



# KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

July 2007

[www.kelpkrawlers.org](http://www.kelpkrawlers.org)

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## JULY Prez Sez:

By Amy Kurtenbach

## **IT'S SUMMER! WHOOAH!**

It's time for bathing suits, sunglasses, shorts, suntan lotion, picnics, campfires, honey-do lists, BBQ's and lots of SCUBA diving.

*"When the waves kiss your feet, the sand is your seat & and your friends out number the stars ~unknown"*

Please visit the Kelp Krawler's web page calendar frequently. Scott Boyd is doing an excellent job keeping it up to date. There are a lot of club dives and events planned over the summer and into the fall. We have three Dive n' BBQ scheduled, our normal club meetings; Scott Boyd has the Owens Beach tides on the calendar if shark hunting strikes your fancy; John Cipriano has scheduled, beginning July 8th, boat charter trips with Pacific Adventures (and I am sure he has other ideas for club dives over the summer ~good job!); Scott's trip to Neah Bay, with Porthole Charter is filled; Krawler's are getting married; and in September. Dave Miller is working hard to finalize arrangements with a special guest speaker who will be talking about his treasure hunting adventures (pirates anyone?), and Steve Fornoff has volunteered to make arrangements at the Steamboat Island Grange for this meeting so we can have a potluck along with the presentation. Food and entertainment....It can't get any better! Finally, in October, Oysterfest! The details of these afore mentioned items are in the Calendar of Events on page 3 of the newsletter.

*"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day*

*listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time. ~John Lubbock"*

I recommend you rest between dive outings! We would like to see as many Kelp Krawlers, Aquanuts, and friends, at these summer socials as possible. Please mark your calendars, visit the website, and read the newsletter (many thanks Carolyn Reece).

*"To myself I am only a child playing on the beach, while vast oceans of truth lie undiscovered before me. ~Isaac Newton"*

Happy summer everyone! I wish you safe diving and lots of fish stories!

## DIVING ON THE PB4Y

By Scott Boyd

The weather was going to be hideously HOT over the weekend, but the tides were not, so we decided to put the new boat into Lake Washington for a little fresh water wreck diving.



We launched the boat from Magnuson Park (the old Sand Point Naval Air Station) and found the old Navy Bomber (PB4Y) about 0.4 miles directly off of the boat ramp (side scan sonar makes it easy). We dropped the shot line in about 160' of water and geared up in

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the rather warm sunshine. I was actually looking forward to some nice cold lake water after roasting for a bit in my drysuit. Can you say, "well done"?

I'd warned my dive buddy (Mike "the energizer bunny" Fitz) to expect completely horrid viz, and that he'd have to run a line from the shot line, West to the airplane. I suggested stopping at 145', attaching the guideline reel, and heading West (since on my last dive here I swam right under the rear stabilizer, hit it with my fins and still couldn't see the darn plane).

Following our plan to the letter, Mike was putting on the brakes, and concentrating on unclipping his reel and stopping at 145' to attach the guideline. What he didn't realize, was that we were incredibly lucky and had stumbled into stellar visibility. I could see the plane clearly (the shot line was touching it). At 142', he unceremoniously belly flopped onto the wing, just as he pulled out the (now unnecessary) reel. Very amusing when you're holding a big camera in your hand instead of helping a friend out in the dark.... :-)

Viz was easily 20-25', and we spent a nice 23 minutes exploring the plane and taking pictures. The aircraft is massive and is in extremely good condition (see the May, 2006 issue for details). It always amazes me how well preserved the fresh water wrecks are when compared with those in Puget Sound.

Deco was also extremely pleasant, with a nice thermocline at 20' where the water temp jumped from the mid-40's to 60 degrees. Ahhhhhh.

After a stellar dive, we went searching for more wrecks. We could not locate the Harpoon, but did manage to find the YMS-359 Minesweeper, so you can bet well be back again soon.



## **Our Dive Buddy the Lion's Mane**

By Carolyn Reece

"Only a dozen or so of the 500 species of jellyfish are venomous, and of those, only a few have potent stings." One of these lovely creatures is our beloved Lion's Mane, the largest species of jelly in the Northwest. They seem to be very content in hanging around in the water just

waiting for an unsuspecting open water diver to swim his/her way into the hard-to-see (until it is too late) tentacles that trail behind the main body. The tentacles can be anywhere from a few inches to a 100 feet in length.

