

Sounding

Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACTIVITIES, & REMINDERS

Calendar 2022

June 6/26 Club Dive 8AM

July

5 General Meeting 10 Club Dive 8AM

12 Board Meeting

16 Women's Dive Day. 8AM12PM See Flyer P.15

luly

16 Nantucket Lightship Museum Outing:Cookout &museum visit starting at

4PM. Details in cover letter 23 Rain date: Nantucket Lightship Museum Outing:

24 Club Dive 8AM August

2 General Meeting 7PM

7 Duxbury Outing (Tent)

9 Board Mtng 7PM

14 Club Dive 8AM

28 Club Dive 8AM

September 6 General Meeting 7PM

11 Club Dive

13 Board Mtng 7PM

18 BSC Treasure Hunt@Stage

Fort Park, Gloucester 20 Program TBA

25 Club Dive

30 - 2 Boston Sea Rovers

Annual Clinic Doubletree

Hilton Danvers

October

- Women Club Members Only Night Out. Details TBA. Watch for a special email in the near future!
- •Gloucester update from Jim Nannery, BSC President. All charges have been dismissed in the Back Beach lawsuit regarding use of the beach; however, the 3-person Back Beach group has a separate lawsuit over the ownership of the beach that is on going.
- •Scituate Beach Parking: In addition to the 4 free spaces currently available to the general public, Tuesdays & Thursdays passes are available for \$20 per car, from the harbormaster.
- •Underwater Rugby hours: *Wednesday* nites 8:00-9:30 PM at Westwood HS pool. Joe Gomes is working on a history of underwater rugby and needs photo credits and any sorts of media that could help him illustrate the sport across time. He can be reached at: <jsgomes@gmail.com>
- Club General, Board, and Program night meetings *are now* in person (attend only if you are feeling well) or by Zoom until further notice. The Annual Banquet has been postponed indefinitely. On the other hand, All Club Outdoor Activities listed on the Calendar *remain live with social distancing rules in effect, as per 2022.*
- Newsletter: To help add interesting content to the newsletter, please send me (robisonr25@yahoo.com; or newsletter@southshoreneptunes.org) any first-hand accounts, stories, photos, or both about your exploits as a Neptune for potential publication. Photos or clippings enhance stories, so please include them if you can.

May Evening Program: Special thanks to John Haskell, NOAA Deputy Superintendent, who shared interesting photos and information about the challenges of overseeing Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and

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how divers can help add information to their data base that will contribute to preserving the sanctuary's marine life and archaeological artifacts.

In Memoriam Frederick Ronald Calhoun 1934-2022

Fred Calhoun was an avid scuba diver, an early if not founding member of the Neptunes, also a member of Metrowest and the New England Aquarium Dive Clubs, dive shop owner, NAUI



instructor, accomplished underwater filmmaker, captain of a Gloucester dive charter vessel, Easy Diver, and founder of Dive Patrol. A technical writer and novelist, he had authored or coauthored with his wife 11books and manuals. Pictured above with Neptune Dave Clancy, the two were fast friends. Dave wrote the following as tribute to Fred, which I am reprinting here, along with the photo of the two, with his permission:

I first met Fred in back in 1974, when he was my scuba instructor. We immediately became good friends and have remained so ever since. Over the years we had many good times and dives together,

and I will always remember him for his positive influence on the New England diving community. He was a good guy.

John Blackadar recalled that he had left a tank to be filled at Fred's shop and on return to pick it up, Fred couldn't find the tank. So, he gave a Blackie a new one, no questions asked.

According to his obituary (https://obituaries.gloucestertimes.com/obituary/frederick-calhoun-1085279710?
https://obituaries.gloucestertimes.com/obituary/frederick-cal

EVENTS & DIVES

RAGNAR Race Fundraiser: SSN VOLUNTEERS RAISED OVER \$2000 TO SUPPORT THE CLUB!

Saturday, April 23, 2022. Story by Marcus Gay. Photos by Theresa Czerepica, Adrienne Murphy, Chuck Zarba, & Rob Robison

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Happy Diving

From

JOHN & KATHY BLACKADAR

Starting at 4:30 a.m., on Saturday, May 21, a number of SSN members volunteered to work at the New

OLUNTEER

England RAGNAR to help fundraise for the club. The New England RAGNAR is a 24hour (running) relay race that starts in Groton, Connecticut and concludes in Quincy, Massachusetts, covering a total of 200-ish miles. Along the course there are 36 exchanges where the 150 teams of

runners transition to a new teammate to run the next leg of the race.

