



# United Divers of Central Mass

UDCM Newsletter Volume XVI Issue I

February 2017

## Latest Events

The 2017 UDCM Board of Directors has met twice this year to review the club's bylaws and propose changes, discuss finances, membership, and plans for some new events. Your input is valuable so share your thoughts at the next meeting or email (see page 4) any BOD member with feedback.

## Proposed Bylaw Changes

The BOD presented recommended changes to the bylaws at the January meeting. Members provided feedback and the Board met again to modify these changes based on that feedback. Refer to the newsletter addendum (page 5) to view details of these changes and plan to cast a vote at the next meeting scheduled for **Thursday February 16th at 6:30 pm; Slattery's Fitchburg.**

## Membership Dues

Every member must submit a membership form and Liability Release annually. These forms are required (with applicable dues payable to UDCM) no later than the April club meeting. Find the forms at:

<http://uniteddivers.org/Pages/membership.htm>

## Pool Night at Fitchburg State University

Join us at the FSU pool for a chance to get in the water to check out your gear or review some skills before the diving season begins:

Date: **Friday April 21, 2017**

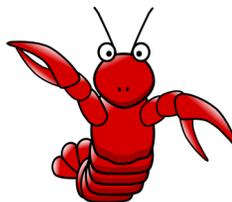
Time: **7 - 9 pm**

Location: [FSU Recreation Center; North St. Fitchburg](#)

## Save the Dates!

Chick's Day: **Sunday July 9th**

Lobsterfest: **Saturday August 19th**



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*"The Sea, once it casts its spell, holds one in its net of wonder forever."*

*- Jacques-Yves Cousteau*

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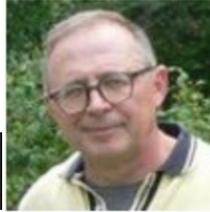
## In This Issue

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Check the [UDCM website's calendar](#) for all scheduled activities!

# President's Message

Jack Hinz,  
UDCM President



Greetings to the membership from your new president!

February is here and hopefully with the days getting warmer and temperatures climbing, divers will start returning to the bracing waters of the North Atlantic.

Jane and I spent early January in French Polynesia diving the atolls of Rangiroa, Taou, and Fakarawa in the Tumatou archipelago. The water was clear (on incoming tides) and warm (86 F). The experience was a great deal of fun, but mother nature kept us from getting too cocky (5 knot currents and such!) Needless to say neither of us are overly eager to dive in New England until things get a bit more hospitable here (and my boat is back in the water).

Even if you're not diving, however, it's a good time to check your gear, especially if it has just been sitting around since fall of last year.

- ⇒ Check you tanks, do they need a VIP or maybe a hydro?
- ⇒ Are there indications of leaks or other funny sounds coming from your regulator?
- ⇒ Does your BC stay inflated when you fill it, or does it go soft after a few minutes sitting unattended?
- ⇒ Are your mask and fin straps in good condition or are there signs of damage like cracking?
- ⇒ Does your dry suit have any leaks?
- ⇒ Are the latex seals in good shape or are they getting brittle and waiting to fail?
- ⇒ Does your wetsuit smell peculiar?
- ⇒ Does it still fit after Super Bowl Sunday?

Gear maintenance isn't difficult, though servicing some components like regulators is best left to those with the right tools and training. We've all been there on that first dive of the season – the shakedown dive – only to find that not everything is working quite the way we were expecting.

So if you find yourself bored during the winter doldrums, start inspecting your dive gear. Who knows, the dive you rescue during the active season may be your own.

*Jack*



## BOSTON SEA ROVERS

March 11th — 12th, 2017

Double Tree Hilton Hotel, Danvers

Details & tickets at [bostonsearovers.com](http://bostonsearovers.com)

## In the News

Rob Stewart, a Canadian filmmaker and marine biologist, was found dead at a depth of 220 feet off the coast of Florida on Friday February 3, 2017 by the US Coast Guard. Best known for his 2006 documentary *Sharkwater*, Stewart was last seen three days prior after surfacing from a dive, but crew members lost sight of him in the water while attending to his dive partner who had lost consciousness.

