



Dive Club Goes to Concord

by Philip Morrison

Months of writing, research, and debate by the United Divers of New Hampshire dive flag committee are now one step closer to paying off. On Thursday, January 12, 1995, The Transportation Committee of the New Hampshire House of Representatives took up the issue of House Bill 142. This bill would require divers to remain within 75 feet of their dive flags and boaters to remain at least 150 feet away from a dive flag. This bill has been unofficially named the Jay Lewis bill, after the UDNH member who was killed on July 29, 1990, while diving at the Isles of Shoals. Jay was struck by a boat that ignored several dive flags and zoomed carelessly above the spot where he and two friends were diving.

About 14 UDNH members gathered in the hearing room to show support for the bill. There was only one other individual in the room who was unknown to the club members present so everyone assumed that he was there to speak in opposition. There had been rumors that a boating lobby group opposed the bill. The hearing started with Rep. Roland Sallada of New Boston, the prime sponsor, presenting the bill and noting the changes it would make to the existing laws. He then turned it over to club member Rick Tuttle to discuss the history behind the bill and to explain it's goal. He gave a short but moving account of the accident that took the life of Jay Lewis. Rick was one of those in the water with Jay at the time of the accident and helped retrieve Jay's body and bring it back on board the boat. He then described how the bill would establish a 75-foot safety zone between boaters and divers. Rick was followed by several club members who spoke in favor of the bill.

Probably the most exciting moment of the hearing came when the unidentified man was called to testify. He identified by the committee chairman as Mr. Dave Barrett, the Director of the New Hampshire Division of Safety services. Upon hearing this, all the club

members in the room held their breath, anxiously waiting to hear what he would say. Everyone realized that the fate of this bill could very well rest on his testimony. All the divers' fears were quickly alleviated with his opening statement in which he stated, "We are in favor of this bill." But he didn't stop there. He continued on to say that, not only was his department in favor of it but, in his opinion, it did not go far enough! He made several suggestions for improving it, such as broadening its scope (i.e. changing the wording to include all waters of the state instead of just inland waters) and narrowing the exclusions (i.e. limiting the circumstances in which a boater may approach closer than 150 feet to a dive flag to "emergency circumstances.") Needless to say, all the divers present wholeheartedly concurred with these recommendations. Before adjourning the hearing, the committee requested that Mr. Barrett provide his recommendations in writing for the committee to use in modifying the bill.

After the hearing was over, informal discussions continued with some committee members. Just about all of them seemed to view the bill favorably. Recommendation by the committee for approval appeared almost certain. However, in politics, nothing is truly certain. The House committee will mark up the bill, hopefully using the suggestions of the Department of Safety. If the final version is approved by the committee, the entire House of Representatives will then vote on it. If approved by the House, it moves on to the Senate where there will be further hearings and possibly additional modifications or amendments.

continued...

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Based on the results of the hearing, though, quick action is expected. The dive flag committee will continue to monitor this bill as it progresses through the legislature and will keep the club informed of its progress.

Editor's Note: The new bill has passed in the House, and is now on its way to the Senate. Also, as a follow up to this article, it should be noted that club member Ronny Mann was successful in getting the dive flag displayed in the 1995 issue of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Salt Water Digest, along with the now well-known motto, Divers There - Please Beware", and "United Divers of New Hampshire urge boaters to stay away from the dive flag". Thanks also go to Paul Dest at the Salt Water Digest, who was instrumental to getting this added to this year's edition. It was unfortunately too late to have the changes made for this year's Fresh Water Digest, but it looks promising for the 1996 edition.

Seamark Date for 1995

Seamark has announced the date for the Seamark '95 evening at the New England Aquarium in Boston. The event will be held the evening of Saturday, October 21, 1995. Sylvia Earle will be the featured speaker.

The annual Seamark event is organized each year by volunteers from New England dive clubs, including Boston Sea Rovers, New England Aquarium Five Club, Metrowest Dive Club, and the United Divers of New Hampshire, to support the Seamark Vision Clinic at Cotting School, a day school for children with disabilities. Seamark '95 attendees will have free run of the New England Aquarium, as well as the ability to participate in special presentations and the popular silent photo auction.

