

# Winter Is. Weekend

**SALEM, MA** Our annual Winter Island Weekend was held July 24-26. The weekend went as it usually does, a success. I would like to thank everyone for participating and helping out. It was suggested to me that I give a brief description of what to expect during the weekend, so here I go:

First the camping. We rent the igloo area consisting of eight tent camp sites. The area is surrounded by a large concrete wall so is quite

*Continued on page 5*




**ON THE LINE**

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OLD COLONY AMPHIBIANS

*Huge turn out  
for this year's  
Fall P-Town weekend  
by Patti & Bill Turner*

## P-Town

**PROVINCETOWN, MA** We had a great turn-out, approximately 38 divers and friends. The weather was fabulous, sunny and relatively warm. The water was a bit choppy for Saturday's dive and the "bug" count reflected that. However there was no such problem for the "shoppers" of the group.

In honor of fellow member Jeff Davis' upcoming wedding to Joyce Duanan, we held an impromptu bridal shower for them, complete with champagne and cake. The happy couple will marry Oct. 3 in Las Vegas and we wish them both much happiness!!

Our evening cookout featured good food and a visit from the Pirates of Black Beard, who were celebrating Pirate Day at our hotel. They "attacked" us in full pirate attire and proved to be a fun group of men and women.

We want to thank everyone who helped make Fall P-Town a success, and Mother Nature for providing great weather. See you all again in the Spring!!!

*Patti Turner*



This year's Fall P-Town had one of the best turnouts ever. We had 24 divers on Saturday even though the weather was cold and windy. The cookout was great as usual and we were overtaken by pirates who had camped nearby, but we made friends quickly by selling them our women!!! (*just kidding!*) We also celebrated the upcoming nuptials of Jeff and Joyce, and we now congratulate them on their marriage October 3, 2009.

Sunday was a much nicer day, weather wise, but there were fewer divers so fewer boats were needed... unlike Saturday when all the boats were full. As it turned out almost everyone scored some "bugs" over the 2 days, and a good time was had by all. *Bill Turner*

*Pictures from P-Town on page 4*



# prez box

by Henry Cugno

Hard to believe it but our 50th dive season is coming to a close. As of this writing, we have only two events left on the schedule; the Halloween dive and Joe's Memorial dive.

We don't keep records but if we did, I'm sure that this past season would break every record we would have for attendance at club events. It's great to see how the club has grown and that the new members are so enthusiastic about participating in club events. Every event from Friday Night Dives to P-Town to Winter Island to Family Day to Marshfield has been tremendous. Even regular Thursday night meetings have been standing room only.

So, I just want to say thanks to all of you that have been so eager to make this season a success.

Thanks to those of you who chaired dives. You made sure we had enough boats for divers and that the

conditions were right for the dive. Everyone knows that the diving is just part of the experience. Without the food and refreshments, we would just be going home after getting out of the water. Getting together after the dive is just as much fun as the dive itself.

Thanks to those of you who offered your residences as venues for club events. It's not easy to have a big group of people descend on your home, entertain them and feed them and clean up after they leave.

Thanks to the boat captains who offered their vessels as dive platforms for the club. You are the life blood of the OCA. Without you, we would not have the variety of dives to offer our members.

Finally, thanks to our officers and Board of Directors. You make everything run smoothly. It's made my job easy. I can't tell you how much I appreciate that.

So that's it, right? Not so fast!

The Winter Dive Club starts in November and judging by the latest sign up sheet we're going to break a record for that too. Just in case some of you still need the details, here's how it works. Sign

up and pitch in \$15 to the pot. Make a dive once a month through the winter. The season closes at the end of March. If you miss a dive, you're out (works on the honor system). Those that are still in take the pot and go out for dinner. If a lot of people drop out, the venue for the dinner can be ritzy. If a small number drop out, we'll have to make do at the greasy spoon level. I can tell you that we usually pitch in to avoid that option.

Oh, yeah, there's always someone who just wants to go diving in the winter regardless of the Winter Dive Club. So, if you're itching to get in the water, you can still find someone to go with.

