

KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

February 2005

Volume 21, Number 2

January Club Dive

The January Club Dive was held on Sunday, January 23rd at the **Titlow Marine Sanctuary** in Tacoma. The rain took a break and allowed eight Kelp Krawlers to enjoy a pleasant dive amongst the old ferry pilings and ledges.



Richard

Rodger



Divers were **Greg Volkhardt** and **Amy Kurtenbach** (the Scooter Crew) along with **Frank** and **Chris Ehresmann**, **Rodger Gomez**, **Richard Penny**, **Steve** and **Carolyn Fornoff**. Shore support was provided by **Ken Domingo**, **Scott** and **Janet Boyd**.

Annual Octopus Count

The Seattle Aquarium will be conducting the **Sixth annual census** of Giant Pacific Octopuses in Puget Sound, Saturday through Monday, **February 19-22**. We hope all divers in Puget Sound south of Keystone will report any octopus sightings to the Seattle Aquarium on those days (see contact information below). Information requested is:

- **date**
- **time of day**
- **the exact dive site**
- **exact depth**
- **den information**
- some indication of **size of the octopus** (tennis ball, cantaloupe, basketball, or BIG!)
- some indication of **where the den is** in relation to the entry point of the dive

Information about any and all octopus sightings on those days can be reported to **Dr. Roland Anderson** at the Seattle Aquarium: phone: 206-386-4346 email: roland.anderson@seattle.gov



Ehresmanns

Carolyn

Possible places to dive:

Alki Pipeline, Seacrest, 4 Mile Rock Barges, Shilshole Bay Barges, Three Tree Pt., Edmonds Wrecks, Edmonds Oil Dock, Redondo, Richmond Beach, Blakely Rock and Blakely Reef, Maury Island Barges, Tacoma Narrows, Titlow Beach, Possession Pt. Ferry, Day Island, Richmond Pt. Wreck, Sunrise Beach, Keystone, Langley Tire Reef, Fox Island, Taylor Bay Wrecks, Hoodspout, Sund Rock, Octopus Hole, Hamma Hamma Wall, Hood Canal Bridge, Saltwater State Park and others.

Please also send a copy of any reported sightings to scott@boysdki.com and I'll report the total Kelp Krawler tally in the next newsletter.

2005 OFFICERS

President
Jamie Welsh
426-7755

Vice President
Steve Fornoff
426-1267

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Wayne Campbell
789-3467

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Scott Boyd
456-2066

Historian and Dive Officer
Rodger Gomez
486-5739

MEMBERSHIP

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

Make checks payable to:
Wayne Campbell

Mail to:
Scott Boyd

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March 12th Club Dive - Sund Rock

The **Kelp Krawlers** will hold their **March club dive on Saturday March 12th** at our favorite Dive Site, the **Sund Rock Marine Preserve**. We will meet at the dive site **at or before 10:00 AM**, for a two tank dive, with lunch at the local sandwich shop between dives. **Contact Rodger Gomez for details.**

New Member - Frank Ehresmann

Frank Ehresmann has been diving since 1993. He is also the brother of long time member **Chris Ehresmann** and has recently joined the Kelp Krawlers dive club. Welcome Frank! This past year Frank decided to finally bite the bullet and buy the gear so he could get into our wonderful world of cold water diving.

Franks's wife, **Candi**, earned her certification just so she could dive on their 1996 trip to Cozumel. Here in Frank's words is a description of that very memorable trip:

We had eaten at The Lobster House north of town, and headed out early the next morning. I had a foil of left-over (can you believe it?) lobster meat in my wet-suit, ready to feed some fish.

