

MASS BAY DIVERS

ISSUE 8

www.massbaydivers.com

AUGUST 2008



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Letter From the President

Greetings from the Not President.

August turned out much better than July weather wise. We've had lots of divers showing up every weekend and the last minute night dives have been a huge success. As we enter into September the water is still warmer than ever and the air temperature is still cooperating resulting in plenty of dive season left.

Mike and Peter are still fighting it out for first place. They are both earning extra points for entertaining our out of State visitors. Ben from Alaska and Frank from New York have been able to join the club on a couple of occasions.

The picnic was a success as usual with a good turn out. Thanks to everyone who helped out. Mike & Peter again shined with the biggest and most lobsters. A few reminders of some upcoming activities:

- Camping weekend and the big boat (details below)
- Coast Sweep
- Pumpkin Dive (one of the best dives of the year)
- Halloween Party @ Mike Vaughn's
- Holiday party planning in the works

Now is also the time to start thinking about next becoming an officer next year. If you are interested in becoming an officer or finding out a little more stop by an officer's meeting the last Wednesday of every month at the shop.

So with all of the upcoming events and the weather holding out we hope to see you all diving.

Next Officers' Meeting: Wednesday – Aug 27TH @ 6:00 PM
Next General Meeting: Monday – Sep 8th @ 7:00 PM
Both meeting held at South Shore Divers

President	Rick Simpson	r.simpson44@yahoo.com
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Events Coordinator	Sandi Ray	smr38@comcast.net



Welcome



Dive Site of the Month

Cathedral Rocks



This is a challenging rocky entry. This site is one of the more popular dive spots on Cape Ann, but it is not for novice divers! The dive site is a rocky climb down from the road. The area to the left of the site (facing the ocean) is shallower (10 to 20 feet), while depths of 10 to 80 feet can be reached directly off the beach. Very interesting dive site with steep bedrock walls, anemones, occasional schools of fish (due to the deeper water), and an rare sand shark (after lobster pot baiting).

There sometimes is a current running parallel to shore (usually north to south); plan accordingly. Also, watch for lobster pot bouy lines as the site is sometimes filled with them.

Unrestricted, but limited parking.

If you consider yourself an advanced diver, you'll feel at home here.

MASS BAY DIVER'S BOUTIQUE

Items available for sale:

Tank tops in white, ash or navy

There are also embroidered items:

Baseball caps & T-shirts

Items will be available at each Club meetings

We can do special orders for sweatshirts & long-sleeve T-shirts just contact Sandy or John.

You can also take/purchase any item directly to A-1 in Weymouth for them to add the logo, just tell them you are a Mass bay Divers member

Congratulations to

Sandy

&

John



Ray

Sullivan

They were married Friday night August 22nd at City Hall in a small and intimate ceremony.

Now we await the arrival of there baby due in September.

WE all wish you the very Best!

2008 BIG Boat Dive

Cape Ann Divers-Gloucester

Meet at Cape Ann's Dive shop at 12:00 noon
Leave marina at 1:00pm.

There are 5 TO 9 spots left open!!

September 14th Cape Anne Divers

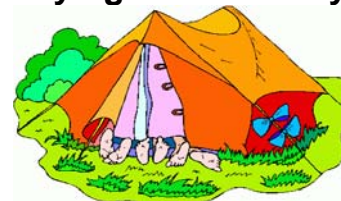
For more information contact Robin Scott

NEXT camping weekend

At Cape Ann Campsite

-Sept 13TH -15TH, 2008

This is the same weekend as the Big Boat dive so come up and enjoy the whole weekend. Going up Sat. Morning and staying until Monday!




Fun for the Whole Family

More information please contact Bo & Carol

DIVE CLUB POINT

COUNT 2008

 Diver	Points
Mike Vaughn	54
Peter Ninh	49
Carol H.	29
Jon S.	25
Paula C.	25
Bill Soto	23
Oleg K.	22
Bo H.	21
Brian B.	19
Adrienne M.	18
Dennis B.	10
Matt B.	8
Rick S.	8

ATTN. ALL BEACHMASTERS!!!!
Please get your beachmaster forms to
Keith E.!!!!!!!



STORE HOURS @
SOUTH SHORE DIVERS
<http://www.southshoredivers.com>

Tuesday-Thursday & Saturdays:
10:00am-6:00pm
Monday - Friday 10:00am-8:00pm
Sundays 7am-12noon

2008 Upcoming Dive Events

- **Aug 27TH** – Officers MTG 6pm
S.S. Divers, Weymouth
- **Sept 8th** – General MTG 7pm
S.S. Divers, Weymouth
- **SEPT 10th** – BSC Meeting
Quincy
- **Sept 13th-15th** – Camping weekend
Camp Ann Campsite, Gloucester
- **Sept 14th** – Big Boat Dive
Cape Ann Divers, Gloucester

You can spot divers by:

1. Funny Tan Lines
2. Big Watch
3. Says "Huh" a lot
4. Bad shocks and springs in car
5. Scars from trigger fish bites
6. Expertise on anti-histamines

You can spot old time divers by:

1. Funny Tan Lines
2. Big Expensive Watch
3. Old Jeep with bad shocks
4. Log Book has a volume number on the cover.
5. Deaf in at least one ear.
6. Has multiple scars.
7. Has cylinders older than you are.
8. Talks about making their first wet suit.
9. Dive gear is faded.
10. Limps from Dysbaric Osteonecrosis.

