

Let's Get Diving!

By Jean Stefanik

This is the time of year when diving in New England begins gearing up.

Many from UDNH have already been in the water several times. Please remember common-sense precautions and checks if you haven't been in the water since last season - everyone gets a little rusty at times. Call on your buddies, join an upcoming Club dive, and continue to support safe diving!

United Divers has been very active since the last newsletter. Eleven people finished the First Aid/CPR course and fourteen finished the Oxygen course. Impressive that we talked about it 3 months ago as a goal, and it's accomplished!

We've been tubing twice on the Piscataquog River in New Boston - lots of fun, and several club dives have successfully taken place, including a seal snorkel and other spots as well. A group participated in the Bay State Council of Divers Treasure Hunt also. Let's keep up the pace!

Our meetings have been varied and interesting, including speakers like Tony Codding from Star Island and activities like Ken's Underwater Olympics and my Crossword challenge of New England marine life. Check for upcoming meeting speakers. Our clothing is arriving - lots of colors and sizes from which to choose. Promote our Club!

I've had some personal challenges this past month also, with a sudden diagnosis of malignant melanoma. Melanomas are either curable if diagnosed early, or deadly for sure if it spreads to other organs. Following four surgeries and a fair amount of waiting anxiety, I'm finally considered to be 98% "cured", but will have to be checked every three months for several years. I sincerely thank all of you who have been supportive these past few weeks, and my message to you is to get

yourself checked every few years by a dermatologist, not simply a regular doctor. Mine was missed by several doctors and by me because it was on my back, and caught "just in time" because I added "dermatologist" to my list of yearly routine checks this Spring. By the way, I learned that most moles are benign, no one knows for sure why some people get them and others don't, and melanomas are often mottled, smaller and flatter, and sometimes in parts of your body which never see the sun - go get checked by a trained eye!

Looking to the future... UDNH has lots of activities planned - be there! Check with Ken and Ronnie for dives and other activities they schedule.

Check with Gary Thuillier for the Isles of Shoals Challenge



Barb Allen Tubing the Piscataquog

Photo by Lea Nichols

details, and be sure to attend our annual Jay Lewis picnic on August 9th. Speaking of Jay Lewis, the Memorial Dive is planned for Sunday, June 8. Last year the vis was amazing, and the weather perfect. We may contact the naturalists on Star Island and assist in stocking their center, and, in

addition, I have an opportunity to have a limited number of people "camp" on Smuttynose Island June 7-8, be sure to contact me if that interests you also. Sounds like a great weekend.

A group of Canadian divers may be joining us in August - they're eager to dive New Hampshire waters, and have invited us up to Les Escoumins - northeast of Quebec - for a 4 day weekend after the Isles of Shoals Challenge. It's drysuit or "tough" wetsuit diving, but beautiful critters not seen in our (relatively!) warmer waters. If you could dive the Isles of Shoals in April, you can handle Les Escoumins. Tropical Fish hunting over Labor Day weekend in Rhode Island is planned also.

Finally, as some of you know, I'm passing on the Presidential responsibilities temporarily to Mike from late June to early August, when I'm heading to Australia and New Zealand. I've thought of this trip for decades, and am excited at its realization. There's a Broadway song I heard a long time ago which says, "You've got to have a dream, if you don't have a dream, how you ever gonna have a dream come true?" Start dreaming and then make it happen! Do it NOW!



Ed Burke (Mr. Spock) examines Bill Wagner's brain waves during first aid class

Photo by Lea Nichols

DIVE LOG

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

Copyrights

All material Copyright © 1996 by the United Divers of New Hampshire or Lea Nichols, unless otherwise noted.

Website:

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

Turks & Caicos Islands

by **Charlie & Nena Hammond**

We spent 07-15 March 1997 in the Turks and Caicos Islands, which are a British Crown Colony located about 600 miles southeast of Miami. We spent 4 nights on South Caicos and 4 nights on Providenciales (Provo).

We flew on American Airlines from Boston to Miami to Provo. From Provo to South Caicos we flew in a 2-engine Cessna operated by Inter-Island Airways. American's flights were late, both going and coming. As a result, Inter Island landed us on South Caicos in near-dark conditions — no runway lights! On the return trip, we were stuck overnight in Miami.

