



# KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

December 2010

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

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## MEMBERSHIP

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

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## PREZ SEZ

By Dave Miller

## Wrapping up 2010...

It's the Holiday Season, once again, and time to look back and reflect on the year gone by. This has been a great year for the Kelp Krawlers, marked by enthusiastic participation, fun activities, and unprecedented community involvement. I have been very proud and privileged to serve as club president this year, and am further looking forward to the coming year, as you have elected me to serve again. As club members, you all should be proud, as well. I believe that the work we have all done this year has made a difference, and the world is a little bit better place for the efforts of each one of us. The following is a summary of the activities and accomplishments of the 2010 Kelp Krawlers Dive Club:

- The Club and individuals donated over \$500.00 to help the earthquake victims in Haiti.
- A work party was organized to clean-up the Sund Rock dive area. Bushes were cut back, gravel spread, and trash picked up. We also had a couple of dives and a picnic.
- Club members coordinated with the Nisqually Reach Nature Center to do research and survey dives for the new nature preserve project. Meetings were held, and data was collected and given to NRNC to further their efforts to improve Puget Sound.
- Club divers helped North Thurston Public Schools with marine biology field trips for middle school students; gathering specimens, showcasing their skills and equipment, and assisting the biologists and instructors. The divers were a big hit with the kids!
- Kelp Krawlers participated in fund raising for Children's Hospital through the "Dive Around The Clock" charity drive. The club and members raised and contributed funds that helped exceed the goal of raising \$24,000.00 to help children with cancer.
- A bench was built for divers at the Sund Rock dive site. This was accomplished with funds from both the Kelp Krawlers, and our good friends The Hood Canal Aquanauts. Thank you to the team that designed it and put it together!
- Our club contributed over \$1000.00 to the Washington Scuba Alliance towards their project to install mooring buoys at several boat-dive sites throughout Hood Canal and Puget Sound

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**PREZ SEZ**  
(continued)

- Club members gave their time to help with the touch-tank exhibits and the food concessions at the annual Oysterfest in Mason County. Thank you to the Aquanuts for generously sharing the proceeds with us.
- We all enjoyed two summer parties with special guest presenters, good food, drink, and friends. The Christmas party was a success, as well.
- The club dives were hosted by various members this year, and were well attended and very successful. I think the "dive host" program worked well. Everyone be thinking of great club dive sites for 2011. Volunteer to host one!
- We improved our club officer election process. I believe that doing so contributed to an amazing show of interest in the leadership process from our members. New leaders have stepped up, and others will have an opportunity in the future.

2010 will be a hard act to follow... But I am sure that we can put our heads together and make 2011 every bit as fun and productive as this year has been. Please share your ideas with us.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas, a safe and Happy New Year... and a splendid Holiday Season!  
Safe Diving, Y'all....



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## **PREPARATION FOR AN INTERNATIONAL DIVE TRIP**

By Carolyn and Steve Fornoff

Experience has proven the following travel suggestions will make your future dive trips more enjoyable and less stressful....or maybe not.

### **RESEARCH ON INTERNET:**

Plan your trip and know what to expect before you arrive on your dream dive vacation. The internet will provide a wealth of information about a resort - 360 degree pictures of the rooms, the kind of diving you'll experience, size of boats, names of dive crew, description of dive sites, the type of food served, what is included in your dive package (more important what is not), local and seasonal weather, and local attractions.

### **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Photo copy and carry important information; **store information separate from original documents.**

Emergency Contact names and numbers of family or friends back home

Copy of PADI / SSI contact information

Photo copy of Passport, C-Cards, DAN card, Credit card/bank card contact information

Give family member information (Hotel, email, phone #) to reach you in case of emergency.

