

DIVE LOG

The Bimonthly Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire

“T’was a few
weeks before
Christmas...”

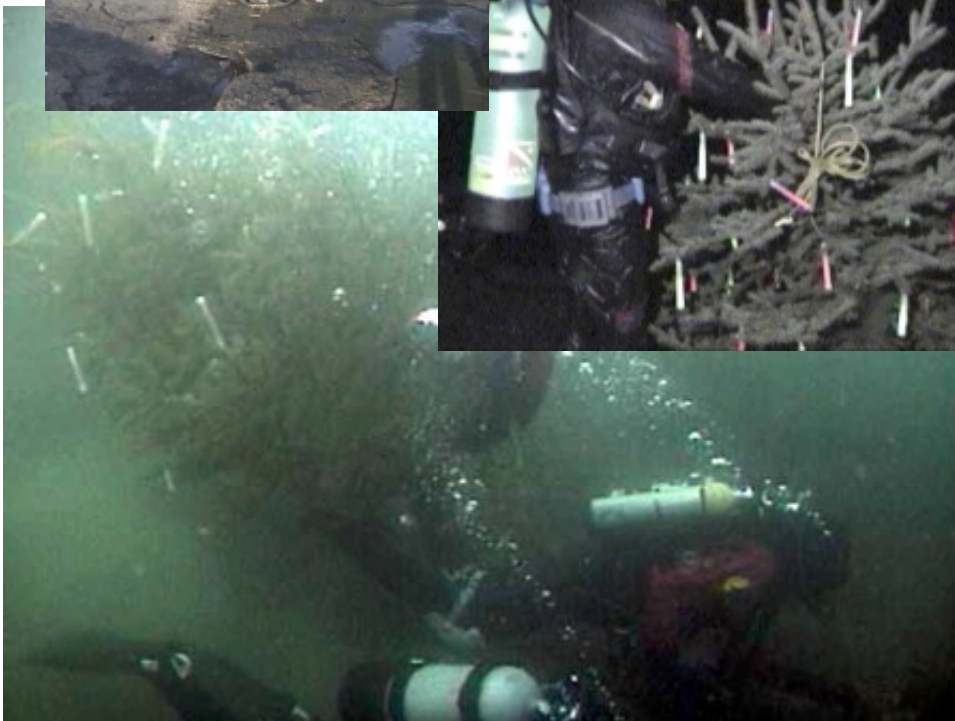


photo credits to
Linda and Kerry Hurd

Presidents Corner

Before I start on the club, by now I'm sure that you've all heard that I've recently had bypass surgery. No heart attack, I was fortunate enough to heed the warning signs. So surgery and recovery are going very well. I'm looking forward to being my old self again doing 1000 foot dives in caves with five mile penetrations. Well—how about 90 foot dives and 500 foot penetrations. Most of all I was very humbled and appreciative of all of your concerns and support after word got out. That's why I think so much of UDNH. It's a great club with even greater people. Again my many tanks for your concerns and support.

Now, from the President's corner—

With another year of great diving, wonderful memories of club gatherings and outings behind us, I am looking forward to serving the club in the new year. With a great board of officers I feel we can do a pretty good job of coordinating some great diving activities and interesting and fun social events. These things cannot be done by the board alone. It takes participation from all active club members. **THAT'S YOU!!**

Remember this is your club too. Just think of the endless possibilities we can accomplish working together for a great year of diving and fun. One of my personal objectives is to finalize plans and set a date for the navigation dive at Nubble Light in late spring. The dry run last fall was partially successful – minus some minor compass error in setting up — my goof! But fear not the plan is a good one and should be good training for all experience levels.

As far as meetings go, I plan to start them precisely at 7:15 so we can expedite business in a timely manner. One very important part of our club activities is pool time at the YMCA. This is a very costly part of club expenses and I cannot stress enough the importance of taking advantage of the pool. It's a great and safe way to check out new gear or dive techniques, plus exercise.

So here we go, year 2001. We are going to have a great time!

Sincerely,

Tom Tremblay

President, United Divers of New Hampshire



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The Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire

Editor: Gary Thuillier

Submissions

Editorial contributions may be e-mailed to Diveknits@aol.com

Submissions can also be sent on paper or PC floppy to:

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Please include a brief byline and author contact information with your submission. Submission shall automatically constitute an expressed warranty by the contributor that the material is original and is in no way an infringement on the rights of others. While no compensation is paid for published submissions, a byline indicating the source of an article will always be provided. Authors grant *Dive Log* and United Divers of New Hampshire first print rights to the submission. *Dive Log* and its editors reserve the right to edit all materials as needed. The opinions stated in the articles in *Dive Log* are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the United Divers of New Hampshire or the editors of the *Dive Log*. For further information, please contact Gary Thuillier @ (603)487-3001

Subscriptions

Subscriptions to *Dive Log* are included in the UDNH membership fees. Non-members may subscribe to the newsletter for \$15/year. Subscription inquiries should be addressed to Gary Thuillier as well.