On South Caicos we stayed at the all inclusive Club Carib, which is the only tourist/diver facility on South Caicos. There is nothing to do on South Caicos except dive and relax — don't come here for night life! Food at Club Carib was basic but well prepared and adequate. Some people might not appreciate the sort of "adventure" that this location represents, but we enjoyed it.



View of Grace Bay

Photo by Gary Thuillier

Seafari Charters

Badgers Island, Kittery, ME

Phone (207) 439-5068

FAX (207) 439-7484

E-mail SEAFARI@AOL.com



2 Dive locations per trip to Isles of Shoals. Call for departure time and reservations, PRICE is \$50

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.

SCUBA PRO

VIKING

ATLANTIC AQUASPORT
PROFESSIONAL DIVING EQUIPMENT

522 SAGAMORE ROAD, RYE, NH 03870

DON STEVENS

603-436-4443

INSTRUCTIONS

RENTALS

On Provo we stayed at the Turtle Cove Inn, which was nicer than I expected. The grounds were beautiful and very well kept, with beautiful landscaping around a small pool.

Food in Provo was good but not cheap. The Tiki Hut, on the Turtle Cove Inn grounds, serves nice breakfasts, lunches and dinners. They also provide "box lunches" which you can take on the dive boat.

The Sunset Bar and Grill is located at the Erebus Inn, a short but steep walk up the hill behind Turtle Cove. They have a million dollar view of Turtle Cove and Grace Bay.

The Sharkbite restaurant, a short walk east from the Turtle Cove Inn, serves dinner and has local entertainments some evenings.

On our last night, we took a taxi to the Coco Grove restaurant and had a very nice meal, probably the best of all.

Diving was some of the best that I've experienced. With the exception of Grace Bay, which is merely good, all of the diving was very good to excellent.

Diving is generally on the deep side of recreational diving. All of our first dives were past 100ft — deepest was 135. Second dives generally went to 80-90 feet. The dive guides swim a safe, multi-level profile for those who want to follow them, but dive computers are very useful tools here.

Water temperatures were around 74-76 F, air in the low to mid 80s. The winter visibility was "only" 50-75 feet. The water was a bit rough too but this was not a significant factor in our diving, only in the boat rides to and from dive sites.

At Club Caicos we did single tank dives morning and afternoon. The dives sites were 10-15 minutes from the dock. We dove from a 24 foot "Carolina Skiff", which wasn't the best boat for the conditions. We assembled our gear before leaving the dock, so we didn't handle it much on board the boat.

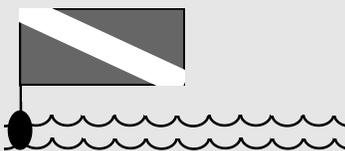
Two very nice dives, both of which we did twice were the Airplane and the Arch. The Airplane is a Convair 440 (??) that crashed and was re-located as a dive site. Most of the main wing and a short section of fuselage is intact. You can swim through the fuselage. The wreck is home to lots of groupers, grunts and snappers. It lies at about 40-45 feet.

The Arch lies at around 40-50 feet. It is a swim-through, about 8 feet tall by 15 feet wide. Again, lots of fish.

Both of these sites are close to the top of the wall, which "exceeds recreational depths" — i.e. 6-7000 feet. A typical dive is to drop down the wall (not all the way!) and then return to spend some time around the Airplane or the Arch.

We attempted one night dive, but with no moon, we could not locate the mooring. This, combined with low fuel, caused us to turn back. They offered to try again, but we'd both had enough of bobbing around in the dark. On the positive side, the stars were BEAUTIFUL.

In Provo we dove with Provo Turtle Divers. We dove from their 42 foot custom diveboat, which we liked very much. It is quite spacious, and even with 20+ divers we never felt crowded. We did two-tank trips each day, leaving around 8:30 in the morning and returning around 12:30 to 2:00 PM.



