



NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM DIVE CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER

April 2002

NEADC Web Site: www.NEADC.org

NEADC GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 6:30 p.m. April 17, 2002 at New England Aquarium **CONFERENCE CENTER** at the base of the Boston Harbor Garage.

On June 23, 2000 the tanker "MV Treasure" sank off the coast of Cape Town, South Africa spilling 1,300 tons of fuel and oiling 20,000 adult African penguins. The ship sank at the peak of the best breeding season ever recorded for this threatened species, resulting in the loss of thousands of chicks. An international team of rescuers and penguin experts rushed to the scene to care for the distressed adults. **Dyan deNapoli** and Heather Urquhart, aquarists in the New England Aquarium's penguin department, flew to South Africa and worked as volunteer staff to help manage the care of thousands of oiled penguins. After more than three months of rehabilitation, 91% of the penguins were successfully released back into the wild. Dyan will be sharing the story of this amazing and historic rescue in a power point presentation at the New England Aquarium Dive Club's meeting on April 17th.

INFORMAL MEETING

The May Informal Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 1st, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Tom and Tina Kemper. See page 2 for Directions.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Submit your news for the next Newsletter by **Tuesday, April 30, 2002!** for the **MAY EDITION** of the NEADC Newsletter. Submissions should be forwarded by e-mail at newsletter@neadc.org. Thank you

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NEADC SPECIAL PARKING RATE AT HARBOR GARAGE

Through a special arrangement with the Simons IMAX Theatre, members of New England Aquarium Dive Club attending General Meetings will be eligible for a special \$5 parking rate at the Harbor Garage. This rate is available Sunday through Wednesday after 4:30 p.m. for up to 4 hours.

When you attend the Dive Club meetings on the third Wednesday of each month, please stop at the IMAX Theatre to have your parking ticket validated (tell the staff at the IMAX desk that you are a Dive Club member). This rate is only being offered for Dive Club meetings (unless you are otherwise an IMAX patron). Special thanks Marla Strickland of the Membership Department and Deb Borgwardt, IMAX Sales Manager, for working this out this great deal for NEADC members!

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: _____
State/Zip: _____

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,
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Boat Dive Coordinator - Veronica Atlantis 781-272-1387,
boatdive@neadc.org

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programs@neadc.org

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membership@neadc.org

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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:

Tom and Tina Kemper

3 Lawrence Rd, Wayland, MA (508)655-0546.

Directions: From Route 95/128, take Route 30 West (Exit next to Mass Pike Exit). Follow Route 30 West for 5 miles to a fork in the road (there is a Mobil station on the left and a Sunoco station on the right). Bear right onto East Plain Street (past Villa Restaurant). Take second right onto Pollock Street. Follow to the end and take a left onto Willow Lane.

Take the first right onto Lawrence Road.

#3 is the second house on the right.

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**

OMS Double 98s Tanks (7/98 hydro)

Includes DiveRite manifold/Highland Millworks bands. \$800. Call Maria at 617-281-5155 or mdm-diver@attbi.com

Dive Oceancliff – Newport

2 bedroom condo 8/9 (Jazz Festival!); 1 bedroom 10/18 (Tropicals!). Ocean Drive on Narragansett Bay, Tennis, Pool, Outdoor bar, Restaurant, Kitchenette. Email Nancy: gemini.nancy@verizon.net

Earn \$100

New England Aquarium Dive Club members Jacki Kronenberg and Elaine Lewis are working on an "office productivity" study that requires research participants. If you work in an office and would like to earn \$100 for ninety minutes work, go to our website www.ergometrica.com to apply. Research takes place near Alewife Station in Cambridge weekday evenings and on Saturdays.

Parkway wet suit 1/4 " Size XXL

Worn by 220lb 5'11" good shape used on only six dives \$110.00 J.M. Cousteau B.C. Size Small 20 lb lift \$55.00

Bill Low 508-648-9842 Williamlow@attbi.com

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT Maryhelen Shuman-Groh

COOL GOT DEVELOPMENTS: All NEADC Members who LEAD/ORGANIZE (as in boat dive) a dive for the 2002 Dive Season will be eligible for a special December drawing for a dive in the GOT! Any member who leads/organizes a dive would have a chance for EACH dive they lead/organize (lead 2 dives, get 2 chances - lead 10 dives, get 10 chances!). The drawing would be held at the December meeting for a dive to take place in January, 2003. You will NOT need to present to win. This concept is intended as an incentive to get leaders/organizers to come forward. Please join us at the April 24th Dive Planning Meeting to get your dive on the calendar!

