
DIVE LOG

The Bimonthly Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire

Tis' the season..



cover photo by Gary Thuillier

The Presidents Corner

1999

Well we've all made it through another year of diving without any mishaps within the ranks of our club. I've heard it said that *any* dive where you make it safely back to shore is a *good dive*, then perhaps we can also say that 1999 was a *good year*. For my wife Sue and I it's been a fun and active year with some interesting memories to reflect upon. She and I tried to join in a cleanup in Southern Florida but instead got evacuated from the East coast by Hurricane Floyd. Well, the Gulf Coast was nice. At the same time, our UDNH cave enthusiasts were adding to their training skill. Luckily for them, Central Florida was spared all but the swarms of evacuees. We have some relatively new divers who in one season put in more bottom time and increased their skill levels more than many of us have done in a five year period. Early in the season some of our members joined forces with other volunteers in trying to rescue a group of stranded dolphins on Cape Cod. At our summer picnic we worked together and put in a beautiful granite bench as a memorial to a friend. There were cleanups at both the ocean and the lakes. There were also a number of boat dives made possible by some of our members with, need I say *boats*. A special thanks to them for giving others that opportunity. Our annual banquet went quite well with one very interesting 3-D slide presentation by Ed Jameson. To finish off the season we decorated a Christmas tree for the fish at Nubble Light (I'm not sure the fish got anything out of it but we all had fun, which you can read about on page 3). So as you can see, the United Divers of NH have been very busy. If you are reading the *DIVELOG* for the first time and/or are new to diving, look us up in January. I think it's a very friendly group of people and I'm sure you would think so too.

Happy Holidays and best wishes for the new year ahead.

Gary Thuillier



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The Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire

Editors: Lea Nichols
 Don Eva

Support: Gary Thuillier

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.

A New Twist to a York Tradition

by Barbara Wenzel

A different glow was present at the traditional lighting of the Nubble Lighthouse this year. But, It did not come from the lighthouse itself, instead it came from beneath the sea. The first annual underwater Christmas Tree at Nubble Light took place as though it was a planned part of the ceremonies.

Seven Divers, Tom Tremblay, Gary Thuillier, Bob and Rose Gamanche, Cindy Conlin, and Jim and Barbara Wenzel participated in the rather impromptu plan to sink the Christmas tree, lights and all. The tree was garnished with light sticks, carried out to a mooring at approximately 20 feet in depth, and tied off. Some divers congregated around the tree and hummed Christmas carols, while others took advantage of the opportunity to do an enjoyable night dive. All agreed that the experience was unique and for onlookers, we were a warm-up group for the bigger show. People watching requested that divers pose with their kids for pictures. We received a warm round of applause from onlookers both when we completed our dive and when we presented our banner, wishing all a Merry Christmas from the United Divers of New Hampshire. Finally, to top off the spontaneity of the event, we gave our Christmas tree to Santa Claus, who rode off with it at the end of the evening on the back of a fire truck.

Unfortunately no-one had an underwater camera, because to be honest, no-one seemed to believe we'd really pull it off. Some of us were afraid the weather wouldn't hold up while others of us were afraid the police or EPA would intervene.

Since the event, we've all had time to ponder what we could do to make it better next year. Rose suggested finding some way to raise money for a charity such as the Make-a-Wish Foundation, and Gary suggests making the "Light show" a bit more extravagant by choreographing our underwater movements. Other suggestions are more than welcome.

This time around we learned that we could do it, and that Christmas trees are neutrally buoyant. So like I said at the beginning, this was the FIRST annual underwater Christmas Tree! See you all in May!

Barbara will be leaving us for a few months to work in warmer regions of Florida. Hmm, where can I get a job like that?



SCUBA PRO

VIKING

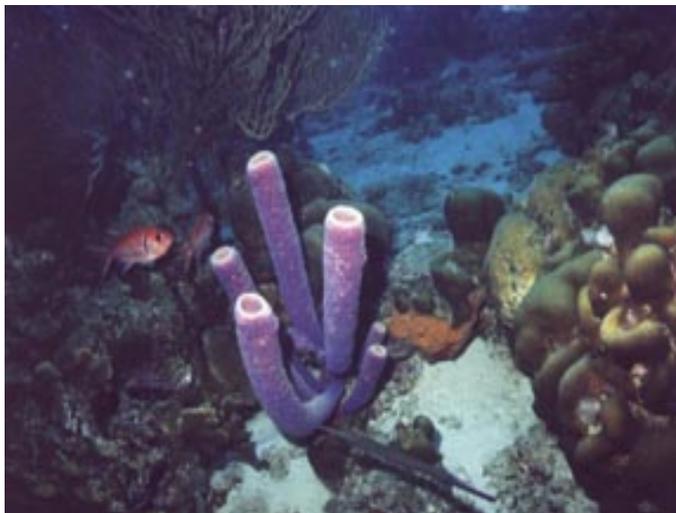
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INSTRUCTIONS

RENTALS



tube sponges

Bonaire, 1999

photos and text by Karen Marion

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...

