

# DIVE LOG

The Bimonthly Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire

SEE THIS SIGN AT A NH BOAT RAMP OR IN THE MARCH/APRIL ISSUE OF ALERT DIVER!

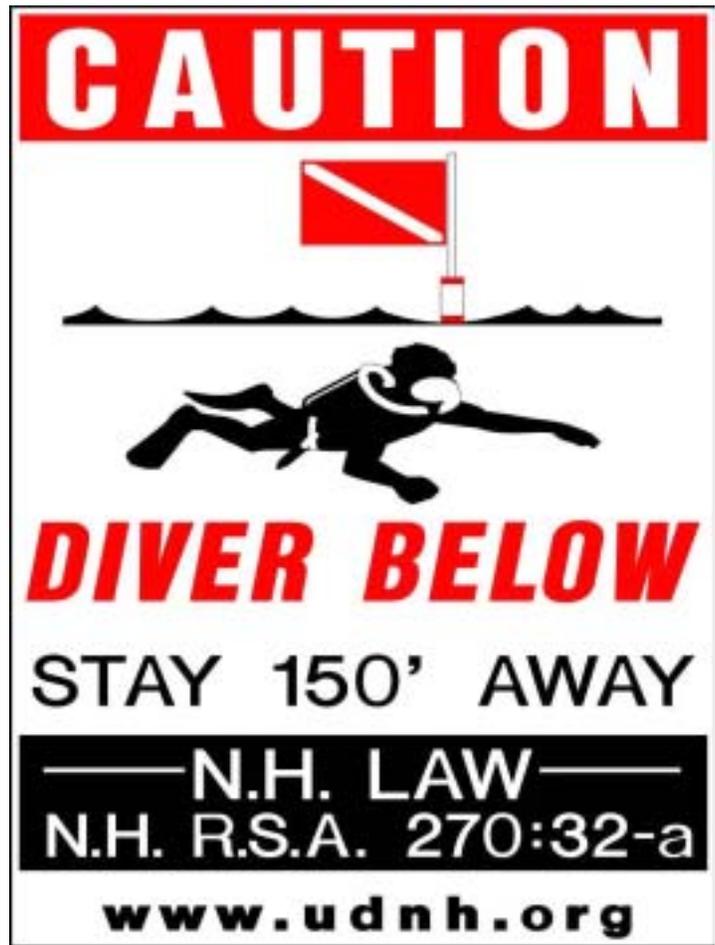


Photo by Linda Hurd

Sign Design by The Education Committee 2003

## INSIDE THIS EDITION

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## From The Editor

Hello Divers,

The vote for the newsletter format was very close. So close it came out a tie, kinda. It appears that some were very firm in their decision while others were more on the fence. I have decided then to mix a little of both. I will use the column format for most articles (for ease of reading) but mix in a little full page to keep the newsletter interesting. I hope you like it.

In the past my predecessors have always requested stories and photos to fill the pages of our newsletter. I am requesting the same. Please send me your warm water adventures in print and photos of those adventures so we can share with the club. These will appear in future issues.

As we enter the warm water diving season, I for one would like to see more of us getting together on group dives. It would be also be great if we socialized more.

Happy Diving  
Steve/Editor

## The Mystery Diver From The Last Issue, Read Below!!

### More Lobster Trap Rescues

by R. Michael Small

Late in 2001 Kerry Hurd and I wrote of our adventures rescuing lobster traps in the Piscataqua River. Well, 2002 also provided opportunities but my last attempts were late in the year ... and solo.

Glen (our fisherman friend) called me and told me that he had more traps fouled and asked would I be willing to attempt their recovery. Now, months later, I do not recall if Kerry was unavailable or if I did not ask him to accompany me but in any case I was to be a solo act that day; with the difference that my father would be on the boat helping Glen pull the traps aboard.

We arrived at Glen's house at noon, I carried my gear to his boat, returned to his house (he lives in a house just above the river) and donned my drysuit.



Torpedo Ray  
photo by Kerry Hurd

## More Lobster Trap Rescues (Cont.)

We all then walked back down to his boat and headed to the first recovery area. For the first dive I had the benefit of being able to step off a floating dock (rather than back-roll from his boat) and within minutes I was headed down the mooring line in a current while towing a “recovery line” with me from the surface. Visibility was only 3 feet or so and I soon found myself on the bottom with one trap easily located right next to the mooring block. I tied the line to the trap and began pulling/gliding looking for additional traps and found a second trap some distance from the first. I started rolling the second trap end-over-end toward the first trap and the resulting silt reduced the visibility to zero; fortunately the current took the debris away and I soon had the two traps lashed together so I made my ascent. Depth 31 feet, time 16 minutes.

