



“DIVE LOG”

June 2012

Volume XI Issue 6

Guest Speaker this month is:

Jeff and Mark will be speaking at this month's meeting about the process they went through to become cave dive certified..





DON'T FORGET
Next weeks meeting
6/21/12
Will be at
Wachusett Village Inn
9 Village Inn Rd
Westminster, MA 01473

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Well dive season is in full swing and our members are diving. It is good to see the club facebook page getting more use. The board is working on putting together a banquette for our October meeting. We are not forming a banquette committee but if you are interested and willing to help with any part of putting it together please let us know. The issue that we had with not having a room to meet in for last months meeting has been corrected for the rest of the year so we will have a room to meet in all the way through to November. Remember, if there is a guest speaker that you would like the board of directors to try and get or if you have any dives you would like to see the club do please let us know.

Safe Diving,
Kris

UPCOMING DIVE ADVENTURES AND TRIPS

Activities Chairman

Hello Everyone. The water is warming up, lobsters have returned and summer is almost here. So no excuses even you wet suit divers can get back in the water! Time to get your calendar organized so you don't miss out on some fun activities.

At the June 21st meeting there will be sign up sheets for the the following events;

The ever popular Chicks Day on Sunday July 8th 10 AM at Stage Fort Park in Gloucester (thank you, Christine!) and the pre Chicks Day Dive (thank you Jeff).

The REEF Fishcount sponsored by the Boston Aquarium Dive Club on Saturday July 28th. The Fishcount is a great free event. We dive in the morning and party in the afternoon. You just need your REEF number to sign up. (go to www.Reef.org) Lots of great prizes (like trips and equipment) at the raffle in the afternoon.

I tried to rebook our Cape Dive Locker Lobster Dive (we got blown out on the 2nd) but only managed to get two spots on the July 14th trip to Nauset Ledges so Derek and I will be posting pictures of outsized lobsters to facebook on the 15th.

In August Rich Atkins has once again graciously agreed to host Lobsterfest on Saturday August 18th, more information about Lobsterfest in the July newsletter but this is always a fun event. As usual we will be diving for fresh lobsters that morning. I will be boat diving with Cape Anne Divers and I hope that a group of club members will sign up and join me. Last year 6 of us brought back 30? lobsters for the pot.

There will also be two sign up sheets for Seal Dives at the Dry Salvages outside Rockport. I have booked the Day Breaker on Sunday August 26th for the 12PM dive. There will be two free spots on that run. If there is interest we can also book an additional six spots on the morning trip 7:30AM so sign up! The boat will be leaving out of Cape Anne Marina so its a short drive compared to the Isle of Shoals.

Throw in a trip to Central and South America (work) in early August a few more dives on weekends and that sets me up for the Summer. Time to sign up, mark up your calendar and go diving!

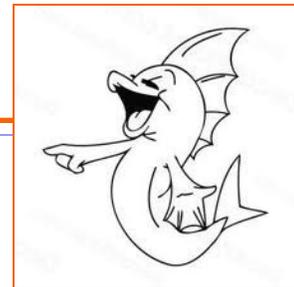
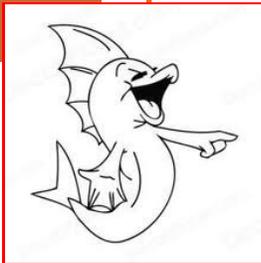
If anyone has any good ideas for a Banquet Speaker or entertainment please pass them along to the Board.

Dive Safe!

Regards,

Bob Abraham

. My SCUBA instructor always stressed that you should never go diving alone. If you have equipment problems, your buddy can help you. If you run out of air, your buddy can help you. If you meet an aggressive shark, your odds are 50-50 instead of 100%.



PRAWNS

Far away in the tropical waters of the Caribbean, two prawns were swimming around in the sea. One called Justin and the other called Christian.

The prawns were constantly being harassed and threatened by sharks that inhabited the area. Finally one day Justin said to Christian, "I'm fed up with being a prawn; I wish I was a shark, and then I wouldn't have any worries about being eaten." A large mysterious cod appeared and said, "Your wish is granted" Lo and behold, Justin turned into a shark.

Horrified, Christian immediately swam away, afraid of being eaten by his old mate. Time passed (as it does) and Justin found life as a shark boring and lonely. All his old mates simply swam away whenever he came close to them. Justin didn't realize that his new menacing appearance was the cause of his sad plight.

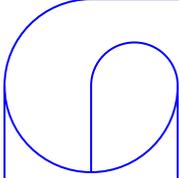
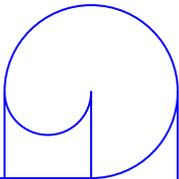
While swimming alone one day he saw the mysterious cod again and he thought perhaps the mysterious fish could change him back into a prawn. He approached the cod and begged to be changed back, and, lo and behold, he found himself turned back into a prawn. With tears of joy in his tiny little eyes Justin swam back to his friends and bought them all a cocktail. (The punch line does not involve a prawn cocktail - it's much worse).

Looking around the gathering at the reef he realised he couldn't see his old pal. "Where's Christian?" he asked. "He's at home, still distraught that his best friend changed sides to the enemy & became a shark", came the reply.

Eager to put things right again and end the mutual pain and torture, he set off to Christian's abode. As he opened the coral gate, memories came flooding back. He banged on the door and shouted, "It's me, Justin, your old friend, come out and see me again." Christian replied, "No way man, you'll eat me. You're now a shark, the enemy, and I'll not be tricked into being your dinner." Justin cried back "No, I'm not. That was the old me.

I've changed."..... (You're going to love this...)

"I've found Cod. I'm a Prawn again Christian".



Lobstering Reminder



Club Members who are lobstering in MA this year be aware that the MA Environmental Police is out in force checking licenses, equipment, catch bags and coolers. Make sure that you have your lobster license and your drivers license (they want a picture ID) with you at the dive site and available to the officer. Make sure that your tanks and flags are properly numbered. I heard an officer explaining to a group of four divers (as he wrote out a warning) that he wanted the numbers of each person lobstering to appear above water, whether on one flag or on separate flags. Which is the first time I have heard this request - but it is in the laws. He did not care about the flag per diver rule that Gloucester has on the books.



Remember that in addition to checking for eggs, v-notches and carapace lengths that any lobster with a missing or mutilated tail fin is illegal as are claws that don't belong to the lobsters in your catch bag. There are plenty of legal bugs out there so be careful and patient and avoid a nasty run in with the law at the end of a dive. On the plus side we did see them stop a pleasure boat that went zooming by a dive flag and asked us if we had been hassled by boats while in the water so they try to be balanced.



*United Divers of Central Massachusetts
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Fitchburg, MA 01420*

Mark & Christine from Andy's Dive shop are putting together a trip to Bonaire APRIL 20th—APRIL 27th. If Interested contact Mark or Christine!!!

Jeff is planning a pre chicks dive the morning of chicks day.

Cathedral Rocks, 7:30 am sharp at the dive site, one dive and then off to the party. The photographer from Northeast Dive News will be at the dive to take pictures and do an article on Chicks Day.

There has been a change in fees for club events:

CHICKS DAY: \$5.00 pp Club Members

\$10.00 pp NON Club Members

LOBSTER FEST: \$10.00 pp Club Members

\$20.00 pp NON Club Members