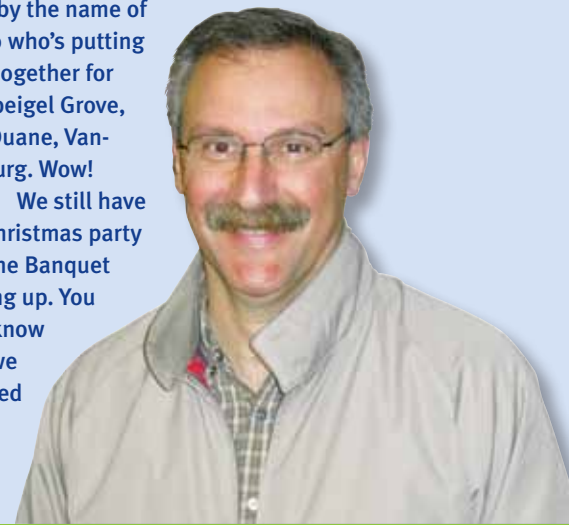
There's also a small group of us going to Key Largo in November. We have a travel and dive guide that goes by the name of Rocco who's putting it all together for us. Spiegel Grove, Bib, Duane, Vandenburg. Wow!

We still have the Christmas party and the Banquet coming up. You may know that we decided to try and

make the next banquet as special as the last one. We started our 50th year with a bang and we'll end with one. Hard to imagine how we can top our last banquet but we've assembled a committee to help John Stanford make the attempt. The committee will try to meet on off Thursdays during our winter meeting schedule. Remember, in November, we switch from every Thursday to the first and third Thursday of the month for club meetings.

Still plenty to look forward to.....

*Henry C.*



## Connie Rogers "Ambassador"

The Oxford dictionary defines "ambassador" as: "A person who acts as a representative or promoter of a specified activity."

In January of this year, I was given the Ambassador Award for seeking and retaining new members for our club. It was quite an honor to be the first "official" ambassador, however it is YOU the membership who "seal the deal."

We have such a variety of diving activities in our club; new members have much to choose from! Most importantly, of course is embracing (not hugging Bill, embracing!) our members at their level of experience. As friendships develop, members have new experiences in diving and MUCH more fun! When we learn from each other, we grow in friendship and expertise.

We certainly are living up to our mission statement: The purpose of the Old Colony Amphibians is to further the sport of skin and scuba diving for the enjoyment of its members while at the same time promoting safety and sportsmanship.

As we continue to safely share our passion for the ocean, (OK, for some of us it's all about the fish) we will continue to grow strong in membership and experience. I believe in this club and truly value the friendships I have made within it.

OK, at some point, you might even get a hug! (see Bill T. a.k.a. official hugger)

*Connie Rogers*

## Boat for Sale!

From Rocco: This is my next door neighbor's boat. He sold his unit and is moving to Alabama and doesn't have use for the boat. It's like brand new, it only has 35 hours on it. He bought it new. Someone at the club may be interested. I'm sure he will take less. It may be worth towing it back to RI. **Rocco**

2004 Angler Model 204FX - always stored under unit, bimini top  
2004 150hp 2-stroke Yamaha (35 hrs.) & digital gauges & hydraulic steering  
2004 Continental trailer (aluminum)  
Equipped with: Lenco trim tabs, fuel flow meter, transom platform w/ladder, AM/FM/Cass Stereo, etc.  
Hardly used.  
Was \$19k, **now asking \$16k**

Contact Rocco for more information.

PROVIDENCE – A new study has found that the population of young sea scallops off the Eastern Seaboard is on the rise, which could mean several years of better catches for the local fishing industry, The Associated Press reported.

The number of young sea scallops is at its highest level since 2000 on Georges Bank, according to a May to June survey by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole, Mass.

Georges Bank is a shallow area of the Atlantic Ocean 75 miles off the New England coast that stretches from Cape Cod up to Nova Scotia. It is larger than the state of Massachusetts and a lucrative spot for fishermen because of scallops' value.

Dvora Hart, a scientist at the fisheries center, told the AP that the increasing population of sea scallops could mean better catches for fishermen in five or six years.

A New England Fishery Management Council committee is scheduled to meet in Providence next month to discuss management of the regional scallop fleet, the AP said.



## Be careful handling fish...Myco disease attack in RI

It was still dark on the morning of Wednesday, June 3, when Bill Nolan went out to get the day's supply of pogies in Narragansett Bay. As he did nearly every spring morning, Bill would catch a dozen stripers before heading home after daybreak, just when the average fishermen were just heading out to fish. But on this day, something would happen that brought a scare to Bill and his family.

On Wednesday evening, Bill's hand turned red and began to swell. Then a red line began to expand along his arm. "My hand blew up like a porkchop," said Bill. "Almost before my eyes a red line started traveling right up my arm and this had me more than a bit concerned."

