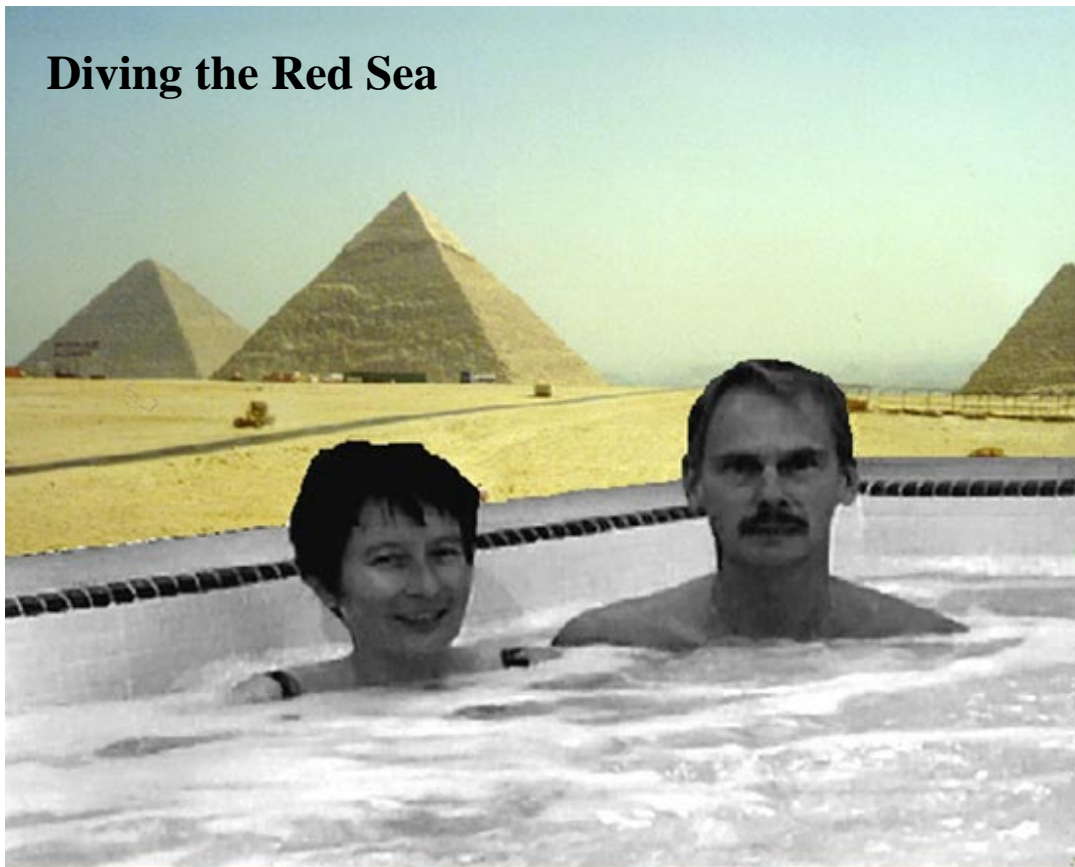


DIVE LOG

The Bimonthly Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire

Diving the Red Sea



1998 Banquet

The 23rd Annual UDNH Banquet was another success. Our featured speaker, Tom Mulloy, gave an interesting account of his exploration and artifact retrieval dives on the wrecks of the Forest Queen and the Aransas.

The Forest Queen was a sailing vessel which sank off Scituate while returning from China with a cargo which included many tons of silver bars.

The Aransas was a passenger steamer which sank off Monomoy Island on May 6, 1905. It collided with the 3rd in a line of 3 barges being towed by the tugboat Patience, while enroute from Boston to New York.

Tom and his associates have amassed a large number of interesting and valuable artifacts from these wrecks. Many of the Forest Queen's artifacts are or will be displayed at the Scituate Maritime and Mousing Museum.

We also introduced the new slate of officers:

President: Mike Griffin V.P.: Kerry Hurd

Treasurer: Gary Thuiller Secretary: Karen Marion

Dive Coordinator: Tom Tremblay



Tom Mulloy and a 70+ pound silver ingot from the Forest Queen..

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 or *dpeva@aol.com*

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Website:

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

Diving the Red Sea

by *Lea Nichols*

Imagine slipping into a vast hot tub filled with warm blue water chock full of amazing animals decorated with intricate yellow, green, red & blue patterns. The sides are covered with table and elkhorn coral, the bottom is sprinkled with coral pinnacles (ergs). Swimming inside the ergs are thousands of cardinal & rased fish. Other ergs contain octopi flowing their tentacles over the pitted coral surface. Some of the inhabitants such as the ever-present gold fish are tiny and harmless. The few that follows you with a single dark eye, such as marlin & barracuda are spooky. Titan triggerfish sneak up from behind and give a serious pinch should we venture too close to their nest.

