



KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

April 2007

www.kelpkrawlers.org

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Prez Sez.....

I had the dive of a lifetime. It was so unbelievable I thought I needed to share it with everyone. It is not customary for NOAA to include volunteers on their research expeditions, but they heard of the Kelp Krawlers' tunicate cleanup day and asked me to join them on a research dive near the Banger Navy facility to verify if a tunicate report they had received was correct. Apparently during a training dive, Navy Seals spotted a white mat of transparent tunicates between 120' and 140' MLLW, within the restricted area of the base. I was honored to be included.

The research vessel, called the "Research A. Foolery", picked me up at Pleasant Harbor. I was excited. I had my doubles filled with a 28% Nitrox mix. I was prepared for a day of diving. We drove to a site that was an un-name wall near the Navy Facility. Only one dive was scheduled for the day. The dive plan was to descend to a 135' for 10 minutes and gradually ascending along a wall for 60+ minutes or until the dive was over. The objective of the dive was to verify the tunicate sighting and take samples for DNA identification.

My dive partner was a man named P. McCarthy. Because I had never dove with him before, I was a little nervous, although his diving experience rivaled any. He had over 2000 dives logged and had dove all over the world.

The dive was outstanding. I can say without question it was beyond my

wildest dreams. At 135' what we saw was, at least 9 six gill sharks that were swimming in a circular formation. I was thrilled because I had never seen a six gill shark and to see nine was amazing. Interestingly, they appeared to be surrounding or herding something. Looking and moving closer, and closer, I kept trying to adjust my eyes to actually accept what I was seeing, as the object came into focus, I could see it was a machine of some sort. I could not believe it,*I thought I was nark-ed for sure!* No reasonable person was ever going to believe me. In fact, if I had not seen this machine with my own eyes, I would not have believed it. The sharks were swimming around a small research submarine,*a yellow submarine*. I literally almost choked on my regulator. I was truly excited, and knew that I was probably breathing through the air in my doubles like nobodies business. Checking my gauges, I realized that we had to start our ascent. That is when I looked over at my dive partner. I could not believe what I was seeing....he had a huge smile on his face and appeared to be humming, actually singing a Beatles song! I could not wait to get home, tell John, and record the dive in my log book. On 4-1-07, I saw a yellow submarine.

Amy Kurtenbach



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Don't You wish You Were There?

This story is told by Ryan Caldwell, the diver that witnessed the whole event and captured the ordeal with his underwater camera.

It is always great to hear of dive stories told by fellow club members and this one is of particular interest to me since both characters are prized aquatic animals that most of us search for every time we hit the water.

"I was diving on the "Down Time" boat out of Hood Canal at a spot known as the Pinnacle. I was about 70 feet on the SE side when I saw an Octopi going into a hole under a big rock. I went in for the picture about 3 feet from the hole when I saw the Octopus coming out fully opened up with a 6 foot wolf eel coming after him. About the same time I saw another 6 foot wolf eel from the left attacking. Both wolf's where biting on the Octopus's tentacles trying to get him out of the hole and maybe out of the area. I took as many photos as my camera could take in the three to four minutes the battle went on. Eventually the Octopus disappeared and both wolf eels went back into their holes. The battle left a piece of tentacle and the Octopus got away."



You can go to www.kelpkrawlers.org and look at the rest of the pictures that Ryan took. Thanks Ryan.

SUND ROCK WORK DAY

By Mark Reece and Mike Fitz

I strongly urge any body in our group that hasn't dove Sund Rock on the Hood Canal yet, to Git r Done. This site always feels like home when I dive there, whether it is helping with new open water

students in classes, night diving, or just helping to clean up the water, like on the Tunicate Eradication day. I hope it can feel like that for you too.

Carolyn and I joined the Kelp Krawlers only 2 ½ short years ago. It has been the most fun social group of people we have ever belonged to. It is a group that we are very proud to be associated with. Why you might ask, is anyone proud to be a part of a DIVE Club. Simply put, this group gives back to the community we so gratefully take advantage of, the diving community.

