

DIVE LOG



The Bimonthly Newsletter of the United Divers of
New Hampshire



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

Editor: Karen Marion



Submissions

Editorial contributions may be e-mailed to Karen at karen@gryffin-designs.com
Submissions can also be sent on paper, CD-ROM, or PC floppy to:

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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.

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Advertising

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Website:

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

From the Editor

Greetings, fellow divers!

As many of you know, we have voted to discontinue the hardcopy version of this newsletter. This issue is the first of our online-only newsletters. I've played with the format a bit, hoping to make it more readable in online form. I may continue to change the format as we live into the online-only process. Please send your comments and suggestions to me at karen@gryffin-designs.com.

Notable among the changes:

- I've eliminated the member's for sale item section, at suggestion of members. If folks have items to sell, I will post a special section as needed.
- I've eliminated the tide chart, as it's much easier to simply go to the website and get the exact data you need, than for me to painstakingly transcribe a few tides into a chart.
- I've added a Useful Information section, that includes the websites for tide and weather information. It could, in future, contain other addresses for useful diving-related info.
- I've eliminated the double column layout. That layout looks great on paper, but can be difficult to read online.
- I've updated the font to Courier New and raised the font size to 11 for readability. There are many wonderful fonts out there, and I may try others. If you have a particular reaction, for or against, any particular font, please let me know.

Happy Diving,

Karen Marion



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INSTRUCTIONS

RENTALS

South Water Caye, Belize

Text and photos by Gary Thuillier

My wife and I recently had the opportunity to join a group of divers from Divers Den Dive Shop here in Manchester, NH on a trip to South Water Caye in Belize. By the way, here's a word that is mispronounced as often as my own last name. According to Webster's dictionary it may be pronounced either way but if you ask any of the locals which I have in the Bahamas, Turks & Caicos Islands and in Belize you will get "**KEY** of course!" accompanied by a look as if to say "can't you read?". It seems we here in America tend to assume that all languages utilizing our alphabet use the same pronunciation and we all know about assumptions don't we. Anyway the word comes from the Lucayan people, the tribe of Arawak Indians who greeted Columbus centuries ago, and it means small islet. Apparently what throws everyone off is the fact that we have Americanized it's spelling (i.e.. Florida Keys) to look the way it sounds. So, now that I've wasted your time with that information here's some about the trip.

I've always heard that Belize offers some of the best diving there is and from what we saw I can agree wholeheartedly. This area, the second largest barrier reef in the world, is teeming with life and although nothing really big treated us (I was hoping for a whale shark of course) we did see more variety of marine life than I had ever imagined.

The diving was all drift and once you got below the surface (I'll explain later) very casual at that with only a mild current which allowed for plenty of time for photography. For some stupid reason I opted to leave the Nikonos at home taking only my MX5 for snapshots. Big mistake!! The macro opportunities were incredible and anyone could tell by my pictures that I was so engrossed by my surroundings that I just clicked away without taking any time for serious composition. "Look, an Eagle Ray!"-click,click,click. "Wow, two more!"-click,click, every dive better than the last.

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Call for 2001 Schedule



Our vacation was based on South Water Caye which is located about 45 minutes by boat from the coastal town of Dangriga, Belize. The island is a small one, only 15 acres in size on which was located "The Blue Marlin Lodge", where thirteen of us spent our week. Here you had a choice of either a private cabin facing the water or a room in one of the two quad units. Food was expertly prepared and served to us by the most accommodating and friendly staff of people you could hope for. The boat crew were no less than their counterparts in the lodge. Midweek we headed out for a trip to the well known Glover's Reef for some even more spectacular diving. Lunches were packed for us and we had a picnic on one of the small islands as we did our surface interval. Again, the food was terrific. Of course no trip is without it's downside. We had a week of howling wind and heavy clouds (fortunately little rain) but we came a long way to let some bad weather and big waves keep us out of the water. The Sun did grace us with it's presence on our last full day there so at least we had some tanning to show for it.

If you're looking for a getaway type of vacation with pristine diving but without the nightlife or shopping of the large resorts then the "Blue Marlin Lodge" is the place to go.

The folks at Divers Den did a great job of organizing the whole thing and they run this trip twice a year with many repeat customers (arriving on the island was like old home day). They will be going back in the Spring for 7-10 days starting April 9,2003 and now is the time to start thinking about it as they are limiting the group to 27 people. I am also told that Spring offers a much better chance of spotting a whale shark and while I would jump at the chance to return we're already booked for the Aquacat Bahamas trip with the club.



US Divers

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Hello United Divers,

As I sit here and write this article my mind goes to those Columbia astronauts who lost their lives. Only a couple of days ago they were doing more scientific experiments in outer space and as it appears, due to a small flaw, 7 heroic explorers lost their lives doing something that has been done many times before. My article this issue, is about those small flaws that we as inner space explorers should be concerned about and try to correct before one or more of us becomes a statistic. We have about 40 members that are very active. The disciplines that these 40+ ventures into include:

Cave Diving

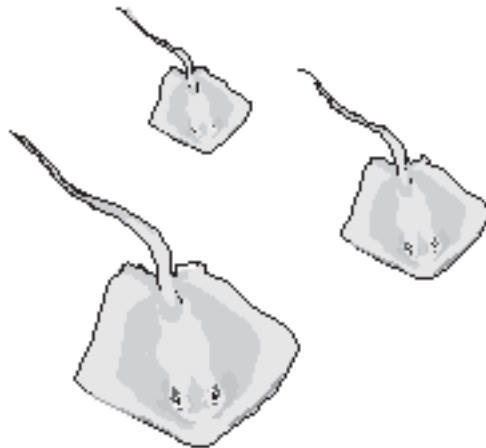
Wreck Diving

Ice Diving

Tri-Mix Diving

Nitrox Diving

Night Diving



- 30 foot Canaveral Custom Dive Boat
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Popular Sites:

Isle of Shoals
The wreck of the Empire Knight
Boon Island
Boon Ledge

The Motor Vessel Giant Stride



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Wednesday Night Fireworks Dives @Hampton Beach!

