



# KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

January 2008

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

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## 2008 OFFICERS

### **President**

Amy Kurtenbach 789-9992

### **Vice President**

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### **Historian and Dive Officer**

John Cipriano 236-9432

### **Membership**

Janet Boyd 456-2066

### **Webmaster**

Scott Boyd 456-2066

### **Kelp Krawler dues:**

\$15 single or

\$25 for a family

See website for membership form

## January Prez Sez:

By Amy Kurtenbach

2008 is starting off with gusto! The January meeting at Dirty Dave's was packed with Kelp Krawlers. If attendance at the January meeting is any reflection of the rest of the year, we are going to have fun!

I am so excited about our board this year. We have both new and returning board members. Our new editor, Steve Sutton, is already hounding me for my monthly article. Our new secretary, Jeff Carr, completed the minutes from January's meeting and delivered them to the board before his next wreck dive. Our new Treasurer, Steve Fornoff, has already moved our savings to an offshore account (I mean has placed his name on the bank account) and is eagerly depositing checks. Scott Boyd is still populating our website with dive facts, dates for KK events, and club information. Janet Boyd, his beautiful wife, is our new membership director. She was very busy at the January meeting collect dues, membership information and release forms. She and Scott have updated the membership forms. They have been posted on the website. Dave Miller is back for his second year as Vice President. I promised him that one of the perks for serving a second year as a VP is free entry at Octopus Hole. Okay, he knew that was bogus, but he had so much fun last year! John Cipriano, back for a second year, has been looking at the tide book and setting up some fun dives for 2008. He has shared with me that he has the bug to find new sites for club activities. Sund Rock is home base for many Kelp Krawlers, but there are some other fish in the sea to see!

Thank you everyone for making the Kelp Krawler Dive Club such a blast in 2007. Special thanks to the 2007 board and club members for making it happen. My wish is that 2008 is as packed full of Kelp Krawler activities and great diving!

I wish you safe diving and lots of fish stories!

## Our Friend the Lingcod

By Caroline Fornoff

What is the best thing to do to celebrate on Christmas Eve? Well, go diving of course! Steve and I decided to run up to Sund Rock and check out our friend the Mama Octo. We had not been diving at the Rock for a few weeks and found the underwater world to be transformed. With a minimum of 2 inches of fine silt our usual landmarks were barely identified. We had visibility of about 2 feet if we did not move and a foot if we moved. No worries though as I had my new hot pink dry gloves, I could be seen! After "seeing" the Mama Octo we decided just to go back. We saw few fish, some plumose anemones, one rockfish and a couple lingcod. Which brings me to my question: Have you ever seen a lingcod? I mean really see a lingcod? They are almost primeval looking with huge, gaping mouths with sharp teeth; especially when they are attached to your left forearm!

As I was enjoying the last of our dive, "someone" suddenly grabbed my left forearm. Odd; as I was very close to the rock wall and I could see Steve in front of me. So imagine my surprise to look over and see a lingcod attached to me. The little \*&%^ had huge eyes and jaws that were really starting to clamp down. Let me assure you screaming and shaking your arm does not make a lingcod release his grip. Hitting him once with your light cannon does! Good news he did not tear my dry suit and he did swim away.

It made me want to know a little more about the lingcod. The following is what I have learned:

The lingcod, *Ophiodon elongatus*, is a fish of the greenling family Hexagrammidae. It is the only member of the genus *Ophiodon*.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### *Inside this issue:*

Prez Sez & Our Friend the Lingcod	1
The Hauler in Lake Washington	2
The Holidays in Cozumel	3
Object Found & Fun Stuff	5
Christmas Party	6
New Year's Dive	7
Meeting Notes	7
The Oyster Festival	8
Membership List	9

*(Continued from page 1)*

Lingcod are unique to the west coast of North America, with the center of abundance off the coast of British Columbia. In Alaska there are many that reach 70 pounds. they are found on the bottom with most individuals occupying rocky areas at depths of 10 to 100 meters. Studies have shown that lingcod are a largely non-migratory species.

Starting in October, lingcod migrate to near shore spawning grounds. The males migrate first, and establish nest sites in strong current areas in rock crevices or on ledges. Spawning takes place between December and March, and females leave the nest site immediately after depositing eggs. Males actively defend the nest from predators until the eggs hatch in early March through late April.

