



“DIVE LOG”

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED DIVERS
OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

January 2010

Volume IX Issue I

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This week’s Speaker

Scuba tank flies into Needham Recycling and Transfer Station, smashes through wall.

By Steven Ryan

Wicked Local Needham

Posted Jan 12, 2010 @ 04:13 PM

Last update Jan 12, 2010 @ 04:23 PM

Needham —

A scuba tank discarded at the Recycling and Transfer Station on Jan. 7 reportedly smashed through the wall of the main office building at the RTS after its top valve was knocked off, police said.

The RTS superintendent reportedly told police a man dropped off an aluminum diver’s tank in the metal pile earlier that day. The man reportedly dropped off diver’s tanks at the RTS in the past and was told not to do so since the tanks require special handling. An RTS employee reportedly removed the tank from the metal pile and put it by the main office building for further processing.

At some point, the tank apparently fell over, which knocked off the top valve of the tank. Since the tank was under pressure, it was sent flying into the RTS building, going through the building’s metal outer shell, through the half-inch of drywall, pushed aside a chair at the desk and struck the wall to the rear of the office. There were no employees in the office at the time of the accident.

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From Jaws to kids movies, to Mythbusters, there is countless lore surrounding SCUBA tanks and impending destruction. This is one of the few examples that shows the sheer destructive power of an improperly maintained tank. What went wrong? 3 things: one, the tank was discarded pressurized. Two, the tank was left standing. Three, the tank was discarded without properly notifying the transfer agents.

There is enough pressure in a scuba tank to punch through a wall of cement blocks 2 deep, and still have enough energy to continue on to punch a hole in whatever may be behind that. That is beyond deadly force. This is such an important issue because I know for a fact that most of you own your own tanks, so lets just review a couple of the rules. Tanks must be stored with some pressure to prevent degradation. They must also be stored laying down. NEVER LEAVE AN UNATTENDED TANK STANDING. Always make sure that you get your tanks checked out by a professional. Hydrostatic testing is required every 5 years (with a 6 month grace period), visual inspection at least once a year. Never let your tanks sit in the sun, they may overheat and cause the pressure to reach dangerous proportions. At this point the burst disk should pop, but lets face it, it should have never been in that situation in the first place. Just simple things can prevent a tragic accident.

Better safe than sorry. Safe diving,

Tom

**NEW IN
THIS
ISSUE!!!
BUY
SWAP
SELL!!!**

From the desk of the President

I am not sure how everyone feels, but this really seems like a long winter! I just can't seem pinpoint why. It may seem like dive season is far off but it will be upon us before we know it. It is time to pull your dive gear out of winter storage and check it out yourself or have it serviced.

I must say I am really pleased with the way this year's banquet is shaping up. I will have all the details at the next meeting. The board is working hard at securing new guest speakers. It is proving to be a challenge to find speakers within a reasonable distance. If anyone has suggestions please let us know.

I think I have my sights set on a new dive spot and a new experience this year, it is Newfound Lake. Has anyone actually dove it? I am going to make a trip there this season. I will let everyone know so you can come along.

Rick Boucher was fortunate enough to get a guest speaker this month. I am looking forward to the meeting and seeing our guest speaker's presentation. See you all there.

Safe Diving,

Mark

At Foxwoods

TITANIC THE ARTIFACT EXHIBITION

Actual artifacts, recovered from two and one half miles below the surface of the North Atlantic, tell the story behind the legendary Titanic's short journey from construction and destruction to eventual recovery. Walk her decks, peer into her cabins and meet her passengers and crew.

February 13 - June 13 - Great Cedar Exhibition Hall

- Sunday - Thursday 11am - 8pm
- Friday - Saturday 11am - 10pm

Tickets:

- **On Sale January 25**
 - \$20 Adults (14 and older)
- \$15 Child

Directions From Worcester

Take I-395 South to Exit 85 in Connecticut. Go straight to the second traffic light and turn left onto Route 164 South. Follow Route 164 to the end, approximately seven miles. Turn left onto Route 2 East. Foxwoods is 1.5 miles down on the right. Drive time: 1 hour.

That time of the year again...

Nope, I'm not talking about spring, the groundhog saw his shadow... Its membership time! (if only we could play Most Wonderful Time of the Year in the background as you read this). As you know, this means filling out forms and writing checks. Well, now that doesn't have to be so painful! For members that renew or sign up by the April meeting, Andy's has agreed to donate free tank fill cards. Family memberships are \$40.00, Singles are \$20.00.

United Divers of Central Massachusetts Our History

United Divers of Central Massachusetts was founded by former members of the Fitchburg Skin Divers club in 1983. The founding members of United Divers were Paul Mathieu, Phil St. Jean, Cliff Allen, Scott Ewen, Ron Galipeault and Ted Osgood.

It was the intent of the founding members of United Divers of Central Massachusetts that the “Club” and its members promote the sport of scuba diving in a positive way. Over the years I have heard the dive club more commonly referred to as United Divers and simply “the Club”. It was the founding member’s intention that the “Club” be committed to educate the membership through the use of guest speakers, dive instructors, and club members.

