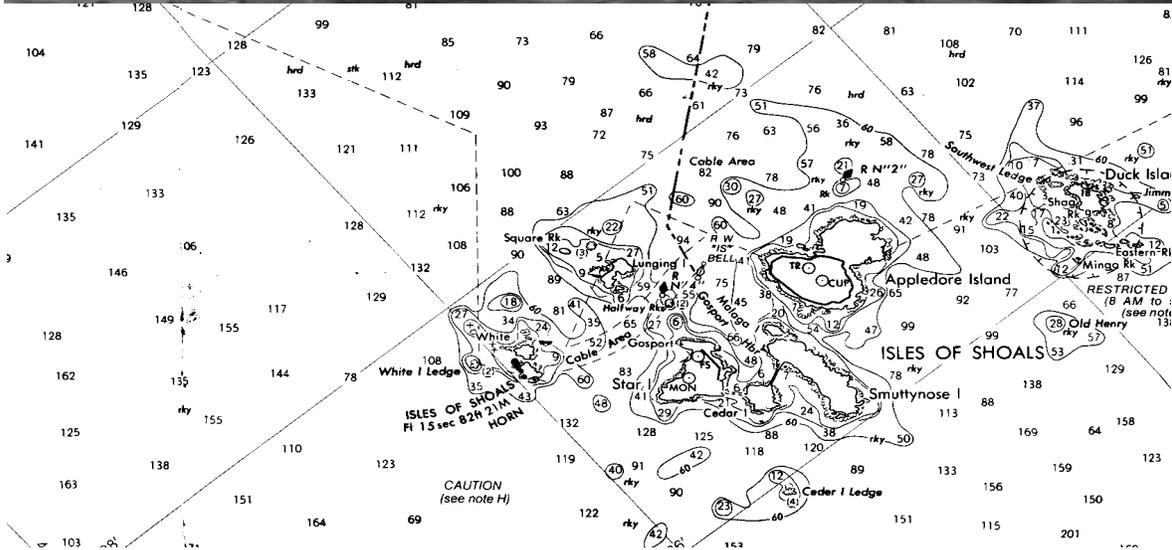
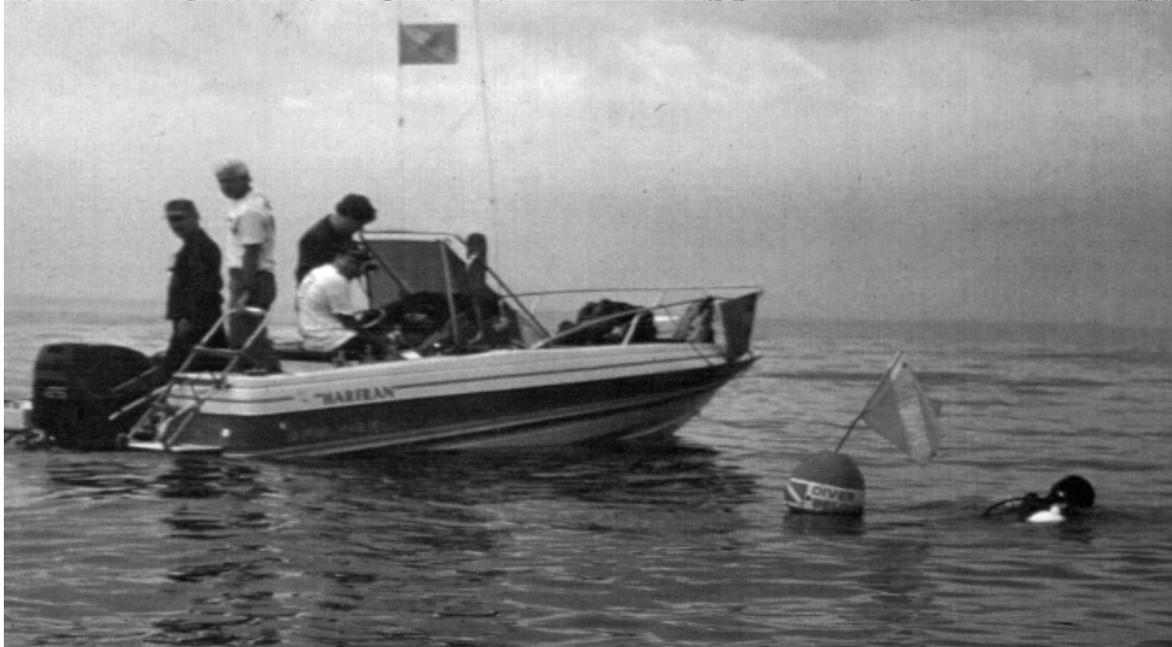
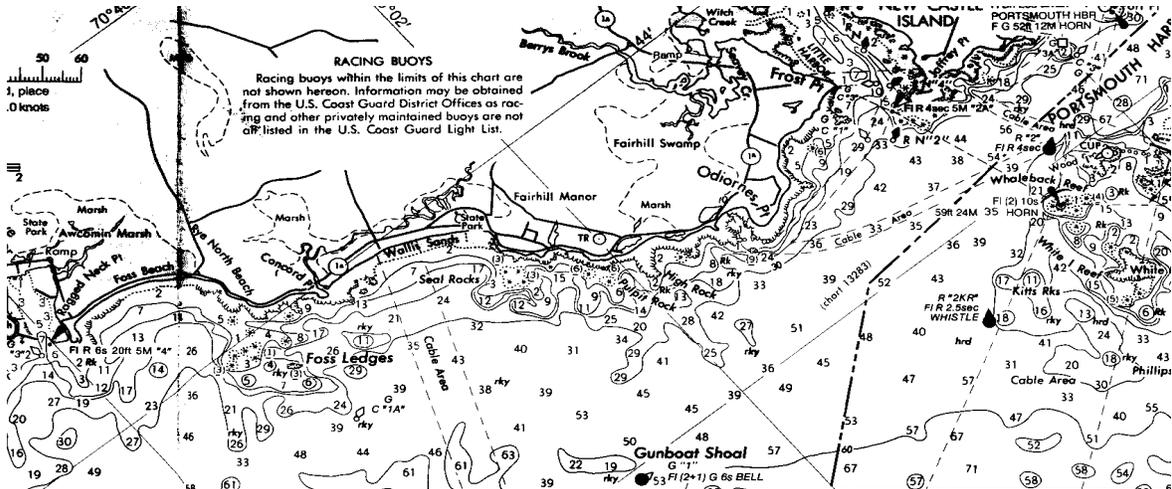


