



“DIVE LOG”

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED DIVERS
OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

October 2010

Volume IX Issue 10

Page 1

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Banquet Page 1
Presidents Message Page 2
Election Page 2
Better the First Time Pages 3
Calendar & Birthdays Page 4
Rockport Tide Tables Page 5
Up-coming Activities Page 5

“The Britanic”

Richie Kohler

What can I say, the banquet this year did not disappoint! Our guest speaker did not disappoint in more than one way. Richie’s presentation was stellar! In setting up Richie’s presentation it was agreed the presentation would be about 40 or 45 minutes and 10 or 15 minutes for Q & A. The first portion of his presentation consisting of the power point section was 45 minutes alone. The remainder, the video portion was about 15 minutes or so. The Q & A lasted about 15 minutes. From what I saw divers and non-divers alike asked

some very interesting questions and Richie answered them all. There was much highlighted in his presentation. I think many knew there were 3 sister ships, Titanic, Olympic and Britanic. How many were aware Olympic was originally named Gigantic and renamed after the disaster of the Titanic? The changes made to Britanic which did not appear on prints yet



lead to controversy as well as ultimately conspiracy. In comparison to her sister Titanic, I think many did not realize how quickly Britanic sank. These only to mention a few. I found it interesting how his presentation on the “Britanic” was so intertwined with his other projects as well.

**Congratulations
50/50 winner!!**

“ ”



When I think of the impact both Richie and John have had on diving in recent years it is quite impressive. They gained notoriety from identifying the U-Who. It is wild to hear how it all started with WGBH in Boston. They put together the special “Hitler’s Lost Sub”. From there it was the book, then the series “Deep Sea Detectives”. From there it was the expedition to the Titanic and then the subject of our presentation the Britanic. To some this rivals what Sea Hunt did for the birth of recreational diving. To me the accomplishments of Richie and John far surpasses the impact Sea Hunt had.

President's Message

I really must admit the September meeting one was one the more interesting I have presided over. I have to say it was all good! We discussed the banquet. Discussion centered on the fact very few had signed up, potential cost saving actions and the possibility of canceling it altogether. I think everyone that attended was more than happy it did get canceled. The members in attendance raised many valid points and the democratic process prevailed. Who ever would have thought the part of the meeting everyone dreads was quite easy and light by comparison. Nominations went quite well. It was great to see all new faces but one for the board next year. The past month or so has been interesting to say the least as far as weather has been. I did a dive on the U-853 and let me just say it was some of the roughest seas I have dove in in quite sometime. For those of you that hang up your fins for the winter don't be so quick to do so. We still have some great dive days left.

As I said this last meeting was a bit of work to preside over but I would not have traded it for anything. It was our club, our membership at work, the way it should be!

Safe Diving,

Mark

October Elections (There Isn't Any)

As I am sure all are aware nominations were held at the last meeting. There was only one position that had the potential for a run-off. There was only one nomination for each of the other 5 positions. The position that had 2 people nominated for was Vice President. Kevin Brook was present at the meeting and accepted the nomination for Vice President. Al Boyarsky was also nominated for the same position however Al was not at the meeting to accept or decline the nomination. I contacted Al to inform him he had been nominated and asked if he would accept or decline the nomination. Al declined the nomination which locked Kevin into the position of Vice president. As for the remaining positions they are all uncontested. Starting at the position of Membership Coordinator, Marcelle Champagne was nominated and accepted the position. Next is the Activities Coordinator, Joe Avoli accepted the nomination for this position. We have a family team for the next two positions, Janet and Bob Abraham. Janet accepted the nomination for Treasurer and Bob accepted the nomination for Secretary. Leaving us with the final nomination for President.

Kris Dufour accepted the nomination for President. Congratulations to our board for 2011! Please take a moment to wish them good luck for the next year. So here is the line-up for next year:

President - Kris Dufour

Vice President - Kevin Brook

Treasurer - Janet Abraham

Secretary - Bob Abraham

Activities - Joe Avoli

Membership - Marcelle Champagne



“The *Britanic*” *Continued from page 1*

Talking with Richie one cannot help but reference his partner John Chatterton. I was initially hesitant about mentioning John but the two are synonymous. It was the same talking with John and mentioning Richie. There could not be one without the other. Richie was also very approachable after. Like his partner, Richie found himself near the bar and hanging out with divers talking about diving. When Jeff didn't have him cornered it was not about how deep or how technical, it was simply about diving. Jeff, I hope you realize I am just kidding.

I just want to thank everyone that helped make this night a success. I am not going to name individuals for fear of leaving someone out. So, to all those that helped, THANK YOU for all you did. I want to thank the Devens Common Center for tolerating us until midnight and politely asking us to leave. As I said in opening Richie did not disappoint in more than one way, the presentation was incredible. The other way Richie did not disappoint although similar to hosting the Chatterton did not end at quite the early hour, we only closed the Devens Grille and did not have hotel security banging on our door.

“Better the First Time” by Rick Boucher



The plan was to go diving the last Saturday in August and the weather forecast was for a warm, calm and clear day. Diving on a day like this is a no brainer usually but the coast had been getting slammed all week from tropical storms and we were to head for Race Point on the Cape, not really known for it's good visibility under the best of situations. I contacted a dive master down there and he confirmed my fears, the vis had been horrible.

Did I mention the forecast was for a great day? This is all it took for Dave Lamkin to say the boat is rolling at 6:00 in the morning and that Roger and Kris Lusco were on board, did I want to go? I did say the forecast was for a

great day, right? Of course I wanted to go, what's a little particulate matter in the water column, a good day on the water with good company and good divers, I'm in !!!

