



Dive of the Month

Octopus Hole

Rick Grove

Trip Report: Octopus Hole, Hood Canal, 24 Jan 09

Leader: Rick Grove

Other ESDC members: Frank, Kris, Laurie, Todd

The Site: A wall about 250 long with a bottom of 57 feet and top of 25 feet. The wall has all sizes of holes for Octopus to live in. The dive map on line was old and no longer required an 1170 foot surface swim.

Highlights of the dives: The water was clear and waves on shore were zero. We timed our first dive for no current. There was another group at the site before us and they were coming out of the water as we went in. They confirmed walking in shallow water 400 feet to the south of the stairs leading to the beach and then swimming out 200 feet put on the wall. We gathered in the shallow water to put on fins and re-brief our dive plan before going out to the wall. The group proceeded to the wall. We placed our dive flag on a 25 ft rope with bag

of weights. The group of 5 re-grouped at the bottom of the rope and everyone was ready to proceed. The water was very clear visibility of 30 to 40 feet, some thinking 50 feet. The water was very cold, there was a pronounced thermocline at 2 feet with the surface temp at 37 to 39 F. At depth the water temperature readings were 40 to 44F. The group quickly found the wall and proceeded along it at 57 feet. The owners of the beach and stairs is Mikes Dive Shop of Hoodspport, they have placed a couple of 3 feet high concrete statues along the bottom of the wall. The first statue of a Lion was over a large slab. Under the rock slab was our first large Pacific Octopus. The critter was wrapped in a tangle of arms so an estimate of size is only a guess at over 10 ft. The group proceeded south along the wall and saw several additional large octopus. Frank, Laurie and Todd turned at about 75% of the wall south and headed along the top of the wall towards the flag and so their safety stop. Rick and Kris kept along the wall to the south end. Just after they turned they came across a very large octopus. It was at 37 feet and was stretched horizontal across a hole that was about 8

feet wide by 10 inches tall. His head was in the middle and he was back in the hole about 4 feet. Kris snapped the attached photo with out getting too close. The second dive was as good as the first and group all raved at the cars before departing. We highly recommend this dive. Todd and Rick have an updated map to share.



Big Guy at Octopus Hole

Photo of the Month

Photographer - *Marylou Hernandez*
Where - *Lembeh Resort, Indonesia*

Month Meeting

Wednesday February 4
Board Meeting 6:00 PM
(everyone is welcome)
General Meeting 7:00 PM

Shawn O'Donnell's
122 128th St. SE
Everett, Wa
(425)338-5700

Group Activity to follow



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President's Column



**Underwater Photography
101 and a Half**

Some of you are aware that my most beloved 11.5 inch Mac that I used to store and edit my photo's was stolen last fall. It wasn't a complete catastrophe because I got a newly beloved 13.5 inch Mac and all my photo's were backed up on CD's. Re-loading the photo's is easy. Reediting the photo's is painful. I didn't save just the decent ones, I saved everything. You never know when you will need a blurred photo of a barracuda or the tail end of a grouper. Or how about that shot of the sand, what was I looking at, is there a buried flounder? Or did a jawfish disappear into a hole? Or did I accidentally hit the shutter button? Or was that a color test shot?

So here I go again, renaming the files, adding the metadata. Going through and rejecting the bad ones. I still can't stand to delete anything, but reject is a good way to eliminate pictures without deleting them. If the composition sucks, or the eyes are out of focus, or there is a piece of kelp cutting the rock fish in half, into the reject pile it goes. From the non-rejects I can start rating photo's, until I have a slide show of 25-30 photographs for torturing friends. And how do you pick one lizard fish out of ten, all with blurred lips, when you don't know if there are any other photos of lizard fish. Maybe I have a good lizard fish photo from another trip. Add the "lizard fish" keyword to every lizard fish. Keywording after a single dive is a piece of cake, doing thousands at once is a pain. I tried using scientific names once, but I couldn't remember them, much less pronounce them. When I was first diving I thought that the sunflower star and the Pycnopodia were two different sea stars. I was a bit confused for a while. With key-

words, if the only photo I have of a Big Skate is a reject, then I can at least find it, even if it is so bad I would never show it to anyone else.

In a way, reediting my photos has been a blessing. The older photos didn't have keywords. When I first started, I didn't know about keywords or ratings or what the names of marine life. Marine life didn't have names, they were fish, or sea slugs, or sea stars, or shells, or that big orange flower thingy. I was so overwhelmed by the biodiversity, that I would concentrate on one critter, memorizing every detail. Then after the dive, out would come the critter books and I would try to find it. Keywording my old photos has been a refresher identification course.

And looking at my old photos was better than reading my dive log. The photo of the scorpion fish reminded me of a twilight dive. Maryann found the scorpion fish and couldn't get my attention. So she had to swim 20 feet to get me, then find the scorpion fish again. Not an easy task. Then there is the photo of an uncommon Scarlet-striped cleaning shrimp. It is not a very good photo, but right next to the cleaning shrimp is a Squat Anemone shrimp, that I had been trying to find. I didn't see the Anemone shrimp until I downloaded my photos. What do we miss underwater?

Not only had I saved my own photo's but I found some that friends have given me. Like this photo of past president Jason Miller and absconded member Buck



Knight. I have no idea who the photographer is. The photo was taken before I was a member of the dive club. Jason and Buck are engaged in ESDC's second favorite pastime, eating. Underwater photography is difficult and it is easy to get discouraged. Looking back at my first photo's taken with a two mega pixel point and shoot reminded me how much I've improved. On that 2002 dive

trip to Belize using the rented point and shoot, there was a semi professional photographer. We would take a picture of the same subject and his were so much better. Some of that was the camera, but a lot of it was practice. He had been shooting for years and his composition was better, his camera angle was better, his buoyancy was better. As frustrating as underwater photography is now, it is not nearly as frustrating as it was on that trip.