It was also the intent of the founding members that the club be a place for divers of all levels. Diving with experienced divers is a great way for a new or less experienced diver to “learn the ropes” without going through the frustration of learning the hard way. After 13 years of activity in 1996 the club disbanded. After a period of almost 5 years Ron Galipeault, one of the original-founding members, re-organized the club and the first meeting of the rejuvenated club was held on May 17, 2001. The board was made up of the following: Ron Galipeault, Roger Lusco, Emily Ellis and Greg Bennett.

With the exception of a couple times during the history of the club the Board of Directors has been comprised of 6 members. There were the typical positions of president, vice president, treasurer and secretary. The other 2 board positions were known simply as “Board Member”. I am not sure if these positions had defined responsibilities or acted as the board deemed necessary. It was not until 2005 that these 2 “Board Member” positions were given responsibilities. These positions became those of Activities Coordinator and Membership-Publicity Coordinator. The best I can determine, in 2003 the club joined the age of the internet when the domain name uniteddivers.org was obtained. There has been a webmaster on record for a year prior to that. The club has had a newsletter of some sort since the beginning. In 2004 a contest was held to name the newsletter. The contest was won by Donna Conlon with the name as it remains, “Dive Log”.

A by-laws committee was formed in 2004 and after much hard work and time the by-laws were rewritten and adopted September 16, 2004.

If anyone has any historical, factual and/or anecdotal information about the club you may have or be aware of please pass it on. I would love to find some record or someone’s recollection of the Board members for the years of 1993, 1994 and 1995.

The Club has had both bountiful times and lean. I personally feel the club gets a little better each year. As I uncover more history and trivia about the club I will share my findings in the newsletter.

-Mark

Buy! - Swap! - Sell!

Ikelite Equipment Sale

The following items are all used, but in very good condition:

Ikelite dSLR Underwater Housing # 6808.1 for Nikon D-80 with dual tray and handle

Ikelite Flat Port #5502.41 for Nikon 60mm Macro f/2.8G (or D) ED AF-S lens

Ikelite Dome Port #5503.51 for Nikon 20-80 mm Zoom 1:3.5-5.6 G AF lens

Ikelite gear and clamp for the above zoom lens

Bower 58 mm diopter set +1, +2 and +4 for the above zoom lens

O-rings and port covers for the above

Price for all of the above.....\$ 950.00



Sold Separately

Nikon 60mm Macro f/2.8D ED AF-S lens.....\$300.00

Contact: Jim McKnight (978) 516-0474, mcknight41@verizon.net

February / March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
14 Valentine's Day Guys don't forget! 	15 President's Day (no, you don't have to get Mark anything)	16	17	18 General Meeting	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 BOD Meeting 6:30 pm	12	13
14	15	16	16	17	8	19

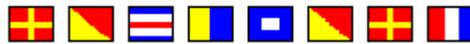
This Week's Meeting!

We have a guest for the Feb. meeting on the 18th. His name is **Donald Whitehead**, he is a published photographer and writer. His website is www.liquidspacublishing.com/index. Donald will be providing us with a slide supported presentation entitled "The Undersea World of Massachusetts Bay." This will be a wide ranging presentation covering selected dive sites, shipwrecks and marine life.

Birthdays!!!



