



## PREZ BOX

It seems hard to believe that the year is over and we're planning the New Year's Day Dive. I'll take a moment to reflect on 2008 as we've had a pretty great year in the club.

After a few years of lamenting about lack of new members we sure cured that problem this year. 10 new members from a number of sources joined the club over the course of 2008. As generally seems to be the case, most members came to us by word of mouth from existing members, however we finally had someone join as a result of the RISAA show. In addition, our occasional meetings at Giant Stride Dive Shop have also given OCA exposure to new divers. Many thanks to Red for hosting our meetings at his shop.

Our club events were well attended and almost all were blessed with good weather. Family day was another great success. Thanks again to Bob McManus for coordinating the event. We had 2 boats and over 25 people come to Wallum Lake. Both boats

*Cont. on back cover.*



It was Thursday morning around 10:00 and I was at work winding things down for our trip to Blackbeard's in the Bahamas when my cell phone rang. It was my wife, Michelle. "Did you know about this hurricane that's in the Caribbean?" she said. "Yeah, I saw something about it last night. Sounds like it's wandering around. That's the last I heard" I replied. "Well it's not wandering any more. It's headed for the Bahamas!" she said. "Great!" I replied.

We were leaving early Friday morning from two different places. Bill Lane was the last to join the group and managed to get a good deal out of Providence while the rest of us booked earlier and thought we got a good deal from Boston. The Boston group included Connie Rogers, Eric Alphonse, Jeff Davis, Bill Weedon, Ed Packhem, Mark Wilton who's a friend of Jeff's and me.

I called Eric to see if he had heard the news and he had not. I also called Ed. Both Ed and Eric called Blackbeard's who told them that they didn't expect the hurricane to impact the trip.



Hurricane Paloma was supposed to pass by the Bahamas to the south. They added that no hurricane, so far, this year had cancelled a trip. I thought to myself, "what else would they say?"

So, after numerous phone calls between every member of the group, we agreed that we would meet the following morning as

originally planned. Ed, of course, thought this added to the adventure. I was a bit more skeptical, but we were booked,

vacation time taken and it did look like Paloma was going to move east just south of the Bahamas.

Ed, Bill Weedon and I drove from RI to Boston to meet up with Eric, Jeff, Connie and Mark at some off-site parking that Eric new about in Charlestown. It was cheap and they had shuttles running back and forth from the lot to Logan constantly so it was an easy deal to get to the airport that morning. The flight left at 8:00 so we got there early to check bags, etc. We would meet up with Bill Lane in Charlotte, North Carolina and all connected to a flight that would take us to Freeport on Grand Bahama Island.

The trip was uneventful. Flights were on time and relatively smooth. It was good to see Bill Lane in Charlotte and find out that his travel day was going as well as ours. We settled onto our connecting flight and were in the Bahamas before long.

## A.P. Hill

After, going through customs and picking up our bags, we headed for the exit where we were greeted by a large Bahamian with a sign saying "Welcome to the Bahamas Old Colony Amphibians." I thought this was great! Eric had made this arrangement and Blair, our driver for the trip, would prove to be very helpful to us. First, he got us to the hotel where we quickly checked in. It was around 2:00pm and we didn't need to be on the boat until noon the next day so we decided to explore Freeport.



Bill Weedon proved to be quite the shopper as the rest of us gave up shopping to visit some of the local drinking establishments. We discovered Rum Runners, an outdoor bar of sorts, where locals made up most of the clientele.

Great pina coladas and Kalic – a local beer. We promised the bartender we would return and left to get cleaned up for dinner. After a satisfying dinner, we noticed that live entertainment was setting up in the square. Ed made his way over to the stage and struck up a conversation with some of the band members. When he returned, he told us he had secured a "gig" with the band. The music soon started. Sure enough, after a few numbers, the band divas announced



*Continued on Page 3.*

# 50th Anniversary, Annual OCA Banquet

January 24, 2009  
Johnson & Wales Inn  
Seekonk, MA  
6:00 pm cocktails  
7:00 pm dinner

Flyer to be mailed separately with RSVP form.



