



KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

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Diving Sund Rock - by Jerry Ehrlich more :o) The second is having a gear configura

I have been asked many times how **Mike Beyer** and I can dive the same spot so many times and not get bored. I guess it all depends on why you dive. I really like the sea life and the different nature and rhythm of life underwater. **Hood Canal** and specifically the **Sund Rock MCA** offer an incredible variety of sea life and it is all there on a regular basis. Octopus, wolf eel, ling cod, vermilion rockfish, black rockfish, red brotula, stubby squid, torpedo rays, sharp nosed skate - who knows what we will see next week? The plant life is excellent with some unique cultures of sea squirts, sea whips, and cloud sponges.

The drive to **Hood Canal** is wonderful. You are quickly off **Interstate 5** and on your way down progressively narrower highways and wider vistas. **The Olympic Mountains** greet you as you pass through the **Christmas tree farms** and soon the waters of the canal are in view. This is the exact opposite of going north on **Interstate 5**; relaxed rural atmosphere vs. uptight, urban mania.

The Marine Conservation Area is really quite large and you can go as deep as you like with little hassle and hardly ever any current. The wreck at the north end of the **MCA** has some unique growth on it and it is shelter for thousands of shrimp. Several hundred yards to the south at the far end of the **Sund Rock** wall is the bronze grave monument to another who loved this area and whose ashes were put here in 1985. The plaque at 110 feet remains remarkably clean of growth.

Deep diving fascinates all of us and this is a superb location to practice it. You can be at 200 feet here in a matter of minutes and there is always something to look at while descending and coming up. It is a treat to decompress while watching a baby octopus or just enjoying a school of rockfish on a structure. It beats the hell out of hanging on a line somewhere looking at nothing in the water column.

Diving is very equipment intensive and all of this stuff mostly gets in the way of enjoying the environment. There are two things that make this situation better. The first is practice. **Dive, dive, dive.** Work on your weaknesses as perceived by yourself and your mentors, and then dive some

tion that is easy to use, efficient, and causes the least interference between you and enjoying the dive. These are subjects that books can be written about, but I think **Mike** and I have a level of commitment that has enabled us to make progress with both of these problems. No system is perfect and we must always listen and strive for improvement. The point I am struggling with here is having all of these gear and comfort issues well in hand allows you to interact with the underwater environment on a very personal level.

The underwater world is very different from our own and we have a limited understanding of this incredibly beautiful, dynamic place. When we become intimately familiar with a dive site we begin to see things in sequences and seasons that might otherwise be missed. Through hundreds of dives at this site we have come to know the seasons at the **Sund Rock MCA**, the subtle changes that signify them and the different behavior of the animals. We see the flora die back in the winter and return in the spring. We know the stubby squid lay their eggs at night on cool winter evenings, we know the octopus lay their eggs year round and they hunt at all hours of the day and night. We know the wolf eels switch mates and dens, we observe the same dens being used by different species through out the year.

We watched an octopus barricade its den entrance carefully with rocks, like laying bricks. Over the next three weeks we watched the three other octopus on **North Wall** mimic this behavior in sequence until they all had walled up front doors.

The sea whips are now expanding very rapidly below 80 feet. Two years ago this growth was stopped completely by an invasion of thousands of small striped nudibranchs that stripped the stalks clean and almost wiped them out. I am curious to see when they will return and control

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MEMBERSHIP

Kelp Krawler dues:
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Kelp Krawlers supports **Divers Alert Network** and strongly encourages you to join! The advice and insurance available through **DAN** could save your life. **Steve** has applications. Or sign up on the web at: www.DiversAlertNetwork.org and use the club sponsor number **392620**.

Wooden Boat Festival - Touch Tanks

Last weekend was the annual **Wooden Boat Festival**, where our club sets up and staffs the touch tanks. You never know what you will find!! Check out this picture of the starfish with the cell phone. I didn't realize they worked underwater!!



