



# “Dive Log”

The monthly newsletter of the United Divers  
of Central Massachusetts

December 2008

Vol VII Issue XII

## Gentle Giants

by Kris Dufour

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The first week of December my parents and I took a trip to Florida. We spent most of the time at Universal Studios but we set one day aside to go diving. So we headed we got up at 4:45am and headed out to Clear

Water Florida to swim with the manatees and a cavern dive. We arrived at the boat at 7:30 am. The outfit we decided to go with was Crystal River WaterSports. Before boarding the boat you have to watch a video going over the proper etiquette when running into manatees. The video goes over how you should let the manatees come up to you



instead of you chasing them. They had an 8 passenger pontoon boat. We shared the boat with 3 divers from England. The trip up river took about 30 minutes. The captain spotted an area that had a couple of manatees breaking the surface so he carefully navigated to a safe spot to anchor. Once the boat was set we all got our snorkel gear on and slowly eased in to the water. We swam around for a few minutes and we started to think we scared them away. But soon after we ran into one who quickly checked us out and then took off. After a couple more minutes of swimming towards the boat a whole group of them came over and started playing with us. Some of them loved getting scratched under their fins. Some of them liked it so much that they would roll over wanting you to scratch their bellys. At some points there I was surrounded by five to six manatees. They are very gentle animals who just like playing. A few of them just hung out around the boat chewing on the anchor ropes of the boat. Many of the manatees had scars from boats that have driven over them and the props cut them up. There is a picture of this on page 2. After about 45 minutes of swimming with the manatees the captain handed each of us our BC's while we were still in the water. He then joined us and guided us over to the cavern opening.

Continued on page



Before going under water the captain explained the difference between cave and cavern diving. Cavern diving is when you can see an exit from where you are, where as cave diving you usually can't see the exit. We then descended down the marker chain and he guided us to the opening of the cavern. The warm water was rushing out of the opening and a bunch of different fish were just hanging out in the rushing water. Once in the cavern our guide pointed out some interesting parts of the cavern. There was section of the floor that looked like an old mans face. There were a few places where you could stick your hand into an air pocket. Once we hit 1200psi we exited the cavern and headed to the boat. On the way back to the boat I had one manatee that swam next to me matching me turn by turn. Once on the boat the captain tried pulling up the anchor and the manatees were still chewing on the rope and didn't want to give it up. All together we had a good time and I would recommend the dive operator to any one.



# Message from the Secretary

Hello every. Hopefully everyone has made it through the past few weeks with out too many issues. Hopefully everyone has their power back and didn't have too much damage done. I am creating this on Sunday the 21st. I just got power back today so this is the first time where I had power long enough to keep my laptop charged while I work on the newsletter. Since it is so close to Christmas and I still have so many things to do before Christmas there will not be a printed version of this mailed out or available at Andy's. I hope too see you all next month for the fist meeting of 2009. Have a Merry Christmas, Happy Honchuka and a Happy New Year.

