

KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

May 2005

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Third Annual Northwest Underwater Treasure Hunt

The freedivers at the third annual **Northwest Underwater Treasure Hunt** stole the show on Saturday, April 30th, when **Mandy-Rae Cruickshank** surfaced with the treasure chest, much to the dismay of the scuba divers still waiting on shore. **Mandy-Rae**, from **Vancouver**, Canada, holds several world records, including constant ballast freediving (to 256') and had earlier given a free seminar. The 40' of water that the Grand Prize chest was resting in proved no match for the free diving team from Canada. **Mandy-Rae** broke the surface of the water with a big whoo-hoo while holding the prized yellow and blue chest aloft for all to see. Her team of freedivers did so well in fact, that they continued to dive and find numbered golf balls for many of the snorkelers still paddling around on the surface of the water.



Kuwait. Bandito Charters and Teal Water Charters provided safety divers and a watchful eye over the large school of scuba divers, which did include at least one Kelp Krawler!

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

Make checks payable to:
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Two hours after the freedivers entered the water, **268 scuba divers** waded into the waters of Owen Beach at Point Defiance Park to search for the remaining prizes. The turnout was lower than the **353 divers** that dove last year, and well below the number needed to break the **world record**, which was recently set in Surat, Thailand on February 13th, when **750 divers** entered the water for the world's largest "mass dive". The weather mostly cooperated, even though the forecast was poor, and the shadow of rain likely kept the larger crowds away.



Many local dive shops and vendors had booths set up along the beach, and it was a great place to get information about new places and products as well as to meet up with old friends. I particularly enjoyed the fact that the GUE gang from FifthD was set up right across from the PSI booth (editor's note: my PSI instructor just about had a heart attack when I wore a GUE sweatshirt to class!)

Walt Amidon and **Kathy Stratton** did a great job of organizing and promoting this huge event while Rick is off serving his country in

Underwater photo and video class

Optiquatics is offering an underwater photo and video class on Memorial Day weekend, **May 27-29th** (Friday, Saturday and Sunday). It will be put on by **Joe Mysocki**, owner of Optiquatics and **Roger Roth** of Underwater Images. The cost is \$250 with a class of 6-7 people and will include classroom sessions and work, handouts, in-water instruction, and evaluations. Joe will be bringing high quality video cameras, housings, and lights for use and testing. This is a good chance for you photographers to try something new and different.

Please contact **Bonnie Smith** at **(360) 280-2372** for questions, or to sign up. This is a great opportunity to learn from a couple of world-class professional photographers.

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Les Davis Dive Report

by Becky Lundin

On April 22nd, a warm, sunny, Friday afternoon, Steve Griffith and Becky Lundin decided to venture out to Les Davis to see what was happening underwater there. Due to someone having had "issues" with ears and balance, it probably wasn't that great of an idea to try diving, but hey!! When Steve had called and said, "Wanna go diving?", and we had to set the date up 2 - 3 weeks in advance, I said "Sure!". Of course at that time, ears and balance were fine. So, my ears were not happy with being very deep underwater, but were happy enough if I stayed above 20 fsw. So, we hung out in about 15 - 17 fsw, and had a wonderful dive!! The bottom was alive! We saw hundreds of decorator crabs, which I have to admit are one of my favorite things to look for while diving. Lots of little nudibranchs, that I wasn't able to identify. A few varieties of tube worms, and some interesting "things" growing up out of the bottom. Plant? Animal? Dunno..... should have had my camera with me. :o)

Afterwards we wandered through Tacoma town in search of ice cream for the ride home. We were successful, and it was a good ending to a good day.



April Meeting Notes:

Phil Jensen from **Diver's Dream Charters** gave a presentation on his acquisition of LuJac's Quest in July of 2003 and the charter operation that he is running out of Anacortes. Jensen dives principally in the San Juan Islands and requires an insured **Dive Master** to be on board, so most trips are organized through local dive shops. Contact Phil at (360)202-0076 or see his web site at www.lujacsquest.com.

Stephen Fishnaller stopped by for a visit and reminded club members that corrected tidal current information is available at his website (www.bio-marine.com). There was considerable discussion about how to do the touch tanks at the Wooden Boat Festival this year, and it was decided that this year they will in fact be "no-touch" tanks, protected by deer netting.

Jerry Ehrlich suggested that the club should provide mooring buoys for the charter boats at the Sund Rock Marine Preserve.

The club discussed this at length, and decided to provide the funding and manpower to install three buoys on the existing anchors to help protect the benthic critters from temporary boat anchors.