I spent the last week of October in Bonaire with the gang from Underwater Photo-Tech. We all gathered at Logan Airport, meeting new folks, and rekindling friendships from last year's trip. It was great to see everyone again. We all had arrived and gotten our seating assignments when things began to look grim. The flight had already been delayed once, and now our baggage was being unloaded from the plane. Uh Oh.

There was a problem with the flap motor and they'd been attempting to repair the plane all night, to no avail. An hour after our flight was originally scheduled to depart, there were still men under the wing with power tools in hand. There was finally an announcement that, while the flight was not yet canceled, folks might want to look around for other arrangements. Our fearless leader, Fred, accompanied

by his dedicated wife, Donna, headed to the counter, gathering our tickets on the way, to find us alternate transportation. I kept up a running commentary... "Donna's smiling. Wait. She always smiles. Hm, now Fred's smiling. Now they're both smiling..." And, finally, to rousing cheers from all of us, they returned to tell us we'd been seated on a flight leaving shortly to Atlanta.

After that it was smooth sailing to Bonaire.

We stayed at Captain Don's Habitat, which is always wonderful. My room overlooked the ocean, and was nearby to most of the group.

We all settled in and got oriented the following morning. The next two days passed swiftly, as I dove, admired the local bird life, and enjoyed the sunsets over the ocean from my patio. The water had more particulate matter in it than last year so vis was probably only around 60+ feet. I shot mostly macro, though I shot some wide angle stuff to try out my new lens. I did manage a good deed that week, freeing a Spotted Moray from 30 feet of fishing line. I also saw several creatures that were new to me, including a chocolate lined snail (rare), a spotted cleaner shrimp, a greater soapfish, and many more.



orange cup coral shot at night

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Call for 1999/2000 Schedule

Tuesday morning I woke feeling under the weather, and found that I was unable to clear my right ear. My comments on this situation will be left to the imagination of the reader, being unfit for a general audience.



things to see when you can't dive

I spent the next two days coughing, sneezing, and taking tons of Sudafed in an effort to clear up enough of this cold to allow me to dive. Needless to say, I was upset. I was once asked what the worst feeling in the world is. If you'd asked me that last week I'd have said, "being on a dive trip and unable to dive". I put as brave a face on it as possible, and did some reading...but really, none of that cheered me much.

Finally, on Thursday afternoon, I could clear both ears. Determined to make up for lost time, I immediately geared up for a late afternoon dive. I must have cleared every couple of seconds during the first few minutes, hoping against hope I wouldn't have any problems. It finally became clear that my ears were in good shape and I relaxed into a wonderful macro dive. I saw lots of tiny shrimp, including pedersons, spotted cleaner, and coral banded. It was wonderful!

I came out of the water to find one of our number willing to go in again, so we did two more dives, both after dark. I took

my camera on the first one, and simply enjoyed the view on the second. In addition to lots of great small stuff, we saw a humungous green moray that sometimes inhabits La Machaca, a small wreck off Captain Don's house reef.

Our flight home was uneventful, and we arrived at Logan in time to see a gorgeous sunset over the skyline. A lovely end to the week.

A STEP BACK IN TIME

This has absolutely nothing to do with the sport of diving but it would be a good club gathering. Anyone up for a night at the MEDIEVAL MANOR in Boston? For those who are unfamiliar with the place, it is a dinner theater consisting of a King and his court. Dining is typical of the Henry the 8th image and the King does have his rule, but a fun time is had by most who dare to give it a try. We are thinking it would be a good Friday or Saturday night out in mid-Winter so think about it and if interested call Jean Stefanik @ 603-647-1063

A new year is coming in. Don't forget your membership dues!



US Divers

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UDNH BANQUET

by Gary Thuillier

photos by Lea Nichols

On November 20 this year our annual feast was enjoyed by about 50 members and guests at the Executive Court in Londonderry. This year, our events organizer Tom Tremblay, suggested we have a theme for the party and that was to be **Hawaiian**. The idea brought on some interesting attire. First, as you entered the banquet hall, you were greeted by a barefooted Jim Wenzel wearing very casual island garb and a lei (I next expected to see a little guy shouting "ze plane, boss, ze plane"). The hall was decorated with palmtrees and island stuff but what really brought the theme home was when Christine Mann walked in with her grass skirt outfit complete with coconuts. Now we had never planned on a



costume contest but after the Hula dance she put on for the crowd we decided it was worth at the very least a free drink. The food and service was very good as is usual for this facility, a buffet style with more than all you can eat.



Entertainment for the evening was a wonderful and very unique 3-dimensional slide presentation on Bonaire given to us by Ed Jameson (seeing everyone with those glasses was pretty entertaining in itself). As in the past, we also bid farewell to the old board and welcomed the new after which we finished off the event with our door prizes and raffles.