Dear OCA Family,

I would like to thank all of you for once again supporting Team Tarro. We were joined by Ray and Ann Baril, thanks for braving the elements and the much-too-early Sunday morning alarm clock! The team picture was taken at 7:00 a.m.! Don't we all look awake?

This was our eleventh year raising funds for cancer research and early detection effort. It was, however, our first walk at Slater Park with carousel rides afterwards, refreshments, a band too! It is also our first year as a Non Profit 501-3C organization. All of the monies raised goes directly to R.I. Hospital and The Dana Farber Cancer Institute. This year with your help, we raised \$18,500.00!

I am forever grateful to my OCA family for supporting our team! For more information please visit: [teamtarro.org](http://teamtarro.org) Love and God Bless, **Connie Rogers**



## OCA Holiday Party

Bill & Dierdre Weedon have opened up their home to host our OCA Holiday Party, Saturday evening, December 20, 7:00 pm till ??? (kids away at grandparents)

From Providence, 95 South to Exit 10A (Rt 117 East).  
Take Right at 1st Stop Light onto Diamond Hill Rd – Follow to End  
[please note 20 MPH speed limit on Diamond Hill, and stop at Stop Sign]  
Take Left onto Cowesett Road  
Take 2nd Right onto Larchwood Drive – Follow to End  
Take Right on Major Potter, then quick Left onto Shadow Brook Drive

159 Shadow Brook Drive  
Warwick, RI 02886  
401-885-1948

*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.*

### OCA OFFICERS

President **Ian Campbell**  
Vice President **Bill Turner**  
Secretary **Janet MacCausland**  
Treasurer **Terry Carragher**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Connie Rogers** 07-08  
**Alan Reilly** 07-08  
**Rick Amaral** 07-08  
**Henry Cugno** 08-09  
**Max Arias** 08-09  
**Jim Brady** 08-09

[www.ocascuba.org](http://www.ocascuba.org) O.C.A. meetings are held every Thursday evening at 7:00 pm at the Midas Muffler Shop on Route 1 in South Attleboro, MA. 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 1062  
Attleboro, MA 02703  
or: [bill@lanedesign.com](mailto:bill@lanedesign.com)

## A.P. Hill - *continued.*

announced that the next song would include a special guest, "Ed." Ed bounced up to the stage and joined the band with his harmonica. I've seen this happen



before and remembered our last Blackbeard's trip when the captain of our vessel had secured a spot with the band for Ed at the Complete Angler on Bimini. He was just as good this time as he was then and the crowd went wild. He finished his stint with the band and after insisting on signing a few autographs, we managed to pull him away for a couple of drinks at Rum Runners before retiring for the evening.

We all met the next day for a great breakfast at a place called Zorba's. Bill Weedon took off for some more shopping while the rest of us took a leisurely stroll around the square one more time before gathering our stuff and meeting Blair in the lobby of the hotel. He piled all of our gear into his van and delivered us to Blackbeard's.

We started with burgers, dogs and chicken around noon time. We found out that we would be diving that afternoon so it was strictly lemonade to wash down lunch. We then piled our gear onto Pirate's Lady where we were assigned our bunks and given the rules for the week which included salt water showers and thirty second fresh water rinse. Captain Red ran through the do's and don'ts and then introduced the crew. First mate was Cousin Dave, engineer was Nathan, dive master was Jeremy, deck hand was Bob and our cook was Brandy. The rest of our ship mates were members of a dive club from England. Annie, Stan, Ann, John, Martin, Henry, Alan, Tony and Clive would prove to be a great match for us. Red also announced that we would be staying close to Grand Bahama Island due to the unpredictable nature of the hurricane. No Bimini on this trip. Morning Star, another Blackbeard vessel would shadow us the entire week. The two boats would stay together for safety due to the unpredictable nature of the weather just to our south.