Divers for the critter collection included: **Greg Volkhardt, Don Noviello, Scott Boyd, Steve Griffith, and Duane Hamrick.** Set-up and tear down volunteers were: **Jim Eash, Jerry Ehrlich, Wayne Campbell, Rodger Gomez, Jeff**

Evans, Carla Thurmond, and the **Volkhardt gang.** Volunteers at the tanks over the weekend were: **Wayne Campbell; Brad, Sarah, and James Congdon; Mike & Karen Beyer; Jerry and Becky Ehrlich; Janet Boyd; Debbie Hamrick; Jerry Helm; and Melissa Johnson.** Many thanks to all who came out to help, and if I missed anyone, I apologize!!



Happy touchers!



Brad & James Congdon, Karen Beyer, Wayne Campbell.

Calendar of Events

May 18th: Club meeting. John Rawlings speaker.

May 29th: Club dive & picnic Titlow Beach

June 6th: Club dive Crab Rodeo

June 15th: Club meeting.

June 19th: Swap meet and breakfast

July 20th: Club meeting.

August 17th: Club meeting.

September 21st: Club meeting.

October 19th: Club meeting.

November 16th: Club meeting.

December ?: Christmas Party

Upcoming Club Dives:

May 29th: Titlow Beach - Dive & BBQ - Mike Beyer contact person

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.**

Here is the plan...**Titlow** will experience an unheard of seven minute long dead slack on Saturday, May 29th. We will meet at the **Martin Way Park and Ride** at 11:00. Arrive at **Titlow** around 11:40am. Set up and **BBQ** of dead animals should begin thereafter, continuing with cleanup around 12:45. We need to rest a bit and let the food settle before diving. Ask your Mom, if you don't believe me. We will start gearing up after 1pm. Dead slack is predicted at 2:24 PM. From 1:38 the flood is 1.0 knot and slowing, at 3:28 the ebb is 1.0 and rising. This is an easy shallow dive, so it is very feasible to get 60 minutes from a tank. If you plan a 60 minute dive, get in at 1:55 when it is .7 knots flooding, and come out at 2:55 as the ebb reaches .5 knots. Remember to skew the entry time a bit early so you can exit low on air when the current is still manageable. Most divers will notice a .5 current, anything above 1.0 can quickly fatigue a diver who is kicking against the current. There are showers for rinsing gear and divers. For those so inclined, a tavern awaits across the street. Please respond via email so I know how much food to buy. mkbeyer@aol.com, or kelpkrawlers@yahoogroups.com

Crab Rodeo - June 6th

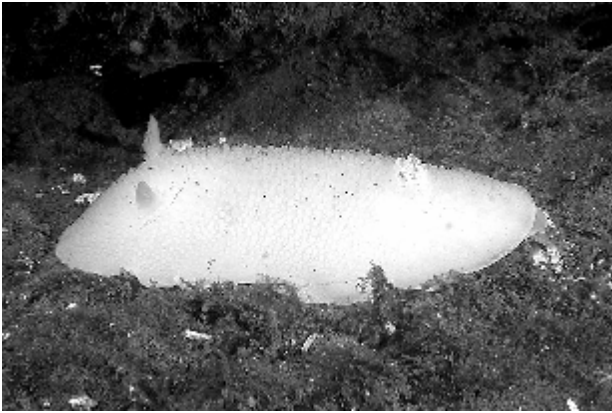
Come to the meeting to find out more information from **Greg Volkhardt.**

Treasurer's Report: Wayne Campbell

At the April meeting, **Jamie Welsh** presented the club with a check from the **Aquanuts** in the amount of \$490.00, to pay for the signage at **Sund Rock** and **Octopus Hole.** Thank you, **Aquanuts!!**

Sea Lemon Nudibranch *Anisdoris Nobilis* - by Scott Boyd

The Sea Lemon Nudibranch is a common visitor to our local rock walls (like **Sund Rock**). They are bright yellow and grow to about 10" long. The top is covered with short, rounded projections and a ring of 6 white-edged, frilly gills can be found near the back end. They live at depths from tide pools to about 750' and range from **British Columbia** to **Baja California**.