And it's a good thing that he took quick action and went straight to the emergency room where the doctor put him on two IV bags of powerful antibiotics, and they sent his blood to the lab to be analyzed.

"Fish Handler's Disease" was the report that came back from the doctor. Myco. It has been written about here in this newsletter.

There are two main types: Mycobacterium shottsii is the disease that effects striped bass from the Chesapeake. Then there's the variation Mycobacterium marinum. This is what happened to Bill.

This bacteria is carried by most fish, crabs, oysters, and even barnacles within infected waters, and the Mycobacterium marinum bacteria can also be acquired by humans via a break in the skin such as a scratch, cut, bite, or puncture, while handling fish, marine life, or structures related to open waters. If the Mycobacterium are able to establish themselves within the breached skin area of a person, an infection referred to by researchers and doctors as Fish Handler's Disease may develop.

Two days later, Bill reported the infected area was still "somewhat in intense burning pain and quite swollen," but the red line in his arm was receding.

"I was my own stupidity that caused it," said Bill. While I wear gloves most of the time, I have a habit of taking them off all the time while fishing. I will never take them off again."

Bill asked that other members be warned about the Myco danger. "This infection is out there and its serious," he said. "So please, if you handle fish, wear gloves and watch small cuts and scrapes very carefully."

How can you protect yourself?

- return any fish with skin lesions to the water
- wear gloves when handling striped bass
- take particular care if you have a cut, scrape, or abrasion on your hands or arms, and wash thoroughly with soap and water after coming into contact with fish or open water.

Individuals whose immune systems are weakened or compromised because of disease or immune suppression therapy should be especially careful to avoid wounds or abrasions.

### OCA OFFICERS

- PRESIDENT  
**Henry Cugno**  
VICE PRESIDENT  
**John Stanford**  
SECRETARY  
**Bill Lane**  
TREASURER  
**Terry Carragher**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Ian Campbell** 09-10  
**Bill Turner** 09-10  
**Fred LeBlanc** 09-10  
**Jim Cherubini** 08-09  
**Max Arias** 08-09  
**Jim Brady** 08-09

O.C.A. meetings are held every Thursday evening at 7:00 pm. Check the web site below for the location of the next meeting. Winter meetings are held the first and third Thurs. of the month from November 1 thru March 31.

We welcome your articles, notes, cartoons and photos for upcoming issues. Feel free to forward them to:

Old Colony Amphibians  
P.O. Box 3742  
Attleboro, MA 02703

or: bill@lanedesign.com

[www.ocascuba.org](http://www.ocascuba.org)

## OCA CALENDAR

### November 09

- 1 Winter Dive Club commences. WDC members must dive once a month until April 1st to remain active.
- 5 OCA Meeting, 7:00 pm at Ian's Midas shop in South Attleboro. **This meeting commences our winter schedule: 1st and 3rd Thursdays until April 1, 2010.**
- 8 Joe Pasquale Memorial Dive, Fort Wetherill, Jamestown. Time T.B.D.
- 19 OCA Meeting, 7:00 pm at Kalipso Dive shop in Smithfield, RI

### December 09

- 3 OCA Meeting, 7:00 pm at Ian's Midas shop in South Attleboro. **Nominations for officers begin.**
- ?? Annual OCA Holiday Party, T.B.D.
- 17 OCA Meeting, 7:00 pm at Kalipso Dive shop in Smithfield, RI **Nominations for officers continues**

### January 10

- 1 Annual New Year's Day Dive, Fort Wetherill, 11:00 registration, Treasure Hunt at noon.
- 30 51st Annual OCA Banquet, Chello's in Apponaug

Continued from front cover.

### Fall P-Town Weekend



Continued from front cover.

### Winter Island Weekend



private. Tents are set up along the perimeter leaving the center open for tables and a large fire. Camping is somewhat crude, no running water or electricity at the camp area. Although there is a bathhouse nearby with the usual amenities, toilets, sinks, showers and an outside slop sink to clean your cooking gear. Bring your normal camping gear for the weekend, "Don't Forget An Air mattress." The camping fee is split up between all participating members.

