

Join us at the 71st Annual Boston Sea Rovers Symposium



Annual International Ocean Symposium

71st Boston Sea Rovers International Ocean Symposium

March 15 and 16, 2025

DoubleTree by Hilton-Boston North Shore

The Boston Sea Rover is a 501(c)(3) all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to raising the level of knowledge of the underwater world. Started in 1954 as a means of educating the public on how to use scuba safely, our yearly show has evolved into a world-renowned three-day event that draws attendees, presenters, and exhibitors from all over the world. The show is designed to entertain and educate the public on topics of exploration, filmmaking, scientific discoveries, scuba diving, and more. The show consists of many facets designed for both the diving and non-diving public.

Free exhibit hall with vendors, vacation resorts, product reps and environment and historical booths.

Great Silent Auction!! Amazing prizes to bid on.

Free Kids Programming on Sunday (children must be accompanied by an adult).

Visit Dominica! So much to do!

by Kristi Pike

I planned our trip to Fort Young Hotel and Dive Resort in Dominica for scuba diving but, found so much more to do on this beautiful island. The hotel has a great history dating back to 1699. The centuries old military fort still reveals itself among the updated architecture of the hotel. The island of Dominica, part of the Lesser Antilles, and next to the more well-known Martinique, is a tropical treasure. Steep curving roads crisscross the island, and lead from shore to shore and to some exciting inland adventures.



The capital city of Roseau is small and seems dependent on tourism, but the restaurants and markets are wonderful, (although some places run out of food on busy cruise ship days). It is all just steps outside the gates of the resort. Try out Ka-Tai, the Great Old House/Stone House and Lacou, if you get the chance.

When we weren't diving, we discovered some of the rest of the island: The Botanical Gardens, Titou Gorge, Trafalgar Falls, bird-watching, canyoneering with Extreme Dominica, and hiking Jack's Walk Trail to a city overlook.

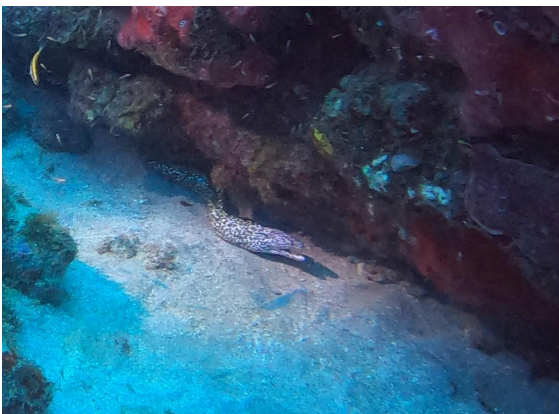
Not to bury the lead, but the diving was great! After a hearty breakfast buffet, we met the wonderful dive crew at the dock for 2 boat dives each morning. The product of volcanic activity, the shoreline and reefs of this island are filled with healthy coral and lots of marine life! So many of the dive sites have great stories behind their



names: Witches' Point, Scott's Head Dropoff and Crater's Edge, to name a few. There is even a site called Champagne Reef where hot water bubbles up through the sea floor from hydrothermal fissures. I

have never seen so many Spotted Morays and Banded Coral Shrimp anywhere! Even the shore dives (which were limited to days without any cruise ships in port) yielded so much life! The water was beautifully warm and visibility was pretty good (way better than here in the northeast). Conditions were mostly calm, suitable for divers and snorkelers, alike.

So, when considering your next trip, keep Dominica in mind!



Plastics: It's our responsibility!!

by Beth Nerney

As divers, we are all aware of the detrimental impacts that single-use plastics have on the health of our oceans and marine ecosystems.

If you're looking to reduce your use of single-use plastics but are unsure about available alternatives, below is a list of companies that offer sustainable options. Please note that while I have personally tried some products from these companies, I do not represent them. This list is simply to raise awareness about plastic-free alternatives.



Household Cleaning and Dish Soap

- **Blueland:** Offers plastic-free, sustainable cleaning essentials.

Health and Medicine

- **Cabinet Health:** Developed the first and only non-plastic packaging in pharmaceuticals. They offer over-the-counter medications as well as some prescription medications.

Shampoo and soap

- **Ethique:** Offers sustainable, plastic-free personal care products.
- **Plaine Products:** Offers haircare and skincare products in aluminum bottles that can be shipped back to the company for reuse.

Companies Offering Multiple Products

- **ETEE (Everything Touches Everything Else):** Offers a wide range of plastic-free products from dental care, cleaning supplies, shampoo, laundry detergent, and more.
- **EarthHero:** Offers a wide range of plastic-free products from dental care, cleaning supplies, shampoo, laundry detergent, and more.

