



# KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

March 2006

[www.kelpkrawlers.org](http://www.kelpkrawlers.org)

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## Three Man Dive Teams

by Wayne Fowler

One of the major advantages of a three man dive team is the additional resources that a third member brings along with them. There are certain situations where the team resources of air for two divers could reach a point where the safety of the divers is imperiled. However by adding a third member to the team the extra resources of air they bring with them effectively increases our redundancy by 50%. This would make the failures needed to bring the dive to a dangerous and possibly fatal point statistically very remote. This is especially true when doing dives that go beyond or tap dance on the edge of the recreational arena.

In my opinion all things become much easier in teams of three. Communication may take a moment longer but all in all this is generally a good thing, making us slow down a bit causing us to be a little clearer. Also, though we've increased the number of people we have to keep track of, it becomes easier in my experience, in that the responsibility is spread out among three people instead of two. We now have two sets of eyes watching each diver.

We have an extra set of eye's to watch out for potential equipment problems, (i.e. I may not notice right away that my buddies' 1st stage is bubbling) Three sets of eyes watching for environmental issues (i.e.. hmmm the current turned a bit early or seems to be running harder then expected... or.. hey!.. isn't that Davy Jones locker over there? you know stuff like that!)

I've found the third set of eyes to be a very valuable asset in all matters. I like that the third member makes us slow our communication down, I like that it makes me have to be more thorough in my communication when modifications to the dive have to be made. I like the extra resources that we bring to each dive, even the recreational ones, in that truthfully, more accidents happen in the recreational arena then in those that step out of its bounds. Partially or perhaps mainly due to the fact that we, for the most part, don't plan our recreational dives in the same fashion as we do our more technical dives. In that vein most of the people I dive with plan recreational dives using much of the same protocols and procedures as would be used on more advanced and

even technical dives. I know that for me it adds enormously to my level of comfort knowing that we have all contingencies covered.

All of the above said I also feel that if divers enter the water without a team mindset or capacity to keep together and communicate then there is little benefit to the extra body. But for those that have good buddy/team skills I believe trio diving can add a great deal of fun, comfort and safety to your diving enjoyment, in the recreational as well as technical arenas.



**Note:** It is assumed that each team member is skilled at keeping a team together through communication and team orientation, that the divers know how to manage emergencies and have the right chemistry to allow them to be a team player and that they understand when and where compromise is needed.

**Editors Note:** My experience has been that three man teams are actually the most efficient in the technical dive arena. In caves, besides having the extra gas available, I have found it beneficial such that when a team member has an issue, one member often assists with solving the issue while the third member holds and illuminates the line. This makes it very easy to stay oriented and find the line if you have drifted off while struggling.

I have also seen this work very well at a deco stop, where one team member struggles with a lift bag, while another member assists, and the third member holds stop depth and position, providing a reference to the pair dealing with the lift bag, and allowing them to easily resume their stop depth once the issue is resolved.

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## **Boeing 737 Sunk in BC**

On a beautiful sunny day in January, the "Xihwu" (pronounced key' quot) Boeing 737 was sunk into the waters off Chemainus, to become B.C.'s newest artificial reef. About 180 boats came out for the sinking, including a B.C. ferry with 150 passengers.



The sinking went flawlessly, and divers from around the world are now adding a 737 to their list of favorite dive sites. The name Xihwu Reef was given to the site out of respect for the Red Sea Urchin, which lived in abundance in the area in the past, and which was at one time a significant food source for the Hul'qumi'num Mustimuhw people. Many marine creatures have been significantly impacted over the last century from pollution, over-fishing and bottom-dragging, which have seriously affected their habitat. It is hoped that the new habitat created by the artificial Reef will provide the opportunity for the return of these and other significant creatures in the environment.



