

# DIVE LOG

## Happy Birthday To Us!

It was 20 years ago today....Sgt. Pepper taught his band to play and the United Divers of N.H. were formed!

Well, it's not quite like that, but 1995 marks the 20th anniversary of the club. I had just completed my basic NAUI certification in the fall of 1974 at Divers Den (then on Leda Ave. at Dick Kurisko's home/shop), and asked if a local dive club existed.

At the time, there was apparently a club called the Granite State Sea Skates, but they had already disbanded, and small and informal club existed in Nashua. Dick offered to post a sign-up sheet at his shop for anyone interested in forming a scuba club. My name was the first one on the sign-up sheet!

In the spring of 1975 we had our first informal meeting at the YWCA. We had our elections, over 50 members, a divemaster and assistant and a swimming pool! I recall the hottest issue being whether or not to limit the size of the club to 100 members! We had many outings, dives, trips, contests and, of course, our annual banquet. Most important was we were diving! I'm the only charter member still active in the club and I'm proud to have been elected president of the club, especially on it's 20th anniversary. I would like to see the club become what it was envisioned to be when that first sign up sheet went up over twenty years ago.

## Three Goals for 1995

I have three goals for the club in the coming year. They are:

- 1) To see the after-meeting pool time utilized to its fullest.
- 2) To hold meetings that are informative, entertaining and thought provoking.
- 3) To see more diving activities with more divers participating!

We've already started moving towards those goals. For

example, club business issues will mostly be handled by the board of directors outside of the regular club meetings. We have also lined up a terrific schedule for you!

Some of the exciting dive events this year include diving the Lady of the Lake on the 100th anniversary of her sinking, and we will also be filming a *Divers Down* episode at Glen Ellis Falls in late February (see article inside). This show will be broadcast on ESPN later in the year.

We have a **great** year ahead, and we need **your support** to make our club top notch! Come join us and share experiences. If you're new to diving or United Divers of New Hampshire, please feel welcome to sit in on a meeting and see if the club is right for you.

Divers have been the most trustworthy, friendly and sincere people I've ever met. Divers are involved and interesting people who make a difference, especially today with so much concern for our oceans and planet. I (along with the board) welcome you to the 20th year of the **United Divers of New Hampshire!**

Wayne S. Russell  
President, UDNH '95

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## Sea Rovers Clinic and Show

The Boston Sea Rovers have announced the dates for the 41st Annual Sea Rovers Underwater Clinic and Dive Show. This year's event will be held at the Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston, on March 11th and 12th.

This year's offerings include workshops on underwater photography and videography, dive rescue and medical procedures, and advanced diving. A wide range of seminars held by world-renown speakers, covering wrecks, diving around the world, and related health and environmental issues.

As in the past, this year's show will also include dozens of exhibits, offering information on the latest dive products, travel destinations, and local dive clubs (including our very own United Divers of New Hampshire).

The crowning event of the Sea Rovers Underwater Clinic is always the Saturday evening program, which this year features Emory Kristof, a legend in deep water photography, as the Master of Ceremonies and a presenter; Bill Curtsinger, an acclaimed wildlife photographer for National Geographic; Adam Ravetch, a leading underwater filmmaker presenting his latest film on the Canadian Arctic; and Jeff Rotman, one of the most successful and published underwater photographers, sharing an "around the world" view of sharks.

Tickets to the 41st Annual Sea Rovers Underwater Clinic and Show are priced \$40/person for the whole weekend, including the evening program, or \$28/person if you only want to attend one day and the evening program, or both days and not the evening program. If you purchase your tickets before January 15, 1995, you can save 10%. To order tickets, send a check payable to *Boston Sea Rovers*, to Boston Sea Rovers, c/o Bunky Hodge, 174 Beech Street, Rockland, MA 02370. For more information, call the Boston Sea Rovers at 617-424-9899.

If you're interested in spending the weekend in Boston instead of driving down each day, the Copley Plaza Hotel at Copley Square is offering a special rate of \$115/night for Sea Rovers clinic attendees. Call the Copley Plaza at 617-267-5300 for details.



