

DIVE LOG

The Bimonthly Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire



Christmas Card Sent to UDNH by Bob Michaud - Maine-iacs Dive Club (See Page 7 For Inside Card)

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- ◆ Diving Portsmouth Channel/Harbor

From The Editor

Hi all,

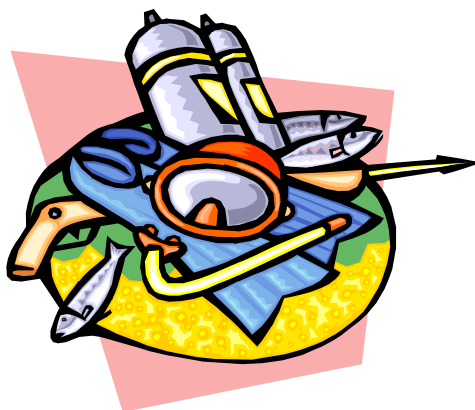
We started the new year 2004 with a backlog of articles and photos that have not been published . Due to this I discussed it with my advisor (whom shall remain unnamed) and we decided to issue supplements through 2004. The supplement will typically “Only” include stories and photos with no advertising. This supplement has advertising only for the following reasons. This first supplement is going to work out well for three reasons:

1. You get to see the great Christmas card from Maine-iacs rather than wait until spring, good timing.
2. The issue of proper “newsletter format” came up in discussions, so you get to vote for the format that suits the “club” best on how you (the reader) like to view the newsletter (see page 4 & 5 & 4A & 5A). Either way you choose is alright with me. So my vote can be the deciding in a draw. I have tried to provide a fair sample by including:
 - A. A real story and photos (thanks Luis).
 - B. Real advertising (thanks Wayne).
3. The “club” gets more newsletters to hopefully enjoy.

Please send me your vote for which page by sending me an e-mail and putting the page #'s in your subject line. I appreciate your honesty and input in this.

Happy Diving

Steve



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

Submissions

We welcome your input. Your stories, photographs, educational information, and other editorial contributions are what make this newsletter tick. Contributions may be e-mailed to Stephen at stevedives@comcast.net. Submissions can also be sent on paper, CD-ROM, or PC floppy to:

Stephen Cantelli
6 Myrtle Street
Exeter, NH 03833

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 Stephen at (603) 772-9906.

Distribution

Dive Log is distributed via e-mail and is available at our UDNH website.

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 Stephen Cantelli at (603)772-9906 or stevedives@comcast.net.

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Website:

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



Diving Portsmouth Channel/Harbor

Text and photo by Luis Figueroa

Getting tired of Nubble Light and Cape Ann, I was looking for a change and looked into new diving sites in my NH back yard. I used to live in Portsmouth and used to dive sites near Portsmouth (Great Island Commons, Ordione Point State Park, Fort Stark..), but I found these ok for beginners. I was looking for something new so I decided to try out some of the sites in Portsmouth Channel/Harbor in the Piscataqua River.

Besides Harbor Seals, the Portsmouth Channel/Harbor is well known old bottles, antique ceramic fisherman's pipes and artifacts littered on the bottom.

I was fortunate to hook up with some divers from Portsmouth Scuba who knew the waters and tides, and where good spots were for finding artifacts. Diving the Piscataqua River is tricky given the strong currents and heavy boat traffic. It's best to dive off season. The trick is knowing when the beginning of slack tide is which varies on how far up you are in the river. Depending on where you are diving on the river, slack tide can last 30 to 50 minutes. Visibility in the river varies.

At this time I expected poor vis because of runoff from rain but the vis was great. You can't really tell what the vis will be until you get in.

The first site I tried was Harts Cove in New Castle Island. This site is next to Fort Constitution and the Coast Guard Station. There is plenty of parking right near the entry point.

Please note: Divers are restricted from diving on the right side of the Coast Guard Pier. A neat dive is to dive the left side of the pier as there were lots of large lobsters hiding in pilings and



Sea Anemones. Because it's a cove, the current is light in between periods of slack if you stay close to shore (20-30 feet) The further you go towards the center of the channel the greater the chance you can get caught in the current. (Also, that is where the heavy boat traffic is) Don't expect a lot to see but it is here that I found my first ceramic fisherman's pipe. These pipes were smoked by fishermen in the late 1700's. The stems are long and when the pipe gets blocked with tobacco, the fishermen would break off part of the stem. Eventually, the fishermen ditched their pipes overboard when the stem would get too hot for them to smoke from because the stem was too short.

I've even seen some small sea scallops. To the left off Salamander Point are some old wooden wrecks which are hardly recognizable but somewhat easy to find. You'll need to snorkel towards the point from entry point by parking lot. One wreck is the Salamander which sank around 1723. She was an Armed merchantman and lies in 20' to 25' of water only about 50 feet from the tip of Salamander point. The other wreck is the Shallop which sank circa 1660. This one lies in 25' about 100' to the SE of the Salamander.