The first and only dive that day was Shark Junction just outside Freeport. As we were pulling up to the site, we saw another boat there with divers. It was a UNEXO boat and two of the divers getting out of the water were wearing chain mail suits. Apparently, they had just finished feeding some sharks. The UNEXO boat quickly left the site as soon as their divers were aboard and the Pirate's Lady took their place. We were eager to get this first dive under our belts and suited up quickly. We jumped in and were treated to numerous large Caribbean reef sharks, lionfish, jacks, grouper and more. Bill Lane was first to the bottom and decided to kneel down to wait for us. One of the sharks started swimming right at him when Bill realized that he was probably in the shark feeding position. Since he didn't have anything to offer the shark besides an arm or two, Bill quickly gave up this position in favor of swimming – away from the shark. The dive was 53' at it's deepest for 45 minutes with vis at around 50 ft. and water temp at 77 degrees. I think the vis was affected by the darkness that was falling late in the afternoon.

That evening, we pulled into a waterway on the island and tied up to a sea wall. This proved to be the rule rather than the exception for the rest of the week. We spent only one night out on the open water and it wasn't very comfortable. Paloma was pushing some wind around and Captain Red spent a good deal of time listening to the radio to get the latest forecast. Our diving would be restricted to the south side of Grand Bahama Island and Red headed east to get to sites that were seldom visited.

On day 2, we dove on sites like Blaire House with it's numerous swim throughs and sea life. We saw lionfish everywhere and enjoyed vis of 100' or more. Ethridge was a wreck dive that featured coral gardens surrounding the wreck. While we were on the Ethridge, Paloma sat over Cuba and Red was visibly annoyed by her indecision. The diving got better at Fountain of Youth

where we saw angels, parrotfish, squirrelfish, tangs and large lobsters in a farm of coral gardens. We returned to Shark Junction for a night dive where, among other sea creatures, we saw a moray eel.

The rest of the trip was much like the second day with one exception, The Sea Star. A great wreck dive, she's a 200' long fishing trawler sunk as an artificial reef in 91' of water with plenty of opportunities to penetrate. Bill Lane even found the latrine. There was great sea life on this one. Ed saw a large green moray.

The diving was different from my last Blackbeard's trip to Bimini. We were closer to civilization, but the sites were still pristine and the fish life plentiful. We got along great with the Brits. Henry played a metal bodied guitar and liked the Blues which suited Ed just fine. They played music together on more than one occasion. Most nights on the water, we played cards. Hi Lo Jack was the game of choice. Might have been some beer and a bit of scotch involved as well.

We didn't realize it, but the last full day of diving would be Tuesday. Paloma had passed over Cuba to the north and had blown apart. She was no longer a hurricane, just a pile of wind that was changing directions and changing our trip. We did three dives that day. Shroom Fields and McLain's Tiger were day dives. They were similar in that they were flat coral beds with swim throughs. Bill Lane, Connie and I were swimming around McLain's Tiger when Bill pointed to my left. A large black tip shark was cruising toward us. He veered off, but came back for a second look. This time, closer. He was just curious and soon decided we weren't too exciting. It was a thrill to see this animal so close.

There were only four takers for the night dive on Wet Head. Ed, Bill Weedon, Bill Lane and me. The rest of the passengers were satisfied to have done this dive late in the day or not at all and were getting into some rum. The four of us came up with a game plan. We would scour the bottom in formation looking for a moray, a turtle and/or an octopus. We jumped in and began our mission. Formation was quickly broken as we looked for our quarry. Unfortunately, there were no turtles or morays to be found, but we did locate an octopus. This animal changes color to match it's surroundings and as it was hit with four high intensity beams of light it turned a fluorescent blue. Noticing that there wasn't anything near that color in the natural surroundings, I realized it was trying to match the color of the blinding light it was getting bombarded with. It was great to see that first hand. Maybe not so great for the octopus.

