



KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

Sept 2009

www.kelpkrawlers.org

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2009 OFFICERS

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Kelp Krawler dues:

\$15 single or \$25 family

See website for
membership form

Prez Sez

By Amy Kurtenbach

The leaves are changing in the mountains, the nights are crisp, the days are shorter, and the sun, between the rain showers is still shining. All signals that fall and cooler weather is around the corner.

The fun dive in the month of August was a success. I want to thank the Fitz's for hosting the dive and the picnic. The vis was acceptable at Sund Rock. It was around 5' at the surface and 20' at depth. Most divers reported seeing 10+ wolf eels and octopus among the supporting cast of grunts, rock fish, jellies, crabs, etc. The Kelp Krawlers in attendance were: Mike Fitz, Deb Fitz, Steve Fornoff, Roger Gomez, Jeana Krumland, Steve Sutton, Martha Copeland, John McKenzie. Chaela Sumner, Paul Jeffers, and Keko Jeffers, John Cipriano (all the way from Arizona) and myself. The club supported the event by covering the access fees for diving at Sund Rock and paying for the burgers and brats at the picnic.

November is elections for the following positions: President, Editor, and Dive Officer. The elections for the remaining positions of Vice President, Secretary/Membership, and Treasurer will be held in June. This change to the November election was made by the Board at the request of membership. I encourage all members of the club to consider the following three positions. As this will be my last year as President, I can stay without hesitation that my position does come with some work, but it has been rewarding and a lot of fun!

October means Oysterfest and touch tanks. I hope that all members in the club will be volunteers at the annual event. Kelp Krawlers have been very fortunate to be able to assist the Aquanuts with setting up, assisting and overseeing, and breaking down the tanks. A request for volunteer will be made via e-mail a

couple of weeks before the event. It is always a fun event. The critters in the tanks initiate positive interests and questions about our marine friends, their dietary habits, their sensitive environment, and diving. Always at Oysterfest there is good food provided by the exhibitors, music to listen to, and wonderful conversation amongst the tanks. I personally have overheard many interesting fish stories (although sometimes I have questioned their validity~ smiles).

I would like to close with this quote for consideration, "Man [diver] cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore." ~Unknown

I wish you all safe diving and lots of fish stories.

You're an experienced diver, so you don't need to attend the dive briefing.....or do you ??

By Steve Fornoff

Recently, I had the opportunity to lead a Friday evening dive at Titlow Beach in Tacoma. If you've dove Titlow before, you know it's a great shallow dive with a plenty of sea life to observe. On this evening the weather was nice, sunny and warm.

We had nine divers show up at the designated time of 7PM. The dive briefing was given; however one of the divers was no where to be found. So we went ahead with the dive briefing providing the usual information: assigning dive buddies, currents, depths, potential hazards, sea-life, entry/exit points, duration of dive, and safety briefing.

As the group dispersed to gear up for the dive another diver (who is an experienced diver)

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showed up late. About the same time the missing diver (also an experienced diver) appeared geared up and ready for the dive. These two divers advised they have dove Titlow Beach before and they were assigned to a three-buddy team with a newly certified diver.

The dive proceeded and after 50+ minutes our team hit the exit point after a fabulous dive; to our surprise every other buddy team surfaced near the exit point at about the same time. Everyone was exclaiming what a wonderful dive they had.

Then the trio dive team stated they missed the Titlow Ferry pilings all together and their max-depth was 55 feet. They couldn't figure out how they could have missed the pilings?? The depth of the pilings was clearly presented at 25' – 30' at the dive briefing.....oh that's right, the two dive masters were not present for the dive briefing.

Luckily, everyone was safe and a good dive was had by all.

The point is that everyone needs to attend dive briefings and pay attention to the briefing. Many times I've been on dive boats while on vacation where each dive is preceded by the captain's dive briefing. It's amazing how often there are one or two divers who don't pay attention to the briefing, either because they are too busy setting up their gear or they are talking about an unrelated subject (which makes it difficult for the rest of the divers to hear the briefing).