We then cruised to the second site (Glen tows a skiff behind his boat. I hold onto the stern of the skiff while he motors to the next site) where I dropped down and spent 19 minutes (including a VERY slow descent due to middle ear difficulty) in 27 feet of water lashing several traps together for Glen to raise. Some of the traps were located by following lines around in the murk and cutting them free of entanglements. This ascent was made more interesting by the fact that Glen could tell I was surfacing and started to raise the traps: which came up directly underneath me. Yikes.

The third dive was to free a trap that was caught some distance off the bottom on the mooring chain of a channel-marking buoy. For some reason during this “tow” my regulator started to free flow a couple of times. Arriving at the buoy I looked at my SPG and noted with some concern I’d lost a significant amount of gas. Glen told me “should take you only a few minutes. Just tie this line to her and then cut her free.” I dropped relatively quickly through 40 feet of water and located the trap swinging in the current with the bottom nowhere in sight; just a black pit beneath and all around me. Establishing neutral buoyancy I tied the line to the trap and cut the first entanglement. The trap dropped a bit lower in the water and was halted by another tangled line. I dropped down a couple more feet and cut the line. The trap swung away from me and dropped into the blackness. I made my ascent. Depth 42 feet, time 4 minutes.

For the journey to the 4th and final dive I chose to ride in Glen’s boat. He passed a line to me and I threaded it through the upper right d-ring on my harness and ditched my rig in the water so Glenn and my father could hoist it into the boat. I then drifted back to the stern of the dingy, kicked my way up over the stern, removed my fins and mask and climbed into Glen’s boat. A few minutes later we were over the last of the traps.



Mike Small  
by Jacqueline Small?

## More Lobster Trap Rescues (Cont.)

By this time I was WAY low on gas and told Glen I'd have no time to hunt around. "No problem. The traps should be right at the bottom. Tie this line to them and cut them free from the entanglement." I dropped into the water, grabbed the recovery line and descended noting the mess of looped-lines on this mooring. The traps were just as Glen thought: close to each other and near the mooring. I tied to them, cut them free of the chain, moved them a couple of feet away from the block and made my ascent while making certain to avoid an entanglement. Depth 33 feet, 4 minutes.

My wife, father and I dined on fresh lobster when we arrived home and it was delicious. The "best part" was that because of the gas loss and my concern J agreed I needed another single tank :-)

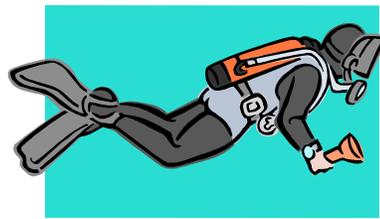
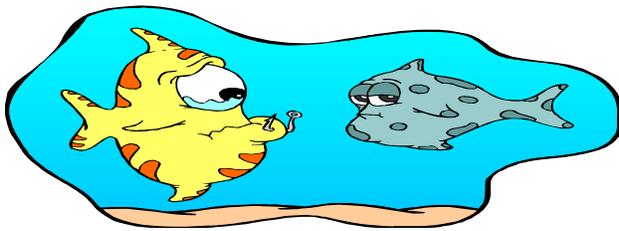
Leaping forward several weeks into November I was again called by Glen and again would be a solo act. This time though there was a "podium" for me to use in stepping up onto the gunnel so I could giant stride from the boat AND a ladder to use in climbing back into Glen's boat.

I also had two HP 80 tanks at my disposal. So, off we went to the first dive site. Glen and I agreed that I would spend no time looking for traps: if they were not "on" the mooring or visible from the mooring I would abort the dive.

The first site was near the floating dock mentioned at the start of this story. Descending into poor visibility and a current I was holding onto the "retrieve" line with one hand and the mooring chain with the other. Somewhere not near the bottom I noticed two lines stretching out below me, and directly in my path, so I aborted the dive and we moved to another location where Glen thought there were traps: arriving on the bottom there were no traps in sight. I made several dives within an hour that day; a max depth of 50 feet was achieved and the times ranged from a short 3 minutes to a drawn-out 7 minutes. Regardless of anything, time is of the essence when diving in the Piscataqua and intentionally descending into what could be a serious entanglement risk is sobering. The first few times I did these dives they were fun, now they are work. Enjoyable for the most part but nevertheless they are work.



Mike Small & Glen  
photo by Jacqueline Small?



*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](mailto: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](mailto:stevedives@comcast.net)

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### **Website:**

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



The 2004 UDNH Board Hard at Work! (l. to r.) Tom Tremblay, John Magruder, Lee Lajoie, Chris Nye



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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 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	Unfilled (Looking for a Volunteer)	
Dive Log Editor	Stephen Cantelli	(603) 772-9906

**“If nobody volunteers nothing gets done.”**

a quote by Adam Baker.

Well after taking almost the entire year off from club related stuff, now was my chance to volunteer.