Second the diving. Boat assignments are made earlier with all of captains. We launch the boats from the boat ramp at Winter Island and head out to the secret spots, the island areas. In my opinion this is an advanced dive due to the conditions. It is a working dive and can be physically exerting; you should be in good shape. It is a boat drift dive. The depth is 60'-70'. The water temperature is around 48°-55°F and there can be strong current depending on the tides. The visibility ranges from 0'- 25' depending on the conditions. Every diver must bring a dive flag because this is a drift dive. A catch bag and a lift bag are also needed and a diver should be familiar with how to use a lift bag properly before attempting a lift. A typical dive starts with a descent to the floor which consists of a loose gravel and sandy bottom, locate the scallops and fill the bag. Your flag line should be secured to your catch bag along with your lift bag, MINIMALLY inflated. Your catch bag full of scallops is going to be left at the bottom. Your ascent should follow the flag line to the surface and don't forget a safety stop as this is a working dive. When the surface is reached the boat will pick you up. A safety sausage is a good idea due to heavy boat traffic. Once onboard the attached flag line is pulled to the surface. We usually do two dives then shuck the scallops returning the shell to the water.

Lastly, the post dive. Here is the fun part. After returning back to camp and cleaning up it is time for the cookout and a few frosty beverages of your choice. There is a choice of chicken or steak and everyone brings a side dish. There is always a great selection of food and plenty of it. After dinner we all hang around the camp fire exchanging stories about the past day events. It has been my experience that they are all 100% true and nothing is ever exaggerated to have fun at someone's expense.

Well that's it in a nutshell.

This year we had 26 camper, 18 divers, and 5 boats. I would like to thank the captains for the use of the boats because without them there would be no Winter Island Weekend. Divers, don't forget to take care of your captain because there is an expense involved in bringing boats, including boat launch fees, fuel for both hauling and running the boats.

The weather was average; sunny and breezy in the high 70's on Saturday and like always a little rain on Sunday. I believe everyone got scallops on Saturday, but the mother load was hit on Sunday.

As far as stories go, the one that sticks out the most is about the Salem Harbor Master's assistant. When we returned back to the dock, the assistant was tending to his normal duties – washing his boat and going through a check list. We made some small talk with him and persuaded him to allow us to use the fresh water at the dock (this must be official water for only the Harbor Master is allowed to use it). After a quick wash down we said thanks and were on our way. This is when the assistant stepped off the boat missing the dock and into the water, dress clothes, clipboard, sunglasses and all. We ran over to see if he was all right because he hit his head on the dock. Thank goodness he was OK. He was obviously embarrassed and quite red faced. It was pretty clear this whole incident took place because he was distracted by our lady O.C.A. divers and he was not paying attention to his tasks. He also took a fair amount of heckling from his commanding officers, I recall one of them saying that is was not necessary to inspect under the dock or boat, but thanks anyway!

ALWAYS WATCH WERE YOU ARE WALKING *Eric Alphonse*



# North Carolina Dive Trip

Max and Janet Visit  
Moorhead City  
and Cape Fear.  
by Janet MacCausland

Images by Janet MacCausland.

**WILMINGTON, NC** · Max and I made good time driving to NC, along with the caravan from Metro West Dive Club. We left West Warwick at about 6:30 Friday night to dive for Meglodon teeth on Sunday. I usually figure a fifteen hour drive with quick pit stops along I-95 to Moorhead City, but we made it all the way down to the Cape Fear Divers in Wilmington in less.

Cape Fear Divers boarded around 6:30 AM and was out until 6:45 that evening. It was a lengthy few hours ride to the dive site. The dive was about 110 feet deep and everyone tethered to the anchor line. Many did doubles with Nitrox and deco and got an impressive collection of teeth and whale bones. Everyone got some. The teeth from that area have a warm tan cast to them in comparison to the ones from Venice, Florida, which are black.

Afterwards Cape Fear Divers kindly worked over time to refill our tanks. We ate a tasty meal and drove NE up to Moorhead City that night to be on the Olympus Dive Center's larger boat by 7:00 the next morning. 6:30 is the normal boarding time, when roll call is taken. The ride out, unless an "extended Trip", is over an hour so there is plenty of time to set up your tanks. After day one, you can leave your gear on board below your seat, and they lock up the cubbies for the night. There are two camera rinse buckets and ample room to leave your camera set up and ready for the giant stride off either of the sides. They mark you off. There is a down line at each side, and horizontal lines each side at 15' from stern to bow, which forms a wish-bone, descending to about forty feet where it joins into the anchor line, tying in to one of many wrecks typically at a depth of 75 to 100 feet at the top; deeper to the sand. The bottom temperature was 71°F and top side was in the eighties. The twin ladders are fish-bone style so you board with your fins on and don't have to spend time fussing with fin straps in the frequent surge. The staff removes them for you. They take your number then and roll call is taken again when all are back.