My wife Elsbeth & I took a two week tour of Egypt in September. We spent a week in Hurghada diving the Red Sea, then rode in a caravan to the Karmak Temple in Luxor on the East Bank of the Nile. Next day we crunched through 6000 year old dust in the tombs at the Valleys of the Kings, Queens & Nobles on the west bank. The finale was a whirlwind tour of the Great Pyramids & Sphinx in Giza and the Cairo Museum. Along the way we dined with a Bedouin Tribe in their village, and checked out alabaster, papyrus and

perfume factories. This article is about diving. Should you be interested in the other details get in touch with Elsbeth or myself.

Our base of operations in Hurghada was the Marlin Inn (a good-sized fancy hotel) where we slept and ate breakfast & dinner. Our dive operation was located on the beach a few steps from the hotel lobby. The daily routine consisted of a breakfast buffet @ 8AM then off to the dive boat @ 9AM. The dive boat is a 15 meter displacement type hull, which cruised at 8 knots. It has plenty of deck space and seating to lounge on for the hour ride to the dive site. The diving took place about a collection of small islands including Giftun, Small Giftun, Fanouse & Abu Hashis. We opted to maximize our time in the water by staying shallow. Maximum depth for the week was 66 feet with average dive times of 60 - 75 minutes. Bottom depth on several wall dives exceed three hundred feet for those of you need of a nitrogen fix. After the morning dive a hot lunch is prepared by the cook consisting of salad, rice, fried chicken, lamb washed down with soda or mineral water. After an hours siesta we jumped in the water for another dive. Our boat had a fresh water spray on the swim platform to rinse our face and camera equipment. We napped and lounged on the boat ride home to the hotel where the crew washed our dive equipment.

(continued on next page)

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INSTRUCTIONS

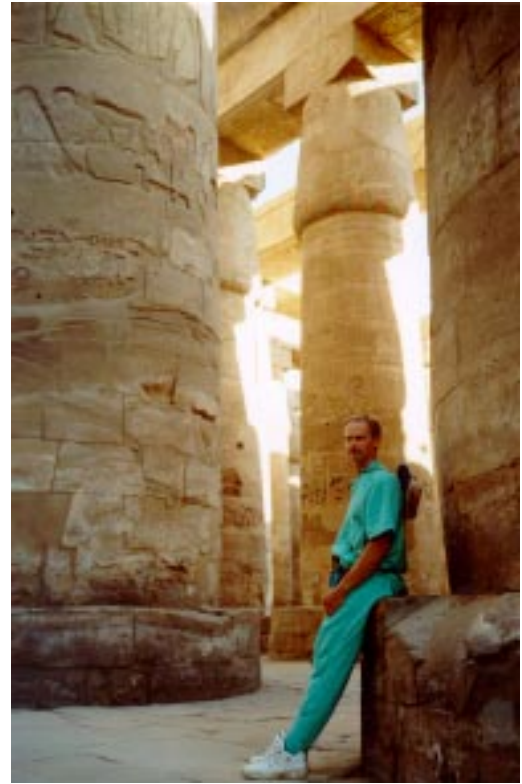
RENTALS

Back to our room to shower and perform the camera rituals. Each night the hotel hosted a dinner buffet with soups, salads, bread, rice, potatoes, fish, lasagna, various meat dishes and a huge desert selection. After dinner we bargained with the local shopkeepers for souvenirs or hung out in the spacious hotel lobby.

On most dives the boat tied into a permanent mooring system consisting of 250 sites that were installed by the Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA) in 1997. The weather was very windy with 4-5 foot seas our first day of diving which sent us seeking the protection of Giftun Island along with a multitude of other boats. Elsbeth was recovering from a head cold and snorkeled along a mini wall where she was entertained by butterfly fish, barracuda and clown fish protecting their adopted anemone. Tiny coral fish shimmed in and out of the tortuous coral branches. The intense sun quickly evaporates water from the Red Sea making it noticeably more buoyant than the Atlantic water to which we are accustomed. This makes snorkeling as easy as resting in a bathtub. I could float with hands and feet out of the water no added buoyancy from a wet suit.

