



Dive of the Month

Porpoise Bay AKA Strong Water Retreat

by Pam Norton

Photos Pam and Andy Norton and Adria Ali

Five of us, Jerry Dollar, Adria Ali, Larry Warren, Andy Norton and I ventured out early Friday morning anxious to cross the border and queue up on the ferry at Horseshoe Bay. Destination, Porpoise Bay. Whoa wait, that was last year. Ok so the beginning of this story is the same, we did catch the Horseshoe Bay ferry but our new destination was now Strong Water Retreat in Egmont (previously known as Porpoise Bay Charters,

<http://www.porpoisebaycharters.com/>).

They are now a bit further up the Sechelt inlet, but closer to the primo dive sites.

The winding road to Egmont has a scenic backdrop of steep, snow covered mountain peaks-- densely covered with pine trees that rise out of the water's edge. The small, I mean really small seaside town of Egmont is located roughly 50 miles north of Sechelt

along Highway 101 and was named after the HMS Egmont. It was also the location of the television series Ritter's Cove. Most notably however, Egmont is the trailhead for Skookumchuck Provincial Park ("the Skook") where kayakers from all around the world come to surf the waves created by flooding tides squeezed through the narrow Sechelt Inlet that sometimes exceed 16 knots. We got the opportunity to dive the Skook, but more on that later.



Arriving at the Egmont Marina we were warmly greeted by Kal Helyar, owner, operator, boat captain, diver, and all around great Canuck. After boarding the boat for

the short 5-minute ride to the quaint retreat, we were welcomed by Ann and the rest of the Strong Water Retreat crew, dogs Apollo and Nemo. Quickly laying claim to our yurts and room in the quest house (no blood spilled), we donned our gear, climbed aboard the Devil Fish and headed out to make the first "dial-in dive" of the weekend.



Dive 1, Nemo's leap is named after Kal and Ann's dog Nemo. Yep, you guessed it, Nemo leapt into the water after Ann who was making a survey dive at the time. Nemo didn't like mama disappearing under the water too much!

Photo of the Month

There were no submissions this month but I am tired of snow and this photo reminds me of warmer climes.



Month Meeting

Wednesday March 4

Board Meeting 6:00 PM

(everyone is welcome)