### 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](mailto:jake@panacea.com) or FAXed to 603-432-0817. Submissions can also be sent on paper or PC floppy to:

Jake Richter  
Editor  
*Dive Log*  
194 Winding Pond Road  
Londonderry, NH 03053

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 \$20/individual or \$30/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.

## From The Editors

With the new year, we'd like to let you know that you also have new editors for the *Dive Log* newsletter. Carl Greenbaum, the last editor, has resigned his post after long, valuable, and faithful service to the club, and we have been selected as his successors. Carl's efforts will be difficult to match, but we plan on at least trying.

As such, you may notice that this issue of *Dive Log* has a different look and feel, one that we hope will carry on the tradition and goals of the United Divers of New Hampshire (UDNH). If you have any comments on the newsletter, such as things you think should be added, removed, changed, and so on, please drop us a note or give us a call. The only way we can make sure that *Dive Log* remains a valuable resource to you is with your feedback.

We plan on publishing 10 issues of the newsletter this year (one a month, January through October), providing UDNH members with the latest and greatest information on local diving, club events, new products, dive experiences, and more. But, as with all other club activities, content of this newsletter depends on contributions — namely yours. All the articles in this issue were written by members of UDNH, and we'd like to see that be the rule and not the exception. So, if you have any dive experiences you'd like to share (cold or warm water), dive and travel tips, underwater photography advice, or anything else related to diving you'd like to share with your peers, please let us know, and we'll work with you to get you published in these pages. Who knows, it might be the start of a brilliant writing career...

Jake & Linda Richter  
The Editors, *Dive Log*

## Interacting With Underwater Life

by *Leander Nichols*

This is a continuation of an article started last year about interacting with undersea creatures in such a way as to enable a diver to get close enough to an animal to photograph it or just observe its behavior.

### Orientation

Most of the larger animals in the sea spend their time in a horizontal position, with the only notable exception leaping to mind being the tropical trumpet fish. A diver is probably perceived as being more natural in a horizontal orientation than vertical. I think that a diver is also perceived as being larger when vertical. Most sea creatures are carefully tuned to the habits and size of animals that prey on them, so if you are much larger or smaller than their typical predators, they tend to be less skittish. Try to stay horizontally oriented unless you want to scare something away.

### Sharks

Lying horizontally on the ocean bottom is the least threatening orientation. I recall an experience with a school of sand shark at the Isles of Shoals. Try as I might, they wouldn't get close enough in mid water for a decent photo. Eventually I gave up and turned my attention to photographing a more cooperative star fish. The particular shot required my being prone on the ocean floor. Thirty seconds after I assumed this position I was treated to a parade of sand sharks buzzing within two feet of my head. When I assumed an erect orientation, the sharks left, but returned shortly after I became horizontal again.

I've also found that sharks are attracted by low

*continued...*

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frequency sounds. Try humming to them. The sound an electronic flash produces can also interest them.

### Seals

Seals seem to be less spooked if you approach from underwater, as opposed to snorkeling on the surface. They are extremely curious animals, and appeared to be particularly fascinated with divers' fins. As such, most often they will approach from behind, so keep an eye out for your buddy's back. If a seal shows interest in you, respond by waving to it with your fin.

You've got to wait for them to come to you. Keep a warm friendly image in you mind while you're waiting. My experience is that seals respond and handle just like dogs. They also seem very sensitive to body language. If you can establish a little rapport with them, they will keep coming back for more. They like to be scratched under the chin, petted and may even want to hold hands.

However, remember to stay in control of the situation and don't let the seal swim off with your camera or chew too hard on any cables or hoses. You may even end up with a seal holding your hand in its mouth, but beware. Seals have some very nasty bacteria living on their teeth. If their teeth puncture your skin, even mildly, you'll be in for a heavy duty dose of antibiotics.

In any event, as with any wild animal encounter, keep in mind that with seals unpredictable behavior is possible, and don't take unnecessary risks.