These are usually the divers who return from the dive disappointed because they didn't see "anything of interest" during the dive, while everyone else is a supporting big smile and bubbling with information on what they saw on the dive.

It's important to attend the dive briefing physically and mentally as the dive leader will cover the key points of assigning dive buddies, currents, depths, potential hazards, sea-life, entry/exit points, duration of dive, and safety briefing. In addition, they always cover two critical points, the main attractions of the dive and more important any obvious hazards that the dive may present.

Everyone wants to come back from each dive supporting big smiles and bubbling with excitement over what was seen during the dive. Most important everyone wants to come back safe and sound.

Good reasons to attend the dive briefings wouldn't you say?

Conservation Corner - Stopping the Growth

By: Steve Sutton

Most of us have heard of the phenomenon known as low dissolved oxygenation (DO) events in Puget Sound.

These events can devastate aquatic animal life as many divers have seen first hand. What causes low DO events and how can each of us do our part to lower the number of incidents?

Inorganic nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus in streams, lakes, rivers and estuaries promote the growth of algae and aquatic plants. When excess amounts of these nutrients are either unknowingly or purposefully dumped into the water, plant life begins to flourish, clogging our streams and waterways. Toward the fall these plants begin to die and decompose, and this decomposition process draws oxygen out of the water. If an excessive amount of this decomposition occurs then the level of oxygen required for aquatic life may get critically low, causing mass die-offs of fish and other aquatic animals.

Years ago, people recognized that these pollutants were killing Lake Washington. Since the late 1960's pollution is now drawn around the lake and dumped directly into Puget Sound where it is more easily dissipated. As a result, Lake Washington is gradually beginning to improve, but the Sound is now suffering because of it.

Common agriculture fertilizer is the #1 cause of high nitrogen and phosphorus levels in water. Prior articles in our newsletter have discussed reducing the amount of fertilizer used on our lawns as one small way we can help. The #2 cause of high nutrient levels is high phosphorus content in ordinary laundry soap. These additives are used to improve the cleaning properties of the soap for hard water regions, but as it turns out 60% of the US is soft water area and there are good substitutes for the harmful high phosphorus ingredients.

Recognizing the danger that high-phosphate laundry soap can be to our waterways, the city of Spokane passed a law against the sale of high-phosphate laundry soap. Even though a short drive to an adjacent city can provide such soap, many are now using the low phosphate version. According to the Bellingham Herald, the ban on high phosphate detergents appears to be working, as there is 11% less phosphorus in the water than the annual average of the past 3 years. There are also low phosphate versions of dishwasher detergents. There is proposed federal legislation to ban dishwasher detergents containing all but trace amounts of phosphates. If you would like to use a low phosphate dish detergent, Consumer Reports recommends Method or Simplicity (store availability not known).

Buying and using low-phosphate detergents is something each of us can do right now with little effort or any additional cost to improve the health of Puget Sound and reduce the incidence of low DO events. A recent stroll down the grocery aisle showed a number of low-phosphate detergents are available. In a recent personal experiment, there was no detectable difference in how my clothes were cleaned using this soap from other previously used brands. For the sake of the octopus and wolf eels, give these soaps a try.

Material for this article was taken from [Environmental Science](#) by Daniel D. Chiras, and information from the website of the People for Puget Sound.

Dive Around the Clock 2009 Report

By: Carolyn Fornoff

On July 18 Dave and Colleen Miller, Steve Sutton, Wendy Rude, Ken Domingo, Steve and Carolyn Fornoff, Martin Zerbach and Kelly Rossman participated in the DATC event supporting Seattle Children's hospital. Our group totaled 13 dives in the last few hours of the event. This year there was live stream video with a couple of our members featured on uTube videos! The following is a thank you to the Kelp Krawlers from the Dive Around the Clock committee.

We would like to thank you for joining us in our 2009 Dive Around the Clock. This year 95 divers from various dive clubs throughout the dive community "went deep to defeat childhood cancer". Many sponsors supported us with gift certificates, products and contributions to Seattle Children's Regional Hospital. Everyone's combined effort has helped us to surpass our goal of \$20,000. We couldn't do this without you.