The larvae are pelagic until late May or early June when they settle to the bottom as juveniles. Initially they inhabit eel grass beds, and eventually move to flat sandy areas that are not typical habitat of older lingcod. They eventually settle in habitats of similar relief and substrate as older lingcod, but remain at shallower depths for several years.

Females and males mature at age 3-5 years (61-75 cm) and age 2 years (45 cm), respectively. Up to age 2 males and females grow at similar rates, with both reaching an average length of 45 cm. After age 2, females grow faster than males, with the growth of males tapering off at about age 8, and females continuing to grow until about age 12 to 14. Lingcod live up to a maximum of about 14 years for males and 20 years for females, reaching a maximum size of approximately 90 cm and 120 cm, respectively.

Lingcod are voracious predators, feeding on invertebrates and many species of fish, including herring, Clupea harengus, and Pacific hake, Merluccius productus. One of their favorite foods are smaller octopus, and will also rapidly devour large rockfish. Lingcod that survive the larval stages have few predators themselves, and are vulnerable mainly to marine mammals such as sea lions and harbor seals.

For fun (?) I have attached one of my newest favorite recipes...just kidding!

#### LING COD

- 1 1/2 to 2 lb. cod
- 3 tbsp. sesame oil
- 2 tbsp. soy sauce
- 1 c. white wine
- 1 bunch cilantro or 1 handful parsley
- 2 scallions, chopped
- 3 garlic, minced



1 tsp. ginger

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Wash fish and brush roaster or rack pan with oil and soy sauce. Place fish in roaster, add wine and remaining ingredients. Bake until fish flakes, about 40-45 minutes.

### The Hauler in Lake Washington

By Scott Boyd and Scott Christopher

Scott Christopher, Marc Greenway and Shaun Gardner (aka the "Nauai Boys") recently teamed up with John Sharps and Peo Orvendal (aka the "GUE boys") to compare notes and to start up some serious underwater research in Lake Washington. Using a Burton side-scan sonar, the team spent well over 300 hours on the lake, and I was very fortunate to accompany them on one of their first dives on their most recent find.

Currently referred to simply as "the Hauler", this unidentified wood hulled vessel lies forgotten in the South end of the lake. This is a 60 foot Work / Fishing boat that sits upright in 120 feet of water. The shape of this vessel mimics that of an early Asian fishing boat, with a very rounded stern. The bow has a large forward work area complete with machinery plus one large open hold and two smaller sealed hatches. The stern of the vessel is completely covered by a two room cabin with large square windows and ornate hinges.

We found that the first hold actually runs the entire length of the boat. Under the cabin area we found a mirror, sink, toilet, and a light fixture (with a red bulb still intact). The door to the cabin has slipped through a crack on the deck and now sits in the first hold. There is some machinery inside along with a large boiler. There is also more equipment past the boiler, but it is a very tight squeeze to access this area and the dive team elected not to explore this area on their first internal expedition.

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)



This boat has a large wooden swim step and several portholes lining the second deck. There is an intact window in a frame that has fell from the cabin area and now rests on the swim step. The rudder and large single prop are still intact. No identifying marks have been found yet.

Visibility in Lake Washington this time of year is typically 5 to 10 feet and the heavy rains and winds had actually reduced our visibility to less than 5 feet. This made photography nearly impossible, and certainly impractical, as the camera couldn't get enough contrast to focus, even assisted by an HID light.

I thoroughly enjoyed not only getting to dive a virgin wreck, but also diving with what are often thought of as different factions in the diving community. In reality, the differences in the team's diving styles and education are very minimal, and they accomplished a great deal

more by working together than either team would have on their own. I had a great time and am looking forward to getting back out on the lake this spring when the viz improves.



### The Holidays in Cozumel

By Amy Kurtenbach

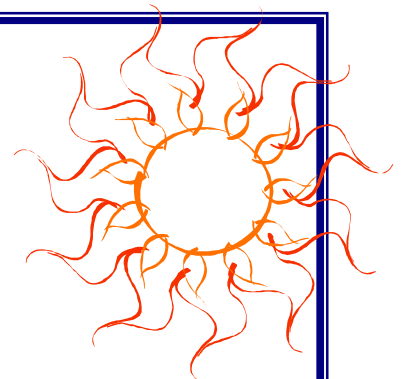
Kelp Krawlers: Anne Richmond, Jamie Nolet, John Brown, Colleen Symmons, Dave Miller, Amy Kurtenbach

