



# KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

January 2006

Volume 22, Number 1

## Roatan, Honduras

by Carolyn Thomas

The first week of November four South-Sound divers took off for the sunny and warm shores of the **island of Roatan** which is located in Central America in the country of Honduras. **Mark, Carolyn, John** and **Athena** arrived to their destination of the **Coco View Resort** late Saturday afternoon. What a place, they do nothing but cater to divers.

We did a check out dive that night and went on a tour of the private lagoon located just steps from the rooms we were staying in, some of them were actually out over the water. The viz was great and the water was warm, what a different feeling that was for us. Shore diving is open 24/7 with two very large reefs walls, a sunken ship and a wrecked 747. The sea life there is incredible, tons of beautiful fish, rays, morays and spectacular colorful coral.



(awesome photo by Carolyn Thomas)

Each day we were taken on (2) two tank boat dives, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, with eating in between, what a life. The boat dock was also located just as close as the beach. They operate 4 boats with gear rooms for each at the dock. We were able to clean everything there and hang it up for the next time. The boat crew would make sure we were well taken care of.....and for a few dollars more we were able to dive nitrox the whole week.

One day we took a tour of part of the island visiting local shops and bars, I (Carolyn) even got a massage on the beach. Local artists and performers also visited each day showing off the variety of talent amongst those who live there.

The highlight of the trip for most of us though was the chance we got to watch (at very close range) around 15-17 Gray Reef Sharks feed. What was really amazing was to see all of the

other fish that were also among them and not getting eaten. The sharks were so close that if we had wanted to we could have reached out and touched them. We spent about 40 min there taking pictures and then they were gone.

We had such a good time that will be going back there again in the very near future. The little All-inclusive Dive Resort really knows how to pamper and take care of those who visit.

### 2006 OFFICERS

**President**  
Steve Fornoff  
426-1267

**Vice President**  
Amy Kurtenbach  
789-9992

**Treasurer**  
Ingrid Niles  
701-0665

**Secretary and Editor**  
Scott Boyd  
456-2066

**Historian and Dive Officer**  
Mark Reece  
459-1602

### MEMBERSHIP

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

Mail to:  
Scott Boyd

### *Inside this issue:*

The Pres Sez (continued)	2
Rebreather Experience	2
New Year's Day Dive	3
Dive Shop News	3
Club History Corner	4
Calendar of Events	4
Membership Application	5
Release and Waiver	6

## The Pres Sez:

by Steve Fornoff

Hello Kelp Krawlers, **Happy New Year** and **KEEP ON DIVING !!**

As we begin 2006 I would like to start the year off with a thought about the world of PNW scuba diving and the dive industry's most important component (besides yourself).....your local dive shop.

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL DIVE SHOPS,** they are the most important part of our entire diving community and all that is involved with diving. We are indeed very fortunate to have several full service dive shops in Tacoma, Olympia, Hoodport and along Hood Canal.

We should all be aware of how much these local 'home town' shops need continued sup-

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

port and patronage in order for them to stay in business. The competition for these dive operators is not so much from other dive shops, but rather from all the other wonderful indoor and outdoor activities the PNW offers. To name a few, we have snow skiing, mountain biking, kayak/canoeing, camping, boating, ocean, and mountains; let us not forget bowling, pool leagues, softball, and most of all 'couch surfing' the TV.

These dive operators provide the vital services required for safe diving in our waters; without these services, your diving equipment would be not much more than a yellow 'horse collar' vest, one regulator, a weight bag full of old nuts and bolts, and a 14" bowie knife strapped to side of your leg (to be used as a crutch in case of emergency).

Without the benefit of additional dive classes, Open Water Divers would not fully understand the safety procedures required for diving in less than perfect waters & weather conditions; much less deep water, strong currents, poor visibility, and overhead environments in wrecks and caves.

Your local dive shop provides the following services, to name a few:

- **Gas:** Air, Nitrox, and Tri-Mix
- **Equipment:** computers, Dive Suits, BCD, Regulators, etc.
- **Full Service:** equipment repairs, upgrades, rental gear, advise, dive opportunities
- **Classes:** OW, AOW, Deep Diving, Nitrox, Stress & Rescue, etc
- **Dive Trips:** local, regional & tropical dive adventures.
- **Information:** about local and regional dive sites
- **Social activities:** informal get to gathers, dive clubs, and Holiday Parties.

Sign up for that class you've been thinking about, or go on a weekend dive trip to British Columbia, San Juan Islands, California's Channel Islands, or even Hood Canal.