Stewart was reportedly visiting the wreck of the Queen of Nassau while working on a sequel *Sharkwater: Extinction* which investigates the unexplained deaths of millions of sharks. He was 37.

Source: [news.nationalpost.com](http://news.nationalpost.com)



The Bay State Council of Divers and the MA diving community are greatly concerned about the continuing loss of public parking in coastal communities making shore access difficult or impossible for diving. Most communities restrict parking access to residents-only and this prevents other citizens from using the public beaches and rights of way in these communities.

The Bay State Council of Divers is hosting a meeting for representatives of interested parties to get input and support to remedy this situation. **The meeting will be held at the Boston Sea Rovers Show on Sunday afternoon March 12, 2017 at the Doubletree Hotel North Shore in Danvers MA.**

Contact the Bay State Council of Divers with questions:

[baystatecouncil.org](http://baystatecouncil.org)

## The History of Isles of Shoals

Some of these islands were used for seasonal fishing camps by Native Americans.

They received their name by English explorer Captain John Smith after seeing them in 1614.

The first recorded landfall of an Englishman was by explorer Captain Christopher Levett in 1623. His six ships filled with 300 fishermen discovered that the Isles of Shoals were largely abandoned.

The Europeans settled and the shoals became an important fishing area for British and French colonies.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isles\\_of\\_Shoals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isles_of_Shoals)



Isles of Shoals photo credit: Mike Brum

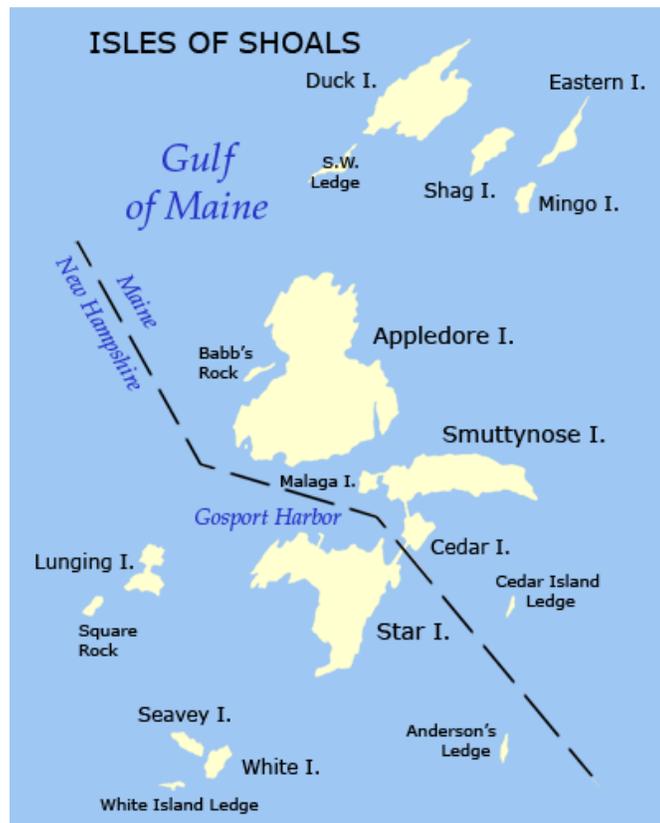


Image credit: [Wikimedia](#)

## Dive Spotlight

### The Isles of Shoals



**Type:** Salt Water, Boat Dive, Intermediate

**Find it:** About 6 miles off the New England coast, crossing the borders of both Maine and New Hampshire. See an overview on Google Earth by entering GPS Coordinates: 42.9880° N, 70.6135° W.

**Depth:** 30 –150 feet

**Water temperature:** mid-50s to mid-60s (August/September)

**Visibility:** 5-25 feet

**What you'll see:** Pretty vegetation, sea ravens, flounder, and lobster to name a few; but the biggest draw to the area is a chance to see the harbor seals!

