



Sounding

Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes

Calendar 2019

8/4 Duxbury Beach Outing.
 Details TBA
 8/6 General Meeting
 8/10 Club dive from clubhouse,
 8AM
 8/11 (Sun) Duxbury Outing rain
 date
 8/13 Board Meeting
 8/18 ClubDive, from clubhouse,
 8AM
 8/20 Program: Diving the Chester
 A Poling, newsletter assembly
 8/29 SPECIAL EVENT: Author
 cave diver, and National
 Geographic Explorer JILL HEINERTH
 will be on hand to discuss,
 sell ,and sign her new bool, Into
 the Planet
 9/3 General Meeting
 9/10 Board Meeting
 9/15 Bay State Council Treasure
 Hunt
 9/17 ProgramTBA /newsletter
 assembly
 9/21/Club Flea Market (tent).
 9/28 Club Dive 8AM
 10/1 General Meeting
 10/8 Board Meeting
 10/12 Club River Run on North
 River
 10/15 Program TBA/newsletter
 assembly
 10/27 ClubDive, from clubhouse,
 9AM
 11/3 ClubDive, from clubhouse,
 9AM
 11/5 General Meeting
 11/12 Board Meeting
 11/17 ClubDive, 9AM

ACTIVITIES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & REMINDERS

- 8/29 SPECIAL EVENT: Author, cave diver, and National Geographic Explorer JILL HEINERTH will be on hand to discuss, sell ,and sign her new book, **Into the Planet**. Meet the author at 6 PM, presentation at 7PM. See flier at end of newsletter for more info.
- Online club U-853 t-shirt store: <<http://Southshoreneptunes.noslowturtles.com/store>>
- Saturday Sept 7 Shark Dive on the Snappa,' (SnappaCharters.com)
 Boat Location Address: 33 State Street Narragansett, RI 02882. **\$100 deposit to Ken Hayes immediately reserves spot—only 3 or less remain—**and obligates your total financial participation. **Cost \$200-\$225**. Balance due BEFORE trip departs. Contact Ken for details :617-462-3920 or email <kenhayesedl@gmail.com>
- Spring 2020 Bonaire Club Dive Trip: Blackie announced members should save their money because he's planning a club dive trip to Bonaire. Details will be spread upon the club at a later date.

EVENING PROGRAM

Last month, our movie was *Das Boot*, the highly realistic German film (with subtitles) about how a WWII German sub with a renowned skipper, crew, and record of success, was sent on a mission to certain death at the end of the war. They escaped, only to succumb to Allied bombing, as the boat and its crew amazingly limped in and docked at their home port in Germany. Chuck Z's grill enhanced the experience. It was a great evening not to be missed! Special thanks to Jay Theriault, Angelo, and all the others who contributed to the cookout, as well.

JULY/AUGUST CLUB ACTIVITIES & ...

The **July 27 President's Party** (*Photos by Theresa Czerepica*) at the Irish Cultural Center was a smashing success. Fifty-one attendees, including 2 from Metro West Dive Club and a number of former

Neptunes club members, were in attendance. Rob Vice, Mary Rose Largess, and Ken Hayes finished first, second, and third, respectively, in the Barrel Dive contest. Club members dined on steak tips, sausages, burgers, hot dogs, salad, water, and more! A live band spiced up the evening's entertainment. Theresa's photos can be found on the Club FB page under Posts.

Women's Dive Day, Sat Aug 27. (Photos by Theresa Czerepica) Perfect weather and cookout, courtesy the North Shore Frogmen, supported a nice turnout for Women's Dive Day at Stage Fort Park in Gloucester. Neptune **Emilyn Wang** (with Susan Copelas) won a BC in the raffle. Theresa's photos can be found on the Club FB page under Posts.



The **Duxbury Beach Outing, Aug 4**, was also a huge success with 61 Neptunes, family members, and friends in attendance. The usual sack race, wheel barrow race, tug of war, and piñata activities were held on a beautiful Sunday afternoon with lovely sea breezes to keep everyone cooled off. Angelo and Tommy Lo, aided by Chuck Z, knocked out dogs, burgers, sausages, chicken and corn-on-the-cob along with salad, and fixings. Special thanks to Tommy Lo's daughter Lauren and especially her boyfriend, Mike, who did yeoman work clearing a path through the cobblestones on the beach and helping with the tear-down and clean-up at the end of the Outing. Everyone enjoyed the sun, weather, and sand, and some even cooled off in the frigid water before all was said and done. Photos can be found on the Club FB page under Posts.

