

DIVE LOG



The Bimonthly Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire



From the Editor

Greetings, fellow divers!

As many of you know, we have voted to discontinue the hardcopy version of this newsletter. This issue will be the last printed version. If you need a hardcopy version, please contact one of the board members, as several people have offered to make printouts for members.

With this new lean, mean, online version, we expect there to be a few changes. Ads may disappear, as we no longer have to support the cost of printing. Issues may come out in differing sizes, based on material available. Instead of waiting until I have enough material to fill ten pages, I can publish (online) with whatever is available at the time.

What about dive shop presence, you may ask? We are discussing ideas and designs for other means of communication. Possibilities include, but are not limited to, brochures, posters, and business cards. If you have ideas, please share them with one of the board members.

Hopefully these changes will be for the good of the club. Goals for the coming year include increased membership, and increased participation by our local dive shops.

Some of you may also notice that several submitted articles are missing from this issue. I've presently got more material than can fit in this one, but never fear ... Belize, the cleanup, more pics ... all will be coming in a future issue.

Happy Diving,

Karen Marion



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.

The President's Corner

Hello United Divers,

I am very impressed with what we have achieved as a dive club in 2002. I achieved personally much more than I thought I would as your President. Unfortunately my personal goal of bringing more members to the club was not achieved. I hope to work hard on that in 2003. I am happy though that as a team we achieved the following:

Over 14 club events.

A bond with the Lyndeborough Girl Scouts.

66 people to work the cleanup at the Isles of Shoals (Thank you Mary Power).

A newly established education committee.

A fantastic Christmas Tree Dive (thanks to Gary for the GREAT tree and all who participated).

I spent more time in the water this year than I thought I would. I also found a true friend and dive buddy, Adam Baker.

The upcoming year of 2003 is looking exciting for the club also. We have created a positive connection with Divers Den Dive Shop. There are a few interesting speakers already slated to come to the meetings. We have 21 members going on the Aqua Cat trip (Thanks Bob). The cleanup is slated for Rye State Marina with the backing of both NH Estuaries (Mary Power) and NH Port Authority. A new cleanup site with the Ocean Conservancy (more at the January meeting). A weekend trip tentatively looking like Maine. These are on top of our normal yearly activities.

I hope that you will support the new board for the new year. We worked hard last year but need a lot more support if we are going to be an ACTIVE club. We need fresh, new members to assist us with new ideas and new energy. My hope as President for 2003 is that you the members will each bring one person into the club. If we do that, ALL OF US, we will double our roles. That is my challenge for all of you. See you at the New Years Day Dive.

Steve Cantelli

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



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INSTRUCTIONS

RENTALS

Diving Sculptured Rocks Gorge

by Willis R. Corson

I did an interesting dive recently. My wife Keny Judith and I went to a place we read about in the *Manchester Union Leader* where there is a natural gorge and locals go swimming. It is called Sculptured Rocks, and is a remote area in a NH State Reservation north of Bristol.

We normally try to track down swimming holes around NH that are written up in the *Union Leader*.

I arrived wearing a 3mm wet suit, a 30 cu ft pony on an old plastic backpack and snorkle fins, a mask, a dive light, a Spyderco folding serrated knife, and a cave reel.

Keny didn't want to dive this one. There were kids jumping from the ledges. One girl told me it was too cold to go in and that I should reconsider. Mind you, there were kids wearing only swim suits jumping from the ledges. I laughed and said, "I am wearing a wet suit!" as I walked past her.

I wet my face and went in; it was so cold I could only gasp as I tried to breathe on my regulator; it was dang cold. I wasn't sure if I could do it. I had thoughts of quitting. My whole body hurt from the "pain" of the cold water. Bare in mind, I am a forty-somethings diver. I am not an 18-year-old punk any more. I might as well have been naked as to wear only a 3 mm suit.

I actually couldn't breathe in air underwater. I could only do short rapid gasps with no air-intake benefit. I stood up and waited until my body heated the wet suit. Then I laid face first in the water and started to slowly breathe.

