

DIVE LOG

The Bimonthly Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire



Photos taken in the Galapagos Islands by Bob Gamache. See more of Bob's pics, and an adrenaline packed article by Rose Gamache, starting on page six!!!



DIVE LOG

The Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire

Editor: Karen Marion

Submissions

Editorial contributions may be e-mailed to Karen at kmarion@smscomp.net

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

Karen Marion
4 Wildwood Lane
Amherst, NH 03031-2107

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 Karen at (603) 423-9055.

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 Karen Marion 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.

From the Editor

Greetings, fellow divers!

I hope everyone's having a great year so far ... certainly the club is! We've had gatherings to discuss our 2003 tropical trip, weekend dives, and much more ...

Feeling virtuous? Come and join us for a cleanup dive at the Isle of Shoals.

Feeling adventurous? Travel to Les Escoumins for diving, kayaking, and whale watching.

Feeling sociable? There's the REEF picnic at Fort Stage Park. And, as if that's not enough, hopefully all of you will come out to the Jay Lewis picnic and share stories, good food, good company, diving and boating, in one of our classic yearly gatherings.

Happy Diving,

Karen Marion



photo of anemones off White Island by Gary Thullier

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Hello United Divers,

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all the members that this is your club. As usual with any group, a few do the work of many. We need more participation from the many. As in the case of Sea Rovers, a few people worked most of the hours at the table. Currently we need to have people to organize the following:

- The artificial reef subcommittee.
- The cleanup with NH Coastal.
- A committee to visit shops and introduce us to the new divers.
- People to visit the dive shops monthly to say hello and handout flyers.

Please either call me at 603-772-9906 or e-mail me at stevedives@attbi.com if you are interested in participating with one of the tasks.

When I first joined UDNH Gary Thullier was the President. I trying to be the enthusiastic new member who was willing to volunteer for anything. Little did I know what I was setting myself up for. At a meeting around October of 1999, Gary said, "I have heard that a guy named Gene Parker from Lebanon was the originator of the dive flag. Would anyone like to volunteer to research this?" Well, I thought, here is my opportunity. I raised my hand and Gary said to go ahead. This is that story.

I started to search the Internet. Isn't everything on the Internet, somewhere? I tried different search engines: Yahoo, Infoseek, Go, etc. I tried different keywords: Gene Parker, Lebanon NH, history of diving, flags, dive flag history, flag history, etc. I searched and searched, never finding any dive flag history. I found thousands of items about and for diving, freediving, hard hat diving and scuba diving but no dive flag history. Fortunately, I was doing this search during my lunch breaks or I would possibly still be searching today. So here I am, a year goes by, almost 200 hours of research and no dive flag history. We now have a new President, Tom Tremblay. Do I give up? No one will remember anyway. I decide to keep looking.

So I start the same as I had the year before. I check all the search engines. I check the same keywords. This time while

searching I find the "Historical Diving Society" website. Did it elude me before to keep me looking? I don't know. Four more months have gone by at this point another 40 hours of research. I start searching the website. They must have it. After all, this is the "Historical Diving Society". Still, no results. Now what do I do? Do I give up. I decide to try one last thing. I e-mail the section that is called "contact board members". I ask, "Does anyone know who invented the dive flag"? After another month and a half of anticipation, the answer comes back, "Please try contacting Dr. Sam Miller. He has written many articles about diving. We're sure he would know but he is sometimes away and may take a while to answer". I'm ecstatic, finally a direct point. All I have to do is e-mail Dr. Miller and I'm there.

Now we once again have a new President, Me. I send the e-mail to Dr. Samuel Miller with my question and I wait. After another month, I decide I'd better send it again, maybe he didn't get it. I do this until July, 2001. Remember my search started October, 1999. This is now 21 months later. I finally receive an e-mail back. He asks for my address and responds by saying he will mail me some information.

I excerpt from his letter to me the following, "*Dear Stephan (sic), A gentleman by the name of Ted Nixon originated the dive flag in Michigan in 1956. It gained popular acceptance around 1957 and later was much publicized by Skin Diver Magazine. A New Englander, Gene Parker (good job Gary) made several suggestions about the flag via SDM. I can't recall his suggestions being accepted. In 1964 I was an expert witness for the prosecution in the US and the world's first diving accident, which occurred while the diver was displaying a divers flag. The prosecution prevailed and established the rights and privilege of a diver flying a flag. Further it recognized the divers flag in a court of law as the official symbol of recreational diving. I have published many, many articles about the divers flag during the last forty-five years. I think have provided answers to all you requested in this response. Should you need additional information just e-mail me with your specific questions. Warmest regards, Samuel Miller.*"

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INSTRUCTIONS

RENTALS

President's Corner, continued ...

