



KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

March/April/ 2008

www.kelpkrawlers.org

Volume 24, Number 3

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Kelp Krawler dues:

\$15 single or

\$25 for a family

See website for membership form

Superfecta Wreck Extravaganza

By Scott Boyd

It was 29° and dark when we left the house. We stopped to gas up the boat, and borrowed a little hot water from the coffee maker at the gas station to thaw out the lock on the truck's tonneau cover so we could get it all the way closed. Kelp Krawler's Jeff Carr, Eric Thornton and Scott Boyd hit the road for a five wreck diving extravaganza on President's Day weekend. All three had to actually work on Monday, so we were squeezing in all five wrecks in just two days.

We launched the boat at Manchester, which is a very nice, free boat ramp, and motored over to the Barbara G, our first wreck dive. We set the anchor and watched the shore divers scrambling down the rocks next to the Harper Fishing Pier for the long swim out to the wreck. We were undisturbed on the wreck of this 65' long fishing boat that sank during the Inauguration Day storm on January 20th, 1993. The visibility was a lovely 35' and water was shallow and current free. We had a really pleasant dive, marveling at the crow's nest and steering quadrant (still attached to the rudder) of the wreck.

Our next mission was to take some photos of Porthole Dive Charters' new boat, which was on its very first charter. We raised the Mark V on the VHF radio, and found out they were only a couple of miles away at Blakely Rock. We motored over to admire the new boat and to take some pictures for their web site. The divers "posed" for the camera with Seattle in the background and then the Mark V motored off for Waterman's wall.

We chose to dive "the Boss" as our second wreck, as it was only about a half mile away. The boss is a 70' long fishing boat, with another 35' utility boat sitting on top of it. It is a very nice wreck, with lots of critters, and the utility boat still

has lots of interesting artifacts to look at. Visibility continued to be excellent.

The Aluminator has buoy tied off to the boss, and came over to use their buoy just as we finished our dive, so we drifted away from the site and headed east. While we were getting our gear organized and tied down, I noticed a suspicious echo on the side scan that looked an awful lot like another wreck. We tossed the hook, and I dropped down into the emerald green water to find a nice lap strake hulled cabin cruiser sitting on the bottom of Blakely Harbor. Sweet! I love finding new wrecks! With a three wreck "trifecta" under our weight belts (four if you count the double at the Boss), we headed back to the boat ramp with big smiles on our faces.

Sunday we hauled Jeff's boat up to Dis-



The Warhawk

covery Bay and found a fishing derby in progress at the Gardiner boat ramp. The fishermen were great, helping to launch and recover the boats and were very interested in the crazy divers heading out into the frozen bay to go for a swim. We loaded up and headed south to Mill Point and found the wreck of the War Hawk on the depth finder. The War Hawk is a Yankee Clipper Ship that sank 125 years ago when it caught fire at the Port Discover

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Mill and was pushed out into the bay to protect the mill. For being on the bottom for well over a century, this amazing wood hulled ship is in remarkably good shape.



From the Warhawk

We enjoyed the shallow dive, with great visibility and tons of ambient sunlight streaming down upon this relic of a forgotten age. Jeff and I admired the construction details of the hull, finding many copper pins that were



The Wreck at Hood Canal Bridge

heated and used to secure the planking to the ribs as it shrunk. Masts and spars lie along the port side of the boat along with patent engraved fire bricks and bits of anchor chain. Truly a spectacular dive that should be on everyone's "must do" list.

We recovered the boat and headed back to dive the wreckage of the Hood Canal Bridge. The western half of the bridge sank during a severe storm on February 13th, 1979. We dropped in, fighting quite a bit of current to

admire the wreckage that has been sitting under the new bridge for 29 years. You can still see the curbs and striping on some of the old bridge deck, and surprisingly, there is a nice sailboat wreck sitting on top of the old bridge, sails still wrapped around the boom. We peered down into the bowels of the bridge, swam through caverns created by the huge bridge sections and admired the prolific marine growth. Too soon, it was time to swim back to the boat ramp and head for home. What a wonderful way to spend a sunny winter weekend. We actually visited seven different wrecks (if you're still counting) and observed some fascinating Washington State History in the process.

Creature Feature

Aeolidea papillosa—Shaggy mouse nudibranch

By Rana Brown

This nudibranch (sea-slug) is commonly called the shaggy mouse because it actually resembles a fuzzy mouse! It is usually grey in color, however pink,



salmon, and blackish color variations exist. Being one of the larger sea slugs I have seen in the area, it can grow to 40 – 60 mm. The main diet of this sea slug is anemones. I have found them in abundance on docks and floating structures this winter and

spring (often where their prey occurs). I will usually notice their large egg masses first, which alert me to their presence. Upon closer inspection I find them nestled in among the other inhabitants. These slugs make great photo subjects, and are often easy to find due to their relatively large size.

Double D's.....