We are looking for a new place to host this year's NEADC Summer Picnic. If you know a good site that can accommodate up to 100 picnickers that has a great beach/dive site on-site or nearby, please let your officers know! If you have ideas for other events, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us.

FROM YOUR NEW SECRETARY Anna Krowczynska

Thank you all for your vote of confidence in my secretarial skills. It will be hard to fill Brandy's shoes, but I will do my best. First, few words of introduction: I am a scientist by training (Biochemistry/Molecular Biology/Physical Chemistry) who left safe harbor of faculty position at Tufts Medical School for more turbulent, albeit more lucrative biotech industry. For years I wanted to learn to scuba dive, but never got really serious about it until last summer, after watching my cousin underwater video shot at the Barrier Reef, I finally decided to get Open Water Certification and followed it with Advanced Certification in November. I am planning to continue my diver's education with the Search and Rescue course in spring. So far I've been diving only in the New England waters and enjoying it. I was told, that people who can dive here have no problem with diving anywhere else (maybe with exception of Antarctic). We shall see, my first warm water diving experience will be trip to Bahamas with Jonathan Bird and other club members in April. When not diving I am enjoying such topside hobbies as photography, tennis, downhill skiing, rock climbing and fencing.

If you are curious about my accent, I was born in Poland and learn Queen's English before crossing the Pond. I've joined the NEADC last summer after Andrew Uhr, who was one of the Dive masters during my first ocean dive at the Back Beach, told us what a great place the club is to meet diving buddies, discover new diving places and, of course, have a chance to dive in GOT. So far, I haven't been disappointed. I am quite impressed with wide variety of activities offered by the club and especially with quality of presentations during the general meetings. The events calendar is filling up rapidly. First shore dive took place on March 17 with more to come. I am planning to lead a couple of shore dives – expect a lot of fun and great food; since I am going for a win in the best shore dive competition. There are also other exciting events coming at which I do hope to see many of you. Let's make this year as successful as the previous one, or even better !!

FROM YOUR BOAT DIVE COORDINATOR Veronica Atlantis

Happy New Year everyone! Some of us are still diving all year round, some of us head south for winter diving and some of us hibernate till late spring. At any rate, I hope all are happy and healthy. I am putting together a tentative boat schedule for 2002. So far, Captain Fred Calhoun has given me his schedule starting in May. I have contacted other charters for their schedules and as soon as I get replies I will post them. I have contacted captains that run charters in the Boston Harbor, Maine, Cape Cod and Lake Winnepesaukee. Dive Winnepesaukee will be sending me their schedule in about a week which sounds like interesting lake diving. For those who head to Laconia for "Bike Week" in June. This would be a fun diversion. There are actually wrecks in Lake Winnepesaukee. It sounds far away in the future but it is always fun to plot and plan our next adventure(s). Stay tuned...

FROM YOUR SHORE DIVING COORDINATOR Peter McCarthy

We started out the shore dive season with a beautiful day at White's Beach on March 17th! A small group of divers met, had lunch together in Manchester MA, talked about gear maintenance, and then traveled to the beach. We were greeted by clear, sunny skies and calm water. Water temperature was approximately 40 degrees, and the site offered roughly 10' visibility. It turned out to be a great day for easy diving to get re-acclimated after the winter season!

Shore Dive Planning Meeting

The planning meeting, which was originally scheduled for March 16th, was postponed and has been rescheduled for **April 24th at 6:30pm**, so that all Club members will have the opportunity to attend and participate. The **location** has not yet been confirmed and will be **announced at the next general meeting** (we're trying to get a room at the Aquarium), If you're interested in attending the planning meeting, but won't be at the next general meeting, please call Peter McCarthy at 617-423-2171 the week of the planning meeting to confirm the exact location.

Shore Dive T-Shirts

The Club has authorized me to give a t-shirt to each member who leads a shore dive this year, and I've already developed a preliminary design for the shirts! I'll be seeking input on the design at the planning meeting, before we send it off to be printed. If the shirts turn out to be popular, we can also make them available for sale to the Club's general membership.