Underwater Rugby: The men's and women's teams each finished 11th at Worlds. Team Colombia took first in the Men's and 3rd in the Women's competition. A complete report and photos from the underwater rugby teams' efforts at the World Competition in Austria by Jay Theriault can be found on the Club FB page under Posts.

New Member: Please welcome **Joe Peters** as a new member of the club!

... DIVES

Fourth of July Dive *Story & photos by Tommy Lo*



Todd Alger, Ken Hayes and I set off and did our first dive. We hauled in an ample amount of lobsters. I had a very generous fill and was in the water for what they said was a very long time. My dive computer is currently not working, so I don't have any details of my dive. But it was a long time.

Our second dive was at Calf Island hoping to catch some lobsters and scallops. Todd went in first and was not able to swim against the current. So I decided to stay on the boat and keep an eye on them. When they reached the

bottom they were able to make some headway against the current. Todd surfaced not far from the boat but Ken was halfway across the bay and he



would need to be picked up. As lady bad luck would have it the boat would not start #%*! And Ken had to make the long swim back. Luckily, it was with the current.

After some more swearing and banging on the engine I had to make the call to Boat US for a tow in.

Aside from the boat not starting we had a great day, followed by the 4th of July evening fireworks.

Hope you guys had a great 4th of July!

Waiting for my mechanic to return from vacation.....

Tommy Lo

Four In A Row! *Story by Rob Robison. Photos by Rob and Bonnie Z. Videoclip by Jon Willis*

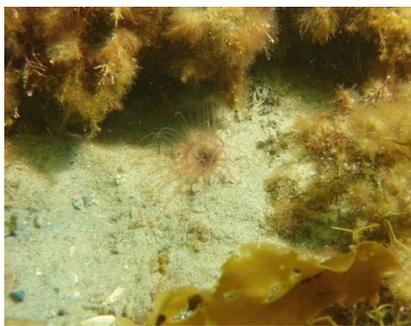
The last time I dove four days in a row was in the Philippines, back in February, which seems like a long, long time ago now. It happened this time because of a confluence of factors: a stretch of good weather, several friends who felt the urge, as I seemingly do everyday, to go diving with me, and the fact that I had been on an extended 2600+ mile road trip to Columbus, OH, Kentucky Tennessee and back without having made a single dive. A lot of pent up energy and desire there, evidently!

Thursday Aug 8. My local occasional dive buddy, **Brian Smith**, finally found some time in his busy retirement (?) schedule to go diving. We arranged to meet at **Plymouth Long Beach** by 8:00AM to avoid the \$20.00 parking fee and get wet. We both arrived around 7:30-7:45AM and hastily began donning our gear.

It was high tide. We waded in and dropped down immediately, having agreed upon a 30-minute swim straight out before making the turn for home. Our vis was around 10,' the water temp was between 49°-51°, depending on which of three computers we were looking at, and our depth was an astounding 14'. We saw a very juvenile flounder so hidden under the sand that one could scarcely see its eyes and slight silhouette. We also witnessed lots of crabs fornicating like the wild things they are--there must be something in the water--a moon snail, lots of sea weeds and kelp in what looked to be a burned out light brownish color state. There were a few lobsters, mostly short, one very large egger, and lots of tiny brine shrimp in the clumps of sea wrack and tumbleweed-like algae. It was a great dive after a two-week drought, made all the better by a good post-dive breakfast with a great dive buddy at the Blueberry Muffin Cafe in Pembroke.



Friday, Aug 9. Against my better judgment, I allowed **Neptune Eric Cantor** to talk me into making the trip down to **Ft Wetherill State Park** in Jamestown, RI for a dive. With SW and W winds prevailing last week, the water had to be very stirred up, reducing the vis to a distance of barely an arm's length. But Eric was desperate to get wet, and understanding the urge, I agreed to drive over.



As we were suiting up, a diver came out of the water and announced he had seen the first tropical of the season, a striped butterfly fish. That gave us hope of seeing something good, regardless of the vis. He also said the water was warm, 68°! At the same time, a woman carrying a microphone and followed by a cameraman was interviewing another woman who turned out to be

a science prof from the Univ of Rhode Island or local Roger Williams College, who is an expert on

Northern Star Corals. These corals proliferate under the rocks at Ft Wetherill, Kings' Beach, and other RI sites.