Join us for the next Kelp Krawler club meeting at Dirty Dave's Pizza on Jan. 17th at 7pm; invite your diving buddies to join us, everyone is welcome. Most of all, support your local dive shop.

**Re-discover your love for diving!**

## Rebreather Experience

by Scott Boyd

When I heard **Advanced Diver Magazine** was hosting a "rebreather experience" locally, I was mildly interested. When I found out this included brief instruction and then the opportunity to dive 4 different types of rebreathers, I was intrigued. When I found out they were providing lunch, a free subscription to the magazine and that it was only \$35, I said not only **YES**, but heck **Yes!** I was not disappointed!



Arriving in Woodenville at Bud Gray's Bubbles Below dive shop in the wee hours of a cold icy morning, I wondered what I had gotten myself into. This was soon dispelled as about 25 students gathered in the classroom, and **Curt Bowen** (Advanced Diver Magazine Publisher and avid explorer) gave an introduction to rebreathers, titled "**Rebreather 101**", which explained the basic parts and functions that all closed circuit rebreathers use.

Next up was **Kim Smith** (photo above) and **Alan Studley** from Jetsam. Kim's husband (Gordon Smith was also on hand) designed and builds the KISS rebreathers up in Port Moody, B.C. Alan is one of the premier KISS instructors on the West Coast and flew up from California at his own expense to teach a bunch of newbies how to dive a rebreather.

As you might have guessed, the **KISS stands for Keep It Simple Stupid**, representing a manual closed circuit rebreather without any electronic controls to fail. There are two models, the KISS classic which is suitable for technical diving, and the newer KISS Sport which is designed for easy travel and more recreational depths. Both units are very simple to operate and were a pleasure to "fly" in the pool. A constant flow of Oxygen through a small ruby orifice is augmented by a pushbutton manual oxygen valve that the diver uses to maintain a constant Oxygen Partial Pressure at depth.

Next up was **Rudi Asseer**, giving a presentation on the Dive-Rite Optima rebreather. Rudi is the President and CEO of the International Association of Nitrox and Technical Divers (IANTD) as well as being the CEO of Farallon Industries (which

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

recently bought IANTD). He and his team designed the Optima rebreather for Dive-Rite and he was FULL of interesting stories about research and development. He is quite entertaining and I was surprised to learn is only 26 years old.

The Optima was designed by taking the best parts and suppliers that are used by other rebreathers, and combining them to create a rebreather that eliminates as many flaws as possible. The unit has a very tight breathing loop and is very, very easy to breath. This unit is electronically controlled by a hammerhead controller, which is considered by many to be the best in the industry. It was definitely my favorite in the Pool.

Last up was Rudi again going over what is the most popular rebreather on the market, the Inspiration. Fondly referred to as the **Yellow Box of Death** by the rebreather community, this unit has 1000's of units in use. Rudy dove an Inspiration for years, and even proposed to his wife on the deck of the USS Saratoga last year while both were diving their Inspirations. One of the most interesting aspects of this rebreather is that every single part is custom machined by an offshoot of Buddy Industries in the UK. It is the only CE approved rebreather and is easy to recognize by the yellow "lunch box" shell covering the unit. This unit has been on the market since 1999 and is being replaced by a new unit called the Evolution.

After a long morning of learning about the rebreathers, we gulped down a few pizza slices and headed over to the pool to "fly" the units we had just learned about.

**Breathing underwater for the first time** on a KISS unit was very unique. It was completely silent as I swam around the pool. Buoyancy control is also very different, as lung volume has no effect on your buoyancy (i.e., taking a deep breath does not make you float up a bit) as you are simply exchanging gas with the counter-lung on the unit. I was also very surprised to find that sometimes if you take a REALLY deep breath, gas just stops coming once the counter-lungs were empty. VERY unnerving at first, but I became used to it and really enjoyed the peace and quiet.

Rebreather sales have been growing exponentially over the last couple of years, which is what prompted Dive Rite to get into the market as they see critical mass being reached. We are likely to see more rebreathers at local dive sites as time goes on.

There are many advantages to diving a rebreather, especially in cold water. However, there is one big disadvantage, a rebreather will kill you, slowly, with no warning whatsoever, so be sure to seek the appropriate training before venturing into the peaceful world of closed-circuit rebreathers. This point was made painfully clear on December 19th when a local rebreather diver died from hypoxia (lack of oxygen) sitting in a pool in Vancouver.

### New Years Day Dive:

The dive club started the New Year off right with a dive at **Sund Rock** followed by great food and company at **HoodSport N Dive**. Many thanks to Ron Ault for hosting the dive club and allowing us to not only dive on what is normally his day off, but to also completely take over his dive shop for most of the day!