Experience Needed to Lead Shore Dives

I've been asked how much "experience" a Club member needs to have in order to volunteer to lead a shore dive. The answer is that you don't need to be an instructor or highly experienced diver to "lead" a dive. Contrary to what the name implies, the shore dive "leader" simply acts as an organizer for the dive, by helping all Club members who are interested in diving on a particular day to get together and dive at the same location. Once you arrive at the site, you're *not* expected to act as an underwater tour guide or assume responsibility for the group (and, in fact, you should not be doing this, unless you're a qualified divemaster or instructor and are willing to assume liability for others if something goes wrong on the dive). All of our Club members are certified divers and are responsible for their own actions when they dive (such as assessing the conditions, planning their dives, checking their own equipment, and monitoring themselves and their buddies). As the "leader," your role is merely to help coordinate the event. If you know of a nice site, have enthusiasm for diving, and want to be involved in the Club's activities this year, you're eligible to help out! And if you want to add a theme to the dive (by sharing a story or some photos) or coordinate a related social activity (such as a group breakfast or lunch), that's even better!! Just make sure that your proposed dive is appropriate for all experience levels, and any related activities are suitable for all Club members (including family members and guests).

New Club Members (and New Divers)

Speaking of all experience levels. . .are you new to this Club, or to the sport itself?? If so, we're waiting for you to join us on the shore dives!!! The shore dives are a GREAT way to meet other divers and dive buddies, and learn about this sport! There are some incredible dive sites in New England, and you don't know what you're missing if you don't get out and participate. As you know, diving competes with the many other work, family and social activities that quickly fill our busy schedules. If you want to dive this year, the best way to make it happen is to start scheduling certain days for diving, well in advance. The season will go by quickly! Look for upcoming dives on our Club calendar, or better yet, come to the planning meeting on the 24th!

As always, I welcome input from everyone. Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered to lead dives this year!

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS Alicia Lenci

Not your typical day at the beach – May 11, 2002

On May 11, 2002, come join us in a fun day for divers and their families. This is an opportunity to help create a historic environmental solution for the invasive weeds of Dudley Pond in Wayland, which may apply to many ponds across the country. At the same time, we offer a fun family cookout, and lastly, get a chance to win a fabulous four day diving trip to the Caribbean for two people, including airfare & hotel.

Background: Since the early 90's invasive weeds like Eurasian Milfoil have been growing out of control in Massachusetts as well as other states. This weed comes from Europe and has no natural controls here. It negatively affects fishing, boating and swimming. Visible fragments clinging to boats and their trailers spread invasive weeds. Therefore, boaters must always clean off weeds & dispose of away from the water.

One of the traditional methods of dealing with invasive weeds is using herbicides. Unfortunately, herbicides do not cure the problem. Weeds grow back and the re-treatment must be done every 3 years – forever, wasting hundreds of thousands of dollars of public money. Herbicides killed weeds go to the bottom to add to the sediment, feeding future weeds. All the while, there are associated health risks with herbicides & pesticides for children, elderly, animals and put pregnant women at risk of birth defects. This is according to the Mass Dept of Public Health & over 60 independent studies.

Rather than using herbicides to temporarily treat the weeds, we have a solution to actually cure the weeds, useful for low weed infestation ponds: This solution prevents potential health risks involved with herbicides and save money from the every 3-years herbicide treatment. The program involves careful hand pulling the weeds by divers. We take it two steps further with public education creating nutrient reduction from lawn run off and septic systems and a program of sediment reduction using natural microbes.

We need: 30-60 divers to carefully hand pull weeds near the shore in Dudley Pond, water no more than 10ft deep on Sat. May 11, 2002 from 8am to 3pm. Rain date: May 8th. Post dive party/fantasy dive trip raffle, 3pm.

We offer a fun and memorable experience that includes:

Brief instruction of the technique in the correct hand pulling and bagging to take all target invasive weeds, leaving no fragments, so arrive on time; A fun, family cookout for significant others to the divers and their children; Media exposure for the divers and their diving club/s at this event. Raffle ticket for every 40 minute weed pulling dive. The more you dive, the more chance to win. Weatherman Bruce Schwoegler will draw a raffle ticket for 2 lucky people....to take a dream diving trip to the Caribbean and other prizes for divers.

Sign up at the March or April General NEADC meeting or contact Alicia Lenci, Environmental Affairs NEADC. 617 889-1486 al@nutter.com

Join the NEADC Team For This Event!

Attention all divers. Bring your family, friends and fellow divers to the 18th Annual BSC Treasure Hunt. It is a chance to get back in shape, meet other divers and win great prizes. The event is sponsored by the Bay State Council of Divers.

Contact Peter McCarthy, NEADC Shore dive Officer to join the NEADC team. Shoredive@neadc.org or (617) 423-2171

Date: Sunday May 19, 2002 (Rain or shine) Time: 8am to 4pm Place: Stage Fort Park, Gloucester

Fee: Advance registration \$8.00, day of the event \$10.00.