For more information, contact Diane Newark at 617-862-7323.



The Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire

Editors: Jake Richter
Linda Richter

Submissions

Editorial contributions may be e-mailed to jake@panacea.com or FAXed to 603-432-0817. Submissions can also be sent on paper or PC floppy to:

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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 Jake Richter at 603-432-0234.

Membership

Annual dues for membership for 1995 in the United Divers of New Hampshire are \$25/individual or \$35/family. Dues are not prorated for members who join later in the year. To join, please contact Phil Morrison, 603-529-4361.

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 Phil Morrison, 603-529-4361.

Advertising

Rates for a full year placement range from \$75 to \$200, depending on placement size and location. For detailed information on advertising in *Dive Log*, contact Wayne Russell, 603-669-7124.

Inland Diving That's IN-LAND

by Carl Greenbaum

I'm hanging in mid-water at 50 ft. Huge rock pillars extend five stories above the surface and drop into the depths 100 feet below me. The dive guide shines his light on a nearby wall and it glistens with a smooth, sparkling calcium waterfall deposited before the water flooded into the mine. Did he say MINE?. Who goes diving in a mine? In Bonne Terre Missouri lots of people do; over 15,000 divers a year!

I first read about Bonne Terre Mine several years ago in a Discover Diving magazine article. It looked fascinating and I made a mental note to dive the mine if the opportunity presented itself. Located in the town of the same name, the mine is about 60 miles south of St. Louis in a region that has many other abandoned lead mines as well as a few active ones. A recent business trip took me through St. Louis so I decided to see what "deep earth" diving was all about. I found it expensive, regimented and fascinating.

Bonne Terre Mine is operated by West End Diving in St. Louis. The shop owners "discovered" the flooding, abandoned mine in 1979 and began dive operations in 1981. When I called West End (314-731-5003) to make reservations, I was greeted by a friendly voice and some very unfriendly policies and procedures. Sadly reminiscent of many monopolies, they grab the money up front, even to the extent of running the VISA validation while I was still on the phone, then insisting I sign and return a faxed authorization. After this the money was theirs (\$50 per dive), if my plane crashed, my trip was canceled or I got the flu and couldn't dive - tough; no refunds. Since there are no other mines to dive, I gritted my teeth and went along. I was signed up for three dives, scheduled for 9AM, Noon and 3PM. A

series of routes have been defined through the flooded mine. These trails are numbered 1 through about 24 and are dived more or less in sequence by visiting divers. I was scheduled for Trails #1, 2 and 4.

I arrived as instructed at 8 AM for registration and an orientation briefing. The small dive shop outside the mine entrance is mostly benches and open space for divers to congregate and warm up between dives. They rent equipment and sell mine souvenirs. Tanks are included in the price of the dives for reasons that will soon become clear.

The orientation briefing covered safety and procedural issues:

All dive groups are led by a dive guide with a safety diver swimming behind the group.

Divers are not allowed to carry lights (aside from the cyalume stick tied to each tank valve). The water is dimly lit by surface lights (300 kilowatts sounds like a lot but the mine is HUGE). This rule avoids confusion when the dive guides signal each other and prevents individuals from swimming off on their own. In practice, small lights are allowed after trail #1.

No knives are allowed (no reason given).

No cameras are allowed on the first dive

All first time mine divers must demonstrate mask clearing and buddy (or octopus) breathing at the start of the dive.

Two air checks are done on each dive. Divers running low are escorted back to the dock by a more direct route.

continued...

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The dive tour leader then described the trail we would be diving, mentioning highlights in the rock structure or pieces of abandoned mining equipment.

Following the briefing we went across the parking lot to their locker room to get suited up then headed down into the mine. I do mean down. The water surface is 168 feet below ground level. The path is a combination of steps and steep pathways. I thought only fleetingly about the walk back out with wet gear. First we had some diving to do.

