

DIVE LOG

The logo for the United Divers of New Hampshire is positioned between the words 'DIVE' and 'LOG'. It features a circular emblem with a scallop shell at the bottom, a banner across the middle with the text 'UNITED DIVERS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE', and a palm tree at the top.

The Bimonthly Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire



Cover Photos from Eastport, ME.
by Phil Morrison

The Presidents Corner

by Gary Thuillier

In this case, *The President Elect*.

Not long ago I wrote a commentary on why I've avoided any position on the board. Shortly afterward I became the club Treasurer. Go figure! To anyone who read it and remembers, I haven't changed my views, only my stand. This is not something I feel comfortable with but now that I've accepted the gavel, albeit reluctantly from our President of the last two years Mike Griffin, I hope I can keep our dive club running as smoothly through the next season as he has.

I think I accepted the position mostly because I've been to almost every meeting over the last eight or nine years and have a good idea of where we are headed. We have a wonderful group of people, both divers and non-divers, involved in UDNH and it's been my pleasure to know them all. I look forward to planning upcoming events with the rest of you and hope we can get some good trips planned come Spring and Summer of 2000.

I also look forward to increasing our membership in the time ahead. Fact is, we have to!

It's only a matter of time before the costs of running our organization go up (remember, I've been treasurer for the last two years) and the best way to offset that is with more members. Sure we could raise the dues if necessary but that's like hiking taxes, not very popular. Remember, LIVE FREE AND DIVE. I haven't as yet come up with a new strategy for the new year (it's not like I had to make any campaign promises) so start thinking of ideas. I will be asking for a lot of help. Somebody told me "the Presidents job is easy! Just delegate responsibilities". So be forewarned.

United Divers of New Hampshire Y2K Officers

At the November 1 meeting, the following people were elected for the 2000 officers' positions:

President	Gary Thuillier
Vice President	Kerry Hurd
Treasurer	Jim Mayo
Secretary	Don Eva
Dive Coordinator	Tom Tremblay



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.

Eastport Diving Adventure

by Don Eva

Early this year, noted u/w photographer Jonathan Bird extended an offer to NEADC members to visit his favorite dive destination: Eastport, ME. Jonathan owns a house directly across from one of the prime dive sites in the area, so several of us took him up on his offer, making the 6 hour drive to play in some of the most colorful and challenging diving the region has to offer.

My usual dive buddy, Phil, took a couple days off to join me on the trip. We headed up from NH late in the morning. After about 6 hours of driving, punctuated by the obligatory stop at L.L. Bean, we arrived at Jonathan's house in the evening. Weather conditions at this point were rainy and dismal, but we hoped for better weather for the next few days. Jonathan and Christine arrived shortly after, and we spent the rest of the evening getting acquainted, looking at slides of some of the critters we would likely see, and settling in. Originally there were supposed to be 9 of us, but two couples had to back out, and the last group member was to show up the next day.

Morning brought in nice sunny weather as we prepared for our first dive. In an area where tidal ranges are usually over 25 feet, timing of the dives is critical. There's a narrow window from just before slack tide to just after - usually about 30 minutes - when the current is weak enough to dive without having to hang onto something for dear life. Accurate tide tables are a must. Even so, it pays to get set up and in the water a little early, then start the dive just as the current slackens sufficiently.

Standard procedure here is to get suited up at the house, then walk the short distance down to the water. After the dive, there's the short walk back up to the house, for a quick rinse under the outdoor shower before removing gear and hanging it on the convenient clothesline next to the shower. Great setup!

The dive lived up to the description Jonathan had given: an abundance of color in the form of anemones, tunicates, sea cucumbers, scarlet psoli, and soft corals. One of the highlights of the dive was feeding urchins to the two resident wolf fish. One of them would come most of the way out of its hole for a treat, whereas the other would ignore food placed in front of it until we left the spot. The first time you watch an urchin being chomped up, spines & all, is pretty fascinating.