### Play Coy

To help your encounter be successful, I've found it's best not to look directly at an animal at first. They are

keenly aware of your eyes, or anything that looks like an eye, such as a camera lens. So keep your eyes and camera pointed down or to the side until you have developed some rapport with the critter.

### Conclusion

Most of the above material is from my own limited experience and certainly doesn't necessarily apply in all cases. If you've had similar, or different experiences, with sharks, seals, and other underwater animal life, I'd be interested in hearing them at the next club meeting.



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## Glen Ellis Falls

by Wayne Russell

### How It All Started

Ron Gaudette, Gerry Giovagnoli and I made the first trip to the Glen Ellis Falls 16 years ago in the middle of winter. What first inspired me to organize the dive was an 8mm film by Ben Harris, which I saw at a diving symposium in Boston. I had managed to convince quite a few divers to come along, but as the weekend approached, temperatures were hovering below the zero mark. In addition to myself, I convinced Ron and Gerry to go along anyway. At the time, I was known as the "Daffy Diver" (my CB call name) and the "Daffy Divers" were a group of divers who routinely dove in the COLD months.

We set off for Glen Ellis Falls, located in Pinkham Notch between Mount Washington and Wildcat Mountain, on the Ellis River. A spectacular winter setting and a *unique* dive site! As I entered the basin, and slowly made my way to the thunderous waterfalls, I realized how stunning the ice formations surrounding the falls were. We made our way behind the waterfalls, which were shrouded in ice, and were overwhelmed by the blend of sunlight, water and ice we encountered. I knew then that the effort we had gone to in getting to the falls was going to be well worth it, and that the dive into the frigid waters would be absolutely breathtaking. I wasn't disappointed.

Dropping into the water behind the falls, I ended up in an area not much larger than the YMCA swimming pool covered with a thick sheet of ice, with a waterfall at one end. What made this different from a typical ice dive, where you have a reasonably flat ice ceiling was the sheer variety of ice textures. Some areas were flat,

while others seemed to be a jungle of icicles, all playing with the ambient light in different ways. It was exhilarating.

That experience 16 years ago has led me back many times, allowing me to claim to be the holder of the record of more winter dives at Glen Ellis Falls than any other person in history!

### The 1995 Glen Ellis Dive

This year, UDNH is coordinating a dive at Glen Ellis Falls in conjunction with the *Divers Down* program broadcast weekly on ESPN. Here's your chance to see yourself on TV! The dive itself is scheduled for Sunday, February 26th, at 9AM, and lasts until 1PM or 2PM, followed by a small picnic or late lunch along the way back home. I usually encourage people to go up a day early and stay at the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), near the falls. This year, coming up a day early will offer an extra bonus, as the Divers Down crew will be doing a film presentation on Saturday night.

*continued...*



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## Make Your Plans Now

If you're planning on going up Saturday, February 25th, be sure to make your reservations **now**, as the AMC fills up quickly and Saturday's family-style dinner is worth its price! The AMC phone number is (603)466-2721 or 466-9469, and overnight lodging in a dormitory style setting is \$30/person, while a meal package including a dinner and breakfast is another \$15/person.

While there is no cost associated with the dive itself, please be aware that we **must limit** the dive to 12 qualified divers. In order to qualify, you must have taken the UDNH ice diving course being given pool-side after the February 6th UDNH meeting in Manchester. If you don't think you want to join us for a dip in the water but want to spectate, note that there is plenty of room for non-diving participants in this event! We'll need the help!

*To reserve your spot on the diving roster, or to volunteer to help out topside, or to get information on alternate lodging, call Wayne Russell. His contact information is on page 7.*



## Rhode Island Shark Dive Trip

by Jim Frederick

When Lea Nichols announced he planned to charter a boat out of Point Judith, Rhode Island with the intention of photographing sharks from a cage in the water, I immediately signed up. We were scheduled to go out in early October but got delayed a week by bad weather. Finally, the day came to leave and we all rendezvoused at Wayne Russell's house to load up. The crew included: Ron Mann, Lea Nichols, Dick Sperry, Wayne Russell, Roger Thibodeau and myself. By the time we had all our gear and people in Dick's van, there was hardly enough ground clearance for a chipmunk to run under it. We had more camera gear and film on board than was used in filming "Gone with the Wind". Dick managed to get us to Point Judith despite the fact that four of us were reading the maps and giving directions simultaneously. We drove down the night before so that we could be at the dock for an early departure.