### **MONEY:**

Develop a spread-sheet for Conversion rate of US\$ vs. local money. The local currency can range from 9342 rupiah to \$1, or 5.89 krone to \$1; a conversion 'cheat sheet' will help when buying an item. Is that T-shirt worth 168,156 rupiah or is that coffee mug worth 70.68 krone? Knowing the currency exchange will help you to know the value of the items your attempting to purchase. Check out website [www.Exchangerate.com](http://www.Exchangerate.com)

Your local bank can exchange US\$ into the destination currency. This should be done at least 2 to 3 weeks prior to departure. Usually \$100 to \$200 US converted to local currency will get you through a 7 day trip. You can always go to a local bank or airport money exchange kiosk to convert additional US\$ to local currency. Check destination websites to see if hotels and businesses will accept Travelers Checks.

Start your trip with \$20 to \$30 US in single dollar bills for tips, taxis and street vendors. "Green-back" is accepted almost everywhere....(except Singapore). Avoid \$100 and \$50 bills. Large US\$ bills are a target for counterfeiters and many locations do not accept large bills. Most resorts, restaurants, shops will take credit card payments (some businesses apply an extra fee of 3% - 10% for use of Credit Cards. However, credit card transactions will give you the best currency exchange rate.

Departure Tax – Most countries have a departure tax (typically \$15 – \$40 US). Set money aside or place in your passport when you arrive at your destination. .

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**SERVICE DIVE GEAR:**

Have your gear serviced at your local dive shop prior to the trip to make sure your gear is operating 'OK' and get in a couple of practice dives to tune up your skills. Service gear once a year no matter if you make 200 dives or just 2 dives since the last servicing.

**LUGGAGE and WEIGHT restrictions:**

Check the Airlines websites to learn about luggage weight requirements; penalties will apply to overweight bags or excess baggage. Usually the airlines will allow 50# limit on two checked bags, 15# limit on one carry-on bag, and a personal bag or computer. Penalties can be up to \$100 per excess bag or \$50 for being as little as 1 pound over weight. Plan ahead on your luggage...don't be surprised. PLEASE NOTE, destination connecting flights are usually smaller planes and their luggage limitations will be the most restrictive. Ultimately, this will determine the number and size of luggage you are allowed to check-in and carry-on.

Pack early and weigh your bags at home. It's much easier to balance luggage weights while at home rather than having to rearrange your clothes and items on the floor at the airport ticket counter while hundreds of people are waiting in line behind you and peeking into your luggage to see what color your undergarments are.

Use light-weight suit cases; often soft sided bags will work. You'll be surprised that some suit cases are heavy and will weigh 12# - 15#; look for the bags that weigh 6# to 9#. This will allow you to pack additional clothes or gear.

You will find that your dive gear alone will almost max out the normal 50# weight limits. Strip your gear down to what you MUST have in order to dive. If you lose something or have a malfunctioning piece of equipment, most resort dive operators can rent or sell replace parts.

**INSURANCE:**

**DAN Insurance** is a MUST for all International Diving!!!! It is an extremely cheap insurance if you ever end up needing it. Just ask any seasoned diver who travels a lot.

I am not keen on purchasing '**trip insurance**' for myself. Trip Insurance helps you to recover your expenses if there are complications with your travel plans. These complications could be weather, hurricanes, personal or health issues that prevent you from making the trip as planned. Plan ahead and research everything you can to find out about the destination and then decide if trip insurance is for you. At least you will know about trip insurance, what it covers, and how much it costs before you decide to take a policy out for your travels.

**RESORT ATTIRE:**

Check your dive resort's website to learn what proper resort attire is for your destination. 'High end' resorts will suggest you wear '*smart resort attire*' for dinner; that means a shirt with a collar. Usually t-shirts, shorts and sandals will get you in any restaurant and local bar.

Don't over pack; excess clothing will add to your weight limits. Most dive resorts provide laundry service at reasonable rates; so instead of packing clothes for 7 days, you can pack for 3 or 4 days cutting the amount of your clothes in half.

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**STRIP DOWN.....(not THAT, silly):**

Strip your wallet of unnecessary papers and credit cards. Take only what is essential. If your wallet is lost, you will have a copy of your EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION.

Be sure to take the following along on your trip:

‘C’-CARD Can’t dive without it.

