



KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

June 2008

www.kelpkrawlers.org

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2008 OFFICERS

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Kelp Krawler dues:

\$15 single or

\$25 for a family

**See website for
membership form**

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Prez Sez

By Amy Kurtenbach

So, what has the Kelp Krawlers Board Done Lately?

The board has scheduled multiple un-hosted club dives. Please check the club calendar frequently. The board is trying to have at least one club dive or function per month. We have three 6-gill dive hunts planned for the month of July, a club dive at Octopus Hole, and the Dive-Around-The-Clock event. The board is investigating the interest in scheduling a camping trip at Salt Creek County Park in Port Angeles, and a fall function at the Steamboat Island Grange. Stay tuned....

Our members are very important. The board has been thinking about different ways to recruit members, keep existing members, and partner with other dive clubs. One idea the board has implemented is the Kelp Krawlers business card. They are available to all members. We trust that members will share the cards with new divers, acquaintances met at the dive sites, or just to write information on the back of the card about dive sites, air consumption, navigation considerations, etc. The board is also looking into the cost of producing magnets, pencils and pens. These ideas are all for fun and any and all suggestions are welcome.

This leads us to the stickers. They have been a real success. I have seen them on vehicles, dive boats, dive shop walls, resorts, tanks and other dive equipment, etc. I cannot wait to visit some exotic dive location on the other side of the world and spot a Kelp Krawlers dive sticker. I personally have left stickers in Cozumel, Canada, and around Washington State. I hope to leave a sticker on a dive boat in the Galapagos Islands this October.

Although we have many forms of communication within the club, probably our website is our most consistent communi-

cation tool. Scott Boyd does a great job updating the website with new dives that have been scheduled, events, happenings, and links. Our website is a wonderful tool, but we also have our group e-mail list, newsletter, meetings and club dives.

Collecting articles for the newsletter has always been difficult. The newsletter is an important tool. It shares the world of club diving with new divers, a venue to share our adventures, and is an excellent advertisement at the local dive shops for the club. Please, please, consider writing a short article about a dive or send pictures of a dive outing, land or underwater pictures are both acceptable, to our editor Steve Sutton.

Dave Miller has taken the time to have a new banner made for our club. The unveiling was at the June club meeting. I personally was very proud to see our sun worshiping Octopus on the dive flag. It is going to be a proud moment when we hang our new banner at our next club function.

We were successful selling our first round of apparel items for the club. The T-shirts were a huge expenditure, but we have sold enough t-shirts to recoup spent funds. Now, in the tradition of the club, we have only X-large, XX-large, and two small shirts left. No mediums and no larges. Apparently, we need to make more shirts and other apparel items; maybe t-shirts and hats this time.

Club meeting have been long. The room is crowded, and although I am not disappointed with club attendance, we could shorten the agenda. It is my goal to have the club business portion of the meeting over before 8pm. I would love to hear people's comments about our new approach to meetings.

The board has been exploring the world of speakers and doing what we can to invite speakers to our club meeting. Personally,

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I think the speakers have been great lately. If any club member has ideas for speakers, or have something they want to talk about, please give Dave Miller or myself a call. Some of our best ideas for speakers have surfaced via recommendations from members.

The dive around the clock event is scheduled July 26th. In my opinion, this will probably be our most meaningful club event this year. I am very excited about our clubs participation. The two chartered boat dives, the chance drawing, and the 50/50 drawings will generate a sizeable donation for Children's Hospital and cancer research.

I wish you safe diving and lots of fish stories.

A general description of diving in Oregon - Depoe Bay south to Port Orford

By Jeff Carr

Depoe Bay

The Depoe Bay area offers only boat diving. For my part, I have only been south of the Bay. The area north is reportedly an excellent area to dive also.

From Shore: None.

Depoe Bay rocks: The territory just south, beginning after you exit the entry cove and begin moving south, is a rocky reef area that extends for well over a mile. Although heavily inundated with urchins, this area is enjoyable to dive and there are enough interesting places to keep you busy for years.

Cape Foulweather:

Further south in the area off Cape Foulweather and just south of the community of Myroco is an old gravel quarry on the old highway. Directly off the shore are a series of reefs that mimic the larger exposed rocks of Gull, Otter and Whale. The subsurface reefs gently slope up as you get closer to shore then drop straight off on the westerly side, and immediately begin to slope up again in the same pattern. The distance from the beginning of the slope to the drop off is about 100 feet of horizontally. The uppermost portion can be as shallow as 25 feet or less, and generally heavily covered in kelp, where the vertical drop-off may go as deep as 65 feet. This "drop-off" is the area where the diving is the best. In the boulder field and reef face is an amazing variety of life and action. These reefs are so infrequently visited that one can assume that a visit here might be the only trip by divers in that month (based on what the locals say about dive boats and their scarcity).