The tentacle itself is not what hurts us, it's the nematocysts, or weapon if you choose. Of the thirty types that exist only two types that we need be concerned with. The one we are familiar with is the tiny cell which houses an even smaller harpoon. *"A hair protruding from each nematocyst fires the stinger when touched."* We are lucky in that each cell can only fire once, however there can be millions of nematocysts per tentacle.

For those of you who have had the opportunity to experience such an encounter the following description of a sting will more than likely bring back unwelcome memories that you would just as soon forget. *"The initial response is pain or a prickly sensation, then and itchy rash, blistering, and swelling from histamine release. The characteristic welts left by the jellyfish called Lion's Mane are familiar to fans of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, whose story, "The Adventure of the Lion's Mane", recounts a man's death from an encounter with the creature."*

*"Differentiating the species behind the sting is difficult. Luckily it isn't necessary. Treatment is where all the argument begins. Everyone agrees on preventing nematocysts left on the skin from discharging, but how? Rubbing with sand and pouring on fresh water or alcohol cause more discharge. Some commercial preparations for bites and stings reduce itching later but do nothing to reduce nematocyst activity. Meat tenderizer is popular in dive first aid kits for stings. It contains papain, a digestive enzyme, supposedly to digest the protein in the sting. Not all authorities are convinced it helps relieve stings, plus it sometimes causes problems. Some people are sensitive or allergic to the tenderizing enzyme, which would leave a rash of its own. If your skin is chewed up by the sting, the tenderizer may try to tenderize you too. Does urinating on the wound do anything? Yes, it relieves the bladder. Depending on the diet, most urine is too close to neutral pH to have much effect. Fortunately, most agree on plain white vinegar to stop the nematocysts. Diving physician Paul Auerbach recommends the following for jellyfish stings once the diver is stabilized:*

- Soak the injury in vinegar.
- Remove remaining tentacles with forceps, not our hands.
- Apply hydrocortisone lotion.

*Regardless of what got you, keep the wound clean and dry. Small stings can fester a long time in the high humidity of ocean areas. Paint the area with antibiotic cream, as venoms lower local tissue resistance to bacterial infection. Use anesthetic cream to reduce pain and hydrocortisone cream for itching. Divers with sensitivity or allergies should see their doctor for a prescription antihistamine for their dive first aid kit."*

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The portions of this article that are italicized came directly from the book, "Diving Physiology in Plain English by Jolie Bookspan, Ph.D."



This photograph was taken by me at Jorstad Creek Dive Site. This poor (and I use the term loosely) had died and was floating along the shore. The colors and design of the creature were a photo op for me. Rarely do we get this close (and never on purpose) to see what lies under the semi-translucent bell. This mane measured about a foot and a half spread out. Kind of cool in this state.

**Preventing Dive Gear Loss**

By Amy Kurtenbach

If you haven't lost or forgotten a piece of SCUBA gear yet, and you dive a lot, you deserve to be saluted!

My story makes me cringe every time when I think about it. It happened to me over a year ago involving two borrowed Dive-X scooters. As the story goes, my buddy and I completed our dive and it was a blast! All we could do was talk about our experience (*\*\*distraction\*\**). The scooters were heavy. When we ended the dive we left them on the shore with the idea that we would take off our gear and then carry them to the truck. Well, all good plans go amiss. Following the dive we packed up the car and drove home. It was not until Olympia that we recalled the location of the scooters.... at the dive site. I felt like such an idiot! I was truly sick to my stomach. Fortunately, the scooters were found and left at Hoodsport n' Dive within the hour of us leaving the dive site. Leaving gear at home, misplacing it, losing it diving, or leaving SCUBA gear behind at the dive site, is frustrating!