Registration: 8am to 9:30am

Scuba event: 10am to 11am

Snorkel event: 1:30pm to 12:30pm

Trophies & Prizes: 1pm to 2pm

The day will include picnicking, an underwater treasure hunt (scuba and snorkel events) and lots of prizes. Here's how it works: Bring your own food and beverages (no alcohol allowed) cooking ok. Bring your own grill. Take out available. Required equipment for scuba event: Wet or dry suit with buoyancy compensator, tank, regulator with pressure gauge, weight belt, mask, fins, snorkel, knife and catch bag. For snorkel event, all of the above except tank and regulator.

BSC Treasure Hunt: advanced registration (Must be postmarked no later than May 10am 2002.)

Yes, I want to participate in the 2002 BSC Treasure Hunt. Enclosed is my \$8.00 advanced registration fee (non-refundable).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Make check payable to

Bay State Council of Divers and return with this remit coupon to: Bay State Council of Divers 55 Sea Street Quincy MA 02169

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM DIVE CLUB

2002 WHALE WATCH,

9:30 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 Lots of warm, weather resistant clothing and water-proof no-slip shoes. The

Bring: 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 or e-mail sgroh@attbi.net

Marine Lecture Series, Spring 2002 Schedule
Northeastern University Marine Science Center East Point, Nahant MA 01908

Wednesday, April 3rd 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Bluefin Tuna Diet on the New England Continental Shelf
Brad Chase, Mass Division of Marine Fisheries

Wednesday, April 17th 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Suffocating marine animals: the effects of oxygen depletion in a New England estuary and the potential role of humans
Andrew Altieri, Brown University

Friday, April 20th at 4:30 p.m.

THE 16th ANNUAL RISER LECTURE
The Origin and Evolution of Antarctic and Deep-Sea Macroinfauna
Dr. James Blake, ENSR Marine and Coastal Center

With the exception of April 20th, ALL LECTURES MEET WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. At the Marine Science Center, end of Nahant Rd. at East Pt. LECTURES ARE FREE FOR EVERYONE **Light Refreshments Served at 7:00 p.m. **

For more info, call Sal Genovese at 781-581-7370 x-311 or contact the Marine Lecture Series Info Line at x-202

2002 SUMMER MARINE BIOLOGY PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION TO MARINE BIOLOGY BIO1174 4 Credits

Learn about marine life this summer! Gain a broad introduction to the remarkable diversity of life in the ocean and coastal regions. Emphasizes oceanography, the marine environment and the adaptations of marine organisms to the unique properties of the ocean. The course begins with a survey of the major physical, chemical and geological characteristics of the ocean - setting the stage for investigations of the ecology and behavior of the major groups of marine life. Prospective field trips include rocky beaches, salt marshes, whale watch and a trip to the New England Aquarium. No prerequisites.

Offered evenings: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.; June 26 - July 26

MARINE BIRDS & MAMMALS BIO1449/BIO3349 4 Credits

A comparative study of marine birds and marine mammals and the adaptations that enable these vertebrates to exploit the marine environment. The course is field-oriented and emphasizes research on physiology, ecology, behavior, zoogeography and phylogeny. On field trips we visit coastal habitats for shorebird studies and offshore waters to study cetacean behaviors and adaptations of New England species. Students should have a solid science background. All students should bring

binoculars. Offered Fridays 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; June 22 - August 24

DIVING RESEARCH METHODS BIO1270/BIO3270 4 Credits

A field-oriented course designed to introduce SCUBA certified students to techniques used in the study of biology, ecology and physiology of subtidal organisms. Current underwater research methods are learned and implemented in underwater exercises. Potential topics for lectures and labs include: diving physiology, sampling design, statistical analysis, underwater video and photography, population census methods, measurement of currents and hydrodynamic forces, underwater telemetry, and use of submersibles in research. Students supply their own dive gear except tanks. Research diver and O2 administration certifications are available. This course fulfills AAUS scientific diver training requirements. Scuba certification and extensive dive physical are required. Offered 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.; June 11 - 17, and June 22 - 24

For more information go to www.marinescience.neu.edu

Or email sgenoves@lynx.neu.edu

781-581-7370 x311

Diving East Africa

By Charlotte Richardson and Paul Young

To put the finishing touch on our photographic safari to Tanzania in November and December of 2001, Paul and I included a week and a half of diving in the Indian Ocean at Pemba Island. Pemba is about thirty-five kilometres east of the mainland just south of the Kenya border. The Pemba Channel separates the island from mainland Tanzania. Pemba lies fifty kilometres north of the larger island of Zanzibar and is politically a member of the same state. Pemba is forested and fertile, known especially for its cloves, and is surrounded by mangroves and fringing reefs. Off its west coast are many small coral and sand islands. The best diving in this part of the Indian Ocean is from October until March, when the seas are the calmest. The water temperature during our visit was around 80° F. Most of the explored dive sites are on the west (channel) side of the island. Some diving takes place off the southern tip of the island, and there are some noteworthy dive sites off the unprotected east coast, where the reefs are surprisingly different from the Pemba Channel, although there is only one calm protected anchorage available on the exposed eastern shore. The fringing reefs form steep walls, and significant currents mean that most diving is done as drift diving.

