

January

- 21 **Block 5** W.D.C. starts
- 27 **Annual OCA Banquet**, Hose Co. No. 6 in Pawtucket. 6:30 for cocktails, dinner 7:30ish. *More details to follow.* Bill Turner.

February

- 11 **Block 6** W.D.C. starts

March

- 3-4 **Boston Sea Rovers.com**
- 4 **Block 7 – The Final Block** W.D.C. starts

The Old Colony Historical Society in Taunton, MA, has an on going exhibit of the **Andrea Doria** tragedy, which sank on the fog off the coast of Nantucket on July 25, 1956. 51 people lost there lives. There will be a talk given on January 18th at 7:00 PM by an impassioned Mr. Hanna. The exhibit will run until April 6.

There is a current exhibit: **“Sanctuary Whales and Whale Research”** at the Scituate Nature Center off Rte. 3 on Jacob’s Lane, Norwell, MA. through to the end of January. It encompasses of photographs and sound recordings of whales, primarily Humpback whales in the Stellwagon Bank National Marine Sanctuary, and the tagging program by a group of researchers from the sanctuary, NOAA, NE Science Center, Cornell University, and others. Call: 781-659-2559. Admission to see the photos is free but the rest of the museum has a \$5.00 entrance. *(Janet would enjoy company)*



Rick A. assists an old fart with his fins. Hey, that weight belt looks like a classic 1973 version?!

PREZ BOX

Cont. from front cover.

and had a good time. Kudos goes out to Karen Roach for all her efforts gathering up prizes for the event. We had a lot of great prizes that were given away during the raffle.

This year’s banquet will be held January 27th at Hose Co #6 in Pawtucket. I am looking forward to going. The banquet is always a fun time to eat and socialize with the members, some that I don’t get to see often. Contact Bill Turner about making reservations for the event. I’ll see you there.

Finally we have the RISAA fishing show March 30 - April 1. This is a great event that gets bigger and better every year. If you have a boat or like fishing in the ocean you won’t want to miss it

Dive in and have fun!

Bob Riecke



www.ocascuba.org



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Attleboro, Massachusetts 02703



PREZ BOX

Happy New Year everyone, 2007. Boy where has the time gone? It has been a great year working with you all as your president and participating in the club events while having fun. Congratulations goes out to Ian Cambell who is your newly elected president. I'm sure he will do a great job running things and planning club events. Congratulations also go to the in-coming B.O.D. members Connie Rogers, Rick Amaral, and Alan Reilly.

I had a good turn out for the annual Christmas party. There was enough food brought to feed a small army and plenty to drink as well. There was a good time had by all and it was fun to get to talk to everyone throughout the evening. Thanks to everyone that came, it was a fun time.

This year's New Year's Day Dive got postponed a week because of inclement weather. It rained all day with strong south winds, not the best weather for holding an event. The weather more than cooperated the next week we had great weather: sunny, warm, and not windy. The visibility was extremely poor that day (I could see for inches) but everyone still found there shells anyway

Cont. on back cover.



By Michael Levenson, The Globe Globe, December 27, 2006

A maritime battle has erupted off Cape Ann, pitting old salts who set down lobster pots against scuba divers who glide silently beneath the surface, bobbing and weaving between their rope lines.

Lobstermen say divers have been slipping deep underwater, using the cover of the sea to unlock their traps and steal their lobsters. Divers say lobstermen have been gunning their motorboats and yanking on the divers' flags to scare them out of the water.

City officials in Gloucester have vowed to intervene, but the allegations have stirred up a debate over who really rules the sea, lobstermen or their underwater counterparts. Both sides say they want to share the waters off Cape Ann, but with hundreds of divers and lobstermen competing for the most bountiful spots, many doubt they can coexist in peace.

"It's the Hatfields and the McCoys," grumbled Fred Calhoun, 72, who has been diving off Gloucester since he was a teenager. "It's a feud."

Fueling the latest skirmish in the undersea conflict is a local ordinance in Gloucester that requires divers to signal their presence with a flag attached to a buoy. Lobstermen strongly support the rule, saying the telltale red and white markers help them navigate safely around divers.

But divers say that with so many of them sharing coastal waters, they have been getting tangled in the lines that anchor the flags. They have petitioned the City Council to repeal the rule and allow them to fly only one flag for every group of divers who take to the sea. The Council has held two hearings on the issue, and has a third planned for next month. But so far, the city has refused to amend the rule.

"We have made it clear that we're hearing the concerns of both parties but we're giving more weight to the boat drivers," said City Councilor Bruce Tobey. "The potential harm from getting whacked by a propeller is probably weightier than the risks of getting tangled in a line."

The stalemate has unleashed allegations by divers who say

lobstermen are backing the "one diver, one flag," rule to force them out of the sea. The Gloucester ordinance is stricter than state law, which requires only one flag per group of divers.