After stowing our gear, fueling the boat and truck, grabbing another coffee for the road we were off for Plymouth, MA. G.P.S. is a great invention and between that and the maps in the truck, we were there in not much more time than it takes to get to Cape Ann. The boat launch was uneventful and we were soon threading our way out of the harbor. Dave and Capt. Roger did the navigating and recording the course for our trip over to Provincetown and the “Race”. Not being a sailor, I spent the time gawking at all the boats and talking with Kris about how many of them would make great dive boats. It was just about then that I heard Roger call my name and start laughing, he was pointing at a boat and asking me if that was the one I had arrived on. I looked up and couldn't help bursting into laughter myself: it was the “Mayflower”, this was a good one, as my age sometimes becomes the point of good natured joking.

It took about an hour to make our way over to Race Point and try to locate the area the club dove for lobster back in June. The other consideration was the fishing boats that were parading and trolling back and forth, easily 12-18 of them. This actually proved to be no problem and they were quite considerate of us, even if they were annoyed by our presence.

Dave and I rolled in first, dropped down and started to work along the sandy shelf in about 40' of water. The visibility was as feared, 5-6' at best. We slid down a bit to 50-60' depth in hopes of improved vis no-such luck, only darker. All the stories of buggs kept creeping into my mind but where were they?

October/November 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
17	18	19	20	21 General Meeting	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4 Board Meeting	5	6 MWDC Wrecks Show
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20

Birthdays!!!



- October 22 - Mark Sheehan
- October 24 - Melanie Smith
- November 1 - Gary Parenteau
- November 4 - Janet Abraham
- November 9 - Derrick Smith
- November 13 - Catherine Kadaras
- November 20 - James Sheehan
- November 24 - Doreen Sheehan

DAY	DATE	HIGH				LOW				rise	set	moon
		AM	hgt	PM	hgt	AM	hgt	PM	hgt			
October												
Friday	22	11:19	9.1	11:47	8.6	5:09	0.9	5:36	0.3	7:03	5:49	
Saturday	23	11:52	9.3			5:42	0.9	6:11	0.2	7:05	5:47	
Sunday	24	12:23	8.5	12:26	9.4	6:15	0.9	6:47	0.1	7:06	5:46	
Friday	29	3:59	8.1	4:09	9.2	9:54	1.2	10:38	0.3	7:12	5:39	
Saturday	30	4:57	8.2	5:10	9.1	10:55	1.2	11:38	0.3	7:13	5:37	
Sunday	31	5:58	8.4	6:16	9.1	12:01 PM	1			7:15	5:36	
November												
Friday	5	10:42	10.7	11:18	9.7	4:26	-0.5	5:04	-1.3	7:21	5:30	
Saturday	6	11:30	10.9			5:16	-0.5	5:55	-1.5	7:22	5:29	
Sunday	7	12:09	9.7	11:19 AM	10.8	5:05	-0.3	5:44	-1.4	6:23	4:27	
Friday	12	3:25	8.1	3:33	8.6	9:20	1.5	10:00	0.8	6:30	4:22	
Saturday	13	4:19	7.9	4:30	8.3	10:18	1.7	10:55	1.1	6:31	4:21	
Sunday	14	5:14	7.8	5:29	8	11:18	1.8	11:49	1.3	6:32	4:20	

“Better Than Last Time” *Continued from pg. 3*

Dave spotted one and bagged it, this would turn out to be a very large lobster and without doubt, the ugliest lobster I have ever seen, with barnicles covering the better part of its body. That was the only volunteer for the catch bags of that dive and we surfaced after 55 minutes.

We shed our gear and helped Roger and Kris into theirs, then over the side they went. We followed their flag and they seemed to be heading in a little different direction than we went, hopefully they do better than we did. The water was calm, sun warm and the hour passed quickly before the bubbles stopped moving and the two divers ascended together. Once back on board and out of their gear, we found they had managed to grab 4 good sized bugs and some of the largest quahogs I'd ever seen.

The second dives for all of us were cut short due to increased current and ever decreasing visibility. The ride back to Plymouth was a smooth event as Dave and Roger used their experience and thoughtful notes to help guide the way. Kris used the hour to catch up on some needed rest in the cabin and I provided ballast..

The ride home was highlighted with a stop for ice cream at Friendly's and we were back in a couple of hours. As we rode along, I couldn't help but to think of how good life is and what a great day it had been, the weather man was right !!!! AND I discovered that in addition to being a SCUBA instructor and boat captain, Roger Lusco moonlights as a tour guide in Plymouth Harbor !!!


“Up-coming Activities”

MWDC Wrecks Show

Shore dives, including night dives, to be announced at the next the meeting!

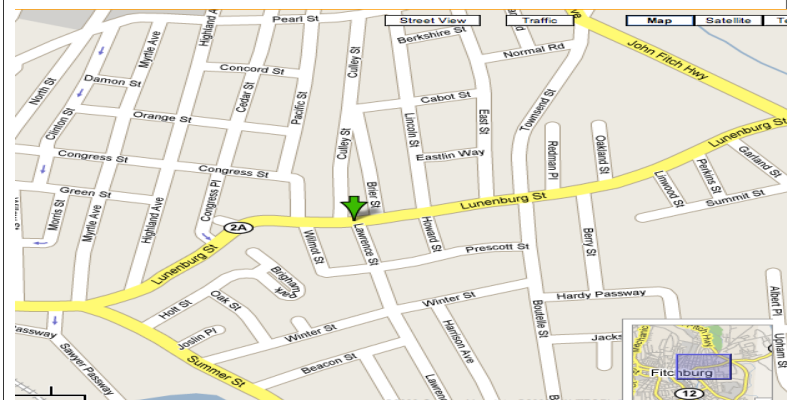
Meeting Time and Location

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. Please feel free to contact any of the board members.



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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 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.



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