



# KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

April 2004

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## Diving Day - by Jerry Ehrlich

Diving occupies a great deal of our time. For me the more time I spend on diving the better :o) Here is a typical dive "day" for my buddy and I.

The next dive starts immediately after the finish of the last dive. We discuss what went right and what we can do to improve the next dive, of course we go over whatever went wrong as well.

All the gear is rinsed ASAP after the dive. At the Sund MCA this means immediately and the salt has no time to dry before the fresh water rinse. Suits are rinsed by a warm shower, which is pretty nice :o) The P valve is removed from the suit and rinsed, that is an advantage of the Dive Rite valve, you can easily remove them.

While suit rinsing happens the gear is soaking in large Rubbermaid containers. The scooters are rinsed externally and then placed prop down in the Rubbermaid and run for a minute or two at low speed to remove all the salt from the shaft interface.

The back plate and wing assembly is completely dissembled and rinsed. The wing is flooded with fresh water and drained thru the oral inflator and the OP valve. The tanks are rinsed and then the stuff all goes back in the van.

We have gone over the gas inventory in Mike's garage and if necessary we load T bottles of helium and oxygen in the van for the trip home.

Back at the garage we unload the T bottles and Mikes gear. At my garage the regulators and rest of the kit go on drying racks. The canister light batteries are placed on the charger and the scooter is opened up and hooked up to the charger.

My dry suit is hung feet first with an ambient air temp blower hose in each leg. This completely dries the inside of the suit, including the top of the feet. My dry gloves get the blower hoses stuck in them later to get them completely dry. They don't get stinky when you do this. The undergarments are hung in a closet with lots of air circulation. The hood is hung and dried inside and out.

Monday and Tuesday are gear fiddling days. This Monday evening I installed a baffled vent

system in a new hood. Tuesday I rebuilt the valves on a set of doubles. Wednesday we got together at Mad Mikes Garage to blend gas for the upcoming dive. We have a discussion about what depth we want to dive and if we are using a deco gas or not.

We decide last weeks marginal visibility in the top 80 feet of the water column calls for a dive somewhere below 110 feet for a half hour or so and we will carry ean50 as a deco gas. We choose 30/30 (30% oxygen/30% helium) for our back gas and blend it up along with some ean50 for our deco bottles. Very mellow dive with about 15 minutes of deco depending on our final profile.

I analyze the gas as soon as I get home, about 5 minutes from Mike's. We have mixed tri-mix at Hoodsport, analyzed the gas and dove it within 15 minutes of mixing. So much for tank rolling, settling, incomplete mixing and all that other wacky stuff :o)

Thursday night we might independently consider different profiles to see where we are at and we will finalize the dive plan Saturday morning. One of the advantages of using the same gases hundreds of times makes you very familiar with their deco characteristics.

Friday evening I will put the P valve back in my suit, wax the zipper and powder the seals. I completely assemble my doubles in the back of the van. The scooter is reassembled, tested, and put in the van ready to go.

My kit is ready to don and dive. The canister light is in place and nothing needs too be added to the rig. Turn on the valves and go.

I take the van over to Mike's and we will load any empty T Bottles of O2 or He to return. Mike puts his gear in the van and it is all ready to go.

Saturday morning I pick up Mike and we are on our way to go diving. We discuss the dive the on the way to the site with a couple of alternatives and we are ready to hit the water. Bubble check, S-drill, dive, and it starts all over again.

Don't forget to surf all those great diving discussion groups on the internet all week between dives. I love it :o)

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### MEMBERSHIP

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

Make checks payable to:  
Wayne Campbell  
(Kelp Krawlers)  
Mail to:  
Becky Lundin

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## Calendar of Events

**April 20th:** Club meeting. Walter Jaccard speaker.  
**April 25th:** Club dive Jorstead Creek  
**May 8th & 9th:** Wooden Boat Festival Touch Tanks  
**May 18th:** Club meeting. John Rawlings speaker.  
**May 29th:** Club dive & picnic Titlow Beach  
**June 15th:** Club meeting.  
**July 20th:** Club meeting.  
**August 17th:** Club meeting.  
**September 21st:** Club meeting.  
**October 19th:** Club meeting.  
**November 16th:** Club meeting.  
**December ?:** Christmas Party

## Treasurer's Report: Wayne Campbell

We have \$402.43 in checking, \$50 in savings, and \$32 in cash.

## Wooden Boat Festival - Touch Tanks

The **Wooden Boat Festival** will be the weekend of **May 8th & 9th**. Sunday the 9th is **Mother's Day**, so bring your mom along to see the touch tanks!

We will need volunteers for collecting the critters on Friday night, May 7th, and a replenishing dive on Saturday, May 8th. Friday night is set-up, and Sunday night is tear-down. **We will need people to sign up to "work" at the touch tanks both Saturday and Sunday, and for set-up and tear-down. The hours Sat are 10am - 6pm, and Sunday 11am - 5pm. Sign up sheets will be available at the March & April meetings.**

**Greg Volkhardt** is the contact person for the critter collection, and also will be getting the permits for the collection.

This is a fun event, and everyone enjoys it! It's a great opportunity to educate people about the marine life in our area.

## March Meeting Attendance:

Lee Artman, Karen & Mike Beyer, Scott & Janet Boyd, Wayne Campbell, Don Chase, Rick Cooper, Carolyn Fornoff, Steve Griffith, Debbie & Duane Hamrick, Becky Lundin, Bob Richart, Carla Thurmond, Sue Treinen, Greg Volkhardt, and Jamie Welsh for a total of 18 people.