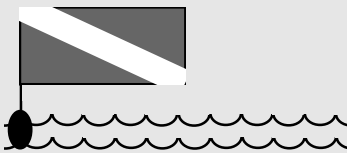
Since Elsbeth was relegated to depths of 6 inches or so I buddied up with Axel, a German banker, for the days diving. Stepping off the boats swim platform we descended to about 30 feet and swam with two divemasters and two other divers over a white coral sand bottom, through a cut in the coral reef at Ben El Bebel to explore several ergs in 40 - 60 feet of water. We passed two blue spotted rays in the sand and lunar tail grouper cruising for lunch. Coral is moderately beaten up with splotches of life. Axel was the consummate conservationist, staying well clear of the coral and warning me about blowing sand on the coral with the wash from my fins. Being of the slow and poky school of diving the rest of the group swam on ahead. We were eventually rejoined by one of the divemasters after half an hour when the other divers had exhausted their air supply. An hour or so into the dive I think the divemaster was getting cold and thus led us back to the boat via a slightly different route.

Author propping up column in Temple at Karmak



The general area has many napoleon wrasse varying in size from 3 to 9 feet long. I had the opportunity to observe one animal being cleaned that was many times my body size. He held his giant mouth wide open while wrasses darted about gathering tiny morsels of food. Eventually the wrasse was spooked by a group of eager divers and blew the wrasse out of his mouth as if sneezing and darted for cover.

Another dive of interest is a smuggling boat that crashed into the reef a few years ago. It now lies in 50 feet of water. Supposedly the captain had over imbibed and hit the reef at full speed. The superstructure is missing allowing easy access inside the hull. The main attraction is a pair of Roll's Royce diesel engines still sporting the manufacturer's nameplate and a crocodile fish that makes its home about



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one of the fuel tanks.

At the Stone Beach dive site a precipitous wall starts several hundred feet above the ocean and falls to 150 plus feet below. Above water the terrain is barren desert strewn with basketball sized rocks. Underwater the wall is hard coral inhabited by parrot fish, clown fish, angel fish & barracuda. Swimming along in water too deep to perceive the bottom I alternated my gaze from the steep wall to open water giving a sensation of weightless flight. We were all so entranced that we ended up a 1/4 mile down current from the dive boat, which was expecting us to surface up current. After a few minutes bobbing on the surface it was clear we needed a better technique to catch the crews attention. Given the steep shoreline with crashing waves, climbing on shore wasn't an option. Elsbeth suggested using one of her pink fins to wave at the boat. I ducked my head underwater to loosen her fin and spotted a marlin about ten feet away taking in the whole show. The marlin was at least my size and had us fixed in it gaze. We forgot about signaling the dive boat and turned our attention to the visitor. As fate would have it I had used all the film in my camera, but the experience is burned into our memory as well as any film could record. A few minutes passed and the boat spotted us (darn). When the boat approached the we watched the marlin head back to open ocean.

The last day of diving at East Fanous was spectacular for the abundance of life in one hollow erg in 40 feet of water that rose like a spire to 20 feet. The inside of the erg was filled with coral fish, cardinal fish and rased fish. Solitary spotted grouper and angelfish patrolled the inside in search of a meal. When they struck the entire bait ball exploded through every cranny. The inside was just big enough to surround my upper torso thus truly immersing me in the action. The outside of the erg was draped in brilliant yellow & red soft corals. Barracuda stationed themselves atop the melee.

The only problem with the trip is that now Elsbeth dreams every night about returning to play with the fishes and how much she misses them.



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CATCH THE WAVE

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1360 Worcester Road, Rt 9, Natick, MA

When: *January 30, 1999*

Time: *7:00pm til*

Donation: *\$25.00 per person*

Tickets & info: *Contact Don Eva, 603-672-5608*

Lodging: *At the Crowne Plaza, 508-653-8800*

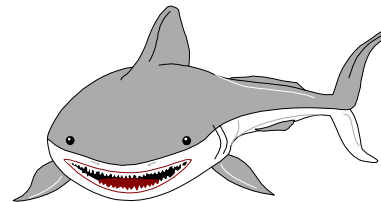
ARTS CELEBRATION!

As an added attraction this year we are pleased to invite all interested parties to enter our "Catch the Wave Arts Celebration". This is a non-juried Art Show open to all artists creating original two and three dimensional art (except photography) relating to scuba and/or aquatic subjects. There is a limit of 2 items per artist, and an entry fee of \$2.00 per piece. Work may be offered for sale, with 20% of the sale price to benefit the "Catch the Wave" sponsored charity. For more details and registration forms, contact Don Eva at 603-672-5608 or Veronica Sloane at 978-897-9825.

Last year's party drew over 175 divers from the New England area. This year's gala promises to be even better! Raffle & door prizes, dinner, dancing, & swapping stories will highlight the evening.

Previous parties have raised over \$3000 for charities. Part of this year's proceeds will go to support DAN research efforts.