## **Dive Reports**

### **Steamboat Island Wall**

*by Scott Boyd*

Steamboat Island Wall is a pleasant dive site, located just off of the Northern tip of Steamboat Island. On a beautiful sunny Sunday, a small flotilla of Kelp Krawler boats arrived just prior to slack water, and half a dozen divers dropped in to explore this interesting location. We spent nearly an hour drifting along the current scoured limestone walls, marveling at the healthy sponges and hundreds of shaggy mouse nudibranchs down below the walls. There were bits and pieces of old boats, a very interesting bay pipefish and the ever-present spiny dogfish to keep the divers company.

The current flows through this narrow passage at a very high rate of speed and then mixes and churns at the point, which makes for very interesting features. There are cuts and holes in the wall that go more than 20' back (that's as far as I could squeeze in), and there is a bit of a washing machine effect as you float around the bowl right in front of the point. As the current picks up, the site does develop a slight down current, which whisks you from the top of the wall at 25' to about 40' before releasing you. It was so much fun, I had to go up and do this "A" ticket ride again.

All of the divers were very pleased with their dives, and we decided we'll be back again, armed with cameras. This boat-only site is very close to Olympia and is best dived with a live pick-up boat as the currents do come up quite rapidly.

After a wonderful dive at Steamboat Island, we motored over to Doflemeyer Point and splashed looking for a wall, but found only a steep barren slope of gravel with lots of sunken trees. The trees are quite spooky as they appear out of the gloom and you suddenly realize you're surrounded by large branches with the current pushing you deeper into the tree. I'd skip this site as it was pretty barren and uninteresting.

### **Nanimo-**

*by Alan Niles*

Ingrid and I took a trip to Nanimo and Victoria over the Valentines weekend. We dove with Ocean Explorers in Nanimo. For those of you that know Ian, he is recovering well from his stroke and is at work although not diving. Ian was instrumental in getting the Saskatchewan, Cape Breton, Riv tow lion and the 737 artificial reefs in Nanimo. We can't wait to go back and explore Jesse Island with her wonderful rock formations, overhangs, and swim throughs. On Snake Island I was so bedazzled by the beautiful crimson anemone that I totally missed a wonderful Puget sound king crab until later when I saw it in the photo. The Saskatchewan is a nice wreck with a lot of life although I've decided I'd rather dive reefs.

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We planned to dive Dodd Narrows but mother nature had other plans so we will have to plan another trip to check that dive off the list of must do's.

### Keystone, Club Dive

by Scott Boyd

On a cold frozen February morning, six serious Kelp Krawler divers made the trek up to Keystone on Whidbey Island to explore one of Washington's most popular dive sites. We left Olympia in the wee hours and spotted snow along the beaches as the ferry from Port Townsend arrived at the Keystone terminal.



As you exit the ferry, you make an immediate right turn into the parking lot for the dive site, which is within walking distance from the ferry terminal.

As soon as we parked, we ran into **Pat Beach**, the owner of **Whidbey Island Dive Center** (Oak Harbor), who gave us a nice orientation to the dive site, and warned us not only about the fickle currents at the site, but the "misty waters" created by his Open Water Students. We geared up and swam along the East side of the Jetty, exploring all the nooks and crannies created by the large boulders that were piled up to make the jetty.

Beautiful Kelp Greenling and giant ling cod frequently kept us company while we admired the colorful anemones, heart crabs and nudibranchs along the rocky wall.

For our second dive, we decided to explore the pilings from the old Keystone Wharf to the East of the jetty. The current was picking up, which made the dive a bit more challenging to navigate, but the reward was hundreds of huge Christmas anemones spread out in all of their glory as they bathed in the nutrient rich currents of Admiralty Inlet. The water was very clear, and at the shallow depths of the old pilings, the bottom was bright with daylight as well. The currents were very erratic, and made swimming back to shore somewhat entertaining, going first one direction, then the other. This had several divers wondering if their compasses were playing tricks on them!