Then I kicked off and laid on the bottom in 5 feet of super crystal clear water. My head hurt from the cold. I didn't have a hood on.

After my body heated the wet suit, I was fine. I breathed slowly

and moved on. I am sometimes like a junkyard dog: I am too stubborn and too stupid to quit. Yeah! I was having fun, and this time it was mind over matter, Baby!

I used the cave reel the whole way. I could look up and see kids 20 feet above the water looking down. But looking straight ahead, it was like being in a cave.

The gorge was granite that was carved by a glacier. I was actually swimming through over hangs and into rooms that were at one time "pot holes."

The pot holes had holes going through the walls; this was no river bed; it was carved from granite.

I found one pot hole going down deeper than the bottom and off to one side. I squeezed through a hole in the bottom that just barely let me through. I was in a room big enough for two divers to be packed like sardines. I suddenly found an opening in the side of the ceiling and went out that way.

I think the whole gorge was 65 to 70 feet long. My whole dive time was 10 minutes and 56 seconds. The max depth was 12 feet, and the average depth was 6 feet. The only animals were rainbow trout and some smaller species of fish, and *myself*. There were no brookies.

When in some of the larger pot-hole rooms, it would be easy to confuse the way out, even though there was no ceiling; there were over hangs that could fool you that you were in a cavern.

It was weird following the line out. If you did it at night time, it would seem like being in a cave, I am sure. Ice diving there might be too risky because a line tender wouldn't be able to pull you out without the line getting hung up

I would do the dive again but in a dry suit. I would say nothing less than a full 6 mm suit and fully gloved.

When I first got there, there was a guy wearing a scuba

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mask and a weight belt and just a swim suit and acting cocky like he was exploring the underwater scene.

Suddenly, someone yells out: "There's a guy with Scuba!" The snorkler left right away.

While under water, my wife said that different kids would call out what they thought they could see me doing. Another kid yelled out: "He's got a flash light down there!"

A kid told me that it was 30-feet deep. I found no such spot; it was just the urban ledgend of the local swimming hole.

Another kid had told me that there were short tunnels down there; these were just over hangs and swim-throughs.

The site would be great for photography because of the glass-clear water and rock formations. It would also be good for simulating a short cave dive at night time. (Sorry, there's no Florida silt in this one.)

If you catch the light at the right time of day, the site seems enchanting. You do need a light to check out the overhangs in the different large room-size pot holes. And be careful of kids jumping from the ledges.

To get there, take Route 93 North in New Hampshire and get off at exit 23 and head West to the town of Bristol. Continue North toward New Found Lake and turn left by the Catholic Church and follow signs that mention Wellington State Park.

Turn right on the road that has the signs mentioning the Park(Ice cream & burger stand on this corner). Go North on this road and past the Park; you'll have New Found Lake on your right. As you get to a center of town where there is a fire house and a general store and a town common, turn left and look for state signs that show the direction to "Sculptured Rocks."

Once in the dirt parking lot, cross the road and cross the foot bridge that spans the gorge and the Cockermonth

River and walk to the right down the ledge into the shallow pool.

There's no fee, no rules, no signs; it's rural, and you're on your own. Good Luck and Safe Diving!



“O Christmas Tree”

by Gary

Thuillier

Well we pulled it off again. For the fourth year in a row the water conditions were right for us to present the people of York, Maine with our Xmas tree from the deep. To those readers who may be unfamiliar I will explain. It all began when our own Barbara Wenzel (a former NH diver turned Floridian) thought it would be nice to express our thanks to the Nubble Light community for allowing us the enjoyment of years of diving in their beautiful cove. She came up with the idea of an underwater Xmas tree in 1999 to coincide with York's annual decorative illumination of the lighthouse and we've been doing it since.

