

DIVE LOG

The Bimonthly Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire



Bonaire photos by Karen Marion



Scorpionfish

23RD ANNUAL UDNH BANQUET

Already the time has come for our annual banquet. Time goes by quickly in a busy dive club. We had several very good club events and group dives with a significant attendance. Way to go!! It's really great to see a club that dives together. Season's not over yet so let's keep diving.

Now back to the banquet. It's at the Yard Restaurant again this year. Dinner at the Courtyard- the other end of the parking lot.

Date: Saturday, November 14, 1998

Time: Social hour at 6:00 p.m., Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20.00 per person

The menu will consist of 3 entrees:

Roast Beef au jus
Seafood Newburg
Chicken Marsala

Garden Salad, Red Bliss Potatoes and Vegetables

Dessert: Walnut Apple Strudel

There will be door prizes and raffles for lucky winners.

Our guest speaker is Tom Malloy from the Scituate area. His discussion topic will be two shipwrecks -- the Forest Queen, in Scituate, and the Aransas, off Monomoy Island. The program will consist of a slide presentation followed by a Q&A session. Thanks to Lea Nichols who worked very hard at recruiting our speaker. We have available a big-screen TV for dive videos which will be shown throughout the evening as time allows. We will also hold the swearing-in of the new board of officers.

This will be my last year to coordinate the banquet. I feel that two years is enough for one member. It's better to have a continuous supply of new blood for these activities and events. That way we can have different and hopefully more exciting banquets and programs.

Sincerely,

Thomas Tremblay



The Aransas



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.strokeofcolor.com/udnh>, graciously hosted by Jake & Linda Richter.

1999 Elections

At the November 2 meeting, we will be electing a new slate of officers for 1999. Be sure to come and vote for the candidate of your choice.

Nominations were opened on October 19, with the following results:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominees</u>
President:	Mike Griffin
Vice President:	Tom Tremblay Kerry Hurd
Treasurer:	Gary Thuillier
Secretary:	Karen Marion
Dive Coordinator:	Mike Royce

*** note - nominations have not been closed - we still want YOU! we will take additional nominations at the Nov. 2 meeting, so if you are interested in a position, come prepared to nominate yourself or ask a friend to nominate you. If you don't show up, you may be elected anyway! :)*



Dive Flag Etiquette

by Gary Thuillier

One afternoon while enjoying a quiet surface interval at a popular lake divesite, the serenity was shattered by the continual screams of "one hundred and fifty feet...one hundred and fifty feet...not fifty, not ten, one hundred and fifty feet from the dive flag!" together with a few choice personal remarks which usually accompany such outbursts. This all coming simultaneously from the mouths of three or more people in that particular group of divers consisting of Instructor and students. Now we've all been in a situation like this where somebody comes too close with their speedboat or a couple of jetskis use our flag as a slalom gate, but this was different, in this case it was one of those sleek new high-powered two person polypropylene kayaks,(yes, that's right , a KAYAK).

Didn't these people know any better (which was sort of what was yelled out to them)? Weren't they aware that some unsuspecting diver might forget to look up on ascent and bump his or her head? I was embarrassed to say the least. If I wasn't in a buoyant wetsuit I would have swam down under a rock and hid. It seems that a lot of common

(continued on next page)

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sense involving the flag laws is being overlooked by divers as well as boaters. We all know the severity of the dangers of quiet wind powered craft whether sailboat or windsurfer: there we are dealing with a high speed involvement with a keel or hull, and the sound of a motor buzzing directly overhead can warm a wetsuit in a hurry, but lets be realistic, if you are looking up on ascent like you were taught in basic open water class, then a kayak is no more a threat than the lead ballast on your dive flag.

By the way, the kayak in question was similar to the ones we used in the Isles of Shoals Challenge last September. Does this mean we were breaking the law? Or how about the club picnic when someone above me (in their kayak) was playing with my flag, should I have surfaced and called Marine Patrol? I think not! So what's happening here? We seem to have divers (and I'm glad to say that none of those creating the scene were UDNH members) taking the letter of the law so far as to say their flag means their territory. The flag does not give us absolute control of an area. We cannot tie up a channel any more than we should expect a couple of people in a kayak to venture 150' out further into the high traffic area of the lake. I would also point out that it was an anchored float and the bubbles I saw were hardly within the 75' surfacing rule.