General Meeting 7:00 PM

Shawn O'Donnell's

122 128th St. SE

Everett, Wa

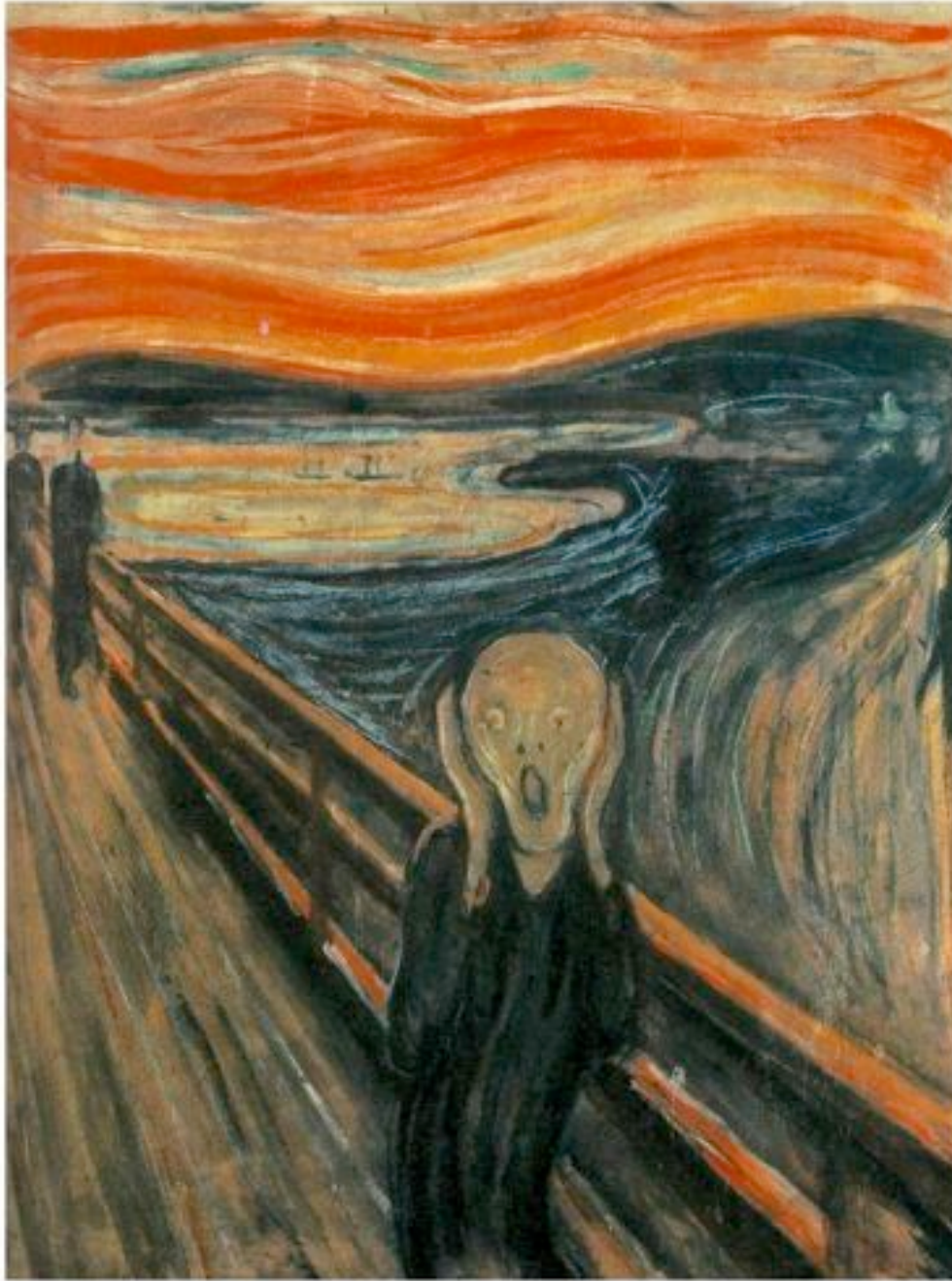
(425)338-5700

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President's Column



Tina is a bit distracted this month. She will resume dispensing scuba wisdom next month assuming we can get her back on her medications.

Editor's Column

Most of us do it. We get complacent. We have 25 or 100 or 200 or 2000 dives so we know we are experienced



and we know we are good so we get careless. We do not adhere to good buddy procedures because we think we do not need to. But we are wrong. According to DAN's Annual Diving Report – 2007 Edition, when examining diver fatalities, "... in very few cases did divers comply with reasonable buddy system dive practice." Only fourteen cases involved intentional solo diving and in several instances a buddy retrieved an unconscious diver who later died probably from natural causes. But most of the time the victims got into trouble after separating from a buddy and there were no witnesses to the accident nor was there any help available when the victim needed it. Consider the following case from the Annual Diving Report:

"05-79 Experienced diver, on second shore dive of day with buddy to collect lobsters, descended and separated, poor visibility, overweighted, body recovered later just below surface, air was not turned on. Cause of Death: Drowning due to Insufficient Air

This 44-year-old female was a certified diver with ten years of diving experience. She was making a second dive of the day using a shore entry with a buddy in order to collect lobsters. The diver entered the water with her buddy and they swam to a buoy before descending. The two divers left the surface together but immediately became separated at 13 fsw (four msw), which was the bottom. Visibility was poor and the decedent was overweighted. The decedent's body was recovered 1.5 h later, just below the surface. An investigation revealed that the decedent entered the water without turning her air on. The death was ruled a drowning due to insufficient air."

Does any of this seem familiar to you. We can start with the pre-dive buddy check which is designed to catch problems before the divers even enter the water. A good buddy check may not catch the fact that the diver is overweighted but it should catch a closed tank valve. We should also review hand signals and what we will do if

we become separated. Next we need to consider buddy contact once we are in the water. In this case the visibility was poor and the divers became separated at only 13 feet. How often do we separate on the descent, planning on reestablishing contact once we are on the bottom. This is a great plan unless one of us has a problem. Note that in this case the victim was found just below the surface. Finally, what would you do in this case. Would you surface immediately and look for your buddy, would you continue to the bottom and surface after a while when it became apparent that your buddy was not going to join you or would you go on with your dive. The case report does not tell us what happened but the longer the diver delayed reestablishing contact the less chance there was to save the victim. If the buddy surfaced immediately the victim might still be on the surface. An ascent after a minute or two might reveal signs that the victim was struggling and a rescue could be effected. However, if the buddy continued the dive without checking the victim would have no chance of any help until it was too late.