Each year, on the Saturday evening after Thanksgiving, the community gathers at the Nubble together with Christmas carols, hot beverages, baked goods and general festive atmosphere awaiting the magic hour of 7pm when the lights are turned on. This year marked the 350th anniversary of York, ME. and thus the addition of a huge lighted "350" next to the tower.

Anyway, back to our tree. Earlier in the day, as in the past, a few of us floated the tree out into the cove, sunk it and tied it off to a conveniently located mooring block. In prior years the tree was real and lit entirely with cyalume light sticks. An artificial one was used this time around and with a better

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lighting system. There were still some bugs to work out as far as floatation and next year we'll add even more of these new lights but all in all it took the crowd by storm when at 6pm eleven divers entered the water and worked on raising it from the depths. I was fifteen feet underwater when the top of the tree, illuminated by a red strobe, broke the surface but the crowd was still cheering loudly when I finally came up.

I have to be honest, if you want to feel appreciated for something, just walk around in that crowd in a drysuit (or wetsuit) and listen to the comments from young and old alike. I'm not sure how many people attended the event, I've heard it averages a couple thousand and that is a believable figure. Special thanks go out to our friends from Divers Den in Manchester for both joining the crowd in support and for our blinking treetop. Thanks also to all the club members who took part in this, in the water or on shore, to Mike Souther, a Lakes Region diver who just had to come see this for himself, and Jim Wenzel, Barbara's husband who was able to make the trip up from the warm blue waters of the South to dive in our 42 degree pea soup.

Thanks Barb', for the idea, we miss you and hope you can make it next year.



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Incident at Delta

By Lea Nichols

It was Friday, 22 Nov about 5:15 AM. Elsbeth, Tracy, Mike & I were checking in for Air Jamaica Flight 048 (aircraft is an Airbus A-320) from Boston to Bonaire. Air Jamaica uses the Delta facilities at Logan. The ticketing counter personal readily accepted our eight fish crates packed with diving gear. There was no hand search as in the previous two departures from Logan since 9/11. The Air Jamaica personnel were slightly puzzled when Elsbeth inquired if there would be any additional search of our checked luggage.

We headed for our gate pleased not to have endured the hour-long hand search we had expected. Elsbeth cleared the security checkpoint with her backpack & roll on bag. There were three security women at the checkpoint. The largest one approached me to say that my roll on was too large and I would have to check it at the gate. I told her it was OK, and demonstrated it fit in the carry on test cage. Then she told me my backpack was too large & it would have to be checked. I told her it was full of camera equipment and was not suitable for checked luggage, which met with an indifferent stare. The backpack has always passed as a personal item, the qualifier being it fit under the seat, which I knew it would.

We have occasionally encountered situations on smaller aircraft where the roll on would not fit and had a contingency plan to redistribute its contents into jackets & vests, thus I knew the contents of the pack back could be redistributed. I managed to get Elsbeth's attention from the other side of security. She left her roll on & backpack with Mike & Tracy & came back to see what was happening. At this point two of the three security women said we could proceed, with Elsbeth carrying my backpack but the large one insisted she accompany Elsbeth through security & inspect her carry on luggage. Ten minutes passed & they returned to tell me that I had to check the backpack because it was too big. The large one said she would escort us to the ticket counter.

We asked to stop at a row of chairs & redistribute the contents of the backpack. Elsbeth pulled out a fabric grocery bag to demonstrate what we wanted to do. This was the back up plan to carry the lap top computer as it would not fit in any pocket. The large security guard told us that it had to be a man or woman's purse & we could not use it.

At this point it seemed every time we met her demands she changed them so I asked to see a manager. The large security guard summoned a manager from the Air Jamaica end of the Delta counter and they held a whispered meeting before speaking with us. I explained the situation and stated that many other carriers accepted the backpack as my personal item. I was told it was too large. I told her we would take everything out of it but this was not acceptable. Since the rules were clearly subjective I asked to see them in writing. The manager stocked off. I knelt on the floor and started loading a photographer's vest & our coat pockets with the contents of my backpack. The Air Jamaica manager returned with a sign attached to a floor stand and slammed it down in front of my nose. She was very agitated and screaming "Can't you read this" at me while banging the stand on the floor.