Another point: maybe the kayakers didn't know the exact law regarding the flag, because if they did they could have gone to Marine Patrol and complained about the height. RSA 270:32-A also requires that the bottom of the flag extend no less than 3 feet from the water. Theirs did not(as well as most others I've seen). Who do you think would have received the ticket? Certainly not a couple of people trying to enjoy a quiet day of paddling on the lake.

That very couple who now say "SCUBA DIVERS, WHAT A BUNCH OF

☺💧💧💧👉👈💧".



A Week in Bonaire

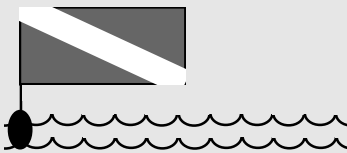
By Karen Marion

I've just returned from my first dive trip to Bonaire and quite agree with its reputation as a top dive destination. Bonaire is a small island just north of Venezuela, and is part of the Netherlands Antilles, along with Aruba and Curacao. It's a desert island, and most of the resorts cater specifically to divers. I traveled with a group of twelve, eight of whom were divers. We stayed at Captain Don's Habitat where diving freedom is the name of the game. Diving is so easy there that I'm quite spoiled, and very happy.

Our trip began with a series of delays. The van that was supposed to take us to Logan Airport was forty-five minutes late. We made the next leg without incident, but at Atlanta found that our flight was delayed by three hours. It was then delayed twice more and we didn't arrive in Bonaire until two in the morning. Despite the lack of sleep, most of us were able to get up in time for the nine o'clock dive briefing in the morning. A few people dove that first day, but I was tired from the extended travel and took it easy. I went for a snorkel and generally just settled in.

The next day I dove off Captain Don's a couple of times. There's a cute, little wreck in about forty feet of water that makes an excellent orientation dive. It's got some critters growing on it and hanging around it. Captain Don's has a long rope from the dock following the slope down to 130 feet, so divers have very little excuse for getting lost. The island is surrounded by a fringing reef, so you swim along the rope to whatever depth you want and simply hang a right or left off the rope. Turn around and come back when your air supply demands it, and you've got a nice, safe, easy dive.

I had bought a macro lens for my Sea&Sea MX-10 just



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Christmas-tree worm in Bonaire

prior to the trip so I shot several rolls of macro subjects. Bonaire is perfect for macro! I shot slides of two types of cleaner shrimp, arrowhead shrimp, several types of moray eels, orange cup coral feeding at night, baby squid, and much, much more. One of my favorites is a head shot of a spotted scorpionfish. I'd been diving off Captain Don's and was a half hour into the dive without shooting any film. Suddenly, I spotted a free-swimming moray eel. Cool! I shot ten or twelve shots of him and was just looking around to decide what to do next when I spotted something odd about the rock beneath me. A Spotted Scorpionfish, extremely well camouflaged! It was about a foot and a half long and I was thrilled! I shot him first with my standard lens, then a couple with closeup, then switched to my new macro lens. I drifted slowly up to him, watching for any signs of agitation. It stayed calm, so I shot off several portraits, bracketing to make sure I got a good exposure. [see cover photo]


A star is born!

I also very much enjoyed diving the Hilma Hooker. This is a freighter in about a hundred feet of water, lying on her side between two reefs. I didn't take any pictures down there, but enjoyed swimming along the deck enjoying the mystery of a huge, scuttled ship. There are several versions of the story of the Hilma Hooker, but there are points that most agree on. It was apparently in poor repair and when it came into port it was found to have illegal drugs onboard. It was confiscated and eventually sunk. Most say the sinking was deliberate, and there certainly are suspicious holes in the hull that would support that theory. The reef inland from the wreck was very beautiful and we saw a school of adult squid on our way back to shore.

