



“DIVE LOG”

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED DIVERS
OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

March 2011

Volume X Issue 3

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March Guest Speaker Winter Diving is Cool! Ok, Cold!! By Mark Bowers

It started out like so many other dive days only a bit cooler, alright a lot colder! The sun was out and it was actually a tolerable 28 to 30 degrees when the wind wasn't blowing. Kevin Brook, Al Boyarsky, Jeff Goodreau, Matt Marcoux and myself

open water dives. Someone has to open the door to the pool. Obviously this means cutting a hole in the ice. With good conditions cutting a hole in the ice is typically not that difficult and doesn't take that much time.

We had 2 chain saws and gas, always a plus. This time would certainly prove to be different from previous ice dives. Al stopped me as I was walking down the boat ramp and said what I had on for shoes was not going to work. I was wearing regular hiking shoes. Al suggested I put my dry suit on. Good call as Kevin would later discover. There was 8 to 10 inches of water on top of the ice. Little did we know at this point beneath the water was 7 to 9 inches of packed layered



Mark, stay within 100 feet of your flag!
Photo by Kevin Brook

met at Lake Nubanusit for an ice dive. What truly was supposed to be an easy ice dive, as ice dives go, was not going to be. Yes, ice dives are usually a bit more work than typical

snow and ice. Beneath this layer was about 8 inches of good clear black ice. Doing the math, Jeff's chain saw with a 20 inch bar was just not going to do it!

**Congratulations
50/50 winner!!**

**Mark "Lucky"
Sheehan**



Important Notice!!

**The March Club Meeting has been moved to
March 24th, same time, same place**

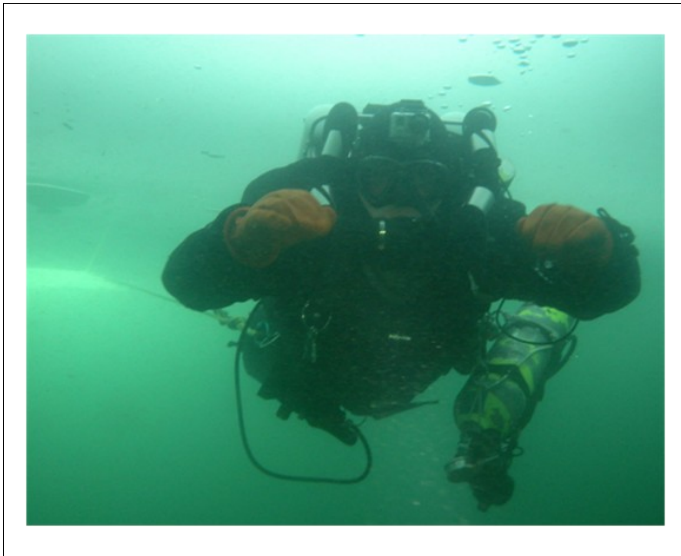
A Message from the President

Dear Fellow Divers, Families, and Friends,

Well the dive season is getting closer and we already have had a few members put together a few dives. Thank you to Rick, Jeff and Bob for chairing a dive and or trip. The board is always looking for other club members to chair other dives weather they be boat dives or shore dives. We are also working on getting

more guest speakers for through out the year. We hope to have an EPA representative in to talk to the club about any and all new regulations about lobstering and any other issues that might affect us as divers. If there is anything you would like the board to focus on or offer to the club please feel free to let us know.
Safe Diving,
Kris

Winter Diving by Mark Bowers continued



Jeff Goodreau Look Ma no bubbles!

