



Emerald Sea Dive Club

Narc-ed Out News

May 2007

www.emeraldseadiveclub.org

Table of Contents

Board Members	9
Channel Islands	4/5
Dive and Event Calendar	13/14
Editor's Column	2
Guest Speaker	7
How to Contact Us	11/12
Nanaimo	6
Other Stuff	10
President's Column	2
Sea Urchins	3

President's Column

by Jill Keeler

What do I spy with my little eyes? Nothing. You need special eyesight to see this month's President's Column because special ink is involved!

Editor's Column

by Darlene Ripley

Dancing with the Stars, American Idol, Amazing Race, The Bachelor, Change of Heart, Fear Factor, Last Comic Standing, The Real World, Punk'd, The Surreal Life, Survivor, and Tommy Lee Goes to College. You are probably thinking, "What do these have to do with diving?" I have not been Puget Sound diving for several months. You know, once you've been warm you can't go back. I suppose you can but why would you want to? It is so depressing. I digress.

Back to REALITY TV. "Diving with the Sharks", "Diving Idol", "Amazing Dive", "The Instructor", "Change of Air", "Fear Factor", "Last Diving Comic", "The Real Waterworld", "Dunk'd", "The Narced Life", "Survivor", and finally "Buck Knight Goes to the Sound". I think all of these would make for great Reality TV; why not?

Thu, thu, thu . . . that's all folks!

Diving With Sea Urchins in Bonaire

by Loogpla Cowden

The first time I tried sashimi I was at a Japanese restaurant dining with a group of peers. I sat there for a long time looking at the delicacy knowing that if I did not eat it I would offend them – I finally took my first bite – it was delicious! One of the items was sea urchin.

Years later I started diving and remember being at Camp Casey collecting critters for the sea lab. My buddy and I were at 45 fsw, searching for sea urchins, which were everywhere -- red ones, green ones, purple ones, big ones, little ones, you name it – it was there! They were absolutely beautiful.

On March, 13 ESDC divers went diving in Bonaire, N.A. I was amazed to see some long spine sea urchins. During my visit I learned that sea urchins were in abundance there until a disease outbreak in 1983-84 struck the sea urchins of the Caribbean killing 93% of the long-spine urchins. The plague took only a week to sweep through Bonaire causing silt to lodge onto the sea urchin's

spine, which created a home for brittle worms.

These urchins were walking along with brittle worms between their spines; the urchins were still alive, and the brittle worms were feeding on them and slowly these urchins began to disappear.

Today, the urchin population is returning in Bonaire. Did you know the sea urchin reproduces during some kind of a signal from the moon cycle, water temperature, light level, and/or a combination of these and other conditions? External fertilization or mass spawning (releasing the egg and sperm into the water) is the mating strategy of the sea urchin and with luck they find each other and . . . whalla -- baby urchins!

Next time you are night diving and you come across a sea urchin; spend a little time observing this wonderful creature. Shine your light about a foot away from it – turn your light on and off at them . . . Enjoy!

Diving the Channel Islands

by Loogpla Cowden

I've traveled to many far away places and led many divers to great adventures with the exception of the one place close to home -- California Channel Islands.

This time, I am the diver and I hired a dive host. It was mid April on a Wednesday morning when I hopped the plane to Los Angeles. I got a rental car and drove to San Pedro Harbor to find the "Sand Dollar" for my first live aboard. The Sand Dollar was my home for the next few days.

I introduced myself to the captain and his crew that morning. I know that I could board the boat later in the afternoon but thought I would take my chance to ask when would be the earliest time for me to come on board and the captain said in about an hour. He was very accommodating.

I went shopping around the harbor, which is full of shops and restaurants. There is an outdoor market and many live seafood tanks where you can order anything including lobster, crab, fish, calamari, clams, you name it -- they will cook it right in front of

you and I was drooling. That evening I met my hosts Ron Tinker and Darla Hodson of Adventure Sports in Gresham, OR and their dive team.

