



# KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

October 2004

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## Devolution or Evolution?

About 1 month ago I decided to give up technical diving, not all diving, just high risk diving. I said goodbye to doubles, deco bottles, redundant everything, exotic gases and all the like. I have been thinking about this for a bit and one day I just came to the conclusion that 5 years, 50 to 75 times a year was enough for me.

I figure there are three ways to come this conclusion:

1. Have an accident.

I am not invincible, invulnerable, nor immortal.

Obviously, I think we have the answers to the mysteries of this kind of diving, but we really are still operating in experimental mode. In retrospect, I have become arrogant. This is a bad thing. Make no mistake, diving is a sport with real risks, but the recreational form is very benign and risk management is most reasonable. Technical diving is dangerous on another level. There really is no room for error. The consequences are serious. When you can no longer ascend to the surface directly, the whole game changes. You are sleeping on the train tracks.

Those of you playing with the idea of getting involved in higher risk diving, please ask yourself one question: "Would I do this if I could never tell anyone I do it, or if not another single person would ever know I did it?"

2. Have a near miss and get a good scare.

I am very fortunate to have Mike Beyer as my dive buddy. We do not come back from our dives with brave stories of close encounters with death and destruction. We practice diligently. We study constantly, and our water skills are always paramount.

We had one mishap that involved gas sharing for real. The incident was handled so well that it just made us both feel more confident.

Everyone feels anxiety in varying degrees under water at one time or another. It is an alien environment that needs to be respected. The response spectrum runs from a general uneasiness to full panic. How we deal with these moments is what is important.

If you can honestly say you have never been afraid underwater, please let me know, because I would rather not dive with you.

3. I choose to no longer do this sort of diving.

Poet Rainier Maria Rilke said: "Our deepest fears are like dragons guarding our deepest treasure."

I have shook hands with several of my dragons and we are friends. That is enough for me.

Jerry

### 2004 OFFICERS

*President*

Jerry Ehrlich  
943-9148

*Vice President*

Greg Volkhardt  
866-0702

*Treasurer*

Wayne Campbell  
789-3467

*Secretary and Editor*

Becky Lundin  
413-5863

*Historian*

Mike Beyer  
754-7705

### MEMBERSHIP

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

Make checks payable to:  
Wayne Campbell  
(Kelp Krawlers)

Mail to:  
Becky Lundin

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## October Meeting:

Meeting is at Dirty Dave's Pizza Parlor on Martin Way, on Tuesday, October 19th. We have a guest speaker this month, a biologist from the Squaxin Island Tribe. He will be talking about the sonic tagging that they are doing on coho salmon and ling cod. Meeting starts at 7pm, come early to order food, drink, and socialize!

## September Meeting Attendance:

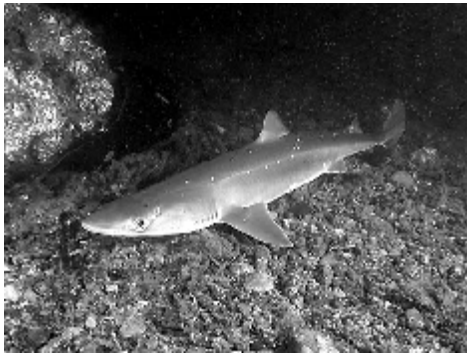
Lee, Oleta, and Rachel Artman, Scott & Janet Boyd, Brad Congdon, Jerry & Rebecca Ehrlich, Steve & Carolyn Fornoff, Patti Garrett, Rodger Gomez, Amy Kurtenbach, Becky Lundin, Greg Volkhardt, and Jamie Welsh for a total of 16 people.

## Spiny Dogfish Shark - by Scott Boyd

One of my favorite local pests, the Spiny dogfish shark (*Squalus acanthias*), has a sharp, mildly venomous spine in front of each dorsal fin. These sharks are well known to local divers and are often the bane of local fishermen, as they are so abundant; they commonly interrupt several large commercial fisheries in both oceans. As with most sharks, they have bodies which are dark gray above and white below, with white spots on the sides.