Let's have a good turnout from the club!



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l-r: Mike Griffin, president; Gary Thuillier, Treasurer; Kerry Hurd, V.P.; Tom Tremblay, Dive Coordinator; Don Eva, '98 Secretary.



TIDES

The following abbreviated tide tables are for High Tides only based on Boston Harbor. This guide is a quick reference only and should not be used for dives requiring exact times for slack tide.

Sat Jan.2 - 10:45am	Sun Jan.31- 10:45am
Sun Jan.3 - 1:45am	Sat Feb.6- 4:15pm
Sat Jan.9 - 5:00pm	Sun Feb.7- 5:00pm
Sun Jan.10- 5:45pm	Sat Feb.13- 9:00am
Sat Jan.16- 10:15am	Sun Feb.14- 9:45am
Sun Jan.17- 10:45am	Sat Feb.20- 2:15pm
Sat Jan.23- 3:30pm	Sun Feb.21- 3:15pm
Sun Jan.24- 4:30pm	Sat Feb.27- 8:45am
Sat Jan.30- 9:45am	Sun Feb.28- 9:45am

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Saturday 7 AM to 6 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 7:00 PM. Each meeting consists of a short business portion followed by a variety of presentations and discussions. Immediately following the club has an hour of pool time for swimming, trying out gear, and the occasional game of 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 1998 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 - 1999

President	Mike Griffin	603-673-9250
Vice President	Kerry Hurd	603-672-8325
Treasurer	Gary Thuillier	603-487-3001
Secretary	Karen Marion	603-880-0293
Dive Coordinator	Tom Tremblay	603-625-8459

Meeting schedule: 7:15-8:15pm - meeting & presentation ,
8:30-9:20- pool time, 9:20-9:30 - Hot Tub!

Meetings and Events

January 1, 1999 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

New Years Day dive. 10am at Folly Cove. Contact Gary Thuillier @ 603-487-3001 if you plan on going.

January 4 Meeting Mike Griffin & Tom Tremblay will show highlights from their recent Florida trip.

January 16 Dive Cape Ann Contact Tom Tremblay @ 603-625-8459 for time & meeting place.

January 18 Meeting. Ice Dive Training. Required session for those wishing to do either the Winnepesaukee or Ellis Falls dive with us for the first time.

January 23 Glen Ellis Falls Dive

January 30 Catch the Wave annual multi-club party Crown Plaza, Natick, MA Contact Don Eva 603-672-5608 for tickets & details.

February 1 Meeting. Borneo diving presentation by Gary Wenzel.

February 6 Lady of the Lake Ice Dive at Lake Winnepesaukee.

February 15 Meeting Rich Bacon will relate an experience with a hyperbaric chamber

March 1 Meeting Don Stevens will give an animated presentation on a topic to be determined.

March 6-7 Boston Sea Rovers Show

March 15 Meeting

March 26-28 Beneath The Sea Symposium
Secaucus, NJ

April 5 Meeting

April 19 Meeting

May 3 Meeting Cliff Simoneau will tell us about exciting new diving technology.

**July 16-18 Hermit Island Camping/Diving/
Kayaking/Canoing/Biking/Windsurfing/Carousing
Weekend.** Contact Tom Tremblay (603-625-8459) for details. (For carousing info, contact Alice Mann)

August 27-30 Les Escoumins, Quebec trip with New England Aquarium Dive Club.

TECH TIPS

Tech Tips is a column for members to share their knowledge, ideas and/or inventions. All submissions welcome.



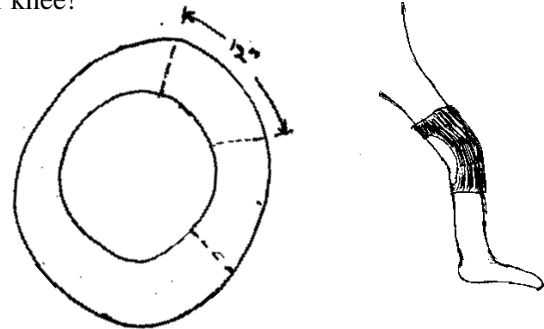
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Knee Pads by Mike Griffin

Here's a great way to save your knees and suit from wear & tear:

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Spread the Word

Recent discussions within the Board generated the idea that we should have a small group of club members visit the certification classes held in area dive shops, to personally invite new divers to come check out the club. We'll be contacting the shops soon to work out details. Contact Elsbeth Nichols (603-487-2726) if you're interested in participating.

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:

- 1999 Officers
- Annual Banquet Review
- Diving the Red Sea
- DiveWave Party
- Weekend Tide info
- Dive/Activities schedule