**Nitrox card** if you want to dive Nitrox.

Dive Log Book; some resorts ask to confirm recent dives.

Passports (departure date must be more than 6 months prior to renewal date)

At least one Credit or debit card. Most places have ATMs – check destination websites for availability

DAN card and Health Insurance Cards

Drivers License & Auto Insurance Card if you plan to rent a car. Be sure to check with your auto insurance agent to see if you have coverage for international driving.

**TRAVEL AGENT:**

I strongly suggest working with travel agent specializing in dive destinations for planning and booking trips. A good agent has a wealth of knowledge and will know about special discounts and helping with planning local ground transportation, transfers, airport layover requirement, etc. Just like being your own lawyer....”*one who acts as their own travel agent, often has a fool for a client.*” Make it easier for yourself; use a travel agent for your trips.

**WHAT TO EXPECT OUT OF A DIVE TRIP:**

Never expect the next dive trip to be more spectacular and more special compared to previous trips taken. With too high of expectations you will surely be disappointed. Enjoy each dive vacation on its own merits; seek out what is special and unique for that particular location. Each trip should be treasured for its own qualities and experiences.

If you are disappointed with your trip, you need to ask yourself if you really got out there to meet and greet the locals, did you taste the local food, did you explore the dry land attractions, or did you mentally compare everything to that wonderful dream vacation you took in the past?

We have fond memories for each and every one of our trips; some destinations we will return to again, others we won’t. Still, every trip was terrific and worth every cent. I hope these suggestions will make each of your future dive vacations a ‘trip of a lifetime’.

May your travels be smooth, the diving be great, and at the end of the day your drinks be cold.

Have Fun and Be safe down there!  
Carolyn and Steve Fornoff



# **KELP KRAWLERS CHRISTMAS PARTY 2010**

Photos by Carolyn Reece



# **KELP KRAWLERS CHRISTMAS PARTY 2010**

Photos by Carolyn Reece



## NEW YEARS DAY CLUB DIVE



### NEW YEARS DAY DIVE

The end of the year is almost upon us and that means the start of a new year. Why not start the year out with a New Years Day dive at Sund Rock in Hoodsport. Technically Hood Sport n Dive is closed on New Years day, but Ron Ault is nice enough to open the shop to The Kelp Krawlers for their annual New Years day dive. Also there will be a potluck afterwards at the dive shop.

**When:** 9:00 a.m. Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup> 2011

**Where:** Meet at Hood Sport n Dive, and then travel to Sund's to make your dive

Even if you don't plan to dive, why not show up for the potluck.

Feel free to bring something for the potluck / or not.

I plan on hitting the water early, so I should have a viz report when you show up for the dive.

Jamie Welsh

Photos by Carolyn Reece



# NOVEMBER 2010 CLUB DIVE

Les Davis Marine Park, Tacoma

Elections were held at the November meeting for our 2011 club officers. As you know, we elect three of the six board members alternately twice a year. Up for grabs this time were:

- PRESIDENT Dave Miller - Re-elected
- EDITOR Colleen Miller - Re-elected
- DIVE OFFICER James Gutholm - Newly elected (pictured right)

Thank you to the members who voted... and especially Thank You to the members who took an interest in the leadership process and ran for office.

Photo by Carolyn Reece



## LOCAL DIVE SHOP INFORMATION

Capital Divers 866-3684

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

We are in Olympia just past the Bike Tech store and next to Hot Yoga. Our address is 1943 4th Ave E. Please stop in to visit, and for your equipment, class, and air needs. All air fills are hyper-filtered. Air-card and Nitrox-card discounts are available for current Kelp Krawlers members. Please call or visit our web site for shop hours.

## Calendar of Events

December 25, 2010 MERRY CHRISTMAS... Everyone!

January 1, 2011 CLUB DIVE - New Years Dive - Sund Rock 9:00 AM at Hood Sport-n-Dive

January 18, 2011 CLUB MEETING: 7 PM, Dirty Dave's Pizza - SPEAKER: Rick Stratton, NW Dive News

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