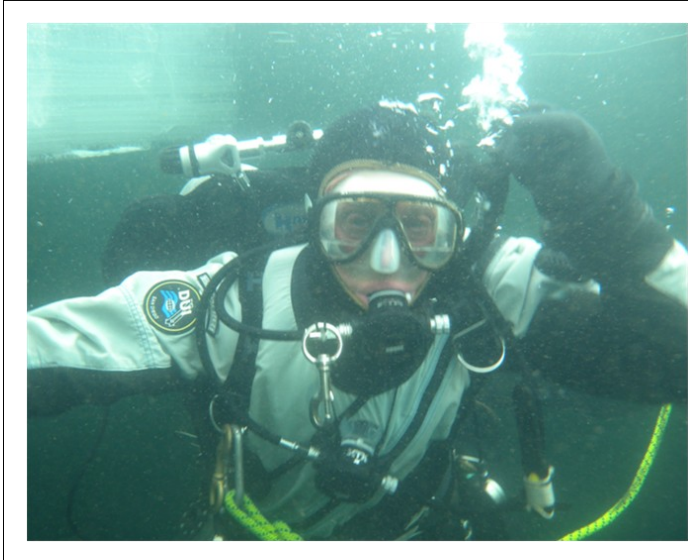
Photo by Matt Marcoux

There was a group of ice fishermen who took an interest in our activity. They told us how thick the ice was. Things certainly were not looking promising. They offered the use of their ice auger. We politely said no thank you. Jeff had a little trouble getting his saw running. Once running it cut the ice quickly with only one problem, the bar definitely was not long enough. We cut a 12 inch square hole in the top of the ice and Al chipped out what the saw couldn't cut with a crow bar. The ironic thing was Al had

found this crow bar during our last ice dive here. I think for an instant we all felt the same when we discovered for ourselves the saw was not going to do it, defeated. I had just pulled my arm out of the hole, thinking I am not ready to give up. Kneeling in the water I looked up at the group and said "do it or not, let's decide". We decided to take the fishermen up on their offer and borrowed their auger. The hole was not going to be the ideal nor would it be easy to cut but the pool would be open! The ideal hole is a triangle with each side being 10 to 12 feet long. This shape helps getting out of the hole. We all agreed even though we were not going have the ideal hole we still wanted to do the dive. Jeff began drilling holes. He did a few and decided he could use a little help. So I helped out, me standing in the water Jeff standing on the compacted snow. Jeff and I finished it up quickly. It is much easier with 2 people because before starting the hole the handles begin at about chest height and end up at your knees when the auger cuts through the bottom of the ice. The hole was done. Not the ideal, but we ended up with a hole about 4 feet or 5 feet square.

Al, Matt and Kevin began laying out the lines and I set the ice anchors for the lines as we needed solid ice and that was under water. We discussed the order and headed to the trucks to gear up. Kevin cleared a bit more ice from the hole. We decided I would go first as I had been in the water up to my knees for

Winter Diving by Mark Bowers continued



Al, before the freeze!
Photo by Jeff Goodreau

almost an hour and my feet were getting cold to say the least. At some point while clearing snow and cutting the hole Kevin's feet went through the top layer of crud and filled his boots with water. When it came time to do the dive his feet were already so cold he opted out of the dive, I think he was ultimately the smart one. We all made our way to the hole trying to stay on the path we had packed down earlier. I attached a line, insured Kevin was tending my line and in I went. I was going to dive for about 10 minutes, then Matt was going to join and take some pictures and I would get out. Over the years with all the ice dives I have done this would be the first with pictures of me under the ice! Now the good news, the coldest water temperature my computer displayed was 32 degrees, brrrr. Matt entered the water with Al as his tender. Matt took some pictures and I got out so Jeff could have his turn. I tended Jeff's line. Jeff and Matt took some pictures and Matt got out to give Al his turn. Al entered the water with Kevin as his tender. Al was not under long when he had a regulator freeze. Once a regulator freezes it is next to impossible to get it to cooperate the rest of the day. Al gave it the "old boy scout try" only to have it happen again. Al called the dive at that point.