There would be only one dive the next morning on A.P. Hill before the wind shifted to the east and then the south which condemned the diving for the rest of the trip. I dove with Connie, Bill Lane and Eric in a mixture of coral heads and canyons along a sloping bottom. Plenty of Nassau grouper, hog fish and more. When we surfaced, the sea had changed and getting back onto the boat was tricky. All made it on okay and we started back on a westerly course. We sailed back to Freeport in six foot seas with the occasional eight footer and came through the channel at dead low tide. Red was visibly concerned as he had Jeremy call out the depth repeatedly. He was concerned that we were going to hit bottom and asked everyone to brace themselves. We made it through with inches to spare.

That night was spent at the dock in Freeport. We treated ourselves to a hot tub, swimming pool and fresh water showers. That evening, we hit the square again and some of our group ventured further. I was in bed by 10:00 and sound asleep shortly after that. Although, the Pirate's Lady poked her nose out into the open ocean the next morning, the diving was over as the wind blew in the wrong direction. It would not be safe to dive under these conditions. So we headed back into town and, after a game of pool volleyball, some of us rented mopeds for the afternoon. There's not much to see on Grand Bahama Island, but it was fun to take off with the Brits and do some above water exploring. Of course, we got separated, but managed to locate each other and find our way back to our starting point. All in all, it was a fun day even if it didn't include any diving.

That night was spent on the dock back at Blackbeard's. The obligatory tee shirt sales took place after dinner. We were then given a tour of some local establishments by our engineer, Nathan. This guy worked his butt off all week trying to keep us happy and this last night was going to be no exception. We spent this bar hopping tour with the Brits who enjoyed our company so much that they invited us to dive the Red Sea with them. Could be an OCA trip in the future!

The next morning brought the sad fact that we were leaving the Bahamas. We packed up our gear and Blair was there to cart us off to the airport. We said our good byes and promised to return. This trip was a great experience. The diving was good, the Brits were great, but being down in the Bahamas on a Blackbeard's trip with the OCA... priceless. **Henry C.**







Although I started diving in 1955, I've only kept dive records since 1977. I didn't get really active until I teamed up with John. I find the chart below very interesting. These dives were at Boston, Plymouth, and P-Town. **Dan Baker**



*John Garzia & Dan one afternoon in Duxbury.*

## DAN BAKER'S DIVE LOG

Year	Lobsters	Total Lobsters	Tanks	Total Tanks	Flounder	Total Flounder	Scallops	Total Scallops	Lobsters per Tank	Flounder per Tank	Scallops per Tank
1977			19								
1978	44	44	40	59					1.1		
1979	92	136	49	108					1.9		
1980	219	355	58	166					3.8		
1981	158	513	52	218					3.0		
1982	92	605	50	268					1.8		
1983	177	782	35	303					5.1		
1984	180	962	34	337					5.3		
1985	265	1232	38	375					7.0		
1986	272	1504	24	399					11.3		
1987	513	2017	40	439	8		2		12.8	0.0	
1988	478	2495	33	472	62	70		2	14.5	0.0	
1989	637	3132	36	508	4	74		2	17.7	0.0	
1990	345	3477	36	544	3	77		2	9.6	0.0	
1991	128	3605	30	574	24	101	91	93	4.3	0.0	3.0
1992	155	3760	27	601	23	124	118	211	5.7	0.2	4.4
1993	102	3862	18	619	15	139	36	247	5.7	1.9	2.0
1994	153	4015	27	646	9	148	159	406	5.7	0.1	5.9
1995	66	4081	25	671	21	169	320	726	2.6	0.1	12.8
1996	29	4110	21	692	6	175	323	1049	1.4	0.8	15.4
1997	75	4185	25	717	8	183	195	1244	3	0.3	7.8
1998	59	4244	18	735	4	187	174	1418	3.3	0.2	9.7
1999	84	4328	18	753	0	187	83	1501	4.7	0	4.6
2000	179	4507	31	784	15	202	90	1591	5.8	0.5	2.9
2001	64	4571	30	814	23	225	47	1638	2.1	0.77	1.6
2002	77	4648	33	847	15	240	110	1748	2.3	0.45	3.3
2003	50	4698	30	877	12	252	96	1844	1.7	0.4	3.2
2004	122	4820	23	900	16	268	20	1864	5.3	0.7	0.9
2005	149	4969	38	938	19	287	0	1864	3.9	0.5	0
2006	83	5052	25	963	10	297	25	1889	3.3	0.4	1
2007	88	5140	28	991	12	309	0	1889	3.1	0.5	0
2008	90	<b>5230</b>	25	<b>1016</b>	6	<b>315</b>	6	<b>1895</b>	3.6	0.24	0.24



