



KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

September 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

Autumn is here, kids are back at school, days are shorter, and the leaves are falling off the trees. It is always hard to believe when summer ends. We put away our beach toys and BBQs and start to think about pumpkins, pies, diving, and other fall activities.

There are some fun events happening this fall. The first week of October is Oysterfest. Thank you Kelp Krawlers for donating your valuable time to the Aquanuts touch tank exhibit. I am please to report that there are plenty of Kelp Krawler's volunteering this year, but more are always welcomed. If you have any questions about the schedule, or the event, please contact our Treasurer Steve Fornoff.

At the November meeting we will be having the yearly elections of board members. I encourage all Kelp Krawlers to consider a position on the board. There is some work involved, but it's a lot of fun. The club cannot operate without a board. Board members organize the events throughout the year, keep track of the budget, manage the website, produce a newsletter and agendas, find speakers for the monthly meetings, and keep everyone's membership up to date. This is just some of the things they do.

I would like to remind folks that the annual Kelp Krawler's Christmas Party at the Steamboat Island Grange is December 6, 2008. Please start looking for your favorite potluck recipe and Christmas exchange item. Every year the potluck gets yumier and the Christmas exchange becomes, well...more entertaining. The party is always a lot of fun! Please put this date on your calendar.

I hope everyone is taking full advantage of these warm days and crisp autumn nights to do some diving. The visibility in the Canal has greatly improved and the

vis in the Puget Sound has been good.

I wish you safe diving and lots of fish stories!

Christmas Party

When: December 6, 2008 @ 6:30pm

Where: Steamboat Island Grange

What to Bring: Potluck item, Family, and BYOB

Provided: Utensils, Plates, Cups, Ice, Pop

Entertainment: White Elephant Exchange

Dive Around the Clock Report

By Larry Trenda

The second annual "Dive Around the Clock" Dive-a-Thon Relay Charity Event at Redondo Beach in Des Moines, July 25th and 26th was a GREAT SUCCESS, both in participation and money raised to benefit Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center Cancer Research.

"Dive Around the Clock" founders (Larry Trenda and Kyle Larson) goal to bring the Northwest Diving Community together for this event took a giant step forward with 81 certified divers participating; an increase of approximately 55% over last year. The participating divers were associated with one of the following dive clubs: Depth Chargers, Emerald Sea, Ft. Lewis, Kelp Krawlers, Marker Bouy, Moss Bay, Northwest, ClubTLSea and WIDC-A-Divers, as well as several independent divers participating. Over the 24-hour dive relay, the 81 participating divers combined for 158 individual dives, consisting of at least a two-person buddy team.

Through pledges given to all the participating divers, company and business

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sponsorships, the purchase of the "Eight Legs" Rogest Prints, silent auction bids, selling of raffle tickets and donations from passing individuals, this year's event raised slightly under \$19,000; an increase of approximately 72% over last year. The dive club competition for the club which raises the largest amount was won by Club TL Sea, at slightly over \$7,000, with Marker Buoy second at slightly over \$1,600. Club TL Sea will get the plaque to display until next year's event. The individuals who raised the largest amount was Larry Trendera and wife Sharleen, who raised over \$2,200.

The success of the 2008 "Dive Around the Clock" Charity Event would not have been possible without all of the participating dive centers, dive clubs and individuals, the months of coordination and hard work of all the event committee members and dedicated volunteers, all of our event sponsors and to all the caring people who made donations. To all a large "THANK YOU".

Plans are being discussed already for next year's event, which is looking to be larger, more spread out and even more exciting than the previous two years. We hope to see all of you at next year's "Dive Around the Clock" Dive-a-Thon Relay Charity Event.

Larry Trendera - Event Co-coordinator
Phone: 253-740-1656
E-mail: scubalarry@comcast.net or larry@psfindustries.com

Kyle Larson - Event Co-coordinator
E-mail: kyle.lars@gmail.com
Cell phone: 360-259-5913

Event Website: www.divearoundtheclock.com



Our Trip to San Carlos, Sonora, Mexico

By: Kimberly K. Stenek

Before I begin to share our trip to San Carlos, Mexico, I should warn you that although I love diving, I have trouble remembering what I saw when I come up. Although this is a wonderful way to "be in the moment", it does not make for the most exciting dive report. That being said, I will attempt to reconstruct my most favorite dive site memory from our two-week vacation to the famed Sea of Cortez.



This is the second trip that Tim, my husband, (and dive buddy); Rana, Tim (her boyfriend) and I have taken together. Last year's destination was Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. There we went on some memorable dives, but the highlight of the trip (for me) was when we took a wrong turn in a rental car and ended up in the middle of nowhere with no help in sight. Rana took wheel, while the "boys" sunk up to their hips in a mud hole deep enough to practically engulf the car! Where was I, you ask? In the back-seat, of course, doing a fine job of acting as ballast! Ah, but that is another story...