In specific, we are extremely proud of the work put out by this group on the south wall path at Sund Rock on Saturday, March 31, 2007. Carolyn and I showed up at about 9:00 Saturday morning to find a few people already working away. We found even more work that had already been done by Steve Fornoff and (I don't know who all else). He had spent many, many hours pouring the concrete for the steps leading down to the beach, and lots of other preparatory work long before we showed up.

The first thing we were asked to do was to go get the broken concrete up the road from a site and start hauling it back to the work sight. Roger G and Rich P had already hauled 1 load back, but we were going to need many, many more. Mike F and Steve were building the retaining wall that would hold the path in place, right by the road down to the beach. Others were already building the rock wall closer down towards the beach. It looked like it was going to take a lot of pickup loads of concrete to build this wall.

Before long the rest of the work party started showing up. I mean, everybody came ready to WORK. John B. got right to work helping Mike F on the retaining wall by the road. Mike S., Dave M. and Carolyn R. got to work laying the puzzle pieces of the wall at the beach end. Steve and Carolyn F started moving concrete and gravel in to place as well.

Hauling a wheel barrow full of broken concrete along a narrow mountain path is about as easy as trying to haul a set of doubles up Jorstadt Creek path. I don't think Dave M has gotten to do that particular trip yet, but he did make one very memorable trip hauling concrete down this trail. He made most of his trips quite gracefully, but one trip was way more memorable than any of the others.

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I was throwing concrete out of a truck into wheel barrows, when on the path there was suddenly yelling and calling for the camera. Thinking maybe a six gill had been spotted I raced to the path to find that the wheel barrow had gone head



over heels, with Dave M. landing right smack on top of it, everything upside down on the path.

Luckily Carolyn F. had the camera and was able to snap the picture for prosperity. Thank heavens Dave M was okay, but I'm not sure about that wheel barrow. We decided Dave's wheel barrow driver's license had expired, and we put him to work putting the rock retaining wall together.

John C showed up and helped us haul rock and gravel along the path. Amy K helped with putting lunch together as well as helping on the path. Paula and spouse, as well as Jerry A, were also helpful in moving the gravel and laying the path.

23 people, 7 shovels, 5 wheelbarrows, 4 rakes, 3 pickup trucks, 2 tons of gravel, a chainsaw and a weed whacker and a couple of hours of labor

later...Waalaaa, a beautifully maintained walkway to the south wall at Sund Rock.

Next time you're there, if you look carefully in the parking lot, you can see the exact spot where Mike Fitz did the following improvements. Story as told by Mike himself.....

"Just thought I should add my portion of the work party and dive report:

After helping construct the new trail to the south part of the Sund Rock dive area, Michael Fitz decided to try and level the parking lot with his nose after stepping on a small stick. While this wouldn't normally be a problem, the set of doubles, stage bottle and can light helped to make sure his nose was adequately inserted in the gravel. Four large guys and 20 seconds later, he was upright with his feet off the ground saying "I'm OK, please put me down". After verifying all parts were working, he was off to the dive."

Michael M. Fitz, P.E., C.F.I.

Better luck in the future and thanks for sharing. It had to hurt, what with a set of doubles and all his diving equipment. Glad you're okay Mike.

I deeply apologize for not being able to remember everybody's name that showed up and worked. We want to be sure that you all feel our gratitude. Every single person that showed up should be proud of what we all accomplished that day. I know we sure are proud to be members of the Kelp Krawlers and call you all our friends.