Thank you again for your continued support of such a fantastic cause. We look forward to seeing you in July 2010.

Larry Trenda and Kyle Larson

Upcoming Oysterfest

By Steve Fornoff

Save the dates: Oysterfest 2009, October 3 and 4 at the Mason County fairgrounds.

We have been helping the Aquanuts for the past few years manning the touch tanks during Oysterfest. They are again looking forward to seeing interested Kelp Krawlers helping out during the following events. We need people to help with the following:

- set-up the weekend before, usually on Saturday
- critter dive, evening of October 1 meet at fairgrounds
- helping out with the touch tanks during the fest, hours can vary

- food stand help
- take down on Sunday evening

Specific times will be provided at the next meeting. Anyone interested can sign up at the next meeting or email Steve at bluediamonddiver@Q.com.

Fulton Reef

By: Scott Boyd

Fulton Reef is one of Hood Canal's best dive sites and this mysterious gem is virtually unknown to the local dive community. A chance comment by Don Coleman (Pacific Adventure) to run my side scan unit down by Fulton Creek to



look for structure had us chomping at the bit to dive this site. We had spotted quite a bit of rock structure and a wall on while running the side scan near the creek. We planned a return trip to the Canal to dive the site and we were not disappointed.

The reef itself starts in about 65 feet of water, with lots of slanted, fractured rock structure and schooling black rock-fish. Cruising over the top of the reef, the bottom drops into the abyss and you'll find a nice vertical wall that ends at about 95 feet of depth. Along the wall, there are lots of large rocks, cracks, nooks and crannies that are just loaded with critters to admire. On our first dive at the site, we spotted several friendly grunt sculpins, dozens of hairy

Calendar of Events

Oct 20 CLUB MEETING: 7 PM, Dirty Dave's Pizza

Dec 5 Christmas party at Steamboat Island Grange Details to follow later

See the attached Club Dive schedule and check the club web-site www.kelpkrawlers.org for upcoming activities and dives.

crabs, nudibranchs galore and huge lings guarding their eggs. The highlight of the dive was a big octopus slowly fanning her egg clusters with the water from her siphon. We watched mesmerized for several minutes as the eggs slowly waved back and forth as she kept them clean and oxygenated.

Further up the wall, a juvenile wolf eel peered out at us, wondering just what the heck these noisy, bubble-blowing creatures were. We spent nearly 45 minutes exploring Fulton Reef, finding several cavern-like structures along the wall and lots of octopus dens. The base of wall is home to a nice rubble field where you'll be happy to spot a large number of pregnant rockfish.

On our way back to the boat, we were entertained with a wide variety of nudibranchs crawling around in the mud flats as well as a few sea cucumbers standing straight up and spawning into the still waters. We explored this site during the middle of a moderately large flood tide and experienced no current at all until we were in the top 15 feet of water on our ascent back to the boat.

If you'd like to see this amazing dive site for yourself, book a charter on Pacific Adventure and ask Don to take you to Fulton Reef. He doesn't visit the site very often, but for me it's one of the top three dive sites in Hood Canal and well worth a visit or two.



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.hoodsportndive.com

The shop is located at 24080 N. Hwy 101, next to the public docks in Hoodport. 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

We are in Olympia just past the Bike Tech store and next to Hot Yoga. Our address is 1943 4th Ave E. Please stop in to visit, and for your equipment, class, and air needs. All air fills are hyper-filtered. Bring in your Nitrox tanks by Tuesday/Pick them up by Friday. (In by Tuesday/Out by Friday.) We also have Argon available. Air-card and Nitrox-card discounts are available for current Kelp Krawlers members. Please call or visit our web site for shop hours.

Photo Page



Shaggy Mouse Nudibranch love fest under the boat at Sund Rock - 8/22/09 - © Steve Sutton



Sir Lingcod guarding the love fest - 8/22/09
© Steve Sutton