



September 2008
Vol. 49 · No. 3

On the Line

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OLD COLONY AMPHIBIANS

PREZ BOX

In Ian's defense, he provided me with this Prez Box in mid-July. My work schedule has not allowed me to produce this edition until now. My apologies to Ian and the membership - editor.

Hello OCA members.

Summer's fully underway and we're already halfway through the warm part of the dive season. OCA has made 3 Friday night dives at Ft Wetherill/Castle Hill with good turnout, 3-4 boats for each dive, plenty of lobsters and a great menu of hot dogs, sauerkraut and PERFECTLY cut onions! We even had a meeting at Ft Wetherill for a 4th dive; the dive didn't happen due to rough surf, but we still managed to chow down on the hot dogs!

We have welcomed 6 new members so far this year: Joel Deschamps, Jim Cherubini, Louie Pitas, Louis Greenwood, Ed Fava and Dennis St Germain. It's great to have some new blood in the club. These members have come to us by word of mouth, through the RISAA fishing show and through contact with the Giant Stride Dive Shop. This

Cont. on back cover.



I have been hearing much lately about right whale sightings. It seems that the number of whales spotted in and around the Provincetown area is far greater than they have been in the past. Apparently, it is not unheard of to see these whales on occasion, but where fishermen used to see one or two have been reporting seeing these rare whales in groups of 12 or 13. But to have seen them for myself, well, it was an awesome site.

It would have been nice if the sun was shining. I was happy enough that the water was pretty calm that day. I was on a chartered boat to go diving. We had started from Onset Pier just a block from the Buzzard's Bay Dive Shop. We went north through the canal to our dive site

The first destination for this two-tank dive was the Pottstown. The Pottstown was a 197 foot long barge being towed by the tugboat Wathen. While at anchor during a storm on November 17, 1944, the Pottstown broke loose and sank. In 1947, the submerged barge was dynamited because it was deemed to be a hazard to navigation. There is little but some wooden beams at the site but it is a good site for lobstering.

We went down the 50' depth. I looked around while my dive buddy went on the hunt for is quarry. We went the perimeter of the site looking in and under the beams without much luck. It was only April, a little early yet for lobster. It didn't take me long to get cold. I signaled my buddy to keep on the dive but I was going back to the boat. I waited there as one by one the divers came out of the water. Alas, there were no lobster to be found, except an egger and some shorties.

After everyone was aboard and settled, we weighed anchor and started north to our next lobstering destination. Suddenly, the boat came to a stop and there was commotion about. I heard "whale" and went with the rest of the passengers, out to the bow to see what the commotion was about. In the distance, we saw what looked like a rock poking out of the water. But unlike a rock, this one (I'll call him Heckle) dipped under the water. Then there was another (who I'll call Jeckle). We watched them in the distance for

some time hoping to get a better view. Wouldn't it be great if one of them just jumped right out of the water!!

Then someone saw another head peep out of the water off the port (left) side. This one I'll call Pete. And then another, I named Repete. They whales seemed as curious about us as we were about them. Each time a head popped out of the water, it was a little closer than it had been before.

The boat engine had been idling all this time. The captain turned off the boat engine to reduce the noise. This seemed to help. Pete and Repete swam back and forth. Slowly with each pass, they came a bit closer and closer. Then suddenly Pete turned directly toward the boat. His

head was out of the water with his mouth wide open. He was swimming right for the boat. When he was about 10 feet from the boat, he turned suddenly and swam alongside the boat right at the surface so we could see him almost completely. It was magnificent!!

Then Repete, not to be outdone by Pete, did likewise – first moving directly toward us, then at about 10 feet from the boat, turned and swam along side of us. It didn't take them long to tire of the game. Or maybe their curiosity was satisfied. Whatever the reason, both Pete and Repete started moving away from the boat about then. We continued to watch them, hoping for another close encounter. Occasionally, I turned my attention to Heckle and Jeckle, hoping they would become as curious as Pete and Repete. But they kept their distance

Just when we thought we had seen all there was going to be to see, someone caught sight of yet another whale on the starboard side. She was making quite a commotion. She, Mama, was blowing water through her air hole, turning in the water, occasionally lifting a fin out of the water. She was really moving around. In hind sight, I think she may have been signaling to the other whales.