### Victoria-

by Alan Niles

Victoria's two most famous shore dives were our primary goal, the Breakwater and Ten Mile Point. Both proved to be excellent dives. Ten Mile is a highly current sensitive site. Consequently there is an enormous amount of life covering the sheer 60' wall that starts at 40' and drops to 100'. The wall is completely covered with life in most places. There is so much to see it can be overwhelming. I find that the best thing to do is sit in one spot and just absorb all the details and then one by one you will find dozens of small interesting creatures carving out there existence on a small current swept wall of the ocean.



The Breakwater is one of my favorite dives and I have enjoyed it many times day and night. I had never walked to the very end however so this time Ingrid and I summoned all of our strength and hiked our twins and our heavy underwater cameras to the very end of the 800 meter wall. We did use a couple dollies. We were rewarded by a fantastic dive with thousands of swimming scallops, colorful anemones, King crab, sponge, Tiger rock fish, Giant 5 foot lings and much more. We had so much fun we practically sucked our twins dry, diving for 90 minutes. Unfortunately we didn't even swim 1/2 way back so we had to haul out onto the breakwater and hike back with all of our gear over the uneven blocks that compose the breakwater walls. As much as I hate doing the 400 meter with my twins and 20lb camera, the breakwater is so good, I'll do it again and again.

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### Hood Canal-

by Alan Niles

Six of us who would rather dive than work took a Tuesday off and went to Hood Canal for a Pac Adventures dive. We took advantage of the mid week special that gives six divers the boat for \$240 for a two tank dive. Pac Adventures treated us very well as usual and made our day pleasant. The diving was interesting in that it was so bad. We had such a silt layer that the dive was a night dive at 50'. There was almost no light. The second dive at Brinnon Pinnacle was slightly better once we got below 60 feet. My 10 watt HID and Ingrid's 21 watt video lights sure helped.

### Sekiu-

by Alan Niles

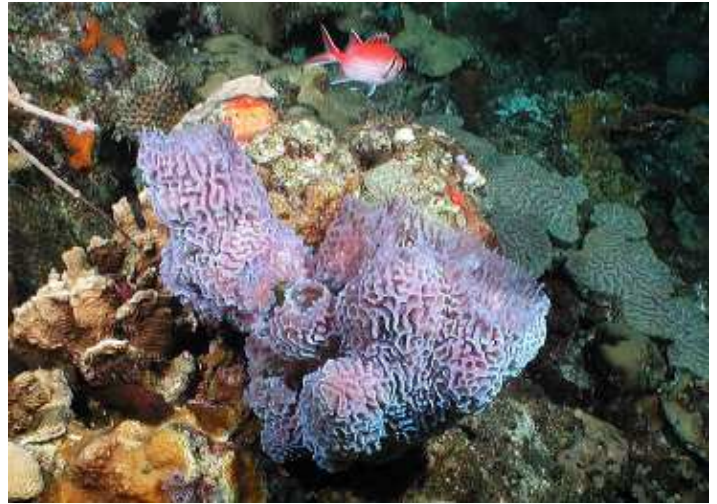


Lastly we just returned from Sekiu where we dove a group of rocks near the Jetty. This is another favorite dive that we return to for all the color and life. This is one of my all time favorite sites. Visibility was only so-so for this site (20 feet, often we have 40 to 60 here) due to a big Easterly wind that blew all day prior. The rock formations, colorful hydrocorals, sponges and creatures of every description make this dive awesome. There are so many overhangs, giant boulders, small canyons and swim through, kelp, schools of rock fish, diving birds, nudis like flowers everywhere.

We saw more varieties of nudibranchs than I have ever seen in one spot on this dive. Everything is so colorful and healthy looking. The dive is very shallow. Max depth at high tide is only 40 feet and most of it is in 20 feet or less. Surge can be a problem in the kelp and close confines of the boulders. Excellent trim and clean equipment configuration is very important to protect this reef as it is so narrow in many spots.