The island of Cozumel is located near the eastern tip of the Yucatan Peninsula. Cozumel is Mexico's largest inhabited island and the oldest in the Caribbean group. The island is separated from the mainland by a channel only 12 miles wide. At night time you can see the lights from Playa del Carmen. The island is 34 miles from North to South and 8 miles wide from East to West. Knowing there was so much more on the island to ex-

(Continued on page 4)

## Calendar of Events

- Feb 18th** Dive with Pac Adventures (President's day) - contact Don at [www.pacadventure.com](http://www.pacadventure.com) for details.
- Feb 19th** CLUB MEETING: 7 PM, Dirty Dave's Pizza.
- Mar 18th** CLUB MEETING: 7 PM, Dirty Dave's Pizza.



Check the club web-site [www.kelpkrawlers.org](http://www.kelpkrawlers.org) for upcoming activities.

*(Continued from page 3)*

plore our adventurous spirit started at the boat dock and did not wander much from this place of origin. Our vacation was limited to the hotel, dinner spots, some shopping, the local beach cantina, and the various dive sites. We were told the island is pretty.

We stayed at Villa Blanca Garden Hotel. The hotel is located across the road from Papa Hogs, a Canadian dive shop, and the Caribbean Ocean. The hotel was very affordable during the Christmas break when many of the hotels dramatically raise their prices for the holiday. The rooms were alright, but the service was less than average. The group unanimously agreed that they would not readily recommend the hotel to other Kelp Krawlers and friends. The weather overall was a comfortable 80 degrees. We had sun, some rain at night, and tropical breezes. As it was snowing and cold in Olympia, we relaxed on the beach following a day of diving, shared fish stories, consumed Mexican beers and mixed tropical drinks, ate fresh guacamole, salsa and chips.

The dive operation we used in Cozumel is called Liquid Blue. It is a small dive operation on the island and one of the few that uses steel tanks. We dove with 120 high pressure steels. This luxury translated to deep dives averaging 100' lasting around 65 minutes and shallow dives that lasted well over 80 minutes. It was the nitrogen accumulations in our systems that ended most of our deeper dives. The dive sites we visited on the trip were Columbia Deep, Columbia Shallow, Punta Sur, Santa Rosa, Paradise Reef, Palancar Caves, Punta Sur

Cathedral, and Yucab/Tormentos. In total we dove four days in Cozumel (9 dives), in water that averaged around 81 degrees with incredible vis averaging around 100'+.



*Left to right: Dave Miller, Colleen Symmons, John Brown, Amy Kurtenbach (hovering), Jamie Nolet, Anne Richmond (all Kelp Krawlers)*

On the last day of the trip we boarded the ferry to Playa del Carmen to dive in the cenotes. Rogelio, our guide for the day, met us with his van at the ferry dock to start the day. We were the first to arrive at the chosen cenote. The location was peaceful and quiet and the entrance to the cenote was absolutely gorgeous. The crystal clear blue water was enticing. By the end of our first dive the parking lot was packed full of divers, snorkelers, and sightseers. Rogelio said the site can be busy because

of its location and popularity, but hypothesized because it was the last day of the year many of the divers, including us, wanted to spend the end of 2007 in a cenote. I now understand why many Kelp Krawlers are addicted to diving in the cenotes. The cavern formations are beautiful and the visibility is stunning. With an experienced dive master, cavern diving can be very safe. The combination of permanent lines and visible sources of light, and well trained dive guides, you always know the way out of the cavern. In my opinion, a skilled diver can experience the beauty of diving in the cenotes.

The trip was wonderful and a great way to celebrate the holiday season. I recommend to anyone that Christmas and News Years in the Caribbean is a wonderful way to start a new year!

*(Continued on page 5)*

## LOCAL DIVE SHOP INFORMATION

**Capital Divers**            **866-3684**

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

The shop has now moved to a new location at 1621 Harrison Ave W, Olympia, WA, right across the street from Shure Kleen Car Wash. Nitrox, argon and hyper filtered air fills available.

**Hood Sport 'n Dive**        **877-6818**

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

The shop has now moved to a new location in Hoodsport with convenient boat access. Stop by, say hello and fill up with some nitrox while you wait. Offering discounted access to the Sund Rock Marine Preserve for paid members.