Another site I've dove is the Pierce Island wall. Parking is on an access road just before the Public works. Walk across the grass and to the right, you will see a goat path to the entry point. What's neat about this dive is it's a 70 foot wall with about 400' of frontage. Slack is about an hour and a 1/2 after high tide. This is a site with only a 1/2 hours worth of slack tide. I stay close to the wall. On my first dive, I found an old antique bottle and old pop bottle which I left as I didn't have my catch bag. Supposedly there is an old Chevy Van to the right at the point but I have yet to find.

My favorite site is the northwest side of the Sara Long Bridge which is the oldest bridge site in Portsmouth. This is a great shore dive for old bottles from 1820's to the present. Slack at this site is about an hour and 15 minutes after high tide and at this part of the river, slack is about 50 min. It is not advisable to dive this site when there is heavy boat traffic, especially during the summer between the

Diving Portsmouth Channel/Harbor (cont.)

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2nd and 3rd stanchion which is only at a 20 foot depth. Also be aware of underwater pilings. There is plenty of parking right underneath the bridge and access is through a goat path down to the water. There is an old sea cable the runs parallel with the bridge along the bottom which goes to the other side. We use this as a guide. I have found some neat old medicine/apothecary bottles. One of these was for Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup from the Anglo American Drug Company. The other bottle was for Sloan's N&B liniment from Dr. E.S. Sloan of Boston. On one of my recent dives, I even found an old hand gun which obviously someone had ditched off the bridge. We quickly turned the gun into the Portsmouth Police who were quite interested in my find. On the other end of the river, is an old train wreck. In 1940, the train fell through the old train bridge. This is only a boat dive because it's not accessible from shore.

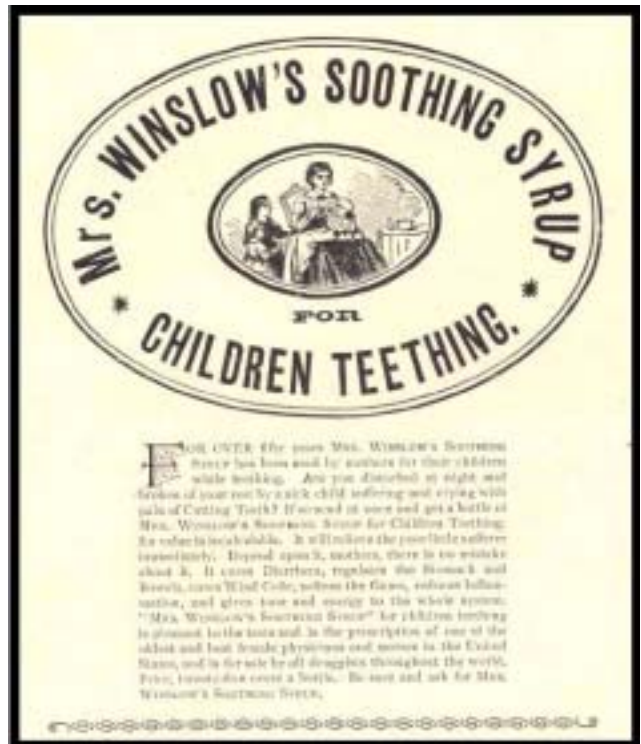
If you want to see lots of neat artifacts, see Jay at Portsmouth Scuba. His shop has the largest collection of Antique clay pipes I've ever seen. He also has lots of old bottles on display and can give you some guidance as to where to dive in the river. Atlantic Aqua Sports in Rye also has some neat items collected off the bottom from the river.

The URL below is a Portsmouth channel chart describing the dive sites:

<http://www.portsmouthscuba.com/flash/chanlmap.pdf>

I'm interested in talking to others who have dove the river and always interested in new sites. (like some of back channels)

Upon further research, I found out more info on some of the bottles I found in Portsmouth. The most interesting thing is that Mrs. Winslow's Soothing syrup was sold and marketed to moms to use for teething children. The kicker is the active ingredient is morphine! I found a neat website with info on antique bottles so I was able to date the bottle and found some old ads for the product. John Magruder and I dove again recently and found some more neat bottles including an old round bottom bottle, a plate from Pullman train and an old Guldens mustard bottle from the early 1900s.








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MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP
FOR CHILDREN TEETHING.

FOR OVER fifty years Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used by mothers for their children while teething. Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of teething? If so, reach at once and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will soothe the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures Diarrhea, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives ease and comfort to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is placed in the hands of the practitioner of one of the oldest and best medical systems and is used in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price, twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup.