Even as familiar as I am with Nubanusit, the lake takes on a completely different look under the cover of ice. It is completely devoid of life, no fish, no vegetation. There is this fine layer of silt that has settled on the bottom which I do not recall being present during the months of open water. The light that penetrates the ice diffused evenly throughout. Then there is the ice surface. It is not flat like one would think, but contoured with shallow peaks and valleys. It is as if water had frozen in the shape of a long shallow swell. The contouring of the ice is especially evident once our exhalation bubbles disperse along the overhead. The rebreather divers can thank Al and I for that. The bubbles from our exhalation are no longer round. They seek out the contours and voids and appear as dark shapes above our heads. I would equate the shapes our bubbles form with looking at a cloud, you may see one particular



Matt in the water alone with Jeff, oh oh!
Photo by Jeff Goodreau

shape and I may see another. I really enjoy swimming close to shore, the point where the ice and bottom meet. This is especially interesting at Nubanusit because of all the rocks at shore near the boat ramp. Seeing the rocks disappear into the ice is really cool. One other thing I really like to do ice diving is to see how small (or large) a space I can squeeze into between the ice sheet and the bottom.

Ice diving can certainly be a very enjoyable activity. It is not without increased risk. Simple problems are compounded because of the cold temperatures and access to the surface is restricted. Ice diving has to be done properly and the rules adhered to. Sound familiar, “plan your dive, dive your plan”. We all met at the shop a few days before the dive to discuss the plan. It was an introduction for some and a review for others. We discussed the necessary equipment, procedures, emergency procedures and rope signals. Each diver used dry suits and had a redundant air supply. Even with the extra work of cutting this particular hole it was truly an enjoyable experience!



Kevin, don't let go
Photo by Matt Marcoux

Memberships are due April 1st

You can download membership and release forms from the club website <http://uniteddivers.org/> and mail your forms and dues to the club address on page 8

Club News

Guest Speaker April 21st

Stellwagen Alive

Marissa Wozniak dive coordinator for Stellwagen Alive! will be our April Guest Speaker. Stellwagen Alive! works to preserve Stellwagen Bank and the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary through

scientific studies and community outreach. You can find out more about Stellwagen Alive on the internet at <http://www.stellwagenalive.org>

June 18th

2nd Cape Lobster Dive

Rich Atkins will be leading a second Cape Cod boat dive for lobster on June 18th. This one will be east of Cape Cod probably Nauset Ledges. We had a great time on this dive last year. Advanced certifications are required. \$125 per person. Two spots still

remain. See Rich if you are interested. Check this link for details about the boat and equipment requirements <http://www.mikedonovan.com/divelocker/Charter%20Boat%20Schedule%20'05.htm>

July 9th

Chick's Day Stage Fort Park

We will gather at Stage Fort Park in Gloucester MA for our annual Chick's Day dive. The guys do all the work, lugging tanks, coolers and grills and make sure the lady's have a day of leisurely diving. Stage Fort Park has plenty of parking (small fee) rest-rooms, and a picnic area adjacent to the water. The

entry couldn't be easier down a ramp or the beach. The dive is shallow, no current to speak of and there is a good variety of sandy areas, rocks and eel grass to look around in for critters. Shallow depths means plenty of time to poke around.

July 23rd

REEF - Great New England Fish Count

Set aside Saturday July 23rd for the 20th annual Fish Count sponsored by the New England Aquarium. We will probably dive at Lanes Cove our usual site in the morning to do the actual count. After our two dives are over we will then assemble with all the other clubs and divers at Stage Fort Park to turn in

our counts. Each diver is eligible for food refreshments and the big raffle. There always some really cool prizes including gear and even trips. We are usually the largest club at the event. Lets make sure we get a good turnout this year

July 29-31st

Canada Trip

We have booked a six pack boat for three days of wreck diving in Lake Ontario with Northern Tech Divers in Kingston Ontario. One spot remains if you

are interested see Bob Abraham. These will be deep dives advanced certification is required, Nitrox recommended and you will need a valid passport

August 20th—note new date

Pre-Lobsterfest Lobster Dive - Book Now

Club members will be diving with Cape Anne Divers on Saturday morning to gather lobsters for our feast. Make arrangements by calling Cape Anne Divers directly and reserving your spot now. This is a

great time to dive with Club Members, the water is at its warmest. If we get enough divers we can get the big boat! Don't get turned away book now. A credit card number will hold your spot.