Newport

Newport offers numerous dive sites and arguably some of the best diving in the coast. I have grown up in Newport and have had the opportunity to dive quite a bit offshore

and my first dives were on the jetty, so there is a soft spot for my home town in this article.

From Shore: For shore diving there is the jetty system, with the south jetty being accessible by road and presenting a few dives on the smaller fingers. Some maps are available. For diving, they are not what one would call spectacular, but still fun and every now and again a larger ling cod will appear even on the innermost finger jetty.

North Jetty: This jetty averages around 40 feet deep and has quite a bit of life throughout its length. Done as a drift dive from a live boat or on slack tide, you will find it a pleasant, without too much ocean surge.

Newport Reef: Offshore there are several options, all boat dives. There is a regular charter service (Mike Sorensen, Miss Raven, South Beach Marina) that frequents Newport Reef, which is 5 miles south of the jetty and a mile and a half offshore. This reef is large with numerous high spots over a ½ square mile area. Life is thick on these reefs and the terrain is widely varied. Arch Rock (a bus sized arch) is a favorite of divers.

Stonewall Banks: This reef is 14 miles southwest from the jetty. It is offshore about 11 miles and at its highest point it is 125 feet deep. This is a huge reef in varying depths in the middle of the open ocean. I have not done a dive out here, though I have been out in my boat to sound for the shallow spots. It is reportedly an amazing reef.

Waldport

From Shore: There is an entrance to the water on the south side of Alsea Bay, just 200 yards east of the breakers where the river meets the sea. The steps to the river are easy to access. The dive site is about 100 yards from the breakers and is a series of mud walls that are not much to look at, but there are times (July, August and September) where the crabbing is excellent.

Offshore: None.

Florence

From Shore:

There are three common dives from shore. The first is from the crab dock on the south jetty. This dive features a sand flat that is about 22 feet deep, then a subsurface jetty that first comes up to around 14 feet deep then cascades down to 55 feet of water. It is an enjoyable dive and often has crab to grab.

The second dive, usually done as a drift dive, is the north jetty system from the coast guard tower to the fish ladder opening (on an incoming tide). This dive is an easy drift dive and in the later summer month can yield an astounding volume of crab for the catching. The entire drift is around 400 yards long, with a maximum depth of 55 feet.

The third dive is from the fish ladder opening on the north jetty to the "crab hole" and the spur jetty just south of it.

Depending on the year and what has been dredged, this dive can go as deep as 65 feet. Exploring the jetty and crab hole is an interesting experience for all levels of divers.

Offshore: None.

Winchester Bay

From Shore: The "triangle" in the south side of the south jetty is a dive that is sometimes very rewarding and sometimes not. This enclosed water has virtually no current unless you stray close enough to the tidal tubes that feed this small inlet water through the south jetty. A relatively safe dive, it can be poor visibility but often some surprising sea life finds its way through the jetty to calmer waters within.

Offshore: None.

Coos Bay

From Shore: None.

The Cribbs: This dive, with a maximum depth of 75 feet, is the best inshore dive in Oregon. It is beneath the boat channel that is the entrance to Charelston Harbor from Coos Bay. The green and red markers indicating the Char-elston entrance are dead center of the underwater jetty system that is about 125 yards long and gently deepening as it goes west. There can be current here and boat traffic is certainly a concern, but once you understand the layout of the Cribbs, it is a goldmine for fish, boat anchors, and just to the north about 40 feet from the east end is the remains of the historic wreck of the Gussie Talfair.

Bouy #7: Across the Coos Bay channel at marker #7 (on the north side) is a series of low jetty rocks. This dive is an easy dive on the high slack or the incoming tide as a drift. Relatively shallow and outside the main current area that buffets the Cribbs across the bay, this dive is enjoyable

and has some potential for fish and crab while the current is running.

North Jetty: The north jetty can be done as a drift or on slack tide. Drifting this huge jetty is the best way to cover more ground and see the sites. This jetty is like no other. It has wreckage from a ship or a barge upon it, but it takes a sharp eye to discern wreckage from rock after this many years. It also has a 20 foot bow section of a ship in the sand to the south and about 50 feet from the point where rock meets sand, around 100 yards in from the eastern tip of the jetty. About 200 yards in, just west of the small hump on the top of the jetty are the 'caves". The facing rock has been stripped away, I assume from the shipwreck grinding itself to pieces, and has left openings into the gigantic rocks that make up the core of the jetty. Although I have not ventured back into these chasms, they do appear to go quite a way back. Do not go in them unless you are trained.

