



KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

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Dive Buddy Pairings - by Jerry Ehrlich

Diving with a regular dive buddy is a huge bonus. We know how they act underwater, we are familiar with their gear, diving style, and what kind of diving they enjoy. We may not have a regular buddy nor are they always available. The trick is to learn how to dive with just about anybody and both of you have a good time.

No one should be offended about a discussion of both of your experience levels and expectations. Beware those who dismiss this as unnecessary. That is a near 100% guarantee you are not going to have fun.

The dive operator/organizer should make sure all of the divers have experience levels appropriate for the dive, but this is seldom the case. We really try and do this on our club dives, but we are not making a living doing this. Operators will generally take anyone who is certified that can fog a mirror.

The task of figuring out what will make a successful dive is up to both of you. The key is to always plan the dive around the least experienced team member. We always plan our dives around the diver with least amount of breathing gas and experience and comfort level are no different.

You can always start with a conversation about the upcoming dive and what you and your new buddy want to do on the dive. Hopefully, you will have similar goals. A photographer and spearfisher just would not work and probably the best route is to look for new pairings.

We need to tell the new buddy if we are apprehensive about anything on the upcoming dive. This is no place to let our ever demanding egos interfere. Open communication has to start somewhere.

We are all a little nervous before a dive, but that is usually just excitement and anticipation of

having a great time. We can tell a lot about a diver by how nervous they are before a dive. It is pretty easy to tell excitement from apprehension.

When we spot this behavior we need to find a gentle way to ascertain the issue.

All of this is only possible if we are not so nervous we cannot see past our own fear.

How your new buddy handles their gear is a good indicator of their experience level.

A new buddy who is observing you and trying to ascertain your chops is a good thing. No need to become defensive if they are just doing the same thing.

A very detailed plan is a good idea with new buddies. Do not assume anything. Even if you both have dove the site before, a structured dive is always a good way to go. Something I have found helpful is to explain the dive plan as I see it and then have the other diver describe it to me as they see it.

Always include separation procedures and emergency scenarios. Having a plan A and plan B can be helpful. If you get in the water and your assessment was completely wrong either way, options are handy. This is also convenient if we have misjudged or encounter environmental conditions not anticipated. A back up plan for a super simple, easy dive can save the day. We need a predetermined way to communicate this and all other basic signal should be reviewed. A slate or dive notes is very important for a new dive team.

The option to not dive is always available.

We dive as recreation. We never have to do a dive. We can always thumb any dive at anytime with no questions asked. Thumbing a dive is the right and brave thing to do and we should always commend and support this behavior.

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June Meeting Attendance:

Oleta and Lee Artman, Mike Beyer, Janet & Scott Boyd, Wayne Campbell, Jerry Ehrlich, Robert Emeras, Carolyn & Steve Fornoff, Rodger Gomez, Steve Griffith, Debbie & Duane Hamrick, Becky Lundin, Pat Murphy, Don Noviello, Jerry Rolly, Cheryl Scott, Carla Thurmond, Greg Volkhardt, and Jamie Welsh for a total of 22 people.

Calendar of Events

July 20th: Club meeting.

August 17th: Club meeting.

September 21st: Club meeting.

October 19th: Club meeting.

November 16th: Club meeting.

December ?: Christmas Party

The Diamond Knot: by Scott Boyd

At 1:30 in the morning, on August 13th, 1947, thick fog shrouded the Straights of Juan de Fuca. The Steamship, Diamond Knot, was headed East about six miles north of Port Angeles with a cargo of \$4,000,000 worth of canned salmon (which represented 10% of that year's Alaskan catch). The Knot was struck amidships by the Steamship Fenn Victory which rammed her nose eight feet into the side of the Seattle-bound vessel.

The two vessels were wedged tightly together, and drifted westward until the fog lifted later that morning. Once separated, the ship's crew was removed, and several tugs tried to unsuccessfully tow and beach the Diamond Knot. Eventually she was cut free of the tugs and plunged to the bottom of the Straits, (with her capacity cargo of salmon in tact) just off of Salt Creek campground, six miles northwest of Ediz Hook.