By Carolyn Fornoff

Dehydration and diving; do you drink enough water? If not, you could have a serious drinking problem. It is remarkable that a diver can be floating in the middle of the ocean and still be dehydrated, but we all know it can happen.

Dehydration is simply the loss of fluid from the body and occurs when fluid loss is greater than fluid intake. Fluid can be lost through the skin, lungs, urination, diarrhea, or blood loss. Most importantly, when a person is dehydrated, there is a reduced measure of blood in the body, which means less blood flow to the tissues. Consequently, this affects the body's ability to off-gas nitrogen. The increased nitrogen in the body translates into a higher risk of decompression sickness (DCS).

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Dehydration can affect divers in other ways. With a reduced volume of blood circulating through the body, the heart has to work harder and pump faster. This leads to a decreased endurance and increased fatigue. And who does not want to get the most out of their dive experience!

The key to preventing dehydration is to drink water or, if you are very active, sports drinks. Drink more if it's very hot or if you're diving multiple tanks. The drinks should be taken over the course of the day rather than a short period of time. Avoid caffeine beverages but drink plenty of water between dives.

Symptoms of Dehydration

- Palpitations
- Constant Thirst
- Nausea
- Headache
- Dark Urine
- Fatigue

Stupid Things Divers Do

- Deliberately not drink to avoid the pee factor.
- Drink caffeine beverages and alcohol for fluid replacement.

- Don't count sweat as fluid loss.
- Forget that the air in scuba tanks is bone dry.

This article is not meant to be a substitute for any medical care. If you have any health concerns please contact your doctor.

Conservation Corner

Shifting Baselines

By Steve Sutton

Being a new diver—yes, 3 years is still very new, I continue to be truly amazed at the beauty of the undersea world. Before I started diving, my marine encounter was always from the surface, from a boat, at a beach, reading the National Geographic or standing in front an aquarium. This new underwater world has expanded my frontier with beauty and amazement. In my limited early experience, what I was seeing appeared healthy and thriving. As I return to dive sites, I now have a small, 3 year comparison base of experience.

This same phenomenon is common in many who have been observing our oceans for years. Studies have been done as early as the 1920's and observations have been recorded in histories and stories for hundreds of years. Actual observations have been difficult due to accessibility. The problem is that most studies have compared the health of such things as fisheries or reefs to information gathered only a few years previously. Issues don't seem as serious when compared to only a few previous years. Many have experienced this phe-

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Calendar of Events

May 20th 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) |
|-------|------------|---------------|---------|---------|--|
| May | Sat May-10 | Mikes Beach | 8:30am | 9:30am | Slack 9:10am, Ebbs from +8 tide at 9:15am to -1 at 3:00pm, Sound over 3.7 knots |
| Jun | Sun Jun-8 | Sund Rock | 8:30am | 9:30am | Slack 9:00am, Ebbs From +9 tide at 9:10am to -1 at 1:00pm, Sound over 2.0 knots |
| Jul | Sun Jul-6 | Octopus Hole | 8:30am | 9:30am | Slack 8:10am, Ebbs From +10 tide at 8:15am to -2 at 2:00pm, Sound over 4.0 knots |
| Aug | Sat Aug-9 | Three Tree | Noon | 1:00pm | Slack 1:30pm, 1kt Ebb (+9 tide) max 4:15pm, Next Slack 7:00pm |
| Sep | Sun Sep-7 | Redondo Beach | 11:30am | 12:30am | Slack 1:00pm, 1kt Ebb (+9 tide) max 3:20pm, Next Slack 6:30pm |
| Oct | Sat Oct-4 | Sund Rock | 8:30am | 9:30am | Slack 10:30am, Ebbs from +10 tide to +8 at 3:00pm, Sound over 1.7 knots |
| Nov | Sat Nov-1 | Sund Rock | 8:30am | 9:30am | Slack 9:45am, Ebbs from +12 tide to +8 at 2:00pm, Sound over 1.7 knots |
| Dec | Sat Dec-20 | Octopus Hole | 8:30am | 9:30am | Slack 5:45am, Floods to +12 tide at 11:45am, Sound over 2.5 knots |

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

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nomenon that has become known as "shifting baselines".

Most sport divers have never seen a real, healthy reef, although many "appear" healthy. Standards have changed since the 1960's and enormous changes took place as populations exploded. Most of us have no concept of the degree of change; we have no real frame of reference. For example, J. B. C. Jackson (1997) notes that live coral cover in the coastal areas of central Panama has declined from 50-90% in just the last 10 years.

For example, many of us dive in warm Caribbean waters and have been fortunate to see a sea turtle, sometimes many in one day. It seemed the populations are doing ok. But, consider that in Jamaica in the 1700's 40 sloops were harvesting 13,000 green sea turtles annually. In Cayman, there were descriptions that beaches were literally covered with turtles. By 1800 they were entirely gone from that area, principally because they were an easy substitute for the exhausted fishery as a food source for an ever expanding human population.