Mama waved a fin in the air as a mother in the park would signal the children. "Play time is over. Let's go." Believing, or maybe just wish, she was waving at us. We, of

Continued on Page 3.

Whale Watching



Capt'n Nels steams out of Salem Harbor during Winter Island Weekend.

Thank you Red!

We all want to thank Red at Giant Stride Dive Shop for allowing us to infiltrate his shop once a month for a regular OCA summer meeting. His generosity has not only been welcomed but we have gained several new members because of it.

From all of the OCA family, thank you Red!



50 Years of OCA

Any OCA members who have contact with past members are asked to pass the word that we are trying to have some big 50th Anniversary celebrations next year. If possible, get their contact info to anybody in the BOD so we can get in touch with these people.



Above: Looks like Max is heading out for a year of diving with all that gear... or opening up his own dive shop. Naw, he's just waiting for the boat to take he and the rest out to the Isle of Shoals a few weeks ago. Looks like a beautiful location. Is that Vermont Max?

Right: So does anyone take pictures of anyone else's boat? Rick's got the market cornered on images of Capt'n Nels! ...oh wait, I took this during the Marshfield Lobster Dive.

Earl King & Art Legere visit the club

OCA members were treated by a surprise visit from Earl King & Art Legere during our June 5th meeting at Ian's Midas shop. Earl arrived with the gyro-compass he and Art salvaged from the U-853 during a dive in 1973. He told us all about the dive, the "treasure" and the newness of the event including a photocopy of an article written in The Sun Chronicle. According to Earl, this PR landed them some heavy-duty and secretive salvage work including a few 'missions' involving the FBI.

I'll have the Sun Chronicle article available during our 50th Anniversary this January as it's too lengthy to fit in this edition. Thanks Earl and Art for sharing your stories and coming back to visit old and new friends!



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 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

Whale Watch - continued.

course, waved back. She waved another fin. Papa swam up to join her. He seemed to be assisting with the calling of the others to them, using his tail, breaching it out of the water and slamming it down.

Yet another whale, Floyd, from out of nowhere came and joined Mama and Papa. But still Heckle and Jeckle off in the distance in front of the boat and Pete and Repete on the port side did not respond. Maybe Mama realized they could not see her or Papa motioning to them. The boat was blocking the view of Pete and Repete from Mama and Papa. Mama started blowing through her air hole as she and Papa continued to lift their fins and tails out of the water.

Motioning to the children didn't seem to be working so Mama started mewling. She was plenty close enough for us to hear her from the boat. It seems she was close enough for Pete and Repete to hear her too. Pete started swimming toward the stern of the boat. Then he took a wide arc and swam around the stern of the boat joining Mama, Papa and Floyd. In short time, Repete followed suit, swimming wide around the stern of the boat and joining the rest of the family.

Heckle and Jeckle, however, were still quite a ways in front of the boat and away from the rest of the family. Mama mewled a couple more times. She seemed to have gotten their attention as they, together, swam in front of the boat to join the rest of the family. With the family all together, they started heading toward the open water.

It was clear to us that our encounter with nature was over. So the boat was started up again and we continued on to our destination.

Karen Roach

Robert Chamillard, 85

YARMOUTHPORT - Robert B. Chamillard, 85, of Brooksville, Fla., passed away peacefully in his sleep Sunday morning, Aug. 10, 2008 at his daughter's home in Yarmouthport. He was the husband of the late Mary Ellen (Taylor) Chamillard, who passed away this past January, and the late Harriet (Coverly) Chamillard.

