



KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

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My article this month is a reprint from the diving accidents group. The response below the accident report was so resonant that I wanted to share it. - Jerry

"certification" system in diving, NOT make it more convoluted as we have done.

How hard is it and how long does it take to point out to OW students what overheads are and what you need to have and be able to do in order to go in them?

Diver Drowns in Area Cave

A weekend diving accident claimed the life of a teacher. The Tallahassee man drowned on Saturday in an area cave while on a trip with three of his friends.

Five minutes? Maybe ten? Is this is too much time to spend when the results of not knowing these things will lead someone to <ACCIDENTALLY> commit suicide by overhead?

Just the basics, now:

1. Redundant kit - either independent or manifolded twin cylinders, two first stages, two seconds, etc. No more than 1/3rd of your starting gas is consumed going inbound.
2. Three sources of light.
3. A continuous guideline.

Gilchrist County Sheriff's investigators came out to the Devil's Ear cave right around 2 AM on Saturday morning. They say Brian Tindale of Tallahassee was with a few friends but was the only one of them cave diving in the dark early morning hours.

Investigators say Tindale was a certified open water diver, but they've found nothing to indicate he was certified for cave diving. A local diving instructor says a lack of training is the number one killer of people diving in caves.

If you don't have all of these, then YOU DON'T GO IN THERE. If you insist on going in there without "taking a class", then you STILL need (1), (2) and (3), OR YOU ARE QUITE LIKELY TO DIE. Spend a few minutes explaining WHY each of those three things are not options, they are MUSTS.

What would this take to explain to OW students, and to REINFORCE at AOW and Rescue Diver levels, along with during any "refresher" courses? TEN MINUTES? Maybe 15? This is too much?

G**damn it, I'm getting more and more p****ed off by these incidents and I put part of the blame SQUARELY on the agencies who practice the EXACT SAME HEAD IN THE SAND attitude that some PARENTS practice when it comes to their kids and sex! Just tell 'em "don't do that, you can die" and it's all ok.

"It's incredibly easy to die, unfortunately," says Diving Instructor Larry Greene, "What kills people going into these caves is just making mistakes, not being trained for what they're doing. So someone who is trained to go in there, they have more controls of the variables that effect their lives."

Sheriff David Turner says Tindale's friends started getting worried after he went diving and did not resurface quickly.

"He had went down 2 or 3 times and upon his last time resurfacing he had told them that he had just a few minutes of air left in his tanks and he would not be down that long," says Turner.

RESPONSE: by Karl Denninger

"Just a few minutes of air left"?! This really p****es me off.

These sorts of deaths will not stop until we start educating people - and its not a matter of "just take another class, and stay out until you do."

The argument that I hear in response is usually "but if we tell people that, they'll just take that stuff and think its all ok."

BULL! If you DON'T tell them this then they will attempt something ONCE, not die, and conclude that you're crying wolf - and keep doing it, UNTIL something goes wrong!

Guys and gals, I have been advocating for quite some time that we need to FLATTEN the

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This spring I was up at Vortex doing skills dives in the cave there. Its a real cave, even though only 300' or so to the gate. I had done a swim down a side tunnel there that I call the "spider hole", which is real low and silty, as a technique check (if you can see when you turn around you don't suck) had screwed around near the gate for about 20 minutes or so, and had a few minutes of decompression to do on my ascent.

So I was hanging out in the cavern, watching the minutes clock off, and here come three OW divers, snorkels and single AL80s all, with one \$20 flashlight between the three. Churning up the bottom, they're headed straight for the hole.

I held about a foot off the bottom and flashed the grim reaper sign with my light as they neared it. They stopped and turned around, looking at me.

I just hung there, motionless, and gave them a shrug of the shoulders and hands out (the universal "what's up doc?" signal)

They looked at me, looked at each other, and turned around - choosing instead to swim around in the basin and cavern area.

I finished my time and climbed out, de-gearing in the back of my truck and started switching over to my other set of dubs for another dive in an hour or so once some of the nitrogen had burned off.

The three intrepid OW guys sauntered over and struck up a conversation. They were curious about why I had flashed them and shrugged, and commented that I looked damn uncomfortable with "those really heavy twin tanks" on my back.

They all said they had been back to the gate before, and didn't see the problem. (The lights Vortex has in the hole were not working at this point - they had been out for about a month being fixed) They wanted to know if I worked there and was "stopping them" - I said nope - just a diver, and I don't do the "dive police" thing - if they wanted to go in there, that was fine with me, but I thought they should take a look at what someone equipped for that hole looked like before they stuck their heads in there, and think about it briefly.

I asked them how much gas they had when they got down to the hole and were preparing to stick their heads in. None of them knew. I asked how much they had when they got out - one guy said "a couple hundred psi", and one of the others had 500 or so. I pointed out that from 300' in there, back at the gate, you can't swim out on one breath.... Right next to the picnic tables there was a nice big sign with the NACD "basic gas rule" - 1/3rd in, 2/3rds out.....

We spent about 20 minutes together. I pointed out why I had twin cylinders, why the basic gas rule is important and may not even be enough, that I had three lights with me and what those lights should look like, the reel and spools that I had with me,

along with arrows - and why they were on me and why they were important. I also pointed out that they were silting the hell out of the cavern, and that while Vortex is pretty sandy on the bottom in most of the cave and thus forgiving of such errors, there are places where there's clay - and one bad fin-kick in that stuff will leave you swimming in chocolate milk.

