



KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

Dec 2008, Jan 2009

www.kelpkrawlers.org

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2009 OFFICERS

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Webmaster

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Kelp Krawler dues:

\$15 single or \$25 family

**See website for
membership form**

Prez Sez

By Amy Kurtenbach

On the historic day of November 18, 2008, following a lengthy discussion about the club's election process, the club elected the 2009 Kelp Krawlers Board. Scott Boyd will continue as the Webmaster. Steve Sutton will carry on as our Editor. Steve Fornoff will keep all of our budget stuff straight as the Treasurer for the club. Ryan Caldwell and Chris Kalish will share the position and responsibilities of the Dive Officer position. Janet Boyd will be our Membership Officer and Secretary. Troy Skelton will be our Vice-President, and I will continue as the President of the club.

A lot of the board members were re-elected. As the club continues to grow it is important that we have both the experience and knowledge of a seasoned board, but it is equally important that we have new folks on the board that can bring about new thoughts and energy. Without doubt, there will be openings on the board in 2010. I encourage club members to look over the position descriptions on our website and to consider a position on the board.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the 2008 board for their hard work over the year. I also would like to thank the club members for their dedication, energy, willingness to contribute and volunteer, and attendance at club meeting. It is so exciting to see a full room every third Tuesday of the month at Dirty Dave's Pizza Parlor; it is encouraging to consistently see new faces at the meeting; and it is pure joy to see Kelp Krawlers diving.

I wish you the best in 2009. Remember each and every dive is, "THE BEST DIVE EVER!", so dive safe and dive often!

Safe diving and lots of fish stories.

Oysterfest 2008

By Amy Kurtenbach with contributions from John Tupper

The first week of October was the 29th consecutive year of Oysterfest. Although rain persisted, the Shelton Rotary reported that Oysterfest hosted 400 more visitors than last year. If you attended the event you probably watched an oyster shucking contests or a cooking event; slurped some oysters or ate various seafood and fresh cuisine; sipped wine and drank beer; chased after kids or listened to music. And, because of the efforts of the Aquanut Dive Club, for the last 25 years you had the opportunity to collectively see, touch, and most importantly learn about our northwest marine critters, their bounty, and the environmental factors that can impact their ability to persevere in the Puget Sound estuary.

The Hood Canal Aquanauts warmly welcomed the Kelp Krawlers as cohorts at Oysterfest. With the help of volunteers, a week prior to the event the tanks were set-up, on the Thursday before opening day divers from the clubs collected critters from Hood Canal, and the WDFW provided geoduck and critter from northern Puget Sound. In all, the touch tanks had a large selection of sea cucumbers, starfish, geoduck, crabs, sand dollars, and moon snails. The fish tanks were filled withurchins, some fish, nudibranch, and other general flora and fauna. Saturday and Sunday both Aquanauts and Kelp Krawlers watched over the exhibit and answer questions. Sunday evening the exhibit was broken down and stored for next year's use. Thank you to all of our volunteers.

This list is some of the folks that helped with the event. Names missed on the list does not reflect a lack of gratitude; only our inability to remember everyone who volunteered: Jamie Welsh, Patti Christelli, Bob Treinnen, Sue Treinnen, Jerry Foster,

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Diane Foster, Jan Tupper, John Tupper, Bellaine West, Steve Boothe, Jeannette Boothe, Warren Harris, Teresa Harris, Morgan Harris, Arline Fullerton, Jake Rufer, Al Tupper, Patti Tupper, Alan Rammer, Rana Brown, Kim Stenek, Wendy Rude, Steven Griffith, Martha Copeland, Steve Fornoff, Carolyn Fornoff, Dorothy, Lee Lindquist, Jeana Krumland, Janet Boyd, Scott Boyd, Chris Johnson, Amy Kurtenbach, Carolyn Reece, Mark Reece, Steve Sutton, Steve Phillips, Cris Kalish, Ed, Dorothy Linzee, and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife personnel.