Mrs Winslow's Soothing Syrup



"For children teething. Greatly facilitates the process of Teething, by softening the gums, reducing all inflammation; will allay ALL PAIN and spasmodic action, and is SURE TO REGULATE THE BOWELS. Depend on it, Mothers, it will give rest to yourselves and RELIEF AND HEALTH TO YOUR INFANTS."



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 2004 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 Chris Nye at (603) 493-5411.

Get in the Swim

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

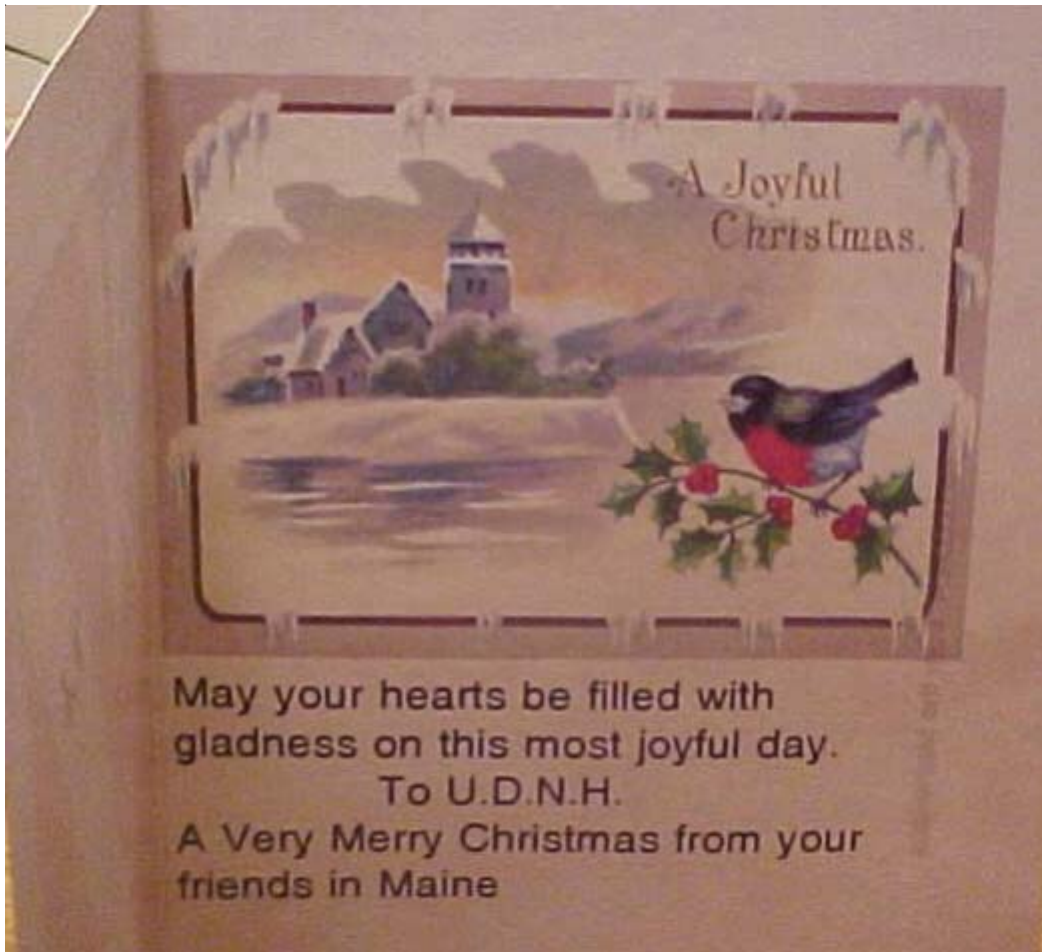
Don't wait for the ice to thaw before trying out that new equipment, the pool is the perfect place. Check out the club calendar for special presentations in the pool like dive knife use or trying out a dry suit. So bring a suit and a towel to every meeting and get into the swim.

United Divers of New Hampshire

Contact Information - 2004

President	John Magruder	(603) 487-3025
Vice President	Tom Tremblay	(603) 625-8459
Treasurer	Lee Lajoie	(603) 225-1005
Secretary	Chris Nye	(603) 493-5411
Dive Coordinator	Steve Romano	(603) 472-2498
Dive Log Editor	Stephen Cantelli	(603) 772-9906

Christmas Greeting from Maine-iacs Dive Club to UDNH
by Bob Michaud





Watch Here Every Issue for the:

SCUBA WEBSITE OF THE MONTH!

This month's Site: <http://www.portraitsfromthedeep.com/>

Check out the website. It is a new dive show on Saturdays on OLN. It will air for 12 weeks.



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

Club Events

United Divers event calendar can be accessed online at www.udnh.org/calendar.htm



Who is this mysterious diver? Find out in the next exciting issue March/April, 2004.

Steve Cantelli/Editor