# DIVE LOG



The Bimonthly Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire



## Presidents Corner

by Jean Stefanick

It's been a busy summer! Since our last newsletter, the club has been very active in many projects and adventures.

The Jay Lewis Picnic was a success, with a new picnic spot on the Great Island Common complex. Food was plentiful, door prizes were one by many, and the weather was perfect. Thanks to all who contributed time and energy, and items to make the event pleasurable.

There have been several dive excursions of small groups of members. The northern reaches of the St. Lawrence River in Quebec was a destination in late August, where the diving was cold and dark and the blue and beluga whales awe-inspiring in the mist. Several club members dove the Isles of Shoals, some went to the Pinthis, and others to Nubble Light in Maine. Small groups trekked to Rhode Island to capture the elusive tropical fish which are swept in the Gulf Stream this time of year.

In early September the first (hopefully annual) Isles of Shoals Challenge was indeed a happening. On an absolutely picture-perfect flat calm day, teams of UDNH divers challenged each other. It was a wonderful first-time event which was a success in that such an event to anyone's knowledge, had ever been attempted. We now have the expertise and experience which will help in future events. A HUGE round of thanks goes to Gary Thuillier for his organization perseverance (I know what he endured and did not give up!) and to Ronny Mann for his selfless generosity of time, boats, and smiles. Many others helped on shore and it truly was a club joint effort.

A small group of UDNH folks traveled to the New England Aquarium picnic in Rhode Island, and a very large group had a great evening at Seamark at the Aquarium. Both events were opportunities to meet people from other clubs, and establish UDNH as active and outgoing.

Thanks to Rick and June Bardsley for all of their organizational efforts with regard to the Cleanup in late September. They have set the groundwork for even more active club involvement in future years.



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](mailto: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.