We arrived at the dive dock floating on an irregularly shaped two square mile lake with 17 miles of shoreline. The chamber we were in could easily have held two football fields. The immensity of the place is heightened by the realization that it was man-made, some of it in the early days with hand drills and sledge hammers. The air temperature is 62 degrees, the water is 58 degrees year round.

I buddied up with a firefighter/rescue diver from Michigan named Carl Allen. We breezed through our safety checks and were off to swim through the mine. I loved it. Swimming through tunnels and caverns, viewing rock formations and abandoned mining equipment. I was a bit turned off by the "staged" nature of some artifact displays. I would have been happier seeing the jackhammer lying on the bottom rather than stuck in a hole in the wall as if it were recently abandoned. Most of the ore carts were in unlikely places far from the railroad tracks where they were used. Yea, but so what - the mine is vast and fascinating. Forty-Five feet max depth for 40 minutes.

After the dive we stowed our gear under the benches on

the dive deck and headed up for our "surface" interval. The walk out was easy with no gear. We hung around the dive shop, checked out the souvenirs and soon it was time for the Trail #2 orientation briefing. These folks are very well organized (rare, in my experience, for a dive operation). They can run dive groups on 30 minute intervals and avoid congestion on the dive dock. Dive leaders must get a "clearance" from the Dockmaster to bring groups down. At 11:30 we walked down into the mine for Trail #2. This dive was very similar to the first one, nothing in particular to distinguish it. Not at all boring; I still loved it. Fifty-eight feet max depth for 41 minutes.

Carl's wife picked up some subs for lunch while we were on dive 2. The local pizza place commonly delivers to the dive shop as well. The second surface interval was extended because some of the divers had strayed deeper than planned. The Bonne Terre staff are rigorous about depths and timing. During the wait we chatted with several of the dive tour guides about the mine history, other trails we would not get to see and their training as dive guides. For part of that training they are blindfolded and led into some section of the flooded mine. When the blindfold is removed they must figure out where they are, and lead the way out by the most direct route. A comforting thought.

Our third dive took us to the "structure", the elevator tower used to get equipment and supplies into the mine. More glistening calcium falls and staged ore carts. I would have liked to quietly drift among the rock pillars but not with this dive leader. The pace was far too fast, leaving little time to soak in the sensation of swimming in a flooded mine. Forty-two feet max for 42 minutes.

So, that was it. My Bonne Terre Mine diving experience was over; except for one minor detail.

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Getting out! I'd spent slightly over two hours swimming in 58 degree water. As we headed up I was glad tanks stayed behind and the \$5 I'd spent renting the weight belt was a terrific investment (even if I'd driven to the mine and could have brought my own belt). Actually, the walk out was no big deal and we did it without even stopping. After all, it was only the equivalent of 17 flights of steps!

Was it worth it - definitely. Would I do it again - probably not.

If you'd like more specifics, contact me at 617-271-8090 or cgg@mitre.org

Spring Innertube Ride

Well here we are again, coming into another warming season (I'll refrain from using the term DIVE SEASON since many of us keep it up all year long.) As I sit here writing this, it's finally starting to look like January - IT'S SNOWING!

I don't recall the exact date of last year's run, it was sometime in April, but I do know this, we all had the greatest time. Starting from the 4H Fairgrounds in New Boston, ten hardy souls braved the waters of the spring runoff in the Piscataquog River (not to be confused with the Piscataqua - what a ride that would be!).

This was the first time for everyone in the group and needless to say we were all concerned about the cold temperature and swiftness of the water. As it turned out however, the three mile run was quite manageable on both counts and the only problem was that it ended too soon. This year, without doubt, it will be longer.

During the ride, which followed Route 13 into Goffstown, many a car pulled over to watch this crazy,

rubber clad bunch of screwballs bobbing up and down in the river. Most of us had large truck tire tubes while Jean Stefanik and a friend rode it out in her inflatable raft and yet another decided to float down with only his suit for buoyancy.