We can never be sure what the value of a dive buddy might be but to quote DAN:

The value of buddy diving cannot be judged by on this report alone. However, it is realistic to state that:

1. *Reliable buddy support provides piece of mind.*
2. *The presence of a buddy may help to calm down a diver dealing with an emergent event.*
3. *A buddy may be able to share air if needed.*
4. *A trained buddy may assist an unconscious diver to the surface.*
5. *An incompetent diver cannot be expected to provide adequate buddy support. A dependent diver should be paired with a professional guide.*

While Emerald Sea Dive Club member can safely assume that point 5 will not apply when diving with other members, points one through four certainly do. How are your buddy skills?

Finally, after the dive, we need to talk about it. What went right and what could we do better. Continual honing of our buddy skills not only makes us safer, it makes us better divers.

- Do a good pre-dive buddy check
- Include a review of hand signals and buddy separation procedures
- Descend together
- Dive together
- Ascend together

- Discuss the dive

Instructor's Corner

Upcoming Classes

Class - PADI Deep Diver Specialty

Dates - Classroom March 12

Dives March 14 and 15

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.

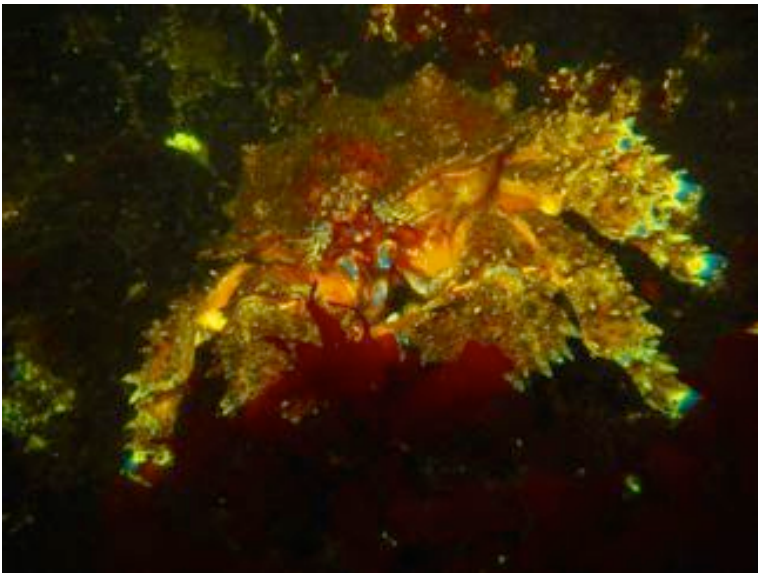
Required materials are the PADI Rescue Diver Manual and the Diving Accident Management Workslate as well as open water dive gear appropriate for the local environment. Tuition for the course is \$259.

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.

Porpoise Bay AKA Strong Water (cont,)

We descended into dark water, kicking current, 40 degree water temp, and 10 feet of viz but right off the bat we spotted some type of jelly that neither one of us had previously seen before. This jelly has a long tail and a bottle brush shaped head. According to Andy Lamb's "big book" this creature is called a tailed jelly. The next



wonderful critter we came upon shortly after reaching depth was a very large Puget Sound King crab. This elusive colorful crab (a type of box crab) was up shallow in about 40 ft perhaps cruising for a lovely female about to molt. Wow, such luck! The first dive of the trip and already a critter we've never seen before and one we rarely see at all! We definitely emerged eager for the rest of the weekend's dives.

Welcome to Ann's kitchen: After our dial-in dive and warm showers, Ann made us juicy burgers and coleslaw (Ann's mom's secret recipe). We sat around for a while enjoying a bottle of wine and laughed at Kal and Jerry's stories. Saturday morning Ann was up early cooking us a huge breakfast of French toast, sausage, hash

browns, coffee, tea, juice, and fresh fruit. So after a wonderful breakfast, we full and happy divers waddled our way down to the dock for day two.