The \$4,000,000 worth of canned salmon was then salvaged by crews that cut huge plates out of the side of the wreck, which now lies on her starboard side, facing East. The large plates from the salvage operation are now resting gently on the bottom of the Sound in 135 feet of water, with the top of the port side in around 80 fsw. The Diamond Knot has since become one of the best wreck dives in the Pacific Northwest. The ship is completely covered in huge invertebrate life, and is home to many large wolf eels, lingcod, rockfish, warbonnets, anemones, soft corals, sponges and much, much more. The large holes in the ship where the plates were cut out, make penetrating the cargo holds very easy and safe if you avoid deep penetration.

Tani and Scott were fortunate enough to dive this wonderful site on July 10th. Surface conditions were calm, and currents were moderate as we descended on the wreck. We hooked the bow of wreck, which is not usually visited by divers, as the midsection has collapsed, and most boats hook into the aft superstructure (which is a bit shallower). The marine life on the wreck was incredible, and the viz was great (although I must admit it seemed pretty dark after our dives last week in the Galapagos). Orienting yourself on the wreck can be challenging, as there is so much growth and much of the wreck has collapsed and is twisted. I was fascinated by the beautiful sponges and corals we saw on wreck, and Tani was eying the huge lings, greenlings and dog sharks that were hanging around. We managed to explore about half the wreck (and only got lost once) before our deco obligation said it was time to start heading up. This is a deeper dive, so we carried stage bottles with us to speed up our decompression, and allow us plenty of time on the wreck. It's going to

take us several dives to explore the entire site, and I can't wait to get back to what has to be one of the best dives in the Pacific Northwest.

Editor's note: The last paragraph of Scott's report last month on the Possession Point Ferry dive got left off:

"Our wonderful dive on the Kehloken would not have been possible without a lot of hard work by Craig Brown and Jim Randall. Craig hauled his boat up to Mukilteo for us and took us out to the dive site. Both he and Jim then loaned us the gear we needed to make the dive safely (which I had left in my car). Many Thanks to both Craig and Jim!"

Whale Shark: by Scott Boyd

The Whale Shark (*Rhincodon Typus*), is the largest fish in the world, typically 20 - 45 feet in length (maximum length of 55') and weighing up to 15 Tons. The females are much larger than the males (as is typical of all shark species), and all of the Whale Sharks encountered in the Galapagos Islands are Female.

Whale sharks are found worldwide in warm ocean waters from the equator to about 30° North and South latitude. Whale Sharks live up to 150 years, feeding primarily on plankton, krill, small fish and squid. The whale shark is a filter feeder that sieves small animals from the water using a spongy material between its gills called gill rakers. These rakers are functionally similar to the baleen plates possessed by many whales.



The whale shark has a huge mouth which can be up to 4 feet wide. Its mouth is at the very front of its head (not on the underside of the head

like most sharks). The mouth contains about 3000 very tiny teeth, but ironically, they neither chew nor bite their food. They have 5 very large gill slits, 2 dorsal fins and 2 pectoral fins. The spiracle (a vestigial gill slit used for breathing when the shark is resting on the sea floor) is the hole located just behind the shark's eye.

Whale Sharks are harmless to divers and are an incredible pleasure to interact with. Although often confused with a Whale, they are in fact sharks, and their closest relatives are Nurse and Wobbegong sharks. Whale sharks are slow swimmers, going about 3 mph (which is just about as fast as a diver can swim). They swim by moving their entire bodies from side to side (not just their tails). Whale sharks are viviparous, giving birth to live young that are about 2 feet long.

Treasurer's Report: Wayne Campbell

We have "about" \$850 in the bank, not including a \$300 check that hasn't been deposited yet, and \$40-\$50 in cash.

Annual Breakfast

A big thanks to all the members who came out and helped at the annual breakfast and swap meet this year. The weather was perfect, the food was excellent, and everyone had a great time.

