



Dive of the Month

The Joy of a new Little Buddy
by *Fill Keeler*

I had forgotten how totally fun it is to have a new little buddy. Rhonda McElroy, who became a member at the September meeting, became my little buddy that evening. On the following Saturday we met at a local (OK ~ local for her) park and ride and headed to Cove 2 to meet up with Laura, Mark, Wendy, Kim and Ed for our first buddy dives. Rhonda had just 10 or 12 dives but I was truly amazed at how she took to the water. We swam out to one of the boundary buoys and descended down the line, never touching the bottom (partially I attribute this due to the fact that she owns her own gear and that makes so much difference in comfort and control) and off down to about 50 feet. Her buoyancy was terrific and I could feel that she was comfortable with her surroundings. We meandered along and the amazement in her eyes when we'd see something was worth a thousand words and added to my enjoyment of

being a big buddy. We came around to the Honey Bear and sure enough, under the bow was the largest GPO I had ever seen. This octopus was tucked in away but still very visible, siphoning water and blinking at us. We ended our dive in a gentle uphill swim and safety stop before the weightlessness of our dive was over. As we got back to the sea wall, talking about what we had seen, another diver said he had seen that octopus out and about and felt it was approximately 18 feet across, wow that is giant!

We took a surface interval and there was never a doubt that Rhonda wanted to do a second dive. We went to visit our other dive friends, only to find Laura getting out of a VERY wet dry suit; yes it's time to replace her suit. She literally dumped water out of her sleeves once she got her "dry" gloves off and that was before she took the rest of the suit off, the water spilling from every possible place. While the others headed for the dining portion of the Emerald Sea Dive Club get together, Rhonda and I returned to the water for one more spectacular dive.

Most of you know I work with a fair number of open water students during their certification which is, in itself, very rewarding for me, however our Big Buddy program and the opportunity to dive with an already certified diver was way more gratifying. I thoroughly enjoyed our first two dives and look forward to many, many more



Photo of the Month

Photographer –Tina Seawell
Dive Site – Edmonds Fishing Pier
It's amazing that we ever get any new members. And we were actually on our best behavior.



January Meeting

Wednesday October 7
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

Guest Speaker
Bob Bailey will be our speaker

President's Column	3
How Quickly Things Change	
Editor's Column	4
Instructors Corner	4
Upcoming Classes	
The next Emerald Sea Dive Club party is just around the corner!	4
20 Years Ago	4
Nominations Due This Month	4
Guests and New Members	5
A Request from Roland Anderson	5
Dive and Trip Reports	5
DUI Dog Days and the Flippers from Hell	
7 Days On The Big Island	
SEPTEMBER 26TH EDMONDS FISHING PIER CLEAN-UP	
Another view of the Pier Cleanup	
TGIF #9 Review	
Continuing Education	8
Emergency Oxygen Provider Course	
Underwater Navigator	
Deep Speciality	
Knowledge!!!! Where do you find it????	
ESDC 2010 Calendar Photo Contest Voting Ends on October 7th	10
Dive and Event Calendar	11
Divers on the Loose	11
Membership Information	11
Member Benefits	
Membership Dues	
Contact Information	12
Club Notices	13
October Meeting	
Photo Contest	
Nominations Open	
Directions to Meeting	13

President's Column

How Quickly Things Change

It was a beautiful dive day. The water was calm, the sun was shining, and the temperature was cool enough not to over heat in a drysuit. My buddies and I were diving Hood Canal. The entry was one of those steep rocky shores that are difficult to navigate



with or without dive gear. The rocks are like sand paper except where they are covered with slick moss and sharp barnacles. To enter the water we use a very strong nylon rope, similar to a the ropes used to tie boats to a dock. The rope has knots every foot to make it easy to grip. One end of the rope has a huge six inch suicide clip for tying to a secure shore anchor.

We entered the water and left the rope floating so we could easily grab it at the end of the dive. We swam out, planning to do a mid-water descent of 60 feet. As we are swimming out, I notice that occasionally water is running down my back. I started playing with different positions

in the water and noticed that if my neck is in the water, water gets in my suit. When we stop to descend, I tell my buddies that I'm aborting the dive, that my suit is leaking too much to risk diving. The others decide to continue the dive, they descended and I started toward shore.

As I started the return swim, the wind begins to pick up. It's not a strong wind, and the waves are only 1 to 2 foot rollers. Nothing to worry about. I got to the entry. Where is the rope? The rollers are coming from the northeast, the only unprotected direction of the entry. The rope has crawled up into an arm sized cave in the rocks. The loop of the rope that is reachable is in the water when a roller comes in and out of the water when a roller goes out. The rocks are too steep and the rollers breaking against the rocks are just large enough that I can't walk out.