Dive 2, Sutton Islands: The visibility was better today, around 15 to 20 feet, and there was very little current. Big boulders and rocky outcroppings covered in kelp gently sloped down into vast darkness and were home to numerous anemone and urchins. We found more Puget Sound King Crab (a couple of lovers in a mating embrace!), adults and juveniles alike, more Rose Stars than one can count, an orgy of egg laying Dogwinkles, many varieties of Nudi-



branch and shy but curious Black Eyed Gobies. Jerry entertained Adria and Larry by demonstrating how a Sea Cucumber can stand up, writhe and wiggle to get away from the dreaded Sun Star, a voracious predator!



Dive 3, Skookumchuck Rapids! (Native language for "Strong Water"): Diving the "Skook" was a real treat. The narrow inlet, ledges and bottom contour create such turbulent water conditions that diving this site can only be made on a low exchange ebb tides at

slack. The nutrient rich upwelling feed the sea life along the inlet and every inch of real estate is covered by forests of all kinds of anemone, tunicates, very large Urchins, Giant Barnacles (the empty ones inhabited by Granular Claw Crabs, another first for us!), Broad Leaf and Bull Kelp, and a color palette of Encrusting Hydrocorals. Carpeting is definitely the appropriate description. Unfortunately, we were too nervous about potential swift current and thought it best to leave the camera behind. Ugh, kicking self! The scenery was breathtakingly beautiful and the sea life almost as prolific as Port Hardy's Browning Wall. Ugh kicking self again! We gently drifted along with the current, soaking in the beauty for 50 minutes that went by way too fast. This dive was amazing and is a must to repeat!

Dive 4, Swedes Reef: A group of Swedish divers/photographers wanted to visit this site repeatedly because of the abundant macro life, so Kal decided to name this site after them. Abundance of life is putting it mildly. Lots and lots of nudibranchs. Andy, armed with the camera, spotted a race between a type of top snail and a Flab-

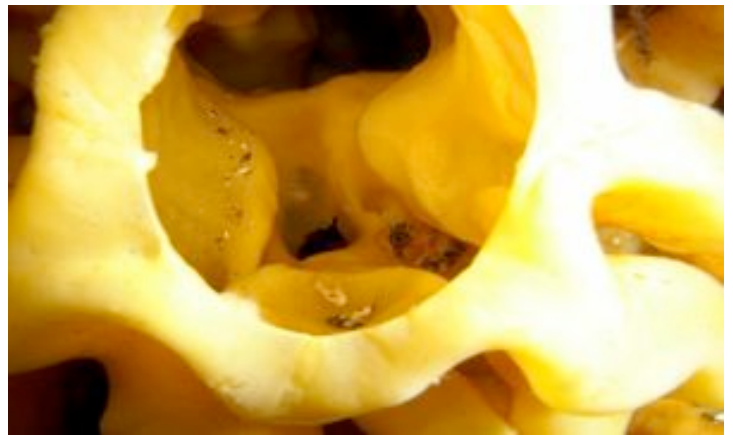


belina Nudibranch. I wonder which won the race? Adria found another type of nudibranch new to us. It had the branch-like look

of the Giant Nudi but it was much, much smaller; only about an inch and half long. Once again referring to Andy Lamb's book, Adria seemed to have found a White Dendronotus. COOOOOL!

Night Dive, for some! Larry Warren chose to make this trip an educational one and with Jerry's instruction, he was able to count his dives toward earning his Advanced Certification. Way to go Larry. So while Adria, Andy and I were able to take warm showers and relax, Larry and Jerry went on a night dive. Their dive was right off Strong Water Retreat's dock. We came down to the dock to cheer Larry on and it was fun watch the bright lights moving around underwater like search lights in the sky. Kal entertained us by using a rope in the water to stir up the bioluminescence. After the guys finished their dive, we sat down to a large dinner of good old comfort food; roast beef, potatoes, salad and bread. We chatted for a while about diving; American vs. Canadian politics, movies... You name it, we discussed it and still managed to be friends at the end of it all!