"They basically do not want divers in the water, so they look for every nook and cranny to keep them out," said Angelo Correnti, president of the Bay State Council of Divers, which has been lobbying to repeal the rule. "Their theory is they've been fishing for centuries and divers have only been doing it for decades."

Lobstermen counter that the newcomers would be more welcome if they followed the rules. "It's been the infamous thing, they go down there and rob your trap," said Bill Adler, executive director of the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Assoc. "If he's down there with bubbles coming up, and your trap is empty, and he comes up with a bag of lobsters, it's like, 'Wait a minute here, pal.'"

The hunt for lobsters has gotten particularly fierce in the last few decades as increasing numbers of divers take to the water, outfitted with gloves and heavy-duty

bags to snare the crustaceans from the ocean floor, divers and lobstermen say. "Everybody's trying to get in the same water, and I think everybody would like to have their own little slice of heaven all to themselves," said Dave Stillman, owner of Cape Ann Divers, a dive shop in Gloucester.

Both sides acknowledge that a few unscrupulous divers have stolen lobsters from traps, and a few irate lobsterman have tugged on the flags divers carry to give them a jolt. There have also been instances of cooperation: Lobstermen often ask divers to help them cut loose a line that has tangled in their propeller.

Divers and lobstermen say they want to see more cooperation between the two sides. But with only so much water to fish, some doubt that a peace is possible.

"There's a bad element on both sides that aren't going to pay attention to the rules," said Arthur Sawyer, 50, a lifelong lobsterman in Gloucester. "There's going to be divers who raid lobster traps and there's going to be lobstermen who violate any kind of diving rule because they feel someone's raiding their traps."

Lobstermen, divers do battle over who rules sea off Cape Ann



From the **RETRO** files.

Dig into your photo albums and share with us the memories of when you started diving or an event during your diving career.

This Month's feature was submitted by me, **Bill Lane**. I was certified in 1973 after yearning to dive my whole life. Finally, out from under the wing of my overbearing mother, who was frightened by the sport, my dreams were fulfilled and diving became a regular hobby. Peg was certified shortly afterwards and we dove throughout southeastern New England until Emily was born in 1981.

Peg hung up her equipment, which still hangs in the closet, and I took a 'child-rearing' break from '83 to '94. Nelson Nedde begged me to keep diving and join the OCA way back then. Yikes, I'd be sporting a 25-year pin!

This is one of our one-tank excursions from our yacht – the row boat, in Marshfield. Wow, times were simpler then...



Peg's sister Nancy was the captain while Peg & I kicked behind.

Rebreathers “Is technology making things easier?”

Rebreather technology has been around for a long time and is growing in popularity among technically inclined recreational divers. I have not used one yet but have done some reading about them. Rebreathers allow divers to dive deeper for longer periods of time when compared to mixed gas, traditional open-circuit scuba systems.

Here's how it works: Inhaled air is 21% oxygen while exhaled air is 15 to 16% oxygen. In conventional open circuit systems, this oxygen is wasted. Rebreathers use a closed or semi-closed circuit. Instead of releasing the exhaled air into the water it is forced through a chemical scrubber that removes the carbon dioxide (CO₂). The 'scrubbed' air is then supplemented with oxygen from a tank bringing it up to the 21% that is needed to breath. Because gas gets compressed as a diver descends, a diluent is needed from another tank that maintains the gas volume in the rebreather circuit. The diluent is ordinary air or trimix.

This concept has been around for almost a century but MODERN TECHNOLOGY has made the system much safer and more capable. However, some units have a label on them that reads “DANGER: This unit is capable of killing you without warning” ...and the price starts around \$5,000 .

So is this technology worth it? If it gets more people under the water that is a good thing as Jean-Michel Cousteau wrote in his forward to Cathy Church's “My Under Water Photo Journey.” If more people were exposed to the beauty and complexity of the under sea world, they'd be much less likely to pollute and destroy it. People who have seen a coral reef up close tend to care more about reefs than people who have not.

The instinct of many people who spend time in nature is to wall it off from the great unwashed masses. But I wonder if we would be better off encouraging people to appreciate it. Underwater, at least, advances in technology are doing just that.

Don't forget to pack the duct tape

“McGiver Diver”

Next time: dive computers

Hi everybody! I am home in the evergreen state- Washington in the outskirts of Sedro Woolley, in the northwest part of the state. We arrived at the beginning of winter, which is very wet most of the time. No diving for a while. We are still digging our stuff out of boxes, and the days are shorter and darker every day. There is a dive shop in the town of Anacortes which I will visit when the weather

improves. The local scenery is spectacular, with high Cascade mountains in almost all directions, and the Olympic range in the background in some directions. We were not affected by the torrential rain that hit Seattle a week ago. 1 perk of being in the boonies on high ground is that the water can find a place to run off. Please send any news to elmoore1@wavecable.com. Happy winter diving and best ever,

Ellen Moore

Congratulations New Officers!