We spent five days at the Fundu Lagoon Resort, which is located on western shore, reached by a launch from town. The resort is a luxury-tented camp. If you don't know what that means, think of a nice hotel cottage on a wooden platform with three layers of canvas walls. They have all the amenities, including a bathroom and hot shower. There are twenty tents. Some of the tents are on the water. The rest are on a steeply forested hillside overlooking the lagoon. We had requested a tent on the water, but the request was lost and those were occupied when we arrived. So our tent was on the hill. The view was spectacular, especially at sunset. But carrying the camera gear up and down the rough stair was a nuisance. There are 98 steps between our room and the dive shop on the dock. I know: I counted them. The dock also has a bar. The large thatch-roofed restaurant and a second bar overlook the beach. When the kitchen is operating, there is generator power. Otherwise there is a system with batteries and inverters. The food was excellent, and the people friendly.

Diving at Fundu Lagoon takes place from a large, fast, but not covered, dive boat and is mostly done around Mesali Island Marine Park. The boat goes out for a two-tank dive, with the surface interval spent at the beach on Mesali Island. The dive boat can hold fourteen divers. We were there during a very quiet time, so there was often only one other diver aboard, or none at all. The resort has two South African dive masters and several local boatmen. They do not do night dives, and were very confused by my request to do a "muck dive". The underwater terrain varies from steep slopes with coral bommies to sheer walls. The walls are very typical of Indian Ocean reefs, all covered with prolific growth of healthy hard and soft corals and large numbers of invertebrates, especially nudibranchs. Reef fish are everywhere, though we did not see any really big fish of any sort. Visibility is reputed to usually be much better than the 50-60 feet we were seeing. We didn't find out until later why this was. The friendly South African dive guides hadn't been on the island long enough to know the reason. One interesting thing, that made me wish for night diving even more, was the huge number of Spanish dancer egg veils.

We left Fundu and boarded the M. Y. Kisiwani, one of the very few live aboard dive boats that go to Pemba, for a week. Kisiwani is 67 feet long with a 16 foot beam, is British registered, and carries ten divers in five cabins. It operates out of Shimoni in southeast Kenya not far from Mombasa, but picked us up from Pemba. The boat mainly dives the west coast of Pemba, including sites we dove from Fundu, but also ventures around the southern tip of the island to the largely-unexplored east side of the island.

Kisiwani is a rather odd live aboard. It was previously a houseboat permanently docked in Swansea. It was brought down to Shimoni for a low-budget refitting as a dive boat. The cabins are fairly large. Two people can stand up in one at the same time. Ours had its own head, including a bathtub, a leftover from it being a houseboat. The other four cabins shared two heads with showers.

The dive deck is very tiny. We had to take turns to gear up. There was one shower on the deck, a bag of water with a shower head. There were not enough plastic crates to store all the dive gear. And the boat's single working compressor could not fill tanks fast enough. There were twenty-one tanks, but many of them had leaky valves and could not be used. All of this made it impossible to do more than four dives a day even though some passengers were eager to do a fifth.

There was one "rib", a rubber dinghy from which all the diving takes place. The ship's website says there are two, but either it is wrong or it counts the lifeboat. It was a very tight squeeze with ten divers, a driver and a divemaster. The people sitting near the front were very uncomfortable, so nobody wanted to be the first one in the dinghy. And the fully loaded rib moved painfully slowly.

The boat's water-maker cannot keep up with the demands of ten passengers and frequently ran out of water, so that taking a shower or even flushing the toilet was often impossible. I managed two quick showers all week. We were told not to even try to fill the bathtub. But it did make a good place to hang wet swim trunks. Electricity was a problem at times as well. The batteries used for starting the engine had become discharged and there were no spares. So they took the ones which were used for the 12 volt lighting system. The generator-based 220 volt

system worked fine and we could charge our strobe batteries. Eventually someone went into town and bought a battery charger so they could charge the lighting batteries from the generator.