So remember, a class here or there, LOTS of practice, LOTS of pictures (the film is free) and it will slowly get better.

Editor's Column



All Scuba divers should have adventures. We are currently nearing the end of our latest adventure. This column is being written at 8:00 in the evening as we sit by the outdoor pool of the Hotel Riande in Panama City. I suspect that conditions are somewhat better here than what Edmonds is currently enduring. This adventure began with a flight from San Antonio, Texas to Panama City. Although diving was the motivation for the trip there were other experiences of note. We traveled to Santa Catalina, a small town on the Pacific coast of Panama. The area is noted for it's surfing as well as



claiming to be the gateway to Coiba Island National Park. We arrived in Santa Cata-

lina late in the day and Ponche, who is credited with discovering the surfing breaks in the area, offered us the use of his guest house for the night. We awoke the next morning to the unfamiliar sound of tropical birds and an unobstructed view of the Pacific Ocean.

After a night in Ponche's guest house we moved to the Surfer's Oasis which consists of a row of cabins built just above the high tide line along a great beach. However, to get to the Surfer's Oasis at high tide we had to wade the river. This proved to be an interesting experience at night when we could see the red glow reflected from the eyes of the resident crocodiles. Our hope was that crocs, like sharks, preferred surfers to divers.

During our time in Panama we also spent time in a hostel in the mountains and in an Agro-tourism lodge. We crossed the Puentes de las Americas over the Panama Canal several times, had great meals that cost almost nothing and bad meals that cost just as much.

Finally, there was the reason for the trip, diving. We saw frog fish, morays of several species, many out swimming around, sharks, puffer fish, vast schools of jacks and tuna, sting rays, mobila rays (think, little manta), and eagle rays. Turtle abounded and just when we thought nothing else could surprise us the Whale Shark appeared.

Now, as this adventure comes to a close, it is time to start thinking about the next one. As divers we are always only one step away from the next great adventure. Even if you dive the Bruce Higgins Underwater Trails or Seacrest Cove 2 or the T Dock routinely the next dive is never like the last.

Better yet, you can always find somewhere new to dive. There are many guide books such as those by Stephen Fischnaller (Northwest Shore Dives) and Betty Pratt-Johnson (151 Dives) listing dive sites that are new to you. For less than \$100 you can board a local dive boat and be taken to new dive sites. Dan Fry, a long time ESDC member, runs one of these boats and would be happy to talk to you.

Finally, because you are an Emerald Sea Dive Club member you have a great resource available to you, the experience of all of your fellow members. As this is written there are club trips planned to local sites such as Bruce Higgins Underwater Trails, the T Dock and Edmonds Fishing Pier (an ESDC exclusive). Slightly more distant trips are on the books for Camp Casey, Porpoise Bay, Mexico and Thailand.

As an ESDC diver there is always another adventure awaiting you. As an ESDC member you always have a buddy.

Instructors Corner

Upcoming Classes

Class - PADI Deep Diver Specialty

Dates - Classroom March 5

Dives March 7 and 8

Location - Bubbles Below, Woodinville

Instructor - Jerry Dollar

gmdollar@gmail.com

Description - The purpose of the PADI deep diver specialty course is to familiarize the diver with the skills, knowledge, planning, organization, procedures, techniques, problems, hazards and enjoyment of diving between the depths of 60 to 130 feet. The Deep Diver course is intended to serve as safe supervised introduction to deeper diving within the limits of recreational scuba diving. The goals are to develop the student's theoretical knowledge of deep diving and to enable the student to plan, organize and make no-decompression dives between the depths of 60 and 130 feet. The course consists of one classroom session and four dives.

Class - Emergency First Response

Date - April 2

Locations - Bubbles Below Woodinville

Instructor - Loogpla Cowden

loogplacowden@att.net

Description - The PADI Emergency First Response (EFR) is a combined CPR and First Aid course which teaches you how to provide emergency care for someone in need. The course is based on internationally recognized medical guidelines for emergency care and meets the CPR/1st Aid requirement for the PADI rescue course.

Class - Rescue

Dates - Classroom and pool April 6,8,13 and 15

Dives April 18 and 19

Location - Bubbles Below Woodinville

Instructor - Jerry Dollar

gmdollar@gmail.com

Description - Emerald Sea Dive Club has scheduled a PADI rescue course for April, 2009. The rescue diver course is a pivotal step in expanding a diver's knowledge and experience. Rescue Divers learn to look beyond themselves to consider the safety and well-being of other divers. It is a prerequisite for all PADI leadership level

training .

Rescue diver training expands the basic problem prevention and accident management skills student divers learn beginning with their open water course. At the rescue diver level students are ready to learn to manage more complex diver emergencies and to apply direct intervention techniques to assist others in an emergency. By it's very nature this course is demanding but upon completion the student will have gained the knowledge, skills and confidence to respond to diving emergencies. Of even greater importance the new rescue diver will have learned to prevent or mitigate diving mishaps so that rescues will not be necessary.

The course consists of three parts, knowledge development, rescue training sessions conducted in the pool and open water rescue scenarios. The knowledge development and rescue training sessions are scheduled for Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM on April 6,8,13 and 15. The open water sessions are scheduled on Saturday and Sunday April 18 and 19.