The race is self-supported, meaning that the groups of runners, with very creative team names, shuttle themselves from exchange to exchange in highly decorated passenger vans.

Building upon the success of the club's fundraiser in October 2021, volunteers from SSN fully staffed three exchanges, numbers 31, 33 and 34 (Vinal School in Norwell, the Bathing Beach in Hingham, and Adams Elementary School, Weymouth, and we







Clockwise Top Row: María &Rob Vice, Marcus Gay; Sokol Prifti, Joe McAndrews, Chuck Zarba, RobR, Paul Greene, Theresa Czerepica.

Bottom Row:Todd Alger, Adrienne Murphy, Carol, Hamilton Rob and Megan Foley; Jason Brown





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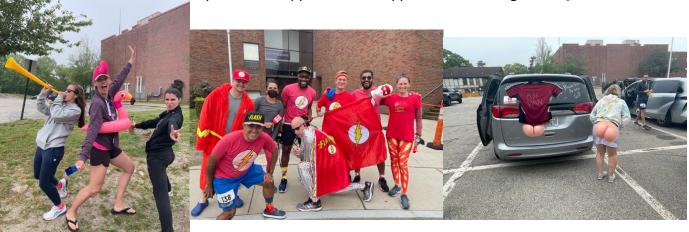
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REMEMBERING Local Scuba Pioneer JOHN BALDI

provided supplemental support at Exchange 32 [South School in



Hingham]. Prior to race day, SSN identified three volunteers as Exchange Managers (Marcus Gay, Paul Greene and Rob Foley). The Exchange Managers interfaced with RAGNAR staff, solicited volunteers, coordinated logistics and participated in mandatory meetings and training hosted by RAGNAR leading up to the race. On the day of the race, our club's amazing volunteers directed vehicle traffic and parking of the runners' support vans, directed runners and foot traffic, and worked as crossing guards. A few words from Exchange Managers Marcus, Paul and Rob Foley:

Many thanks to all the volunteers. Whether you could only help for a few hours or the full day, your *support at the exchange was greatly appreciated!*

As a special bonus, the club's very own **Jason Brown** participated in the race. Here's what Jason had to say about the race:

Thanks to my fellow Neptunes who volunteered their Saturday to direct traffic and almost 2,000 runners. I've run these relays for 12 years now, and they could not happen without the help of generous volunteers like you!

The 2022 club fundraiser had twenty (20) volunteers, this included four friends of the club (Lilly, Maria, Megan F and Megan G) and two new-members, Michael Coyne and Bruce Lane. Thanks to the support of all the 2022 South Shore Neptune volunteers, the club raised over \$2000 to support ongoing programming and social events for club members. A special note of thanks should go to Jeanine Willis for getting the club involved in this fundraising activity in the first place.

Diving the Tectonic Plate Separating North America from Europe. April 22, 2022. Location: Thingvellir, Iceland. Dive Site: Silfra. Story and photos by Matt Meyer

My wife and I were on vacation in Iceland for a week in mid April, and we had some extra time in our schedule to allow us to dive and snorkel at Thingvellir National Park. The dive was between the North American and European tectonic plate. Forecast for the day was a cool 50°F and overcast. We dove and snorkeled with Arctic Adventures, who provided all the necessary rental equipment. The only equipment I brought was my mask and computer. Water temperature was 39°F on the surface and at depth. The

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visibility was a spectacular 300ft +. The most incredible visibility I have ever seen underwater. The water was so clear and fresh that you were able to drink it. My wife took a few sips while she was snorkeling and said it was some of the best water she has ever had. Total bottom time was 45 minutes with a max depth of 47ft. Overall it was a



great experience and would recommend it if ever in Iceland.

Diving my Secret Spot near Plymouth, MA. 15May2022. Story by Matt Meyer. Sorry! No photos. It's a secret. My buddy, Jeff, and I decided to gear up and get back in the water after a long winter of no diving. The last time either of us dove was when we went to Marblehead Light late December 2021. I decided to dive wet to make lobstering easier, as I have trouble lobstering in my dry suit. We enjoyed an excellent dive with 20-25ft vis, with a water temp of 46°F, and a bottom time of 64 minutes. I was able to bag one lobster while my buddy got skunked. Bugs were few and far between.