All in all, it was less than a half hour. No lecturing - hell, I'm not a diving God, nor do I play that way. Its their life - not mine.

I bet none of them go back in there without at least some kind of redundancy in their gas and lighting, and perhaps they might even play with a reel and learn how to use it.

None of them had been told any of this in their OW class. That much was obvious. They were genuinely interested in why I was geared up the way I was; they clearly SIMPLY DID NOT KNOW, because nobody had ever bothered to tell them. Oh sure, they'd been told "don't go in caves", but like the 16 year old who is told not to sleep with his girlfriend even the most obvious of reasons WHY hadn't been communicated, other than a general "you will die."

Having broken that rule once and not having died, they had all concluded that their instructor was completely F.O.S. in his warning - just like so many kids conclude when they take that first drink or first hit off a joint and likewise do not immediately expire.

When will those of us who care if our fellow divers expire or not stop putting up with this "lowering of the bar" and start making a CONCERTED amount of noise?

Calendar of Events

September 21st: Club meeting - Greg Volkhardt - fish ID.

October 19th: Club meeting.

November 16th: Club meeting.

December 10: Christmas Party - location???

Treasurer's Report: Wayne Campbell

We have \$1,088 and "some change" in the bank.

August Meeting Attendance:

Al Bauer, Karen & Mike Beyer, Scott & Janet Boyd, Wayne Campbell, Rick Cooper, Doug Dunham, Jerry Ehrlich & family, Rodger Gomez, Steve & Carol Griffith, Duane Hamrick, Becky Lundin, Don & Vicky Noviello, Richard Penny, Jerry Rolly, Carla Thurmond, & Jaime Welsh for a total of 22 people.

Metridium Senile - by Scott Boyd

The Frilled anemone (*Metridium Senile*) is commonly misidentified as its larger cousin, *Metridium Giganteum*. Both are often referred to as a Plumose anemone, which historically, is actually a typographic error in an old biology text (for "Plumed" anemone). The frilled anemone is much smaller and is somewhat transparent as opposed to its giant cousin which varies from bright white to orange, has a thick column and a lobed oral disc.

Metridium Senile grows to a height of only about 4 inches. Its column may be white, cream-colored, tan, brownish or light orange in color, with hundreds of small, thin tentacles which are usually grayish or white. When disturbed, it will discharge long, white strands of stinging cells, which are used to paralyze its prey.

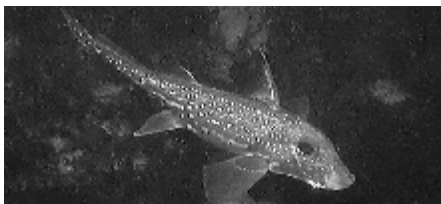


The frilled anemone produces both sexually and asexually. It feeds upon small zooplankton (primarily copepods and larvae) which are captured by its fine tentacles and paralyzed by its nematocysts. Several nudibranchs feed upon the frilled anemone as well as a few predatory sea stars.

This species is most commonly found on hard substrates, attached to floats, pilings, rocks and other solid objects, from the intertidal zone to depths of less than 100'. This anemone is very common on our coast from Alaska to southern California, as well as both northern coasts of the Atlantic ocean.

September Meeting

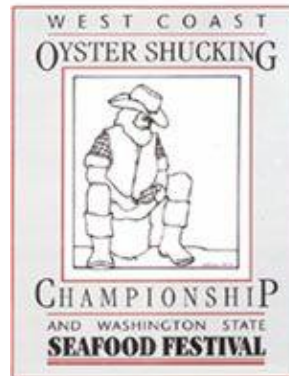
Greg Volkhardt will be doing a presentation on Fish ID. He will have slides of local fish, telltale characteristics, and a slide show quiz at the end. The meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 21st, at Dirty Dave's Pizza Parlor on Martin Way. The meeting starts at 7pm, come early to order food & drink, and socialize!



Oysterfest

John Tupper of the Aquanuts sent this email regarding Oysterfest for this year. The dates are Oct. 2nd & 3rd. Any questions, please contact John. His phone number is at the end of the article.

As I mentioned in the newsletter last month, the Hood Canal Aquanuts have been very generous in financially supporting some of our projects. So please take some time out of your schedule to help them out with their touch tanks. It really is fun, and if you enjoy eating oysters, then you won't want to miss Oysterfest!! Also, it has been my experience that the people viewing the exhibits there are very friendly and co-operative.



Oysterfest 2004 schedule

Sunday Sep 26th - setup.

Meet 9am at John's house to load equipment. 10am at the fairgrounds to setup.

Thursday Sep 30th Water

Meet Ed Jouper with Fisheries truck to fill tanks.

Night Dive

Meet at fairgrounds 6pm - leave at 6:30pm for dive at Steve and Dee's. We also need dock crew to haul critters!

Friday Oct. 1st - day dive

Meet at fairgrounds 9am - leave 9:30am for boat dive. Let Jamie know if you are going to dive. Phone 426-7755.

After 3pm we can set up displays.

Saturday and Sunday Oct 2 - 3 Oysterfest.

Hours are 10am - 6pm.

Remember potluck dinner Sat. night. Everyone invited!

We need help Sunday 6pm for takedown of equipment.

John Tupper - phone number 426-6383