**Underwater Sports**        **493-0322**

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

Wreck certification course, March 7,8,9 with Porthole Charters. \$600 for trip, \$200 for class. Contact Janet for information.

## Visibility Report

### Sund Rock

With the recent flooding, there has been a lot of sediment flowing into Hood Canal and being deposited on the bottom. The report from Sund Rock, in the words of one diver, is that we should be calling it Mud Rock. There is about a 2-3" layer of very light sediment that unsettles easily and makes an already difficult visibility even worse. As you all know, that is hardly a deterrent for us hardy NW divers, but make sure you keep well off the bottom!



*(Continued from page 4)*

### Object Found

By Jeff Carr

Found this while diving with my Cousin Dan and finally got around to cleaning it. It is a sight glass of some sort. Each side has a glass window that is removable for cleaning. Cool little find. I forgot to get a 'before' picture this time.

### Fun Stuff

From a blog on the web found by John Cipriano:

"I guess these are for women who like to scuba dive off of Hugh Hefner's yacht, 'cause there's no way you'd be able to walk in heels on the beach. That said, I'm not sure you'd be able to walk in these on any surface, so it's possible that their only purpose is to help your legs look sexier ... underwater."

They might, however, make a cute gift for your favorite ultra-girly diving enthusiast -- assuming you can find one."



*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

## **Christmas Party**

By Steve Sutton

Although we are some time from Christmas, we did have a great gathering early in December at the grange. The food was mountainous and delicious and the white elephant exchange was riotous per usual. And why is it we just can't settle for what we get? Now what kind of fun would that be? Here are a few pictures from the event.



*Prez Sez*



*Paul Jeffers wins the coveted Seahawk tickets donated by Steve Fornoff*



*Michael Fitz "going for bust"*



*A group shot*



*Caroline Reese and Colleen Symmons*



*Rich Penny double pumping*

## New Year's Day Dive

By Steve Sutton

On January 1 a hearty bunch of us braved the cold weather and really, really bad visibility at Sund Rock just to get wet and have the annual barbeque at Hoodsport N Dive. As you noted in the visibility report, the covering of silt on everything, coupled with the really bad visibility made diving an exercise in navigation and buddy finding. Somehow, the critters didn't seem to mind.



*John Cipriano and Kelly Rossman sampling the product*

A much better time was had munching great tri-tip beef Philly sandwiches (thanks to Tim & Kim Stenek) and hot-dogs. Thanks to John Cipriano for organizing the event.



*Ron Ault and Steve Fornoff*



*Lee Artman explains a point to Ron Ault*

## Club Meeting Notes for 1/15/08

The meeting was opened by Amy at 7PM.

New people introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their dive experience. There were 5 new people and one from the Aquanuts.

Each attending officer spoke briefly about their office and what is expected of them throughout the coming year. Dave Miller was not present at this meeting to speak for the Vice Presidency.

Some suggestions were made for the Website, dive reports, photos and membership form location. Scott covered some Yahoo group information also.

The Christmas party synopsis was discussed. Humphrey the dog was the most outstanding gift and we had about 60 people in attendance. Thank you to Kim for making all the calls.

The New Years dive at Sund Rock was discussed. It began a little late, and the diving was awful, but a good time was had. 25 people showed up. Philly Cheese Steak and Key Lime Pie.

Diving interest in the future were brought up. Steve Griffith, who retires this month, would like to see more Canada trips and events. John talked about the poor conditions at Sund Rock. Titlow Beach Club dive on the 19th. Arrive at 8am, in water at 8:30. 1.6 foot exchange. On the 20th, Porthole will have a 3 tank dive managed by Justin at U/W Sports. Cell 360-971-3782. Dalco, Pt. Defiance Wall and Sunrise dives are planned <cancelled>. Monday, Feb. 18 there is a Pac-Adventures trip to Hood Canal. Call John for info. Some thoughts were thrown out for an Octopus survey and a presidents day dive.

Chrissy Blackmer won the 50/50, \$36.

*(Continued from page 7)*

## **Oyster Festival**

By Steve Sutton

The Oyster Festival was well attended this year and the Kelp Krawlers thank the Aquanuts for their generous contribution to the club from the proceeds. Here are a few photos from the event.



*Caroline Fornoff teaches a group of students*



*The Aquanuts Gang*



*A molting crab in the aquarium*