The wrecks, all but one that I know of, resulted from a demise of war or weather, are part of history. The German U-352 is perhaps the most notable, and a respected grave site. Nothing can be taken. It sits tilted in the sand at about 110-120 feet. A relatively small wreck, you can tour almost the entire thing on one dive. I had hoped to get a full shot of the U-boat but this year the visibility was only 50' at the most, and my new wide angle camera housing was not talking to my strobes, so I shot macro and limited distance on this trip with film. (They still need to be digitally scanned.) Two years ago we had 80 feet of visibility and could really see it well. It was impressive.

Every year I have gone on this trip we have done the Hutton, formerly thought to be the Papoose. It lies on its side, with much of the hull exposed. I took an available light picture of one of the divers collecting Sand Tiger Shark's teeth on the hull. It is too large a wreck to see on a single dive so we did one while moored to the stern and a second one near the bow which descends to its deepest level. I was diving on air with a pony, while everyone else was on Nitrox, some with doubles. Low on "no deco time", I turned and left Max and hurried up to the

anchor line and observed its hulking mass from about seventy feet for a few minutes. These wrecks are surrounded by tropical and mid Atlantic life, and the dives are always too short. But the dive continues to be interesting on the journey up the line, as there are often schools of Spade Fish above the wreck, Barracudas sliding up to us on the hang, and jellies of all weird configurations to mesmerize. Even on air, I do a healthy fifteen foot stop along with most of the Nitrox divers who are not far behind me.

On this trip we also visited the wrecks of the Bedford Shire, the Hardie (YO-26), the Aeolus and the Spar, twice, because the Sand Tigers have been hanging out more on the Spar this year. They are great fun to dive with. They circle the wreck, or rest in the sand, and put up with our presence and bubbles. Silently one seven footer came from behind and swam between my spread fins, so as not to alter her course due to my presence! If you choose, as does my friend Louise, you can swim along right next to them, and stare at those many teeth jutting out in all directions. Occasionally one will grab a fish, but they usually feed at night. There are no night trips to the wrecks. Max liked the dive so much he switched to his pony to stay longer on his one. I waited on the hang line watching his lonesome bubbles ascend from the blue, not emerald! There were so many schooling fish on the Hardie that it was disorienting, and when it came time to start up, I had trouble seeing the line.

The weather was beautiful all week, but with increasing wind and surge. Friday we got blown out. We went to a wonderful maritime museum in Beaufort, the next town over, and took a tour of the seashore, much like Cape Cod. The light houses in NC are tall, handsome black and white patterns. We also stopped in an interesting Estuarium on route home. On other years when we have had to miss a day of diving, I have taken a boat shuttle over to one of the outer islands to see some of the wild pony populations.

Oyster beds are everywhere, even at the Olympus dockside. The seafood is good, and the southern style cooking is a treat. For dinner, we frequent a delightfully delicious place called Floyd's, a ten-minute walk from the bunk house. They give us a private room and sample buckets of beer to start. The bunkhouse, which is one block up from the dive center and the docks, has a refrigerator for our sandwich fixings, which we usually eat on the top deck and sun, or below where you can nap on cushioned benches, fix your camera at the table booth, or watch "Jaws". It is a big, stable boat. The boats are back by around 3:30, leaving time to explore. There is a very good aquarium nearby, complete with a scaled down U-352. At night we often sit around a VCR monitor on one of now five sofas and watch each others' video or "slides" of the days' dive. For about \$650.00 for diving and bunkhouse (included), it is a lot of bang for the buck. Some rent beach houses nearby for the week. The beaches are stunning. I have gone intermittently four times. Jim Andrews, who does a great job organizing the trip for nothing for club members, goes every year. The boat holds about 24 divers and we could easily do a joint trip or our own.



Max.



# OCA Logo'd Apparel

**Stay Tuned!** I've been working with Mike Maslen (Maslen, Inc. - he printed our 50th Anniversary mugs and tee-shirts) and he and I are going to put together a price list of apparel with costs for silk screening or embroidery - depending on the fabric. We should have this ready in the next few weeks.

*Bill Lane*

## Plaque for our deceased members

In lieu of changing the names of the Annual Diver of the Year and New Diver of the Year Awards, the membership has decided to create a plaque for deceased OCA members instead. This plaque will be on display in the clubhouse. Therefore ***we need your help.***

If you know of past OCA members who have passed away, please let us know. You can eMail the names to [bill@lanedesign.com](mailto:bill@lanedesign.com) or mail them in to:  
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[www.ocascuba.org](http://www.ocascuba.org)



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