At the end of the line we loaded into a couple of pick-up trucks which were standing by for the shuttle back to the fairgrounds. There was some big talk of doing a second run but by the time we got back, the warmed water in our suits had drained so the mood leaned more toward dry clothes and hot chocolate at that point.

This Spring, providing we receive enough snow for a decent runoff, we plan to go an extra mile or so down-river and therefore hope for a larger turnout of people. I can't say enough about how much fun this was and it should definitely be a regular club event. Even for non-divers it would be worth a day's rental of a wetsuit.

This is not Class I whitewater rafting by any stretch of the imagination - it's leisurely but fun, and an occasionally quick, exhilarating ride that anyone can handle and enjoy.

Mark your calender for March 25 and get your tube ready. A full wetsuit with gloves and boots is necessary and a hood is optional (a hat will do fine). Some of us used paddles but they proved to be more trouble than they were worth. For a more comfortable ride, put a round wooden center in the tube - drill holes around the perimeter and lace it to the tube. This will help you ride higher in the water and save your butt from the rocks. The plan is to meet at noon and after the fun head back to our house to change, warm up and make plans for even more good times.

Call Gary and Susie Thuiller at 487-3001 for more details.

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Touch The Sea with Dee Scarr

by Ben & Sue Parker

*Editor's Note: A little while ago, someone posted a request in the Scuba Forum on CompuServe, wanting to know about the **Touch the Sea** program that Dee Scarr runs in Bonaire (many of you may know Dee from her various magazine articles, and her entertaining presentations at Seamark '94 and elsewhere). Ben & Sue Parker responded with the following story (edited to fit here):*

Making Contact

We contacted Dee and made the arrangements for our dive about 4 weeks in advance (mail to Bonaire is slow and we needed to send a check). Dee gives a slide lecture one night a week at Captain Don's Habitat near Sand Dollar, where we were staying. As it happened, this was the night before our scheduled dive with her, so we went. It lasted about one hour, with lots of pictures and stories of her interactions with fish, eels, and other animals. Best of all it, was free.

The next afternoon, she arrived in her vehicle at Sand Dollar to pick up our dive gear and us, and drove us to the Town Pier. (Under recent regulations from the Harbormaster, a local dive guide is now *required* to accompany divers at the pier, due to the hazard of diving under a pier with very active shipping. Dee certainly qualifies, and arranges her dive times around the shipping schedule.)

We spent a good 45 minutes in pre-dive discussion of what we would see (replanted sponges, frog fish, octopi, maybe even a sea horse) and what we would get to do (hand feed fish and eels, and maybe octopus). We learned some new hand signals for various animals and

ways we might interact with them. We then geared up and entered the water. (At the beginning of our dive there were two big ocean tugs with their engines idling at the pier. The noise was deafening, and it felt like we were standing in the stream of water from a fire hose. It was strong! Fortunately they left after 10 minutes.)

The maximum depth under the pier is mostly 25-30 feet, although it is dredged out to almost 50 feet on the seaward side to accommodate cruise ships. Dee advised us to increase your normal weight by 1-2 pounds, as we would be spending a lot of time kneeling or lying on the sandy bottom, indicating we wouldn't be damaging the reef, because there isn't one here.

Dee's Neighborhood

You would think that there's a lot of junk on the bottom here, and there is, but there is an amazing amount of undersea life as well. An old tin can may be full of arrow crabs. You'll find anemones growing in/on a concrete block, and usually an octopus nestling against a piling. Dee is helpful in pointing out things if you don't see them. The long pre-dive briefing helps make all this clear.

Dee knows of several animals that live in regular places, such as a moray that lives in a pipe, another eel that lives in another pipe, and several others, and just like a tour guide she showed us around her 'neighborhood'. There were chance encounters feeding fish, octopus, and one of the eels (that has no teeth). True to her name, she shows you how to safely pet a scorpion fish, anemones, a snake eel, an octopus, sponges, etc. as well as feeding several of these. On this dive, we found/saw/fed/touched 3 octopi, 2 snake eels, another eel ("Snaggle"), 2 frog fish, a sea horse, dozens of wrasses, chromis, & juvenile french

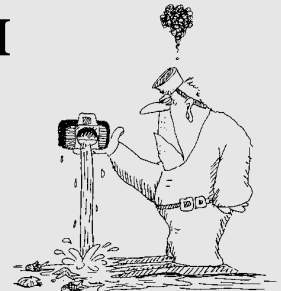
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angelfish. The moray was sleeping or away on business, we didn't see him. In dealing with some of the flora, Dee uses a syringe with food coloring dye to show how much and how fast sponges pump water through (10-15 seconds).