*Jim Brady, Max and Rick Amaral during a fall dive in Maine.*

*In celebration of 50 years of diving, join us for*

# THE 24<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S DAY TREASURE HUNT DIVE

**FORT WETHERILL STATE PARK, JAMESTOWN, RHODE ISLAND**

Sponsored By: The Old Colony Amphibians

Check-In: 11:00 am

Dive Time: 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

Storm Date: Sunday, January 4, 2009

Registration Fee: \$15.00

*Open to all certified divers.*



**PRIZES, FOOD AND FUN!**

Win:

**Dive Gear Hats**

**T-Shirts**

**Air Cards** and more...!



For more information or directions, contact  
Bill at (508) 339-8871 or Ian at (401) 647-2061.  
*Now honestly, what could be more fun than diving on  
New Year's Day for prizes and food???*

## December 2008

- 18 **Winter Meeting at Ian's Shop**  
Nominations for officers  
7:00 pm
- 20 **OCA Holiday Party**, Hosted by Bill & Dierdre Weedon, details inside.  
Pot luck @ 7:00 pm

## January 2009

- 1 **New Year's Day Dive**,  
Fort Wetherill, 11 am check-in,  
Noon dive.
- 8 **Winter Meeting at Giant Stride Dive Shop** Election of 2009 officers, 7:00 pm
- 22 **Winter Meeting at Ian's Shop**  
7:00 pm
- 24 **50th Anniversary OCA Banquet**  
Johnson & Wales, Seekonk  
6:00 pm cocktails, 7:00 pm dinner.  
\$40/pp, Details to come.  
Chair: Bill Turner

# PREZ BOX

*Cont. from front cover.*

were busy most of the day taking skiers or tubers out on the lake. The tubing, in particular, provided a lot of entertainment for both onlookers and participants. As always, there was an abundance of great food.

Winter Island weekend was excellent, with Kudos' to Eric Alphonse for pulling it together. We had 4 boats and plenty of divers both days; the scallops mostly cooperated.

Fall P-Town weekend had decent weather and attendance. We had 5 boats and a dozen club divers, most coming with family members as well. The usual great barbeque feed, plus lots of lobsters were enjoyed by all.

On my end, I accomplished my goal of diving new sites, including some wrecks. I finally made it to the Empire Knight wreck on Boon Island Ledge in Maine, after trying to get out there since college. I'll be back out there for sure next year.

I also had my boat out on Cape Cod for a week this August. I had forgotten how nice the Cape is in the summer, even with the crowds. I had the chance to dive the Port Hunter, which is a wonderful, relatively easy wreck dive, plus other sites around Martha's Vineyard. I later realized after looking through club records that the Port Hunter used to be a fairly regular club dive. Maybe we should do this again?

We now look forward to our 50th anniversary banquet on January 24. I can predict that OCA members will entertain us with lots of Foggy Mask awards and stories.

I hope that we can make 2009 a year to remember! *Ian*



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



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