



KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

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 Kelp Krawler dues:
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Inside this issue:

Dive Reports	2
Oct Meeting Notes	2
November Happenings	3
Dive Shop News	3
Contact List	4
Calendar of Events	4

What I learned in Photo Class

by Scott Boyd

Joe Wysocki from **Optiquatics** spent a long three-day weekend herding a group of unmanageable divers around South Puget Sound as part of an **Underwater Photography Class** that I was fortunate enough to take part in. The group ranged from a **couple of old dogs** like me to a few new photographers that were still wet behind the ears. Joe did a great job of providing just enough direction to get the entire group in the water, again and again, taking pictures, then viewing and critiquing the pictures.

This style of interactive learning-while-doing was extremely successful, and I was amazed at the huge improvements the new photographers made in just a few short days. Joe is heading back up here to lead another class on January 5th-8th and I would encourage any would-be photographers to sign up. Joe provides very high quality cameras and housings (the same type that I use), and will set them up for you and have you in the water taking pictures on day one!

Oh yeah, here's what I learned:

- Underwater Photographers make lousy buddies.** Our four-man photographic team descended together, went, "OH, look at the pretty fishies", and when I looked around 30 seconds later I was all alone. Was it something I said?
- Amy has really got a set of lungs (**NO**, not what you are thinking)! When she yells, "**JOE!**" from the water, every head from Hoodsport to Mike's Beach turns to pay attention!
- You can teach an old dog new tricks!** I'm proof. Joe got me motivated to get in the water and to start experimenting with my camera again.
- Make sure the new camera/lens combination that you are trying out works **BEFORE** you get in the water. Doh!
- When the **nudibranch** crawls onto the glass of your flat port, you are too close.

Otherwise, you aren't close enough!

- Amy gets cranky** when you take her picture and scare off the Red Irish Lord she was photographing. I thought only wives were capable of giving you "the look"!
- The improvement in the images the new photographers were getting was phenomenal. By day three, they were getting shots that took me well over a year to be able to capture.

Dive Site Reports:



Maury Island Barges

The Maury Island Barges is a really pleasant dive site located along the east side of Maury Island (which is attached to Vashon Island). This boat dive is the site of a gravel mine with quite a bit of controversy over expanding the docks and gravel operations there to build the third runway at Sea-Tac airport. The mining contractor promises to save the barges for divers, but the island residents just do not want the extra traffic and noise.

For divers, this makes a nice second dive after diving KVI Tower, which is located around the corner. The pilings are covered with marine life, and there are 3 large barges in various stages of decay that are lined up to the east of the southern half of the pilings. There is also a 38' pleasure craft sunk just to the North of the Barges.

Tie up to the dolphins (cluster of pilings) and
(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

drop down into the 35' deep water. The barges run at about 40'-60' depth, and the small boat sunk to the North of the barges is at about the same depth.

I prefer diving this site in the fall and winter when the visibility is spectacular. In the summer, this site usually is too shallow for good viz. The easiest way to find this site is to look for the large conveyor dock along the east side of Maury Island, and the old quarry.



Bandito Charters visits this site frequently. Rick runs an excellent and safe operation and its a great way to see this dive site in Puget Sound.

Marine Park Pooper Pipeline

In recent weeks there has been quite a bit of Internet Chatter about a new dive site between Les Davis and Lobster Shop wall that consists of an exposed pipeline that is just covered with Plumose Anemones and is prolific with those hard to find critters. Since the first reports appeared, it has been confirmed that the pipeline is in fact the sewage outfall from the North Tacoma Wastewater Treatment Plant and the site has picked up the nickname of the "**Pooper Pipeline**".

Brian Smith and I decided to go check out the site ourselves to see what all of the fuss was about. Entry to the site is very easy, park in the lot just past Les Davis, and there is an **easy entry** just west of the large concrete structure that marks the start of the pipeline. Swim out on a heading of about 30° (right toward the large yellow buoy that marks the end of the pipeline), following the gravel path along the sandy bottom until you run into a huge steel box at about 85' of depth that marks the beginning of the exposed section of the pipeline.

This large connector box is loaded with Grunt Sculpins, Red Octopus and several varieties of gunnels and poachers. As you descend further down the line, you'll discover huge anemones, big rockfish, decorated warbonnets and the occasional Red Bro-tula. Be sure not to swim directly over the pipeline though, as

you'll run head first into one of many outfalls that are pointing back towards the beach. The high flow of treated waste water from these goose-necked discharges will drop the visibility to near zero, and you'll be asking yourself, "hey, where did everybody go?"

