



KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

May 2009

www.kelpkrawlers.org

Volume 24, Number 7

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Kelp Krawler dues:

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Scuba Trivia

By Steve Fornoff

It's always fun to test your knowledge. Here are a few trivia questions about scuba diving and marine life.

How many of these questions can you answer?

1. True or False? Devices to supply a diver with air have been tried since the 4th century BC.
2. In what year did Jacques Cousteau and French engineer Emile Gagnan perfected their aqualung?
3. In 1819, who perfected a diving helmet to allow divers maximum freedom of movement while underwater?
4. In what year did British astronomer Edmund Halley devise the first practical diving bell?
5. What was Edmund Halley's diving bell made of?
6. True or False? Sharks have no sense of pain and will keep eating even if they are disemboweled.
7. True or False? The largest Great White Shark ever caught weighed 5,000 pounds.
8. What is the weight of all the water in all the oceans?
9. Is it possible to get a "tooth squeeze" while diving?

Conservation Corner

By: Steve Sutton

One of my most favorite animals on land or sea is the playful sea otter. This animal spends almost all its time in the water, eating, sleeping, raising their young. There were times during the last century that these lovable creatures were thought to be extinct off the coast of California, but in 1938, after 100 years, the very

small number left were once again sighted. This began a strict conservation program to protect sea otters in California, and as a result, the population has grown, if ever so slowly.

Besides being such adorable creatures, the sea otters are what's known as a "keystone species" that can shape the whole character of an ecosystem. Because they voraciously feed on urchins that feed on kelp. Many other species are dependant on the kelp for survival. Where there are sea otters, there is kelp, and if the otters are gone, so are the kelp and those that depend on it.

As divers one of our great opportunities is to understand better the dependencies in the ecosystems that we visit, and work to protect it. We can do that by reading about the sea life in the areas we visit, invite knowledgeable speakers to our meetings, or utilize many other knowledge sources. Again, remember that we visitors in their environment, and that we have a great opportunity to be a positive influence in the preservation of underwater culture.

Bonaire Trip

By: Steve Fornoff

Bonaire, NA. is a GREAT vacation island well known for world class Caribbean diving. Seven Kelp Krawlers checked out



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Bonaire's reefs last February having a 'fantastic' time both above and under the water. Those divers were Wendy Rude, Ken Domingo, Roger Tabor, Ron & Brith Grinnell, and Carolyn & Steve Fornoff.

Sand Dollar's "Ride to the Reef" package included the room, daily breakfast, a four-door truck for shore diving, 12 boat dives, and free Nitrox. A perfect set up for diving anytime day or night (24 hrs/day).

All were very satisfied with the accommodations at the Sand Dollar Resort just north of downtown Kralendijk (pronounced: "krawl - n - dike"), the capital city. The rooms were large, clean, and well maintained. Bonaire Dive & Adventure is the resort's resident dive shop with a very efficient operation designed for around the clock diving.

Bonaire's diving is as good as I've seen anywhere in the Caribbean. Bonaire's National Marine Park surrounds the island and is home for hundreds of varieties of fish and a healthy coral reef. There were some evidence of storm damage from Hurricanes Lenny (1999) and Omar (2008); however, over all the reefs seem to be in good shape.

Bonaire is 24 miles long and 3-7 miles wide with a resident population of 14,000. In February, the average water temp is 79 degrees and the average air temp is 83 for the high and 70 for the low. The visibility is normally 100' plus; however while we were on the island, the wind was stronger than normal and created a lot of silt in the water limiting visibility from 10' near shore to 50' on the reef. This silt consisted of very fine white sand made from coral and limestone, so it was like diving in a dense white fog. At least the water was warm and inviting,



Steve enjoyed dive #1000 while in Bonaire

Bonaire offers 63 notable shore dive sites, primarily on the leeward side of the island and 26 sites accessible by boat around the off-shore island Klein Bonaire. That's 89 dive sites, it would take a couple of months to dive each one. Bari Reef is Sand Dollar's house reef starting at 25' and bottoming at 125'; it's a great dive loaded with coral and

fish.

There is a variety of top-side activities for those days when you need to get out of the water to "off-gas". One day we went to the La Belle Marsh Mangrove for an afternoon of kayaking and snorkeling through the marsh water-



ways. Another day we drove through the Washington Slagbaai National Park to check out the more remote dive sites on the northern part of the island. Within the park were lakes with small flocks of flamingoes, wild donkeys in the roadway, wild goats around every turn, and parrots flying in amongst the 20 ft tall cactus plants.