Prerequisites are current CPR and first aid training (within the last 24 months) and certification as an advanced diver. An advanced diver is one who has either completed the PADI advanced open water class or who has proof of certification beyond entry level with proof of 20 or more logged dives documenting experience in deep diving and underwater navigation.

Required materials are the PADI Rescue Diver Manual and the Diving Accident Management Workslate as well as open water dive gear appropriate for the local environment. Tuition for the course is \$259.

The course will be conducted through Bubbles Below in Woodinville. Classroom sessions will be held at Bubbles Below and pool sessions will be at the Northshore Pool in Bothell. The location of the open water sessions will be decided during the class.

The minimum number of students is four and the maximum is eight. To enroll in the class contact Bubbles Below at 425-424-3483 and inform them that you want to enroll in the April 6 rescue class. Tuition payments should be made to Bubbles Below and the rescue manual and workslate are available there.

20 Years Ago

As many of you may have noted The Emerald Sea Dive Club was founded 25 year ago this year. None of the original members are still around but in June 25, 1988 I attended my first ESDC event, the club picnic at Kayak Point. Being the inveterate pack rat that I am I still have newsletters from 20 years ago.

February 1989 ESDC Newsletter

Ed and Joann Hedges were the speakers and shared their plans to offer a PADI Speciality Course - **Gourmet Diver** (Some ESDC traditions started early).

Details for Camp Casey were announced including a price of \$40 for meals. This was the first trip to collect for the Sea Lab.

Members were solicited to join DAN through the club. If ten club members joined then the club got a "Club Membership".

Dive trips to Edmonds UW Park, the Edmonds Fishing Pier, Stubbs Island and Keystone were planned for the month. March trips included the Camp Casey outing and a Starfire Charter.

NO Dues, NO News

Remember, your membership expires at the end of February. Bring your check to the meeting or mail to:

Emerald Sea Dive Club
PO Box 73
Edmonds, WA 98020

Dues are \$30.00 for an individual and \$47 for a family.

Note: Please fill out and sign the membership form which is included in the newsletter. We cannot accept your membership without a completed and signed application. If you have any questions contact Sabine at :

Treasurer@emeraldseadiveclub.org

Upcoming Local Dives

TGIF Dives!



TGIF...TGIF...TGIF

Hey everyone, don't you just love Fridays? For most of us, it signals the end of yet another workweek and hopefully the beginning of a relaxing weekend. So how about starting the weekend off right?? Each month, we will be hosting a "TGIF" Dive. On a chosen Friday night, we'll meet up at one of our favorite local dive sites for an after work dive. And with this club, food usually follows!

We'll meet up at 6:00 PM and splash when ready. Care to join us? Be sure to check the ESDC club calendar for all of our monthly

TGIF dive dates:

<http://www.emeraldseadiveclub.org/EventsCalendar.aspx>.

We hope to see you there!

2009 TGIF Schedule

6:00 PM Splash when ready

January 16	BHUT
February 27	Cove 2
March 27	Muk T Dock
April 24	Muk Lighthouse Park
May 22	Muk T Dock
June 12	BHUT
July 24	Muk Lighthouse Park
August 21	BHUT
September 18	Cove 2
October 23	Muk T Dock
November 27	Cove 2
December 18	Muk T Dock

Oh, and these are of course night dives. Please remember to bring your primary, secondary and tank lights!

Hosted by Andy & Pam Norton

VALENTINES DAY ON THE ANNAPOLIS

by Skip Stacey

A small detail from our club is schedules to head for Horseshoe Bay on Valentines Day to meet for breakfast then take our boat ride with lunch and tools to W(&*&\$% on stripping down compartments and hallways for the Artificial Reef Society of British Columbia's next project---The Sinking of the HMCS Annapolis---One more extra large destroyer to be added to their list of habitat and dive destinations. There has been a writeup just about every month in the newsletter but like last month, we will be staying overnite and shore diving the next day at Porteau Cove. Porteau cove is a little underwater much like Bruce Higgins Underwater Trails but on a deeper scale and quite a bit to see---Sunken boats--Concrete Blocks from small to giant size- and an actual sunken steel girder Bridge. Parking is right on-site and entry by a nice set of stairs right into the water. The main reason for my writing this though is to start getting the list of volunteer names to put on the Nameboard (Plastic) that will be mounted somewhere on the Annapolis for ESDC dives to "Find" after the vessel has met its final resting place. We have done this on the Cape Breton and the 737 Project and its really neat just to dive the wrecks and find the names, even more so if your name is on it as being one of the volunteers. The cost per name in the past has been between \$10-\$12 in the past and I go to A actual trophy and engraving shop to get it made so it will last years and years under water mounted on the hull or superstructure. It will be mounted somewhere within the recreational limits of divers and will not (Usually Not---Depending on how big the dive thru holes are) require a wreck penetration cert. to find. A little bit more about the upcoming W*#^6%, some of us might go up Friday so we don't have to get up so early if we left from here. We have been staying at

the Lions Gate Travel Lodge and having a nice dinner then meeting Sat. morning to start the rest of the weekend. Those wishing could even come up Sat. during the day and meet us for dinner after we get off the W*%# detail and then Shore dive with at Porteau Cove on Sunday. I have the contact # for the Travel Lodge and they can be found online at LionsGateTravelLodge.Com Join us for the shore dives in the very least and see if you like it enough to do the Camp-N-Dive there in Sept. with Bob Bailey and Chen.