The main cabin has one padded bench, a small comma-shaped table with a padded bench around it, and a bunch of beanbag chairs. There is no workspace. So camera preparation and cleaning had to be done while sitting on the floor next to the bench.

Meals were served on the top deck behind the wheelhouse. The food was fairly good. Meals were sometimes served at weird times; I do not usually eat lunch in the late afternoon and supper after my usual bedtime when I have been diving since 7 A.M. And I would rather have breakfast before my first dive of the day. Soft drinks and beer are free. There was usually a cooler of drinking water even when there was no tap water in the heads.

One afternoon some divers wanted to do a "blue water" dive to look for hammerheads and mantas but we wanted to dive a reef. The rib dropped us off at the reef and went off into the ocean with the other divers. They returned after the other divers finished their dive but they misjudged the current and went looking for us in the wrong place. While we waited on the surface it got completely dark out. Fortunately there was a fishing boat nearby. We swam over and convinced them to haul us aboard. Eventually the rib came to the fishing boat to ask if they had seen any divers. Later one of the other divers told me that they were considering returning to the Kisiwani to drop the rest of the group before continuing to search for us, but they realized that if they did so they would have been unable to navigate back to the area. This was clearly a dangerous situation that the Kisiwani should not have allowed to occur.

The boat is heavily discounted and geared to young single British male divers out for a quick, cheap holiday, since there is a direct flight from London to Mombasa. The free beer might be part of its appeal also. I was the only woman aboard. Because it is not really up to snuff, I honestly would not recommend this boat to beginning divers or anyone else who is not sure of their skills or who expects a more luxurious and better-run boat. It would have been much more comfortable if it hadn't been fully booked. A few fairly inexpensive investments would make it a much nicer experience: a real second "rib", some spare 12V car batteries for the 12V power system, a work table for cameras, and new tank valves to replace the leaky ones. More water making capacity might be asking for too much, though.

That being said, the diving itself was quite interesting, and made this odd live-aboard well worthwhile. I had expected Pemba to be more or less similar to the Seychelles, that being the nearest place we have been diving before. And so it is, on the Pemba Channel side. The rougher open ocean side of the island is surprisingly different. There the hard corals are a different mix of species, and are surrounded by a weird growth of green algae that looks just like bunches of bright green grapes. In between the hard coral and the "grapes" are huge areas of an unusual pale purple soft coral. All of the numerous barrel sponges are a brilliant peach color. Enormous schools of bright orange anthias swim all over this fantastically colorful seascape. And under the overhangs of the wall, great growths of more common species of soft corals form curtains of pale yellow and pink. Many species of wildly colorful nudibranchs crawl all over this fantasyland. Beautiful!

Night diving is gorgeous, as expected. Nudibranchs everywhere! And squids. There are lots of weird crustaceans, including very cute tiny little decorator arrow crabs that attach pieces of the feather hydroids they live on to the top front area of their shells. We even saw a sea turtle on a night dive. Night diving would be impossible with ten divers trying to scramble in and out of the little "rib" in the dark. Luckily, not everyone is into night diving every night. Some of this gang were into beer instead.

Although we had seen a lot of the dive sites on the west coast of Pemba when we were diving from Fundu, it was on the Kisiwani that we finally discovered the truth about the unexpectedly low visibility. The morning after the full moon at the end of November, we set out to do a pre-breakfast drift dive along the wall of one of the reef channels. Well, visibility that early morning was utterly terrible, even by New England standards, being at most the length of my arm. Seeing that something significant was clearly going on, Paul and I headed straight for the wall, using our New England diving skills. That caused us to be the only buddy pair that managed to remain together on this dive. When we got up next to the wall, we quickly discovered the cause of the weirdly murky conditions. The brown volcano sponges were in the midst of a huge mass spawning! These are the most common sponges on the west side of Pemba, and every single one of them was pumping out enormous quantities of gametes into the current in great streams pouring out of every orifice. They really did look like erupting volcanoes. We thought this was fascinating, as did a couple of the other divers. We worked hard trying to get photographs of the mass spawning without getting terrible backscatter. However, most of the other divers had no patience for the very low visibility the spawning caused, and had returned to the surface and demanded to go immediately back to the mother ship and that Kisiwani should go elsewhere as soon as the rest of us were back aboard. And that is just what we did. Apparently some spawning had been taking place every night for the preceding few days, accounting for the unexpectedly decreased visibility we had noticed earlier, but this was clearly the main event. We hoped that mantas and other plankton eaters might be attracted to the plankton banquet, but in that kind of visibility, you would have had to be very lucky to notice even a very large plankton-eater.