Helpers were:

Jerry & Becky Ehrlich, Patrick & Cynthia Murphy, Carla Thurmond, Greg Volkhardt, Mike & Karen Beyer, Carolyn & Steve Fornoff, Paul Boardman, Rodger Gomez, Steve Griffith, Katie & Dwane Doyle, Scott & Janet Boyd, and Wayne Campbell.

It was nice to see such a good turn-out - I didn't end up cooking at all this year! :))

A Story of Mo: by Sue Treinen

Quadra Island, B.C. May 30, 2003

I arrived in Victoria, B.C., my usual destination for a weekend each month to go diving with friends that live there. But this time instead of diving local I was joined by my friend Mike Kalina, who had booked a three day dive trip to Quadra Island with DynaMike Charters. (www.divedynamike.com) Mike Kalina, an underwater photo enthusiast like myself, reported that the color and critters were abundant, as he had chartered this place two weeks earlier.

We were the first to arrive, and DynaMike said to pick a room, but not the single as there would be two ladies from Vancouver, B.C. joining us for this charter and "Mo always gets that room"... so I threw my stuff in a double room and figured I'd be rooming with the other gal.

In another hour, the rest of our group from Victoria arrived, and Mike greeted them and told them the same thing. Afterwards we settled in and began asking DynaMike about the dive sites. He announced to our group that one of the ladies (Mo) was 75 years old and a charter operators worst nightmare, but she was a long-time friend and she was quite the photographer, and had won this trip in an underwater photo contest. Our group sat silent and didn't give it much thought.

That evening Mo and Kit arrive. I remember looking at her as she came through the door, she proceeded straight ahead not giving our chatty group a glance! She went into her room and didn't come out until breakfast the next morning. She was an early riser like me and I met up with her at the camera table. I was doing my check list in my mind to make sure all my camera gear was ready. I have two Nikonos V's and strobes and since I didn't know the first dive site I set one camera for macro and the

other for wide angle.

I stood at one end of the table and Mo at the other. She looked at me and I said "hello". No response, she just looked down and started working on her camera set-up. Now this is not unique in my encounters with u/w photographers. I can't explain it but there are u/w photographers that either are eager to share information and see and talk about each others sport, then there's the group that ignores you and even keep their gear hidden.



Myself, I enjoy all u/w photography and love to talk to anyone about their cameras and favorite photo dive stories. I knew Mo was going to be a tough cookie, but I was confident that I could get her to talk with me about something before the trip was over. I glanced up at her working on her cameras as she was con-

tinually mumbling to herself. I noticed she had one Nikonos II and one Nikonos III and two small strobes. Her camera set-up looked about as old and wrinkled as she did! She was a small petite lady, and DynaMike had told us that she started diving in 1976 at the age of 55 and had over 3,200 logged dives, mostly being cold Northwest diving. That alone impressed me, I decided that she was going to be my idol for this weekend (and here I thought my cold water diving days may be limited but I have years ahead of me!!!).

At breakfast Mo and her friend sat as far away from the rest of us as they could. But since most of us knew each other from years of diving together I thought maybe they just were a bit overwhelmed and didn't want to interrupt. I should have known better, because by that evening we would all get "the Mo wrath".

Our first dive Saturday morning was at 11:00 am. This area has extreme tide changes and constant current of some degree. DynaMike knows his dive sites well and he picks the longest slack possible. We gathered our gear and the whole group hopped into DynaMike's truck, "the P.A.D.I. Wagon".

Mo sat in front with Mike and we headed for the marina. Most of our gear we had put on the boat the night before and I was only carrying my camera gear. I noticed DynaMike carrying a full set of gear and thought it looked a little small for him. We headed out for the dive site (Copper Cliffs). Mo and Kit were the last in on all the dives. Mike Kalina and I dropped down and within 20 feet, the wall was alive with huge feather dusters in clusters and by 45 feet the wall turned into shades of solid pink. I was taking 28mm and Mike was video taping. The current started picking up after 40 minutes or so and we just let it take us along. I like to dive shallow most of the time and our dive's are usually in the 55 + minute range. By the time I finished my roll

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A Story of Mo: continued

and safety stop, everyone was already back in the boat. Mo seemed pretty cold as I watched her bundle up in a big dry towel on the trip back for lunch and another dive that afternoon.