Camp Casey

by Shawn Miller

We have a date for Camp Casey. Yeah!!!! Anyway the weekend that our annual critter collection will be on MARCH 6th Thru the 8th.

This Year we are doing something different than the last 2 years. This year all meals 5 in total will come from the facility. Friday night dinner, 3 meals on Saturday, Breakfast on Sunday. Price of meals will be \$45. Dive times and briefing are all T.B.A. (to be Announced).

So far we have the J building again. It sleeps 35 people. Don't worry about the room we will have plenty. I limited Eugene to 24 people or less. Please sign up at the meeting or email me. I need a list of people staying in the barracks who is eating, who is not. But everything else is the same. Sign up no later than February 21. Payment is due by March 2.

If you have any questions drop me an e-mail (shawnm1833@yahoo.com) and I will answer them, if I can.

EDMONDS FISHING PIER CLEAN-UP

By Fran Murray

The days will be getting longer and the spring will be coming. Must be time for our first of the ESDC's two Fishing Pier clean-ups in 2009. March 21st, which is a Saturday, we will gather on the lawn in front of the Edmonds U/W Sports store for a dive briefing at 9:00 am (there's another around noon for those who only want to do the afternoon dive). This is a mandatory to attend for you to do this dive since it involves high levels of hazards. I would suggest that your diving skill and experience is more than a novice diver. You can always help on the dock which can be just as much fun (well, almost). This is a dive that we pair up veteran pier divers with those who haven't had the pier experience yet. Don't be disappointed if you aren't buddied up with the person you came with, maybe you will meet a new dive buddy. U/W Sports, in the past, has generously given us a free fill after the first dive. We just have to tell them we are doing the pier clean-up and be polite to the store personnel. After the dive we conduct a sale of all the stuff we bring up to the dock. What a hoot that is, particularly if the weather is nice and there are lots of fisherpeople.

Here are a few things to think about:

- **WAIVERS ARE REQUIRED** – call or see me at the July, August or September meeting Streamline your equipment to cut down on the chance of entanglement
- Only two to a buddy team
- Scissors or knife are good to have – topside as well

- This is a working dive and you WILL use more airand anything else that you can think of to make this a safe dive. We haven't lost a diver yet.

FYI Some of the fun stuff we have found in the past: several guns(do not bring them up) hot pink nail polish, a ladies bowling ball, a ladder, dollar bills, little girl shoes but no little boy shoes, sun glasses, pagers, cell phones, candle sticks, a presentation sword, hats, knives, a bag of checks in a pillowcase with three rocks, and of course lots of fishing gear.

Fran 206 542 1866

TGIF 2009 Dine #1 Review

**Bruce Higgins Underwater Trails
(aka Edmonds Underwater Park)
January 16th, 2009**

By Andy Norton

Wait. Read that title again. There's no mistake. TGIF 2009 Dive #1 really did become DINE #1! As has often been pondered, are we a dive club that likes to eat or an eating club that likes to dive?? On this first TGIF gathering of 2009, dining took the place of diving.

Knowing we were in for cold and wind down at the beach, Pam and I opted to don the undergarments at home to cut down on exposure time once we arrived at Bruce Higgins Underwater Trails. Sure enough, we were greeted on arrival by your typical January weather; cold, windy, drizzling rain and darkness. One of our UK Light Cannons recently went down for the count from a flood, so we brought along one of our somewhat inferior backup lights. And now the lights were out at the park. Hmm. With reports of poor viz and very crabby cabezons, we knew we were in for an interesting evening! What was funny though was the greeting we received from the ESDC members already present at the park. No one was gearing up to dive, but all said they were definitely there for dinner after the dive! It took all of about 10 seconds of standing around in the cold wind discussing our options to conclude by unanimous decision that dining would take the place of diving on this night!

With no dissenting opinions offered, the gang headed on over to the warmth and comfort of one of our favorite restaurants, Las Brisas, for an evening of good food & friends. Pam and I both agreed that with warm water diving in Indonesia so recent in our minds, we



weren't at all disappointed. It was great getting caught up with everyone and hearing what they were all up to over the holidays. Joining us for this first TGIF gathering was Marylou Hernandez, Jack Titterness, Skip Stacy, Laura Orlich, Mark Soule, Loogpla Cowden, Adria Ali and John Hynd. Thanks for joining us, and we hope everyone had a great time!

Okay, so what are you doing next month?? We really do love Pacific Northwest diving. Honest! Join us on Friday, February 20th at Seacrest Cove 2. As always, we'll meet at 6:00 PM and splash when ready. And you know we're gonna find somewhere good to eat afterwards, so bring your appetite!

Andy & Pam

Things I've learned (usually the hard way)

by Greg Becvar

1. Ever have a fin strap break just when you were getting into the water, or a reg that free flows from the instant you turn it on, maybe a missing weight pouch? Whether you dive twice a day or twice a year, check your gear before you go!
2. Do not assume your buddy has made the tide/current calculations. We all get lazy from time to time. So what happens if neither of you has done the calculations, or your buddy or you have used wrong date, location, or time correction?
3. Bring the right gear. If it's dark; bring lights. If it's cold; bring warm water, warm clothes, and something hot to eat or drink. If it's foggy; bring a compass. And come with two of everything because your buddy will forget or break something.
4. Communicate with your buddy; Dive plan, emergency procedures, equipment differences, etc. Not knowing what or why your buddy is doing something is a prime reason for having that dive from hell. Communication is very important in reducing stress and confusion, and adds to overall safety of the dive.