Members of the Jay Lewis Committee have been working, although a meeting time common to all has been difficult to arrange. Bumper stickers and posters are “in the works” and the history of the fund is being compiled. Video and photos are amassing, and we look forward to having some visible products to show for the efforts soon.

Good things happening in our club do take much behind-the-scenes time and devotion. UDNH would not function without the efforts of many club members. It is appreciated, and also it’s nice when new faces volunteer to take over some of the tasks. Nominations for club officers will be taken beginning on the October 20th meeting. Even if you are new, consider taking an active role.

Coming up at the close of the year, we look forward to the Club banquet, this year at the Yard Restaurant. Jonathan Bird, Photographer and Traveler, will entertain us. Buy your tickets before November 1st if possible - don’t miss it!

### Who is NED-k ?

Dive club member Susan Thuillier recently began production of her well known ‘dive flag’ sweaters under the registered company name of New England Dive-knits (aka NED-k). These are a 100% acrylic yarn sweater designed with the underwater enthusiast in mind, sporting a number of interesting patterns in a variety of vibrant colors. They are also made to be worn anywhere whether it be diving or dining without the worry of needing special care. Cleaning is simple, just toss it in the washer and dryer. You’ll soon be seeing NED-k sweaters at local dive shops and these stores will be selling them on a semi-custom made basis as the color/pattern combinations would make it impossible to stock. This is not some new scientific sub-zero product guaranteed to keep you warm and dry on that ice-dive or scalloping trip, they are simply a good old-fashioned comfortable sweater that anyone would love to wear. Take a chance of winning one at the club banquet in November. See you there.

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# Marble Quarry

by Steve Linblom

Caves are rare enough in these parts - at least ones with large enough passages and clear enough water that a novice can have a fair chance of exploring them and live - that would-be cave divers in NH can't be blamed for wishing Ginnie Springs was a bit closer.

There have been rumors of divable flooded quarries in Vermont with clear water and extensive underwater tunnels. Recently Tom Tremblay managed to track down one, near Rutland, VT, so, Tom, Mike Griffin and I headed up on a lovely warm fall Sunday to check it out.

It turned out to be a gorgeous little marble quarry, one of 15 or so in the immediate area; an almost rectangular 500 ft by 100 ft cut in the rock, filled with clear, green tinted water, a short walk in from the road. Quite deserted, and nicely wooded, it would be hard to imagine a prettier spot for a picnic or swim, were it not that the area has become a playground for shooters and off-road machines. The ground was littered with spent shells, ammo boxes, broken glass, beer bottles and bullet-riddled appliances.

Ignoring the carnage, we lugged our gear, geared up and went in, loaded for bear with nitrox-filled doubles, redundant regulators, lights and cave reels. Our directions called for entering the quarry at about the middle, at a point called the Giant Step since it's a 7 foot drop to the water. The tunnels were supposed to be right beneath it. We picked an easier entry point, swam over, and descended. It was quite spectacular - a solid wall of marble, with slight horizontal shelves every 8' or so marking the cuts, dropping almost straight down 90' to the bottom.

But no tunnels. We wandered around the bottom finding old cars, appliances, tires, bottles and other items that it didn't seem wise to examine too closely, eventually making it about half way around the quarry before the cold - about

42 degrees down deep - started driving us back.

We'd taken so long lugging and fiddling with our gear that it was well into the afternoon, and, with a long drive home ahead, we decided not to do another dive. We made a quick reconnaissance, though, using the air left over from the first dive, to check the area to the north of the central embankment, and found ourselves staring straight in the eye of a huge 20' x 20' tunnel opening, starting about 45' below the surface.

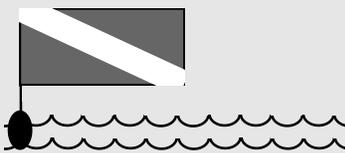
We hadn't come equipped for penetration this time, so we went in only far enough to shine our one light cautiously around the corners, and saw that the tunnel opened into a huge chamber.