You cannot beat the warm, tropical air in your face as you cruise south of the harbor on a "fastboat" charter in the early morning. With the twin outboards ripping through the Caribbean, and just a few divers on board, we were pumped. As a relatively inexperienced diver, let alone, world traveler, this was cool. First dive of the day was down to 105 feet on **Columbia Reef**. We stayed at depth for the duration of the dive, weaving in and out of "sky scrapers" of coral heads, with the abyss dropping off to the west. Even as we settled into the silent rhythm of the dive, a giant sea-turtle slowly drifted out of sight, and then another drifted in, and was gone. We could see where the critters had been munching the undersea foliage... a green leafy extravaganza, if you will. It was unreal to drift along through this wonderland with nothing but open ocean and big wildlife between us and the Yucatan peninsula. **Candi** admired a **baby seahorse**, as I watched a burrowing sand crab. I couldn't help thinking, "how can our second dive today top this?"

We soaked up the sun and drank orange pop, "Crystal" I think it is called, from the old-fashioned glass bottles. Ahhh, refreshing. Then it was down to 49 feet at **Paso De Cedral**. With all kinds of big fish, and small ones too, just schooling around us, yours truly thought it would be a good time to feed the fish my left-over lobster. Mind you, I wasn't wearing gloves. I pulled



out the foil, held the lobster meat up, and a **hungry Jewfish took the bait...** However, I didn't want to give it all away in one bite, so I held on to my fish food tightly. Well his tug was replaced by an **even bigger bite, that included my thumb and forefinger.** I didn't think the lobster was worth my fingers, so I loosened my grip on the meat and yanked back my hand. Yes, my two fingers were slightly serrated, and **my blood ran black underwater.** I guess my eyes were as big as saucers as I quickly clamped my unstricken hand down over the wound. Then I gave my wife the rest of the food and kept my hands in close for the rest of the dive. The injury wasn't serious at all, and we laugh about it to this day. For the rest of the trip, I would tell the locals that a "**chupacabra**" had gotten me, and we would all laugh.

Frank plans to dive twice a month this year, and is looking forward to making as many meetings as he can. He is hopeful that he can get his wife into some new gear and get her out too. They have two daughters that will make welcome additions to the dive community in just a few years. **If any of you are teachers or administrators, Frank is looking for a full time teaching job at the middle or high school level.**

January Meeting Notes

We had a great turn-out for the January Meeting, and were definitely over the capacity limits for the smaller room we were in. Eric Morris regaled the club with the tale of the "**Henry Island Monster**", and then discussed both his history and experiences with **Dry Suits** while commercial diving in Alaska, working for Harvey's and now running his own company (High Tide Dry-suits). Eric is very entertaining and also very informative, with lots of samples to pass around illustrating the differences in neoprene, glues and boots.

Meeting Attendance: **Jamie Welsh, Scott Boyd, Debbie & Duane Hamrick, Tani Iwashita, Greg Volkhardt, Bonnie Knights, Oleta Artman, Richard Penny, Rick Cooper, Becky Lundin, Rodger Gomez, Jerry Rolly, Al Bauer, Don Noviello, New Member Howard Gearns, Wayne Campbell, Steve and Carolyn Fornoff, Amy Kurtenbach, Steve Griffith, Jeff Evans, Wendy Rude, Cherryl Scott, Karen Beyer, Jerry Ehrlich** along with guests **Jeff Kiser** and **Andy Mohrle**.