The average non-diver would look at this list and think we are crazy, insane or committable, due to their inexperience with what we do under the name of "RECREATION". Like those Columbia astronauts, we as divers go to a place many never see. Unfortunately, we aren't always looking for the flaws.

Take this wake up call. Start looking for the flaws. As we prepare for our next dive, SLOW DOWN. Check your gear and your buddies gear twice. Most of the training agencies recommend slowing down, doing a thorough review and diving comfortable. The last item is, if you aren't comfortable, DON'T DIVE. The unwritten policy of United Divers is:

Don't pressure your buddy to dive and if you don't feel comfortable DON'T DIVE. No one should down anyone for not diving or aborting a dive.

Please remember this. It will create less statistics.

Steve Cantelli

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

Next Issue: My review of 2002.

*News flash: Mary Power informed
Linda that the cleanup crew removed
900 pounds of trash out of the water
and off Smutty Nose Island.*



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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 2003 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

Useful Information

Weather

Current marine weather for New England can be accessed online at nws.fsu.edu/buoy/

Tides

Tide information for New England can be accessed online at www.maineharbors.com

*Cover photos, and Rock Beauty below,
taken by Gary Thullier in Belize.*



Subject: A Success Story

(an email re: cleanup)

What a good and productive day it was!! Here's my "quick" summary especially for the GS Directors since they were not able to join us in person. Sat Sept 21st had the perfect weather. GS Director, Martha, was there to see us off from the port - thank you and thank you to your patient son! (How was the diabetes event?) We had the gloves from Wal-mart and food from Shaws (Yes, Val, we took a picture and we shall send the appropriate Thank You notes. Steve Cantelli do you have those addresses for us?). The T-shirts which Linda provided were excellent! The Troop is able to pay just \$5 per shirt for the Girl Scouts - thank you for the affordable price. Val - we have a T-shirt for you, too ! :) One of the GS could not believe that even Steve Cantelli and some of the other divers do not get to go to Smutty Nose Island on a regular basis -she did appreciate the "honor" of being able to go there. To the best of my knowledge no one got seasick. We did indeed get trash, but surprisingly not quite as much as the GS anticipated. They enjoyed seeing the kayaks working and are interested in learning more about those. Jean gave us a brief historical talk about the different islands and I want to learn more about Smutty Nose Island and the stories relating to its history. They all had sunscreen which based on the color on my face today, I'm glad we had it. The Girl Scouts did mingle with the Boy Scouts - that social interaction added to the fun of the day - especially since the boat ride was longer than anticipated. (The smaller boats get to the spot within a half hour - the large boat which were on (The Kingsbury), took about an hour). We tried to find the Port Authority to help Mary Powers take the trash off the boat, but the gates were securely locked and there was no one around to let us in!

What would we have done differently?? Start later - getting up at 4:30 am was brutal. More Food (on the boat)!!!! We were starving for a snack on the way out to the area - some of us packed a little something, but not everyone was as prepared. We were starving by the time we had lunch - thank you to Jean, who prepared that. Then we ran out of water bottles to drink on the way home. None of the GS did go on the little boats and they didn't have as much "hands on" as they were expecting - no one got wet, dirty, or gross and I think they were a little disappointed, actually. They liked the big sea worm thing and the crabs & lobsters. The restrooms were not working on the Marine Lab area for lunch which was a disappointment, but we were forewarned about that. What did they learn? That there is trash even in the small, local area of the Isles of Shoals. That not everyone gets to go on Smutty Nose and the Marine Lab area, etc. That being on a boat and out in the salt water air makes them hungry and thirsty. That the Boy Scouts are pretty good soccer players ! :) Some girls were thrilled to know they were actually in Maine, since they had never been to Maine before! Alex was pleased about how nice the divers were and that they remembered her from the "dry run" day in July.

Is there something the GS can do to promote the significance of the Red/

White Diving flag? It was disappointing to learn that little personal boats coming in did not know divers were there.

How can they do another joint event with the Boy Scout Troop from Raymond? The GS were jealous that they went canoeing every Monday, camping, etc. Jana and I have our work cut out for this ambitious troop!

I gave the girls a "souvenir" which was a gel candle with sea shells in it - very appropriate as a reminder for the day. The girls all slept on the way home and we were back in Lyndeborough by 6:00 pm. They were bubbly and enthusiastic and are interested in going back out to the ocean. Now to remind them again about litter and how trash here in our water can actually affect the water in Portsmouth. We are still interested in pursuing the Marine Debris Degree. They also seemed interested in the Christmas Tree Lighting in December (at Nubble???). Wonder if Zoom can still be part of this wonderful cause.

Still to be done - if anyone has good photos, please get them to me to put in the local newspaper, The Cabinet.

THANK YOU to everyone for your support. Was a wonderful day!!!

from,
maria brown

~so ends this lengthy email; my husband says I can make any short story long! ~

A fellow diver passed away recently,
known to many in the club. here is
email ...



Ron Gaudette passed away Saturday,
February 22. He will be missed.



All of you have been great supporters
for Ron and also Diane and I during
the past months. Thank you for being
there!

Wayne

Photos from cleanup ...



