



# KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

January 2005

Volume 21, Number 1

## 2005 OFFICERS

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**Historian and Dive Officer**  
**Rodger Gomez**  
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## MEMBERSHIP

Kelp Krawler dues:  
 \$15 for a single membership  
 \$25 for a family Membership.

Make checks payable to:  
**Wayne Campbell**  
 (Kelp Krawlers)

Mail to:  
**Scott Boyd**

## Christmas Party

The December 2004 Christmas party was held on Friday December 17th, at Perpetual Motion, in Olympia and was attended by members and families of both the Kelp Krawlers and the Aquanuts dive clubs. About 35 people showed up for the festivities, but no names were taken to protect the innocent.

The food was plentiful and very tasty and after a few successful games of air hockey and basketball, Jerry managed to get the whole group into one room to "explain the rules" and to get the White Elephant gift exchange underway before passing the Presidential role on to Jamie Welsh.

The white elephant gifts are always amazing, and this year was no exception. The "gift exchange" started out very civil, and went on for several rounds before the "stealing" and good natured "cursing" began! Several true treasures were unwrapped, which often swapped places several times before finding a permanent home. In the end, everyone was laughing, smiling and having a decidedly good time.

It was almost as much fun as diving, so be sure to mark your calendars early for next years Kelp Krawler Christmas Party!



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## New Year's Day Dive & Lunch

We had a great turn-out for the **New Year's Day Dive & Potluck Lunch**. A big **THANK YOU** to **Ron Ault of Hood Sport N' Dive** for hosting the Club (and for diving with us as well)!

Club Divers included: **Jerry Ehrlich, Mike Beyer, Jamie Welsh, Scott & Janet Boyd, Debbie & Duane Hamrick, Keith Anderson, Wayne Campbell, Steve Fornoff, Rodger Gomez, Sue Treinen, Ron Ault and Kathy Carter**. Shore support and good company included: **Karen Beyer, Bob Treinen, Carolyn Fornoff, Carla Thurmond and Becky Lundin**. The viz was awesome, and the food was wonderful!

**January Meeting Presentation:**

Join us this month for a very informative evening with **Eric Morris** who writes the monthly **Octopus Tales** column for Northwest Dive News, and is also the president and founder of **High Tide Drysuits** in Port Orchard, WA. High Tide makes premium custom drysuits for Northwest divers.



**Pictures from  
New Year's Day Dive:**

**January 23rd Club Dive - Titlow**

The January Club Dive will be held at the Titlow Marine Sanctuary in Tacoma, on **Sunday, January 23rd**. Kelp Krawlers should meet at the dive site by **9:30 AM** to allow time to suit up and enter the water before a nice long slack. This site is adjacent to the Tacoma Narrows, so is very current sensitive.

The abandoned Ferry Pier sits in only 30' of water and is covered with huge white Metridium Anemones that give the site the appearance of an underwater Cathedral. Parking is limited at this site, so carpooling is encouraged. **Contact Rodger Gomez for details.**

Divers will be heading over to Steamers for lunch and refreshments after their dives at Titlow.

**February 6th Club Dive - Edmonds U/W Park**

The **Kelp Krawlers** will hold their **February club dive on Sunday February 6th at the Edmonds Underwater Park**. The parking lot fills up quickly and space is limited, so we will need to carpool. We will meet at the dive site **at or before 10:00 AM**. The tides are very good that day, and we should be able to get in two dives. **Contact Rodger Gomez for details.**

The park was established in 1970 as a marine preserve and the protection has enabled the resident fish to get really Big!!! **Bruce Higgins** and his cadre of volunteers have filled the park with lots of boats, culverts, and other structures to provide fish habitat over the 27-acre site. The 300-ft long **DeLion Drydock** has been in place since 1935, so the life found there is quite abundant. Large boats such as the **94-ft Alitak** have also been in place for quite awhile. **Max depth at the park is less than 40-ft.**

The park regulations are simple:

- All divers and snorkelers must dive with a buddy.
- All divers must be certified or in training.
- All divers must wear buoyancy compensators.
- No fish or marine organisms may be removed from the park.
- No night diving without a permit. (Permits issued at the Parks and Recreation Office.)
- No boats allowed inside the park.



**Annual Membership and Waivers due:**

Please be sure to fill out and return the enclosed **Kelp Krawler Membership Application** form for 2005 and to **SIGN** the waiver on the back of the membership form. Make your checks payable to Wayne Campbell and return it to Scott Boyd at the February meeting, or via Mail to the address on the front cover. Annual Dues are \$15 Single, \$25 for a family membership.

**Decorated warbonnet (*Chirolophis decoratus*)**

*By Scott Boyd*

The Decorated Warbonnet can be a difficult fish to find and photograph, due to its wary nature and habit of hiding in tiny burrows and crevices well away from divers. However, when found, this fish displays prominent cirri on its head that resemble an Indian Chieftain's Warbonnet, for which it was aptly named.



Found at depths from 50 to 300', you would think the distinctive yellow and brown markings of the fish would give it away, but I've seen many divers pass right over the top of a warbonnet without being aware that it is there. Decorated Warbonnets are distributed from Northern California, across the Aleutians to Russia, and are sometimes referred to as a decorated prickle-back.

Despite its coloration, the lavish decorations, large eyes and thick lips make the decorated warbonnet look more like some type of cartoon character than a fish. Behind the frilly head is a compressed eel-like body that can be up to 17 inches long. They are very secretive and rarely venture out from their homes inside small rocky crevices, which they often share with small shrimp (their primary source of food).



The nearest dive site that frequently yields several decorated warbonnets is the Les Davis Marine Park on Tacoma's Ruston Way Drive. One of the several resident warbonnets likes to hang out inside the actual tail of the fish sculpture that can be found on top of concrete blocks there.

**Wanted:** Your Dive and Trip Reports! Please send them to the Newsletter editor:  
*scott boyd*

**DIVE SHOP NEWS:**

**Capital Divers** **866-3684**  
[www.capitaldivers.com](http://www.capitaldivers.com)

**Truk Lagoon** trip on the Truk Aggressor June 25-July 2 2006. Nitrox, argon and hyper filtered air fills available.

Upcoming classes: Tech 101 Basics February 2 - 6,  
Trimix coming in March 2006.

**Hood Sport 'n Dive** **(360) 877-6818**  
[www.hoodspordndive.com](http://www.hoodspordndive.com)

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

**Underwater Sports** **493-0322**  
[www.underwatersports.com](http://www.underwatersports.com)

The Olympia Shop is now pumping hyper filtered Air, compatible with Nitrox tanks and is making frequent trips to Tacoma for Nitrox Fills. **Neah Bay** Spearfishing Trips July 15-17 and August 26-28. Discounted air cards for Kelp Krawlers: 10 fills for \$25.

Upcoming Classes: Navigation January 21-23,  
Stress and Rescue February 3-5,  
AOW and Nitrox February 24-27



**Dive Safe and Play Nice!!!!**