Born Feb. 21, 1923 in Attleboro, he was a son of the late Robert and Cassie (Brander) Chamillard.

Robert had been a resident of Brooksville for nearly 20 years and summered on Cape Cod during that time. He grew up in the Chartley section of Norton and later built his own home in Plainville, where he raised his two daughters and spent most of his life.

He received an engineering degree from Northeastern University and attended Virginia Tech while in the service. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, serving in European Theater.

Robert worked as a mechanical engineer for several local companies, including Larsen Tool in Attleboro, before retiring at Bergh Brothers in Attleboro Falls. He had also worked in Cambridge for many years.

Robert was a longtime member of the Shriners in North Attleboro and was the past master of Bristol Lodge A.F. & A.M. He was an associate member of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers and up until several years ago was an avid scuba diver, belonging to the Old Colony Amphibians of Attleboro.

In his retirement, he enjoyed designing and building model size sailboats and built one full-size sailboat for his grandson.

He is survived by two daughters and their husbands, Carol Lynch and her husband Barry of Brooksville and Karen Tetreault and her husband Skip of Yarmouthport; a sister, Beverly Brintnell of Mansfield; six grandchildren, Brendan and Joshua Lynch, Lisa, Robbie and Jackie Hallett and Brendan Tetreault; three great-grandchildren, Joshua, Alyssa and Lucas; and several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Robert's name to the Hockomock YMCA, c/o Reach out for Youth and Families Campaign, 300 Elmwood St., North Attleboro, MA 02760, the American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay, 139 Main St., Cambridge MA 02142 or Hernando-Pasco Hospice, 12260 Cortez Boulevard, Brooksville, FL 34613.

To sign an online guestbook for Mr. Chamillard, please visit www.sperry-mchoul.com.



A bit of Spring P-Town and Winter Island. I hope someone got lan some food before that suit falls off.

Sept. 2008

- 14 *Non-Club Event*
Divers For Hope Treasure Hunt Ft Wetherill. For details: diversforhope.org Registration: 10:00am, Dive: Noon
- 19 **Friday Night Dive**, TBD
Henry Cugno 7:00 PM
11:41pm/3.4
- 19 **P-Town Weekend** (19-21)
Horizon's Beach Resort
508-487-0042
horizonsbeach.com
Ian Campbell
- 20 *Non-Club Event*
International Coastal Clean-Up Day at Ft Adams. Details
Giant Stride Dive Shop or call
401 732 8808 10:00 AM

October 2008

- 3 **Friday Night Dive**, TBD
Henry Cugno 7:00 PM
11:14pm/2.9
- 5 **Giant Stride Dive Shop, Sea Hunt at Ft. Adams** (behind Eisenhower House) Registration 10:00am, Dive 11:00am
- 17 **Friday Night Dive**, Ft Wetherill
Janet McCausland, 7:00 pm
10:30pm/3.6
- 31 **Friday Halloween Night Dive**
TBD, Ian Campbell, 6:30 pm
10:03pm/3.0

PREZ BOX

Cont. from front cover.

summer we have had 3 meetings so far at Giant Stride; this has added variety to our meeting schedule, plus allowed some South County RI members easier access to a few meetings.

I want to extend my personal thanks to Red Godin at Giant Stride for hosting us at these meetings.

The BOD has taken on our 2009 fiftieth anniversary year celebrations as its primary action item for the rest of this year. We want to make 2009 a real celebration of the OCA, and we hope to get several past members to visit with us, tell stories and show artifacts. Any OCA members who have contact with past members are asked to pass the word that we are trying to have some big celebrations next year. Please tell these people what we are trying to do, and if possible, get their contact info to anybody in the BOD so we can get in touch with these people.

So far we only have one lobster and one fish submitted for largest size awards. There's a lot of summer left so let's get some more entries in! *Ian*



Marshfield Dive, July 13. Beautiful weather and a few bugs to be had. Wind piped up around noon but no plans were aborted.



www.ocascuba.org



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