Conservation Corner

By: Steve Sutton

"Plastics". If you are Dustin Hoffman's character in the 1967 movie, *The Graduate*, this was the one word advice for a success career. Since that time we have learned that this strong, yet lightweight substance is a great convenience, but is becoming a blight on our environment.

The problem with plastic is that it never really breaks down in the environment. When that milk jug blows out of a garbage can and gets carried out into the ocean, it floats nicely, getting a tan from the sun. The sun does make the material brittle which then breaks into tiny little floating pieces in the water.

In the Central North Pacific, the trade winds blow clockwise in a large circular path in the Pacific Rim, and within the eastern loop of this path is a giant natural area of circulating water where debris has been collecting for many years. The principal content of this dump is plastic, much of it those tiny pieces from objects like milk jugs.

In this Central North Pacific Gyre, or the Great Pacific Garbage Patch as it is known, the garbage heap covers an area twice the size of Texas and is estimated to weigh 100 million tons. The garbage floats from 3 inches to 300 feet below the surface of the water and because of the size of the pieces, it is virtually impossible to clean them out of the water. Even if we could clean it out, what would we do with it? It can't be incinerated as there is no process that would contain the toxic chemicals that would rise into the atmosphere only to either fall to the earth or become part of the air we breath.

Fish and birds ingest these plastic pieces from the garbage dump thinking it is food. Birds like the albatross then carry the "food" back to their waiting chicks that ingest the substance after which many die of starvation.

So how can we as individuals minimize this depressing situation and keep more plastics out of the oceans?

According the Algalita Marine Research Foundation (www.algalita.org) which does extensive research in this area, the following is a list of suggestions:

1. Create a 100% recyclable and compostable grocery list. Everything goes either into the recycle bin or the compost pile.

2. If you must buy consumable products, choose paper, glass or bio-plastic.
3. Sweep sidewalks, don't hose them.
4. Use natural pest killers in the garden such as ladybugs, decollate snails or praying mantis eggs; use pesticides sparingly.
5. Dispose of oil, paint, or toxic chemicals in a hazardous chemical waste facility.
6. Keep vehicles well maintained. Clean up and spills and keep engines from leaking fluids.
7. Wash the car on the lawn so the water soaks into the ground.
8. Purchase household cleaners that are low in phosphorous to reduce nutrient discharge into lakes and rivers.
9. Ask your communities to install screens over storm drains and keep them free of litter and garbage.
10. Buy in bulk and bring your own cloth bag to the grocery store.

Galapagos Trip

By: Amy Kurtenbach and Scott Boyd

Another Kelp Krawler's sticker has been deployed in a very prominent location on one of the portside doors of the Galapagos Aggressor 1. Below it are several other stickers from clubs around the world and rumor has it that a red sticker was seen on a tortoise's shell (Dave~ really, you went too far this time, Wink, Wink, Nudge, Nudge ☺).



No, Darwin isn't turning in his grave - Dave Miller just used his Photoshop skills!

Animals

A trip to the Galapagos Islands is extraordinary because of all the animals. The Islands feature an amazing diversity of endemic critters which are unusually tame due to lack of predators and isolation from most human contact. We were able to stand within feet of blue footed boobies, marine iguanas, and frigates. We stepped over seals who sunbathed on the hiking trails and penguins sunbathed next to marine iguanas and sea lions on the rocks.

In the water we saw in abundance sea turtles, healthy schools of fish, mantas and various schools of rays. We swam with schools of sharks; hammerhead, Galapagos, silky, white tip and black tip sharks. Large schools of barracudas, salamas and dolphins were everywhere. Blennies, damsels, scorpion fish, eels, and hawkfish were plentiful. Some of the schools of fish were so large; you could swim within the school only feet from your dive partner and not see them. It is an amazing experience to be within 360 degrees of fish swimming, and look into the eyes of hundreds of fish who were wondering what the he*\$#%! you are? Watching your gauges was a necessity due to the hypnotic nature of the experience.