A week later I went with another diver, and made two more dives. Starting where Tom, Mike and I left off, we tied off our line and entered the tunnel, only to find there was a second large entrance to the north of the first one, both leading into a large chamber. Going in some 200' we found what appeared to be another tunnel leading deeper, but had neither the air nor line left to safely investigate it. Swimming through the huge rooms, suspended in the clear water between floor and ceiling was a new experience for me, and had a real cave-diving buzz to it - all that was missing was stalactites.

On our next dive we crossed over to approximately the spot where Tom, Mike and I had turned back on our dive, and continued to the north following the east wall of the quarry. The east wall is sharply undercut, with a large platform at the bottom, with a tumbled down old iron rail at the edge. Crossing the north end of the quarry, at about 90', in the very bottom of the NW corner, we found another low tunnel entry that it appeared might connect to the other tunnels. We left feeling that, while we'd had a good day of diving, there was still a lot of exploring left to do.

To find the quarry, take new Rt. 4 to the West Rutland exit.

*Continued on next page*



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Be prepared, especially on a weekend, to share the place with shooters and dirt bikers.

**Editors Note:** Diving in an overhead environment such as the tunnels in this quarry requires the appropriate training and equipment. Cave diving is deceptively simple until something goes wrong. Quarry tunnels have very little water flow. If a diver accidentally stirs up silt (visibility goes to zero) it will likely take longer to settle out than your air supply would allow you to wait. Space shuttle astronauts spend about 80% of their training on situations that might go wrong. Cave diving requires similar preparation if you want to live a long life. Spend a few minutes on the way to every dive considering what could go wrong and how to handle it.



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## Board Members.....to be or not to be?

An editorial of sorts by Gary Thuillier

( which means it's only my opinion and not necessarily yours. ) Well it's that time again, the leaves are falling to the ground and the days are getting shorter. Some of you are even putting away your dive gear for the season (not that there really is such a thing as the dive season ), anyway it means that another year as a club is coming to a close with that brings the need to elect a new board. For the past few years it has been difficult to find members who were willing to take on the responsibility of club office. Those who have been with UDNH the last seven years know that I have turned down several nominations for various offices and was coerced into the VP spot for a partial year. I didn't feel it was my duty as a club member, it's just that no one else wanted the job. I just don't believe that everyone is cut out for sitting up front and running the club's business. I certainly am not! To me, just doing whatever little thing you can for the good of the membership without making any commitment should suffice. Sorry people, but I'm tired of hearing that everybody should take a turn at this, that it is your club and you should take the responsibility. If a person wants to join a club, pay the dues and sit back and do absolutely nothing, it's your choice, you paid for that choice and should not be belittled for it. I have the utmost respect for those of you who take on this challenge and would also add that this years crew has done a splendid job. We all have our ways of making this club what it is. If you're the type of person who feels they can make things happen, go for it! If you're like me and can't even organize your daily organizer then you shouldn't have to feel that anything is expected of you. As I stated in the beginning, this article is my opinion and I would bet that of many of you. If, however you don't agree then by all means write down your thoughts and send them in for future newsletter material. God knows we can use the input.

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# Isles of Shoals Challenge

by Don Eva

On September 7, a group of eager, if not not completely sane, divers set out to see if they could swim in something resembling a straight line underwater, covering several miles. The event evolved from ideas from club members to set up an underwater navigation contest.

Early this Spring, Gary Thuillier started working out the Plan, and challenged club members and the local dive community to form teams for the competition. The challenge was to swim underwater, in relay fashion, from the Isles of Shoals to Rye Beach - a distance of ten kilometers. Late in July, Gary and I made a trial run, swimming a couple legs of the proposed route to see if it was actually possible. We decided the full distance would be difficult to travel before tides reversed, but a shortened route should be entirely possible.

The day of the the event arrived, and two teams of 4 divers boarded Ron Mann's two boats - the HARFRAN & DAYDREAMER. Each boat also had an observer, boat driver, and a support kayak (provided by Dave Denoncourt). The weather was perfect - almost glass-flat seas. We travelled out 5 kilometers, took compass readings, jumped in and headed for shore! First in the water were Mike Griffin from the Harfran, and Shawn Matte diving off the Daydreamer. Those of us on the boats got a kick out of watching the two divers head off in radically different directions - one heading toward Portsmouth Harbor, the other in search of Boston.

