

# KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

March 2005

Volume 21, Number 3

## Sunrise County Beach Park

Sunrise Beach County Park is located just north of Gig Harbor at the south end of Colvos Passage and is subjected to very strong currents from the Tacoma Narrows. **Sunrise is one of the best shore dives in Puget Sound.** The main feature of this site is a 25 foot high rock wall that runs parallel to the shoreline, just South of the entry. The top of the wall starts at about 35 fsw with the base at about 60 fsw. The wall is full of cracks, crevices, fissures and holes which are hiding places for a plethora of curious critters.

Countless varieties of marine life can be found along the wall; however, it is the **Wolf-eels which really steal the show.** Numerous resident Wolf-eels live at this site, and they are used to divers and are obviously used to being hand fed. They will frequently venture out of their dens to interact with divers by swimming around and through your arms, legs, hoses, etc. (no doubt looking for lunch). If you do handle these animals, please be careful and remember they are wild animals, which should never be restrained, or held firmly.

While I know of no incidents of divers being bitten by a Wolf-Eel, I have seen many **Wolfies crunching up an Urchin** like its Jello, so I'm not sticking my fingers in their mouth, and I recommend you don't either. Feeding these animals is altering their behavior and inhibits their natural fear of man. While I don't condone feeding them, I'm not above taking advantage of the altered behavior for a

### 2005 OFFICERS

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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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## Gimme a Smootch Duane



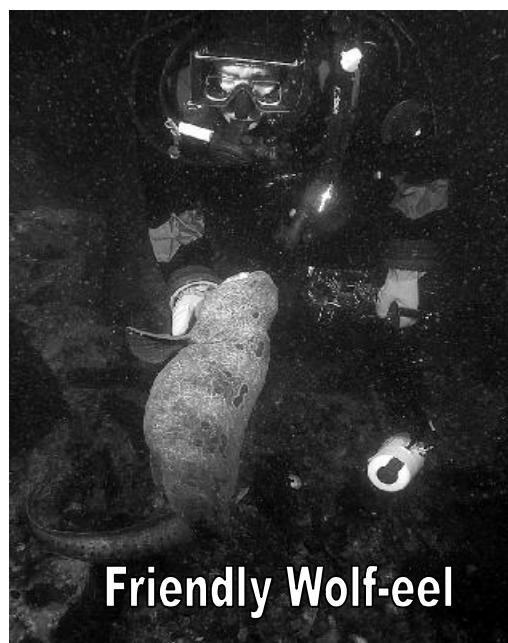
few candid photos!

The only real down side to this site is the **steep path down to the beach** (and the climb back up in full gear), which we overcome by making this a boat dive. Many of the local charters take divers here routinely, and it's not uncommon to see all three of Rick's boats over the site. Due to the high currents at this site, we only dive it on very low exchanges and try to get in the water at least 90 minutes before predicted slack water. More information about timing the currents for this dive can be found in "Northwest Shore Dives".

This site can be a bit busy when the charter boats hit, but we usually manage to just finish up our dive as the boats begin disgorging the bottom tilling Puget Sound Frog Fishes.

## March 13th Club Dive - Sund Rock

The **Kelp Krawlers** will hold their **March club dive on Sunday March 13th** 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



## Friendly Wolf-eel

**Photos taken February 19th at Sunrise**

**February Meeting Notes**

We had a moderate turn-out for the February Dive Club Meeting, and were back in the larger meeting room. **Mike Ferguson** from **Porthole Dive Charters** actually brought his boat to the meeting, and gave a good overview of the great services they provide to divers, followed by a tour of his amazing boat.

Scott Boyd presented the first part of a two part series on **Underwater Digital Photography**, going over strobe placement, getting close to your subject, modeling lights and the use of focus lock for nice crisp pictures.

Meeting Attendance: **Jamie Welsh, Scott & Janet Boyd, Duane Hamrick, Becky Lundin, Patti Garrett, Greg Volkhardt, Rick Cooper, Don Noviello, Steve and Carolyn Fornoff, Steve Griffith, Wendy Rude, Karen Beyer, and Jerry Ehrlich.**

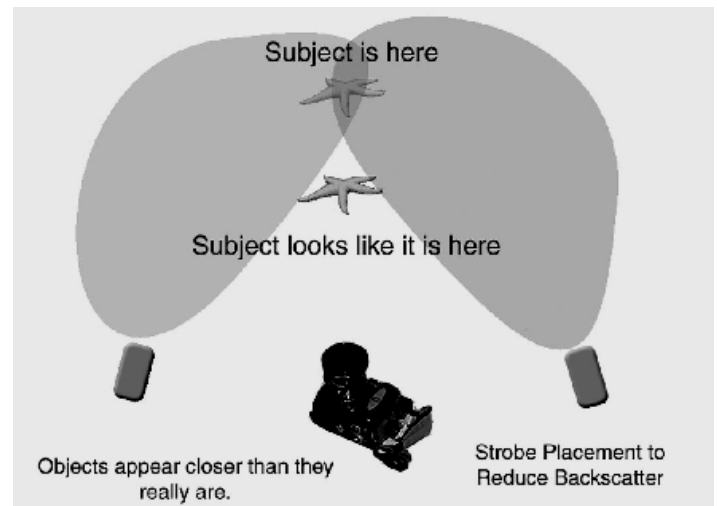
There are **several new boats** that have been sunk out by the **Triumph** and the shallow depths allow for lots of light to admire the many features of the park.

