

DIVE LOG



The Bimonthly Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire



From Left to Right Mike Griffin, Lea & Elsbeth Nichols, Ken Anderson & Jean Stefanik



Al Gelinis at Jay Lewis Memorial

Cover Photos by Lea Nichols

Isles of Shoals Challenge

Update

by Gary Thuillier

The date is set for Sunday, September 7 with the race beginning at 9:15 AM SHARP!! The timing is to take advantage of the incoming tide. Don Eva and I with the help of Ron Mann made a trial run early in August with a combined headway speed of 8/10 MPH while maintaining a fairly straight course. With this in mind the starting line will be 5 miles from Rye Harbor, giving enough time to make the run while the tide is incoming. We'll attempt to anchor a boat at the start location to get all teams off and swimming on a TIME IN - TIME OUT basis. UDNH has two teams and a couple of other hopefuls but there is no limit. Each team requires a boat and observer. All interested parties please contact me ASAP. Due to first time confusion we've decided to waive the entry fee.

Onshore we're hoping to have some spectator support with a pot luck barbecue at the end of the race and a dive equipment swap meet. Onlookers should plan on arriving at Rye Harbor State Park some time after noon, as we don't expect to finish the race until about 3 PM. Help digging up sponsors or working T-shirt deals, anything to make this event something to look forward to each year, please feel free to contact me anytime. Telephone 603 487-3001.

Dive Trip to Turks

Departing November 1997

Mt. Pleasant Guest House, Salt Cay is located on the other side of the great divide. "The land that time forgot." Small guest house for a maximum of 20 persons. Three hearty gourmet meals daily. Diving, horseback riding, bikes & English warship. Package price approximately \$1500 per diver. Includes all meals, lodging, diving & airfare from Boston. Contact Wayne or Diane Russell @ 603 669-7124.



The Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire

Editors: Lea Nichols
Gary Thuillier

Support: Don Eva

Submissions

Editorial contributions may be e-mailed to COMPTUS@aol.com or FAXed to 603-487-5513. Submissions can also be sent on paper or PC floppy to:

Lea Nichols
342 Lyndeboro Road
New Boston, NH 03070

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 Lea Nichols at (603) 487-2726.

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 Lea Nichols as well.

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 Don Eva at (603) 672-5608

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Website:

Newsletters and other current info are available at our website: <http://www.strokeofcolor.com/udnh>, graciously hosted by Jake & Linda Richter.

Bahamas Trip to Chub Cay

Neil Watson's Undersea Adventures

Package dates open October to mid November. We are leaning toward the last week in October. Chub is a small cay located in the Berry Island chain in the Bahamas. A cay, pronounced "key" is a low island, reef or sandbar found just off the mainland or major island. Chub can be found between Grand Bahama Island (home of UNEXSO) and Andros Islands. It comes up out of the Tongue of the Ocean, a mile plus trench noted for its big marine life. This is not the tourist spot of Port Lucaya or Nassau, it is a diving and snorkeling destination. The facility has been rebuilt since Hurricane Andrew leveled it in 1992 and reopened July 1997. The facilities include a restaurant, bar, lodging, gift shop and a 5000 ft. landing strip. Getting there is via Ft. Lauderdale via 8 seat Cessna.

Cost per person, double occupancy is as follows:

4 days / 3 nights \$671

5 days / 4 nights \$801

Package includes:

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Contact Gary Thuillier @ 603 487-3001 for additional info

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Walk on Dates for 1997

June 29 (Sunday)

September 20 (Saturday)

July 8 & 22 (Tuesdays)

October 5 (Sunday)

August 12 & 26 (Tuesdays)

November - Scallops every Sat.

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INSTRUCTIONS

RENTALS



Lea Nichols on Chester Poling

Photo by Tom Tremblay

Wreck of the Chester Poling

by Tom Tremblay

The Chester Poling, a 281 Ft. coastal tanker sank on the morning of January 10, 1977 in 30 Ft. seas and 65 knot winds. She was headed for N.H. when the old tanker encountered the storm off Cape Ann. She was taking a terrific pounding from huge seas when she started to split in half. She now lies about 1000 yards off the Gloucester breakwater in about 95 feet of water.

July 29 was starting out to be a really great looking day. I left my house at 6:30 A.M. to meet Mike Griffin at his home in Nashua.

Mike and his dad were outside when I arrived. Contemplating how he was going to pack four sets of doubles, assorted single tanks, my gear and all the rest of his gear, they invited me in for coffee which turned out to be a whole breakfast. I was surprised to see Mike's grandmother up from Florida, we stayed at her house when we were there in February for Cave Diving. Everyone should have a grandmother like Mike's, a great

lady! Time to head South to meet Lea Nichols and his dad Lea Sr., another great person to know, still boating at 92. It took us quite a while to load all the tanks and gear, it seemed as though we were planning an all out assault in the Great Abyss. Finally everything was packed and stashed to a waterline that was barely visible. It was about a 2 hour crossing from the North River just south of Scituate across Mass. Bay to Gloucester. We arrived about noon. The sun was hot and the seas were calm. We pulled in behind the breakwater all safe and sound in Lea's 30 Ft. Trojan "Hero", one nice boat!!