Subsequent divers were able for the most part to adapt to the currents and other factors affecting the course, and the paths later actually crossed. There were the occasional glitches- bouyancy & equipment problems, leg cramps, etc. The rule was that once a diver came up, he had to get out and another diver had to take the flag and continue.

In this way, a diver had to rely on his ability to follow a compass heading without being able to pop to the surface to check his position. Most divers averaged about 30 to 45 minutes, and about 1/2 - 1 Km on one tank of air. The kayaks were quite useful for staying with the divers and providing support and protection when divers surfaced. The Harfran team seemed to have the edge for most of the way, but towards the end, the Daydreamer team, which had stayed farther north, seemed to pick up steam or (as those of us on the other team prefer to believe) a favorable current. On the final leg, Gary headed in and was clearly going to take the finish line by storm. However, just a few yards from shore, he decided to make things interesting by taking the Antarctic route. He eventually made it to shore at the tip of the breakwater. Meanwhile, Tom Tremblay was making a valiant effort to overtake him. Fearing that Tom would run out of air just before hitting shore, I jumped in to relieve him. I hadn't realized, however, that Tom had kicked into turbo mode, and was pulling himself along the bottom at warp speed. I finally caught up to him, but virtually exhausted myself in the process. We both eventually made it to the finish line, just a few minutes after Gary.

Total time for the three mile race was about six hours. The weary participants were greeted by Sue Thuillier and several others who had set up at Rye Harbor State Park with barbecue grills for hamburgs & hot dogs, and a variety of well-received refreshments. Sue and some bemused tourists had also erected the Finish Line banner which had been donated by Uwatech, who also loaned us four of their new electronic compasses for the event, thanks to the efforts of Cliff Simoneau.

Now that we know what to expect, next year should go even better. Time to start working on those kick strokes . . . . .

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# COASTAL CLEANUP "97"

by Gary Thuillier

On September 27 Ron Mann put his boat DAYDREAMER into the Piscataqua River to help the cleanup effort from a different front. After launching from the Pierce Island ramp Ron, his son Joe and myself made way for the public fishing piers at Prescott Park Portsmouth, NH. Here with the slack tide working for us we proceeded into the water armed with large plastic grain bags. In a depth of 5-15 feet we found enough bottles and trash to fill the 10 bags we had in a single dive, many of which took two people to remove from the boat. With the help of COASTWEEK coordinator Mary Powell and some of her volunteers we emptied the trash into containers donated by BFI. Over the course of the day we discovered that the location was ideally suited for diving at any point of tidal change so long as you didn't venture too far out into the river. This we learned because the three of us were hanging around until late afternoon when the food would be served, so why not spend more time in the water? Besides, there was no shortage of stuff to find under the piers. Not just garbage

but some really interesting things. Joe and I each found old clay pipes, a brass and pewter buckle and an assortment of old bottles. This is a spot I plan on visiting on a regular basis, but for the cleanup it was first a success and something that will have to be repeated next year and hopefully with a little better turnout of divers. We did this with a boat, however I think we will be able to pull off a better organized effort from shore using buckets and rope from the fishing piers. This is a proven method that we have tried at Weirs Beach in Lake Winnepesaukee. So lets make plans for COASTWEEK "98" now!!!



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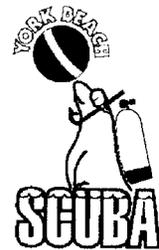
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### Club Meetings

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 7:00 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 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



Stefan, a Quebec militant, invades Newport, RI armed with slurp gun to capture juvenile tropical fish.

**October 20 - Meeting - Hopefully Don Stevens** will give update on White Island, Nomination of officers

### November 3 Meeting - New Time & Room

Start @ 7:00 Election of Officers Meet in old Nautilus Room on second floor

**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, Silent Auction

**March 1998** Dive Wave , Multi - Club Party in Boston

## Items Needed

If you have any diving equipment, crafts or any items just cluttering your life please consider donating them to United Divers for use in this years silent auction.

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# DIVE LOG

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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:

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- Coast Weeks 97 Clean Up
- Isles of Shoals Challenge
- Vermont Quarry Diving
- President's Corner
- UDNH Banquet