Advertising

Rates for a full year placement (6 bimonthly issues) range from \$75 to \$360, depending on placement size and location. For detailed information on advertising in *Dive Log*, contact Don Eva at (603) 672-5608 or dpeva@aol.com

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Website:

Newsletters and other current info are available at our website: <http://www.udnh.org>, graciously hosted by Jake & Linda Richter.

'Nubble Light' revisited

by Gary Thuillier

Once again UDNH divers converge upon the famous York, Maine landmark to take part in the annual lighting of the lighthouse. Since 1987, the Saturday after Thanksgiving has marked the beginning of the holiday season whereas the brilliant lights outlining the structures of the Cape Neddick light station are turned on for the winter months to come. Last year (1999), dive club member Barbara Wenzel came up with the idea to light a tree with cyalume sticks and submerge it. While this undoubtedly had a tremendous affect on the spirits of the marine life that night, it also seemed to please the crowd of more than a thousand spectators waiting for the lighting ceremony to take place. With this we vowed to repeat the dive for the years to come.

This time Kerry Hurd, Mike Small and myself brought the tree down early in the day in an attempt to surprise the unsuspecting onlookers of the evenings event. We rigged the tree to an innertube which was to float it up from the bottom (I'll have to get the bugs out of that system for next year) and tied over two dozen lightsticks to it's branches. A huge debt of gratitude goes to Mr. Frank Conery of MSC Industrial Supply here in Manchester for the donation of cyalume sticks.

After securing it to the bottom the three of us made use of the fairly good diving conditions and did a little underwater sight seeing, besides



continued ...

it was warmer down there than on the surface.

To those who were watching us bring the tree into the water we tried to create the illusion that the plan was to float it in the middle of the small cove and unfortunately we failed. Later that evening I found myself having to explain exactly what we were planning to the police officer in charge. Of course he thought we were 'nuts' but had no problem with our plans. His main concern was that the crowd didn't get too close to the edge of the rocks.

Night falls on the now crowded Sohier Park as 10 divers (including Barbara and Jim Wenzel who came up from their new home in Florida , go figure) suit up and enter the 43 degree water. Visibility was still pretty good except for the area around the tree which got fairly stirred up while we surrounded it snapping the chemical lights. It was my plan to do a somewhat simple choreographed lightshow but now, unable to see the

(continued on next page)

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- Doug Bennett, President

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whole group due to bad vis, we just kinda played it by ear. I hear it looked pretty neat anyway and when we finally got the tree to the surface, like the year before, we recieved a warm round of applause from the crowd. I was told there was even a \$20 bet between two crowd control officers about the presence of a Christmas tree at the bottom. Too bad for the doubter!

After we got our tree out of the water and pryed the frozen gear off our backs the park was treated to a visit by Santa riding in on the York Fire Dept. ladder truck. As before our tree was planted up in the bucket of the fire truck. Some day we'll ask where it ends its journey but this we do know, it started as a seedling at our good friend Don Stevens tree farm. As if he hasn't already done enough for the United Divers, he was very quick to donate a tree to our cause ('cause' we didn't have one!), Thanks so much Don.

Shortly after this the countdown began ...3.2.1...ooooh! Lights on! What a sight.

Along with the nearly dozen divers in the water was the additional shore support. I want to thank all those involved who braved the bitter cold including Brandy, the one non-UDNH diver who heard about our crazy scheme and felt she too had to be a part of it.

Not to rush through another Summer but I'm really looking forward to doing this again in 2001. I think I've got the floating tree thing figured out this time.



Tank winner
Rob Sczupac

“Tanks to
Don Stevens”

Annual Banquet

We ended the 2000 dive club season with our usual banquet which was held again at “The Yard” in Manchester. With Linda Hurd pulling some strings to procure a video system for the event we were treated to a big screen showing of “The Best Of...” by Bob and Rose Gamache. This was a wonderfully enjoyable compilation of underwater footage from the many liveaboard trips these two have made. Thank You both very much. Though I found the food to be a bit of a letdown this year, the rest of the evening went well with a variety of goodies available for raffle prizes donated by members. Special thanks to Susie Thuillier for all the ‘fishy’ prizes and for making the centerpieces that adorned each table. Thanks also to Gayla Hughgill for her donation of miscellaneous items like the shower radios (we won the Seahorse shaped one) and other neat things. Also donated was a plaque of prehistoric fossils by Jean Stefanik (be sure to read her article in this issue) and a regulator given back to the club by Karen Marion. Thanks ladies! The big item on the table was a steel tank donated by Don Stevens of Atlantic Aquasport in Rye. We owe you Don!