Dr. Sam Miller was gracious enough to send me an article from the Five Cities Times-Press-Recorder, Arroyo Grande, California, about the dive flag he published shortly after September 11, 2001. For those who want to read it, please see me at the next meeting.

Dr Miller's achievements include:

- One of the first to use factory made scuba gear in 1951.
- UICC Instructor #11.
- NAUI Instructor #27.
- NASDS Instructor (prior to numbering).
- SICP Instructor (prior to numbering).
- CMAS 2 star.
- PADI Instructor #2241.
- Outstanding Contributions to Underwater Instruction Award in 1963.
- Outstanding Instructor of the Year in 1969 (LA County).
- SSI Platinum Pro 5000 diver in 1993.
- One of 88 Honored as "International Father of Free Diving and Spear Fishing" in 2000.

I want to publicly thank Dr. Samuel Miller for helping me with my long research on the dive flag history. Without him, I may still be searching. There Gary, I did it.

Steve Cantelli

These opinions are the opinion of the writer and are not the opinion of United Divers of New Hampshire.

Next Issue: My summer diving experiences as your President..

Attention Boaters!

by Gary Thuillier



As a dive club we have always stressed the importance of boater safety and knowledge of the safe boating laws, not to mention being instrumental in implementing the current dive flag regulations.

At the last meeting of UDNH I raised the question of the new education law which, up until now, I had only heard rumors of. Since I have been a boater for over 35 years, I was curious as to whether the law would be grandfathered. The answer I recieved was a total surprise to me and some others in attendance. It was also not entirely accurate. I was told that beginning next year, every boat operator in New Hampshire waters will need a certificate of training before legally driving any motorized craft. My first question to this was "why didn't anyone at the DMV inform me in any way when I renewed my registration?" Someone mentioned the old "Ignorance of the law..." thing and the whole issue just seemed to slip away into a free-for-all discussion. So, let's go to the authorities!

I stopped by the Milford office of the NH DMV and picked up the official "BOATING EDUCATION LAW FACT SHEET" and will attempt to summarize it here. Contrary to what I was told, I personally will not require a certificate until the year 2008, though I don't plan on waiting that long. The whole thing is becoming effective, based on age, as of January 1, 2002. AAny person born after 1/1/1983 will be required to take the course and the rest of us will be phased in over a seven year period. I heard someone also mention horsepower, saying the law covered any motorized boat regardless of motor size. The fact sheet says this: "No person may operate a power boat with an engine in excess of 15 horspower (including electric powered motors) on the public waters of NH without a valid safe boating education certificate." This is exact wording so I'll admit to a little confusion in the horsepower vs. thrust issue involved here.

Anyway, this is a good law, one long overdue, requiring even out of state boaters who want to use our waters to have the knowledge to do so safely. The state has set up temporary pass exams for visitors and exemptions for those who have earned a higher degree of education with the Coast Guard or State of NH through commercial licensing, and also for certification issued by other states with similar laws.

If you would like more information on this or on classes available call 1-888-254-2125 or visit their website @ www.state.nh.us/safety/ss/education.html

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Though not about diving, per se, the following letter contains useful reminders on safety that we can generalize to all water sports. -editor

Subject: Rescue

Would like to share with you something that happened to Rich and I on Sunday. Those receiving this message have (or had) boats, canoes or kayaks.

Sunday was beautiful, a bit windy. Rich and I and Chris (Rich's friend) put our kayaks into the York River. Chris had just bought a Wilderness Systems kayak, with all the toys, but had only canoed, never kayaked. He did wear a wetsuit pant and t-shirt.

The river was fine, not at all a challenge, but within 25 minutes, Chris had flipped his kayak accidentally. He was bobbing in 40-degree water, trying to get back into a boat that kept rolling over when he tried. He was freezing and on adrenaline.

Rich and I were about 20 feet away and quickly came to his boat, secured it for him and after several attempts and lots of barking out orders (as calm as possible) he was back in the boat.

Chris had never done a wet exit or entrance. He had not reviewed rescue techniques.

The whole thing happened in slow motion. Then we went on with our lives.

When I repeated this event quite casually to my friend (my teacher of rescue techniques) he reminded me that Rich and I saved this man's life. The severity of the situation never occurred to me.

My friends know how adamant I am about **KNOWING RESCUE TECHNIQUES**. Anyone who kayaks this year needs to know how to do this. The conditions were perfect for us Sunday, waters calm, and still it happened. If you have not done so already, please have a knowledgeable friend show you how to do a self-rescue AND a buddy rescue. And **PRACTICE** each year!