The list below are preventative ideas I found on the internet, our own routine, and ideas used by other divers that I have observed or they have shared with me. I hope you find this information helpful:

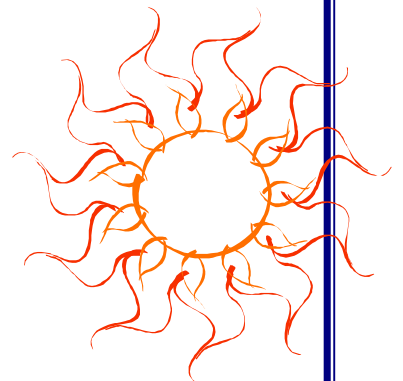
MARK YOUR EQUIPMENT

Put your name on all your dive equipment; just like your Mom did when she packed your bags for summer camp. Paint markers are the best for dive equipment. Mark your equipment with your name, phone number, etc. I am always impressed with how honest the dive community is. If your name and phone number is on the equipment, most divers will call you if they find it! Also, it is so convenient when your name is on your gear. When you travel, or are diving with a charter, the dive masters know who the equipment belongs to.

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**Calendar of Events**

- July 7th** CLUB DIVE: BBQ & Dive—Sund Rock (all day)
- July 8th** CLUB DIVE: Pac Adventures—Northern Hood Canal (Advanced Divers only)
- July 14th** WEDDING BELLS: Deb and Mike tie the knot
- July 17th** CLUB MEETING: 7 PM, Dirty Dave's Pizza. **Ron Ault — Speaker**
- July 27th** CLUB DIVE: 6 PM. Owen's Beach,—Hunt for sharks, Splash at 6:20 PM
- Aug 4th** CLUB DIVE: BBQ & Dive—Sund Rock (all day)
- Aug 24-26th** CRESENT LAKE—camping & diving
- Oct 6-7th** OYSTERFEST



**Check out the club web-site [www.kelpkrawlers.org](http://www.kelpkrawlers.org) for many more upcoming activities.**

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### EQUIPMENT CREEP

Keep all your stuff in one place. Milk crates and Rubbermaid tubs are great for this. Small items should be clipped onto larger items when possible. It is so easy to pull your large gear out of a crate and with it comes your compass or your mask, which per Murphy's Law, rolls off the boat and into the sea!

### GET ORGANIZED AND PACK LIGHT

Consider packing your dive gear in the same order. That way you'll notice when something is missing. Also, if you pack light, you have less to keep track of. A really good idea if you have the space in your vehicle, is to set-up your tank, BC, and octopus, at your home. John Brown sets up our gear at home on the tailgate of the truck. We have never forgotten it and we know it works when we leave the driveway (knock on wood)! Has anyone ever forgotten to pack their wife's tanks for a day of diving (talk to Steve Fornoff about this; it's not a good idea)?

### CLIP IT!

Anything not fastened to you under the water is game for getting lost. Use good, stainless steel or brass clips. I find plastic clips tend to break. Mike Ferguson, of Port-hole Charters, found an underwater video housing that was dropped by one of his dive buddies. His buddy did not even know it was missing when he stepped on the boat after the dive! Yes, possession is 9/10ths of the law, but he gave it back.

### SCUBA CHECKLIST

Have a checklist of your equipment handy. A really good idea, utilized by Mark Reece, is to actually write the checklist on your Rubbermaid tubs. You always have it when you are packing for the dive or at the end of the day!

### SAVE-A-DIVE KIT

Save a dive kits are wonderful, we use them all the time when o-rings are lost, straps break, zip-ties are needed, or tools are necessary to fix the problem. But, if you have room in your car, pack a tub with save-a-dive equipment that you have around the garage. Items like hoods, weights, fins, masks, flashlights, are so nice to have when you, your dive buddy, or another Kelp

Krawler forgets something. Sometimes your thoughtfulness will earn you a lunch or beer after the dive.

### GET COLORFUL

All of my gear, except my dry gloves, are black, but if you were to choose vivid colorful equipment it is easier to see and therefore reduce your chances of loss. Scott Boyd picked out a bright pink dry suit for his wife Janet. He has not lost her, yet J! Dark colored gear is hard to see, especially at night, at the bottom of the rinse tank, or if it is dropped while diving.