Whale Shark

Having the opportunity to see and swim with a whale shark was an amazing and humbling experience. As the shark came into focus, its size, its beauty, and it's gentle nature became apparent. The shark did not appear to be moving; it just motored by with what appeared to be little effort. Just to be in the presence of a creature that large, dwarfing the divers around it, and to look into its eyes where you will only see peace and contentment is a bone-chilling, awe-inspiring, experience. To swim with a whale shark below the Darwin Island arch should be on every diver's bucket-list.

Whale sharks can be found in the world's tropical and warm-temperate oceans. The shark is capable of diving to depths of over 2,000 ft. As you swim with each shark

watching your gauges is a must. Swimming as hard as you can to keep up, it was easy to find yourself at depths below 100' with very limited air.

Whale sharks are filter feeders, feeding on various plankton, krill, and small nektonic life. Their mouths are as wide as a diver with very small teeth and five large pairs of gills. All of this can be verified by our group, as many came within kissing distance of the gentle creature. Her small eyes are located surprising towards the front of the shark's wide, flat head. On such a large creature, her eyes are comparable to the size of a baseball. On every shark we viewed multiple remoras where going for a free ride. The life span of this amazing creature is estimated to be over 100 years.

Divers

There were thirteen divers on the boat and almost as many crew members. Most of the divers were Kelp Krawlers, the others were compelled to join by our persuasive membership coordinator Janet Boyd. The divers were: Scott and Janet Boyd, Dave and Colleen Miller (honeymooners), Tom Golden, and Amy Kurtenbach. The honorary Kelp Krawlers are Tim Villm, Ed Fletcher, Andy Birlingham, Linda Cline, Richard Maliszewski and Mike and Leslie North.

The Boat

The Aggressor fleet has two boats located in the Galapagos. They are both 100 feet long and are identical. We spent ten days on the Galapagos Aggressor 1 and only occasionally saw the other Aggressor boat. The other boat was filled by Russian divers lovingly referred to as the "enemy". Although they were a friendly crew that drank vodka and fortunately not a lot of red wine (our boat ran dry and we boarded the enemy's boat and took our much deserved bounty), our group developed a friendly challenge to not share our dive site. This equated to early dives and friendly hand gestures.

The boats sleep 14 guests comfortably. Accommodations on the boat include 4 deluxe cabins with two single beds

Calendar of Events

Feb 17 CLUB MEETING: 7 PM, Dirty Dave's Pizza \

Kelp Krawlers club dive schedule

Month Date Dive Site Meet Splash Approximate Currents, Slack & tide height (Narrows 2008 Data)

Watch next month's newsletter for an expanded dive list.

Check the club web-site www.kelpkrawlers.org for upcoming activities.

and three deluxe cabins with queen beds. Each of the cabins has its own head and thermostat with air conditioning. There was a large salon with plenty of seating and a flat screen TV for viewing videos taken on the dive. There was also a large deck for divers and gear and a decent area for camera storage and preparation. Each diver was provided with a station that held their gear and under the seat was storage for smaller items. There was plenty of room on the boat to socialize with the group or to find a private corner.

Food

The menu on board varied and food was plentiful. The morning breakfast consisted of fresh fruits, cereals, eggs cooked to order, bacon, and either pancakes or waffles. There were a series of snacks that were served after each dive. Lunch was always a meal the size of a typical dinner and dinner was a grand affair. All meals were served to us at our seats with the exception of lunch and each meal was displayed proudly by the chef either in its presentation or the carved critters made from fruit as a centerpiece.

Weather

It is the rainy season in the Galapagos. Each morning we woke up to overcast skies with a temperature of around 70 degrees. Around noon, the sky would break, the orb would appear and typically the temperature would increase to around the mid 80's in the afternoon. The winter weather contributed to the poor water conditions. The open waters were choppy with large swells. Calmer waters were only found in the protected harbors of the islands.

The Islands

The Galapagos Islands stretch over 174-miles from east to west. There are 13 main islands, 6 smaller islands, and 107 rocks and islets (surfacing rocks). The equator passes right through the crater of the wolf volcano on Isabela Island. The San Cristobal, is the easternmost island of the Galapagos group, located about 600 miles west of Ecuador.