Your kayak should have a paddle float, pump and rescue rope and you need to know how to use them.

Dolores Rebolledo, Medicaid Coordinator
Manchester School District
196 Bridge Street
Manchester, NH 03104
(603) 624-6300 ex 134



Dudley Pond Cleanup

By Jean Stefanik

Dudley Pond Cleanup on May 18 was a challenge, to say the least. Approx 12 divers worked in a cove as the snow, sleet, and hail mixed with rain. I signed in as representing UDNH and NEADC. It was raw outside, but the volunteer organizers provided tents, a wood-fired portable fireplace, lots of good food, and incredible shore support and encouragement. Steve was totally accurate - they treated divers like royalty, and were very grateful.

I was very glad I attended!

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photo of turtle by Bob Gamache



photo of Rose Gamache on the Weetamoo by Gary Thullier



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ADRENALINE

By Rose Gamache

Whale sharks, schools of hammerhead sharks, white tip reef sharks, silky sharks, sting rays, eagle rays, mobula rays, morays, sea lions, turtles, dolphin, schools of fish, and ripping current lure you to dive at the Galapagos Islands. These volcanic outcroppings, situated about 600 miles west of the Ecuadorian coast, offer the thrill and excitement of an underwater amusement park from the tranquility of the carousel to the white-knuckled grip on the roller coaster. The Galapagos are not known for colorful reefs, great visibility or warm, calm water. Temperatures of the water can vary from 62 degrees around the southern most islands to 78 degrees at the northern most. Some of the islands are mountainous, dry and rugged, inhabited by some intriguing animals. The marine iguanas, unmoving for long periods of time, would lazily raise their heads to spray accumulated salt from their nostrils. Those playful, comical sea lions that easily twist and frolic in the water would struggle and lumber across the rocks and sand to flop down in exhaustion. The peculiar blue-footed boobies captured our attention with their surprisingly brilliant sapphire colored webbed feet. We ran out of time waiting for the giant tortoise to move from its languished position. But the real oddity was observing penguins wobbling into the water at the equator!

Divers are not attracted to the Galapagos for the amusing land animals and excursions. Most are enticed by the extraordinarily unconventional marine life. Green sea turtles, young and old, would cruise by as we patiently waited for the pelagics to emerge. Graceful eagle rays would glide with their freeloading remora guests. The ubiquitous smaller fish, trumpet, angel, etc., seemed shy, sometimes making it difficult to record their beauty and behavior as they avoided the camera. But schools of snapper and jacks, feeling safety in numbers, always allowed a close approach.

The seriousness of diving in the waters of Galapagos is not to be taken lightly. Assuredly, it's the peak of advanced diving, especially in the 3-4 knot current at Darwin. If a diver directly

faces this current, he could involuntarily have his regulator purged and mask begin to fill with water. His exhaled bubbles sail away horizontally while he holds steadfast to the rocks. Most of these rocks are layered with barnacles, which offer excellent handholds, unless they break off by an uncontrolled grasping diver. This, thankfully, slows the speeding diver enough to be able to reconnect with another handhold to deter being swept away. This carnage to the terrain seems trivial as one tenaciously clutches for safety only to observe smaller fish nibbling at the crumb-like barnacle droppings just provided. Sometimes, this current would succeed in slamming even these resident fish into the rocks. If one is lucky enough to stumble upon a lee behind the rocks, he will be shielded from the onslaught of the current and can relax a bit while waiting for the show to begin.

But the current wasn't the only obstacle to overcome. 12-14 inch long-spined urchins abound, packing a painful sting even through a 5 mm wetsuit. Moray eels appear everywhere, easily outnumbering the divers. Many times we'd count 2 or 3 morays



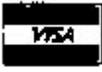






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just a few feet away from our gripping hands. If this wasn't stressful enough, we were also advised to be watchful of the expertly camouflaged scorpion fish. They really dislike divers' groping hands. But once we settled into a seemingly safe position, we would watch a movie of hammerhead and Galapagos sharks effortlessly swim by. Even though hammerhead sharks are wary of divers, they're considered dangerous, conjuring mixed reactions to their appearance. It was a bit harrowing to be at 40 feet knowing we had to ascend to our safety stop into a school of hammerhead sharks circling above us. Yet the undeniably breathtaking encounter was focusing on the apparition-like form of a whale shark as it emerged from the blur of the blue. Nothing else mattered, not the gripping fingertips anchoring our outstretched bodies, just this stunning, magnificent, behemoth displaying spots larger than a man's outstretched hand, transfixing us into a speechless stupor. We momentarily froze in wonderment as the largest fish in the ocean drifted 20 to 30 feet right in front of our eyes!