Dive 5, Agamemnon Passage: After a good night's rest and another huge breakfast of Eggs Benedict, we headed out once again for our last two dives of the weekend. At Agamemnon, Cloud Sponges and Dwarf Gorgonian Coral can be found within recrea-



tional diving limits. We found them starting at about 80 feet and dropped as deep as 110 feet. The Cloud Sponges were bigger and more abundant than the sponges found in Hood Canal and in the holes each sponge housed crab, shrimp, and even a Moss Head Warbonnet! The steep walls of this site are idea habitat for the Dwarf Gorgonian Corals and we saw several colonies of them. Also found in great numbers here were Chimney Sponges, most of which were encircled by tons of Feather Stars. We also found more Puget Sound King crabs, Painted Greenlings, Gobies and Andy saw a juvenile Yellow Eye Rock Fish! The sheer walls were also covered with various Hydroids, large plate-sized Scallops, Nudibranchs, and many types of sea stars. Agamemnon was so incredibly awesome and was yet another dive site that you'll want to do over and over again.

Dive 6, Courtenall's Folly: The dive started off down a rocky slope once again covered in life, then turned into a rubble field of boulders, small rocks and hidey-holes everywhere. Brittle stars were on and between every rock. It was kinda creepy how alive the rocks looked due to the moving brittle stars! We found a couple of Tiger Rock Fish but they were very nervous and wouldn't stick around for any photos. And the usual suspects were in abundance, too! Fi-

nally giving in to the effects of a weekend of cold water, we hauled



ourselves back on board the Devil Fish one last time.

Well you know the old saying, all good things must come to an end. Another great trip and awesome diving! After one more delicious meal of warm chili with coleslaw (another special recipe from Ann's mom), we said goodbye to Kal and the gang at Strong Water Retreat and promised them we'd come visit their little slice of heaven again soon.

Kal said he'd be on vacation ☺

Thank you to Jerry Dollar for putting together such a fun trip!
(Ed. note - We are putting together a trip in July)

Things I have learned

by Steve B.

Ah, MAN. Greg beat me to it. Great points were made by Greg. Let's see if I can add to them. (See Greg's article in the February Newsletter)

I realize I am never too old or too young to know everything..... just ask me.....smirk.

How far away from your buddy should you dive? Shoulder to shoulder? Within sight of each other. 3.2 feet? For me it used to depend on the situation. Fin to nose when penetrating a wreck. Within sight in the tropics. Many times it was within sight up here. Depends on the skill level/experience of my buddy. On deep dives, I even would stray further away. Then, on a dive at the horrific depth of 24ft, in Edmonds, it dawned on me.....
If I exhale my breath right now can I reach my buddy in time to share air? You know that you won't realize you are out of air until you try to take that next breath. We do dive with Murphy. O.K., I dive with Murphy. SO, next time you are diving and you think of it. Try exhaling, all the way, and swim to your buddy. "I have superfins mega 3000 so I can dive further away". I dare you..... try it. Don't forget that your buddies comfort may be closer. I treat it like dive time. The shorter distance trumps out.

You CANNOT beat the Water. You only swim where the Water wants or Let's you. You only go the direction the Water feels like going. You will not go against the Water if it does not want you to. Now that I know that I find it is easier to dive. If I screw up and try to go the wrong way the Water will gently remind me..."no, today I am going this way, and so are you." If I don't listen then the Water

will Tell me....."WE ARE GOING THIS WAY, AND SO ARE YOU."..... OK. I usually get it before the shouting starts. If you go with the flow it sure is more fun AND a lot easier. Relax, let the Water flow and so will you..... Boy! What a lot of esoteric hulla-baloo. Think about it. Kinda relates to Greg's lesson on current prediction, eh..... wink, wink.

Never is a big word.

Always is a long time.

Never rarely happens always.

"I never do that".

"I always bring that".

Starting to sound familiar?

"I can't go down. There must be an upwelling/current".

"I must not be getting all the air out of my B.C.".

"I am just under weighted....."

Anybody got a spare Drysuit, socks, gloves, fins.....

I KNOW I have never had THAT happen..again, see Greg's article.

I was diving the other day out at Hood Canal. Boy, if you want to check your buoyancy and finning/trim/attitude (not kicking up the bottom) go to a site that has a lot of silt and dive away from the crowd and the bottom will gladly show you when you are dragging something or finning toward the bottom.