The next time you get the chance to go diving, make sure to do a dive at Sund Rock. Be sure to stop at Hood Sport Dive shop to register and pay the fees. Please thank them for all of their help and support that allows us to dive the site. Most of all, ...enjoy the newly maintained path to the

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Calendar of Events

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|-----------------|---|
| Apr 14th | CRITTER COUNT WITH JANNA NICHOLS. 9:00 am to noon at Emonds Underwater Park. |
| Apr 17th | CLUB MEETING, 7 PM. Dirty Dave's Pizza. |
| Apr 21st | CLUB DIVE: Bandito Charters, contact John Cipriano 236-9432. |

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south wall, you can drive a truck down it.



How Come You Dive With Your Gear That Way?

One of the first new diving techniques I learned upon moving to Washington from Utah, and diving the cold waters of Puget Sound, was a different way to share air in an out of air emergency. This method is used by cave and wreck divers but works outstandingly well for recreational divers too. It's called the necklace and long hose method.

The way the necklace and the long hose method works is like this. The primary reg hose is 5-7 ft long and is routed from the 1st stage on your tank, under the right arm and up across your left chest. It then goes up around the left side of your neck, around the back of your neck, and hangs down around the right side of your neck. It hangs down on your upper right chest. Typically the primary reg has a bolt snap attached so that it can be

clipped off to a D-ring on the right shoulder strap of your BC when not in use. The back up reg is on a short hose that is routed around the right side of your head, over your shoulder, and has a shock cord attached in a loop so the reg hangs from your neck like a necklace, thus the term.

With this method, when the out of air diver gives you the signal that they are out of air, you donate the primary regulator, that you are breathing from, to the out of air diver. The routing of the long hose sounds complicated, but it really isn't and it is extremely functional. You grab your primary reg by the hose, not the reg, with your palm towards your face. You then pull the reg from your mouth, turning your hand towards the out of air diver and shoving the reg in their mouth. While doing this you duck your head and the hose naturally uncoils from around your neck, and the out of air diver is now breathing from your primary reg and you are a safe distance away from a panicked diver. You then pick up your backup that's been hanging on your necklace, and put it in your mouth. SHAZAM! The emergency is over.

You then deploy the rest of the long hose from under your arm, and you now have up to seven feet of hose between you and the out of air diver. You can now safely and comfortably exit the water by swimming towards your exit or ascending side by side. In an overhead environment such as a wreck or a cave, you can safely exit in a line with the out of air diver in front.

We have been lucky enough to learn this and many other techniques from our techy dive buddies. If you have any questions just ask any of us technical diving freaks. There may be more of us than you know, or care to know.

LOCAL DIVE SHOP INFORMATION

Capital Divers 866-3684

Nitrox, argon and hyper filtered air fills available.

www.capitaldivers.com

Hood Sport 'n Dive (360) 877-6818

The shop has now moved to a new location in Hoodspport 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.

www.hoodspportndive.com

Underwater Sports 493-0322

The Olympia Shop is now pumping hyper filtered Air. Discounted air cards for Kelp Krawlers: 10 fills for \$25.

www.underwatersports.com

New and Fun Items to Look Forward To

We are starting a couple of new items for the Newsletter, which I hope that each of you will enjoy and can have fun with. The first is a questionnaire that is passed out by board members to club members so that we as a club can get to know one another just a little bit better. The next item is a contest using various underwater photos that will be shown and the 1st club member that can answer what ever question is asked in the newsletter at the next club meeting will win 10—50/50 drawing tickets. Have fun and may the best diver win.



Club Member Spotlight

Carri Marschner, is the first of many to come, that has been gracious enough to answer the questions put before her and give up a little information concerning her diving portfolio.

Carri was certified in Southern Ohio in 2002 and has done a great deal of diving in the western part of Lake Erie where she did a school thesis. (Maybe we can get her to talk about what she learned sometime?) Her favorite type of diving is for research. She has also had the wonderful opportunity to dive the Indian Ocean off of South Africa. As far as Pacific Northwest Dive Sites go she has been to Steila-coom, commonly known as Sunnyside Beach and

Octopus Hole. The later being her favorite of the two. She has Neah Bay on her dive sites to do in the future.

