



“Dive Log”

The monthly newsletter of the United Divers
of Central Massachusetts

September 2009

Vol VIII Issue IX

Dive Report The New Wreck

Inside this issue:

The New Wreck Pages 1-2
Message from the President Page 3
Calender Page 4
Tide Chart Page 5

The day started off with the forecast calling for calm seas and cool sunny skies. We needed perfect conditions to attempt the dive that we were about to do and Mother Nature was giving us the go ahead. The planning for this dive had started months ago when we first drove the boat over a promising set of numbers that resulted in a large bump on the fish finder. We then knew there was something large down there but in June the water was still to cold and we were not ready to attempt a dive of this scale. Through all of June, July, and August we dove hard to not only get our own skills honed, but to also get the group working together like a fine oiled machine. As the water warmed we were able to dive deeper and deeper completing numerous dives on wrecks like the USS Yf 415, the Eagle Boat and, the steamer once thought to be the Van. After completing many dives to these wrecks in the 230'- 250' range using the gasses we intended to use on the deeper dive with no problems, we decided to move on to the new deeper wreck. The biggest catch with open circuit dives to 300' feet or more is gas consumption, learning how to get the maximum out of your gas package, as you can only carry so many tanks and still be effective in the water. The main change Al and I had to make to our breathing gasses was to switch from our long time deco gas combo of 50% oxygen at 70' and 100% oxygen at 20' to a 36/20 trimix at 110' and 80% oxygen at 30'. This change in gasses did several things. First by moving to a deeper deco gas it drastically reduced the amount of bottom gas used during the dive keeping us within the rule of thirds on our back gas. Second we were able to do the dive with two 80cf tanks for our deco gasses instead of needing three deco tanks with the other gas combo, and lastly by switching from 100% to 80% at the shallow stops our CNS was cut in half allowing us to do the dive in a much safer manner.

The New Wreck as we are calling it for now has many challenges, the depth being one. She lies at a depth of 300' in an area known for bad visibility and some current. There is however other challenges to diving a virgin shipwreck the biggest of those being that you just don't know what's down there waiting for you because no one has been there before. A bump on the fish finder can be anything, rocks, a huge ball of fish net, an alien space craft, or Jimmy Hoffa just to name a few. You need to approach these dives with extreme caution. At 300' you have a very limited time to deal with the unforeseen problems. Al and I were planning a conservative dive of 16 minutes

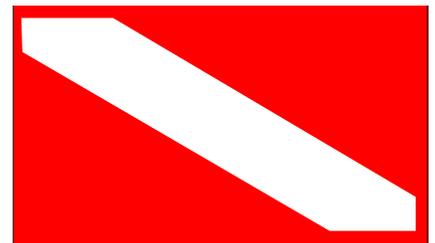
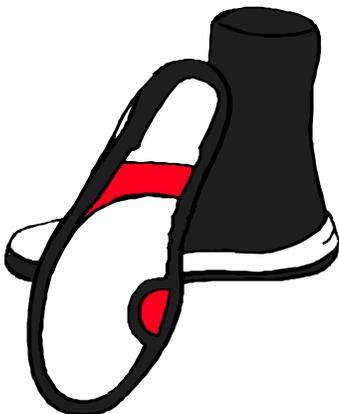


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of bottom time at 300' was 82 minutes with the 20' stop running almost 40 minutes alone. I was using a bottom gas of 13.5/ 57 trimix, that's 13.5% oxygen, 57% helium to eliminate narcosis, and the balance of the mix is nitrogen. That coupled with the 36/20 and 80% deco gasses gave us a total runtime 100 minutes for the dive. Al and I each carried enough extra gas to get the other diver through the dive and to the surface in case of a catastrophic equipment failure. We also staged some gas on the line so that if a diver experienced a problem on the line there were reserves available to them. You can never plan this gas into your dive but it sure gives you a nice piece of mind when you have it next to you.

