



May 2007
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On the Line

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OLD COLONY AMPHIBIANS

PREZ BOX

As most members know, the OCA Board of Directors is required to meet at least 4 times a year. Subject matter for meetings covers any issues identified by our members during the course of meetings or dives, plus any concerns that the board has.

We met a few weeks ago; the following is a summary of our meeting.

1) Seems like each year there is discussion regarding how to get members to pay their dues on time. Each year there is talk about new tricks to make this happen. A year ago we moved the dues payable date to April 1 in the hope that this would help. It didn't. The latest suggestion was to create a "late penalty" of \$10. In the end we decided to leave things as they are. We are a club, not the IRS. If members don't want to participate, it's really their decision. Our by-laws have provisions for members who are in arrears, so we decided to leave well enough alone, and enforce the provisions of the by-laws if and when needed. As of now we only

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What is your first thought when you look out the window and see ice on your roof? It must be Spring – lets go diving? Well not exactly but when it's May and a tune-up dive is scheduled what's a little ice. This year's tune-up dive was well attended in spite of the weather, which wasn't as bad as had been predicted. It actually turned out to be a sunny day. Reported water temperature was 45 degrees. We had a total of 19 people, 12 of whom dove. The non-divers were either guests or those of us gracious enough to loan out our gear to those who left some essential items at home; it had nothing to do with being cold, honest!

If we give out a foggy mask to all who are worthy of one, the banquet will have to start mid-day to fit them all in. We had forgotten weights, flags, knives...underwear. We wondered why you drove to Bull Point – who would have guessed it was modesty? Regulators free flowed, regulators were connected backwards, tanks that were out of vis, dry suit zippers not quite up. And Connie's foggy mask will remain a secret now that she realizes that I can be bribed with her sisters chocolate chip cookies. Janet, Max and Jim win the award for the longest tune-up dive – just shy

of an hour. The downside being you three was missing Connie's infamous chocolate covered strawberries. Jay waited patiently for others to fix their various problems. Being one of the few with none, he saw the day as a confidence builder.

Speaking of Jay, once again, our many thanks to him and Bill who brought the necessities for a cookout including a pop up tent in case of rain. And also filled in as grill master when I had to leave. My apologies for the chair leaving early but first birthdays take priority. Thanks for understanding. I also need to apologize for the hot dogs – who knew

we had such refined tastes in dogs. I vow to never again buy store brand. And gear wasn't all that was forgotten - I forgot the onions!

I don't know that I would go as far as saying Fort Wetherell is the "Killington of diving," but it is a great place for a tune-up dive and cookout. All in all it was a perfect day with decent weather and good friends. The tune up did exactly what it was supposed to, reminded us of what we had forgotten over the winter, what minor adjustments/repairs were needed and got us ready for another fabulous year of diving. OCA is off to a great start. **Terry C.**

Tune-Up Dive 2007



Submitted by Rocco via Key Largo

GEORGE CARLIN'S NEW RULES FOR 2007:

New Rule: Stop giving me that pop-up ad for classmates.com! There's a reason you don't talk to people for 25 years. Because you don't particularly like them! Besides, I already know what the captain of the football team is doing these days – mowing my lawn.

New Rule: Don't eat anything that's served to you out a window unless you're a seagull. People are acting all shocked that a human finger was found in a bowl of Wendy's chili. Hey, it costs less than a dollar. What did you expect it to contain? Lobster?

New Rule: Stop saying that teenage boys who have sex with their hot, blonde teachers are permanently damaged. I have a better description for these kids: "Lucky bastards."

New Rule: Ladies, leave your eyebrows alone. Here's how much men care about your eyebrows: Do you have two of them? Okay, we're done.

New Rule: There's no such thing as flavored water. There's a whole aisle of this crap at the supermarket, water, but without that watery taste. Sorry, but flavored water is called a soft drink. You want flavored water? Pour some scotch over ice and let it melt. That's your flavored water.

New Rule: Stop screwing with old people. Target is introducing a redesigned pill bottle that's square, with a bigger label. And the top is now the bottom. And by the time grandpa figures out how to open it, his ass will be in the morgue. Congratulations, Target, you just solved the Social Security crisis.

New Rule: The more complicated the Starbucks order, the bigger the asshole. If you walk into a Starbucks and order a "decaf grande, half-soy, half-low fat, iced vanilla, double-shot, gingerbread cappuccino, extra dry, light ice, with one Sweet-n'-Low, and one NutraSweet," ooh, you're a huge asshole.

New Rule: Just because your tattoo has Chinese characters in it doesn't make you spiritual. It's right above the crack of your ass. And it translates to "beef with broccoli." The last time you did anything spiritual, you were praying to God you weren't pregnant. You're not spiritual. You're just high.

New Rule: No more gift registries. You know, it used to be just for weddings. Now it's for babies and new homes and graduations from rehab. Picking out the stuff you want and having other people buy it for you isn't gift giving, it's the white people version of looting.

New Rule: And this one is long overdue: No more bathroom attendants. After I zip up; some guy is offering me a towel and a mint like I just had sex with George Michael. I can't even tell if he's supposed to be there, or just some freak with a fetish. I don't want to be on your web cam, dude. I just want to wash my hands.

New Rule: When I ask how old your toddler is, I don't need to hear "27 months." "He's two" will do just fine. He's not a cheese. And I didn't really care in the first place.

New Rule: If you ever hope to be a credible adult and want a job that pays better than minimum wage, then for God's sake don't pierce or tattoo every available piece of flesh. If so, then plan your future around saying, "Do you want fries with that?"

Time again for my annual reminder to all of us who don't own a boat.