5. Don't be afraid to warn other divers. Whether the person is your buddy or not, if you spot something that something doesn't look right, bring it to that person's attention. Maybe it's nothing, maybe

it will save some embarrassment, or maybe correcting the issue will save their life!

6. And never handle bristle worms with your bare hands!

Upcoming Dives Trips and Events

Sunshine Coast

by Jerry Dollar

Join the Emerald Sea Dive Club for a weekend of diving on the sunshine coast with Porpoise Bay Charters. Wall dives, drift dives, wreck dives, we will do them all. **February 20-22, 2009.**

Cost: \$367.50 Canadian including GST

What is included:

- 2 nights lodging
- 3 boat dives Saturday
- 2 boat dives Sunday
- 3 meals Saturday
- 2 meals Sunday

What is not included:

- Dinner Friday night
- Transportation to Porpoise Bay
- Ferry tolls

Kal and Ann have moved to their new location in Egmont.

We will drive a little further but we are a lot closer to the good diving. Read about their new location at:

www.porpoisebaycharters.com/new_page_1.htm

Reserve your spot. Send your \$150 deposit to the Emerald Sea Dive Club PO box or give it to the club treasurer. There are only 11 spots available. Contact Jerry, your host, at gmdollar@gmail.com for more information.



San Juan Charter

by Adria Ali



**DEEP SEA CHARTERS
&
DEER HARBOR INN**



April 18th – 19th

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * \$380 per person (subject to change) * \$150 deposit due by Feb. meeting * Space available for 16 people * 6 dives in the San Juans * 1 night stay at Deer Harbor Inn, Orcas Island * Lunches and continental breakfast provided * Dinner at Inn's Restaurant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring 1-3 tanks • Air fills done on boat • Bring dive gear (there is room on the boat for bags/bins) • Bring extra clothes, swimsuit, money for dinner etc • May bring food/beverages • Leave Anacortes by 9am, Sat. • Arrive back in Anacortes late afternoon, Sun. |
|---|--|

Contacts:
Adria Ali adriali@yahoo.com
Dan Fry aquarealdivers@yahoo.com

<http://www.deerharborinn.com/> <http://deepseacruise.com/>

Join Adria and Dan for a week end of diving in the San Juan's

- \$380 per person (subject to change)
- \$150 deposit due by Feb. meeting
- Space available for 16 people
- Bring 1-3 tanks
- Air fills done on boat
- Bring dive gear (there is room on the boat for bags/bins)
- Bring extra clothes, swimsuit, money for dinner etc
- May bring food/beverages
- Leave Anacortes by 9am, Sat.
- Arrive back in Anacortes late afternoon, Sun.

**Emerald Sea Dive Club
Camp & Dive at Salt Creek County Park!**

by Andy Norton

When: Thursday, July 16th, through Sunday, July 19th
Where: Salt Creek Recreational Area, 15 miles west of Port Angeles.
Park & Campground website

We have ten campsites reserved, and each site will accommodate two tents and up to six persons. You can also bring an RV, but these are standard sites with no utility hookups (other sites within the campground do have hookups). Pets are allowed. Sign-up sheets will be at the monthly meetings. \$23 deposit due if you want a specific campsite!

Dives: Hoping for two dives per day at Salt Creek, however Sekiu Jetty is also an hour drive away in the event Salt Creek has less than favorable conditions (Sekiu Jetty review 1, Sekiu Jetty review 2). We'll end the weekend on Sunday diving Lake Crescent to enjoy the clear viz and freshwater gear rinse. Lake Crescent info

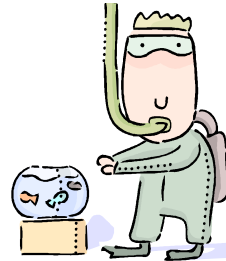
Air Fills: Consider bringing all the tanks you will need! Otherwise: Scuba Supplies, 120 E Front Street, Port Angeles, 360-457-3190. Be warned, they don't enjoy a very good reputation and don't necessarily go by their stated store hours.



Curly's Resort, Sekiu, Curly's website, 1-800-542-9680 (about a 1hr 10min drive).
Admiralty Dive Center, Admiralty Dive Center's website, 2110 Lawrence St., Port Townsend, 360-379-3483 (about a 1hr 30min drive).

We'll be hosting a potluck dinner for Saturday night. We will provide the main course, so please bring a side dish or dessert if you want to join in the feast. You're on your own for the rest of the weekend!

* While we encourage everyone to join us, rocky shore entry, surf, surge & currents can make this a challenging dive site. Please visit this next link for site details and honestly assess your diving skills. * Salt Creek Review



Andy & Pam Norton
andy_norton@comcast.net
c#206-799-1095

Phuket Thailand

by Loogpla Cowden

Please join me and discover a tropical Wonderland on the Island of Phuket (poo-get) also know as the 'Pearl of the South'.

Phuket is the largest island in Thailand, and is broken by a chain of mountains and valleys mainly from a North-South range running down the west coast. The island lay in the Andamna Sea off southern Thailand's west coast, and offers many enjoyment. The terrain is incredibly varied, rocky headlands, long sandy beaches (to many to list) limestone cliffs, forested hills, small estuaries, lagoons, and tropical vegetation of all kinds.

The Andaman Sea is separated from the Bay of Bengal by the Andaman-Nicobar Ridge, and is part of the Indian Ocean.

Most of all, Phuket is the center of all this beauty, and from here we can enjoy the Similan Island National Marine Park which is located to the Northwest of Phuket... its is one of the scuba diving destinations in the world.