I first discovered Northern Star Corals by accident in the late fall three years ago, while diving there with some former Neptunes and a few others. I saw some fuzzy looking items under a boulder or ledge, stuck my camera underneath, and took a few photographs. Later, after cropping down the photos, some beautiful images emerged. A Sea Rover friend, Kim Malkoski, identified them as Northern Star Corals and told me that they are the only hard corals found in New England. I shared this same story with the reporter, when interviewed later in the morning.

Back to our dive. Eric and I submerged near the launch ramp and sure enough, the vis was as reduced as anticipated. What wasn't anticipated was dropping almost smack dab on top of a 4spot flounder or perhaps a fluke. It took off so fast, I didn't have an opportunity to take a photograph. The remainder of the dive consisted of seeing a sliver of red sea lettuce, an egg clutch of some sort, lots of rock gunnels and small cunner, all too quick for my shutter, and an unknown fish I could not identify. Maybe one of you will be able to help me.

Regardless, Eric's girlfriend watched us from her sand chair on the beach while she read a novel, enjoyed a bit of sunshine, and dodged nearly a dozen crazy kayakers who were trying to launch their craft and themselves from her exact spot in the universe. The three of us enjoyed the morning. It was a beautiful day.

Saturday, Aug 10, was Neptunes Club Dive Day, unusual because these dives are usually held on Sundays, not Saturdays. This time, only the club president, **Chuck Zarba**, and I showed up. He wanted to dive down at **Plymouth Beach**, so back I/we drove down to my neck of the woods.



Chuck and I enjoyed a delightful warm dive together, 55°-56°, saw three successively large lobsters, eggers all, plus a great breakfast at the 3A Cafe in North Plymouth afterwards. As you can tell, food and diving go great together.

During the dive, I discovered that despite my pre-dive cleaning efforts, the camera housing was weeping moisture as it had the day before. Most of my photos were ruined, as were many from the dive at Ft Wetherill. The ones that look "milky" included with this article (see FB page) are the among best of those photos. I bought a new o-ring for the camera housing, and hope that, plus ensuring the camera is protected from the sun before diving, should do the trick. I was able to test that out successfully the next day, while making a Commando (the name of my 15.5', 50Hp Zodiac) dive with Bonnie Zeller and Neptune Jon Willis.

Sunday Aug 11. I was up at the crack of dawn, around 5:15 AM, to fix a cup of coffee, cut up some cantaloupe, along with some toast and jelly, for a quick bite before assembling my gear. After stopping to gas up the boat, I reached the ramp about 10-15 minutes before **Bonnie Zeller** and **Neptune Jon Willis** arrived, giving me time to purchase a launch sticker and top off the flotation tubes with the foot pump. When Jon and Bonnie showed up, we loaded their gear and mine into the boat, launched it, and

tied it to the dock, while I parked the car and trailer and finished putting on my wet suit before heading out of the harbor.

The weather was wonderful. There was a slight chop from the Northwest breeze, but nothing to worry about. We headed north around Blackmun's Point toward Beetle Rock but found the area choked with boat fishermen. This changed our plan, causing us to retreat to the Old Post Office site, where we dropped anchor. It bit into the sand immediately. We finished assembling our gear and suiting up, backward-rolled into the water one by one, and regrouped on the anchor line at the bow. When everyone was ready, we deflated our BCs and descended to the bottom, following the anchor line and chain all the way to the anchor, firmly impaled in the sand 32' below.



Seeing the anchor deep-seated on the bottom, we headed due north across the sand and almost immediately ran into a large slab of rock. As we drew closer, I could see a large dark object underneath it on the left hand side, a very large lobster brandishing its formidable claws. I took a few photos and then stuck my camera in its pinchers to distract it so I could reach in behind with my left hand and pull it out from underneath without being pinched. Success! And failure! It was loaded with eggs. Drat! We put it back and continued on and found a smaller rock with another lobster. This one was a keeper. We stashed it in Bonnie's bag and continued on for 15 minutes.

No more rocks, only sand, so we turned the dive and headed back to the boat.

Back on board, we discovered the water temp was around 58° at 32 feet. Incredibly warm for that depth. I gave Bonnie the lobster since she hadn't caught any this year to date, even though it was my first. Others have given me lobsters throughout the season, so I really didn't care. While we were recovering and deciding where to change dive locations for another dive, we enjoyed a lively conversation.

Suddenly, it dawned on us it was lunch time. We made a collective decision to take care of our stomachs instead of continuing to dive and headed back to the harbor, where after stowing our gear, the conversation continued all through our meal. Afterwards, we drove off on our separate ways, promising to get back together sometime later this week for more diving. It was unquestionably a wonderful day on the water with good friends.