Additional Tips to Reduce Single-Use Plastics

- **Request No Straw:** When ordering drinks, ask for no straw.
- **Reusable Bags at the Deli:** Bring reusable silicone bags and ask your deli if they can package meat and cheese in them. Some places may not accommodate this request, but it's worth asking.
- **Paper Wrap at Butchers and Fish Markets:** Instead of buying pre-packaged meat or fish, purchase from a butcher or fish market and request that they wrap your products in paper rather than using plastic, Styrofoam, or plastic bags.

The Camera and Me

By Greg Hunter

Gadzooks! I never win anything – as my name was announced at the 2024 Boston Sea Rovers Film Festival. I won a 7-day stay at one of the Atlantis Resorts in the Philippines. I would eventually pick Dumaguete, but I first had two hurdles to get through - 1. Getting a Medical Release Approval and 2. An Underwater Camera.

1) Now, being 73 years old I needed to get a Medical Release Form approved by a doctor. Over the years I have accrued several medical conditions that I thought may result in me not getting approval and preclude me from diving. Much to my surprise I got approved with two limitations: 1) I could dive no deeper than 60 feet, and 2) I must use NITROX (known in my case as Geezer Gas) on all dives running on Air Tables. PASSED & APPROVED!

2) I'm a snapshot photographer grabbing random photos here and there. My first Underwater Camera was an Olympus Stylus 300 in an Olympus PT016 Housing. It depended on the flash that was in the Olympus camera – so – and not unexpectedly - most of my pictures were green & white. Unfortunately, this camera was lost at sea at Pebble Beach in Rockport, MA. On to my next underwater camera. It was the much more advanced SeaLife DC 1200. It took great pictures & had many underwater features. Unfortunately, it too had an untimely death. While diving in the Giant Ocean Tank at the New England Aquarium, I experienced an O-ring



failure that destroyed the camera no matter how much rice I used to save it. I went for a while without an underwater camera until I won the Dumaguete trip. The pressure was on! By now all my snapshot photography was done using my iPhone. So – I was focused on an iPhone underwater housing. It boiled down to two housings. The one with the highest rating was the DiveVolk at \$199.95. It was a touchscreen design so you could use all the functions and battery in the iPhone. It depended on an O-ring to make it watertight with no leak detection capability.

This of course made me nervous based on my previous SeaLife camera experience. Also, it was a basic housing. Addition of filters was extra. The second highest rating was the SeaLife Sport Dive at \$299.99. This housing had an impressive leak detection capability. Before diving you needed to prep the

housing by pulling a vacuum and once the appropriate vacuum level was reached it would start a leak detection test. If it leaked underwater, it would set off a leak alarm. All this was of interest to me. The downside was that you needed to use a third-party application, and you were at the mercy of this application for what iPhone features you could use. It also had an independent battery in the housing for leak detection and to run the application. Ultimately this was the housing I picked. Admittedly when I started using it – it was a bit awkward, but I was fortunate when I got to Dumaguete. There I met a fellow diver over 70 diver who had the same medical restrictions as I, but was an experienced user of the SeaLife Sport Diver. I received many valuable tips and took many excellent pics at Dumaguete of which some can be seen here.



And many more!

THE END

Letter from the President

Greetings to all new and returning members of the New England Aquarium Dive Club! We are celebrating our 50th Anniversary year and look forward to seeing you at meetings and events throughout this year!

I would also like to welcome our returning NEADC Board Members. I look forward to working with this great group of volunteers on our dive calendar and events.

Whether you are a new or experienced diver, curious about diving or new to the area, we have a great repository of dive-related information on our website (www.neadc.org), including links to local dive shops, dive sites and upcoming events in the community including scheduled dives, lectures and dive travel.

Stay tuned to our website, E-News and Facebook page for more information on upcoming guest speakers at our monthly General Meetings, two Annual Dry Dive events (Saturday, April 26, 2025 and Saturday, September 27, 2025), the 22nd Great Annual Fish Count (Saturday, July 19, 2025) and other events!

In preparation for the dive season, don't hesitate to reach out to our board members for any questions related to the Club and diving at neadc.org/.

Best Fishes and Happy Diving!

Uma Mirani

From your Program Director, Joy Marzolf

Join us on the Third Wednesday of the month at the New England Aquarium for our Monthly General Meetings! Coming in person? Join us for dinner before the meeting at The Broadside restaurant. Each meeting has a member drawing for those attending in person, some dates there is a drawing for a dive in the Giant Ocean Tank! Can't make it in person? Join us on Zoom!



