



Soundings

August 2023

Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes

Upcoming Events

- 09/05/2023 General Meeting
- 09/10/2023 Club dive
- 09/12/2023 Board Meeting
- 09/13/2023 BSC council
Bay State Council Treasurer
- 09/17/2023 Hunt
- 09/19/2023 Bonaire trip pictures (Zoom)
- 09/20/2023 Container cleanup
- 09/23/2023 Beach cleanup
- 09/30/2023 Annual River Run
- 10/05/2023 Dave Robinson talk
- 10/15/2023 Club dive
- 09/10/2023 Club dive
- 09/13/2023 BSC council

Don't miss the Bay State Council Annual Treasure Hunt, Sunday, September 17th. Family and friends are welcome. Lots of prizes and a buffet bbq.

We had a few people sign-up on the membership portal. Reach out if you're having difficulties and we can get you squared away. Register or login at: <https://members.SouthShoreNeptunes.org>



Please send your reports, gear for sale, stories from years ago or anything else that you would want to have in the newsletter to: newsletter@SouthShoreNeptunes.org

Summary

In this issue, we'll hear about the Annual Beach Outing at Duxbury beach with an amazing turnout. We hosted the Meetup event at the Tent at the Common Market that drew in some new faces. There's also the first motion on purchasing the embroidered polo shirts, the last time the club bought these was a few years ago, two more votes to go. Cheri Herbert Baldi provided a photo of one of John Baldi's largest lobsters.

And the best part, lots of dive reports and lobsters being caught.

August General Meeting Summary

- **New Members**

- Todd Eikinas - Diving since 1956 when he was 20. Director of project management for Texas radar company. Looking to dive locally, has dived all over the world. Has a couple daughters, one that dives. Heard about us Online. Advanced, Nitrox and deep certification.
- The following were voted unanimously to become members of the club:
 - Taylor Lo, sponsor Tommy Lo
 - Cameron Wentworth, sponsor Rob Foley
 - William Tinney, sponsor Rob Robison
 - Evan Bodell, sponsor Paul Greene

- **Old Business**

- Annual Beach Outing (Summer Outing) - August 6 (rain Aug 13)
 - Prepping for 60 people
 - Meet at 5pm on Saturday at the container.
 - Helpers need to show up at 8:30am Sunday and to breakdown
- Embroidered Shirts
 - Motion: Blackie to allocate \$2000 for the embroidered shirts and hats. Seconded by Tommy Lo. Motion Passed
- Beach Cleanup (Sept 23)
 - Keep the date open, still need to get in contact with Surfriders
- Container - Jay
 - September 20 to clean around it, another date to powerwash and sand, and finally a day to paint

- **New Business**

- Meetup - August 15 @ 6:30 pm(third Tuesday) at the outside tent of the Common Market. The club will purchase pizzas and have prizes with a cash bar.
- Speaker Night
 - Third September 19 at 7pm online will be Rob Robison on Bonaire
 - Slide show and video clips with Jon Willis and Rob Robison
- Motion from Board: For new candidates, unless the candidate knows who they want as a sponsor, any member in good standing may volunteer to sponsor at the general membership meeting. Seconded by Angelo. Motion Passed.
- Wayne Ross - Would like to scuba dive at Peggotty Beach on. August 13 at 10 am. Mike Vaughn will bring all the gear. He needs a wetsuit 175 ft and 6ft tall.

- **Bay State Council**

- August 30 - General Meeting on the USS Salem
- September 13 - General Meeting just prior to the Treasure Hunt
- September 17 - Annual Treasure Hunt at Stage Fort Park with thousands of dollars of stuff to give away. This is also a family day with a \$10/person buffet lunch hosted by the North Shore Frogmen and MetroWest dive clubs.