### LOOK UP, LOOK DOWN, LOOK ALL AROUND

Make it a habit every time you leave a dive site or the dive charter, to look around and walk down to your entry and exit point. Many times we leave our gear on the hood of the vehicle, in front of the car, next to the shore, etc. Had I walked around the dive site, out of habit, I would have seen the scooters we left on the beach.

### INSURANCE

Your gear should be covered by your homeowners or renters insurance. Call your insurer. If you don't have homeowners or renters insurance, SCUBA equipment insurance is available, but it can be expensive. If you completed a list of you equipment and its replacement cost, I am sure you are now freaked-out over the amount of money you spend on SCUBA gear! When I called my insurance company, they told me that my homeowners insurance covered my equipment up to 10K, excluding my 1K deductible. My insurance agent recommended that I call him before a trip to document where I am going and what the equipment is worth. And lastly, take pictures of your gear and record the serial numbers and the replacement cost of all your dive gear. You'll have the information available for theft or loss claims.



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## **LOCAL DIVE SHOP INFORMATION**

### **Capital Divers 866-3684**

The shop has now moved to a new location at 1621 Harrison Ave W, Olympia, WA, right across the street from Shure Kleen Car Wash. Nitrox, argon and hyper filtered air fills available.

[www.capitaldivers.com](http://www.capitaldivers.com)

### **Hood Sport 'n Dive (360) 877-6818**

The shop has now moved to a new location in Hoodsport 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.hoodspordndive.com](http://www.hoodspordndive.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](http://www.underwatersports.com)

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## **CLUB MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**



**Kim Stenek** certified for open water at Les Davis in 2004. She enjoys critter diving while slowly cruising the walls at Sund Rock. Her favorite underwater critter is the Puffer fish, she likes the way it changes shape. Kim would like to come back as a grey whale because then she could migrate each season between cold and warm water. She would know because she got to hear whales singing at her most exotic

destination to date, Kalua Lane, on Kauai in Hawaii. She only needs a new wide angle lense and a filter for her camera to complete her dive gear needs. This Scorpio wants to dive in Roatan, Micronesia, Seshelle Islands, and the great Barrier reef in Australia. She says all of her dives have been a piece of cake compared to her first open water dive. She doesn't look old enough, but she has 5 grand kids. We hope they all become divers like their grandmother.



**Carolyn Fornoff** became a Certified open water diver in Olympia in 2003. She finds lots of her favorite fish, like the Grunt Sculpin, at her favorite dive site, Sund Rock on the Hood Canal. She likes them so much she would like to come back as one in another life, because they are cute and somewhat hard to find. Like most divers, Carolyn dreams of dive gear and dive destinations. She has visions of a new

mask and using it in the Cook Islands sometime soon. Carolyn also has very fond memories of her most exotic dive at Devils Throat in Cozumel. Carolyn uses the mental toughness she has acquired in her Karate training to reach the rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Black Belt, to help her in tough diving situations like the scare she had in a wicked down draft in the San Juan Islands. Carolyn's sign..... is the Dive Flag of course!

## **Sea of Cortez, La Paz**

By Amy Kurtenbach and the Hooligans (Boyd's)

Adventurous Kelp Krawlers: Janet and Scott Boyd, John Brown, Amy Kurtenbach.

The Sea of Cortez is located along the eastern side of the California Baja Peninsula. La Paz, means "Peace" in Spanish. The town is about the size of Olympia. It is very clean and local residents greatly outnumber the few tourists on the beach. It is a peaceful community with only a few resorts and restaurants. We ate very well (too well in fact). Fresh seafood was readily available and the Mexican faire was delectable.

There is a relaxed atmosphere in town. We stayed in Las Gavatios Hotel and the staff was very friendly and always ready to help. From the balcony of the hotel, we looked over the roofs of one block of homes and businesses, onto the Malecon (or the boardwalk), and out onto the Sea of Cortez. It became very apparent that this is a desirable location for yacht-ies because our view was a boat watchers paradise. The weather was very hot, averaging around 100 degrees; but there was a nice breeze off the ocean, a pool at the resort, air conditioning, and nice cool water in the Sea of Cortez to provided salvation for us cold-blooded northwestern natives.