I decided to answer Adam’s e-mail regarding “Signs”. That was his request for volunteers to help put up the signs the education committee came up with during the year. The club had the signs made and they are ready to be installed. I let Adam know I would help, since it did not appear that he had gotten any feedback on anyone coming to help. I thought I’d start the ball rolling.

Jonathan Wottrich photo by Linda Hurd



Anyway, it came to be Sunday, Sept. 7, 2003, the morning of the sign install. I met Steve Cantelli in Exeter and we rode to Hampton together. We arrived a little before 9:00 am. As we sat there we thought about where the sign should go. As the others arrived we asked them the same question. It was decided the sign would be on the right side of the boat ramp so it would be more easily seen. They then proceeded to try and dig a hole deep enough to sink the metal post and put concrete around it so it would last. Adam B., Adam’s Linda, Lee L., Jonathan W., Gordon G., Steve C., and Linda H. all worked at something during this process. Adam, Lee, Gordon and Jonathan either dug holes, removed/replaced rocks, drove the post into the ground or placed concrete into the holes after Steve mixed it up. Then came the task of making sure the sign posts were plum and level, and attaching the sign to the post. Both Linda and I took pictures and gave moral support. The Hampton site was the first and it



**Allison**  
TRANSMISSION

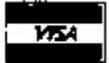


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**“If nobody volunteers nothing gets done.”  
(cont.)**

took about an hour. Then we went to Rye. This site took less time as the digging was a little easier and the gate attendant let us borrow a post driver, so the guys didn't have to dig such a deep hole. Then off to the Pierce Island boat ramp.

This site again was quick once we decided where to put the sign. We enlisted the help of a boater to take a picture of the sign-installing crew as we all stood around it. After the last sign was in and the tools and concrete tub were cleaned, we were off to Portsmouth to have lunch (except for Lee, who had to leave for a birthday party). We ended up at the Muddy River for lunch, talked about the banquet, and looked at Adam's pictures from the

trip he and Jonathan recently took. The crew that helped install the signs made it a pleasurable day. As you can see by the pictures, we all did our part.

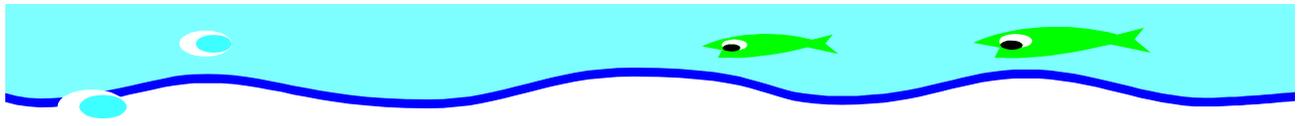
So as for me, thanks to the volunteers that “made something get done”.

Linda Hurd

Editor's note: The original submission date for this article was on 9-17-03.



The Sign Crew 2003 - (l. to r.) Jonathan, Steve, Lee, Linda, Linda, Gordon and Adam at Pierce Island. photo by helper boater.

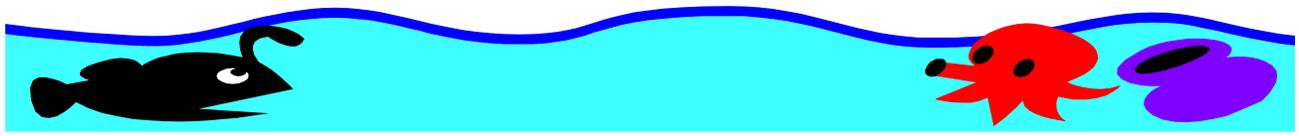


Watch here Every Issue for the:

**SCUBA WEBSITE OF THE MONTH!**

This months Site: <http://www.planetxmagazine.com/diverdan.html>

“Diver Dan” was a “60s” childrens show. How many remember it? Have Fun!



## USEFUL INFORMATION

### Weather

Current marine weather for New Hampshire can be accessed online at

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/gyx/>

### Tides

Tide information for New England can be accessed online at <http://www.maineharbors.com/>

### Club Events

United Divers event calendar can be accessed online at

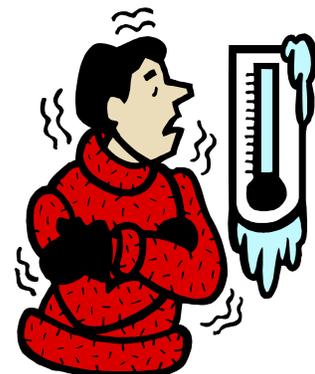
<http://www.udnh.org/events/index.htm>



**LOOK IN THE NEXT ISSUE  
FOR A REPORT ON THE**

**28th UDNH  
ICE  
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**May/June, 2004.**



**Steve Cantelli/Editor**