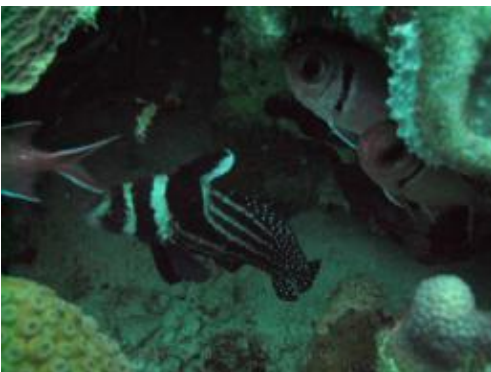
After 7 days, three of our group headed back home to Washington's cold and snow; however, four stayed for an extra 8 days of FUN, SUN & RUM. We were able to make 17 boat dives and 19 shore dives. There was a small amount of current on some of the dives, but nothing a North West diver couldn't handle.

During these dives we saw spotted eagle ray, reef squid, turtles, great barracuda, jack fish, black durgan, ocean triggerfish, hogfish, parrotfish (rainbow, stoplight, queen, & princess), anglefish (queen, french, and gray - both adult and juvenile), grouper, cowfish, trunkfish, tarpon, sergeant major, butterfly fish, trumpet fish, butterfly fish, blue tang, brown chromis, blue chromis, porcupine puffer fish, spiny lobster, sea cucumber, peacock flounder, and spotted eels. There were many more fish varieties, too many to remember all their names.

Kralendijk is a very nice clean island town with several grocery stores, the usual tourist stores for tee-shirts, jewelry & knick-knacks, restaurants ranging from hamburger joints to fine Italian, from local neighborhood cafe to New York style pizza, road-side diners to fancy (\$) ocean side terrace dining. Our favorite dinning was at Patagonia, an Argentina Steak House at town marina; the food was fantastic and the service the best in town.

While we were there, Paul Allen's (MSFT) yacht OCTOPUS was docked at the town pier. At first it looks like a high-

rise luxury condo....not really, it looks just like what it is, the biggest luxury yacht in the world. Compete with a helicopter, 2 eight-man submarines, and every water toy know to mankind. Apparently Mr. Allen, an avid scuba diver, likes Bonaire so much he often has one of his two yachts anchored in



Kralendiik for months at a time.

The island traffic was minimal which was good considering most of the roads barely wide enough for one car, much less two cars and a donkey. Although the island is only 24 miles long, it would take a full day to drive all around the is-



land see the

sights. The main reason for taking a whole day is because of the island's dirt roads are not well maintained resulting in a pot-hole every 5 feet. Don't get me wrong, the trip

was worth it.

This was our third trip to Bonaire and it still has the famous Island Magic with it's colorful sunsets, blue waters, beaches, flamingoes, goats & donkeys, the quaint village of Rincon, salt flats, lighthouses, and of course the diving. For me, it comes down to the great diving.

So set your watch to 'island time' and come to Bonaire to enjoy everything this Island has to offer. Trust me, the experience will change your life forever.

Answers to Scuba Trivia

1. True. Alexander the Great is reported to have attempted a dive in a primitive diving bell.
2. 1943. The aqualung allowed the diver to stay underwater independently for several hours.
3. Inventor Augustus Siebe.
4. 1717.
5. It was made from wood and had glass windows in the top to allow light.
6. True.
7. False. The largest Great White Shark ever caught weighed 7,302 pounds. It was caught in Cuba in 1948.
8. The weight of all the water in all the oceans is 1.2 quintillion (1,200,000,000,000,000) tons. This represents 0.022 percent of the weight of the Earth.
9. Yes. A condition called "tooth squeeze" occurs when changing pressures during a dive cause pain in the center of the tooth. This happens because an air space has developed in a tooth (like a cavity).

Calendar of Events

May 19 CLUB MEETING: 7 PM, Dirty Dave's Pizza

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

Photo Page

It's nudibranch month! Here's Steve Sutton's favorite shot.



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

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. Bring in your Nitrox tanks by Tuesday/Pick them up by Friday. (In by Tuesday/Out by Friday.) We also have Argon available. Air-card and Nitrox-card discounts are available for current Kelp Krawlers members. Please call or visit our web site for shop hours.