For those who missed the meeting, **Sue Treinen, Scott Boyd,** and **Jamie Welsh** talked about underwater photography, and shared some tips on what to look for in equipment purchase and also gave some photo taking tips.

## Swimming Anemone (Stomphia coccinea) by Scott Boyd

The swimming anemone is one of the more photogenic of our local invertebrates. This beautiful, bright orange (with white stripes) anemone looks like a passive flower attached to the rocks along the bottom. However, when approached by a predatory sea star (starfish), the "swimming anemone" lives up to its name by quickly detaching itself and swimming through the water using an undulating motion that is amazing to watch. Sometimes, this swimming is less-than-elegant, and the anemone will tumble along the wall or bottom in a rather comical fashion as it escapes from the clutches of a deadly sea star.



This beautiful anemone comes with remarkable offensive capabilities. Its tentacles are teeming with stinging cells, called nematocysts. These cells contain a hollow thread with a harpoon-like barb at the end. When the cell is stimulated by physical touch, it fires the barb and attached thread, simultaneously injecting venom. The amount of venom in each nematocyst is very small, but usually hundreds fire at once, which is enough to paralyze the anemone's food. This prey, which may include shrimp, crabs, jellyfish or small fish, is then moved to the mouth where it is consumed whole.

If you were to remove your glove, and touch an anemone's tentacles, it would feel slightly "sticky" to touch. This would be the nematocysts striking your fingers, and the threads creating that "sticky" feeling. However, our fingers are pretty tough, and we don't actually feel any effect from the toxin, as we are little too big to be prey.

The swimming anemone is easily identified by the distribution of its orange and translucent striped tentacles. The inner ring of six tentacles usually stands vertical, and is surrounded by an outer ring of 10-12 tentacles that extend horizontally.

### April Speaker: Walter Jaccard

Our speaker this month will be **Walter Jaccard**, with **SECRET (Submerged Cultural Resources Exploration Team)**.

From their website, [www.secret.org](http://www.secret.org):

"Submerged Cultural Resources Exploration Team (SECRET) promotes the exploration, identification, documentation, and recovery of submerged cultural resources, primarily in the Pacific Northwest."

There is a lot of information and interesting reading on their website, be sure to take a look at it.

### May Speaker: John Rawlings

**John Rawlings** is the Pacific Northwest Staff Writer and Photographer for **Advanced Diver Magazine**.

[www.advanceddiver magazine.com](http://www.advanceddiver magazine.com)

### Diver from Oregon drowns off Gig Harbor

Monday, April 12, 2004

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GIG HARBOR -- An Oregon man who was diving with his wife drowned off Sunrise Beach, a sheriff's spokesman said.

The Pierce County Medical Examiner's Office identified the man yesterday as Cecil Sargent, 48, of Silverton.

An oyster harvester called authorities Saturday afternoon, after seeing Sargent go under around 3:30 p.m. while trying to help his wife, who had slipped while carrying her dive gear out of the water, Pierce County sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer said.

Troyer said the couple were walking in the water while carrying their equipment because beach residents are known to call police about trespassing "the minute they see a diver on the beach."

Sargent had been under water about 45 minutes by the time a rescue team with Gig Harbor Fire District No. 5 found him.

He died at Tacoma General Hospital.

Troyer said Sargent and his wife each had about 200 hours of diving experience.

**Kelp Krawlers** supports **Divers Alert Network** and strongly encourages you to join! The advice and insurance available through **DAN** could save your life. Sign up on the web at [www.DiversAlertNetwork.org](http://www.DiversAlertNetwork.org) and use the club sponsor number **392620**

### Upcoming Club Dives:

#### **April 25th: Jorstead Creek**

Meet at HoodSport-n-Dive parking lot at 9:00 am to carpool to Jorstead Creek. The dive is 3 large rocky reefs separated by about 50 to 100 yards of mud. Rockfish, Lings, Octos, Wolfies and Perch are the typical inhabitants.

#### **May 29th: Titlow Beach**

Picnic and dive at Titlow Beach. Meet at 11:00 am at the Martin Way Park & Ride to carpool. Titlow is a shallow current intensive dive. Slack water is important for planning as is high tide making only a few real good weekends to dive here. Late May has one of those weekends. Exploring the Titlow pilings while riding gentle currents on a sunny day with decent vis is one of the best 30 foot dives in Washington. We will BBQ burgers, supply chips and pop. Please RSVP so we know how much mad cow to buy.

**Mike Beyer** is the contact person for both of these club dives.

### Turks Caicos Islands Caribbean Dive Trip Nov. 6 – 14, 2004

- 9 days / 8 nights
- 6 days of 2-tank diving

Join us as we travel to the Turks and Caicos Islands this November. The Turks and Caicos Islands are a coral-reef paradise, largely shut off from the world, free of pollution and crowds. Dive experts, including the late Jacques Cousteau, have cited Provo as one of the 10 best sites in the world, because of the barrier reef that runs the full length of the island's 17 mile north coast.

This adventure is for the diver seeking sea life that ranges from swarms of colorful schools of fish, barracuda, large rotund grouper, sharks, turtles, eagle rays, endless forms of coral and great visibility in clear aquamarine to cobalt blue water. The "walls" in the Turks and Caicos have been rated in the top 5 best wall dives in Rodale, 2004.

Hotel, Dive & Air package: Diver \$ 2,150 Non-Diver \$ 1,650 (Rates per person based on double occupancy) In order to take advantage of this group rate, \$350 per person deposit (non-refundable) is required by April 10th.

Please contact us if you have any questions; we look forward to diving with you in the beautiful Caribbean this November!

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