We are planning on returning to Sekiu on April 21st, all are welcome. The tides that weekend are perfect so we will have a great long slack. We hope to explore some of the sites closer to Neah

bay as well on the April trip. We also plan to dive Crescent Lake at the end of the trip to rinse our gear and indulge in the typically great 100 foot visibility.



### Bonaire

by Steve and Carolyn Fornoff

Bonaire is well known for its dive site accessibility and abundant macro sea life. Having more than 20,000 divers visit a year, Bonaire is definitely equipped to handle diving and divers. Located 75 miles from Venezuela, it is sheltered from wind and waves creating an ideal location for divers and a paradise for our underwater photographers.

Last November Steve and I took **18 Blue Diamond Divers** to Bonaire for a week of diving. We stayed at the Sand Dollar Condominiums, which were comfortable and located near the capital, Krawlendijk. Our dive operator was Bonaire Dive and Adventure; located on the property they provided facilities for safe gear lock up, convenient access of tanks any time of the day and three boat dive options per day. Free Nitrox upgrades were available to all who were certified. There are approximately 80 marked dive sites, all accessible from shore or within a 20 minute boat ride. The guides had enthusiasm for what the sites provided and considered our requests to go to the sites to find seahorses and frogfish. **On one dive alone we found 7 seahorses!**

Bari Reef is located directly in front of the Sand Dollar and allowed us plenty of opportunity for night and dawn dives. I discovered the beauty of dawn dives as the sea life transitions from night to day. My ultimate sighting was watching the parrotfish come out of his "sleeping cocoon" to start his day. I enjoyed the night dive until the cute little damselfish I was watching was captured and eaten by a huge tarpon! The fish are too numerous to mention, but some of my favorites include the Parrotfish, Trunkfish, Caribbean octopus, Slender filefish, Puffer fish and anything that was juvenile. Every type of coral can be found in the Bonaire reef system, Elephant, Brain, Fan, and Gorgonian just to name a few.

This was our second trip to Bonaire and we found it to be safe and in general more affordable (food, souvenirs, etc.). The island has a diversity of free time activities such as exploring hot caves,

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wind surfing, bird watching, exploring Slagbaai National Park, Flamingo estuaries, Salt flats or kayaking through mangroves. We had a great time and we can't wait to go back.

## **The Prez Sez**

We hope everyone has been able to get out to do some diving lately, there are a plenty of divers (novice and experienced) who are looking for divers to buddy up with. I would like to encourage those of you with experience to seek out new or novice divers and to be a mentor. Show them the dive sites you like to visit and teach them your best practices.

We all started out learning the basics in Open Water Class, but that is all we learned....the basics. Real improvement comes with getting out in the water and seeing how others dive, seeing how others configure their equipment, and experiencing the fun of scuba diving.

New divers learn best by observation and they are always hungry to learn. When an experienced diver coaches a less experienced diver with two or three suggestions, that will be sufficient to help improve their dive techniques and build their confidence.

For many years I was a coach, mentor, and instructor in another sport; experience shows it is best to make only 1 or suggestions during each dive. Point out the little things will make a big difference in one's diving; however, be careful not to overwhelm the diver with too many suggestions, that will most likely discourage most people. Make observations on kicking techniques, restricted hand/arm movement, correct buoyancy, proper weighting, weight distribution, techniques for dumping air, slowing down, etc.

It may sound strange, but even an experienced diver with hundreds of dives under their weight belt can learn by mentoring another diver. As a mentor you need to think how to best explain the execution of a technique; you will need to mentally break the activity down to the basic sequence of coordinated movements that make up the technique. If you really think about it, each kick, each venting of air, relaxed breathing, hovering in place while in a current is a combination of actions. When 'teaching' you will need to put a little thought into how you would execute the movement yourself; in other words, you will learn by teaching.

## **Be a Mentor**

The reward comes with seeing the enthusiasm and excitement exhibited by those who benefit from your suggestions. For me, the true reward is seeing a diver who starts out blowing through a tank of air in 30 minutes, but after following a few key pointers and making a few more dives is able to stretch their dive to 50 - 60 minutes. That's when you know you've made a positive difference for someone else.