Aqua Ventures Dive Center

Advanced Open Water
Rescue Diver
Specialty Programs

Weekly Boat Dives
Air Fill Cards
Equipment Rentals

20 Lowell Road

603-598-5100

Hudson, NH 03051

Continued from Previous Page

The first day we dove in Grace Bay, on the north side of Provo. Frankly, this was the low point of our diving. Visibility was low; both fish and coral were less abundant than on the other dives.

The second day we went to West Caicos — a long trip (~1-1/2 hr). We dove at Rock Garden Interlude and the Driveway; both were very nice wall dives. We'd go down the wall to our planned depth and swim in one direction, then return to the top of the wall and swim back. The ride back to Provo was very rough, although water at the dive sites was relatively calm.

On our final day we dove the Chimney and Eel Garden at Provo's north-west point. The Chimney is actually open on the seaward side, so one doesn't feel at all "trapped". And, yes, there were lots of Garden Eels at the Eel Garden.

In the Turtle Cove area, we saw three dive shops, in addition to Provo Turtle Divers — Flamingo Divers, Turtle In Divers (yes "IN" with one "N"), and Caicos Adventures. There are other operations on Provo, including Dive Provo and Club Med. We were very please with Provo Turtle Divers. I also hear good things about Flamingo Divers, especially for smaller groups.

Would we do it Again? In a word, yes, a return visit to Turks & Caicos is on our list of places to go. I think that on a second trip we might spend some time on Grand Turk, possibly combined with time on South Caicos and/or Provo. This is simply a GREAT place for SCUBA diving.



UDNH Shirts for Sale

T Shirts \$14

Sweat Shirts with screened logos \$20

Sweat Shirts with embroidered logo \$22

Golf Shirts \$24

Pocket Masks (rescue breathing)

Standard \$12.50

Mask with O₂ Port \$18.50



AUTO REPAIR
SKILLED MECHANICS



**MANN'S TRANSMISSION
AND AUTO REPAIR**
ALL WORK GUARANTEED

Over 20 Years of Service

RONNIE MANN
(603) 883-9015

836 W. HOLLIS ST.
NASHUA, NH 03062



**COMPLETE
ELECTRICAL
SERVICE**

BELCO ELECTRIC

RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL
FULLY LICENSED & INSURED

DICK
BARDSLEY

OFFICE (603) 673-9600
HOME (603) 673-8539

US Divers

DACOR

Portsmouth Scuba

-A Shop Run by Divers for Divers-

513 Marcy Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801

SeaQuest

Charters

Avon Dry Suits

Springwinter by Gary Thuillier

Well here it is, another diving season for those of us stuck in New England's weather warp (just seemed like a good term for the kind of winterspring we've been having.) As a club it started off a good many weeks back with our annual tube ride down the Piscataquog River, I think it was some time in April anyway, due to a late snowstorm we were able to get eight tubers and two canoeists into (and on) the water.

We tried another approach this year by ending our trip at the New Boston Fairgrounds whereas in the past this was the beginning of the ride. With the help of a couple of chase personnel (Jean Stephanik & Elsbeth Nichols) we dropped off upstream about two miles, although it seems like much more. Stepping into the icy brook was reminescent of the ice dive in March but as usual you got used to the water in no time at all. Actually this is hearsay because I was wearing my dry suit. As we headed downstream things seemed to get a little faster and at one point we ran into a log across the river offering only a narrow passage. This was pretty much the end of the line for my wife Susie and son Dave as they didn't quite make the opening opting to go under the tree instead. After a few short moments (an eternity for them) they were both out of the water and we were on our way again. Susie was now a passenger of Mark & Kyle Absous in their canoe. Eventually we came to a small dam in the stream which Wayne Russell determined to be "do-able" and like a bunch of kids on a dare we followed right behind him. Just down stream of this we came out of the woods and ran into down town New Boston catching the attention of passing motorists and some fishermen who we were no doubt disturbing, and finally reaching our destination. From here we all met back at my home to warm up to some hot food and drink and to review the video that Lea Nichols and Mark taped that afternoon.