Memorial Weekend Dives. *Stories & photos by Rob Robison* Saturday, May 28, 2022.

I was looking for a dive buddy for Friday or Saturday to kickoff the Memorial Day Weekend with some fun in the hydrosphere, when all of a sudden a text message from Peter appeared that long lost dive buddy of ours, **Philip LoCicero** (AKA Phil), was at long last getting back into the water and needed a buddy. He and I connected and decided upon Hathaway's Pond due to the iffy weather forecast. Fog and wind on the ocean made the pond a perfect alternative

I rolled into the parking area right at 9AM, but Phil had beaten me to the punch, as had a whole bevy of divers who were on hand and suiting up for a class. Phil was trying out a new dive suit and I was making a second dive in my new semi-drysuit as well.

After checking with the dive class instructor on where they were going to be in the pond, we headed across the pond in the opposite direction underwater following the guideline to the sunken cabin cruiser, Field and Sea. It's marked by a buoy and was laid to rest at



5

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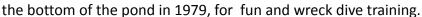
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Clockwise: Phil, fungus coated guide stake, Phil & Jolly Roger, tea pot, prow of Field & Sea



We found the wreck easily in the gloom--the guideline had been wonderfully improved by erstwhile pond diving fanatic, legendary Bill Jeter, and reconnoitered the wooden cruiser from stem to

white growth has accumulated on the rails, which wasn't present the last time I dove the boat in late 2021. Aft of the stern in the sand is a Jolly Roger sporting a dive mask, so I snapped a few photos of Phil mugging with the happy pirate.

Next, we headed toward the bow and followed the guideline south across the pond to the first platform.



However, the return guideline seemed to be missing, so I turned us a bit left, which should have been ESE toward the shallower guideline that runs parallel to shore. It would return to our starting

point, while cruising us past some of the other underwater "toys" that Bill and others have placed in the pond. They provide additional

interest. Instead of finding the guideline I was looking for, we wound up taking a wonderful circular exploration of the far northwest cove of the

pond before finally righting our course and successfully returning to our starting point.

Along this insightful journey, we found some small bass that were curious about us two men in black blowing bubbles during our slow cruise through their domain. We eventually discovered the rusted tea kettle and the Madonna, as we closed in on our initial entry and









ClockwiseL Porcelain jar, Peter, egger, sea squirts, lobster claws

exit spot, as well as the huge cable spool with the Return Arrow on top.

Fifty-eight minutes after entering the water we emerged from the pond happy laughing, and satisfied with a wonderful dive time full of adventure, fun, and wonder. BTW, below the thermocline the water dropped from the upper 50s to 47°, the vis ranged from 10' - 30,' depending on depth and location, and the fun quotient was very high.

Breakfast at noon at the Blue Berry Muffin, deeply ensconced in the Pine Hills, provided a fitting punctuation mark on a great

morning with a long lost, but not forgotten, friend and dive buddy. Thanks, Phil!

The next morning, Sunday,



May 29, 2022, Peter and I mustered at the Rt 128 Beverly Burger King Service Plaza a little after 7 AM, made plans for checking Pebble Beach and Old Garden Beach, and wound up at the latter after reconnoitering the former. As we were suiting up, the class I had run into down at Hathaway's Pond the day before showed up for their open ocean water dive. A few

lobster hunters were already in the water, ahead of all of us, searching for elusive "bugs."

Peter and I geared up and waded into the

water whose clarity and calm surface portended great vis. We were not disappointed. Touching down around the 20' mark, after motoring out using Peter's scooter, we landed on the rock sand line and began high-fiving, while staring through the



incredible (for NE) 35'-40' vis. It was Nirvana beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Once everything was in place, camera turned on, buoyancy under control, you know the drill, we began finning slowly across, over, through, and down the rocks, boulders, passages, and pockets of sand toward the sea floor, at the base of the rock and boulder strewn incline, in search of bugs, flounder, and anything else of interest ,until we eventually reached a max depth of @ 41.'