In online discussions after the meeting, it was determined that Jamie still has the old buoys, which will be re-used, along with the 1" rope that was donated by Phil Jensen to secure the buoys to the existing anchors. **Thanks Phil!!**

Meeting Attendees: **Rodger Gomez, Becky Lundin, Carla Thurmond, Wayne Campbell, Bonnie Knights, Duane and Debbie Hamrick, Tani Iwashita, Penne Macnee, Hobe Pannkuk, Steve Fishnaller, John Tupper, Cheryl Scott, Bob Richart, Jerry Ehrlich, and Scott and Janet Boyd.**

Flying Dalco Wall

by Scott Boyd

I recently had the great opportunity to dive Dalco Wall using a brand new Long Body X-scooter. Captain Tom Prozialeck dropped us right over the middle of the wall and Alex handed all 55 lbs. of the scooter down. We descended over the top of the wall, got situated, and began to fly! Wow! Cruising along the base of the wall is amazing and effortless. Simply releasing the trigger allows you to stop and admire the many huge wolf eels or octopuses hiding in the wall. Of course this often lead to a bit of "buddy separation", but the wonderful viz we were enjoying that day allowed us to easily regroup. Pull the trigger again, and you're off and flying. Eventually, the wall ended, and we turned back to the west and began flying in the other direction.

We were easily able to cover the entire wall, meeting up with the rest of our group of divers near the West end of the wall, where we played like a couple of young seal pups as we buzzed by on the scooters. Did I mention that we were having a lot of FUN?!!



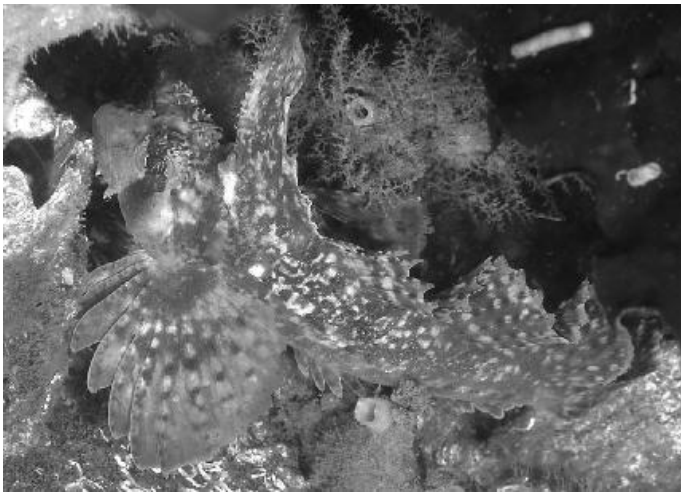
For our second dive, we dropped into the Tacoma Narrows along the East Side. Tani and I each picked up another diver, "towing" both Carolyn and Janet along the side of the narrows. The scooters had no problem towing two divers, and allowed us to easily cover a lot of ground, stopping to take pictures and admire the beautiful critters that were hiding amongst the rubble and rocks of the Narrows. The long body in particular is quite the tractor underwater and allowed us to go all the way to the bridge and back easily over the course of a single dive.

Sailfin Sculpin, *Nautichthys oculofasciatus*

by Scott Boyd

Sailfin Sculpins are a common site for divers venturing into our lush emerald waters at night. During the day, these graceful fish hide in the shadows and rarely venture out where divers can observe them. Typical specimens range from a few inches to a length of about 8 inches. These sinuous swimmers do not seem to move very far, and one can generally find them very close to the same location where they were first spotted when returning for subsequent dives.

Ranging from Southern California to the Bering Sea in Alaska, sailfins can be found in shallow depths around pilings down to about 400' of depth. This sculpin swims over the bottom by holding its body stiff while undulating its dorsal and anal fins independently in a series of graceful, continuous waves. Col-



ored a mottled white to dark brown, they often hold their distinctive "sail" fin vertically just prior to gulping down a small shrimp or other invertebrate.

This sculpin is a bit skittish although it tends to remain in one place unless approached too closely. They also blend in very well as they typically hide in protected crevices surrounded by barnacles of the same basic colors. During the spring, female sailfin sculpins lay their sticky egg masses in small clusters of distinctive orange amongst the mussels in the intertidal zone.

As mentioned above, your best chance of spotting these nocturnally active fish would be at night where they might be right out in the open. Even then, they still like to hide underneath something. They tend to remain still unless you get within touching distance, and then they flutter away to settle down somewhere else nearby. I'm usually able to consistently spot sailfins at the Les Davis Marine Park (~45 fsw) or on the deep end of the barge at Owen Beach (~100 fsw).



DIVE SHOP NEWS:

Capital Divers **866-3684**
www.capitaldivers.com

Palau trip on the Palau Aggressor June 25-July 2 2006. Nitrox, argon and hyper filtered air fills available.

Bandito Charters on **Saturday, May 21st**, June 18th, July 16th, Aug 28th, Sept 24th, Oct 23rd, Nov 19th and Dec 18th.

Hood Sport 'n Dive **(360) 877-6818**
www.hoodspordndive.com

The shop is now pumping nitrox while you wait, trimix, deco gases, and argon. Also, they are offering discounted access to the **Sund Rock Marine Preserve** for paid members of the Kelp Krawlers dive club.

Underwater Sports **493-0322**
www.underwatersports.com

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

Blue Diamond Dive Tours **(360)426-1267**
BlueDiamondDiver@aol.com

Bonaire Trip at the Sand Dollar Beach Resort November 5-13.



Dive Safe and Play Nice!!!!