Club Boat Dives - January 29th & March 5th

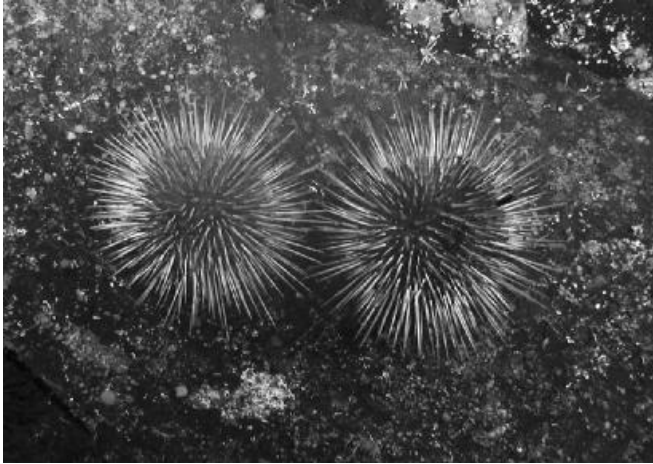
The club chartered the "**Down Time**" from **Pacific Adventures** on Saturday, January 29th for two dives in Hood Canal. Dive Sites were **Pulali Point** and **Rosie's Ravine and Goby Garden**. The divers were treated to a rare sighting of a couple of **Orcas** from a transient pod in Hood Canal. Divers reported good visibility and that Don and Diane spoiled them in their usual fashion.

Divers were: **Rodger Gomez, Richard Penny, Rick Cooper, Steve Fornoff, Tani Iwashita and Jim Behrman.** We have another dive scheduled with **Pacific Adventures** on March 5th. **Contact Rodger Gomez for details.**

Red Sea Urchin

By Scott Boyd

The red sea urchin (*Strongylocentrotus franciscanus*) is a large, spiny, urchin that lives on rocky seafloors. It can be found off the west coast of North America, from Alaska to the Baja peninsula. It lives in depths from the intertidal zone down to about 300 feet.



The red sea urchin can grow to as much as 10 inches across; the spines are about 1/2 the size of the body (or test). The color ranges from red to dark-purple (juveniles are green). Adult sea urchins have five-sided radial symmetry and are related to sea stars. Their spines are used for protection, for moving, and for trapping drifting algae to eat. Their primary diet consists of kelp, decaying animal matter, algae, dead fish, sponges, mussels, and barnacles.

Sea urchins in turn are eaten by **crabs, sunflower stars, snails, sea otters, fish, and people**. They are also a favorite food of

our friendly local population of **Wolf Eels**.

Red sea urchins reach sexual maturity at the age of two years. Females and males release their gametes into the ocean where fertilization occurs in the open during the months of January, February and March.

Sea urchins are commercially harvested off of our coast (especially in California), primarily for the Japanese market, where it is a common ingredient in sushi. Japan buys over 6,000 tons of sea urchins with a total value of more than \$251 million per year.

February Meeting Presentation:

The next meeting is **Tuesday, February 15th at 7:00 PM**. **Scott Boyd** will be presenting **Part 1** of his **Digital Underwater Photography Seminar**. **Part 2** will be presented on **March 23rd** at the Olympia Library. Details are below:

Underwater Digital Photography Seminar

Wednesday **February 23rd, 7:30 - 9:00 PM** at the Olympia Public Library. Topics include Strobe use and placement, focus lock, pixels and processing of digital images, workflow and printing. This seminar is Free. **Contact Scott Boyd.**

Annual Membership and Waivers due:

If you haven't already done so, please be sure to fill out and return the **Kelp Krawler Membership Application** forms for **2005** and to **SIGN** the waiver on the back of the membership form. Make your checks payable to **Wayne Campbell** and mail them to **Scott Boyd**.

DIVE SHOP NEWS:

Capital Divers

866-3684

www.capitaldivers.com

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

Upcoming classes: Trimix coming in March 2006.

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 easy access to the **Sund Rock Marine Preserve**.

Underwater Sports

493-0322

www.underwatersports.com

The Olympia Shop is now pumping hyper filtered Air. **Cozumel Trip** with Liquid Blue Divers on June 16-24. **Neah Bay** Spearfishing Trips July 15-17 and August 26-28. Discounted air cards for Kelp Krawlers: 10 fills for \$25.

Upcoming Classes: AOW and Nitrox February 24-27

Blue Diamond Dive Tours

(360)426-1267

BlueDiamondDiver@aol.com

Bonaire Trip at the Sand Dollar Beach Resort November 5-13.



Dive Safe and Play Nice!!!!