Kris

## Dec/January Tide Chart

### ROCKPORT



Rockport 42°40'N 070°37'W

| DATE   | HIGH  |      |       |      | LOW   |      |       |      | ☀    |      | ☾   |
|--------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|------|------|-----|
|        | AM    | hgt  | PM    | hgt  | AM    | hgt  | PM    | hgt  | rise | set  | qtr |
| 27 Sat | 11:03 | 8.7  | 11:43 | 7.6  | 5:09  | 1.2  | 5:49  | 0.1  | 7:14 | 4:16 | ☀   |
| 28 Sun | 11:39 | 8.7  | -     | -    | 5:46  | 1.1  | 6:24  | 0.1  | 7:14 | 4:17 |     |
| 29 Mon | 12:18 | 7.6  | 12:15 | 8.7  | 6:22  | 1.1  | 6:58  | 0.1  | 7:14 | 4:17 |     |
| 30 Tue | 12:52 | 7.6  | 12:51 | 8.6  | 6:58  | 1.1  | 7:32  | 0.2  | 7:14 | 4:18 |     |
| 31 Wed | 1:27  | 7.7  | 1:28  | 8.5  | 7:36  | 1.1  | 8:07  | 0.2  | 7:14 | 4:19 |     |
| 1 Thu  | 1:59  | 7.8  | 2:05  | 8.3  | 8:13  | 1.0  | 8:40  | 0.3  | 7:14 | 4:20 |     |
| 2 Fri  | 2:38  | 7.9  | 2:48  | 8.1  | 8:57  | 1.0  | 9:21  | 0.4  | 7:14 | 4:21 |     |
| 3 Sat  | 3:20  | 8.0  | 3:36  | 7.9  | 9:45  | 0.9  | 10:06 | 0.6  | 7:14 | 4:22 |     |
| 4 Sun  | 4:06  | 8.2  | 4:30  | 7.7  | 10:39 | 0.8  | 10:56 | 0.7  | 7:14 | 4:23 | ☾   |
| 5 Mon  | 4:58  | 8.4  | 5:30  | 7.5  | 11:38 | 0.7  | 11:52 | 0.8  | 7:14 | 4:24 |     |
| 6 Tue  | 5:55  | 8.7  | 6:35  | 7.5  | -     | -    | 12:42 | 0.4  | 7:14 | 4:25 |     |
| 7 Wed  | 6:55  | 9.0  | 7:41  | 7.7  | 12:52 | 0.7  | 1:47  | 0.0  | 7:14 | 4:26 |     |
| 8 Thu  | 7:57  | 9.4  | 8:45  | 8.0  | 1:55  | 0.5  | 2:49  | -0.5 | 7:14 | 4:27 |     |
| 9 Fri  | 8:57  | 9.8  | 9:44  | 8.4  | 2:56  | 0.2  | 3:48  | -1.0 | 7:14 | 4:28 |     |
| 10 Sat | 9:55  | 10.2 | 10:40 | 8.7  | 3:55  | -0.1 | 4:44  | -1.4 | 7:13 | 4:29 | ☀   |
| 11 Sun | 10:51 | 10.4 | 11:33 | 9.0  | 4:52  | -0.4 | 5:37  | -1.6 | 7:13 | 4:30 |     |
| 12 Mon | 11:45 | 10.5 | -     | -    | 5:46  | -0.7 | 6:28  | -1.7 | 7:13 | 4:31 |     |
| 13 Tue | 12:25 | 9.2  | 12:38 | 10.3 | 6:41  | -0.7 | 7:18  | -1.5 | 7:12 | 4:32 |     |
| 14 Wed | 1:16  | 9.3  | 1:31  | 9.9  | 7:35  | -0.6 | 8:08  | -1.1 | 7:12 | 4:34 |     |
| 15 Thu | 2:07  | 9.2  | 2:25  | 9.3  | 8:30  | -0.4 | 8:58  | -0.6 | 7:11 | 4:35 |     |
| 16 Fri | 2:59  | 9.0  | 3:20  | 8.7  | 9:26  | -0.1 | 9:50  | -0.1 | 7:11 | 4:36 |     |
| 17 Sat | 3:51  | 8.7  | 4:18  | 8.0  | 10:25 | 0.3  | 10:43 | 0.5  | 7:10 | 4:37 | ☾   |
| 18 Sun | 4:46  | 8.4  | 5:19  | 7.5  | 11:26 | 0.6  | 11:39 | 1.0  | 7:10 | 4:38 |     |
| 19 Mon | 5:43  | 8.2  | 6:23  | 7.1  | -     | -    | 12:29 | 0.8  | 7:09 | 4:40 |     |
| 20 Tue | 6:41  | 8.1  | 7:25  | 7.0  | 12:38 | 1.3  | 1:31  | 0.8  | 7:08 | 4:41 |     |
| 21 Wed | 7:37  | 8.0  | 8:23  | 7.0  | 1:36  | 1.5  | 2:29  | 0.7  | 7:08 | 4:42 |     |
| 22 Thu | 8:30  | 8.1  | 9:14  | 7.1  | 2:31  | 1.5  | 3:20  | 0.6  | 7:07 | 4:43 |     |
| 23 Fri | 9:18  | 8.3  | 9:58  | 7.3  | 3:20  | 1.4  | 4:05  | 0.4  | 7:06 | 4:45 |     |
| 25 Sun | 10:39 | 8.6  | 11:14 | 7.7  | 4:44  | 1.0  | 5:22  | 0.1  | 7:05 | 4:47 |     |
| 26 Mon | 11:15 | 8.7  | 11:47 | 7.8  | 5:21  | 0.8  | 5:55  | 0.0  | 7:04 | 4:49 | ☀   |
| 27 Tue | 11:50 | 8.8  | -     | -    | 5:56  | 0.7  | 6:26  | 0.0  | 7:03 | 4:50 |     |
| 28 Wed | 12:19 | 8.0  | 12:25 | 8.7  | 6:31  | 0.5  | 6:58  | -0.1 | 7:02 | 4:51 |     |
| 29 Thu | 12:52 | 8.1  | 1:00  | 8.6  | 7:08  | 0.4  | 7:31  | 0.0  | 7:01 | 4:53 |     |
| 30 Fri | 1:26  | 8.3  | 1:39  | 8.5  | 7:47  | 0.4  | 8:08  | 0.1  | 7:00 | 4:54 |     |
| 31 Sat | 2:03  | 8.4  | 2:21  | 8.2  | 8:30  | 0.3  | 8:48  | 0.2  | 6:59 | 4:55 |     |