Here's the link to Jon's video: <https://jw-ocean-stuff-video.s3.amazonaws.com/marshfield-082019.mp4>

Diving the Old Post Office. July 17, 2019. *Story by Rob Robison with photos by Rob and Bonnie Zeller.*

Yesterday was a good day. One of three or four women I dive with in our Divers of MassBay group, **Bonnie Zeller**, texted Monday to see if I was available to dive, which I was. We met up at the Green Harbor launch ramp at 830 AM, loaded up the Commando, and put putted out from the harbor. The weather forecast was partly cloudy through 11 AM with severe thunderstorms predicted by 2PM. That, plus less gas on board than I had realized,



shortened the boat ride to a site I haven't visited since the late 80s, the old post office, which is half the distance from the harbor to Beetle Rock. It's a nice dive.

We arrived at the site in short order, suited up, and back-rolled off the boat, only I had forgotten to turn on my air. Fortunately, I was able to kick back up and grab the boat life line. When Bonnie rolled in, she turned on my air, and we descended the anchor line together.

At first, it looked like we had missed the mark and hit nothing but sand, as we moved past the anchor.



Shortly thereafter, I spotted a small rock pile to my left and turned to explore it. Nothing really exciting except a blood star and a crab. Next, for some reason I decided to retrace our steps and in doing so began to make out a rock debris field and followed it to the rock line and the boulder field. There were a number of short lobsters, a lobster trawl (string of 5-10 traps spaced at least 20' apart or more), and a few flounder. Feeling the chill of the 49° water at 39', it was time to turn the dive and head back to the boat.

The slight current had pushed us farther north than I realized, so when we surfaced, we were about 30 yards north of the boat. We easily finned back to Commando, hooked our BCs and tanks to the clips I have tethered to the life lines, and

re-boarded the boat safely. A beautiful dive with 25-30' of vis on a day with no one else diving the waters except the two of us. Just delightful and peaceful!

Afterwards, we stopped at Haddad's on the Brant Rock Esplanade for the Wednesday Special: dollar shrimps and oysters, plus salads, and beer, which is nearly steps from the launch ramp, in truth less than 400 yards by car. What a wonderful way to spend the day with a great dive buddy and some great post-dive seafood and beer.



It just doesn't get any better than this, folks. It's a great summer for diving into it!

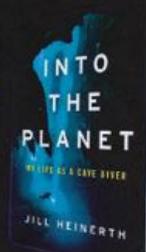
Rob

P.S. You can find more photos from these stories on the Club FB page under Posts.



BOOK EVENT
SOUTH SHORE NEPTUNES
 Host the explorer/author Jill Heinerth at the stone building on the corner of Joyce and Quarry street in Quincy, MA

Thursday, August 29, 2019
 Hang out with Jill at 6 pm, presentation 7 pm
 Book sale and signing or bring your own copy



INTO THE PLANET
 WITH JILL AS A CAVE DIVER
 JILL HEINERTH

"Cave divers are another breed, which I never truly understood; that was until I met Jill Heinerth on a cave diving trip off Santa Cruz Island and had a chance to read her new book "Into the Planet", which helped to explain it all! A Must Read!"
 - Dr. Robert D. Ballard - Discoverer of the RMS TITANIC

JILL HEINERTH

More people have walked on the moon than have been to some of the places Jill Heinerth has explored right here on earth. She is a holder of over thirty years of filming, photography and exploration on projects in submerged caves around the world with National Geographic, NOAA, various educational institutions and television networks worldwide. She is the inaugural Explorer-in-Residence for the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, recipient of Canada's prestigious Polar Medal and the diving world's highest award from the Academy of Underwater Arts and Sciences.

Pre-order links:
www.IntoThePlanet.com
 and Amazon.com
 In stores Aug. 20, 2019

More Info: www.southshoreneptunes.org

Flea Market
 and
Craft Fair
 Saturday Sept. 21, 2019
 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
 Rt. 53 HANOVER
 Tractor Supply parking lot

Admission 50 cents
 Sponsored by
 The South Shore Dive Team
 Volunteer Underwater Recovery Unit

\$15.00 a table  For table space call  \$15.00 a table

(781)-391-1034 or (781)-826-4696
www.southshoreneptunes.org The Hotline (617)-804-5637
 All kinds of items !

  
FOOD !

 **Set up time 6:30 A.M.** 
 Rain Date Sat. Sept. 28, 2019