



# Boston Reefers Society Currents

## Higorc-Tank of the Quarter



122 Federal Street  
Wilmington, MA 01833  
[www.bostonreefers.org](http://www.bostonreefers.org)

**Boston Reefers - Contact Info:** [officers@bostonreefers.org](mailto:officers@bostonreefers.org)

BRS Spring 2014

# Tank of the Quarter

My Reef Journey...

Oh man, where do I start!

Since I can remember, we have always had a fresh water tank in my parents' house. As I got older, I started to take more interest in keeping and maintain our fish tank.

I was 20 years old in 2000 when I moved out of my parents' house to Deerfield Beach – Florida. I and my cousin used to go spear fishing every weekend everywhere around Ft. Lauderdale beaches and it wasn't long before he got me hooked on collecting fish (Queen Angels, French Angels, Royal Grammas, damsels, certain tangs, Cowfish, sharks, inverts and etc...) with him for an Exotic Fish Import and Export place he worked at.

Before I knew I was working with him on my spare time collecting, maintaining, feeding, receiving and shipping all sorts of marine life in and out of Florida and across the world.

In 2005 I moved back to Boston and pretty soon I had a fresh water tank up again, but for some reason it felt like it wasn't enough anymore... I was getting bored with it and I couldn't shake the feeling I really wanted to try saltwater instead.

Well, Christmas of 2006 I went to PJ's Pet in Saugus (not there anymore) and bought myself a 75G Reef Ready AGA tank and it was on! Got a few Saltwater books and did the most reading I think I had ever done (I am not a book person!) for 2 months and around 02/07 I started my 1<sup>st</sup> Reef Tank!

I joined BRS in February 2007 and I have to say everyone here has been indispensable in my success of keeping my Reef alive and healthy. I took a break in reefing from 2010 to 2012 due to some things in life but I have been back since March of 2012.

I really enjoy keeping my Reef Tank. I take the good with the bad of this hobby, it keeps it interesting and challenging!

I enjoy a challenge, and if Reef keeping was easy I don't think I would be doing it for this long and with such passion. I enjoy over coming hurdles of the hobby and seeing my efforts pay off...

I never thought I would get BRS Tank of the Quarter one day. It is such an Honor to have won and I thank every member of BRS and the founders for creating a place for us all to get together and pool our resources together to get help and help others.

I believe our "Reef Journey" is never over, for we all take inspiration from each other's tank and always strive to make our tank a little bit better... I for one can say that I am hooked for life and look forward to many more tanks and years of excitement in our Hobby!

Thanks

Higorc

# Going Once, Going Twice, Sold!

2014 BRS Auction

BOSTON REEFERS

Single Frags  
and  
Frag Packs!

Saturday, Saturday, Saturday.  
April 5th  
11am-4pm

Once a Year Event! Do Not Miss Out!

Once It's Gone It's Gone!

**NO FRAG SWAPPING PLEASE!**

Framingham Lodge of Elks - 450 Union Avenue - Framingham, MA 01702

Free Entry for Paid Members, \$10.00 at the door for non-paid members. It is worth becoming a paid member just for this one event.

Hello, as many of you may or may not be aware the Annual BRS Auction is one of the many ways the club attains funding. These donations help to facilitate the many activities we all enjoy throughout the year. It is your membership in conjunction with Forum and Banner Level Sponsors and the yearly auction that help sustain our server for the forum, venues for our monthly meetings, speakers honorarium and supplies/equipment required to run the many activities we all enjoy.

Please help support the efforts of the auction, our sponsors and our club activities. We are a very close knit community who enjoy a common camaraderie and hobby.

Ask about volunteering to share your gained knowledge with others that are just starting out in the hobby. Offer your expertise in doing a DIY build or "how to" segment. We stand stronger together than we do separately. The hobby is ever changing with new regulations every day. Let's join together and pool our collective knowledge.