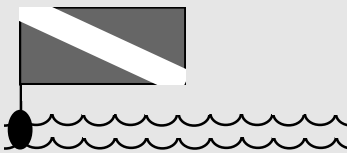
We had lunch from a menu Lea's wife Elsbeth had prepared for us with a specific list of what to eat at every meal. All the work was done except for the cooking. What a woman! Even in her absence she took good care of her boys.

Before heading out to the Chester Poling, about 1000-1500 yards out of the harbor we got all of the gear ready, a good thing because Mike and I were not feeling too well at this point. We figured out later that it was probably the back draft from the fumes that got us. Suiting up was torture in the hot sun. Undecided if lunch was coming or going. Finally in the water I felt a great relief.

Things started getting better after reaching the upper deck at about 90 Ft.. This was my first dive using doubles and Nitrox also a Nitrox computer. They worked really well. Also this was my first time on the Chester Poling.

The three of us had a great dive. Pre-dive planning and a specific dive plan, and communication format paid off. This is all very important, especially in deep water wreck or any specialty dives.

Each team member knew what to expect from the other divers-no surprises! We had great bottom time on Nitrox.



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Made a 100Ft. dive worthwhile. Visibility was good, about 30Ft., a nice clean deck to explore with large open hatches to penetrate. Lots of sea anemones and plant life, and lots of small fish in the open hold of the ship where it split.

Back on the surface we exchanged stories of our adventures. An excellent dive. Lea and Mike made a second dive later in the afternoon while I stayed topside listening to Lea Senior's war stories. Sounds like he had a good life. He knows or has met everyone there is to know on the Cape. We also ate the only fresh corn there was while Mike and Lea were below. Dinner was salad and steak on the BBQ washed down with wine and bread. More sea stories. We spent a perfect night anchored in the harbor, a full moon above and a warm sea breeze. Life is good!

On Sunday morning we had pancakes and eggs, coffee and fruit salad by chefs Mike and Tom. We finally got our engines going and made one dive for this day. Another great dive. What can I say, a good boat, great divers and perfect weather. The ride back was a bit bumpy the first hour but we made it 3 hours later. Lea was a very good captain (with Mike and I for support of course).

Back at the dock we took forever to unload everything. After that was done we had cocktails in the main cabin. I guess I thought I was mixing high octane, one sip and everyone had big grins. Even Lea's dad had one, well one half of one. He was happy too. Another great adventure diving with U.D.N.H.



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Ken Anderson diving O.J.Walker

Photo by Gary Thuillier

THE GREEN MOUNTAIN STATE

by Gary Thuillier

On the first weekend in August a small group of us loaded up Mike Griffin's van for a trip to Lake Champlain, home of "Champ"[their version of the Loch Ness Monster]. By the looks of it you would think we were diving ANDREA DORIA. A couple sets of doubles, some hang bottles and a ton of other stuff made us wonder how the springs on the van would hold out. By 4 O'clock we were on our way with a four hour ride ahead. Mike did all the driving with Ronnie Mann in the front passenger seat motioning everyone to get out of our way. We were on a mission! Our destination was the town of Georgia where we were to be guests of Frank and Michelle, a very hospitable couple who had previously come down our way as Ron's guests. This is a great way to expand on the wide variety of diving available all over New England and keep the costs down while meeting new and interesting people.

On arrival we unloaded our personal things into their motor home, got up the next morning to a great breakfast, and headed down to the docks in Burlington where we packed everything onto the dive boat [this time with the charter captain wondering "My God, where are these guys going with all this gear?"] Fact was we were heading out to a sailing barge named O.J. Walker, which had sunk with a cargo of clay tiles and brick in about 70 feet of cold fresh water, a factor which contributed to it's excellent condition. This ship was a recent discovery and the location is known only by some of the area divers and now of course, by us (though we are sworn to secrecy). The state of Vermont takes its underwater history very seriously and has strict guidelines for divers to follow. They also put a lot into the mooring systems to protect these sites. For reasons unknown to us, the O.J. was not yet classified as part of the preserve and therefore no mooring was available so our boat captain anchored a couple hundred feet from the huge mound on his bottom finder. Ken Anderson and I dropped to the bottom (which appeared suddenly out of nowhere) and as instructed swam due West till we came to a line strung just above the silt. Following this you soon ended up at a signpost naming the wreck which was looming behind it as a giant shadow. It was a very bluntly rounded bow that rose up to an anchor resting on the deck. (Hard to believe that's still there!!!) The shape of the bow pretty much defining the characteristics of a lake going SAILING BARGE verses the sharp prow of sailing vessels we're familiar with on our coastal waters. Gliding along the deck you could see the masts laying over the side and its cargo strewn about. Anyone who has dived with me knows I collect bricks usually found along the coast. I have a walkway at home laid with brick from Brunswick, Maine to Cape Cod and the Isles of Shoals so you can imagine how tempted I was to add to my collection. NO I DID NOT !!! On the stern of this ship was another remarkable sight THE HELM. It was in slight disrepair, though still there nonetheless.

continued ...