Baltimore Reef: This reef is the very best diving I have done anywhere, and some of the worst. It is a reef stretching from the lighthouse cliffs overlooking the south jetty and extending a full mile outward to the yellow can to the west. Deep water on either side and a shallow top can make this one a surge center, especially near the surface while a long ocean swell is running. It is riddled with caves, cuts, canyons and chaos. In most places you cannot see rock (too much life on it to see through), as the nutrients spilling out of the Coos River get swept across the reef and feed every conceivable kind of life found on the Oregon Coast. The reef has so much territory that I have, in over 50 dives, never recognized the same spot twice. It can be confusing as the terrain is a maze and occasionally you will come across a cave/sinkhole where you can feel the surge pulsing through the whole reef. Maximum depth is around 120 if you are in the area of Baltimore Rock. You will never see more life on TV or diving anywhere than on this amazing place. Then again, sometimes you are lucky to see your hand in front of your face. Visibility varies here more

Calendar of Events

July 15 CLUB MEETING: 7 PM, Dirty Dave's Pizza.

Kelp Krawlers club dive schedule

Month	Date	Dive Site	Meet	Splash	Approximate Currents, Slack & tide height	(Narrows 2008 Data)
Aug	Sat Aug-9	Three Tree	Noon	1:00pm	Slack 1:30pm, 1kt Ebb (+9 tide)	max 4:15pm, Next Slack 7:00pm
Sep	Sun Sep-7	Redondo Beach	11:30am	12:30am	Slack 1:00pm, 1kt Ebb (+9 tide)	max 3:20pm, Next Slack 6:30pm
Oct	Sat Oct-4	Sund Rock	8:30am	9:30am	Slack 10:30am, Ebbs from +10 tide to +8	at 3:00pm, Sound over 1.7 knots
Nov	Sat Nov-1	Sund Rock	8:30am	9:30am	Slack 9:45am, Ebbs from +12 tide to +8	at 2:00pm, Sound over 1.7 knots
Dec	Sat Dec-20	Octopus Hole	8:30am	9:30am	Slack 5:45am, Floods to +12 tide	at 11:45am, Sound over 2.5 knots

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

Visibility Report

General reports are that that visibility is bad shallow, but starts improving to about 60', then is much improved after that point. The good news is that you can be warm until you get into the water. The bad news are you are hot until you get into the water :-).



Conservation Corner - Bad Good Stuff

By Steve Sutton

Just when we think we are doing what we should to protect ourselves in the way the Surgeon General recommends, new issues arise that change things. For years we have been told to protect our skin from the sun, and a plethora of products have flooded the market. As sun-deprived northwestern divers who travel to tropical locations, this is indeed important.

A recent study in the US journal 'Environmental Health Perspectives' has shown that sunscreens are a major cause in coral bleaching leading to the death of the coral, which then has a drastic effect on the overall ecosystem. The UV filters in the sunscreen that protect our skin are the culprits, even in small quantities. According to Roberto Danovaro at the University of Pisa in Italy, "Different sunscreen brands, protective factors and concentrations were compared, and all treatments caused bleaching of hard corals". The reported concluded that up to 10% of the earth's corals are at risk to sun screen induced bleaching.

So what are the alternatives? The obvious first answer is to stay out of the direct sun or cover up, but that isn't always reasonable; after all, finding the sun is why we travel. The problem is keeping the sunscreen out of the water, so when you are not diving, use sun screen as needed. The trick is to keep protected while either on the boat or in the water. When snorkeling at the surface, the best alternative is wear either full body wetsuits or at least a t-shirt. On the water, start by selecting a charter boat that affords more sun protection if possible, then make sure you take light-weight shirts/pants and floppy hats or caps. You may not get voted best dressed, but the reefs will thank you.

Out of air at 79ft

By Rana Brown

I write this article of my recent experiences as a reminder for all of us new and seasoned divers to remember how important the "little" things are when diving. The short version is that my air supply ran out at a depth of 79 feet, here is what happened. My dive partner and I were conducting a geoduck survey in southern Puget Sound. This

basically consists of running a transect line from approximately the -18 to -70 depth contour, and counting all the geoduck we see along the way.