This summer we stayed at the Premiere Sea of Cortez Beach Club, one of our vacation club destinations. Almost every night after dinner we would slip down to the reef in front of our condo and snorkel, brandishing our dive lights. I spied bull's-eye stingrays and many brightly colored fish (which shall remain nameless, because I do not know their names). Tim found a lobster and chased the poor creature for days! When he finally caught up with it, he found he was too late. All that remained was the carcass. It turns out that Tim wasn't the only one looking forward to a lobster dinner!

We took Rick Cooper's sage advice and dove with Gary's Dive Shop. Gary and his crew were great. I dove eleven dives, Tim and Rana dove twelve. On the last day we

were privileged to dive with both Gary and his wife, Donna, on San Pedro Island, a.k.a. Seal Island. What a trip! On the way over we were regaled by an enormous pod of dolphins, which appeared to be having as much fun as we were! There were mamas, papas, and babies. As we approached the dive site, they disappeared as mysteriously as they had arrived.



diver (but still a snorkeler, due to his age), asked Tim to bring him something from under the sea. My husband went on a treasure hunt; sea stars, sea urchins, shells...the little boy and his sister were amazed at his treasures.

As we were suiting up, Gary warned us not to get too close to the adorable sea lions, as they might mistake us for an enemy trying to take over their bevy of beauties. Not to worry, there was so much to take in...huge schools of silver fish, chocolate chip sea stars, purple and yellow king angel fish, moray eels.. (Put your hand in the crack, and you wont get it back...that's a moray!)

At the end of the dive, the sea lions must have decided we were harmless. Gary said they get a kick out of watching us flopping around in the water. I did get one good picture, but I almost lost my finger in the process!

We made friends with the other people on the boat, and one special moment came when Diego, an aspiring SCUBA



Calendar of Events

October 4,5 Oysterfest - Mason County Fairgrounds in Shelton. Bring the kids for the touch tanks, watch the west coast oyster shucking championships and sample the great food!

October 21 CLUB MEETING: 7 PM, Dirty Dave's Pizza - Coopers, Fornoffs and Rich Penny will give a presentation on their recent trip to Wakatobi

Kelp Krawlers club dive schedule

Month	Date	Dive Site	Meet	Splash	Approximate Currents, Slack & tide height (Narrows 2008 Data)
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.

Diego wanted to take the sea star home to his mom, but Tim said all the creatures must be returned to the sea. I think that made Diego even more determined to learn to dive.

It was all over way too fast. Before we knew it, we were back at the dock, getting ready to abandon ship. Diego and his sister were sound asleep, and I could only guess what they were dreaming about. One thing I know for sure is, all creatures must return to the sea... I'm ready for my next vacation!



Sometimes we just have to dive for the buddy

By: Jerry Ehrlich

Sometimes we just have to dive for the buddy. This is a story about assumptions and desires, and how they can lead to trouble.

An experienced diver has set up a dive with a person he has just met, who has many dives in warm water, but not many in cold water and fewer in a dry suit.

The new cold water diver is excited about improving their dry suit skills with an experienced diver to learn from.

The experienced diver is looking forward to seeing lots of octopus at the bottom of a deep wall.

They begin to gear up at the dive site.

The new cold water diver is sporting a complete DIR rig, with a top of the line canister light and a leading edge dry suit.

Let the assumptions begin :O)

We are all taught the basic tools to avoid where these situations can lead.

We know to quiz each other politely and ascertain experience levels and how current we are.

What we are not taught: Whether we are a certified instructor or not we often end up in a situation that is one of mentoring our dive buddy.

We may recognize that we are diving with someone who

LOCAL DIVE SHOP INFORMATION

Capital Divers 866-3684

www.capitaldivers.com

The shop is located at 1621 Harrison Ave W, Olympia, WA, right across the street from Shure Kleen Car Wash. Nitrox, argon and hyper filtered air fills available.

Hood Sport 'n Dive 877-6818

www.hoodspordndive.com

The shop is located at 24080 N. Hwy 101, next to the public docks in Hoodspport. The shop is now open 7 days a week with extended hours, call or go on our web site for new hours. Stop by and fill up with Nitrox & Argon while you wait. And we offer discounted access to Sund Rock for paid KK members.

Underwater Sports 493-0322

www.underwatersports.com

New store arrangement, two new employees - stop in and get acquainted.

Visibility Report

As pointed out, it appears we are in the middle of a low dissolved oxygen event, and conditions have been spotty. Early in the day at Sund Rock the visibility can be quite good, but it can deteriorate very quickly the same day.



does not have as much experience, but how often do we tailor the dive to that person's ability? Not a compromise dive, but really understanding your role here is different than peer diving.