March/April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 General Meeting 7PM Mark Bowers Ice Diving	25	26 Beneath the Sea Secaucus NJ
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7 BOD Meeting 6:30 PM	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 General Meeting 7PM Stellwagen Alive Maria Wozniak	22	23

2011 Event Planner

Beneath the Sea Secaucus NJ March 25-27 <http://www.beneaththesea.org/>

DUI DOG Days Stage Fort Park Gloucester, MA May 14/15 http://www.dui-online.com/dog_main.html

Cape Cod Lobster Dive June 4th Rick Boucher

Cape Cod Lobster Dive June 18th Rich Atkins

Scuba Chicks Day, July 9th Christine Bowers

REEF Fishcount, July 23rd Kevin Brook

Canada Trip July 28th– August 1st Bob Abraham

Lobsterfest August 20th (NEW DATE) Rich Atkins

February 19th

Inventor of SCUBA passes on

NEWTON SQUARE, Pa., Feb. 19 (UPI) -- The man who developed an underwater breathing device and coined the term "scuba" to describe it has died at his home in Pennsylvania. Christian J. Lambertsen died at his home in Newton Square Feb. 11 of renal failure at the age of 93, The Washington Post reported. He invented the Lambertsen Amphibious Respirator Unit in 1939. In 1952 Lambertsen and a colleague wrote a paper for the National Academy of Sciences describing the "Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus," which they shortened to "scuba." Before Lambertsen's invention, divers wore heavy metal helmets and were tethered to a boat on the surface to pump air through a rubber hose. The Navy

initially rejected Lambertsen's invention. But he demonstrated the LARU to officials in the Office of Strategic Services in 1942, and it was soon widely accepted. The OSS was the World War II predecessor of the CIA. Lambertsen was born May 15, 1917, in Westfield, N.J. He graduated from Rutgers University in 1938. His wife, Naomi Hill Lambertsen, died in 1985. He is survived by four sons -- Christian, David, Richard and Bradley -- and six grandchildren.

Read more: http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2011/02/19/Man-who-coined-the-term-scuba-dies/UPI-38271298144069/#ixzz1EdozAky0


Where have you been?

The Club wants to know. If you have been on a dive trip or some other activity that is club or scuba related let us know. Send a summary and a picture or two to the address at the end of the newsletter and I

will add it to a future newsletter.

If you have been on a dive trip and would like to schedule a presentation to the club contact Joe Avoli the Activities Chairman.

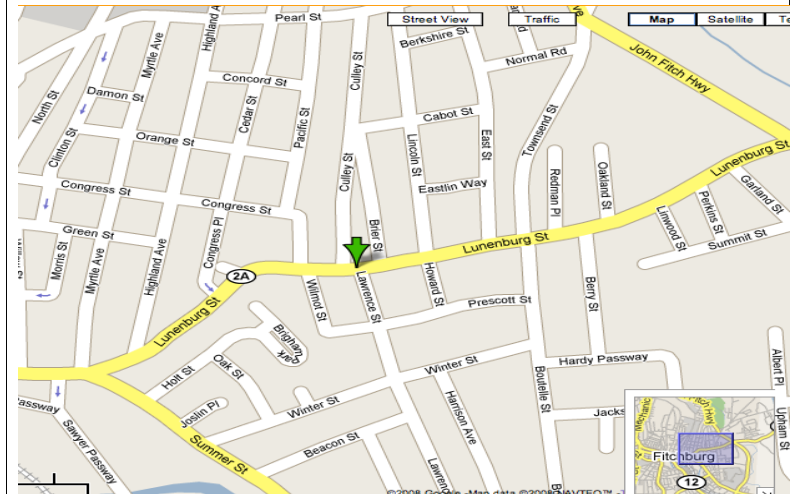
Next Meeting is March 24th!



ANDY'S
SPORT SHOP, INC.
SKI & SCUBA SPECIALISTS
216 Daniels Street,
Fitchburg, MA 01420
(978) 343-6330

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.



Dive Log

United Divers of Central Massachusetts
P.O. Box 57
Fitchburg, Ma 01420
www.uniteddivers.org

Email: For newsletter correspondence
please contact Bob at:
bobudcm@charter.net



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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Fitchburg, Ma 01420