We will be staying at a beautiful small resort that is surrounded by lush vegetation, with a dive shop only 300 M from the resort with English speaking staff, and on site restaurant!

Here is the trip schedule: Arrive Phuket on Oct. 30 and Depart on Nov. 15, 2009. It is a livaboard and land base diving trip, with days for us to expolore the Island.... There is a lot to see and do!

The cost for package of Livaboard/ Diving - land base diving too / Lodging / Transfer is approx. \$1850.00 (or less) p/p double occupancy for a room with ceiling fan.

The cost for package for a room with air conditioning is approx. \$1970.00 (or less) p/p. double occupancy.

Meals are included on the livaboard. Free Nitrox on the Livaboard for nitrox divers.

I am working on air fare, and do not have a quote for you at this time.

I hope that you will consider this FANTASTIC of a deal to dive the Andama Sea doing a livaboard and land base diving to see all of Thailand have to offer to the South!

If you are interested.... please send me an e-mail, or call at 206-399-5682.

Loogpla.

Luxfer Cylinders

(ed. note-The following is an analysis by a mail order scuba business, Dive Rite Express, of upcoming changes in the cylinder business. This is forwarded by Marty Leonard.)

Here is our analysis of the rumors regarding Luxfer discontinuing SCUBA cylinder production.

There are three US distributors of Luxfer aluminum SCUBA cylinders... PSI (east), Sea Pearls (mid), XS Scuba (west). The distributors order the cylinders in large quantities, and then sell them in small quantities to the shops. We purchase Luxfer cylinders from both Sea Pearls, XS Scuba and occasionally even PSI... depending on who has what we need at the time. Inventories of anything other than standard finish AL-80's varies a lot between the manufacturers.

Luxfer has not officially "discontinued" production of SCUBA cylinders. The situation is that SCUBA cylinders have, for too long, been sold at near cost in the manufacturing and wholesale markets and at near cost and/or below cost in the retail market. Thus cylinder sales have not been profitable enough at both wholesale and retail to justify the continued investment in manufacturing and inventory. Couple this with the unrealistic expectations the consumers often seem to have regarding freshness of hydro dates, resulting in manufacturing runs sometimes so small as to not be cost effective. In these difficult economic times, Luxfer has elected to restructure some of their manufacturing capacity, as well as raise their prices and minimum order requirements such that the sales of these cylinders at the wholesale level are profitable.

However, the effect of raising prices to realistic levels, in combination with the larger manufacturing runs, means the distributors feel consumers will resist purchasing cylinders so the distributors are reluctant to place new orders with Luxfer. Luxfer is still honoring existing orders and at least two (and probably all three) of our distributors have pacing orders placed out so far ahead that they don't expect any significant disruption until the Summer 2009, perhaps Fall 2009, depending on the size and finish of the cylinder.

Thus I can predict that availability of cylinders will become erratic as the market place adapts to this new situation. Some distributors will dump unpopular sizes; some won't, depending on their inven-

tory and manufacturing orders. The distributors will probably switch to purchasing cylinders from Catalina who also makes aluminum cylinders. However, I would not be surprised that Catalina, without lack of competition and facing the same economic realities, will raise prices as well. Other cylinder manufacturers, who have resisted entering the scuba cylinder market because of unprofitable pricing, will almost certainly now enter the market if it becomes profitable. Remember, Luxfer has not 'discontinued' cylinder manufacturing... they'll make any cylinder for anyone if the price is right. Distributors will order cylinder runs if they perceive enough demand. At some point the marketplace will adjust to the new pricing and volumes, and supplies of SCUBA will become plentiful albeit at MUCH higher prices.

What should the diver do... first, don't panic. Scuba Cylinders are always going to be available, but the exact size and finish combination may not. Get used to paying about the same price for aluminum cylinders as you would steel, aluminum cylinders will be a bit less but the huge difference in price is going away. Consider switching to steel, as most divers prefer the buoyancy of steel. Stop being fussy about the 'age' of the cylinder, in some cases the 'new' cylinder may be one or two years old.

Dive Rite Express expects to continue to be able to offer aluminum cylinders. The manufacturer may vary, and there may be slight differences in buoyancy and dimension characteristics. In some cases we may remove the paint in order to offer the unpainted finishes preferred by our customers. Price may become volatile. There may be some hoarding and some dumping, but prices are not going to go anywhere but UP in the long run. At the current time, we have plenty of all the cylinders we sell, but as our distributors adjust pricing and 'panic buying' starts, inventory will become erratic. Our price is the best we can offer on our inventory at this time. In the short term, if you have been wanting an aluminum cylinder - particularly sizes other than the standard AL-80 often desired by technical and rebreather divers, we suggest ordering immediately particularly if you are seeking Luxfer AL-40's, AL-19's, or AL-13's.

Critter ID



Can you identify this creature from Pam and Andy last TGIF dive?