Many ecological models have been developed with this same, flawed thinking and it affected scientific recommendations, especially to third world countries. This concept was described by Daniel Pauly (1995) just a few sort years ago. Since that time scientists have directed studies to more fully understand what may have been situations closer to the actual condition before man's influence. In reality there may never be a true, natural baseline for many of the world's reefs, we can only imagine.

So what does this mean for we Kelp Krawlers? For one thing we must think on a longer term frame, both in the past and in the future. Don't be fooled by a shifting baseline that conditions aren't that bad compared to a few years ago or even 50 or 100 years ago.

Be an activist! Get involved with learning about the causes of marine environment decline, do what you can to minimize your personal impact, and work with improvement projects. Future articles and announcements

will deal with these topics.

References:

Editorial—The Shifting Baseline Syndrome, Charles Sheppard. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, Vol. 30, No. 12, pp. 766-767, 1995.

Reefs Since Columbus, J. B. C. Jackson. *Coral Reefs* (1997) 16, Suppl.: S23-S32.

Anecdotes and the shifting baseline syndrome, Pauly, D. (1995). *Trends in Ecology & Environment* 10, 430.

Club Meeting Minutes

March

New member Martha Copeland was introduced. Scott Eastman also introduced himself. He is the new instructor at Underwater Sports of Olympia, replacing Justin Kurz. He also mentioned that Rick Cooper is the new manager at the shop and they will remain a PADI shop.

Scott Boyd announced that Rick Stratton (publisher of Northwest Dive News) is sponsoring a Dive Expo May 3 and 4 in Tacoma as well as the annual Treasure Hunt.

Steve Fornoff gave the Treasurer's report. Expenses included \$9 for the speaker, \$22.68 to Janet Boyd for copying membership cards and application forms, revenue of \$48 from the 50/50 for a total of \$2340.21 in the treasure.

Steve Sutton asked for newsletter articles. He said that no paper copies of the newsletter are currently being mailed out. However, it was agreed that some needed to be printed and delivered to the local dive shops.

Pres. Amy discussed the dive calendar since John Cipriano could not attend the meeting. There is a club dive scheduled for April 6 with Pacific Adventures. There are up to eight spots available if there is at least one dive master in the group.

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LOCAL DIVE SHOP INFORMATION

Capital Divers 866-3684

www.capitaldivers.com

The shop has now moved to a new location 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 has now moved to a new location in Hoodsport with convenient boat access. Stop by, say hello and fill up with some nitrox while you wait. Offering discounted access to the Sund Rock Marine Preserve for paid members.

Underwater Sports 493-0322

www.underwatersports.com

Welcome to new instructor, Scott Eastman! Stop in and check out the new bright lights!

Visibility Report

Visibility at Sund Rock varies from 5-15 feet depending on depth, and the layer of silt is thinning. We just need a bunch more beginning classes and lots of current. Reports further north in Seattle are 25 feet.



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Steve Griffiths said that since the American dollar is so weak right now, that the trip to Canada that he planned to organize is cancelled until things change.

Dive Reports

Ryan Caldwell told us about his trip to the Socorro's where he dove with humpback whales, hammerheads, and mantas. He worked as a dive master on the Nautilus Explorer.

Amy K. talked about the Porthole Charters dive to Blakely Island and Agate Pass. The new boat is really nice. Craig Miller was Captain that day. The divers load at Harbor Island dock which has easy access to the boat and lots of parking.

Troy is setting up a work party for Sund Rock. They are looking at putting up jersey barriers and new gravel. The parking passes will have parking directions. Coordinate with Ron at the Hood Sport and Dive shop if interested in helping.

Amy won the 50/50 drawing - \$33.00 for the prize.

Amy and Steve Fornoff attended the Cousteau presentation at the Olympia Performing Arts Theatre. The message was that the pollution problems were man-made. The Q and A was very good and there were videos to purchase. Steve offered to show the video at our club meetings at a future date.

The speaker was Dan Grosboll, South Puget Sound Habitat Restoration Coordinator for People for Puget Sound.

The meeting ended at 9:10 p.m

April

The meeting opened with club business and discussion of diving around the area.

Seattle Vis 25 feet. Hood Canal still poor.

We reviewed the dive schedule for the remaining year.

We discussed possible Porthole charters midweek, \$70 each, for the Dash, depart Tacoma.

Troy briefed the club on the parking plan at Sund Rock and the project is still in the planning process.

Kyle Larson, with Dive Around the Clock spoke. It is a charity event for the Children's Hospital Cancer Research program. The event will be held at Redondo Beach July 25th at 4PM until July 26th 4PM. Two person teams (or more) will spend time under water. Participants are asked to raise \$ per minute or in lump sums. Last years event raised \$11,000. \$25 per person registration fee. Info at www.divearoundtheclock.com. Registration forms available.