Think about where the club and we would be without our friends who are kind enough to share their boats with us. I don't know about you but the thoughts of shore dives all summer is not very appealing. And that's an awfully long surface swim for scalloping at Winter Island without the aid of a boat.

My point?? Let's think about how much the price of gas, oil, insurance etc has increased in the last few years. And don't forget the cost of putting in at certain boat ramps. I joined the club in 1997 and the suggested gift was \$20. Ten plus years of diving later I see people still offering the same amount, sometimes less. I know that when you ask most of the captains they say that's fine, whatever. They are not in the charter business and can't "charge" us - it's just our way of saying thank you and in a very small way helping to share in the expenses. Call around to dive shops and see what it would cost to go out for two dives and keep in mind those two dives are half a day at best not a full day on the water like we usually do. Not to mention the entertainment and camaraderie!

So let's try and be a bit more realistic and generous this year when we thank the clubs lifeblood. **Terry C.**

Aluminum 80 Tank Alert Update to the Update

In our January newsletter we reprinted an article from the Atlantis Ranger Reporter regarding dangers of aluminum tanks made from alloy 6351-T6. Since then, we have been made aware from several sources that the dangers were overstated, and that tanks made from this alloy have been deemed okay to use, but with enhanced testing.

The DOT issued a final rule last August stating that tanks made from 6351-T6 must be subjected to recurrent eddy current testing for cracking in the neck area, every 5 years, and that tanks tested under this protocol must get special markings to indicate that they have been "Re-Qualified." So don't throw away your old Luxfer tank, but be aware that it may have to be tested to keep it in service.

The full DOT regulation and a related article are posted on our web site: www.ocascuba.org



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 **Bill Lane**

Treasurer **Terry Carragher**

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Henry Cugno 06-07

Fred LeBlanc 06-07

Janet MacCausland 06-07

Connie Rogers 07-08

Alan Reilly 07-08

Rick Amaral 07-08

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:

Old Colony Amphibians
P.O. Box 1062
Attleboro, MA 02703

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

Spring P-Town 2007

The weather during our annual Spring P-Town Weekend could have been better but we still had 6 hardy souls who dove on Saturday.

Ian brought his new boat and took Jeff and Eric on Saturday while Fred and Alan joined me on my boat. The water temp was 40° plus or minus the deeper you went. The lobsters were not everywhere but we got a few.

Saturday night 18 of us enjoyed a delicious cookout and party. Thanks to everyone who brought a dish and thanks to Jeff for the home brew. We were able to stay outdoors for the cookout as the rain finally held off for a bit.

Sunday, there were only 4 divers so we all went on Ian's boat and I am glad we did because Ian has the fully enclosed cockpit. When the rain and wind started to pick up, we were all very thankful to be protected from the elements.

As always, I hope a good time was had by all.

Bill T.



June

- 1 **Friday Night Dive**
Fort Wetherill, 7:30
Ian Campbell
- 3 **Scallop Dive** Salem, Rick
Amaral, time T.B.D.
- 15 **Friday Night Dive**
Fort Wetherill, 7:30
Bill Weedon
- 24 **Plymouth Lobster Dive** Bill
Turner, T.B.D.
- 29 **Friday Night Dive**
Fort Wetherill, 7:30
John Stanford

July

- 8 **Marshfield Lobster Dive** Bill
Turner & Bill Lane, T.B.D.
- 13 **Friday Night Dive**
Location T.B.D., 7:30
Henry Cugno
- 15 **Quarry Dive**, Brownstone's,
Portland, CT, Jeff Davis
Time - T.B.D.

PREZ BOX

Cont. from front cover.

have 4 members in arrears, which is not too bad.

2) Another annual problem is the Winter Island campout and getting members to pay their part of the camping fee. We have recurrent problems “chasing” people for weeks after the fact. The new policy is that the camping fee of \$30 per night, per party is due the second meeting before the Winter Island weekend (fee due by July 26, the trip this year is Aug 4/5). This does not preclude people who want to sign up at the last minute, but the camping fee will be due immediately upon signing up for people who sign up after July 26. People who attend Winter Island (and P-Town-Pamet) should be aware that boat captains incur launch fees, so remember this please when helping out with costs.

3) We reviewed the issue of which club positions are exempt from dues. This is currently Secretary and Treasurer. We see no reason to make any changes.

4) Increasing club membership is the hot topic this year. It's natural to have turnover in any club, as members move on to different locations and priorities in their lives. We've had more people leaving than joining however in the last few years, and we all want to change that and at least keep the membership more or less stable. Right now that means getting more members. Best strategies include talking up the club to dive classes, which is underway at the Scuba Center, but we need folks to do this at other shops.

Distribution of our new club brochures to dive shops and at diving events is ongoing, which a few members are actively doing. We need all of our members to talk up the club at the shops they frequent and at diving events.

As part of this discussion we got into many stories of members initial experiences in the club. Some stories were good, some were not. The bottom line is that new members in the club need to be treated with concern and friendship. New members don't know our culture, they don't know how our boat dives are handled and they likely don't know the dive sites either. Many of our members dive solo, especially on night lobster dives, but new members are likely not comfortable doing that. New members who attend their first club dives need to have their needs assessed and they need to be paired up (if that's what they want) with a club diver who knows the site. This points up the need for dive chairs to do a more active job of coordinating the dive. This means doing boat assignments with forethought as to who is experienced and who isn't, and making appropriate assignments. Members going on club dives need to remember to show up on time, or communicate with the chairperson if going to be late, otherwise their boat assignment may not be there when they arrive!

Dive Safely! *Ian Campbell*

<<First>><<Last>>
<<Street>>
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