It was easy finding our boat, the SNAPPA, at the dock. All of the shark tails nailed to the dock posts and the big shark cage on the back of the boat were hard to miss. I pictured the captain as a crusty old sea dog who had been chasing sharks for years. But when Capt. Charlie Donnilon showed up, he looked more like a tennis pro. We got our mountain of gear aboard, stowed away and finally shoved off from the dock about one hour later. It was a cloudy morning but as the sun rose higher in the sky, the clouds began to break up and show bigger patches of blue. The ocean was fairly calm as we made our way out of Point Judith and past Block Island. We were underway for about two and a half hours. As we cruised out to sea, the swells started picking up. By the time we reached the dive site they were three to four feet.

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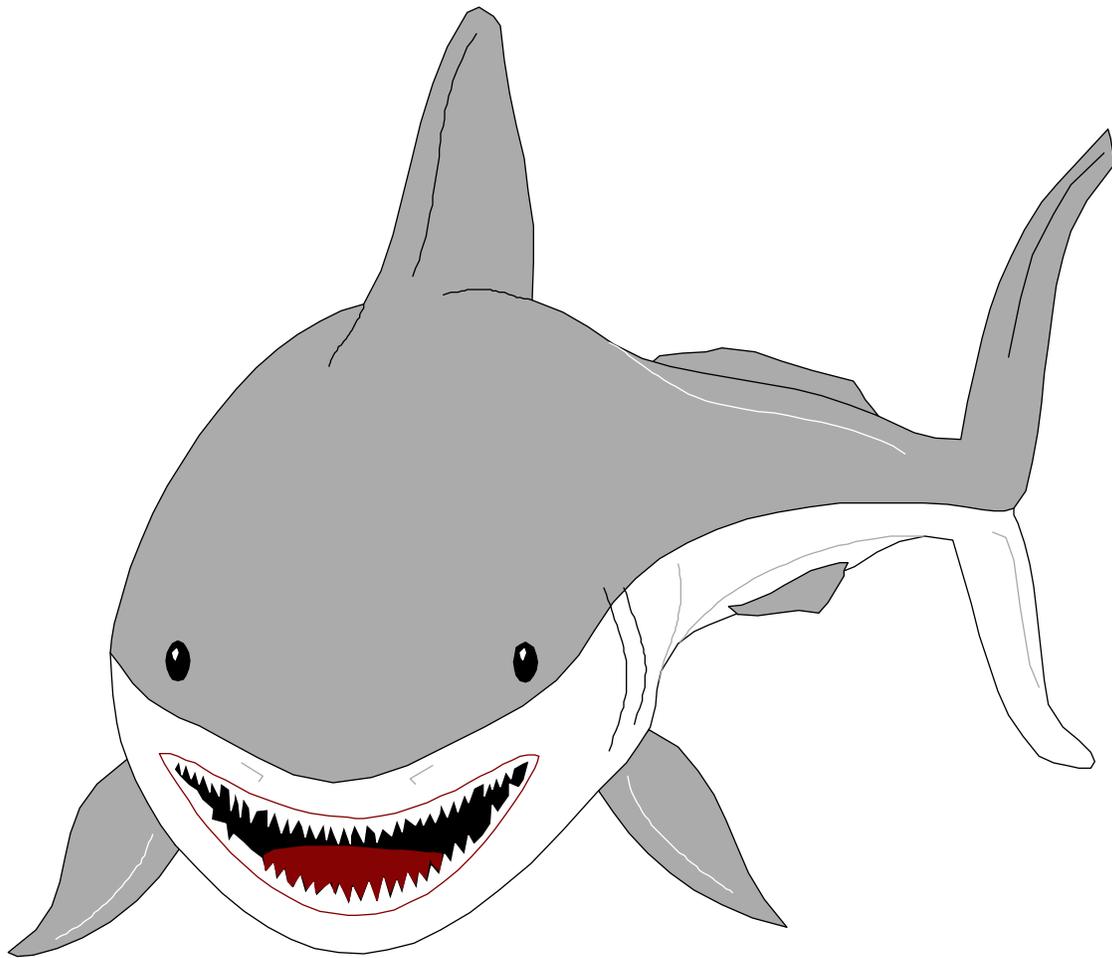
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The shark cage was new this year, really well made, with welded aluminum tubing. It took four of us to throw it overboard. The cage was held afloat with four big orange mooring balls. It drifted about 30 feet behind the boat on a line. Charlie threw out the sea anchor and started chumming in the water to attract sharks. He said that it normally takes about an hour before the chum slick brings in the fish. The wind picked up and the swells came closer together breaking