The wind was kicking up so we spent the night in the harbor. It was 5:00AM when I heard the captain start the engine as we pulled out and got on our way. I had a top double bunk in the bow on the starboard side and I tell you thank goodness for Dramamine.

I was very excited to get to our first dive site and I could not wait to get into the water with my new buddy. We did a giant stride off the stern and began our descent; all is well until we reach 70 FSW the viz was one foot and needless to say I lost my brand new buddy. I surfaced and he followed shortly behind me. We regrouped and this time we went down the anchor line and stayed on the anchor line making a brail dive; I got to feel some kelp!

The weather was not in our favor. The captain called the dives and we spent the rest of our afternoon on land exploring the Avalon Harbor and hiking on Catalina Island. It was a good call on the captain's part; especially, when

we saw the other dive charters and all the boats there too!

The next morning the captain was determined to find good water. We cruised around the island until we found it on the NW corner of Catalina Island. The rest of the weekend was outrageous! We were making 5+ dives per day with 50' viz. I love playing hide and seek in the kelp forest with many of the bright orange garibaldi. Did you know that kelp is one of the fastest growing plants on earth and it can grow as much as your arm length in a single day and up to 120 feet?

I want to let you know about scuba diving the California Channel Islands on the SAND DOLLAR live aboard. She is 65 foot, Coast Guard certified, with 2 generators, 2 main engines, 2 radars, 2 water makers, 2 heads, 3 showers, 4 fill stations, enriched-air and nitrox on board refills, 3 compressors, air conditioning

systems, and an inflatable chase boat!

Courteous crew – will be there on time to fill your tank, excellent cook – he will feed you until you “ouches”, the captain will stay at the site until no one wants to dive any more before moving on to the next site.

Some of the places Captain George will take you are San Clements Is, Santa Barbara Is, Catalina Is, San Nickolas Is, Anacapa Is. Etc... too much to list in the Channel Islands!

Does this sound like something you might want to do and explore? If so, please join me for a 3 night, all the food and dives until your satisfied. All this only \$439.95 plus air fare. For more information please see me at the meeting or call 206-399-5682.

Dive deep.... Be happy....

Nanaimo

by Skip Stacy

Loogpla asked me to do an article about Nanaimo because she is sponsoring a trip there September 19-22: 3 WRECKS and NARROWS WALLS. Take a guess where. Another hint: many shops, art galleries and restaurants along a beautiful waterfront walkway that stretches 2 1/2 miles along the inside harbor with some tide pools, parks and a couple of streams included. If anyone guessed the Canadian City of Nanaimo then you're the winner, especially if you go. Nanaimo is home to the Saskatchewan battleship that some of our members were present at for its sinking; Also home to the Cape Breton which many members travel to Vancouver to help clean out prior to her sinking. See if you can dive down and find the plaque with all of the volunteer's names. The last one sunk there (so far) is the Riv Tow Lion which is dive-able if conditions further out are a little off and it is used for wreck certification classes also. Snake Island Wall is a fantastic wall dive and upon coming up shallower you can take some extra time to snorkel or shallow dive with the harbor seals. For divers intent on seeing as many wolf eels as you'll ever see in one place then make sure you dive Clark Rock. If you take some herring or shrimp with you in a plastic bag they might even come out to greet you and wrap around your body for a picture to show your grandkids. Orlebar Point, although a little further out, is also a beautiful wall dive. Now for the dive that probably put Nanaimo on the diving map -- DODD NARROWS -- an absolutely fantastic current dive. Drift all the way through and experience the change and drift all the way back again. BEAUTIFUL.

Now for the food part of the trip; Many, many fine restaurants and fine dining pubs. For some of the best sushi and teriyaki around there is the Blue Ginger a few miles out of town. For a really quaint evening, take the downtown foot ferry to Canada's largest (maybe the world's--who knows) floating pub. A relaxing dinner with drinks of your choice and if you time it right, a very colourful (notice my Canadian spelling) and breathtaking sunset behind the whole City of Nanaimo. What a sight, but don't take my word for it, see it for yourself. Hope I can make this one. I think Loogpla will give the details later. I forgot to mention that Nanaimo is readily accessible from the Tsawwassen-Dukes Point or the Departure Bay-Horseshoe Bay Canadian Ferries.