As I mentioned earlier it was a perfect day to dive. We arrived over the bump and prepared to hook the "wreck" with the grapple. It took us four tries to hook it as the current was ripping keeping the grapple just above the bottom. Because we were planning several dives to this site we opted to tie the line directly into the wreck so that we had a mooring for future dives. Bob Foster splashed first to tie us in because he has a rebreather and breathing gas is not an issue. Sure enough 10 minutes later the lift bag was on the surface with the grapnel underneath indicating that Bob had successfully tied in and it was safe to hook the boat to the line. Before long Al and I were on our way stopping briefly at 30' to switch to our back gas and again at 130' to catch our breath and compose ourselves for a few seconds. We reached the wreck (yes it was a wreck!!) a few minutes later only to find total blackness and about 10' of visibility. Bob had tied us in right at the bow of a big intact steel wreck. I took a minute to check Al and my gauges I had a depth of about 285' to the deck. All was good so Al and I continued to descend down the bow to the bottom to get an idea of how tall the hull was. The bow sticks up just a little bit and it almost looked like one could swim underneath and come out the other side. (I would have tried it if the wreck was 200 feet shallower) It started to get a little to tight for my liking so I turned back, I had 298' feet here and Al had even 300'. (Boy I will never hear the end of that) We then moved along the port side a bit stopping to look at the recess in the hull for an anchor. Cutting up over the deck the first thing I noticed was cutout sections off decking typically the first indication of a scuttled or intentionally sunken ship. Arriving at the starboard side we preceded another 50 feet or so before turning the dive at 2,000 psi and 11 minutes we arrived back at the tie in at 14 minutes and decided to head up two minutes early saving ten minutes of deco time. It works out to roughly five minutes of deco obligation for every minute spent on the bottom. For me the oddest part of the dive was the long accent to my first deco stop at 200'. The rest of the dive went off without a hitch tying in to our reels and just hanging out for the rest of our deco. Bob took the blue ribbon for the longest dive on his rebreather with a 26 minute bottom time and 155 minute deco hang turning in just over a 180 minute or three hour dive. All and all it was an awesome dive and awesome experience not just the dive but the whole kit and caboodle. The work up dives, the planning, and the bonding that goes on when a team gets tight enough to do these kinds of things. I would like to thank Al, Jack, Bob, Ryan, Scott, Ricky, Doug and Andy's for making dives like this possible. I hope that I will be able to write many more stories like this in the future for all to enjoy.

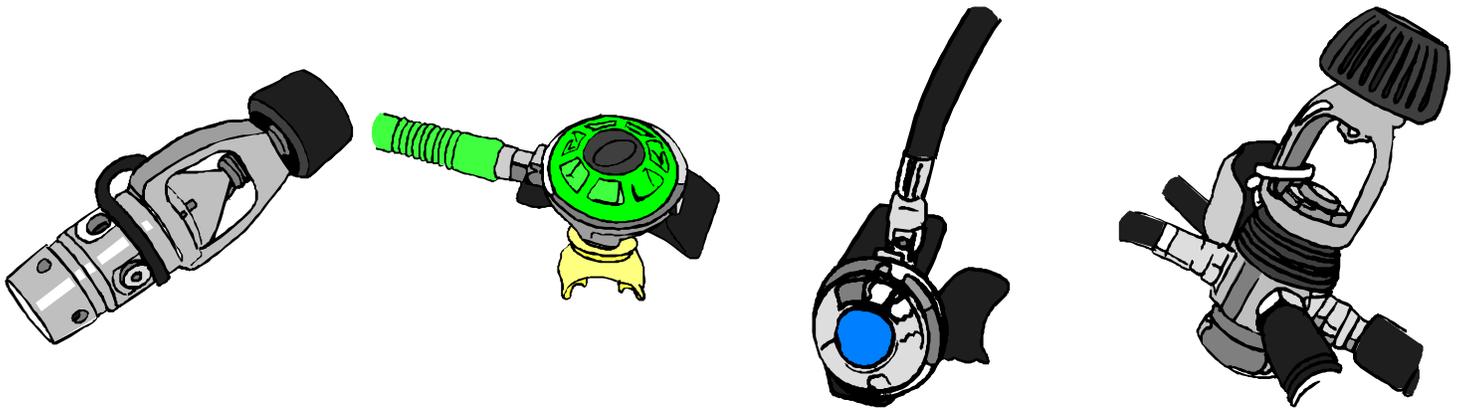
Dive Safe, Jeff Goodreau



Message from the President

Hi everyone I can't believe it's here already but this month we have nominations. The club is always looking for good people to work on the Board of Directors, so if you think you have what it takes please throw your name into the hat. We have Karen and Jim speaking to us this month about there dive expedition to Utila. After hearing several stories I know this will be one that you will want to see. We also have Jeff Wagner president of Metro West dive club coming to give a short video presentation about there Wrecks show coming up in October. The diving has been excellent lately with everyone I have talked to reporting good conditions and tons of lobsters being caught. Now is the time to get out and do some diving before its snowing again.

Cheers, The SHC



Cub Gear Still Available.

All gear sean hear is available for purchase at general club meetings.

Baseball Cap \$17



Windbreaker \$50



Polo Shirt \$25



Sweatshirt \$30



September/October 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1 BOD Meeting @ Slatterys	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 General Meeting @ Slatterys	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24

Upcoming Events

October 1- BOD meeting at Slattery's at 6:30pm. All club members are welcome to attend.

October 15- General Club meeting. BOD Elections

For any and all Calender updates please check out the club website www.uniteddivers.org

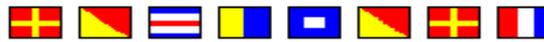
Birthdays!