Dee also showed us the many sponges she (and others) have reattached to the town pier after it was rebuilt around two years ago. She explained that she had also helped to 'export' this technique to the hurricane ravaged Frederickstad Pier in St. Croix, in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Although tied on with monofilament, they have now taken hold and are growing on their own.

My dive log showed we spent 1 hour 40 minutes on the dive with Dee. We managed this because the depth is usually not over 30 feet. We actually still had air left but we were all cold when we got out. Dee's assistant (a local high school boy) had towels ready and we were able to take a hot 'shower' with water from plastic coke bottles that she had left stored in the hot sun on the dashboard of her car. A wetsuit is necessary for this length of time, and at least a dive skin is advisable for protection while crawling around on the bottom. My wife (Sue) took her Nikonos and I took my video camera. I ran out of videotape and Sue used up a whole roll of film. After we warmed up a bit, Dee drove us and our gear back to Sand Dollar.

Conclusion

A day or two later we overheard some other divers at Sand Dollar (not knowing we were nearby) commenting "Who'd want to pay \$150 for a dive?". Well, considering the two of us had Dee's exclusive attention for over 4 hours, and she picked us up and delivered us home, and we learned a TREMENDOUS

amount, we think it was more than well worth it. The learning has also paid off for us on other dives as we now know what can safely be touched and how, how to get your hand 'cleaned' at the local 'fishwash', how to watch fish behavior, etc. In short, how to become more a part of the underwater world than just an observer.

We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves during this dive and we can't wait to go back to Bonaire. We also have read and enjoyed all three of Dee's books, and always look for her regular column in Dive Training magazine. This is truly a unique diving experience, assuming you are prepared for a different, educational, and memorable dive. Well worth the cost!

Ben & Sue Parker

Ben Parker (Oak Park, IL) and his wife Sue have been diving for about 5 years. Both have qualified as PADI Master Divers. They have dived mainly in the Caribbean, including the Virgin Islands (US and British), Guanaja (Bay Islands, Honduras), Little Cayman, and Bonaire. If you want to talk to Ben and Sue, you can reach them in a variety of ways: Internet: bparker@interaccess.com, phone 708/386-6578, and FAX: 708/386-5067.

Editor's Note: Anyone interested in participating in Dee's program, or purchasing her outstanding book, also entitled "Touch the Sea", may contact her at "Touch the Sea", P.O. Box 369, Bonaire, Netherland Antilles. Phone/FAX from the U.S. is 011-599-7-8529. The "Touch the Sea" dive experience is \$75/person, with a minimum of two divers.

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Funding The New YMCA

During the January 16, 1995, meeting of the United Divers of New Hampshire (UDNH), Don Stevens of Atlantic Aquasports, a Rye-based dive shop, challenged the club to match his donation of \$1200 towards the building of the new YMCA pool facility in Goffstown, due to be completed sometime in 1996. Don also upped the challenge such that if the club doubled his donation to the YMCA, he would offer free air fills to the entire club for a year, as well as match the additional donation. It was noted that such donations could be spread out over a period of three years.

After some debate among dive club members, it was decided that UDNH would rise to meet the challenge, and as a result, raise its membership dues by \$5 per membership, for the next 3 years. This results in a new dues structure, effective January 1, 1995, of \$25 for an individual membership, and \$35 for a family membership, both of which still rank UDNH membership dues as the lowest of any established dive club in New England. The UDNH Board has determined that raising the dues in such a fashion will result in an additional \$400 per year (for a total of \$1200) being collected and earmarked specifically towards the YMCA pool donation. As a \$1200 donor, UDNH would be listed on the YMCA Giving Wall as a Silver Sponsor of the new pool facility.