March 19: Don't miss our Annual Behind the Scenes event! Pre-registration is required due to limited space. This is a members-only event.

April 16: ***The Adriatic Affair: A Maritime Hit and Run off the Coast of Nantucket*** with author, diver and explorer Jennifer Sellitti (There will be a GOT drawing at this meeting)

May 21: Atlantic White Shark Conservancy (Info coming from Kristen)

June 18: ***Diving into the Coral Reefs of American Samoa: An Exploration of Underwater Conservation with Sana Lynch***

Join Sana Lynch, former Coordinator of the American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG), for an in-depth look at the vibrant coral reefs of American Samoa, their conservation efforts, and the diving opportunities in this remote Pacific island. With extensive experience in marine science and coastal management, Sana will share firsthand insights into the region's challenges and successes of coral reef protection. The presentation will also highlight diving logistics in American Samoa, featuring stunning sites like Big Mama, Rose Atoll, and Fagatele Bay, dive safety protocols, and cultural considerations for divers and visitors.

Just a reminder, most of our meetings are both *In Person* and on *Zoom*. Please see our website for details on any upcoming General Meeting topics and registration information. neadc.org/

Upcoming events

NEADC Annual Cape Ann Dry Dive - Saturday, April 26, 2025



Join the dive club for a full day tour of the best dive sites on Cape Ann! We will be driving all over Rockport, Gloucester, and the surrounding areas doing our annual “Dry Drive” and clean up on Cape Ann. This is a great chance for divers new to the area, newer cold water divers, and any other interested divers, to learn the ins and outs of local dive sites including entrance/exit tips, parking and more. Our club practices “we clean up each dive” and a beach clean-up is done at each dive site visited. A lunch stop is also planned along the way and we will plan for dinner at the end. See the **Events** section on our website to register for the April 2025 Dry Dive. And, another dry dive is planned for September 27.

neadc.org/

World Ocean Day - June 8, annually

Act, donate, celebrate, be mindful! Whatever works for you and helps the oceans around us!



Great Annual Fish Count - Saturday, July 19, 2025 Stage Fort Park, Gloucester MA

Each year, the New England Aquarium Dive Club partners with REEF for this fun event! New England divers turn out in record numbers to help researchers by surveying fish populations. Count fish and win prizes! <https://neadc.org/>



Join us!

General Meetings

Meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at the New England Aquarium. Live and Zoom options available for most meetings. For directions and more info on upcoming meeting topics, or to register for a Zoom link, visit our site: neadc.org/

Membership

Why join the New England Aquarium Dive Club? Supporting the New England Aquarium and its mission is just the beginning. The New England Aquarium Dive Club began in 1975 and is one of the world's oldest, largest and most active dive clubs. Our 600+ members (629 at last count!) range from veteran divers to the newly certified. Together we share our stories and experiences diving adventures near and far, discuss new gear and learn about and support conservation efforts around the globe.

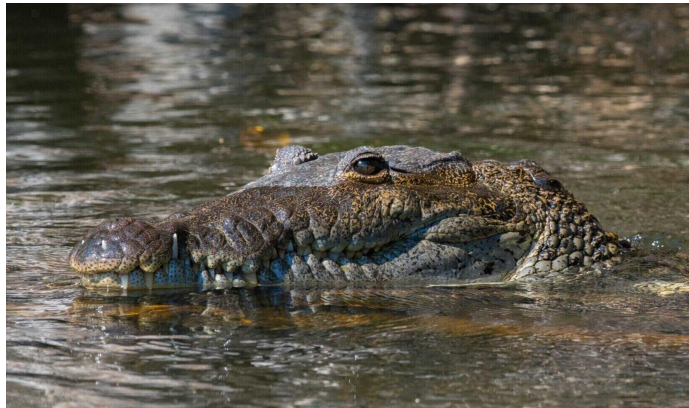
Monthly meetings let us share photos, hear amazing guest speakers, learn about conservation, dive sites, marine life and get a chance to win cool swag or even a dive in the GOT.

The GOT is the New England Aquarium's Giant Ocean Tank, a 4-story, 400,000 gallon, salt-water tank full of marine life. Become a member today!

neaq.org/engage/support/become-a-member/

Past meeting highlights!

January 2025: Crocodiles and Mangrove Restorations in Belize



November 2024: Under Fresh Water in NE with Jake Stout



October 2024: Eel Grass, marine fisheries and so much more! Marine Life Questions for New England Waters



*For more information or to obtain a digital copy of this newsletter, please contact Newsletter@neadc.org