Recently the first board meeting of the year was held between new and old officers and one of the issues was to get ideas from the membership on a new location for our next banquet in the Fall. Be thinking about this now so that when the time draws near we'll have some good choices to look into.



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Shark Tooth Diving

text and photos by Jean Stefanik

Well, it was a good effort, which didn't work... this time! Columbus Day weekend presented a great opportunity to try my luck at fossil hunting in Venice, Florida, after a fantastic week last May. Fall can be wonderful diving in Florida with warm water and not so scorching heat, if the hurricanes can be avoided. Three weeks before, a hurricane had actually come thru, and excited predictions thought that the fossil-bearing bottom would have shifted enough to reveal new treasures, if only the visibility would clear.

In May we were told the vis could be anywhere from 25 feet to "braille" diving conditions, and were treated to "as good as it gets" for several dives. Treasures included many Carcharodon megalodon teeth, the remains of 40 ft. plus ancestors of great white sharks. Littering the bottom were manatee/dugong bones and whale bones, and close inspection revealed several extinct shark species, some whale and mastodon teeth, and even the spines of extinct sea rays. What a find - in only 28 feet of water! I'd been anxious to return.



photo by Jean Stefanik

The sea conditions on Saturday were breezy, but everyone on the "Hammerhead" was optimistic. Captain Steve

indicated there was poor visibility during the week, but a storm was scheduled for Sunday, if any diving was to happen this weekend, it would be today, because conditions were deteriorating. There was a swift current heading south perpendicular to the shore a mile away, with 2-3 ft rollers rocking the boat as soon as we anchored and were broadside to the waves. Vis on the surface was 3-4 ft... we decided to give it a try. To Captain Steve Thacker's credit, he reminded us all that we would try, if vis was too bad, he would refund all of our money or rebook - safety first. I had prepped my Nikonos V, hoping to take some underwater shots... and waited until the others were ready.



There was a team of 3 divers, another couple, and me. In May I found that in 28 feet of water, staying with a buddy was a goal if vis was OK, but Steve suggested everyone have a flag, because in low vis, getting separated from a buddy was almost inevitable. So I figured I'd just hang out

continued on next page...

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with the couple, but be prepared for solo with my own flag. When I jumped in and began unwinding my flag, I chose not to take the camera - vis was quite poor - 3 feet maybe. As I descended I wasn't aggressively swimming against the current and I wanted to go down feetfirst because of ears and low vis. My buddy team was nowhere to be seen. I decided to go down, check out the vis on the bottom (ever the optimist) and decide for myself.

About 15 feet down, the vis became far worse - pea soup. I had to bring my guage to my mask to read it, and disorientation was confusing, I wasn't even sure how deep I was without the guage - all the visual clues were missing. I descended and as my feet hit the bottom, it was even worse. I put my right hand out arm's length, couldn't see it, brought it to my mask, and finally saw my fingers as they touched the mask. There were shadows, quite big shadows of light and dark, in various directions. Panic was a fleeting thought - I really don't to this day know what made them, except I had the feeling something else was there - and appeared to be moving - light and dark shadows in differing directions. I decided I had enough of the experience, so slowly began ascending.

It was at that point I was aware of the current I had been ignoring and realized it was ripping. As I surfaced, the boat was WAY over there, up current. I adjusted the air in

my BC to not drag too much and began swimming... face in the water and swimming and swimming. When I looked up, I was a bit closer, but not too much. So I kept swimming, and swimming, and swimming while the others were getting back on the boat. Then I realized the float ball and line was about 50 ft to my left, and a few more minutes of swimming got me to it. I was very happy to be towed the final 30 feet back to the transom, and then was extra careful to not lose a fin in the process of dodging the ladder as the boat bounced with the swells.

Oh well, I gave it a shot. What would I have done differently another time? Probably not much, except I might have not left my knife onshore. I did realize that had I been tangled in a crabpot or something, I probably should have had it with me. I didn't think I needed it because of my diving in May, but looking back, I should have had it. I had a whistle, and though not needed, was reassuring to have it.

So, I did take some topside shots with my digital camera... a few are accompanying this article. Maybe next time... anyone interested in giving it a shot? No guarantees on weather and vis, but the treasure is definitely worth the hunt!

(continued on next page)

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A Bioball for construction of an artificial reef - displayed at a marina. In the same shopping plaza is a re-created jaw of one of the megaladons... *impressive*



Reservations are in place for another attempt at the fossil hunting for the last week in February... will keep you posted!