BRS President 2014 Flame Angel

## Mission Statement

Boston Reefers Society is committed to promoting interest in and enjoyment of all aspects of the marine aquarium hobby by educating the public on topics related to the biology, physiology, and chemistry of reef biotopes through the sponsorship of meetings, lectures, publications, websites, competitions, exhibits and other means. Providing a forum for sharing resources and information among local aquarium enthusiasts. Supporting research, education and conservation efforts aimed at improving marine and coral reef environments. Involving and educating young people about aquatic life and the aquarium hobby. Fostering camaraderie, friendship, and appreciation of aquatic life

# BRS SWAG IS BACK!



<http://www.companycasuals.com/brs>

Polo's, T-shirts, sweat-shirts, hats, frag bags  
With BRS Logo



**"Order your own personalized cooler now before the auction.  
Get your screen name added for free with the "Boston Reefers" Clown Fish Logo on your cooler."**

**(Offer ends 3/27/2014)**

**Thank you for your Support and Efforts**

I would like to take a moment and thank five groups. First group is our administrators that keep our forum up and running without flaw. Second group is our moderators that help keep our conversations civil and even keeled. Third is the terrific Board of Directors that is motivated and driven by our membership's excitement. Fourth are our Sponsors who choose to support the clubs efforts. Some of which have been with the club since its inception. Fifth are our members who are sharing in knowledge, free with their friendship and support.

Mostly what I enjoy is our member's excitement and engagement within the club. That excitement and level of engagement is what drives the leadership of the club. Share your thoughts, ideas and suggestions.

**Remember you all drive the club forward.**

**To quote Lee Ann Womack from her song - "to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance"**

BRS President 2014 Flame Angel

## **Dip Shift** (dzt6) Dong

One of the hobbyist's biggest concerns is to control pest introduction into your precise reef garden. Over the years, coral dipping solutions and methods have been shifting rapidly with more effective dips and methods coming a long way.

First of all, let's face the reality: there is no pest free reef tank, just pest controlled reef tanks. Don't even ask a retailer if his tanks are pest free, because there is no such thing due to the nature of the business. But it should not prevent you from purchasing coral from stores because it is the nature of this hobby.

When you purchase/trade corals from fellow hobbyists, don't even ask this question and just look at the corals. A "pest-free" tank is actually a "pest well-controlled" tank.

So, it becomes one of the most important actions to take in this hobby: DIP ALL INCOMING CORALS. That is your first line of defense. In another words, you have no right to complain that xyz gave you #\$\$ pest if you didn't dip your coral (unless the coral is not dip-able). If you don't believe me, try telling [Liveaquaria](#) that the coral you bought from them gave you red bugs. Even the best of the best retailer in this hobby can't help you on that.

Coral dipping is also a great substitute for those reef keepers that do not have a quarantine tank setup to temporarily house new corals for observation and treatment.

I am going to focus on commonly available, legally obtainable coral dips with known chemical ingredients. Snake oils and those 'secret' dips are ignored.

First of all, what do these popular pests look like?

(Photos are stolen from the web with credit due to their creators)