The 44° water was bracing; I could feel its numbing power through my drysuit undergarments, consisting of a 450gram



weight, Thinsulate lined, skidoo-like jump suit, which I wore on top of a pair long johns made from Merino wool and a Polartec set made from polyester. Peter dives wet with a 7 mm wetsuit, plus 3 layers of undergarments, including a Henderson neoprene hooded chicken vest. My three-finger 7 mm Waterproof mitts kept the cold at bay from my hands and fingers for more than 45 of our 52 minutes under water.

We ran into lots of rock crabs, a Sea Raven swimming about, and plenty of lobsters. Sadly for us who were on the hunt, anything of keeper size or above was festooned with eggs, a good thing. We sighted a couple flounder, but from the

flounders' perspective, each

luckily was too short. On our way back up toward the rock sand line, I spied two of the largest moon snails i've ever seen. The batteries on my camera lights were about out of juice, so the color of the snails and of another photo or two is not what you have come to expect from me, but you will still be able to enjoy the animals.

Peter and I surfaced, stowed our gear on his float, and scootered back to the beach. As quickly as we could, we doffed our gear, shoved it into our cars, and made a beeline for Darcy's and Memorial Weekend cheeseburger meals to celebrate yet another wonderful joint excursion into the liquid planet. There, you never know how lucky you are going to be or how much fun you are going to



have. If you are not getting wet yet, you are missing some fabulous diving! Why don't you come join us and join the fun?

Northern Red Anemone, Acadian Hermit Crab, Clonal Plumose aAnemone, Flabellina verrucosa nudibranch

Happy Memorial Day Weekend, everyone! **Diving Eastport, ME with Andy Martinez**. June 3-June5, 2022. *Story & photos by Rob.*

I had been in contact with Andy Martínez, author of *Marine Life of the North Atlantic*, a seminal fish, critter, and plant life identification book, and a most useful device app entitled, *Marine Life*, which covers the same content as the book but with many more photos and useful features, about diving

Eastport. I had made the trip once before with him four years ago and had been fortunate enough to have taken some of the best photos of my life there and was hoping to be able to make another trip with him. So when I received





his text or call with the dates, I was overjoyed, to say the least. Not to get ahead of myself, but once again this trip yielded great photos and encounters with heretofore unseen wildlife.

Andy and his buddy, Dave Whittemore, had just gone to dinner, when I rolled into Harrison Point Shore Cabins. I ran into

the innkeeper, just as she was leaving for home for the evening. She told me where Andy and Dave were eating and that the key was in the door. We'd take care of the paperwork the next morning. That's





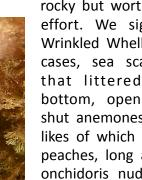
when you know you are in real Maine, a throwback to life in the 50s.

So, I turned around and headed out to the Old Sow Grill, named after the

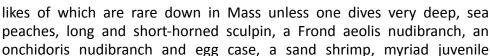
whirlpool in the middle of the bay that the campground front. I quickly caught up with them re dive plans for the next morning and finishing a good meal of grilled chicken on a very nice salad,

washed down with a couple of Buds.

Dive 1, Day 1. It was an early bird first dive to catch the tide just right—I took my first of 235 photos and video clips over the next three days at 7:34 AM. The entry point, next to the abandoned sardine cannery, was very steep, strenuous, and



rocky but worth the effort. We sighted Wrinkled Whelk egg cases, sea scallops that littered the bottom, open and shut anemones that



siphonophores, a tiny jellyfish, an equally tiny starfish, some large crabs, and a baby-to-juvenile long horned sculpin or Grubby of some sort, and much more. Vis was 7'-10,'

beyond which was pure murkiness. Due to serious over harvesting for the export market, the sea urchin population, though recovering ,was too small to prevent an over abundance of sugar kelp growth that obfuscated large areas of the underwater terrain. Still, it was a boat load of fun. Our 31' depth kept the water temp at 46°F, and made our 55-minute bottom time doable. Quite a first dive!