Two weeks later after a heavy rain swelled the river again a few of us repeated the ride making it a little shorter and having Jean to shuttle us back and forth through the more exciting spots. It was kind of short notice making for a small turnout. I'm hoping in the future we can get more club members to join in such events. We've had some boat trips to swim with seals at the shoals, a trip to the Chester Poling that I understand was not for anyone prone to seasickness, another trip there got weathered out and Susie & I made the treasure hunt put on by Bay State Council of Divers. By the way, those of you who planned to attend but for whatever reason didn't make it, TOO BAD!! There were many prizes up for grabs (my estimate around \$3000 in goodies and trips.) This was an event which should have been attended by a larger group of UDNH members, but such is life. One more get together went over on what seemed to be the first real day of the diving season. On Memorial Day Lea Nichols invited a few members out on his boat Hero to dive the Pinthis on the South Shore of Massachusetts. You could not have asked for a better day of diving. Our thanks to Lea and his father. Well hopefully the warm weather is here to stay because I've got a lot of diving to catch up on and I hope to see you all out there.



Sue Thuillier tubing Piscataquog

Photo by Lea Nichols

continued ...

PADI

DACOR

DIVERS DEN DIVE SHOP, INC.

EQUIPMENT SALES, RENTALS, & SERVICE

HAVE YOUR EQUIPMENT SERVICED NOW FOR THE SUMMER

STOP IN AND SEE WHAT'S NEW FOR THIS DIVE SEASON

730 MAMMOTH ROAD MANCHESTER, NH 03102

603-627-2536

SHERWOOD

U.S. DIVERS

HENDERSON

DIVE GEAR FOR SALE

Sadly, I'm getting out of diving for medical reasons. Lots of quality equipment for sale. Prices include shipping except for tanks and weights (g). Call Carl Greenbaum 603-889-6853 (home), 617-271-8090 (work)

Regulators and Computers

Sherwood Magnum II with Octo and digital depth gauge \$200

Tusa Duo-Air (IR-3) Combo octo/inflator (like AIR-2) – new \$80

Aladin Pro Dive Computer \$140

Aladin Pro Hose Mount \$ 20

Single pressure gauge on HP hose \$65

High Pressure Swivel \$15

Low Pressure Swivel 4 at \$15 each

BCDs

Zeagle 7700 Tec XL w/bands for single and doubles \$175

Seaquest ADV XL \$125

Dry Suit - Ocean Ray foam neoprene size XXL \$350

Dive Watch – Citizen Aqualand Duplex w/ Stainless band \$200

Lights

UK Q40 Light (4 C cells) \$25

UK1200 Light (8 D cells) \$60

Ikelite Mini-C Light (4 C cells) \$20

Pelican Saberlite Light (3 C cells) \$15

Stuff

Tusa Liberator Prescription mask (-8 diopter) \$50

Plana Avanti Fins blue-XL \$30

Wenoka Dive Gear Bag size huge, worn but lots of life \$35

Wreck Reel- Amaral \$60

Ultimate Pony Bracket \$20

28 # Weight belt (4-5s and 2-4s) \$20

Dive Rite Pocket (blue) \$10

HD Tool Bag \$20

ACR Submersible strobe \$20

Wenoka Mini Lazer knife 2 at \$20 each

SCUBA Sausage signalling device \$10

Pelican Marker Float -new\$20

Bug Bag -pink/black \$5

6mm Wet Suit Hood with bib\$20 ea

Wenoka regulator bag \$15

Mesh bag 21" x 13" red \$5

3 Finger Mitts size L \$20

Zipper booties size 10 \$20

3 Finger gauntlet glove \$20

**We Fill
NITROX
Too!**

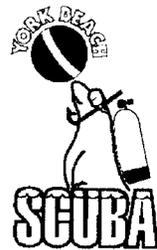
**The Northeast's First
Rebreather Training Facility**

Join us for your underwater experience of a life time. Become certified and expand your knowledge in the proper use and maintenance of the Atlantis 1 Rebreather.

The revolutionary new era in diving.

For Info Call 207-363-3330

York Beach Scuba Inc. 19 Railroad Ave. York Beach, ME 03910



*The Northeast's
Premier Dive Resort*

NH's TRANSMISSION SERVICE CENTER

RUSSELL AUTO INC.