## Upcoming Events

# December 08/January 2009

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED                 | THU                      | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|---------------------|--------------------------|-----|-----|
| 28  | 29  | 30  | 31                  | 1<br>Happy<br>New Year   | 2   | 3   |
| 4   | 5   | 6   | 7<br>BOD<br>Meeting | 8                        | 9   | 10  |
| 11  | 12  | 13  | 14                  | 15<br>General<br>Meeting | 16  | 17  |
| 18  | 19  | 20  | 21                  | 22                       | 23  | 24  |
| 25  | 26  | 27  | 28                  | 29                       | 30  | 31  |

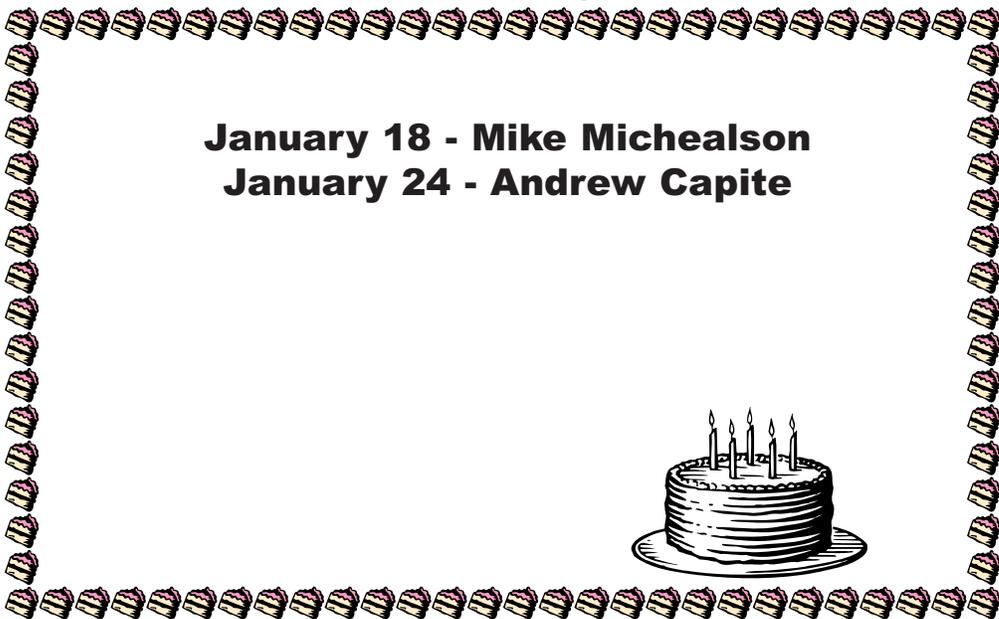
**January 7-** Board of Directors meeting. It will be held at Slattery's in Fitchburg and starts at 6:30 pm. Members are welcome to attend.

**January 15-** General club meeting. It will be held at Slattery's in Fitchburg and starts at 7 pm. Guest speaker TBD.

For any and all Calender updates please check out the club website [www.uniteddivers.org](http://www.uniteddivers.org)

## Birthdays!

**January 18 - Mike Michealson**  
**January 24 - Andrew Capite**

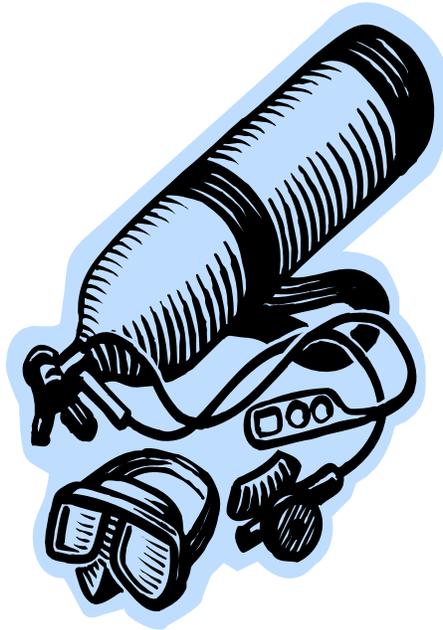


# United Divers of Central Mass

## Dive Log

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## The Purpose of the United Divers of Central Massachusetts

The purpose of the United Divers of Central Massachusetts is to promote the sportsmanship and sport of SCUBA diving by stimulating our members to achieve the highest standards of safety and proficiency in Scuba diving. To promote friendship and wholesome social activity among its membership. To promote educational programs that will provide fundamental knowledge supported by actual hands on experience in a variety of areas including; safe diving practices, conservation of marine ecosystem, first aid and handling diving related emergencies, to organize group SCUBA diving trips, educational and social events that will allow our membership to accomplish all of the above.



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