Motions

1. Motion from the Board: For new candidates, unless the candidate knows who they want as a sponsor, any member in good standing may volunteer to sponsor at the general membership meeting. Seconded by Angelo. Motion Passed.
2. Motion: Blackie to allocate \$2000 for the embroidered shirts and hats. Seconded by Tommy Lo. Motion Passed (First Vote)

Annual Beach Outing at Duxbury Beach - August 6



We had Spectacular weather with 78 people in attendance! It was good to see all the new members helping out. The kids won the tug-of-war against the adults again! Big thanks to Tommy Lo, Ken Hayes and Joe Kilcommon for cooking the food. Additionally, Chuck Zarba and Ken Hayes for stuffing their vehicles with the club supplies and all those that helped to set-up and break-down.



John Baldi - Largest Lobster

By Cheri Herbert Baldi

South Shore's own scuba pioneer won many "largest lobster" trophies in his day. John founded scuba clubs on the South Shore and opened his dive shop's storefront "South Shore Skindivers" in 1951 after first operating from his basement and working as a union bricklayer. John served in the US Navy in World War II and taught water survival. As a young man he raced bicycles, cross trained with speed skating and worked in Kraut's cycle shop in Quincy. He was known in the Scuba industry as "the Great John Baldi".

Dive Reports

July 30 - Boston Harbor

34 minutes, 52°F, 19 ft max depth

Story by Sokol Prifti



Our team of five divers took Alex Wieck's boat and headed to the open ocean around 8:30 am. The ocean was rough, a little choppy, and big swells! The first dive was at Graves Light in Boston Harbor. The water was cold and the visibility was OK. The diving was from 34 - 57 feet in depth. The second dive was at The Roaring Bulls. The water was warmer and more comfortable. The team was Alex Wieck, Tommy Lo, Todd Alger, Shane Kennedy, and I (Sokol).

August 10-13 - Plymouth Long Beach & Hathaway's Pond

Dive 1: Plymouth Long Beach - August 10 twilight - 53°F

Dive 2: Hathaway's Pond - August 11

Dive 3: Plymouth Long Beach - August 13 - 57°F

The Weekend Story and Photos by Rob Robison

Full Story on Facebook, follow the link: https://bit.ly/2023-08_RR_Weekend

Late afternoon, Thursday August 10, Brian Smith, a divemaster at Diver's Market, and a good friend and dive buddy of mine, connected to make a twilight dive at Plymouth Long Beach. We dropped down immediately and began discovering interesting critters such as a very tiny baby crab alongside a Northern pipefish, a garden of Mermaid's Tresses chock full of tiny decorator crabs, lots of medium to very large Rock and Jonah crabs, some beautiful Spiral rock weed clusters and stalks, a juvenile Black Sea Bass, numerous juvenile Cunnners, and a whole lot more. Post-dive victuals and refreshment at Sandy's hit the spot.



I was up the next morning bright and early to meet Neptune Mike Whiteside at Hathaway's Pond. Given the conditions, we thought we would stick to the shallower area. As we explored, we came across a few new areas and found a StarTrek stormtrooper as well as the dual toilet thrones, and a bit more. As we

neared the entry/exit site, a dry-suited diver appeared out of the gloom. It was Bill Jeter, local savant of the pond and diving legend, making his routine pond reconnaissance dive.

After a day of rest, I met up with Neptune Mike O'Brien for an early morning dive on Sunday the 13th at Plymouth Long Beach. The tide was high, the water a bit clearer after a few more days of quietude, and had returned to 57°F. Sand lances were everywhere in the sand. Successfully photographing the Sea lance topped off a most pleasurable three-day dive sequence with three wonderful dive buddies. Thanks guys!! It really doesn't get any better than this: a little of the unexpected with each and every plunge, making each and every dive a true adventure.

Hope to see you out here soon everyone,
Rob

August 16 - Peggotty Beach, Scituate, MA

34 minutes, 52°F, 19 ft max depth

A Grateful Experience by Wayne Ross

I would like to start off by saying thanks to the members of the Neptunes who made my dive last Sunday such a great success, the support from the club was touching. It was one of those days when everyone and everything came together for an outstanding event. It has been quite awhile since my last dive and decades since I last dove at Peggotty Beach in Scituate. You have no idea what the weather will be when you pick a date months in advance and as we all know living in New England there are no guarantees when it comes to storms in August. It was so nice to have such a beautiful summer day.