No need to calculate surface intervals - there's 6 hours to kill before the next slack tide. This was spent checking out some of the sites in town, looking across the narrow channel at the Canadian side - Campobello Island and Deer Island. There was also time for Phil and I to drop our sea kayaks in the water for a short paddle up to the town pier and back before suiting up for the second dive of the day.

This dive followed much the same pattern as the first: cruise slowly down the colorful wall directly in front of the site entrance, then across a rocky/sandy bottom to the rock outcropping where the wolf fish reside. More feeding of the fish, and a swim back to the wall for a last look before the current became too strong to fight. Dry suits are the general rule here, but I was actually surprised that the water temps were around 44 F, not much different than Nubble had been the week before.

continued on next page...

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INSTRUCTIONS	RENTALS

Evening brought several of the neighbors over for a barbecue, where we listened to some interesting facts and stories about the area.

Early Saturday morning brought beautiful weather and calm seas, so I took the opportunity to drop the kayak into the water for a paddle around the south side of the island and past a couple sets of fish pens, filled with close to a million dollars worth of salmon, waiting for their turn on our dinner plates. The shore here is typical Maine - alternating stretches of rugged, rocky coast and flat sandy beach. Low tide also brings extensive mud flats. A quick breakfast, and it was time once again to suit up to dive.

Julia had arrived the night before, and was anxious to see where we had been playing the day before. Jonathan and Christine were dealing with gear issues, so we were without a guide this time down. On the first pass we missed the rock outcropping where the wolf fish were hanging out, but crossing a mostly sandy area, discovered a 10' length of culvert lying on the bottom, covered over almost every square inch with colorful anemones and tunicates. After finding the wolf fish again, we did the usual feeding thing, eventually getting both of them to accept urchins. All to soon, we felt the current picking up, and headed back in, but not before I made a friend of a sculpin, who followed me most of the way back after I fed him a couple urchins which I broke open for him.

The post-dive activity this day was a trip up to Calais to get tanks filled, have lunch, and get back in time for the next dive.

This dive was downtown, at the site of the old pier. There are still a few pilings left, plus a nice wall of granite blocks, filled with deep holes and crevasses -



Divers exiting water in Eastport, Maine

perfect places to peer into in search of interesting critters. This site's highlights included a large number of northern basket stars, and a rare but interesting sighting of a northern sea star perched up on its legs, releasing a milky cloud of eggs (or sperm, I'm not sure which). The large numbers and assortment of sea stars - sun stars, blood stars, basket stars, brittle stars and others - are another of this area's underwater attractions.

Dinner at the local Mexican restaurant -La Sardina Loca (the crazy sardine) rounded out the day.

Sunday morning we awoke to some wind and cloudy skies, but not enough to deter us from our final dive of the trip - Dog Island. This is a small island (peninsula

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at low tide) with a beautiful wall along one side. Even with the low visibility and cloudy skies, the colors are breathtaking - anemones and tunicates cover the rocky wall facing the channel between Eastport and Deer Island. At one point I looked up along the wall and was reminded of the coral-covered walls in Grand Cayman. A glance at my thermometer quickly dispelled this thought, however. The high currents at mid tide here produce the Old Sow Whirlpool - reportedly the largest whirlpool in the hemisphere. These same currents provide a perfect environment for critters such as anemones which require food to flow within reach of their tentacles.

All too soon we had rounded the island, and the current had picked up, indicating the end of the dive.

We had time to pack up, have a pizza lunch with Jonathan and Christine, and head home. A long trip, but worth every minute.

24th Annual UDNH Banquet

Saturday, November 20, 1999 6-12pm
The Yard Restaurant, Manchester, NH

This year's extravaganza will have a Hawaiian theme - bring your hula skirt if you're so inclined. Guest speaker will be Ed Jameson, noted 3D underwater photographer. For tickets contact Don Eva @ 603-672-5608. For details and/or to volunteer to help set up, contact Tom Tremblay @ 603-625-8459.