I stopped to take a picture and practiced a trick I learned, years ago. If you are on a mucky/silty/muddy bottom and you want to take off from the bottom while stirring up as little muck as possible, try this. Simply push with one leg, from the fin tip, until you are off the bottom, keep the other leg straight, on an even/level plain, with your body. Once you raise off the bottom just gently kick with the straight leg, from the ankle, and as you move pull up the leg you used to raise off the bottom. Think of it as a landing gear. As you move you let the forward movement pull the leg out of the silt and then you bring it up to your body. Gotta love when you can turn a bad situation into something at least handy. Silty bottom? Use it to check your gear attachment and your trim And your finning angle.

Oh yeah, now this one will get ya. You can hang from urchins underwater and not get hurt. Bed of nails anybody? I tried this one at Quadra Island in a good current. Just gently palm the urchin, touch as many quills as you can at once, then gently relax and let the water turn you like a weather vane. Slowly swing on the urchin until you are facing into the current. I figured the little bugger has a bunch of legs. Let's see if he has been going to the gym. If you distribute your weight over as many quills as you can no single quill will have enough force to punch through your glove (dry or wet). You may want to try this in a very gentle current until you trust it. I tried it and luckily it worked. I didn't know it wouldn't..... yeah yeah, too stupid to realize I would get stuck by the spines.....you never know until you try.

For the divemasters out there Remember you can't be too old or Young to learn. I watched a Divemaster in training awhile ago and they taught me another great skill for dealing with tired divers on the surface. Put that one in the old tool bag. If you are a divemaster or higher and you want to know what I learned I will tell you in person. Sorry everybody else. This is one of those tools that is vital to defuse a situation that DM's are the most likely to find themselves in.

Keep learning. Any day you learn something new is a good day!

Mukilteo Lighthouse Park - Shore Diving CLOSED?

by *Andy Norton* (photo by *Greg Becvar*)

Another shore dive site lost?? Say it ain't so! That was my immediate reaction when I read the news in the February issue of Northwest Dive News. I believe the article was actually a reprint of a review from the book "Shore Diving Near Seattle", authored by local divers Alexander, Maxwell & Kent Wallner. The article was highlighting the city of Everett and its nearby shore dive sites when it made mention that in 2008, the city of Mukilteo had outlawed shore diving from Mukilteo Lighthouse Park due to safety concerns related to the adjacent boat launch. That certainly was news to me! So now we've lost the Edmonds Oil Dock, apparently 100' Rock, and now the park? Surprised and a little fired up, I just had to get to the bottom of things (no diving pun intended).

Many of you have dove Mukilteo Lighthouse Park and enjoyed the eelgrass, quickly sloping bottom and shifting clay walls full of hidey-holes that are home to numerous types of small critters. The clay walls were also the first place I ever saw a juvenile wolf eel, thanks to ESDC members Greg Becvar and Johanna Raupe. Having also completed the open water portion of our Rescue course at the park as well as making numerous dives as a part of our mapping project on the quest to become a PADI Divemaster, I have definitely developed a fondness for this site. What's also great about it is its close proximity to home, plentiful parking and easy shore access. In 2008, the city also completed Phase 1 of a 4-phase major renovation that really should result in a first class park for everyone. Oh, and then there's the fact that the Diamond Knot Brewery & Alehouse and the Buzz Inn Steakhouse are both located just a short walk away and provide excellent post-dive beverage and meal service! Oops, there we go again. DIVE club, not dine club. Anyway...

Seeking confirmation of this sad news, I contacted the city of Mukilteo's Parks & Recreation department. Sure enough, it was confirmed. In August 2008, the city council voted seemingly without any real discussion to update park rules to include Rule 26, not only prohibiting shore diving at the park but also apparently requiring a permit to conduct any commercial training at the site traditionally known as Mukilteo Community Park, located next to the Silver Cloud Inn



(<http://www.ci.mukilteo.wa.us/files/doc-park%20rules%202008-4-08.pdf>). I was truly disappointed to see that scuba diving from shore had somehow been lumped in with all of the other undesirable park

behavior. Since I was beginning to wonder if I was the only one who hadn't heard about this, I posted the news to the Northwest Dive Club forum (side note – a great resource for chatter on local dive sites, gear discussions, buddy locating, etc., <http://www.nwdiveclub.com/>). Turned out it was news to everyone, and more than a few divers had the same response I did.