(continued on next page)

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(continued from previous page)

This year we can thank Don Stevens for a couple of courses donated by his shop, Sue Thuillier for a beautiful, custom New England Dive-knits dive sweater (*now you know I'm going to give my wife's business a plug*), Aquatic Specialties for a mask & snorkel set, Don Eva and Gayla Hughgill found a unique lamp with a diver which they donated. Steve Lindbloom brought in a real nice regulator repair manual for our benefit and Lea Nichols Sr. gave us a number of his hand crafted wood items (pretty neat for a man in his mid 90's), Ronnie Mann will be taking a winner out for a dive at the Shoals next season, and also there were many other item which we picked up through our membership and raffled off raising a little extra cash for the treasury. I don't want to rush the season any but I do look forward to having as good a banquet in 2000 as the last one we had in the 20th century.



Mike Griffin left passing the presidents gavel to Gary Thuillier Notice the now famous SeaMark signature quilt hanging in the background. Hand made by member Jeanne Tremblay and donated for auction at SeaMark 99, this peice has the signatures of people such as Jean-Michael Cousteau, Stan Waterman and many others. It was displayed by proud owner Wayne Russel.



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CATCH THE WAVE

4th Annual Catch the Wave Party

A few years ago, members from 9 of the area dive clubs, including UDNH, the New England Aquarium Dive Club, among others, decided to create a loose network to bring together divers from the area. The first Catch the Wave party was a huge success, with over 150 participants swapping dive stories and having a good time. Door prizes, raffles, and silent auctions have rounded out the evenings.

Proceeds from the party have gone to area divers in need, Divers Alert Network, and programs for area youth.

This year's party will be held March 25, 2000 at the Wyndham Hotel, Waltham, MA. Cost is \$25 per person.

For details, contact Don Eva @603-672-5608, or Al Bozza @ 508-384-1377.

New Years Eve Party

Ron Mann's house December 31, 7pm
Feel free to bring a sleeping bag. Please call to let him know how many people to expect 603-879-9911

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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 7:00 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 1999 in the United Divers of New Hampshire are \$30/individual or \$45/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	Gary Thuillier	603-487-3001
Vice President	Kerry Hurd	603-672-8325
Treasurer	Jim Mayo	603-895-4090
Secretary	Don Eva	603-672-5608
Dive Coordinator	Tom Tremblay	603-625-8459

*Meeting schedule: 7:00-8:15pm - meeting & presentation ,
8:30-9:20- pool time, 9:20-9:30 - Hot Tub!*

Meetings and Events

December 31,1999 New Years Eve Party

Ronnie Mann's home, hot tub is open so bring your bathing suit. Please call!!

Contact Ron or Alice Mann @603-879-9911

January 1, 2000 New Years Day Dive

Contact Gary Thuillier@603-487-3001 for details

January 3, 2000 Meeting

Open agenda

January 17, 2000 Meeting

"Jean's Japanese Journey" Jean Stefanik will tell about her recent trip to Japan

February 12, 2000 Boston Scuba Show.

Marleborough, MA

February 2000 -

**Annual Winnepesaukee Ice Dive
Ellis Falls Dive**

March 4&5, 2000 Boston Sea Rovers Clinic.

**March 25, 2000 4th Annual Catch the Wave
multiclub Party.** Contact Don Eva @ 603-672-5608 for details.



Internet connection - a new place in the *DiveLog* for businesses with websights.

With the growing trend of web advertising and the fact that this newsletter can be seen online it makes good sense to put your connection here. Call Lea Nichols for pricing details.

New England Dive-knits

<http://members.aol.com/diveknits>

Equipment Mart

Viking Sport Dry Suit Size 01

Orca Edge dive computer

Suit is little used and in good condition with under garments, \$450. Contact Lea Nichols @ 603 487-2726.

Dive Computer: Orca Marathon- excellent condition w/ new battery. \$100. Contact Mike Griffin @ 603-673-9250.

TIDES

The following abbreviated tide tables are for High Tides only, based on Portsmouth Harbor. This guide is a quick reference only and should not be used for dives requiring exact times for slack tide. More detailed information is available at maineharbors.com.

SATURDAY

DEC25 - 12:39 PM
JAN 1 - 7:13 AM
JAN 8 - 11:53 AM
JAN 15 - 5:19 PM
JAN 22 - NOON
JAN 29 - 5:33 PM

SUNDAY

DEC 26 - 1:36 PM
JAN 2 - 8:03 AM
JAN 9 - 12:28 PM
JAN 16 - 6:25 PM
JAN 23 - 12:27 PM
JAN 30 - 6:30 AM

Weather

Current marine weather for New England can be accessed on the world wide web at NWS.FSU.EDU/BUOY/

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 bi-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:

- Christmas at Nubble Light
- Bonaire trip