up the slick. After two hours, another boat captain about two miles away called on the radio to say he saw fins on the surface that seem to be homing in on our slick. A short time later a big fin was cutting through the water out beyond the cage, but it did not come in near the boat. We tied a rope around the tail of a big blue fish body and floated it on the surface. We were excited to finally see sharks in the water.

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It was just about then that the reality dawned on me - we had sharks around our small boat, out of sight of land, in 300 feet of water, and I was about to put my dive gear on and jump in with them! Suddenly I felt as imperiled as a piece of seafood on a plate. The next thing I knew I was going over the back of the boat, camera in hand, headed for the shark cage. As I swam the 110 miles to the cage, I could hear Charlie's earlier words echoing through my head. His advise was to "...go straight to the cage and get inside", like I was going to float around and watch the scenery instead! I went under and headed straight for the cage. I almost chewed my mouthpiece off when I realized the door was on the other side and I had to swim all the way around. When I got to the door, I couldn't get it open because the line holding the latch shut was bound tight. I struggled with the latch for 35 milliseconds, looking over my shoulder the whole time, before I went up and entered through the door on top of the cage that was much easier to handle. It was almost too rough to stand in the cage as it bounced in the swells. A short time later, Dick joined me in the cage but we never saw any sharks. I headed back to the boat and Ron went out to join Dick in the cage. Shortly after he was in the cage a shark showed up right behind the boat. Wayne was holding the line with the fish body attached. Before he had time to react an eight foot Mako shark sliced by and took everything but the tail. Captain Donnilon commented that other species of sharks normally stay away when Makos are around. As if on cue, the Mako left and three Blue sharks made an appearance. They circled well away from the boat for some time. Dick returned to the boat and Wayne went out to join Ron in the cage. We were putting more food in the water (not counting Ron and Wayne) and a good size Blue shark

came in behind the boat going after the new fish body on the line. We saw it coming and played it close enough to get some pictures. After everyone was back on board, we started to pack up for the trip back. Wayne took a few pictures in the cage but it was just too rough to keep the chum close to the boat so the sharks swam away.

We had drifted eight miles after we shut down the engines and had a three hour trip going back to dock. We didn't get back until 9:00 at night. It was not the most comfortable day on the boat but, I think, it will be a trip we will remember for some time.



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## Meetings and Events

### January 16 - Meeting

- Ron Gaudette, past President of UDNH, presents early Super-8mm films on ice diving and Glen Ellis Falls.
- Pool time - swim and underwater hockey.  
Intro to the lap program

### February 6 - Meeting

- Ice Diving Training Night by Jim Davis and Lea Nichols. Class and pool time required.  
Slide presentation.
- Pool time - ice diving training

### 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.



### 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 7:15 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
Secretary	Don Eva	603-672-5608
Dive Coordinator	Jim Davis	603-485-8039



United Divers of New Hampshire  
P.O. Box 703  
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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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