You can spot newbie divers by:

1. Sunburned
2. Timex Watch
3. Nice car
4. Fills in all the blanks in their logbook
5. No diving related scars
6. Says "Wow, did you see that" alot
7. Equipment looks nice
8. Perfect hearing

Put Your Two Cent's worth in!

If you have something of interest or would like to see something special in the newsletter please drop it off at the dive store or email to: Adrienne @ yoamom@netzero.com

St. Lawrence Seaway

By Michael Holodinski

Matt Bell and I have just returned from a 4-day adventure to Canada. Matt's claims of tropical water north of the border were met with skepticism. It didn't seem natural; let alone possible. Well, I'm here to report it's all true and more. We managed to fit in 9 dives, the majority of which were in 74-degree water with a couple that dipped down to 70 degrees. It had rained heavily the previous 2 weeks so the visibility wasn't as clear as had been reported. We were limited to 40 –50'. Not quite Caribbean; but certainly more than any New England diver needs.

Our trip started with a 6-hour drive to Canada. Basically, take the Mass Pike straight to Syracuse NY, turn right on Rte 81 until you hit the border. Canadian customs was a breeze. Once on the Canadian side it was a short drive to Caiger's resort; which is located on the waterfront. Not a 5 star center by any means; but more than enough for a dive vacation. They have a great restaurant on site with a relatively inexpensive menu. The food was awesome and the staff very accommodating. On 2 occasions we arrived back after the kitchen had closed and both times they prepared meals without a complaint.

Island Resort Pleasure Divers was the dive boat operator. They had 2 boats at the back of the resort and a couple more a short drive down the road for more distant dive sites. Speaking of dive sites: Any wreck divers out there? Bill Soto don't go. Don't even think about it. Adrienne grab hold of him because if he ever gets there you may not get him back. This is a wreck divers playground. There are wrecks of every size and shape. Wrecks accessible from shore, wrecks for penetration, and wrecks for deep tech divers. Sorry Carol, no brightly colored fish.

A few of the highlight dives were the Lillie Parsons, Daryaw and the Conestoga. Before I describe them let me point out that the St Lawrence River has a current. Jay, are you listening, bro? Not your average water movement; it has a rip roaring, water slide like quality. Swimming against it is not recommended. Why, because you can't. It's more of a grip, pull, and glide adventure. Find something to grab, pull your self along, all the while looking for another handhold. It is much easier to go with the flow; but this technique proves necessary to return to mooring lines or to circumnavigate the wrecks.

The Lillie Parsons is a 131' long, 2 masted, schooner that sank in 1877 in 65' of water. To get to the Parsons the dive boat must drop you upstream. You descend rapidly to a depth of 30' then drop over the ledge and hopefully come upon the stern of this upside down hull. If you miss, the current sweeps you down the side and you must constantly slow yourself. Fortunately, there is an anchor line to grab and drag yourself out of the current to the front of the wreck. How do I know? Talk to Matt. Unfortunately, you must now work your way back to the stern. They've secured a chain to facilitate this. You can penetrate the wreck and it's an awesome experience. The upside down hull is pretty much hollowed out. The hold of the ship is partitioned in half. You swim down the right side. It's kind of like being in a tunnel. The deeper you go the darker it gets. It's narrow so you must go single file. Once you've gone the length of the ship turn left and come up the other side. The striking part of this portion of the dive is the occasional rays of light that shine thru the deteriorating hull. This dive ends with a drift that takes you 2 islands downstream. I'll venture a guess of a mile, but it's probably more.

The Henry C Daryaw is a 220' long, steel freighter in 90' of water. Getting to it can be a challenge. There is an extremely strong current due to the narrowing of the channel. You must descend down the mooring line to about 75' where 2 large propellers meet you; then you must follow a line to the bottom. If you are not too exhausted pull yourself about ½ way up the hull and swim under and into the cargo holds. They are large and great for exploration. Watch out for lines as many divers run them for deeper penetrations. Upon exiting the wreck grab the line and head back the way you came. Hold on to the line for dear life. As you ascend, you're like a flag flying in a stiff breeze. The safety stop is an endurance contest. My arms are still sore.

The Conestoga, my favorite, is an iron clad, wooden, steam freighter, 252' long in 25' of water. Not so much for the wreck, which is pretty cool; but rather, for the way you get to it. We started at the Galop Canal Locks. This is where the Conestoga burned and drifted to its' present location. The locks are now abandoned; but the seaway still forces water through them with a vengeance. You must synchronize your entry otherwise you will be separated. Talk to Matt. The dive starts in only 10' of water. You are immediately swept down the spillway for a couple of hundred yards. Suddenly the bottom drops out and you descend to 20'. You continue your voyage for a couple hundred more yards before you are cast out to sea. More like being slingshotted. At this point the water actually churns, like going over rapids, due to the canal meeting the St Lawrence River. Really neat! You continue drifting and around 25 minutes into the dive turn north. If all goes well you meet a large wall. As you get closer you realize it's the side of the Conestoga. Work your way up over the side and into the hull. There is a lot to explore. Don't forget to grab, pull, glide to see it all. The shore is only 75' away but you must swim, more like crawl, diagonally upstream to avoid missing the exit point. The whole dive is just an awesome experience.

This area is called the 1000 Islands Region and one look at the island-studded seaway explains it all. There are islands of all sizes and shapes; most with houses and many with castles. The architecture varies from Victorian to modern and it all works to make the area a joy to behold. If you are into wrecks and warm water diving the St Lawrence Seaway is hard to beat; especially when it's only a 6-hour drive away. Talk to Matt; he's made a believer out of me.