- 9/29- Jim Bogart**
- 10/01- Marian Corriveau**
- 10/08- Sandra LaBree**
- 10/14- Rick Boucher**
- 10/22- Mark Sheehan**
- 10/24- Melanie Smith**



Sept/Oct Tide Chart

ROCKPORT



Rockport 42°40'N 070°37'W

DAY	DATE	HIGH				LOW				☀️		🌙
		AM	hgt	PM	hgt	AM	hgt	PM	hgt	rise	set	moon
Sunday	20	12:32	10.34	12:52	10.59	6:34	-0.75	7:02	-1.09	6:28	6:43	
Monday	21	1:21	10.01	1:37	10.45	7:20	-0.40	7:50	-0.83	6:29	6:41	
Tuesday	22	2:09	9.56	2:23	10.13	8:06	0.09	8:39	-0.39	6:30	6:39	
Wednesday	23	2:57	9.03	3:10	9.70	8:52	0.65	9:28	0.15	6:31	6:37	
Thursday	24	3:48	8.49	3:59	9.23	9:40	1.22	10:20	0.71	6:32	6:36	
Friday	25	4:41	8.01	4:52	8.80	10:32	1.72	11:15	1.18	6:33	6:34	
Saturday	26	5:37	7.66	5:49	8.49	11:27	2.07			6:34	6:32	
Sunday	27	6:36	7.50	6:49	8.35	12:14	1.48	12:25	2.23	6:35	6:30	
Monday	28	7:34	7.55	7:47	8.38	1:12	1.58	1:24	2.16	6:36	6:28	
Tuesday	29	8:28	7.77	8:41	8.53	2:07	1.49	2:19	1.91	6:37	6:27	
Wednesday	30	9:16	8.10	9:30	8.73	2:56	1.29	3:10	1.53	6:38	6:25	
Thursday	01	9:59	8.49	10:15	8.93	3:40	1.04	3:56	1.10	6:40	6:23	
Friday	02	10:38	8.88	10:56	9.09	4:20	0.80	4:39	0.66	6:41	6:21	
Saturday	03	11:15	9.24	11:37	9.20	4:59	0.59	5:20	0.27	6:42	6:20	
Sunday	04	11:52	9.56			5:37	0.44	6:01	-0.05	6:43	6:18	🟡
Monday	05	12:17	9.23	12:29	9.80	6:15	0.37	6:42	-0.28	6:44	6:16	
Tuesday	06	12:57	9.18	1:07	9.96	6:55	0.39	7:25	-0.39	6:45	6:14	
Wednesday	07	1:40	9.06	1:49	10.03	7:37	0.48	8:10	-0.37	6:46	6:13	
Thursday	08	2:25	8.86	2:34	9.99	8:22	0.64	8:59	-0.24	6:47	6:11	
Friday	09	3:14	8.63	3:25	9.86	9:11	0.85	9:52	-0.03	6:49	6:09	
Saturday	10	4:09	8.41	4:22	9.68	10:06	1.05	10:50	0.17	6:50	6:08	
Sunday	11	5:09	8.29	5:24	9.52	11:06	1.17	11:52	0.28	6:51	6:06	
Monday	12	6:13	8.36	6:30	9.46	-	-	12:11	-	6:52	6:04	
Tuesday	13	7:17	8.63	7:37	9.51	12:55	0.26	1:17	0.86	6:53	6:03	
Wednesday	14	8:19	9.07	8:41	9.64	1:56	0.11	2:20	0.42	6:54	6:01	
Thursday	15	9:15	9.57	9:40	9.78	2:53	-0.10	3:20	-0.09	6:55	6:00	
Friday	16	10:07	10.03	10:35	9.86	3:47	-0.27	4:15	-0.56	6:57	5:58	
Saturday	17	10:56	10.36	11:26	9.83	4:36	-0.35	5:07	-0.87	6:58	5:56	
Sunday	18	11:42	10.51			5:24	-0.29	5:55	-0.99	6:59	5:55	🟢
Monday	19	12:14	9.67	12:26	10.47	6:09	-0.10	6:42	-0.89	7:00	5:53	
Tuesday	20	1:00	9.41	1:09	10.26	6:53	0.22	7:27	-0.61	7:01	5:52	
Wednesday	21	1:45	9.06	1:53	9.93	7:37	0.61	8:13	-0.20	7:03	5:50	
Thursday	22	2:31	8.66	2:37	9.53	8:22	1.04	8:59	0.28	7:04	5:49	
Friday	23	3:18	8.27	3:25	9.11	9:09	1.47	9:47	0.75	7:05	5:47	
Saturday	24	4:08	7.93	4:15	8.72	9:58	1.84	10:38	1.15	7:06	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 01420. 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 7pm with a social hour beginning at 6:30pm. If you should have any questions please feel free to contact any member of the Board of Directors.



**216 Daniels St,
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978-343-6330**

United Divers of Central Mass

Dive Log

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Email; For newsletter correspondence please contact Kris at secretary@uniteddivers.org



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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