Everything seemed to stop except the throbbing of our hearts. The videographers battled the current to record this majestic beauty only to lose the race in less than a minute or two. Fortunately the camera captured that magical moment of hypnosis as we absorbed every exquisite detail of this massive creature until it faded into the obscurity of the blue. Then reality returned. We struggled through the current to get to our safety stop to reflect on the ineffable beauty of this enchanting animal. Back on the boat, we raced to the TV to play the footage, successfully duplicating that mesmerizing moment. We were speechless again.

As a diving destination, the Galapagos proved second to none. The exhilaration of diving with marine animals that many people dream of is immeasurable and the plethora of fish is staggering. No, the Galapagos are not known for dazzling reefs and typical tropical fish dancing before you, just thrill, excitement and elevated levels of adrenaline!



photo of Bob Gamache by Gary Thuillier



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 2002 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 - 2002

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| President | Stephen Cantelli | (603) 772-9906 |
| Vice President | Linda Hurd | (603) 672-8325 |
| Treasurer | Jim Mayo | (603) 895-4090 |
| Secretary | Don Eva | (603) 672-5608 |
| Dive Coordinator | Bob Gamache | (603) 669-0580 |
| Dive Log editor | Karen Marion | (603) 423-9055 |

Meeting Schedule: (winter hours) 7:00-8:30 pm - meeting & presentation, 8:30-9:30 - pool time, 9:30-9:45 - hot tub!

Meetings and Events

July 15 - Meeting

July 20 - 10th Anniversary of Great American Fish Count (REEF) picnic Fort Stage Park, Gloucester, MA.

August 5 - Meeting

August 17 - Jay Lewis picnic at Great Island Common

August 18 - Lake Winnepesaukee boat dives with Dive Winnepesaukee

August 19 - Meeting

September 2 - YMCA is closed - NO MEETING

September 12 - 17 - Les Escoumins, Quebec trip.

Dive, kayak and/or whale watch on the north shore of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Waterfront chalet - other lodging options available. Great, low-cost trip. Contact Don Eva for info - dpeva@aol.com

September 16 - Meeting

September 21 - Coastal Cleanup at Gosport Harbor, Isle of Shoals. Contact Steve Cantelli for info.

Equipment Mart

Members looking to buy, sell, or trade equipment may advertise here for free. Send submissions to: kmarion@smscomp.net

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Ikekite Housing with Nikon N90 Body & MicroNikor 60 mm Lens \$1300

Dive equipment:

Odin Regulator \$250
Dive travel BC \$100
Aqua Com 2000 Underwater Communication system (3 diver to diver units) \$900 for all three
Remote Isolator valve control for OMS manifold \$80

Dive Computer-Orca Edge

Contact Lea Nichols @ (603) 487-2726

28mm Amphibious lens for Nikonos \$150.00

Bonica Snapper macro kit (flip-up lens and framer)\$20.00
Also have back of housing and miscellaneous other parts for that camera for anyone who needs them,(it was a victim of baggage handling).

Force Fin Pros-sz XXL \$50.00. This is a steal, anyone who knows me can verify how much I like these but they were for my old drysuit and the new suit I have has fitted boots making the fins too large. This is the equivalent to a size 11-6mm boot.

Call Gary Thuillier 487-3001 ... e-mail diveknits@aol.com

Viking "underwear" with 2 "underwear" hoods, \$35.00, Also a Sea Quest men's Farmer John wet suit, medium size, \$75.00. Wet suit hood, large, \$10.00. Wenoka dive knife, \$10.00.

Contact Willis Corson @ 603-668-5829

Dive Computer: Orca Marathon - excellent condition with new battery. \$100.

Contact Mike Griffin @ 603-673-9250

Henderson wetsuit size small, in good shape \$150.00.

Contact Tim @ 566-5893

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 www.maineharbors.com.

| | Saturday | | Sunday |
|------|----------|---------|------------|
| July | | | |
| | 6 | 9:10 AM | 7 10:00 AM |
| | 13 | 2:35 PM | 14 3:25 PM |
| | 20 | 8:55 AM | 21 9:57 AM |
| | 27 | 2:35 PM | 28 3:14 PM |

August

| | | | |
|--|----|---------|------------|
| | 3 | 7:27 AM | 4 8:24 AM |
| | 10 | 1:23 PM | 11 2:12 PM |
| | 17 | 7:37 AM | 18 8:44 AM |
| | 24 | 1:27 PM | 25 2:07 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
Manchester, NH 03108-4176

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:

Adrenaline rush in the Galapagos Islands

History of the dive flag in the President's Corner

Boater Safety and the law

A kayak rescue with lessons for all

Dudley Pond cleanup summary