The two dive sites that the dive shops visit as their premier sites are El Bajo and the Sea Lion Colony (Los Islotes).

Other dive sites we visited included a 40 year old wrecked ferry called the Salvaterria, Swanie Reef, and the Lorraine Lighthouse. We splashed about 8 dives, in water that averaged around 77 degrees on the surface and 64 degrees below the thermo cline. A 5mm wetsuit was comfortable (the hooligan's 3mm was do-able but chilly). Visibility varied from 20' to 50'. We were told that as the water warms up in the summer (80+ degrees) that the visibility improves through October.



The dive site, El Bajo, is a pinnacle that rises out of the Sea of Cortez. The top of the pinnacle is around 60'. The bathymetry of the site is very similar to the Pinnacle in Hood Canal. The rock substrate was occupied with hundreds of puffin fish, healthy schools of notable forage fish such as mackerels, grunts, and amber jacks. Within each and every crack in the rocks, a diver could spot a green moray eel, guaranteed, but in the larger cracks it was not uncommon to see 15 to 20 eels side by side. In one crack John and Scott stopped counting when they reached 30+ eels because behind the one looking at you there were three more hiding behind it. Near the surface were, shy, hammerhead sharks swimming in 20' to 30' of water.

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The sea lion colony at Los Islotes was on two small islands that were once the tip of a larger island that had eroded away. The sea lions would bask in the sun on the rocks, or lay on their backs in the water spread eagle with all of their fins out of the water. The pups were very friendly and would play with you until the big bull decided enough was enough. He would charge by like a bomber, barking and grunting. However, as soon as he would pass, the show would start over again. Puffer fish in the Sea of Cortez are like gobies in the Puget Sound. They are everywhere and they have no fear. They are in cracks, sleeping on the sandy bottom, or just swimming around. Life is good for the puffer fish here in Mexico. Amy had no problem trying to pet the fish, and our cameras could get within 1' of the critter before it felt threatened. Interestingly, when a puffer fish dies, many time it will expand, float to the surface, and dry out in the sun. What we thought were buoys floating on the sea were actually bleached-out dead puffers! I really wanted to take one home, but I was not sure if my fish would be taken from me by TSA as a weapon!

The variety of coral is limited. We saw many different types of fish and invertebrates. Notables included: various kinds of sting rays, barracuda, razor fish, porcupine fish, garden eels, slipper lobster, soldier fish, dolphin fish, varieties of damsel fish, blennies, scorpion or stone fish, dolphins, hammerhead sharks, sea lions, etc. Scott and Janet both felt that the species of fish in this area were very similar to many of the species seen in the Galapagos. Fishing is the tourist attraction in this community. The men in the cantinas, with their tropical shirts, were almost always fishermen and not divers. At all the sites we shared the waters with fishing charters but we never did see a fishing line while diving.

The dive operator we used was called, The Cortez Club. They were one of three dive operators in the area. I think because of the limited competition and long boat rides, they were able to charge high prices, while operating in a

very disorganized manner. They certainly did not provide top notch dive masters like many of us have grown accustomed to. The boats were in need of repair, with small open hulls that transported six divers, the dive master and the captain to the dive site. With gear, the boat was very crowded and no shade was provided. Our boat for

**Upcoming Trips:**

***PORTHOLE CHARTERS***

**Neah Bay** Aug 5-7, 2007

**Neah Bay** Aug 17-21, 2007

the week was a 24' inflatable with twin 125 horse Evinrudes. Even as a truly addicted diver that can excuse a lot on a dive trip, the combination became annoying towards the end of the week. However, our gear was always washed, set-up for a day of diving, and we saw some really cool sea critters. If asked if we would go back.....probably not due to the poor service at the dive shop, which is really too bad, because the reefs and the critters were beautiful to see (when you could see it), the diving was challenging, and the flight to La Paz is a pleasant five hour journey.

**August Dive Club  
Speaker**

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**JOHN  
RAWLINGS**

found the Warren wreck in  
Lake Crescent

**July Dive Club  
Speaker**

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**RON AULT**

**September Dive  
Club Speaker**

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**BARRY  
DUNSFORD**  
FROM PADI