Cooler heads seem to have prevailed, and the dive community will be presenting a unified front when several divers appear at the next Mukilteo city council meeting scheduled for Monday, March 2nd at 7:00pm. Washington Scuba Alliance has also become actively involved as part of their ongoing mission to represent the interests of Washington divers. The mayor and at least two city council members have both been very receptive to comments and concerns regarding the closure and on the face of things, it appears there's a reasonable chance we may see this rule rescinded. Please consider adding your voice to the objection of losing yet another shore dive site. You can do so by appearing at the city council meeting on the 2nd or by respectfully emailing the mayor and city council members to express your concerns. Email addresses can be found on the city's website, located at <http://www.ci.mukilteo.wa.us/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=14>. You can also email the Washington Scuba Alliance at info@wascuba.org to let them know your thoughts and offer your support in the effort to keep this site open to diving. Thanks for listening and happy diving!

NO Dues, NO News

Remember, your 2008 Emerald Sea Dive Club membership expires at the end of February. If you have not renewed your membership this will be your last newsletter. 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

On June 7, 2008 in Athens Greece
Tom Sietas held his breath for 10 minutes
and 12 seconds to set a Static
Apnea Record

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!

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

Hosted by Andy & Pam Norton

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

San Juan Charter

by Adria Ali



DEEP SEA CHARTERS & DEER HARBOR INN



April 18th – 19th

- \$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, Otsego Island
- Lunches and continental breakfast provided
- Dinner at Inn's Restaurant

- Bring 1-3 tanks
- Air fills done on boat
- Bring dive gear (there is room on the boat for bags/boxes)
- Bring extra clothes, swimsuit, money for dinner etc
- May bring food/beverages
- Leave Anacortes by Fri, Sat.
- Arrive back in Anacortes late afternoon, Sun.

Contacts:
 Adria Ali adriaali@yahoo.com
 Dan Fry aquarealmdivers@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.

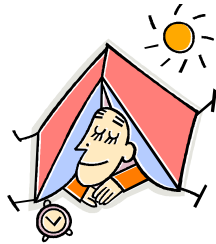
**Emerald Sea Dive Club
Camp & Dive at Salt Creek County Park!**

by Andy Norton

When: Thursday, July 16th, through Sunday, July 19th

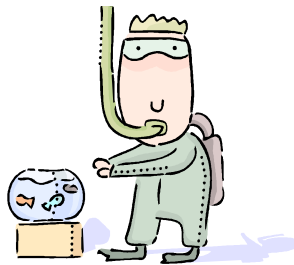
Where: Salt Creek Recreational Area, 15 miles west of Port Angeles.
Park & Campground website

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.

**Giant Pacific Octopus
eggs probably take from
230 to 260 days to hatch
in Puget Sound**

Dive and Event Calendar

Date	Event	Time	Location	Sponsor
2/28/08	Tank Gawd it be Friday	6:00 PM	Cove 2 Alki	Andy and Pam Norton
3/04/09	Club Meeting	7:00 PM	Shawn O'Donnells	Tina Seawell seaphila@gmail.com
3/6-3/8/09	Critter Collection		Camp Casey	Shawn Miller shawnm1833@yahoo.com
3/21/09	Pier Cleanup	8:00 AM	Edmonds Fishing Pier	Fran Murray scubagram_590@hotmail.com
3/21/09	HMCS Annapolis work party		Vancouver BC	Greg Becvar tridoxia@yahoo.com
3/27/09	Tank Gawd it be Friday	6:00 PM	Mukilteo T Dock	Pam and Andy Norton

Divers on the Loose

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

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

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/ESDCList 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/ESDCList
- 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

March Meeting

The March Emerald Sea Dive Club Meeting will be Wednesday March 4th at Shawn O'Donnell's in Everett. The speaker this month is... ? 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

 <p>EMERALD SEA DIVE CLUB EDMONDS, WA</p>	<h1>Emerald Sea Dive Club Membership Application</h1>
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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.



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 _____