No Guest Speaker

(Unless Bill High from PSI gets back to me before Wed., when I leave for Hawaii)

We will be having a club social hour after the meeting. This will be in place of our guest speaker this month, so please come and share your diving stories. I think this will be a great opportunity to catch up with other members of the club whom you don't normally have time to see or speak with.

Calendar Contest

For now, each photographer may submit 4 photos per month this year. You may submit photos taken between October 1, 2006 and September 30, 2007. Because the contest is being started late each photographer is permitted to submit 28 photos through April 30th.

Please send any suggestions or ideas for the contest, i.e. total number of photos per photographer allowed, how the selection of winners should be done, etc. to David at esdcnewsletter@mindspring.com.

As in the past all photos will be available for viewing on ESDC's web-site. Hopefully, this will be available to members in May.

Board Members

President	Jill Keeler	jillk@bjbrewster.com
Vice-President	Rich Carton	addcorich@verizon.net
Secretary	Peggy McCright	mintyethel2@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Laura Orlich	lorlich@ssoe.com
Newsletter Editor	Darlene Ripley	esdcnewsletter@mindspring.com
Activities Coordinator	Shawn Miller	shawnm1833@yahoo.com

Board Appointees

Greeter	Loogpla Cowden	loogplacowden@att.net
Web Masters	Andy Norton and Glenn Bulat	andy_norton@comcast.net glennbu@softbyte-solutions.com
Big Buddy Coordinators	Pam Norton and Wendy Drucker	andy_norton@comcast.net astromoi@earthlink.net

Other Stuff

Membership Dues

\$30 for a single membership \$47 for a family membership

Did you know that if you show your ESDC membership card at Northwest Sport Dive you get a free air fill? Be sure you have your ESDC membership card with you when you go shopping at dive shops—you just never know.

If other shops give you a discount please let us know and we will publish their name.

Winning \$50.00

You could win a \$50.00 ESDC check by hosting club dives and by contributing stories, articles, and information to the newsletter. Every time you sponsor a club dive or make a submission to the newsletter your name "goes into a hat" and four times a year a raffle will be held and one person from each drawing will receive \$50.00 from ESDC as a **Thank You** for sponsoring dives, friendships, information, stories and fun! Remember, a club dive is a dive approved by Shawn Miller, Activities Coordinator, and placed on the clip-board and on the ESDC web site. This is a great way to meet club members and have lots of fun. **Book your dives today!** Submit your **newsletter contributions** today. Remember: the more dives you book the more chances you have of winning; the more newsletter submissions you make the more chances you have of winning.

Continuing Education Reward

When you take a class that furthers your diving experience, such as Advanced Open Water, Rescue, Dive Master, etc., show The Board your certification card and you will receive a congratulatory \$15.00. This offer is only good one time per calendar year.

ESDC Mailing List

E-mail Loogpla Cowden or Glen Bulat, our mailing list moderators, loogplacowden@att.net, glenbu@softbyte-solutions.com to be put on the ESCD yahoo group mailing list (www.groups.yahoo.com/group/ESDClist) where you can communicate with other members regarding various dive topics, find dive buddies, or let everyone know about a planned dive that did not make it to the newsletter or clipboard in time. **Join the list so YOU won't be left out!**

Our Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 6 at Alfy's Pizza

4820 196th SW
Lynnwood WA
425-775-5459

Board meeting, **6:00 p.m.**; everyone is welcome to join. General meeting, **7:00 p.m.**

How to Get to Alfy's:

Heading north on I-5: take exit 181B (196th St SW/Alderwood Mall Pkwy). At the top of the exit there is a stop light, turn left. At the next stop light turn left onto 196th St SW proceeding to 48th. Alfy's is on the south side of the road. (Alfy's is 4 blocks down from The Rock.)