ROCKPORT



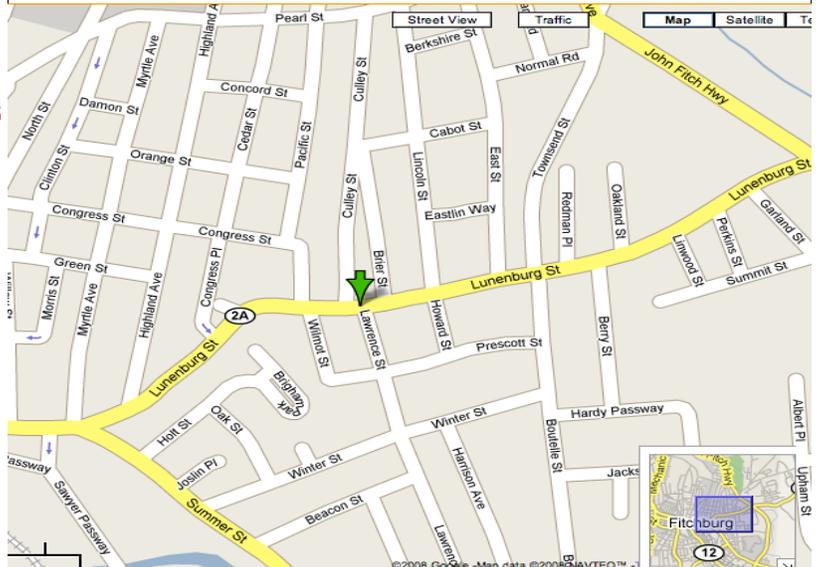
DAY	DATE	HIGH				LOW				☀️		🌙
		AM	hgt	PM	hgt	AM	hgt	PM	hgt	rise	set	moon
Friday	12	10:09	8.95 ft	10:40	8.14 ft	3:55	0.93 ft	4:30	0.17 ft	6:43	5:10	
Saturday	13	10:46	9.04 ft	11:14	8.32 ft	4:34	0.72 ft	5:05	0.10 ft	6:42	5:11	
Sunday	14	11:21	9.05 ft	11:46	8.47 ft	5:10	0.56 ft	5:36	0.09 ft	6:40	5:12	🌑
Monday	15	11:55	8.97 ft			5:44	0.46 ft	6:06	0.14 ft	6:39	5:14	
Tuesday	16	12:16	8.59 ft	12:28	8.83 ft	6:18	0.40 ft	6:36	0.23 ft	6:38	5:15	
Wednesday	17	12:47	8.67 ft	1:02	8.62 ft	6:53	0.39 ft	7:08	0.36 ft	6:36	5:16	
Thursday	18	1:20	8.73 ft	1:39	8.37 ft	7:29	0.42 ft	7:43	0.53 ft	6:35	5:18	
Friday	19	1:56	8.75 ft	2:19	8.10 ft	8:10	0.48 ft	8:22	0.73 ft	6:33	5:19	
Saturday	20	2:36	8.75 ft	3:05	7.82 ft	8:55	0.57 ft	9:06	0.95 ft	6:32	5:20	
Sunday	21	3:22	8.73 ft	3:58	7.57 ft	9:47	0.65 ft	9:58	1.14 ft	6:30	5:21	
Monday	22	4:16	8.73 ft	4:59	7.43 ft	10:46	0.67 ft	10:57	1.23 ft	6:29	5:23	
Tuesday	23	5:18	8.81 ft	6:07	7.50 ft	11:52	0.55 ft			6:27	5:24	
Wednesday	24	6:25	9.04 ft	7:15	7.84 ft	12:04	1.12 ft	1:00	0.21 ft	6:26	5:25	
Thursday	25	7:32	9.45 ft	8:18	8.40 ft	1:12	0.76 ft	2:03	-0.29 ft	6:24	5:26	
Friday	26	8:35	9.95 ft	9:15	9.07 ft	2:16	0.18 ft	3:01	-0.85 ft	6:22	5:28	
Saturday	27	9:33	10.41 ft	10:08	9.71 ft	3:16	-0.47 ft	3:54	-1.33 ft	6:21	5:29	
Sunday	28	10:27	10.70 ft	10:57	10.23 ft	4:11	-1.07 ft	4:44	-1.63 ft	6:19	5:30	🌑
Monday	01	11:19	10.76 ft	11:45	10.53 ft	5:04	-1.49 ft	5:32	-1.69 ft	6:18	5:31	
Tuesday	02	12:10 PM	10.57 ft			5:56	-1.66 ft	6:19	-1.49 ft	6:16	5:33	
Wednesday	03	12:33	10.59 ft	1:01	10.14 ft	6:47	-1.56 ft	7:07	-1.06 ft	6:15	5:34	
Thursday	04	1:22	10.40 ft	1:53	9.55 ft	7:39	-1.23 ft	7:56	-0.47 ft	6:13	5:35	
Friday	05	2:11	10.01 ft	2:47	8.88 ft	8:33	-0.72 ft	8:47	0.20 ft	6:11	5:36	
Saturday	06	3:04	9.49 ft	3:45	8.24 ft	9:30	-0.13 ft	9:43	0.85 ft	6:10	5:38	
Sunday	07	4:00	8.95 ft	4:48	7.71 ft	10:31	0.42 ft	10:44	1.37 ft	6:08	5:39	
Monday	08	5:03	8.50 ft	5:54	7.40 ft	11:37	0.82 ft	11:49	1.68 ft	6:06	5:40	
Tuesday	09	6:08	8.24 ft	6:58	7.34 ft	12:42 PM	1.00 ft			6:05	5:41	
Wednesday	10	7:12	8.20 ft	7:56	7.47 ft	12:54	1.73 ft	1:42	0.98 ft	6:03	5:42	
Thursday	11	8:09	8.31 ft	8:46	7.72 ft	1:53	1.57 ft	2:34	0.84 ft	6:01	5:44	
Friday	12	8:58	8.50 ft	9:29	8.03 ft	2:44	1.28 ft	3:18	0.67 ft	5:59	5:45	
Saturday	13	9:41	8.69 ft	10:07	8.33 ft	3:29	0.96 ft	3:57	0.51 ft	5:58	5:46	

Meeting Time and Location

The United Divers meet once a month on the third Thursday of the month at Slattery's located at 106 Lunenburg Street, Fitchburg, MA. There is ample parking provided in the rear of the building. The meeting will be taking place in the event room near the back right of the restaurant. The meeting will begin at 7:00p.m. with a social hour beginning at 6:30p.m. If you should have any questions please feel free to contact any of the board members.



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Dive Log

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www.uniteddivers.org

Email: For newsletter correspondence
please contact Tom at:
troufos@student.fsc.edu



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 ecosystems, 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.



United Divers of Central Massachusetts
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