I did only two night dives on this trip due to an infestation of Sea Wasps. For those unfamiliar with these little nasties, they are a form of small, box jellyfish. They have stinging tentacles that can reach several feet in length and their sting is quite nasty. Our first night there we had dinner at the Green Parrot. This is a restaurant next door to Captain Don's, and it's known for the little, carved animals that they put in their drinks. We looked out into the water and saw hundreds of Sea Wasps. Yikes! No night dive for me, thank you very much! The next day we found that at least eight divers had gotten stung and several of them



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had gone to the hospital. One of the divers in our party witnessed one victim who came out of the water holding his face and saying that he thought something had bitten him. He walked several steps, fell to his knees, then went into convulsions. The next day he was out of the hospital but his face was quite swollen.

The following night there were far fewer jellyfish, and the night after that we saw only two or three. Several of our group dove that night with no problems. I waited until the following night for my first night dive, which I did at Pink Beach. My second night dive was the most spectacular. Right off the resort, I saw blooming orange cup coral, a Caribbean lobster, several types of shrimp and arrowhead crabs. There was more, and all of it spectacular!

In addition to the marine life, we saw many shore birds, donkeys, pelicans, an iguana, an osprey, and many small lizards. The plant life is generally desert, with cactus and a lot of dirt.

If you want a place to relax and dive anytime you want, with no restrictions, I highly recommend Bonaire. If you enjoy macro photography, I highly recommend Bonaire. Don't go expecting big stuff. They have big tarpon, some barracuda, and I saw one smallish sea turtle, but this is not a destination known for rays, dolphins, or sharks. You might get lucky, but the charm of this place is in the smaller stuff.

Until next time ... dive safe, have fun, and send me a postcard!



Scuba Diving: A Team Sport

by Philip Morrison

Anyone who reads the postings in the rec.scuba newsgroup on the internet, or listens to some of the discussions regarding "newbie" divers at your local dive site or dive shop, might get the impression that scuba divers are a selfish and egotistical bunch. And in some cases that may be true. However, I believe that scuba divers, for the most part, are a rather special bunch of people.

I say this because no matter how much they may deride you for your opinion on equipment, solo diving, tech diving, etc., when the wind kicks up and the waves start crashing, divers become more than buddies, they become a team. If an exit becomes a bit difficult, or even if a diver just looks like he is a little tired, all of a sudden there are many hands ready to receive gear or to pull another diver clear of the waves and there are voices shouting encouragement and guiding him to a better spot. And this help comes not only from friends, but from people you may never have seen before and probably never will again.

This trait of divers was brought home to me rather forcefully recently (as of the writing of this article). Frequently, I find myself in the position of helping someone carry gear or offering words of encouragement. I have even helped drag a few exhausted divers clear of the waves. However, this time I was on the receiving end. My dive partner (whose name also happens to be Phillip) and I were diving one of my favorite dive sites, Cathedral Rocks in Rockport, Massachusetts. As we were preparing to go in, we were looking at 2-3 foot seas. These conditions were nothing new to either one of us. We made our entrance with only a moderate amount of difficulty and the exit under those

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conditions generally would not be too difficult.

However, the conditions had changed quite a bit when it was time for our exit. All of a sudden we were looking at 4-6 foot seas. Added to the problem was the topography of the site which, at a certain point in the tide cycle, is such that it intensifies any wave energy. Now we were faced with white-caps crashing on the rocky shore. As I struggled against the water rushing seaward from the waves crashing on the shore, and against the waves that were tossing me around like a cork, I became more and more exhausted. Fortunately, two divers who had come out several minutes before had recognized the worsening conditions and helped to keep me from being swept back out to sea until I was able to get above the worst of the waves, whereupon one of them helped me remove my fins and BC.

I was too exhausted to help my Phillip, who was experiencing even more trouble than I. As Phillip was being swept off the rocks for yet another time, one of the other divers, without hesitation, plunged into the water to help bring him ashore. He, too, was totally exhausted and was virtually out of air.

I don't think either of us were ever really in serious danger. In hindsight, though, we probably should have tried to wait it out. In fact, by the time Phillip and I had recovered enough to move our gear to higher ground, the in-coming tide had passed that critical point and the waves had diminished considerably. However, the assistance provided by those two unknown divers was greatly appreciated.