There are additional outfalls pointing out to the sides that must be "avoided" as you descend further, before the pipeline ends at 150' of depth (high tide). All in all a pleasant dive and a nice change of pace when Les Davis looks a bit too busy.



Just be sure to wash your hands when you are done with your dive!

October Meeting Notes:

Steve Fornoff did a great job of ad-libbing an agenda and running one of our best meetings this year. **Alan Niles** displayed some of his outstanding photos in composite frames and bounced ideas off the dive club about what kinds of photos they would like to see. **Bonnie Smith** is putting together another Optiquatics Underwater Photography seminar that will be held on January 5th - 8th. These are great fun and are highly recommended (see next page).

John Tupper talked about another successful Oysterfest, even with the rainy weather, and presented the Kelp Krawlers with a \$500 check for our assistance with the touch tanks! **THANKS JOHN!**

After much discussion, it was decided the club **Christmas Party** will be held at **Cascade Photographics on 207 Legion Way, at 6:30 PM on Saturday, December 3rd.** Thanks Alan!!

Attendess: Gene Eckhardt, Mike Scholl, Bonnie Smith, Andy Mohrle, John Brown, Mark Reece, Jerry Ehrlich, Steve Griffith, John Tupper, Janet and Scott Boyd, Steve Sutton, Becky Lundin, Steve and Carolyn Fornoff, Wayne Campbell, Alan Niles, Duane Hamrick.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

November Dive Club Meeting:

Our November meeting will feature **Ernest Brooks II**, a noted professional photographer, educator and ambassador for the photographic industry. Ernest has won international acclaim for underwater photography and audio/visual presentations. As a



professional photographer he has contributed to numerous magazines and organizations including: **Cousteau Society, Ocean Realm, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Nature Conservancy and Natural Wildlife** to name a few. He has traveled extensively, and in pursuit of dramatic marine images he has descended into the spectacular waters beneath the polar icecaps and in almost every ocean on Earth. His belief is that photographs are the evidence that truly illustrate change and he is an advocate for protecting our ocean environment.

Mr. Brooks currently lives in Olympia and will speak to us about some of his adventures and show us some of his award winning photographs. Election of new dive club officers will take place following the presentation as well as final planning for the infamous **Kelp Krawlers Christmas Party and Gift Exchange** which will be held on **December 3rd at 6:30 P.M.!**

November Dive Planning:

November 26th and 27th, dive the **Diamond Knot** with **Port-hole Charters**. This is a very advanced Wreck dive in the Straights of Juan de Fuca just off of the Salt Creek recreation area. Maximum depth is usually about 120', but divers must be prepared to make a free ascent and complete any deco in rough conditions. It is very easy to lose the up line on this site, which is known for very strong and tricky currents. For more information, **contact Scott Boyd**.

Underwater Photography Workshop

On **January 5th - 8th**, instructor, Joe Wysocki will be on hand to show you how to get the best results from your equipment. He really wants you to learn from this workshop, so he will encourage you to take lots of photos. To attain those goals you will be diving two days and up to 3 dives a day.

Joe provides camera equipment for you to try. This class is loads of information, grand fun, and you receive help from a true expert in the field of underwater photography. Be prepared for the best three-day class you'd ever want to take. The information will stick with you and have you craving that next dive vacation!

Classes will be held at the classroom just outside of Hoodspout N Dive, starting at 6pm Thursday evening. Diving will take place Friday and Saturday at Sund Rock, with daily critiquing. Sunday will primarily focus on individual work, by use of computers. On the last evening there will be a "mini" photo contest.

Roger Roth the founder of the Underwater Images competition, will be on hand and available to answer questions and to help divers with underwater video, to talk about the exciting world of competitions, and, how to get the right composition and what judges look for in that perfect shot.

10% discount for early registration, ends December 15, space is limited to 10-15 students, please register early to insure yourself a spot in this class. Regular cost of this class is \$250 per individual and includes instruction, handouts, and use of cameras.

Contact Amy Kurtenbach (360)789-9992 or **Bonnie Smith** (360)280-2372.

DIVE SHOP NEWS:

Capital Divers

866-3684

www.capitaldivers.com

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

Bandito Charters on **Saturday, Nov 19** and Dec 18.

Dive Safe and Play Nice!!

Hood Sport 'n Dive

(360) 877-6818

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

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