Several club members have indicated an interest in meeting the second challenge, in order to take advantage of the free air fills Don offered. The UDNH Board has praised such interest as helping the YMCA even more, and has suggested that members interested in raising an additional \$1200 coordinate new fund raising activities to do so. The Board has also suggested that any additional funds paid to the club as part of membership dues will go towards this effort, so

if you're interested in helping contribute to a brand new pool facility in which the divers of tomorrow will be trained, throw in an extra few dollars with your membership dues.

If you want to personally donate to the YMCA pool fund, or just want more information on the YMCA's new pool, contact the Manchester YMCA at 603-623-3558.



Dive Equipment Mart

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The Equipment Mart is a service offered by Dive Log to the members of the United Divers of New Hampshire dive club. If you have any equipment you are interested in selling, or are looking for any particular piece of dive related equipment, please drop the editors a note. Their contact information can be located on Page 2. Note that only personal articles will be offered, as commercial advertising and sales are handled separately via vendor advertisements. Dive Log makes no warranties or representations as to the suitability or state of any equipment offered via the Equipment Mart, as ascertaining those conditions is the responsibility of the purchaser of such goods.

GARY CARBONNEAU

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Meetings and Events

February 17 - 26 - Event

- Boston Boat Show
- New England Dive Flag Association will be manning a booth.

February 20 - Meeting

- A Great Debate "Out of Air" What are your alternatives? Techniques, process, training, and equipment. Jim Davis moderator
- Pool time - Out of air training in pool. Tanks, regs, spare air, etc. supplied.

February 25 and 26 - Event

- Saturday evening program at AMC in Pinkham. Limit of 12 divers, non-divers welcome. RSVP required, see January newsletter for details. ESPN's Divers Down with Mark Stanton will be filming the dive.
- Glen Ellis Dive '95, 16th consecutive year club event.

March 4 - Event

- Ice Dive "Lady of the Lake"
The 100 year anniversary of her sinking.

March 6 - Meeting

- "Tanks-A-Lot" with Don Stevens
A review of tank inspections, hydro tests, what they do, how and when. Size, shape, use of, steel versus aluminum and buoyancy.
- Pool time - swim and underwater hockey.

March 11 and 12 - Event

- Boston Sea Rovers 41st Annual Underwater and Clinic
Call 617-424-9899 for information.

March 20 - Meeting

- Dive Knives. Bring your dive knife and gloves. An array of new knives will be demonstrated. Which is best? When? Why? Test your knife and skill on 1/2" nylon line.
- Pool time - try out dive knives in the pool.
Lap Merit Swim.

April 3 - Meeting

- Ron Watson of the New England Aquarium "Senior Volunteer Staff" tank diver - 17 plus years diving the Great Ocean Tank. Come and hear and see what it's been like to work every week in a premiere aquarium.
- Pool time - swim and underwater hockey.

April 17 - Meeting

- Dick Kurisko of Divers Den, founder of UDNH, will present 30 years of diving - some of the gear, gizmos, and early methods and training.
- Pool time - swim and underwater hockey.

May 1 - Meeting

- Tentative - Dry suits by Viking. What's new? How to fit, try and buy?



Club Meetings

Meetings are held the first and third Mondays of each month, except for January, November, and December. 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. in Manchester. The meetings start at 7:16 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 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.

Get in the Swim

After every meeting, the YMCA pool is open to our dive club for an hour of fun and fitness. Join our lap swimmers in the great race to swim the most miles! Or dive into a pick up game of underwater hockey.

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 try 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 - 1995

President	Wayne Russell	603-669-7124
Vice President	Jim Fredricks	603-668-3978
Treasurer	Phil Morrison	603-529-4361
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Dive Coordinator	Jim Davis	603-485-8039



United Divers of New Hampshire
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Forward and Address Correction Requested



Dive Log is the 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 Month's Issue:

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