You have invested much time, effort, gasoline, charter fees, etc. and it is hard to skip the bottom of the wall at 80 feet where you have been looking forward to seeing the critters and instead change your dive to 40 feet maximum depth.

If that is all the depth that is appropriate for your buddy then that is the best dive.

Mentoring does not have to be traditional teaching. Just by applying what we all learned in our basic instruction, and actually doing it, is teaching by example and can be very effective.

You cannot always tell by looking or listening, but there are easy ways to ascertain comfort levels in the water.

Before you enter the water, discuss doing an air share with your buddy. Go over it carefully and completely before you get in. When you are in the water, do the air share. This will tell you both a lot about who you are diving with.

How was everyone's buoyancy with the task loading of an air share? Was the equipment configured so that it actually worked?

Pretty simple stuff, but it can make the dive more fun for all involved.

It's all diving and it is all fun :O)

An open letter regarding a low Dissolved Oxygen (DO) event

By Jerry Ehrlich

(Editor: This letter was a response to an email that pointed out that last year when there were no octopus out and there were many wolf eels out of their dens in shallow water, there was also a low DO event. Reprinted by permission of the author)

Your observations are spot on for a late stage low DO event that has permeated the entire water column. Lets hope conditions do not ripen along that vector.

This low DO event started deep and is working shallow. If you look at the data, you will see this one is working its way up from the bottom. The Hoodspout buoy is reporting barely enough dissolved O₂ to support life below 30-50 meters. The DO levels are currently pretty good from these depths to the surface. The closer to the surface, the better the oxygen levels are.

Octopus are very sensitive to low O₂ and are among the first critters to respond. Initially, they appear to move shallower, then they move north, where the conditions are better. Check the data on the North Buoy and you will see conditions are normal :O)

Hopefully this event will not get worse and move into shallower water, or we will see the conditions you have described.

We have been tracking Octopus in the Sund Rock MCA for over 10 years, the number we are seeing now are completely out of range. They come and go over the years, but never in these numbers.

Conservation Corner - what can I do to help the bays?

By Steve Sutton

Most of us have been to presentations from organizations who are doing great work to organize large scaled efforts to improve the quality of our rivers and bays. Although absolutely necessary, these efforts seem at times to be frustratingly expensive, long term and very complex. As I sit back in my easy chair, I wonder what things I can do as an individual that can help in this effort, albeit in my own small way. Here is a list of things each one of us can do to help in this battle.

1. Get involved with the environment organizations.

There are many of you gifted with management skills, money raising experience, or working with governmental organizations that could be vital for of these organizations. Here are a few links to get you started:

www.savingpugetsound.com, www.psp.wa.gov,
www.shorelinealliance.org, www.pugetsound.org,
www.tpl.org, www.nature.org.

2. Reduce the amount of chemicals we put onto our grass. The rich nitrogen in fertilizers and herbicides will eventually travel via surface runoff or seep into ground water and ultimately into the bays. Maybe our lawns don't have to be so green year around, and maybe we can just pull the weeds.
3. Consider converting any seawalls into more natural shoreline to enable better runoff filtering conditions. Or at least, don't concentrate runoff into pipes where possible.
4. Drive the car less. The more people drive cars, the more oil leaks onto roadways and gets washed out eventually to the rivers and bays. Roads are said to be more dangerous during the first rain after a dry spell for this reason. If you know your car leaks oil, have it fixed.
5. Don't pollute the waters. This may seem obvious and almost silly we have heard it so much, but I still find beer cans and other trash in the water when diving. Certainly, don't intentionally dump liquids like old motor oil or paint down sewers. Take all noxious liquids to the recycle centers. Speak out if you see someone tossing trash into the water from a boat; you can certainly do it in a nice way. If you see gross offenders polluting in any situation, report them to the authorities.
6. Participate in education programs for the schools or other events. As divers we have a unique perspective on the bays and we can offer our experience and talent to help educate young people. The Oysterfest coming up is a great opportunity to help people young and old understand about how to help preserve and help the creatures of the sound. Sign up to help the Aquanuts with the touch tanks.
7. Make sure your water craft is well maintained and doesn't leak oil into the water.
8. When you know conditions are safe to do so, recover trash, fishing line or other non-natural items from under water and dispose of them appropriately.
9. Keep septic tanks maintained.

This is a small list and there are surely many more that could be added. The bottom line is that there are things each of us can do to make sure we are part of the solution and not the problem.

Photo Page

Note from the editor: Despite multiple requests for photos from members, none have been submitted for the newsletter. To stimulate more participation, the editor shamelessly submits a few of his own for your enjoyment. Perhaps more will be submitted by others for future publications.



Western Ribbed Topshell
Calliostoma ligatum



Giant Red Dendronotid
Dendronotus rufus O'Donoghue



Giant Pacific Octopus
Octopus dofleini



Decorator Crab
Oregonia gracilis

(I think :-))