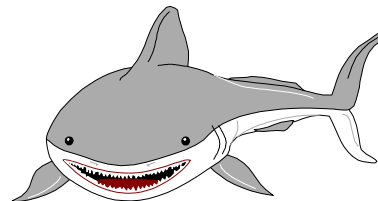
In closing, to those two divers who helped bring these two exhausted divers to shore, I want to say thank you. And to all you other divers who are quick to lend a hand, even if it is only to carry the mask or fins of a tired diver, welcome to the team.

Tides

The following tide times are for the weekends in Nov. & Dec. 1998, based on tables at Boston, MA. You should figure in approximately 15 minutes later for Portsmouth, NH to Portland, ME.

When diving midweek add roughly one hour to each day. *CAUTION* For dives which require strict adherence to slack times use published tide tables for that specific area.

Sat Oct. 31	H-7:13	L-1:24
Sun. Nov. 1	H- 8:06	L-2:20
Sat. Nov. 7	L-6:58	H-1:10
Sun. Nov.8	L-7:51	H-2:05
Sat. Nov.14	H-7:46	L-1:52
Sun. Nov.15	H-8:32	L-2:42
Sat. Nov.21	L-6:11	H-12:19
Sun. Nov.22	L-6:51	H-12:59
Sat. Nov.28	H-5:47	L-12:00
Sun. Nov.29	H-6:43	L-12:59
Sat. Dec.5	L-5:46	H-12:00
Sun. Dec.6	L-6:37	H-12:51
Sat. Dec.12	H-6:11	L-12:19
Sun. Dec.13	H-7:04	L-1:16
Sat. Dec.19	L-5:05	H-11:52
Sun. Dec.20	L-5:45	H-12:00
Sat. Dec.26	L-10:36	H-4:43
Sun. Dec.27	L-11:36	H-5:44



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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 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 - 1998

President	Mike Griffin	603-598-0151
Vice President	Tom Tremblay	603-625-8459
Treasurer	Gary Thuillier	603-487-3001
Secretary	Don Eva	603-672-5608
Dive Coordinator	Ken Anderson	603-622-8224
Ass't Dive Coord.	Ron Mann	603-883-9015

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

Meetings and Events

November 2 Meeting. Elections. Come prepared to vote! This is also the final meeting for the year - watch for info on 1999 activities starting in January.

November 14 Annual UDNH Banquet Contact Tom Tremblay @ 603 625-8459 (note date change from last newsletter.)

November 21 Party for Jake & Linda Richter. At Tom & Jeanne Tremblay's Contact Tom Tremblay @ 603 625-8459 for info & directions.

January 30, 1999 Catch the Wave annual multi-club party Crown Plaza, Natick, MA Contact Don Eva 603-672-5608 for details

More Dives & Activities in the works! Scallop dives, etc. Contact Ken Anderson - 603-622-8224 for details.



UDNH is a DAN sponsor. We encourage all divers to support Dan's efforts to promote safe diving.

When starting or renewing your membership, clearly indicate our UDNH sponsor # 31043. UDNH accumulates points towards safety equipment, etc. based on the number of club members who join DAN.

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

3rd Annual Catch the Wave Multi-Club Party!

This year's party will be held on January 30 at the Crown Plaza in Natick. Last year's party drew 175 participants from at least 6 different clubs from Rhode Island to New Hampshire.

A new feature this year will be an Art Show - a chance for artists to display (and possibly sell) their aquatic art (except photography).

Proceeds from previous parties have gone to help a paralyzed local diver; and to two Boston-based enrichment programs for inner-city youth. One of this year's recipients will be Divers Alert Network, to assist in their diver safety research & education programs.

Cost is \$25 per person, and there will be a plentitude of door prizes and raffles.

Lobster Raffle

Congratulations to Dennis Page, who won a gift certificate for the value of 20# of Live 'n Kickin' lobsters. His name was drawn at the annual Jay Lewis Memorial Picnic in August.

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 a board member if you're interested in participating.

DIVE LOG

United Divers of New Hampshire
P.O. Box 4176
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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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