Visibility was low due to all of the rain and runoff, but there were lots of Wolf Eels and Lings sitting on eggs as well as lots of Shaggy Mouse nudibranchs laying egg clusters.

We had a good turnout for the dive, and the weather behaved very well until all the divers were out of the water, cozy and warm in the shop. Divers were: **Steve and Carolyn Fornoff, Amy Kurtenbach, Jerry Ehrlich, Steve Sutton, John Brown, Sue Treinen, Jamie Welsh, Mark Reece, Rick Cooper, Ingrid, Teal and Alan Niles, Scott and Janet Boyd, and Marty Zerbock. Becky Lundin** was also on hand to spread some cheer and to enjoy the festivities!

(Continued on page 4)

## 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 **Saturday, Jan 14**, Feb 19, Mar 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.hoodspordndive.com](http://www.hoodspordndive.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.

## Club History Corner

from a letter by **Ron Simmons** to **Paul Boardman** 1/1/2003

Back in 1980 the "club" was started by a diver on any given weekend by calling a fellow diver and saying "hey, wanna go diving?" The dive would then be set. One of the most common places for the group to go was Salt Creek for most of the summer and winter to camp out.

The names of the first members of the KK were: Linda Chancy, Stephen Jones, Rich Pfouts, Pat Chorizo, John and Gee Gee Scarboro, Ken Simmons and Ron Simmons. I hope I didn't leave anyone out!

Now, about the birthplace of the club. One weekend up at The Creek we were sitting down at Tongue Point watching the sunset and drinking some wine. All of the above named members were present. We noted that it seemed like only this group was active in diving and enjoyed camping too. So, we thought we could start a club since others like the Hood Canal Seals had stopped meeting. But without a name... no matter, we knew that we just wanted to keep diving and enjoy the outdoors.

At the beginning of the camping trips decisions were made like this: I would get off work early and head up to the Creek; each one of us was responsible for bringing part of the 3 meals and we all split the cost.

About the name, it was conceived on Tongue Point. Earlier in the day John Scarboro was debating whether he should swim under the kelp canopy in order to get to his wife, instead he elected to drop his special collection of abalone and swim through on the top. As Pat and I were watching we were yelling out "**Kelp Krawler diver, what a sissy!**". That night we again were out at the Point enjoying the sunset and some wine. During that time we decided to call the club the Kelp Krawlers. (editor's note, notice that **Wine** was involved)

The first meeting was September, 1980 and was held at Shakey's pizza on Plumb Street. The club membership went from 8 to 13. We decided on a President and that our first outing would be to Fort Flagler State Park on Columbus Day weekend.



## Membership Applications and Waivers due

**It's that time again Divers! Applications and waivers for 2006 are due for all dive club members.** Please fill out the attached 2006 Membership Application and be sure to sign the waiver on the back of the application.

Annual dues are due for all club members and are **\$15** for individuals and **\$25** for families. This brings you twelve monthly issues of this Newsletter and provides discounted access to the Sund Rock marine preserve. **What a bargain!** Please make your checks payable to the "Kelp Krawlers" and mail them with your applications and waivers to:

**Scott Boyd**

Or bring them to **Dive Club meeting on Tuesday, January 17th.** Those new members that have just joined recently have already paid their 2006 dues ( I'll include your 2006 membership card with this newsletter ).

There are currently **66 members** in the Dive Club.

## Calendar of Events

<b>Jan 5-8th:</b>	<b>Optiquatics Underwater Photography Seminar</b> , with Joe Wysocki. Contact <b>Bonnie Smith</b> .
<b>Jan 9th:</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b> , 6:00 PM, Pet Spa on Harrison
<b>Jan 14th:</b>	<b>Bandito Charters</b> , 8:00 AM. Point Defiance Docks. Full Boat.
<b>Jan 17th:</b>	<b>Club Meeting</b> , 7:00 PM, Dirty Dave's Pizza Parlor, 3939 Martin Way East, Lacey, WA.
<b>Feb 3-5th:</b>	<b>Porpoise Bay Charters, Sechelt, B.C., Canada.</b> Contact <b>Tani Iwashita</b> for details
<b>Feb 19th:</b>	<b>Bandito Charters</b> , contact <b>Capital Divers</b> for details.
<b>Feb 21st:</b>	<b>Club Meeting</b> , 7:00 PM
<b>Mar 21st:</b>	<b>Club Meeting</b> , 7:00 PM