Northern Florida Cave Diving

by Lea Nichols

The gin clear, 72°F water and natural beauty of North Florida combine to produce an alluring environment. The March 1999 National Geographic Magazine provides a glimpse of the spring systems in this region. Several members of UDNH including Tom Tremblay, Ken Anderson, Mike Griffin and Lea Nichols have been diving here for many years. In September Wayne Russell and Steve Lindblom made the journey and completed their Cavern and Introduction to Cave diving training while Mike & Lea pursued training in Technical Nitrox. Wayne and Steve needed some coaxing to make the trip and were uncertain if this environment would be to their liking. After completing the Cavern class and finally making it into the cave system at Ginnie Springs I think Wayne summed up their response with his comment "I don't care if I never dive in the ocean again."



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US Divers

NEW LOCATION! SPIFFY NEW SHOWROOM!!!

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Charters

(continued from previous page)

The National Speleological Society, Cave Diving Section sanctions a variety of training programs. The traditional path has been to start off with the Cavern Course which deals with the part of the cave where daylight is still visible.



Steve & Wayne studying Introduction to Cave Diving

The Cavern Course deals with guideline use, propulsion techniques, buoyancy control, equipment configuration and safety drills. Introduction to Cave Diving is the next course which prepares divers to extend their range out of the



Wayne Russell inspecting the Florida Divemobile

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cavern zone as far as a one third of single cylinder will get them. (The rule of thirds proportions 1/3 of the tanks volume for penetration, 1/3 for exit and 1/3 for your buddy should they need to share.) Participants get training in following the guideline and air sharing with eyes closed. Next comes the Apprentice program with twin diving cylinders and more training in air sharing, equipment configuration and guide line handling. Full Cave goes on to prepare the diver for dealing with most any cave situation where you can swim unaided with two cylinders. This includes low visibility, restrictions and line jumping in complex mazes.

A new organization Global Underwater Explorers (G.U.E) also offers similar training courses. They have a web site www.gue.com.

The cave environment is an intricate geologic maze filled with beautiful formations. It is a great place to explore during the stormy North Atlantic Winter.



Steve Lindblom in Telford Spring



Mike Griffin in Madison Blue Spring



Lea Nichols in Ginnie Spring

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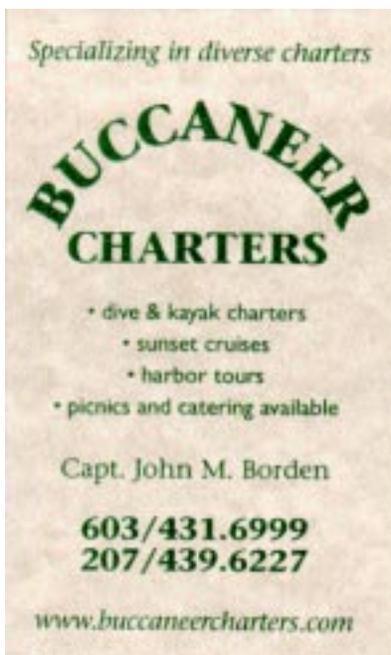
4th Annual Catch the Wave Party

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.



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

Meetings and Events

November ?? Scallop Dive. Contact Dick Allard @603-622-4767 for details.

November 15 Meeting

November 20 Annual Club Banquet. The Yard Restaurant, Manchester, NH. Hawaiian theme. Guest speaker is noted underwater photographer Ed Jameson. Contact Don Eva @603-672-5608 for tickets. \$25 per person.

December 4, 1999 New England Aquarium Dive Club Holiday Party. Charlestown, MA. Contact Don Eva @603-672-5608 for details.

January 1, 2000 New Years Day Dive

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.

Sat Nov 6	9:45 AM	Sat Dec 4	8:45 AM
Sun Nov 7	10:30 AM	Sun Dec 5	9:15 AM
Sat Nov 13	2:15 PM	Sat Dec 11	1:15 PM
Sun Nov 14	3:00 PM	Sun Dec 12	12:45 PM
Sat Nov 20	8:00 AM	Sat Dec 18	6:45 PM
Sun Nov 21	9:00 AM	Sun Dec 19	7:30 PM
Sat Nov 27	1:45 PM	Sat Dec 25	12:45 PM
Sun Nov 28	2:45 PM	Sun Dec 26	1:45 PM

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.

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