Election results from the January 4th meeting are as follows:

President - **Ian Campbell**
Vice President - **Bill Turner**
Treasurer - **Terry Carragher**
Secretary - **Bill Lane**

Board of Directors
Connie Rogers 07-08
Alan Reilly 07-08
Rick Amaral 07-08

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 **Bob Riecke**
Vice President **Bill Turner**
Secretary **Bill Lane**
Treasurer **Terry Carragher**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ian Campbell 05-06
(B. Danserreau) **Ray Baril** 05-06
Keith McNulty 05-06
Henry Cugno 06-07
Fred LeBlanc 06-07
Janet MacCausland 06-07

www.ocascuba.org O.C.A. meetings are held every Thursday evening at 7:00 pm at the Scuba Center 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:

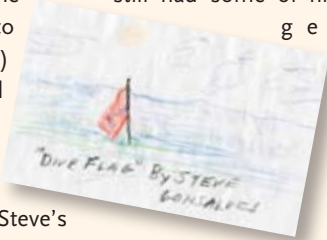
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or directly to Bill Lane, editor of *On The Line*:
bill@lanedesign.com

Dear Skoobie Klub:

I enjoyed reading the latest newsletter. It really is a nice publication. I was amused to read about Steve Gonsalves and his HUGE lobster. Having dived with him many times I can attest to his expertise in catching lobsters. However I believe that I know his secret. He carries a LOBSTAH MAGNIT with him when he dives!

It was also amusing to note that he parted company with his dive flag. For such an experienced diver this shouldn't be such a common occurrence. I can recall an occasion with Steve, John Garzia and I were diving off the power plant a few years ago. John had allowed me to handle the helm while he rested and we were following Steve's dive flag. After a while we heard someone hollering HAY (maybe it was HEY) and since we didn't need any hay we ignored the hollering. Finally a small red lobster boat came by and the skipper told us that someone wanted us to pick him up. We went about a HALF A MILE and found our erstwhile super lobstah divah who had parted company with his flag! Good old Steve, he still had some of his 100 cubic feet of air left and wanted to get to another bag (his was a bit heavy naturally) and a flag. We very generously complied with his wishes and then I turned the boat about and proceeded to hunt for his flag (one half mile away) and I eventually found it. If any of you are familiar with Steve's anemic dive flag (it closely resembles some of those lobster flats) it was indeed quite an accomplishment. As we were picking up the flag John asked how the devil I could find it. He didn't know that us OLDE SALTS carry a dive flag MAGNIT!



I miss diving and the club and am glad that the change to the by-laws will probably pass so I won't be delinquent so often!

Have fun and keep making bubbles!

The OLDE DIVAH,
Bob Chamillard



"Wait, I thought they said treasure hunt with scuba?!?"

Aluminum 80 Tank Alert - from the Atlantis Rangers

Some dive shops have begun refusing to even admit certain aluminum tanks on their premises. The following is a list of those troubled scuba tanks that the DOT says are most likely made from the 6351-T6 aluminum alloy:

- All DOT-3AL tanks manufactured under one of the following exemptions or special permits: 6498, 7042, 8107, 8364, 8422
- All composite cylinders manufactured under one of the following exemptions: 7235, 8023, 8115
- All Walter Kidde DOT-3AL scuba tanks.
- All Cliff Impact DOT-3AL scuba tanks made before July 1990.
- All Luxfer 80.8 cu. ft. scuba tanks (S80.8) made before May 1987.
- All Luxfer 72 and 100 cu. ft. scuba tanks (S72, S100) made before August 1987.
- All Luxfer 80 cu. ft. scuba tanks (S80) made before January 1988.
- All Luxfer 50 and 92 cu. ft. scuba tanks (S50, S92) made before April 1988.
- All Luxfer 30 and 63 cu. ft. scuba tanks (S30, S63) made before May 1988.
- All Luxfer 40 cu. ft. scuba tanks (S40) made before June 1988.
- All other scuba tanks made in the US before February 1990 (except Catalina).
- All scuba tanks not made in the US.

Unless proven otherwise, all scuba tanks in the above list should be assumed as being made using the 6351-T6 alloy.

Also, it should be noted that Catalina cylinders were NEVER made from the 6351-T6 alloy. They were made using the alloy 6061-T6, which as of yet, has not been known to fail explosively. All of the manufacturers in the above list, except Walter Kiddie, switched to the 6061-T6 alloy on the dates shown.

The DOT has not as of yet issued a recall of these tanks – only a safety alert. Essentially, if you own or use a scuba tank in the above list, you should consider it as being unsafe until you learn for certain that it is made from the new alloy.

Images of Luxfer markings maybe found at: <http://www.luxfercylinders.com/downloads/docs/scubaguide.pdf>



Karen, the gift getter, Roach organizes the prizes.



C'mon, c'mon! Hey, how come Mary's winning everything?!?"