**Charters:** [Cape Ann Divers](#), [Down Under Diving Ventures](#), [Seafari Charters](#)

**Special Notes:** Touching or disturbing the seals is illegal.

# Next Meeting's Highlights

February 16th 6:30 pm; Slattery's

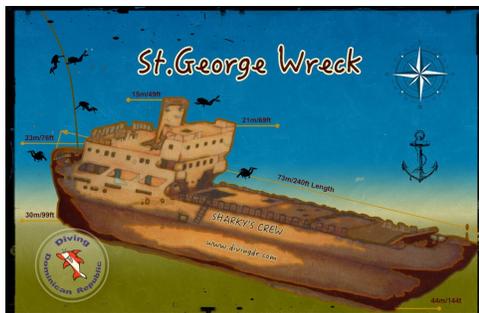
## Proposed Bylaws Changes



Refer to the addendum on page 5 for details on the proposed bylaws changes which will be discussed at the next meeting. Be prepared to cast your vote!

## Dive Presentation

Frank Miller will share a special underwater video taken while vacationing in the Dominican Republic and featuring the St. George wreck.



# The Cooking Corner

Oh baby, it's cold outside! A few club members have been lucky enough to escape the frigid New England temperatures to enjoy warm water scuba we all dream about. The rest of us will have to settle for fond memories. Pull out your dive log and cozy up with a cup of fireside coffee and reminisce!

## Fireside Coffee



- 1 c fat-free powdered coffee creamer
- 3/4 c powdered hot cocoa mix
- 3/4 c instant coffee powder
- 1/2 c sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg

Combine ingredients; mix well. Spoon 2 tbsp. mix into coffee mug and add 1 c boiling water; stir. Store remaining mix in an airtight container.

(makes 24 one-cup servings)

## Join Us

Monthly meetings are open to non-members and are held at 6:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month at:

Slattery's Restaurant  
106 Lunenburg Street  
Fitchburg, MA 01420

## Visit Us

[www.uniteddivers.org](http://www.uniteddivers.org)



## Contact Us

Email our officers for more information:

*Jack Hinz, President*  
[president@udcm.org](mailto:president@udcm.org)

*Peter Conlon, VP*  
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*Jane Howard, Treasurer*  
[treasurer@udcm.org](mailto:treasurer@udcm.org)

*Diane Barletta, Secretary*  
[secretary@udcm.org](mailto:secretary@udcm.org)

*Marcelle Champagne, Membership-Publicity*  
[membership@udcm.org](mailto:membership@udcm.org)

*Frank Miller, Activities*  
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*Karen Ferrante, Webmaster*  
[webmaster@udcm.org](mailto:webmaster@udcm.org)

# Newsletter Addendum

## Proposed Bylaw Changes

The proposed bylaws changes are detailed below (bold font for additions and strike-through for deletions).

The full text of the **bylaws** are posted on the *Membership* page of the club's website at:

<http://uniteddivers.org/pdfs/UDCM%20Bylaws.pdf>

⇒ Amend Articles IV & V where an additional elected officer "Webmaster" would be added as a permanent seat:

ARTICLE IV: BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)

### **G. Webmaster**

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

G. Activities Coordinator. The Activities Coordinator will:

~~3. Be responsible for maintaining the Club web site and may seek assistance from Club members as necessary.~~

### **H. Webmaster. The Webmaster will:**

- 1. Maintain and update the UDCM website**
- 2. Monitor and edit content added or submitted for publication**
- 3. Authorize new members and audit and edit content added or submitted for publication on social media sites, (e.g., Facebook.) Other club members may assist with this duty as necessary.**

⇒ Amend Article VII, Section D, Item 1 by changing the Chairperson's Protection Fund to a Reserve Savings Fund:

ARTICLE VII: FINANCES

D. Structure of the Treasury

1. ~~Chairperson's Protection~~ **Reserve Savings** Fund. The purpose of the **Reserve Savings** ~~Chairman's Protection~~ Fund is to provide financial protection for **the club**. ~~a person or persons running a Club sponsored dive (See Article IX for definition of a Club sponsored dive). A portion of every membership dues shall be placed into this fund.~~

⇒ Amend Article IX, Section E by adding the stipulation that fees for club activities will be paid in advance:

ARTICLE IX: ACTIVITIES

E. Fees. The BOD on the advice of the Activities Coordinator will determine what fees, if any, should be charged for Club activities **and members shall prepay for these activities for the protection of club finances.**