Well maybe not that dramatic but we have secured the entire M/V Caribbean Explorer for the week of July 7-14 2001. The boat will leave from St. Marteen for a week of liveaboard diving and island hopping in Saba, Statia and St. Kitts.

We want to fill the boat with UDNH members and friends. Capacity is 16 divers (at this time there are 2 openings) and if we can accomplish this a discount comes our way. Even without an incentive, the total cost of the trip is around \$2000.00, not a bad deal for air, lodging, diving (5 per day) plus food, drinks & lodging. With an itinerary including optional shore excursions this liveaboard is also billed as one of the best for non-diving companions.

(see www.caribexplorer.com)
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Annual Dive Club Party



Club Meetings

Meetings are held the first and third Mondays of each month, January through November. We encourage potential members to attend a meeting or two to experience our club before joining. The meetings are held at the YMCA on 30 Mechanic St. (off of Elm Street) in Manchester. The meetings start at 7:00 PM. Each meeting consists of a short business portion followed by a variety of presentations and discussions. Immediately following the club has an hour of pool time for swimming, trying out gear, and the occasional game of pool volleyball or underwater hockey. Members and guests often meet afterwards at a local restaurant for food and drink.

Extreme Weather

Meetings will be held if the YMCA is open. You can call them at 603-623-3558. Check close to the meeting time as the front desk often has no advance warning of early closures.

Membership

Annual dues for membership for 2000 in the United Divers of New Hampshire are \$30/individual or \$45/family. Dues are not prorated for members who join later in the year. To join, please contact Don Eva at 603-672-5608

Get in the Swim

After every meeting, the YMCA pool is open to our dive club for an hour of fun and fitness.

Don't wait for the ice to thaw before trying out that new equipment, the pool is the perfect place. Check out the club calendar for special presentations in the pool like dive knife use or trying out a dry suit. So bring a suit and a towel to every meeting and get into the swim.

**United Divers of New Hampshire
Contact Information - 2000**

President	Tom Tremblay	603-625-8459
Vice President	Linda Hurd	603-672-8325
Treasurer	Jim Mayo	603-895-4090
Secretary	Don Eva	603-672-5608
Dive Coordinator	Bob Gamache	

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Meeting schedule: (winter hours)7:00-8:45pm - meeting & presentation , 8:45-9:30- pool time, 9:30-9:45- Hot Tub!

Meetings and Events

January 15, 2001 Meeting "Martin Luther King Day"

YES! The YMCA will be open.

Meet the new board, open discussion on the upcoming year. Don't forget your bathing suits and any new Xmas stuff to try out in the pool. Also remember it's time to pay our dues.

February 5, 2001 Meeting

February 19, 2001 Meeting

March, 2001 Annual Catch the Wave Party. Contact Don Eva at (603)672-5608 or dpeva@aol.com

March 3 & 4, 2001 Boston Sea Rovers

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Did you get a new jacket or shirt for Christmas that is just begging for a club logo on the back? Let's get together another batch of clothing for the embroidery shop. We did this last year and the cost was very reasonable because of the group volume. If anyone is interested we'll bring it up at the meeting on January 15.

TIME TO GET YOUR DUES IN



Equipment Mart

Members looking to buy, sell, or trade equipment may advertise here for free. Send submissions to: Gary Thuillier, PO Box 372, New Boston, NH 03070 e-mail: diveknits@aol.com

Dive computer: Orca Edge- Contact Lea Nichols @ 603-487-3001

Dive Computer: Orca Marathon- excellent condition w/ new battery. \$100. Contact Mike Griffin @ 603-673-9250.

Dacor Extreme First and second stage (first year model), spg, digital depth/timer \$225.00 and **Oceanic DataMax Pro** air integrated computer \$300.00 call Gary @ (603) 487-3001

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WEEKEND TIDES

The following abbreviated tide tables are for High Tides only, based on Portsmouth Harbor. This guide is a quick reference only and should not be used for dives requiring exact times for slack tide. More detailed information is available at maineharbors.com.

SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
January			
13	2:01 PM	14	3:00 PM
20	8:33 AM	21	9:22 AM
27	1:08 PM	28	1:44 PM
February			
3	6:09 AM	4	7:10 AM
10	12:51 PM	11	1:45 PM
17	7:05 AM	18	8:04 AM
24	12:10 PM	25	12:43 PM

Weather

Current marine weather for New England can be accessed on the world wide web at NWS.FSU.EDU/BUOY/

DIVE LOG

United Divers of New Hampshire
P.O. Box 4176
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Forward and Address Correction Requested

DIVE LOG

Dive Log is the bi-monthly newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire, an organization dedicated to educating divers and expanding the knowledge of diving in the State of New Hampshire and New England



IN THIS ISSUE:

Nubble Light
Shark Tooth Hunting