Heading south on I-5: take exit number 181 (Lynnwood). At the top of the exit there is a stop light, turn right onto 196th St SW, proceed to 48th. Alfy's is on the south side of the road. (Alfy's is 4 blocks down from The Rock.)

How to Contact Us

Visit our web site: www.emeraldseadiveclub.org

Write us: Emerald Sea Dive Club
PO Box 73
Edmonds WA 98020

Contact any of the board members via telephone or e-mail
www.groups.yahoo.com/group/ESDClst

Divers on the Loose

☞ Greg Becvar 360-659-2853 tridoxia@yahoo.com

☞ Bruce Bury 425-788-8063 bury1of6@aol.com

☞ Skip Stacy – rainy days 425-775-2410

☞ John Laggart –weekday dives jmnlaggart@msn.com

If you are interested in being included on this list please contact the editor.



Newsletter articles deadlines

June	May 28 th
July	June 25 th
August	July 24 th
September	August 27 th
October	September 24 th
November	October 29 th
December	November 26 th

DIVE and EVENT CALENDAR

DATE	DIVE/EVENT	SPONSOR
Wednesday May 2	Dive Club Meeting 7:00 PM @ Alfys Pizza	Miss Jill
Friday May 11	7:00 PM Seacrest Cove 2 Night Dive	Loogpla Cowden 206-399-5682 loogplacowden@att.net
Sunday May 13	Mother's Day	Husbands, fathers, sons, etc.
Saturday May 19	Milltown--Life Sling Everett, 10:00 AM	Norman & Clarice Gregory Nc.gregory@verizon.net
Monday-Friday May 21-25	San Juan Island Friday Harbor/Deer Harbor Deep Sea Charter	Loogpla Cowden 206-399-5682 loogplacowden@att.net
Wednesday June 6	Dive Club Meeting 7:00 PM @ Alfys	Miss Jill and her board
Friday June 8	7:00 PM Seacrest Cove 2 Night Dive	Loogpla Cowden 206-399-5682 loogplacowden@att.net
Sunday June 17 Happy Father's Day	11:00 AM -3:00 PM Richmond Beach Critter Collection--potluck/BBQ	Skip Stacy Skipstacy@aol.com
Wednesday July 11	Dive Club Meeting 7:00 PM @ Alfys	Jill and The Board
Thursday--Saturday July 12-14	Channel Islands, CA Sign up while you can. \$440 + your air fair contact Liveaboard	Loogpla Cowden 206-399-5682 loogplacowden@att.net
Saturday July 14	10:00 AM--2:00 PM Richmond Beach Critter Collection & BBQ/potluck	Laura Orlich, lorlich@ssoe.com
Wednesday August 1	Dive Club Meeting 7:00 PM @ Alfys	Jill and her friends
	Continued on Next Page	

Sunday August 5	ESDC Picnic @ Kayak Point!	Greg & Laura Becvar
Wednesday September 5	Dive Club Meeting 7:00 PM @ Alfys	Jill and her band of doers
Saturday September 15	8:30 AM Edmonds Fishing Pier Cleanup Waivers Required!	Fran Murray 206-542-1866 scubagram_5900@hotmail.com
Wednesday-Saturday September 19-22	Nanaimo, BC Diver's Choice Charter	Loogpla Cowden & Marty Leonard, 206-399- 5682, loogplacowden@att.net
Wednesday October 3	Dive Club Meeting 7:00 PM @ Alfys	The Jill Band
Thursday-Saturday October 11-20	FIJI BEGA LAGOON Warm water diving Deposit \$150 Total Cost \$2,700	Adam Springer for details 425- 239-0241
Wednesday November 7	Dive Club Meeting 7:00 PM @ Alfys	If you don't know by now ...
Saturday December 1	ESDC Xmas Party Snohomish, WA	TBA
Monday—Saturday December 3-8	Cozumel, Mexico with Aqua Safari Warm water & sun \$1100 R\T air 5 nights 4 days of 2-3 tank dives	Loogpla Cowden 206 399 5682