The islands are located at the Galapagos Triple Junction, which is atop a hotspot where the earth's crust is being melted from below, creating volcanoes. The oldest island is thought to have formed between 5 and 10 million years ago. The youngest islands, Isabela and Fernandina, are still being formed, with the most recent volcanic eruption in May, 2008. Each island has its own unique ecosystem which inspired Darwin's theory of evolution.

The islands are best known by the studies of Charles Darwin and his "theory of Evolution". In 1831, Charles Darwin sailed on the HMS Beagle. When he arrived on the islands he was only twenty years old. His findings on the theory of evolution were published thirty years later.

Darwin is credited with the theory of evolution by natural selection. Natural selection theorizes that the strongest survive and propagate therefore increase the strength of the species. Simply, he theorized that animals and plants on the island were transported by the various currents and wind, via swimming or on land rafts of debris, etc. Once establish the strongest adapted to the conditions on that island, survived and propagated.

Diving

We departed on our journey to Ecuador on October 25, 2008 and returned on November 8, 2008. In our ab-

LOCAL DIVE SHOP INFORMATION

Capital Divers 866-3684

www.capitaldivers.com

The shop is located 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

The shop is located at 24080 N. Hwy 101, next to the public docks in Hoodspport. The shop is now open 7 days a week with extended hours, call or go on our web site for new hours. Stop by and fill up with Nitrox & Argon while you wait. And we offer discounted access to Sund Rock for paid KK members.

Underwater Sports 493-0322

www.underwatersports.com

Visibility Report

In the past month or so, the visibility has ranged widely at Sund Rock, but has at times been very good. Critters abound, especially the octos and wolf eels.



since we missed an historic election, the daylight savings leap, and lots of rain and crummy weather at home ☹.

We had the opportunity to make 28 dives on the trip. We averaged 3-4 dives per day starting around 8am and ending in time for happy hour. We joined the boat on Sunday, October 27 at San Christobal and on our first check-out dive we had the opportunity to swim with seals.

During the journey to Darwin Island, our luxury cruise is pleasantly highlighted with dives at Seymour, and Santiago. We also experienced our first of three land tours. The boat travelled each night the third morning we woke up moored near Isabella Island. We spent two days at Isabella. After another long night of travelling, we woke at Wolf Island and made six dives at sites call Landslide and the Point and then travelled to the remarkable Darwin Island. Those who had been to Darwin before were foaming at the mouth (Scott, Janet and Ed)! We stayed at Darwin's Arch for 2.5 days and made the ten most incredible dives of my life.

On the way back to civilization, we made dives Cousins Rock and spent the afternoon climbing to the light marker on Santiago Island. The last dive of the trip was at Gordon's Rock. We completed the trip by visiting the Darwin Research Center at Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz Island. Happy hour that night was on the boat and dinner was at a local restaurant.

Conservation

In 1986, 43,496 sq miles of ocean was declared a marine reserve. This is second only in size to Australia's Great Barrier Reef. In 1990 the archipelago became a whale sanctuary. In 1978 UNESCO recognized the islands as a World Heritage Site, and in 1985 a Biosphere Reserve, later extended in December 2001 to include the marine reserve. When you land on the island the government collects a \$200.00 park fee to pay for conservation efforts and enforcement. Even with funding for protection and conservation, poaching and illegal fishing practices persist.

Photo locations

There were many, many cameras on the boat not to be unmatched by video equipment. There are various websites that have been set-up to share the photos. If you would

like to view some of the photos taken of the trip, you can visit the following websites:

www.dancingfish.com Linda Cline

www.boydski.com Scott Boyd

Hall of fame and shame

An absolutely amazing crew with exceptional customer service while on the Aggressor 1

Leslie's whale shark curse was finally broken

Vain videographers (pretty smiles and bubbles Mike)

Various hand gestures that can be used underwater to describe acts of stupidity, large fish and kissing body parts.