It was too close to read with out my glasses so I took her hand and pushed the sign out to arms length to be able to read it. This drove things from bad to worse as I had touched her. The Air Jamaica manager then stormed off with the every vigilant large security guard telling us to stay put. We emptied the backpack while we were waiting.

After a bit the large security guard informed us they had decided not to arrest me for touching the Air Jamaica manager. The backpack would have to be checked and that I could not board with a personal item. The large security guard made me test the roll on for size again to be sure it still fit, as we had added some items to it. The large security guard watched as we checked the empty backpack (\$55 additional). More whispering behind the counter and the agent makes me demonstrate the roll on fits the carry on tester again. I explained we had already tested it several times before, but







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she told us she needed to see for herself. (Much later Elsbeth told me the agent initially got excited and declared the roll on would not fit but quickly deflated when I dropped it into the tester.)

It is now 6:45 with a 7:15 departure time. We hustle through the security checkpoint and on to the X ray scanner under the watchful eye of the large security guard. No more whispered messages here. The personnel are friendly and readily agree to hand check my 35 mm camera film. After a hand search of my roll on we are reunited with Mike & Tracy who were trying to decide what to do with Elsbeth's cabin luggage had we not returned momentarily. They had been told there had been an incident, but nothing further. We arrived at the gate just in time for boarding.

Postscript

Jump forward two weeks and we are exiting customs at Logan Airport International Terminal E. There is a frail man & woman in their seventies straining to get a peek into the customs area. A security guard admonishes them for being too close to the door. They reply they are trying to get a glimpse of their mother who has been in customs for what seems a long time. The guard tells them to move back or he will have them arrested.

Thus the threat de jour at Logan is "do as I say or you'll be arrested". When flying from Logan be prepared to enter a very tense atmosphere with staff haphazardly interpreting the ever burgeoning bureaucracy of air travel.

The January 2003 issue of Popular Photography has an article by Herb Keppler regarding weight limits of carry on luggage for British Airway. The weight limit is for the protection of passengers in case some thing falls out of an overhead bin. The limit is 13 pound for economy, 26 pounds for business class and 40 pounds for first class. Herb reasoned that economy passengers must be considered relatively indigent with little medical insurance. Therefore protection from falling objects is essential. If something falls on the more posh business or first class passengers they can afford to have their cracked craniums repaired. I all makes sense, doesn't it?



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 - 2003

President	Stephen Cantelli	(603) 772-9906
Vice President	Adam Baker	(603) 895-9561
Treasurer	Jim Mayo	(603) 895-4090
Secretary	Don Eva	(603) 672-5608
Dive Coordinator	Brandy Derickson	(603) 436-6424
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

Boston SCUBA Diving Show

Saturday, February 15th, 2003, 10am to 4pm at the Holiday Inn and Resort, at the Junction of Routes 495 and 20 in Marlboro, Mass.

Featuring National Geographic's pre-eminent in-water photographer David Doubilet, with New England's own David Norman, and Chris and Fred Calhoun, directed by Alan Budreau.

Tickets at the door are \$10 per person."

Meetings: Feb. 3 & 17, March 3 & 17, April 7 & 21

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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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

Henderson wetsuit size small, in good shape \$150.00.
Contact Tim @ 566-5893

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.

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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 www.maineharbors.com.

	Saturday		Sunday
February			
1	11:16 AM	2	12:01 PM
8	4:23 PM	9	5:17 PM
15	9:57 AM	16	10:42 AM
22	3:40 PM	23	4:44 PM
March			
1	10:30 AM	2	11:05 AM
8	2:55 PM	9	3:40 PM
15	8:36 AM	16	9:28 AM
22	2:28 PM	23	3:26 PM

Weather

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



United Divers of New Hampshire
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Manchester, NH 03108-4176

Forward and Address Correction Requested



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

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