All in all, we can recommend the diving, and we liked Fundu Lagoon. The Kisiwani would be OK with six passengers but with ten it is simply overcrowded.

SPECIAL DIVE BOAT OFFERS FOR NEADC MEMBERS

BOSTON HARBOR DIVING COMPANY

Captain James L. Sullivan
 Boston Harbor Diving Company
 87 Woodside Avenue
 Winthrop, MA 02152
 Phone: (617) 846-5151
 E-mail: captainjim@bostonharbordivingcompany.com
www.bostonharbordivingcompany.com

\$10.00 off the normal charter fee for NEADC members. So that the half day charters usually \$60.00, are \$50.00, and the night dives usually \$50.00 are \$40.00.

May 12th 8:00am - 1:00pm Tewksbury Rock & Outer Brewster May 25th 8:00am - 1:00pm Nahant 40 steps & Nahant east side May 31st (night) 7:00pm - 11:00 pm Graves Lighthouse	June 2nd 2:00pm - 7:00pm City of Salisbury & Grave's lighthouse June 15th 8:00am - 1:00pm Green Island & Outer Brewster June 21st (night) 7:00pm - 11:00pm Graves Lighthouse
July 6th 8:00am - 1:00pm 3.5 Fathoms ledge & Martins Ledge July 21st 2:00pm - 7:00pm Nahant 40 steps & Nahant east side July 26th (night) 7:00pm - 11:00pm Outer Brewster & Shag Rocks	Aug 11th 8:00am - 1:00pm Martins Ledge & Tewksbury rock Aug 16th (night) 7:00pm - 11:00pm Nahant & Nahant Aug 24th 8:00am - 1:00pm City of Salisbury & Graves Lighthouse
Sept 8th 8:00am - 1:00pm 3.5 Fathoms ledge & Hardings Ledge Sept 13th (night) 7:00pm - 11:00pm Graves lighthouse Sept 21st 8:00am - 1:00pm Outer Brewster & Roaring Bulls	Oct 6th 2:00pm - 7:00pm Tewksbury Rock & Outer Brewster Oct 11th (night) 7:00pm - 11:00pm Graves Lighthouse Oct 19th 8:00am - 1:00pm Roaring Bulls & Graves lighthouse

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.

CALENDAR OF NEADC DIVES and 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
Wednesday, April 3	Informal Meeting	6:30 p.m. at the home of Jim Stewart and Laura Coldwell-Stewart. See directions on Page 2.
Wednesday, April 17	General Meeting	6:30 p.m. New England Aquarium Conference Center. Speaker:
Wednesday, April 24	Dive Planning meeting	6:30 p.m. Conference Center at NEAq. CHINESE FOOD! Come help plan a dive and find out how you can win a dive in the GOT!
Friday, April 26	Full Moon Night dive	Canoe Beach , Nahant, MA. Dive Leader: Alicia Lenci <u>Theme: Full Moon Night Dive.</u> This is a wonderful dive site!! <u>Meeting Place and Time:</u> If you're interested in performing this dive, please contact Alicia at 617-889-1486 for additional info.
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
Wednesday, May 1	Informal Meeting	6:30 p.m. Annual Cinco de Mayo Informal at Tom and Tina Kemper's home in Wayland.
Saturday and Sunday May 4 and 5	Rhode Island Collecting Trip	Dive trip to Jamestown RI to do some collecting for the New England Aquarium's Newport Exploration Center. Anyone who wants to come on down and knows their Rhode Island fishes and inverts would be very helpful! Contact Jake Levenson at 978 281-7899 or Jacob.Levenson@noaa.gov
Saturday, May 11	"Save the pond" weed pulling dive.	This is an opportunity to help create a historic environmental solution for the invasive weeds of Dudley Pond in Wayland, which may apply to many ponds across the country. At the same time, we offer a fun family cookout, and lastly, get a chance to win a fabulous four day diving trip to the Caribbean for two people, including airfare & hotel. Contact Alicia al@nutter.com or
Sunday, May 19	Bay State Council of Divers Treasure Hunt	The day will include picnicking, an underwater treasure hunt (scuba and snorkel events) and lots of prizes. Contact Peter McCarthy, NEADC Shore dive Officer to join the NEADC team. Shoredive@neadc.org or (617) 423-2171
Wednesday, May 22	General Meeting	6:30 p.m. New England Aquarium Immersion Theater
Wednesday, June 5	Informal Meeting	6:30 p.m. TBA
Wednesday, June 17	General Meeting	6:30 p.m. New England Aquarium Conference Center
Monday, June 24	Full Moon Night Dive	Canoe Beach , Nahant, MA. Dive Leader: Alicia Lenci <u>Theme: Full Moon Night Dive.</u> This is a wonderful dive site!! <u>Meeting Place and Time:</u> If you're interested in performing this dive, please contact Alicia at 617-889-1486 for additional info.
Wednesday, July 24	Full Moon Night Dive	Canoe Beach , Nahant, MA. Dive Leader: Alicia Lenci <u>Theme: Full Moon Night Dive.</u> This is a wonderful dive site!! <u>Meeting Place and Time:</u> If you're interested in performing this dive, please contact Alicia at 617-889-1486 for additional info.
Thursday, August 24	Full Moon Night Dive	Canoe Beach , Nahant, MA. Dive Leader: Alicia Lenci <u>Theme: Full Moon Night Dive.</u> This is a wonderful dive site!! <u>Meeting Place and Time:</u> If you're interested in performing this dive, please contact Alicia at 617-889-1486 for additional info.
Friday, August 30	Shark Dive	Contact Al Bozza, (508) 384-1377
Thursday, Sept 19	Full Moon Night Dive	Canoe Beach , Nahant, MA. Dive Leader: Alicia Lenci <u>Theme: Full Moon Night Dive.</u> This is a wonderful dive site!! <u>Meeting Place and Time:</u> If you're interested in performing this dive, please contact Alicia at 617-889-1486 for additional info.
Friday, October 4	Shark Dive	Contact Al Bozza, (508) 384-1377
Monday, October 21	Full Moon Night Dive	Canoe Beach , Nahant, MA. Dive Leader: Alicia Lenci <u>Theme: Full Moon Night Dive.</u> This is a wonderful dive site!! <u>Meeting Place and Time:</u> If you're interested in performing this dive, please contact Alicia at 617-889-1486 for additional info.