Dogfish is typically marketed as "rock shark", "rock cod" or "rock salmon" and is often eaten as European fish and chips. Dogfish are commercially harvested off our Coast, with about 6000 tons taken annually off of British Columbia. The name dogfish refers to the gregarious nature of this species, which travel in large packs. Divers will typically encounter these small sharks in the late summer months from July to September, when they are fond of "buzzing" divers, which can be unnerving when you don't see them coming.

Dogfish often occur in schools segregated by size and sex. In the Pacific Ocean the age of maturity for female spiny dogfish ranges from 20-35 years (about 3 feet in length). Dogfish are believed to live to almost 100 years of age. The females are larger than the males, producing an average of 7 live pups that are about 10 inches long. The gestation period is the longest of any vertebrate, at almost 24 months. This species can grow to around 5 feet and weigh as much as 20 pounds, although sharks that size are uncommon.



The spiny dogfish is a voracious predator that feeds primarily on the smaller fishes. They are known to prey heavily on schools of spawning herring, and packs of dogfish are often linked with the return of herring to our coastal waters. Researchers have found many different species of vertebrates and invertebrates in the stomachs of these pesky predators, so it would appear that they are not that picky when they feed.

The spiny dogfish is believed to be the worlds' most abundant shark and is the predominant shark species in the Pacific Northwest. Dogfish occur at depths from the surface down to 3000 feet. They occur worldwide, migrating to stay within a temperature range between 45° and 59°F as they follow their food. They are also capable of very long migrations, and one shark tagged off of the Washington Coast was captured 7 years later near Honshu, Japan (4000 miles away), where I'm sure they made it into soup.

## Calendar of Events

Oct 19th: Meeting : Sonic tagging of coho salmon and ling cod  
Nov 16th: Meeting: Nominations and Elections  
Dec 17th: Christmas Party (in lieu of meeting).

## Treasurer's Report

We have \$1,100, less \$265.58 (includes tax) for 250 brochures. We approved \$400 and the balance to be run for Oysterfest, 50 color and 500 black and white or 1000 black and white? We will have about a \$650 balance when this project is finished.

## Christmas Party

The Hood Canal Aquanuts are joining us at our Christmas Party this year. It will be held on December 17, at Perpetual Motion. It is located next to the Mud Bay Park-n-Ride, and holds over 100 people. There are 3 buildings that include a basketball court/party hall, music, volleyball, ping pong, foosball, karaoke or just plain socializing.

We will have a potluck (be sure to bring your drink of choice), and the white elephant gift exchange. This is always a fun event, so be sure to mark your calendars now!

## November Nominations/Elections

November, and our annual club officer nominations and elections meeting will be here soon! Some of the nominations for 2005 are:

President: Jamie Welsh  
Vice President: Steve Fornoff  
Treasurer: Wayne Campbell  
Secretary/Editor: Scott Boyd  
Historian: Rodger Gomez

If you or someone you know would like to be considered, please let us know by the beginning of the Nov meeting, so that the voting can commence!

## Classified Ads



For Sale: ReefMaster U/W Film Camera w/external strobe and 2 macro lenses. \$150.00. Retail new for over \$400. Call or email Becky - 413-5863 or [beckylundin@comcast.net](mailto:beckylundin@comcast.net) if interested. All manuals included, along with soft

carrying case. Camera can be taken out of the housing and used on land, also.

## Oysterfest

The touch tanks at Oysterfest were a big hit with the crowds this year, as always. Those of you that participated, thanks!

Thursday night dive: Brad Congdon, and Carolyn Fornoff.

Weekend helpers: Jerry & Becky Ehrlich, Steve & Carolyn Fornoff, Greg & Fran Volkhardt, Becky Lundin, and dual-club members Sue Treinen and Jamie Welsh.

If I missed anyone, please let me know.

Jamie has a check from the Aquanuts in the amount of \$461.75 for our clubs participation this year. Thank you to Jamie and the Aquanuts! (Gee, kinda sounds like a band or something.....)