**Be a mentor** and rediscover what made you fall in love with diving in the first place.

## **Dive Edmonds Underwater Park**

The **March Club Dive** will be held **Saturday, March 25th** at **Edmonds Underwater Park**. If you haven't been to EUP in a while, this is a great opportunity to check out one of Washington's best dive sites. Divers should be in the water at Noon to catch the 12:30 Slack. Contact Mark Reece for details.

## **March Dive Club Meeting**

Dr. Tom Mumford from the Department of Natural Resources will be speaking about the important role that eel grass beds play in the marine ecosystems we enjoy on every dive.

## **February Meeting Notes**

Teresa Sjoström from the Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program spoke to the dive club about the best way for them to collect data on the creature densities we observe while diving in Hood Canal. As divers we see the effects of the low DO events in the late summer first hand, and our observations could provide important data for the Teresa's project.

The original idea of dive slates at the dive shops hasn't worked out very well, and Jerry Ehrlich has proposed using a printed form that divers can fill out after their dives and turn in at local dive shops or via the HCDOP web sites. The dive club concurred that this would be the best method for collecting data, and Ingrid Niles proposed sponsoring this effort by having the club print up some of the forms, and include some creature ID photos to help divers identify what they are observing. The dive club approved this project and gave Teresa several useful ideas. For more information, see the HCDOP web site at [www.hoodcanal.washington.edu](http://www.hoodcanal.washington.edu) or contact **Teresa Sjoström** at [ [teresa@hseg.org](mailto:teresa@hseg.org) ] .

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## **DIVE SHOP NEWS:**

### **Capital Divers**

**866-3684**

[www.capitaldivers.com](http://www.capitaldivers.com)

**Palau** trip on the Palau Aggressor June 25-July 2 2006 (still 7 spots left). Nitrox, argon and hyper filtered air fills available.

**Bandito Charters** on **March 18**, April 9, May 13, June 4, July 16, Aug 17, Sep 17, Oct 14, Nov 12 and Dec 9.

### **Hood Sport 'n Dive**

**(360) 877-6818**

[www.hoodportndive.com](http://www.hoodportndive.com)

The shop is now pumping nitrox while you wait, trimix, deco gases, and argon. Also, they are offering discounted access to the **Sund Rock Marine Preserve** for paid members.

### **Underwater Sports**

**493-0322**

[www.underwatersports.com](http://www.underwatersports.com)

The Olympia Shop is now pumping hyper filtered Air. Discounted air cards for Kelp Krawlers: 10 fills for \$25.

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Amy reminded people to get their drawings in for the new logo contest by March 31st and notified the club that the Channel Islands trip is full. Steve and Carolyn Fornoff are putting together a quick trip to **Cozumel on May 26 - June 3**. Steve will be getting together volunteers to help Ron with the **HoodSport N Dive shop move in March**.

Scott Boyd went over the Kelp Krawler Photo Contest rules. The club decided to the limit this year's photos to "Pacific Northwest" images only, and to charge \$5/entry, collected via PayPal for the contest. Northwest Dive News has agreed to publish selected image from the contest. Rules, entry forms, submission and payment details are available on the Kelp Krawler web site at <http://www.kelpkrawlers.org/Contest/>. Underwater Sports has also agreed to help sponsor the contest and Justin has agreed to be one of our judges.

Meeting Attendees: **Rodger Gomez, Alan, Ingrid and Teale Niles, Amy Kurtenbach, John Brown, Mark Reece, Carolyn Thomas, Jamie Welsh, Steve Fornoff, Steve Griffith, Don Noviello, Wayne Campbell, Howard Gearns, Rick Cooper, Becky Lundin, Steve Sutton, Scott and Janet Boyd.**

### An Evening with Stan Waterman

Stan's career as the pioneer of underwater film has brought him to the forefront of scuba diving. The winner of five Emmys, Stan will present video and speak about his experiences with the Sharks of Fiji, Roughing it in the Coral Sea, remote Indonesia and more.