Acro eating flat worm



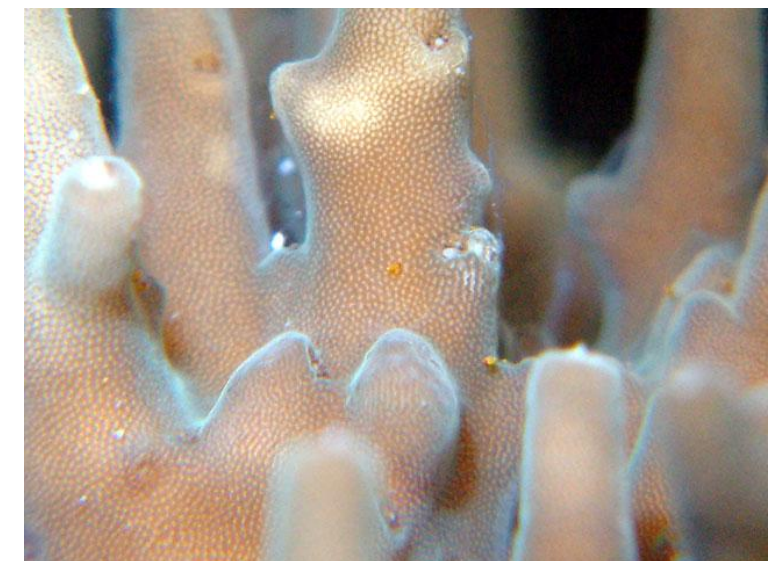
Monti eating nudibranch



Red annoying flat worms



Zoa eating nudibranch



Red Bugs



### **Dips:** (dzt6) Dong

#### **The Dark Age:**

In a review of older material (Kabata,1970; Dulin, 1976) the authors suggest use of insecticides such as DDT , lindane and Dylox.

**Good:** They kill parasites

**Bad:** Can potentially kill you too.

**Side effects:** You could die, along with the parasites

#### **Iodine Dip: such as Reef Dip (dzt6) Dong**

**Good:** Way back when we all played with coral under VHO or PC lights, dipping corals in an iodine/saltwater solution was the way to go. It is quite effective to disinfect coral from bacteria infections.

**Bad:** Actually this method does not get rid of most popular pests, It is still useful to dip.

**Side effects:** very few if you follow the instructions on the label.

#### **Two Little Fishies ReVive Coral Cleaner**

**Good:** Contains Oleum abietis, which theoretically can kill Red Bugs and Black bugs

**Bad:** Doesn't seem to be very effective

**Side effects:** You can smell lemon because it contains 0.5% Citrus limon

#### **Coral Rx Coral Dip**

**Good:** It claims to remove many of the "hard to deal with" coral pests like Acropora-Eating Flatworms, Montipora-Eating Nudibranchs and Zoanthid-Eating Nudibranchs.

**Bad:** It doesn't seem to work well, or well enough

**Side effects:** It can kill some SPS; zoas can respond quite badly to it

#### **Flat Worm Exit: as dip, not whole tank treatment**

**Good:** Works wonders on red flatworms, Monti or zoas eating nudibranchs.

**Bad:** Doesn't work on red bugs or acro eating flatworms.

**Side effects:** None observed so far, it is reef safe.

#### **Bayer's Dip (dzt6) Dong**

<http://www.bayeradvanced.com/insects-pests/products/complete-brand-insect-killer-for-soil-turf>



**Good:** Kills everything mentioned. Coral seems unharmed by this product, even accidentally left in the solution over night.

**Bad:** It has to be handled carefully for your own protection; It is an insecticide for lawn and there are many similar products available that can be confusing.

Can kill your shrimp if accidentally introduced into your display tank.

**Side Effects:** only available seasonally in your local HomeDepot and Lowes, stock up.

Ok, here are the instructions for the regimen that I found works:

1. Add 1 Oz of Bayer's dip in 1 gallon of TANK WATER, (not fresh water), mix well. I tried up to 1 cup/gallon and it shows no harm to coral.
2. Dip the coral for 30 minutes
3. Rinse well using tank water, not once, not twice, please do three times or more
4. Discard the solution outside, not into sewer or septic system.
5. Sit back and enjoy your coral

#### **My First Meeting Experience:**

In October, I came to my first BRS meeting. I was excited to meet other folks who were as passionate about tropical marine tanks as I've become. My wife and I started a fish-only tank and fell in love with the hobby. As we expanded our ambitions to keeping coral and building out a nano reef, I was glad I'd found the club.

People were friendly and I was excited to about the hobby with other folks. Scott Fellman from Unique Corals covered both the fundamentals and advanced topics in nutrient export that was both fun and useful. After the talk, I was lucky to win items in the raffle. There were a variety of foods/supplements from Instant Ocean I took home. I redeemed a Unique Corals gift certificate for a beautiful Reefgen Zoa frag and a branching Hammer Coral.