Dive and Event Calendar

Date	Event	Time	Location	Sponsor
02/04/09	Club Meeting	7:00 PM	Shawn O'Donnells	Tina Seawell President@emeraldseadiveclub.org
2/14/09	HMCS Annapolis work party		Vancouver BC	Skip Stacy skipstacy@comcast.net
2/15/09	Kelvin Grove 2 tank dive		Horseshoe Bay, BC	Skip Stacy skipstacy@comcast.net
2/20/-2/23/09	Porpoise Bay Redux		Egmont, BC	Jerry Dollar gmdollar@gmail.com
2/27/09	TGIF Dive	6:00 PM	Seacrest Cove 2	Andy Norton andy_norton@comcast.net
3/6-3/8/09	Camp Casey		Camp Casey	Shawn Miller shawnm1833@yahoo.com
03/21/09	Edmonds Fishing Pier Cleanup	9:00 AM	Edmonds	Fran Murray 206 542 1866
03/27/09	TGIF dive	6:00 PM	Mukilteo T Dock	Andy Norton andy_norton@comcast.net

Divers on the Loose

Greg Becvar	360-659-2853	tridoxia@yahoo.com
Skip Stacy	425-775-2410	skipstacy@comcast.net
Sean Barker	425-351-6850	SeanHBarker@comcast.net
Ed LaBouy	425-241-3931	brownwatered@comcast.net

If you would like to be a loose diver contact the editor at NewsletterEditor@emeraldseadiveclub.org

Membership Dues

Annual Dues are \$30 for a single membership or \$47 for a family membership,

Member Benefits

Win \$50—

You can be eligible to win \$50 up to four times a year. Just host a club dive, submit a story, article or information to the newsletter or sign up a new member and you will automatically be entered in our quarterly drawing for \$50.

Earn a \$15 reward—

Take a continuing education class that furthers your general dive experience (Advanced, Rescue or Divemaster) and Emerald Sea Dive Club will reward you with a check for \$15. You may receive a check for only one class per calendar year.

Communicate with your Friends—

Join the One List and you can communicate with other Emerald Sea Dive Club members. Plan dives, ask for advice, find

Membership Information

dive buddies or plot the overthrow of the free world, the choice is yours. To join go to

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/Emeraldseadiveclub.Orglist then click on "Join this Group" or contact Andy Norton at andy_norton@comcast.net

Contact Us

- Visit our web site:
www.emeraldseadiveclub.org
- Write us: Emerald Sea Dive Club
PO Box 73
Edmonds, WA 98020
- Visit our group page at:
www.groups.yahoo.com/group/Emeraldseadiveclub.Orglist
- Call or email our board members
- Come to a meeting at:
Shawn O'Donnell's on the first Wednesday of the Month

Contact List

Who do I contact about:	
not receiving my newsletter	NewsletterEditor@emeraldseadiveclub.org
a guest speaker	VicePresident@emeraldseadiveclub.org
the one list	Webmaster@@emeraldseadiveclub.org
an upcoming dive	ActivitiesCoordinator@emeraldseadiveclub.org
joining ESDC	Treasurer@emeraldseadiveclub.org
a missing application	Skip-skipstacy@comcast.net
websites question or concerns	Webmaster1@emeraldseadiveclub.org Webmaster2@emeraldseadiveclub.org
web site technical problems	Webmaster1@emeraldseadiveclub.org
a problem with the dive calendar on the website	1. Shawn shawn@nolonger.com 2. Webmaster2@emeraldseadiveclub.org
an idea for the web site	Webmaster1@emeraldseadiveclub.org
a complaint about the club	President@emeraldseadiveclub.org
the big buddy program	BigBuddyCoordinator@emeraldseadiveclub.org
getting a dive buddy	BigBuddyCoordinator@emeraldseadiveclub.org
becoming a board member	any board member listed
help planning or hosting a dive	BigBuddyCoordinator@emeraldseadiveclub.org
getting listed as a Diver on the Loose	NewsletterEditor@emeraldseadiveclub.org

Please contact the editor at NewsletterEditor@emeraldseadiveclub.org about additions, deletions or corrections to the Contact List.

