takes a giant stride off the boat. When divers climb back on board 35-45 minutes later after a 3 minute safety stop, crew remove the tank and BC and then set up the second tank. The list of participants is called to make sure no one is still in the water. Protocol repeats for the second dive.

Back at the dock, there is a hose for washing equipment, and the dive trip is done. Divers leave rental equipment on the boat which the crew returns to the shop.

Diving Sarasota

Sarasota is one of those places where you go diving because you're there, not because you go there to dive. Sarasota Bay is famous for its beautiful soft sandy beaches and gorgeous sunsets. For divers, the experience of diving the Gulf of Mexico is probably near the bottom of the list of warm-water diving locations. Visibility ranges from somewhat cloudy to incredibly murky, and the tropical fish population is much less diverse than on Florida's east coast. Coral reefs are anemic; artificial reefs are being set up to attract more marine life. On a regular basis, you can view some big grouper on some reefs; I've now seen five, and they appear to be 4-5' long. In season, there are loggerheads.

While the diving is less than outstanding, I love the opportunity to get out on the water in this calm, sunny and warm location. Boat traffic is minimal, and the view of Sarasota Bay from the water is lovely.

There are two shore dive locations in the vicinity. One is Venice Beach, a half-hour south of Sarasota along US 41 known for its shark teeth. Opposite Sharkey's restaurant, in 15-20' of water, you can collect shark teeth. Unfortunately, you've got to haul your equipment a distance from the parking lot, along a boardwalk and through the wide soft sandy beach before you get close to the water.

A second shore dive site is Brandon Beach, a half-hour north of Sarasota Bay. There's a 60 year old wreck (debris field) in 15' of water about 140' offshore. There is a dive shop at the site as well. Set up and entry are uncomplicated as parking is right there and the beach is relatively narrow.

Unfortunately, the poor Florida Gulf visibility becomes even lousier at this wreck (the 'Regina'), reminding me of Fort Wetherill in summer (except that the murk is aquamarine, not brown). A school of cobia inhabits the north side of the wreck. Cobia are extremely strong fish generally weighing 20-40 lbs. Crossing the path of one of these very big fish nearly scared the daylights out of me since I didn't know to expect it and thought it might have been a shark (I understand I'm not the first person who has made that association). Unlike some NEADC members, I'm not yet convinced that sharks make nice underwater friends and got out of there as fast as I could.

CALENDAR OF NEADC EVENTS

Please call the Contact Person prior to the dive to confirm meeting time and place. Check the NEADC VOICE MAIL for updates (617) 973-0240. Please report errors or omissions to the Newsletter Editor or Dive Coordinator as soon as possible!

DATE	EVENT	DIVE SITE
Saturday, February 16, 2002	The 52nd Edition THE BOSTON SCUBA SHOW	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Holiday Inn and Resort, Routes 495 and 20, Marlboro, MA. Tickets at \$10 each at the door. See details this issue.
Saturday, February 16, 2002	MORAY WHEELS SCUBA CLINIC	Northeast Passage is holding a scuba clinic on February 16th from 8:00 am until 12 noon at the UNH pool in Durham, NH. If you would like to volunteer to help please let me know. Dive Winnepausakee will also be involved and their instructor will be Dennis Seavy. Contact Karen for information kneclark@adelphia.net
Saturday, March 2 & Sunday, March 3	Sea Rovers Underwater Clinic & Film Festival	Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel. VOLUNTEERS needed to staff the NEADC/NEAq/Seamark table Saturday and Sunday. Discount Tickets available at February 20 General Meeting.
Saturday, March 2	NEADC Dinner at Bertucci's (Sea Rovers Weekend)	\$21 (includes tax and tip) All you can eat pizza, pasta extravaganza designed to feed you quickly and in good company with plenty of time to go to the Sea Rovers Film Show at John Hancock Hall 3 blocks away. A good time and a great deal. Advance registration necessary! Contact Maryhelen Shuman-Groh (508) 821-4704 or e-mail president@neadc.org
Sunday, April 28	ANNUAL WHALE WATCH	9:30 a.m. Meeting at Whale Watch Kiosk at New England Aquarium. See details this issue. Contact Maryhelen Shuman-Groh (508) 821-4704 or e-mail president@neadc.org

2002 EASY DIVER BOAT SCHEDULE

May	5	Bay View Shores	August	3	Thatcher Island
May	11	Lanesville Shores	August	11	Emerson Point
May	19	Folly Point	August	17	Bemo Ledge
May	25	Hoop Pole Cove	August	25	Norman's Woe
June	2	The Ledges	August	31	Kettle Island
June	8	Mitchell Rock	September	8	Egg Rock
June	16	Sandy Bay Breakwater	September	14	USF New Hampshire
June	22	The Haight	September	22	Boohoo Ledge
June	30	The Salvages	September	28	Paddock Rock
July	6	Gully Point	October	6	Brace Rock
July	14	Straightsmouth Island	October	12	Londoner
July	20	The Mouth of Loblolly Cove	October	20	Paradise Cliffs
July	28	The Chelsea	October	26	Halibut Point

EASY DIVER. 25 years operating dive charters around Cape Ann. Normal charge is \$50.00. NEADC members pay only \$40.00 (cash or check payable to Fred Calhoun). Passengers may bring two cylinders. EASY DIVER sails from "J dock" at the Cape Ann Marina leaving at 10 a.m. Boat returns to the marina around 3 p.m. EASY DIVER boasts a clean toilet and a private 'changing' area. The captain will make every effort to safely dive the locations noted on the dates indicated. However, weather and other conditions may dictate that the captain chooses a different dive site. EASY DIVER does not sail during inclement weather...fees are refunded. The crew is composed of certified scuba instructors. We will dive with you if you wish...we will leave you alone if that is what you wish. The boat tends to fill up fast, so advance registration is recommended. Fred Calhoun, Apple Ridge 2-6, Maynard, MA 01754, telephone: (978) 897-0877.

New England Aquarium Dive Club Membership Form

Type of Membership:

Has your address changed since last renewal? No _____ Yes _____ New _____ Renewal _____
previous town _____

New England Aquarium Membership Categories: **Choose One:**

(Membership in Dive Club requires current membership in New England Aquarium)

- | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------------------------|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$40.00 + | Dive Club Membership \$15.00 | = | \$55.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couple/Family | \$70.00 + | Dive Club Membership \$15.00 | = | \$85.00 |
| <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 _____

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

MasterCard Visa Discover American Express Signature _____

Account # _____ Expiration _____ Amount \$ _____

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

Requirements for Dive Club Membership include current membership in the New England Aquarium and payment of Dive Club dues. 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.

Central Wharf, Boston, MA 02110

Join Us at Sea Rovers March 2-3