I reserved the beach wheelchair through the town's recreation department and the administrator gave me several parking passes. The amount of effort it takes to get me underwater is monumental. Most people have no idea how hard it is to roll a quadriplegic from side to side and pull on clothing. However, we all know how much effort it takes to put on a wetsuit...Well, putting a wetsuit on quadriplegic is tough. Ken Hayes and Michael Vaughan were sweating bullets after performing this task in my van. For some reason the booties wouldn't fit on my feet anymore so we improvised with shoes and socks. And, let me tell you, neoprene really works. When I felt my body, after the dive, I was relatively warm. However, my feet were freezing.

Onto the dive...just to get underwater is entering another world and that feeling the ocean gives you when you taste the salt and receive that hug as you descend is memorable. I saw a bunch of crabs, a small lobster and picked up a sea star along the way. The stats ~ water temperature 52 degrees, dive duration 34 minutes, max depth 19 feet. It brought back a lot of memories from when I was a kid growing up in Scituate. We went to Peggotty beach a lot and I remember snorkeling and later diving off that beach. I had forgotten how the terrain transitioned from seaweed, to a sandbar, to rocks, to another sandbar after which you will eventually encounter larger rocks with more places for lobsters. Like a lot of dives on the south shore you have to swim a long way out for any serious depth. We could have used one more diver in the water just for the flag. Both people helping me got tangled up in the line. Mr. Vaughan seems to have a knack for finding things and this dive was no different. He pocketed a kids dive mask and gave it away to a youngster on the beach.

I truly put my life in the hands of others when I scuba dive. Every able bodied individual has muscles for breathing and possess two sets of intercostal muscles: Internal intercostals that allow you to breath in and external intercostals that allow you to breath out. I have no external intercostals, so I cannot forcibly exhale which makes it impossible for me to clear a mask and I must use the water pressure to push air out of my lungs. If my head gets lower than my chest I can't breathe. I am also at a complete loss in the event of an emergency for I cannot dump the weights or pull my head out of the water at the surface. Needless to say, I have a lot of faith in my dive buddies. Everyone who showed up on Sunday contributed in one way or another.

Someone watched the parking lot, someone minded my wheelchair and moved it up onto the beach, one of the non-divers stayed in the water with me and put my mask on at the appropriate time. People helped me get the wetsuit off which was a heck of a lot easier than putting it on (we were in the beach wheelchair and it slides off when you are wet). The life guards helped with transfers from my wheelchair to the beach wheelchair and back. The only thing missing was a photographer, plenty of people were taking photos of us on the beach for we were quite the spectacle, yet I forgot to get my phone and have someone snap images.

Ken and Mike did the lion's share of the work providing all the gear and swimming me around underwater. However, I appreciate everyone who made this possible. I look forward to next year.

Most Sincerely,
Wayne Ross

August 27 - Hathaway's Pond, Barnstable, MA

34 minutes, 52°F, 19 ft max depth

Return to Hathaway's Pond Story and Photos by Rob Robison

Full Story on Facebook, follow the link: https://bit.ly/2023-08_RR_Hathaway



Neptunes Jon Willis and Mike O'Brien met me at Hathaway Pond on Sunday morning, where we were greeted with a closed gate that was not to open until 9:00 AM and would cost us \$13 each to enter and dive.

We quickly found the sand chair, Madonna, Winter boy, the platform complete with a keeper size bass sitting on top of it, and the twin thrones, but we stirred up so much silt, I headed us toward the wreck a little early in hopes of rediscovering the 5'-7' clarity we had enjoyed before messing up the bottom.

It was another good day underwater with two great dive buddies.
Safe living and safe diving into it, everyone!
Rob

See more Dive Reports on the Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/SouthShoreNeptunes>

South Shore Neptunes



Information Page

Want to **Go Diving** and **Need a Buddy**?
 Call or Text the **Club Hotline: 617-804-5637**
 Email: info@SouthShoreNeptunes.org

Don't forget to visit the club store: <https://bit.ly/Neptunes-Store>

Update your profile, access the membership roster via the Membership Portal:
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Recommended by Paul Greene