Plan to arrive at 5:30 for hors d'oeuvres and a micro brew at the no-host bar! Stan's program runs 6-8:00pm, and thereafter Stan will be hanging out for discussion, book sales/signing, and more good old war stories.

**Sunday April 2, 5:30 PM** at Kane Hall, U of W Seattle.

Tickets: 25.00 seated/15.00 standing. Space is limited, please call LiveWell Ventures at 877-357-0022 to reserve, or email: [info@livewellventures.com](mailto:info@livewellventures.com).

### Imax Deep Sea 3D

See Howard Hall's magnificent new IMAX movie, much of which was shot in British Columbia where his crew spent a month diving in our cold emerald waters, filming the Giant Pacific Octopus and many of our favorite critters.. This should be the best cold water documentary to date.

Several Kelp Krawlers are going on **Sunday, April 2nd** for the **2:15 PM** showing at the Pacific Science Center. Contact Alan Niles for details.

### **Divers Down TV**

Now showing on Dish Network Satellite TV, new episodes of Divers Down are being broadcast daily at 5 PM on Channel 216 (Water Channel). [www.diversdowntv.com](http://www.diversdowntv.com)

### **Underwater Photo Contest**

Photographers, be sure to submit your best images from the Pacific Northwest to the **Kelp Krawlers Photo contest**. Selected images will be published in **Northwest Dive News** magazine and **Cash Prizes** are being awarded.

Get the details at <http://www.kelpkrawlers.org/Contest/>

**Special Thanks** to all of the Kelp Krawlers that **contributed to the Newsletter** this month. The dive reports and Trip reports are most appreciated! **Keep them coming!**

Photographers, send me your photos with your dive reports!

## Calendar of Events

<b>Mar 21st:</b>	<b>Club Meeting, 7:00 PM, Dr. Tom Mumford, DNR, Eelgrass in the Marine Environment.</b>
<b>Mar 25th:</b>	<b>Club dive at Edmonds Underwater Park, noon. Contact Mark Reece.</b>
<b>Mar 31st:</b>	<b>New dive club Logo entries are due. Contact Amy Kurtenbach.</b>
<b>April 2nd:</b>	<b>Imax Movie, Deep Sea 3D, 2:15 PM at the Pacific Science Center. Contact Alan Niles.</b>
<b>April 2nd:</b>	<b>An Evening with Stan Waterman, 5:30 PM, Kane Hall, University of Washington. Contact Scott Boyd.</b>
<b>April 18th:</b>	<b>Club Meeting, 7:00 PM.</b>
<b>April 21st:</b>	<b>Club Dive, Sekiu Jetty. Contact Alan Niles.</b>
<b>April 25-29:</b>	<b>Channel Islands Dive Trip with Optiquatics. Contact Amy Kurtenbach.</b>
<b>May 12-14th:</b>	<b>Wooden Boat Festival, Touch Tanks.</b>
<b>May 13th:</b>	<b>Treasure Hunt. Northwest Dive News. Owen Beach, Tacoma</b>
<b>May 16th:</b>	<b>Club Meeting, 7:00 PM, David Behrens, Nudibranch Behavior and Photography</b>
<b>May 26 - 3:</b>	<b>Cozumel Dive Trip, Blue Diamond Dive Tours, contact Steve or Carolyn Fornoff</b>
<b>June 20th:</b>	<b>Club Meeting 7:00 PM</b>
<b>June 25 - 2:</b>	<b>Palau Dive Trip, Palau Aggressor II, Capital Divers, contact Craig Brown</b>
<b>July 2 - 9th:</b>	<b>Truk Lagoon, Wreck Diving on the Truk Odyssey with the Sea Nags, contact Scott Boyd.</b>