Now, whenever I read these stories about folks who dive and don't pay attention to their air supply and it runs out at depth it supprises me that some seem so careless. That being said, I am very particular and monitor my air gage very often. This somewhat paranoid practice also allows me to monitor my air consumption, and watch for any abnormal decreases in pressure. So, on this particular dive I entered the water with a little over 3000 lbs. Everything went smoothly, air consumption was normal all the way to depth. Once we ended our transect, I checked my air, great, still had a little over a 1000 lbs. This meant I could swim back underwater, and wouldn't need to make a direct ascent. I recorded all the necessary information for our survey, gathered our equipment, and made one last check of my air pressure. This time I noticed the gage bouncing between 1000 lbs and 250 lbs! I checked it again and sure enough, it continued to read irregularly. I showed my dive partner, and indicated I was going to directly ascend rather than swim back to the boat. Right then it became increasingly difficult to breath, and after a couple of labored attempts for air, there was nothing. No air! It took me a very short second to realize what was happening, and luckily my partner was close. I was able to find his octo, and to my surprise remember not to inhale water as I switched to his secondary regulator. We both then made a direct ascent, which proved difficult to do in full control considering all the equipment we carried, and the circumstances in which we were surfacing. The strange thing is that when we surfaced, my regulator worked perfectly and my computer showed I still had 750 lbs of air....?

The next day when I brought my regulator in for service (assuming my equipment had malfunctioned) I was told that this wasn't an uncommon occurrence, and that most often what happens is that the tank isn't fully turned on when this happens. One might not realize this mistake unless you double check your tanks because your gage will often still show full pressure at the surface. I have always thought of myself as diligent about checking these things pre-dive, but things happen, mistakes are made. Undoubtedly I double check my tanks now, and hopefully this will remind everyone out there to do the same. The little things do count!

Les Davis Pier

By Steve Griffith

One of the benefits of being retired is that you get to do on work days all that stuff you used to have to wait to do on weekends, That means the dive sites, golf courses and watering holes aren't as crowded. This was certainly the case for Stephen Morrison and I at the Les Davis Marine Park when we arrived to get in a dive this afternoon, as we were the only divers in the water.

One of the beauties of this particular site is the ease of entry into the dive area, especially since the steps were installed a couple or three years ago. There are also the artificial reefs that attract some sea life.

Once in, we did experience murky water at the shallower depths. This cleared up after we got below around 30 feet. Stephen was using a new video camera, and found his biggest challenge to be the added buoyancy that the new camera exhibited over an older one. I went along and acted as spotter and tried to point out interesting critters or sea grasses that looked photogenic to me. We spotted the usual suspects; sea cucumbers, a variety of crabs, and some small flounders, along with the resident sea anemones.

After about an hour under the water, emerged from a really good dive. Due to our unerring navigation skills, we only had to walk a little way to the exit point!

Kelp Krawlers are doing what they can to help with cancer research

By Amy Kurtenbach

On July 25 – 26, 2008, in Des Moines at Redondo Beach over 100 divers will enter the waters over a 24 hour period this to raise money for Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center.

The Kelp Krawlers made the decision at the April meeting to participate in the event. We have chosen the slot of time on July 26th between 1-4pm to do our part to keep the momentum going. We will need at least 12 Kelp Krawlers to fulfill our commitment.

During Dive-Around-the-Clock, 2 man buddy teams will be rotated every 30 minutes underwater to ensure that there are divers underwater continuously for a 24 hour period starting at 4:00pm on July 25. To participate in Dive-Around-the-Clock, divers will pay an entry fee (\$25.00) and obtain pledges prior to the event. Application can be found on the web at www.divearoundtheclock.com. Divers participating in the event will be eligible for some great prizes, such as Alaska Airlines tickets and other exciting items. Also there is a plaque for the dive club that raises the most money.

Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center was chosen as the beneficiary of Dive- Around-the-Clock. Founded in 1907 and celebrating 100 years of care, Children's is ranked as one of the best children's hospitals in the country by U.S. News & World Report and Child magazines. Children's provides excellent patient care, conducts cutting-edge pediatric research and serves as the pediatric referral center for WA, AK, MT, and ID.

We have two approaches to raise money for the event besides the \$25.00 donation/ application fee and any individual pledges. Kelp Krawlers will dedicate the 50/50 fund raised at meetings to the event. The other approach is two chartered boat dive with Pacific Adventures. Proceeds from two spots on a full charter will be donated to the cancer fund. This should amount to around \$320.00.

Kelp Krawler have once again proven that we have what it takes to make a difference in our community.

Photo Page



**Congratulations to Steve Fornoff on his 900th dive!
Don't wait to congratulate him - he is close to 1000.**



**The divers on Steve's 900th dive trip with Pacific
Adventures.**