The hard work of a dedicated group of volunteers under the direction of **Bruce Higgins** keeps this park very diver friendly. There are navigation ropes laid throughout the park that connect the many features and make navigation very easy.

Divers were **Greg Volkhardt** and **Arline Fullerton** (the Scooter Crew) along with **Frank and Chris Ehresmann, Tani Iwashita, Tom Webb, Alan and Ingrid Niles (and daughter), Don Noviello, Don Chase, Scott and Janet Boyd, Debbie and Duane Hamrick.**

**Underwater Digital Photography Workshop**

Scott Boyd presented **part 2** of an **Underwater Digital Photography Workshop** at the Olympia Timberland Library on February 23rd. Subjects covered included shooting **RAW versus JPG** digital formats (and why you would choose one over the other), using **EXIF information** to evaluate your photos, storing and backing up your images, Printing and Color Management along with other “Geeky subjects”.



Attendees included: **Alan and Ingrid Niles (and daughter), Duane and Debbie Hamrick, Carolyn Fornoff, Jerry and Becky Ehrlich, Don Noviello, Rick Cooper, Wendy Rude, Steve Griffith** and a few more. Feel free to **contact Scott** for follow up questions or for a copy of the Handout Notes.

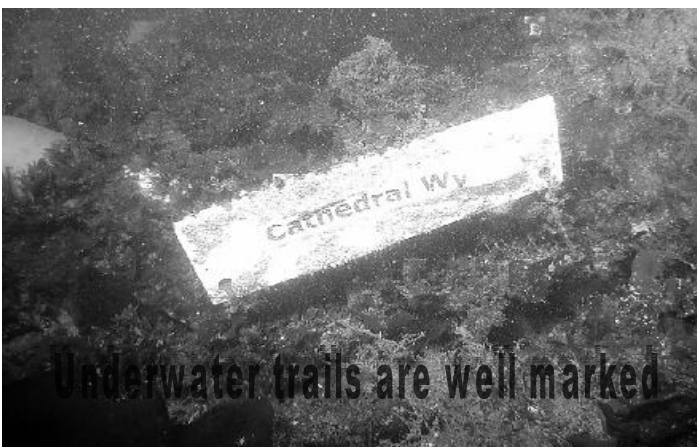
**Club Boat Dive - March 5th**

The club has chartered the “**Down Time**” from **Pacific Adventures** on Saturday, March 5th for both morning and afternoon 2 tank dives in Hood Canal. **Contact Rodger Gomez** for details.



**February Club Dive**

The February Club Dive was held on Sunday, February 5th at **Edmonds Underwater Park**. Fifteen intrepid Divers braved the rains and skipped the Superbowl hype to enjoy a dive at one of the states most popular dive sites. The **Ling Cod and Cabezon were guarding their eggs**, and were quite aggressive when it came to defending their territory from divers.



Underwater trails are well marked

## Grunt Sculpin

By Scott Boyd

*Rhamphocottus richardsoni*

There is no mistaking that cute little Grunt Sculpin when you find one. They are short and stocky (2 -3 inches) with a yellowish body, a pointed snout, and fins that are bright orange! They



are typically found in shallow water, but have been found in waters as deep as 540 feet. This comical fish ranges from Southern California to the Bering Sea, and is actually fairly common, although so well camouflaged that it is some what of a prized find for photographers.

The **Grunt Sculpin** often uses its pectoral fins to crawl or hop over rocks and seaweed. When it does this it is hard to believe that it is a fish! The first time I saw one hopping around on a rock, I learned the hard way that if you laugh too hard, you suck lots of sea water in around your regulator mouthpiece! These

little guys are a riot to watch; although when laying eggs, the females can get aggressive and will often keep the males cornered and not let them out.

The common name is inspired by the grunting noise this fish makes when frightened or removed from the water. The Grunt Sculpin feeds on zooplankton (microscopic animals), invertebrates, fish larvae, and on a variety of small crustaceans. They have a life expectancy of about four years.

### March Meeting Presentation:

The next meeting is **Tuesday, March 15th at 7:00 PM**. **John Shliemann** will be our guest speaker, discussing this summer's work recovering a **B-17 "Flying Fortress"** from **Labrador, Canada!** His unique team of salvage experts located the old US Army/Air Force B-17 **on the bottom of a remote lake** in the boreal wilderness and brought it to the surface, where it hadn't been seen since it crashed on Christmas day in 1947.

#### **Wanted:**

**Your Dive reports, Dive Site Reviews, Trip Reports, Diver Milestones** (any new Dive Masters or Instructors out there?). Please send submissions to **Scott Boyd** for the next Newsletter, or it's going to be a very thin Newsletter!

#### **Annual Membership Fees are PAST 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](http://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 April 2006.

### **Hood Sport 'n Dive**

**(360) 877-6818**

[www.hoodportndive.com](http://www.hoodportndive.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](http://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.

### **Blue Diamond Dive Tours**

**(360)426-1267**

[BlueDiamondDiver@aol.com](mailto:BlueDiamondDiver@aol.com)

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



**Dive Safe and Play Nice!!!!**