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Back on board the dive boat we headed over to what is probably the lake's most famous wreck, the TEAMBOAT. That's right "team" not "steam". This was a ferry built with a turnstile around which a team of horses would walk turning a giant gear below their walkway. This turned one shaft connected to two paddle wheels. The horseboat barge as it is also known is in a deteriorating condition probably due to its shallow grave (the silt line is at 45-50 feet) and as the many plaques found around it warn, you should be extremely careful of your buoyancy when diving this site. Mooring here is a piece of cake. On the surface are two 3 foot diameter yellow floats (one on each side of the wreck) and are secured with heavy chain. Descending you simply follow it down to the concrete block on the bottom. From there you follow a line similar to the one we found on the O.J.. This is ideal because it keeps divers from crashing down into the delicate site and also gives you a chance to adjust your buoyancy before you reach the ferry. The following day we tried something different, a freshwater wall dive. This particular site started at 25

feet below the dive boat then led over to a granite ledge bottoming out at roughly 60 feet. Some very strange rock formations here probably worn by years of water movement. Bear in mind that Lake Champlain empties into the St. Lawrence with the lake itself being around 100 miles in length so there is a slight northerly current. In fact we were told that another wall not far from where we dove bottoms out below 100 feet and you can almost drift along and on surfacing drift back to your boat because of a general southerly wind blowing down the lake. Some of the gouges in the rock were like mini-caves and swim-throughs. Though we didn't see much in the line of fish life the place is covered with Zebra Mussels, a thumbnail size menace. Many (divers) feel their presence is keeping the water clarity up but this is the only plus to the situation as they spread rapidly and clog up water intakes not to mention what they do to boat hulls. Time to head home but I Know we'll be back and we hope our Vermont friends will be coming down so we can return the favor they have done for us.

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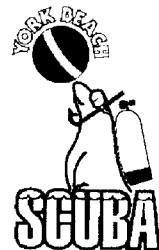
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Club Meetings

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 7:30 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.

Membership

Annual dues for membership for 1997 in the United Divers of New Hampshire are \$25/individual or \$40/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 - 1997

President	Jean Stefanik	603-647-1063
Vice President	Mike Griffin	603-598-0151
Treasurer	June Bardsley	603-673-8539
Secretary	Don Eva	603-672-5608
Dive Coordinator	Ken Anderson	603-594-9776
Ass't Dive Coord.	Ron Mann	603-883-9015

Meetings and Events

September 1 - NO MEETING - Labor Day

September 7 - Lake Winnepesaukee Cleanup

Contact Ken Anderson @ 603-594-9776

September 7 - Isles of Shoals Challenge

Underwater navigational marathon, BBQ & swap meet.

Contact Gary Thuillier (487-3001) for details.

September 15 - Meeting - Awesome Whale Tales & Photos from Les Escoumin, Coastal clean up plans

September 20 - N.E. Aquarium Dive Club picnic in

Ft. Getty, RI. Contact Don Eva @ 603 672-5608 or

DPEVA @ AOL.COM

September ? - Dive The San Diego Long Island New

York contact Steve Lindblohm @ 603 456-2190

September 27 - Coastal Clean up Contact Ken

Anderson @ 603-594-9776

October 4 - Coastal Clean Up @ Gosport

Harbor Contact Ken Anderson @ 603-594-9776

October 4 - Seamark @ N.E. Aquarium - N.E Dive

organizations gather to benefit Cotting Scholl for Handicapped Children

October 6 - Meeting - Jean Stefanic will tell about her

trip to Australia, New Zealand & Cook Islands, Nomination of officers

October 20 - Meeting - Hopefully Don Stevens will

give update on White Island, Nomination of officers

November 3 Meeting - Election of Officers

November - Scallop Season opens in Maine. Get

your license now, only \$8

November 8 - UDNH Annual Banquet @ Yard

Restaurant Attitude adjustment hour starts @ 6 PM

Noted photographer Jonathan Bird as guest speaker

Lobster raffle drawing

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Forward and Address Correction Requested

DIVE LOG

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 Issue:

- Turks & Bahamas Trip Plans
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- Wreck of the Chester Poling
- The Green Mountain State
- 1997 Upcoming Events