We breakfasted afterwards at the Waco Café, a wonderful place

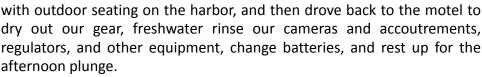


Clockwise:Eyeball of...Common Sea Raven, Frond aeolis





Clockwise: Lipstick on a Sea Peach, Shorthorn Sculpin, Wolffish, baby sculpin or Grubby



<u>Dive 2</u> was at the Custom Street Battle Street point. A few days prior to our arrival, a moose had been seen swimming in the bay and walking out

of the water about 100 yards away from our dive site. Anyway, the entry point is a steep grassy descent to the gravel and cobble strewn beach. The vis continued to reflect what we see at Ft. Wetherill, but the water temp dipped to 45° because we dropped down to @

50'-52' in search of Gene the Wolffish, which we found hiding in his hole. Four years ago he must have been out hunting when we came looking for



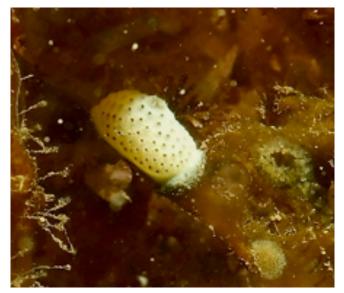
him. Multiple versions of Northern Red anemones in white, orange, and red colors, Tubularian hydroids and Sea peaches abounded as well. We worked so hard to reach Gene's hole, swimming against a fairly stiff current, I began

to hyperventilate a bit from breathing too hard and finished my dive in shallower water to calm down.

<u>Day 2, Dive 3</u>. Dave Whittemore joined us. The day before he

discovered he had left his fins over on Deer Island in Canada on the other side of the bay, where he and Andy had been diving earlier in the week. Fortunately, they were still where he had left them. The three of us suited up and dropped in at the cannery site, once again, and dove further away from the underwater wall that formed the foundation of the now nonexistent pier that used to jut out into the water. We discovered numerous sculpins, whose curiosity was aroused by our presence, along with nudibranchs, Deadman's





Clockwise: Northern White Crust, juvenile sculpin feeling left out, juvenile Goosefish, filtering Sea Scallop

Fingers, hermit crabs, Knotted Thread hydroids populating the kelp fronds, urchins, and more. We reached a depth 40,' and the water temp registered 46°, once again. Vis continued to disappoint at 7'-10'.

After our breakfast routine, I began to experience preliminary symptoms of the onset of a cluster headache and my left ear was behaving strangely, so I took the afternoon dive off, but helped with the gear when it was time to dive. Andy's Marine Life app tech partner, Timur Kholodenko, had arrived

with his wife, Julia, late the night before, and was





ready to dive with them as well. After finishing their dives, both Dave and Andy told me I hadn't missed

a thing. The vis was even worse.

<u>Day 3, Dive 4</u> was incredible. In spite of the low visibility, we ran into a rarely seen nudibranch, known as a tricolor or Painted Balloon nudibranch, plus, a critter I had seen the previous morning and thought to be a sea cucumber turned out to be just that — the orange footed sea cucumber, which I had never seen in the

North Atlantic. Another bucket list item or two checked off! In fact we saw at least three of them on this dive. The sculpins were



everywhere, as were the hermit crabs, a beautiful flounder, half hidden by a large frond of sea colander, and much much more.

As mentioned earlier, it had been 4 years since I last dove Eastport,



and it was clear that change had taken place. Andy pointed out the 8 - 12 point sun stars had been wiped out for the second time in the past few years. The sea urchin population, which feasts on kelp, had been over harvested—the Asian



markets find the roe highly desirable—causing runaway growth of sugar kelp, and lobsters were already



molting, over a month too soon, perhaps among other reasons because the water temp is 3 to 4 degrees higher than it was 4 years ago! The biodiversity has clearly been reduced and some of the animals are evidently stressed, yet there are still wonders to be observed.

I was fortunate to have enjoyed a great dive experience with three of the most knowledgeable buddies one could possibly have. Most of all, we had fun together, enjoyed each other's company, and each of us just loves diving into it. Can't ask for more than that.

Plymouth Long Beach. Friday, June 10, 2022. *Story & photos by Rob*

Brian Smith, divemaster at Diver's Market, **Neptune Jon Willis**, and I met at Plymouth Long Beach this bright beautiful Friday morning, between 8:00–8:15

Clockwise from below: Shorthorn Sculpin, mating Rock Crabs, Rob R, Timur & Julia, Andy Martínez, Painted Ballon Aeolis (AKA) Eubranchus tricolor nudibranch



AM, and congenially suited up for a pleasant morning dive. The sun bathers were just showing up, as we entered the calm waters covering Brown's Bank. Vis was @ 10,' water temp topped out at 51°; and depth reached about 16' on our 49 minute dive.