This is one of the largest species of nudibranchs along the **Pacific Coast**. It feeds entirely upon sponges, and prefers the yellow **Halichondria (Bread Crumb Sponge)**, which is where it gets its color. The **Sea Lemon** emits a strong, fruity odor which seems to discourage predators, and is where the name originated.

Because of the structure of its nervous system, this sea slug is often utilized for neurophysiological experiments, which has enabled researchers to mimic the workings of the human nervous system.

April Meeting Attendance:

Lee Artman, Mike & Karen Beyer, Janet & Scott Boyd, Wayne Campbell, Jim Eash, Jerry Ehrlich, Rodger Gomez, Steve Griffith, Becky Lundin, Pat Murphy, Don Noviello, Jerry Rolly, Wendy Rude, Carla Thurmond, Greg Volkhardt, and Jamie Welsh for a total of 18 people.

May Speaker: John Rawlings

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

www.advanceddivermagazine.com

He will be talking about wreck diving, and discovering a car that was lost in **Lake Crescent**. You can check out some of his photographs on the above website - just follow the links to the photo galleries. Here is his bio that I snagged off the *Advanced Diver* online site:

Born and raised in the **Pacific Northwest**, **John Rawlings** spent

much of his childhood alongside his avid fisherman father gazing down into the emerald green waters of **Puget Sound** and wondering what really lay beneath the surface. Finally learning to dive in the mid-1970s, it wasn't long before he developed a burning desire to photograph the many colorful animals and scenes he regularly saw while diving so that he could share his wonder with "topside friends".

Starting with a used **Nikonos II** and a dented flash-bulb system, **John** became a self-taught photographer as he struggled to find the best methods to photograph the underwater creatures and sights of **Puget Sound, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and British Columbia**. Often having to deal with typically **Northwest** low light and poor visibility, these conditions contributed much to the manner in which **John** views both his subjects and the methods that he uses to capture his images. In the early days he would emerge from each dive with an old breadbag full of used bulbs lashed to his weight belt and a "wee bit" more knowledge about **Pacific Northwest** underwater photography bouncing around in his head. While his equipment has become more modern, **John's** quest for increased knowledge and skill remains never-ending.

Now well into his third decade of **Puget Sound** diving, **John** is the **Pacific Northwest Staff Writer and Photographer for Advanced Diver Magazine**, in which for the past two years his work has regularly appeared. His photographs and writings have also appeared in other publications dealing with the **Pacific Northwest**, in both the print medium and on the web.

Having traveled to a variety of locations throughout the world, **John** still treasures the underwater world of his home waters above all others. Year-round.....sun, snow, wind or rain..... he can be found striding out of the surf on a desolate beach or climbing back into a dive boat, his camera again containing new images from the cold, green waters of the **Pacific Northwest**.

John Rawlings has a large portfolio of images from the **Pacific Northwest** as well as other photographs from "warmer locations".

Breakfast & Swap Meet - June 19th

Our annual breakfast and swap meet will be held on Saturday, June 19th, at the **Rest-a-While Marina**. Breakfast includes made to order omelets (by our chef, **Paul Boardman**), potatoes, bacon, sausage, french toast, fruit, coffee, and juice. Breakfast will be served from 8 am to 11 am.

Bring your extra or no longer used dive gear (we ALL have some!!) to sell, buy a raffle ticket or two, and bid on the auction item.

This is another fun event, and the food is excellent! **So please, sign up to volunteer. The more people we have, the less work it is for each of us.** And remember to bring your dive gear, so that you can get a dive in at **Sund Rock, Octopus Hole, or Jorstead Creek** after breakfast!!