The eating habits of the British were discussed at length

Underwater rock climbing

Capturing red wine from the Russians, there be pirates in these islands

The appropriate use of the phrase "big boobies or lots of boobies everywhere"....even when referring to the birds

"Cupcake"

How to beat your Dad at chess

Head on collision with a shark

The amazing sensation of moray eels swimming between your legs (ask Scott)

General fish stories and lies (lots and lots of lies)

More camera and video gear than you can imagine (lens envy)

Propaganda from a growing organization of "covered" males

The perfect man, "Solomon"

Fernando the waiter

Full pelican (turkey) dinner with all the trimmings on day 8 of the journey

Lots and lots of vino tinto (red wine) and local Pilsener, a Galapagos beer

Lonesome George the tortoise is no longer lonesome (way to go George)....

The mythical mola mola (aka Snipe Hunting)

Painted fish toes

The Russians (the enemy ☹)

Andy, the whale shark chasing ballistic missile

The honeymooners

The smiling, helpful, attentive, panga guy!

PADI dive instruction : "Do as I say and not as I do..." or, "When you computer screams at you put it in gauge mode"

General unconditional harassment

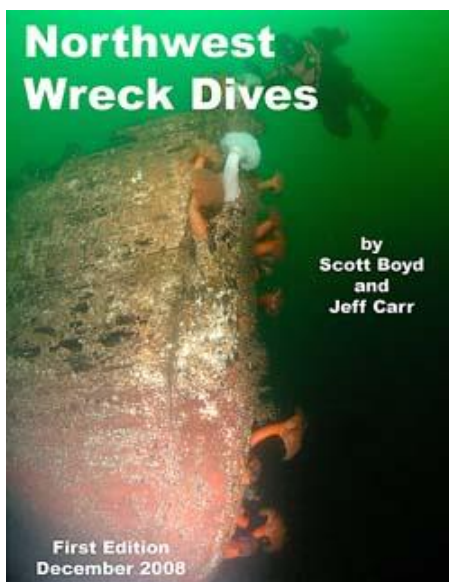
The bell that chimed for diving and dining....gotta love that bell!

Book Release

November 18, 2008 - Olympia, WA – Hidden beneath the dark waters of Puget Sound lays a rich maritime history waiting to be discovered. Emerald Sea Scuba, LLC, today announced the release of Northwest Wreck Dives (978-0-9821510-1-3, paperback, 208 pp, 5½ x 8½, \$24.95), a fresh, new book that exposes some of these magnificent historical resources to history buffs and wreck divers for the first time.

Underwater explorers Scott Boyd and Jeff Carr spent several years searching northwest waters for hidden shipwrecks from the eras of the Mosquito Fleet

and the glory days of sail. They have now compiled and released the history and GPS locations of more than one hundred wrecks that can be visited by recreational scuba divers throughout the Pacific Northwest. Published by Emerald Sea Scuba, LLC and printed in Centralia, Washington, Boyd and Carr's 208-page dive guide will benefit historians and divers from around the world.



Northwest Wreck Dives provides fascinating historical backgrounds, maps and the precise positions of clipper ships, tramp steamers, passenger ferries and many of the grand vessels that plied the waters of the Inland Sea. The oldest wreck in the book sank more than 125 years ago after the clipper ship had made more than ten runs "around the horn" from New York to San Francisco and back.

"The 7,700 ton, Panamanian-flagged tramp steamer Andalusia was west bound in the Strait of Juan de Fuca with a cargo of 5 million board feet of lumber from British Columbia. Captain George Lemos was soundly sleeping in his bed when he was awakened at 4:25 AM on November 4th, 1949 with word that there was fire in the engine room. Fearing for the lives of his crew, the captain turned south and headed for a nice looking beach about 3 miles east of Neah Bay". --- Excerpt from the book Northwest Wreck Dives, by Scott Boyd and Jeff Carr, 2008.

For more information about Northwest Wreck Dives please contact Scott Boyd at (360) 923-0889 or see www.northwestwreckdives.com.



Photo Page