Since the first meeting, I've been glad to be a part of the community. On the forum, I've been lucky to find deals on equipment, coral, and advice. I'd like to thank Dong (dzt6), who's offered advice and has huge, beautiful tanks. When my initial reef lighting didn't pan out, folks provided good advice on alternatives and I bought a used light from a member. When I was diagnosing my lighting, I was able to use the club's light meter for free.

As rewarding as reefkeeping has been, it can be complicated and frustrating. BRS is a great community and my wife and I are glad to be members.

wpeterson

#### **A Young Reefers Take on the Club**

Saltwater fish always fascinated me when I was a little kid. When I saw all of the vibrant colors of the fish and corals I was mesmerized. On my 8<sup>th</sup> birthday all I wanted was a saltwater aquarium. We later found out the system we had was a bust. Nothing would stay alive. On my 12<sup>th</sup> birthday I persuaded my parents to let me setup a new system. We had luck with this new setup. As I became more and more interested in the hobby and started reading some of the marine aquarium magazines out there, I noticed that there were pages on different aquarium clubs. I decided to search for a club in my area. When I found the Boston Reefers Society's website I knew it was right for me. At first I was unsure if they would underestimate me because of my age (I'm 13). But when I got to the meeting nobody treated me any different from all of the other members of the club. Being a member of the club has lots of benefits. If you have an issue with your setup all of the other members try their best to help the issue. At most of the meetings 2-3 other hobbyists will attend with livestock to sell – either they don't want it anymore or they have fraged a large piece or they are trying to make an extra buck for their next purchase. The price of the livestock and the equipment you get from other members is so much better priced than when buy it the local fish store. The speaker was great too, by at my first meeting I thought the raffle was neat because you could just get a couple tickets and get some nice corals and some other dry goods for your setup.

So, if you are thinking of joining, no matter what age you are, take it from me, you will fit in well! ~ ajkuz

## Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

BRS Official Meeting 'Evolving' Calendar for 2014

☺ Meetings are open to all paid, non-paid and prospective members. (Family friendly environment) ☺

This is the evolving BRS calendar for 2014. While we are working out the details for some of the speakers later in the year our calendar will be influx. Keep a close eye on it as we will be updating it frequently. We are TRYING to lay out the meeting schedule far in advance. This is to give the membership ample time to plan for the meetings that they would like to attend this year.

January 19th (Sunday) - Noon-4 PM - VFW Oxford, MA-DIY Fragging Demo meeting info (Meeting Sponsor) Everything below this line needs to be edited and corrected

February 8th (Saturday) - Noon-4 PM - Newburyport Elks - Warren Gibbons from Ocean Explorium "Reef Keeping Disasters and how to Prevent Them"

Arduino Group Build Presentation

Members Build Experiences

March 9th (Sunday) - Noon-4 PM - VFW Taunton - Christine Williams

April 5th (Saturday) - 11am - 4pm - Framingham Elks - BRS AUCTION

**(NO FRAG TRADING OR SALES AT AUCTION)**

May - Oxford VFW Oxford, MA - (Meeting Sponsor-)

June 7th (Saturday)-Noon - 4pm - Noon-4 PM - Newburyport Elks - BBQ/HORSE SHOES

July - No Meeting

Aug - No Meeting

September 14th (Sunday) - 11am - 4pm - Salem Elks 39 Shadow Lake Rd, Salem, NH – Marc Levenson

October - (tentative) MINI BRASS Trade Show

November 15th (Saturday) - Noon-4 PM - VFW Taunton – Gary Parr

December 6th (Saturday)- 2015 Elections Framingham Elks

**\*\*NEW ADDITION TO THE MEETINGS IS A KIDS ACTIVITY TABLE\*\***



## Forum Level Sponsors



## Banner Level Sponsors