During the dive, we saw lots of crabs mating and otherwise, hermit crabs on tops of rocks catching the



Flounder in flight, Red Sea Raven, Lobster hiding in crevice



morning sun, a large Shorthorn sculpin watched us pass by that was partially hidden in the crevice of a large rock or small boulder. Brian found a squid egg cluster, and I another. Plus, I found some skeleton shrimp and a tiny baby sculpin or two, but had trouble with lighting and photographing them because I had forgotten to change the batteries on my video cam lights. They died completely about 3/4 of the way through the dive. Oh, well!

Old Garden Beach. Sunday, June 12, 2022. Peter Ninh and I suited up at OGB amidst a pack of North Shore Froggies and headed out twice into the calm

chilly waters off the beach, made easier thanks to the new ramp across the cobbles, courtesy the Old Garden Beach Association, and Peter's TUSA electric scooter.

On the first dive we saw at least a half dozen flounder plus a lot of shorts, many of which were soft, and a few eggers. A curious red sea raven passed by as well.



We reached a depth of 50' in 48° water, on dive 1 with vis improving to nearly 35' by the time we reached the 45-50' depth marks. We surfaced after about 53 minutes in the hydrosphere and motored back.

Dive 2 was characterized by 47° temps at a max depth of 49,' with vis similar to that on dive 1 and a 38 minute dive time for yours truly. We speared two flounder, one was nearly 17" long and very fat!

So ended a great weekend with three wonderful dive buddies. It was some more great dives for the log book. We had a lot of fun together. Can't do better than that! It goes

without saying if you are not getting wet, you are missing out on some great adventures.

Safe living and safe diving, everyone.



JULY 16, 2022 from 8 am - 12 noon

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Cost: \$18 - includes a BBQ and free t-shirt.

Whether you love diving, snorkeling, the ocean or even know of someone who does... come share the passion!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

	Registration for divers Orientation meeting	10:45 am	Raffle announcements/ group photo
9:00 am 10:30 am		11:30 am -12:00 noon .	. BBQ

Note: The harbor master will be at the event, plus we will have kayaks in the water for support, a rescue plan in place, and guides in water.

Grand Prizes:

A dive in the GIANT OCEAN TANK at New England Aquarium AND 7 nights stay and 5 days of diving TRUE BLUE RESORT/ Aquanauts-GRENADA

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Lots of other raffle prizes including MW-4300 video light, Aqualung roller duffle bag, Fourth Element jacket, prescription mask, shorty 3 mm wetsuit, DAN products, Princeton Tec deluxe pack, night squid dive with Jerry Shine for two, photo dive with Andy Martinez, Scuba Sherpa for a dive, Megalodon sharks tooth, 7 mm dive booties, mask, fins, custom made octopus Afghan, ocean themed quilt and matching pillows, handmade wood lobster pen, Basket of Spicy Hot Sauces, membership Historical Dive Society, dive skins, sea glass jewelry, box of handmade chocolates, signed copy Into the Planet by Jill Heinerth, One Love One Ocean gift basket, Atlantis signed jigsaw puzzle, poster by Valerie Taylor poster, Ocean Metaphor Book, Stream2Sea, photo by Andrea Dec.

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PARTING SHOTS

Theresa Czerepica shared these photos from the field trip last Saturday to Joe Hohmann's (one of the early legendary Boston Sea Rovers) Boston basement museum full of a lifetime collection of shipwreck artifacts.



Pictured at left from L - R: Joe Hohmann, Joe McAndrews, Tommy Lo, John Blackadar, Bill Walker Below right: Amphora from somewhere near Turkey.













THANKS, JOE!

& PARTING THOUGHTS

On behalf of the South Shore Neptunes, here's hoping you spent a Memorial Day remembering those who have fallen and are still falling in defense of liberty and that the coming Fourth of July is a time to reflect on the blessings and fragility of democracy and freedom throughout the world. *Photos by Rob Robison and David Whittemore, with permission.*



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!





South Shore Neptunes Information Page

WANT TO GO DIVING AND NEED A BUDDY?

Club Hotline: Call or text 617-804-5637

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Vice President	Advance Murphy	
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Rob Vice	413-295-1977		
Chuck Zarba	508-550-2450		
Tom Guild, 1st Alt.	617-484-4234		
Sokol Priffiti, 2nd Alt.	781-502-5405		
Matt Meyer, 3rd Alt.	508-947-7534		