**10th Anniversary Celebration
The Stellwagen Bank National
Marine Sanctuary
&
The Great Annual Fish Count**



On July 20, 2002, The Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) will celebrate the 10th anniversaries of the designation of the Sanctuary and the launch of the Great Annual Fish Count (GAFC) event.

The celebration will be centered in Stage Fort Park in Gloucester, Massachusetts. GAFC dives are planned at four (4) shore locations around Cape Ann, along with dives in the Sanctuary. There will be a picnic, free raffles and door prizes. Every survey form submitted after each dive will count as an entry into the raffles for each diver. We are expecting more than 100 divers to participate in the day's celebration.

Members of both the print and broadcast media will be invited to join in the survey dives.

Recognized as one of the nation's most significant marine locations, the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Home to endangered whales, flocks of seabirds, schools of fish and a wide variety of invertebrates, the Sanctuary is a living classroom and laboratory for nature's wonders. Last year the Sanctuary joined forces with the Reef Environmental Education Foundation to bring the acclaimed REEF Fish Survey Project and the Great Annual Fish Count to New England's SCUBA-diving community. The GAFC mobilizes and trains volunteer divers and snorkelers to identify and document fish diversity and population trends in marine sanctuaries and coastal areas.

Join us in our celebration of the 10th anniversary of both the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and the Great Annual Fish Count by making a donation to REEF's Fish Counters Raffle. Prizes in the raffle will reward those divers who have undergone Northeast Fish ID training and have volunteered their time by conducting survey dives. An additional raffle open to the public will seek to raise funds for the GAFC and Sanctuary marine education and stewardship programs.

REEF is asking for your support by donating dive equipment and supplies for this event. REEF is a Section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization. Any equipment or cash contributions donated to REEF are fully tax deductible for the donor. Upon receipt of your donation, REEF will forward an "Affidavit To Verify Charitable Contribution" statement to your office for tax purposes.

For more information, please contact: Bob Michelson, event coordinator for the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary at (781) 848-8870, or by e-mail, pbm.inc@verizon.net.

DIVE EASTPORT, MAINE

It's back... the Eastport dive weekend. You have heard of it before... that incredible dive site 6 hours from Boston where the 30 foot tides make the marine life grow to massive proportions. Where else can you go that is so close to home but has soft coral, arctic sea stars, basket stars, trained wolffish, and tealina anemones by the thousands?? Stay with Jonathan Bird at his summer home right on the water in Eastport and do easy shore dives for a long weekend. Bring your macro lens. Price is \$160 pp (cheap!) and includes accommodations, food, air fills and diving! (Everything you need except gas to get there....) Available dates: August 30-Sept 2 and Sept 6-9, 2002. Check out: <http://www.oceanicresearch.org/eastport.html>

Hope to see you there!!

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

WHALE WATCH EDITION