Our next dive was Seymore Narrows and this was going to be mostly a drift dive and the current might take us in different directions during the dive. Now I'm not big on currents and especially "down currents". Photo taking can be a big challenge in itself with current. But my buddy Mike is the best and he dives current all the time so I knew he would lead and I'd just stick close to him!! I knew my best chance was macro on this dive and I could see most of the other photographers also had a close-up camera, including Mo. In fact that's all she had ever used I learned later.

As Mike and I stepped into the water the surface was still moving a bit and we dumped our air quick and headed down. It's amazing how colorful a dive site is when it's in total current most of the time. At first the current moved us slowly along, I could have taken my 24 exposures in the first ten minutes there was so much to choose from!! But I have learned from the past that some of my best critter opportunities seem to happen at the end of a dive, so I tried hard on this dive to hold myself back. The visibility on this dive was at least 70 feet, and I could see most of the divers from our group ahead and behind us. At one point we all ended up at the same spot, including Mo. She had her head down and was taking her macro shots, hardly noticing the rest of us. The current then picked up in the other direction and Mike and I turned and flowed with the current and quickly became separated from the rest. A great dive site and our group chatted about nothing else the whole was back to the house. Mo again kept to herself.

That night after dinner, Mike and I sat at the camera table and were joined by Mo. At first she just looked at us but before long she started commenting on our camera gear and boldly said macro and her Nikonos II & III were the only Nikonos she has ever used or would ever use. Did I mention she was a "tough cookie"?

She began asking if we submitted our underwater pictures in photo contests and before I could explain she interrupted by telling us how many things she had won with her photo's. She had won the Nikonos III and several trips to both cold water and the tropics. Mike and I sat and listened, she was almost lecturing us... but she had a way about her, and I quickly became absorbed in her camera and critter theories. She was well educated and very set in her ways about diving in general and underwater photography.

She still amazed me even though she had this stern personality. She showed me some of her photos and DynaMike had one of her calendars to look at. She indeed took nice macro shots but then again she has been retired for sometime and can do unlimited diving. She had a real Canadian accent with some English stiffness thrown in!!! She demanded all of our attention in the evening of discussions about everything. I always like to rile up

my Canadian friends by making fun of Canadians vs. the Americans!! She wasn't humored.... And when she lost our attention she quickly escaped back into her room.

Our next two days of diving were full of new dive sites and by the second day our group watched Mo dive every dive. She was a trooper, in and out of the water. One dive she was down longer than anyone, including her dive buddy. We were a little alarmed but DynaMike stayed over her bubbles and she came aboard soon afterwards with such excitement of some critter she found that we all kind of forgot she was there alone. Not a dive practice I believe in but I see it from time to time on charters.

By the time the weekend was over I had many chats with Mo and she could be very pleasant at times and even gave me some good photo tips. In July 2003, just two months after I met Mo, I got an email from my friend Mike Kalina. DynaMike had emailed him that Mo had been diving for two weeks in Papa New Guinea and the first week she was diving with an instructor from Canada but she stayed an extra week. The second day she wouldn't wait for her assigned dive buddy and grabbed her camera and headed down a sheer wall. When her dive buddy swam down the wall he never found her and assumed she was just taking her photos somewhere ahead. He then surfaced after some time I guess and after the other divers came back to the boat Mo was not among them. A six hour search proceeded to no avail. Mo was gone.

It was very sad news to me, I won't forget her, she was one of a kind. When I returned to DynaMike's in September of that same year I asked him for more details. He said that a medical condition could have happened at her age, or at that dive site there can be strong currents and she could have surfaced far away from the dive boat and died of exposure because they didn't do a surface search until the next day.



A close friend of hers said Mo had told her that her eyesight was failing and when she couldn't take pictures any longer, she said she was going to dive down and not come back. I can reason with that but I think she was a fighter.

Whatever the cause, I know she is one with the Sea and happy, she got the last word!!

Farewell Mo: SEA TO EARTH - EARTH TO SEA.