When she was asked what her favorite critter is, her answer was her dog. Does he get to go diving with you? I think it would be great to see a dog with a mini tank, reg and mask swimming by someday while diving. What do you think?

Carri would like to come back as a Goby in a second life, stating that she would have the most advanced sensory system around and that she would never be alone. If you needed a private moment where would you go?

Like most of us when we are asked what kind of gear do we have on our "Wish List", she would like a bit of everything. I can certainly understand that since there is so much to want out there. I truly believe that a diver can never have too much equipment, (haha). She touts that her oldest piece of equipment is her mask.

Her day to day life is described by Carri that she gets to kill things. In a further investigation of this stated fact she let us know that she mostly kills invasive plants. And occasionally she gets to plant native species. Then she came back with the statement that sometimes she lights fires. Wow....what an interesting day at the office you must have.

Carri's scariest moment in diving was when she was out and it hit her that first it was pitch black and second that she had no idea where she had placed the sediment corers.

Like all questionnaires, we wouldn't be doing our job if we didn't find out what Carri's astrological sign is, so we ask: the answer, a Capricorn.



Upcoming Trips:

PORPOISE BAY CHARTERS, Canada	Apr 26—29, 2007, contact Amy Kurtenbach
DIAMOND KNOT	Apr 29, 2007, contact Underwater Sports
AKUMAL, MEXICO	Nov 3-14, 2007, contact Capital Dive Shop
FIJI AGGRESSOR 2	June 21—28, 2008, contact Capital Dive Shop

“ What’s Your Guess?” Newsletter Photo Contest

Take a look at the following skins of 6 different types of aquatic life forms that you will see in the Pacific Northwest Area that we dive in all of the time. See if you can guess what they are, then bring your answers to the next Kelp Krawlers Meeting where they will go into a hat and the first correct answers drawn will win (10-50/50 drawing tickets). Good luck and may the best guess win.



#1



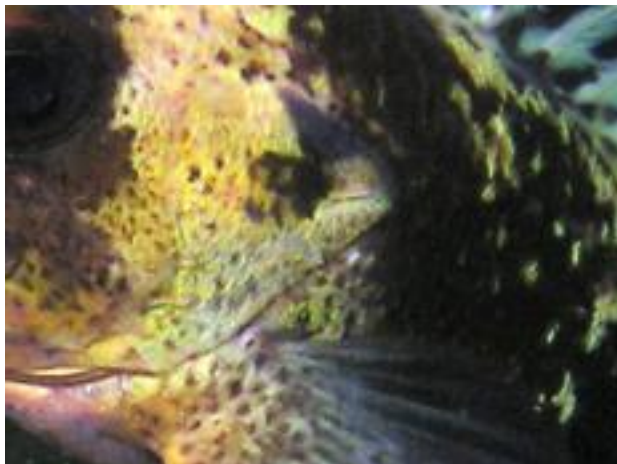
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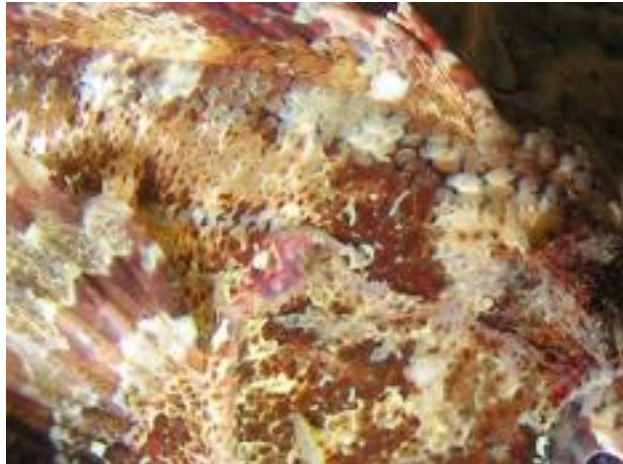
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