2009 ESDC Board Members

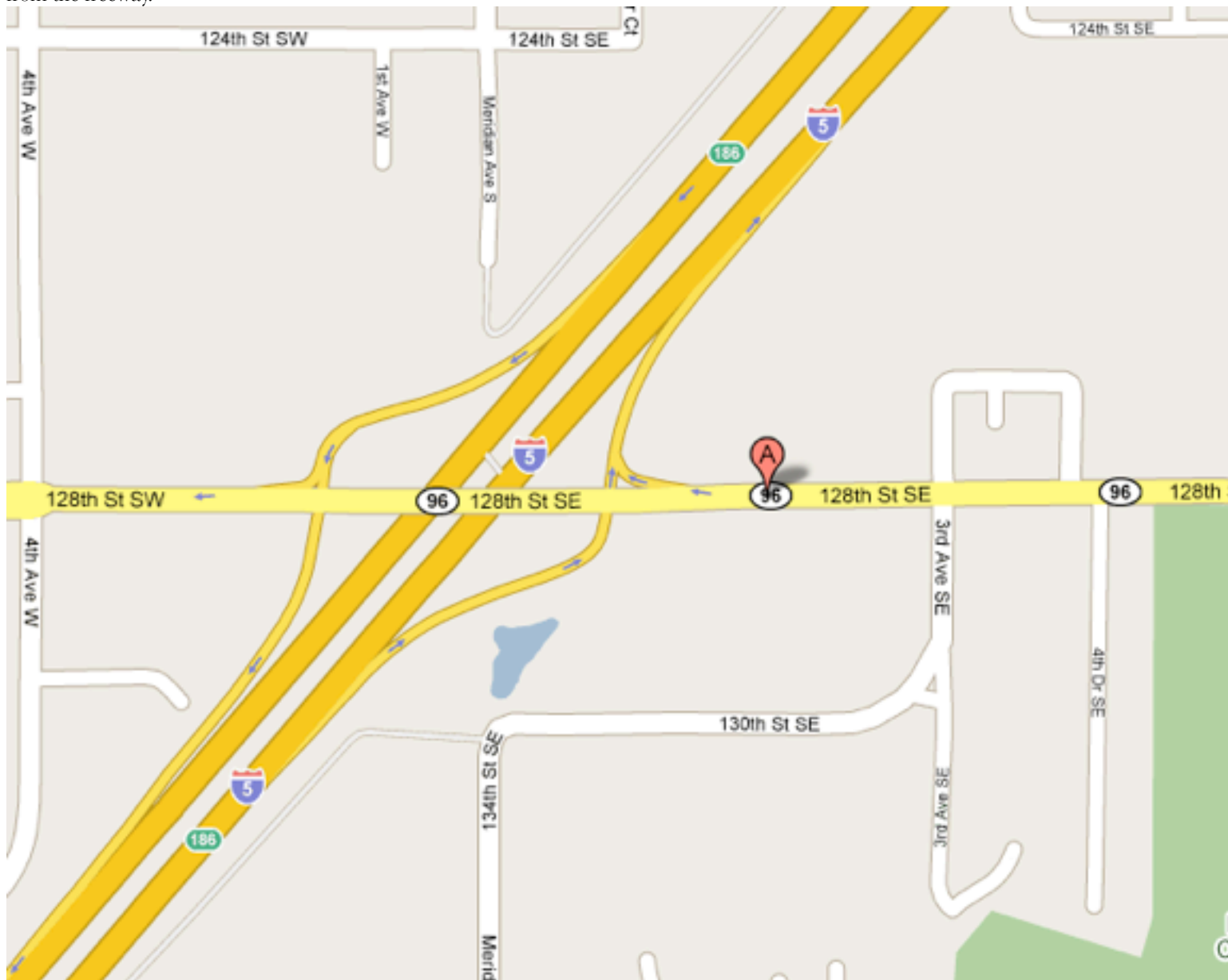
President	Tina Seawell	President@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Vice President	Greg Becvar	VicePresident@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Secretary	Adria Ali	Secretary@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Treasurer	Sabine Fischer	Treasurer@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Activities Coordinator	Pam Norton	ActivitiesCoordinatro@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Newsletter Editor	Jerry Dollar	NewsletterEditor@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Webmasters	Glenn Bulat	Webmaster1@emeraldseadiveclub.org
	Andy Norton	Webmaster2@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Greeter	Jill Keeler	Greeter@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Big Buddy Coordinator	Wendy Drucker	BigBuddyCoordinator@emeraldseadiveclub.org

Club Notices

February Meeting

The February Emerald Sea Dive Club Meeting will be Wednesday February at Shawn O'Donnell's in Everett. Instead of a speaker this month we will be conducting a group activity. Think Clean Water. Join your fellow divers for an evening of food and dive talk. The board meeting begins at 6:00 PM (all members are welcome). The general meeting begins at 7:00 PM.

Shawn O'Donnell's is at 122 128th St. in Everett. From I-5 head east on 128th St (Exit 186). Shawn O'Donnell's is on the right less than a block from the freeway.



Membership Application



Welcome to the Emerald Sea Dive Club! As either new or returning members, please fill out the following information making sure to sign and date the form on the back side of this application.

Membership

- New
- Renewal **

Membership Type

- Individual
- Family

Club Interests

- Check here if you are interested in *being* a “Big Buddy” in the Big Buddy Program.
- Check here if you are interested in *seeking* a “Big Buddy” from the Big Buddy Program.

Membership Waiver

I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE that SCUBA/skin diving can be dangerous. The possibility of serious injury or death is present. The proper use of equipment and techniques can be used to greatly minimize these risks. Emerald Sea Dive Club promotes safe diving practices in its activities, but cannot guarantee that accidents will not occur.

I FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGE that it is the responsibility of each diver to ensure that they follow accepted diving practices and to maintain the safety of their own diving equipment. Each diver should evaluate every diving situation with respect to his or her skill level and decline to participate if there is any doubt of performing a safe dive.

I FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGE that I am a voluntary participant in Emerald Sea Dive Club events, and in signing this release I take full responsibility for my own actions. I understand that Emerald Sea Dive Club, its members and officers, are not liable for injury or death that may occur during club activities.

I DO HEREBY AGREE AND HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNIFY the Emerald Sea Dive Club, its members or its officers, including but not limited to club members who provide their boats for club activities, for any injuries or damages that I, my equipment, my family, heirs or assigns may suffer as a result of Emerald Sea Dive Club activities, including SCUBA/skin diving.

The scope of this indemnity and hold harmless agreement includes both ordinary and gross negligence.

Turn the form over and fill out the member information and then sign and date the form to complete your membership application.



Emerald Sea Dive Club Membership Application

Member(s) Information

**** Note:** If you are renewing your membership and none of your information has changed, all you need to do is review the member waiver information and then print your name, sign and date the form and then return this form with your dues.

(* denotes required field)

Primary Member Information

* Name (First, Last) _____

* Address: _____

* City _____ * State _____ * Zip Code _____

* Home Phone _____ Cell Phone (optional) _____

* Email Address _____

* Signature _____ * Date _____

Additional Member Information - (For use when applying for a family membership. Each family member must fill out their name and sign below to acknowledge that they have read the waiver above.)

Family Member No. 1

* Name (First, Last) _____

Email Address (optional) _____

* Signature _____ * Date _____

Family Member No. 2

* Name (First, Last) _____

Email Address (optional) _____

* Signature _____ * Date _____

Family Member No. 3

* Name (First, Last) _____

Email Address (optional) _____

* Signature _____ * Date _____