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC

WAYNE RUSSELL

**247 SO. WILLOW ST.
1-800-562-8229**

**MANCHESTER, NH
603-625-6438**





Do you love to Dive?

2 Mercury Drive
Londonderry, NH 03053-3543
Parallel to Rt. 102
across from the Post Office
Look for red & white Dive Flag!

603 432-DIVE

Why not *share* the Urge to Submerge!

Here at Aquatic Escapes we offer personalized training with the latest technology in Snorkeling and Recreational Scuba as well as the best product lines on the market.

We are pleased to offer:

SCUBAPRO masks, fins, snorkels, tanks, regulators, BCDs, wetsuits and accessories.

D.U.I. the industry leader in dry suits and accessories for you to be Immersed in Comfort.

UWATEC featuring the finest in air and nitrox instrumentation plus the "new" Digital Compass.

SEA & SEA camera rentals and sales

Aeroskin, Seadive, Stahlsac, Underwater Kinetics and many other quality product offerings along with a complete line of standard and custom wetsuits, dry suits and accessories.

We offer a complete line of 1st Quality Equipment Rentals including Dry Suits, Computers, Cameras and even a D.P.V.

Special Family Instructional programs with affordable equipment trade-up options for young adults!

Would you like more information? Please call or stop by—we are ready to help you.

Store hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 11 AM to 7 PM

Saturday 7 AM to 7 PM Closed Wednesday and Sunday.



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	603-578-9219
Ass't Dive Coord.	Ron Mann	603-883-9015

Meetings and Events

June 7& 8 Jay Lewis Memorial Dive Weekend:

Dive the Jay Lewis Memorial site at the Isles of Shoals. Jay was killed by a hit-and-run boater near this area. The memorial is dedicated to helping promote awareness by boaters of divers and the dive flag. camping is an option for those who desire. Contact Jean Stefanik @ 603 647-1063

June 15 Boat Dive The Pinthis Contact Ken Anderson @ 603 578-9219

June 16 Meeting Charlie Hammond will give a presentation on his trip to Turks & Caicos. See article in this issue.

July 7 Meeting Underwater treasure hunting techniques using metal detectors.

July 12 Night Dive @ Nubble Light Contact Ken Anderson @ 603 578-9219

July ? Lake Winnepesaukee Cleanup Contact Ken Anderson @ 603 578-9219

July ? Boat Dive The Empire Knight Contact Ken Anderson @ 603 578-9219

July ? Dive The San Diego Long Island New York contact Steve Lindblohm @ 603 456-2190

August 4 Meeting Julia Steed Mawson will speak regarding river clean up in September.

August 9 Jay Lewis Memorial Picnic - Great Island Commons, Newcastle, NH.

August 16 (tentative) Isles of Shoals Challenge Underwater navigational marathon. Contact Gary Thuillier (487-3001) for details.

August 18 Meeting Jean Stefanik will discuss tropical fish capture techniques in preparation for Labor day weekend trip to RI.

August ? Dive Lake Champlain, VT Contact Ken Anderson @ 603 578-9219

August 22 - 24 Dive Trip to Les Escoumin, Quebec. Contact Jean Stefanik @ 603 647-1063

AVON DRY SUITS

"When only the best will do"

H.D. Rivited Zipper, 100% Vulcanized Seams, 1500 gr/m², Unrivaled Flexibility.

100% dry - 100% of the time.

Importers/Distributors - Portsmouth Scuba, 513 Marcy St., Portsmouth, NH 03801, 603-436-4887

WRECK DIVING

SPORT FISHING

M/V DIVEMASTER



CAPTAIN BILL'S CHARTERS

"Fishing and Diving at its Best"

Bill Wagner
145 Griffin Road
Deerfield, NH
USCG# 675776

Phone: 603-463-9028



NIGHT DIVING

COD FISHING

DIVE LOG

United Divers of New Hampshire
P.O. Box 4176
Manchester, NH 03108-4176

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 & Caicos Trip Report
- President's Column
- Springwinter report
- Used Equipment Mart
- 1997 Upcoming Events