What to do. If I take my fins off and don't make it to the rope, then I'm floating with the tide and the waves. There are no boats out, how far will I drift? You ever try to swim in a dry suit without fins. Try it sometime. It's hilarious. You can move about two inches in some random direction with every stroke. So maybe if I take my fins off, I can descend to the bottom and crawl out, but the rope is too far out of the water. With 34 pounds on I can't crawl up the rocks far enough to reach the rope. Well, I can just wait here until the others come back. I will be cold and bored, but safe.

After five minutes of floating, I am bored. I can't descend and wait on the bottom, my suit is leaking. I really do not want to

wait an hour for everyone to come back. Why don't I take off half my weights and one fin? Will that work? Okay, off with half of my weights. Drag the weight far enough up on the rocks to be able to get them later. Off with one fin, throw it up on the rocks. Okay, I still have control and am light enough to clamber up the rocks. Here comes a wave, up I go and grab the rope. Yeah, got the rope, there goes wave, stand up using the one finless foot. I'm up, drag the finned foot up. Out of the water's reach, drop the rest of my weights. Sit down take the other fin off. It's a lot easier to stand up without weights. I collected my fins and go up the rocks. After resting a bit, I went after my weights. That was interesting.

Now how do I get my drysuit unzipped. It's a back entry. Again, I can just wait for my buddies to come back, but I'm getting a bit warm. What can I put through the zipper pull? Oh, I know, the knife strap. It worked, it was long enough to reach with the opposite arm with enough give not to harm the zipper. Thank goodness, I waxed my zipper.

Once the suit was off, I looked to see what the problem was. I inspected the seam where the neck seal attaches to the suit. It was fine. The neck seal is neoprene with a single seam in the back. The seam of the neck seal also looked OK. But, the water was coming from somewhere. I stretched the neck seal a bit, the back seam almost separated. I'm surprised the seam didn't burst when I put it on. Aborting the dive was a good call. I would have probably been soaked and freezing. It would have been even more difficult to get out of the water with a flooded suit.

We never did get the old rope out of the rocks. It is still there, but now we have a rope that sinks. In the 30 minutes it took to swim out and back, the weather changed just a small amount. I was amazed that the small difference in wind made such a big difference in the exit difficulty. I don't always look at the weather channel before diving, but I do take a look at the sky. And I look at the waves and wind. Where is the wind coming from? Are the waves choppy or rollers? How are they breaking against the shore? Now I don't consider a dive over until all buddies are out of their gear.



Editor's Column

Membership in Emerald Sea Dive Club has many benefits of which you, as a member, are certainly aware. For the new diver it is a chance to meet other divers and new dive buddies. For all members there is the camaraderie, the new diving experiences and of course the food. However there is one other benefit that is not immediately apparent.



Every year we ask six members to step forward and help guide the club for a year. At first glance this may appear to be an obligation or a burden, but ask any board member and they will tell you it is a benefit. The opportunity to guide the club, to interact with new members and new divers, the pleasure of helping your fellow divers grow and gain experience all make being a board member an unalloyed pleasure. You will become closer to your fellow board members and to all members of ESDC. You will learn and you will grow as a diver and you will get back more than you put in. How do I know? I have been a board member on three occasions in three different positions. Everyone of them has been pure pleasure. As I finish out this year I look back on a great experience and I look forward to handing over the reins to next year's newsletter editor.

Please consider putting your name in nomination for one of the board positions. We need some board members to serve another term because the institutional memory has value. But we also need new blood, new ideas and your enthusiasm. You do not have to be a diver with lots of C-cards or experience. You just have to want to help the club and the divers in it to grow, have a good time and be safe. I promise, you will get much more than you give.

Instructors Corner

Upcoming Classes

PADI Emergency O₂ - Loogpla Cowden will be conducting a PADI emergency O₂ on October 18th at Erik Granroth's in Smokey Point. If you are interested contact Loogpla as soon as possible because she needs to order books.

Navigation Class - Gerald Dollar will conduct an Underwater Navigation Specialty Course for ESDC members on October 10th and 11th. Contact Jerry for additional information.

Deep Class - Gerald Dollar will conduct a PADI Deep Diver Specialty course in October. The class will be held either the 3rd or 4th weekend in October. Contact Jerry for additional information.

Navigation Class - Loogpla Cowden will be conducting an Underwater Navigation class at Bubbles Below. The classroom is November 2nd and the dives will be November 7th and 8th. Contact Bubbles Below to enroll in the class.

The next Emerald Sea Dive Club party is just around the corner!

Changes are brewing!

The Christmas Party will be held on the evening of December 5th, 2009 at the Waltz Building in Snohomish. This year we are having a catered affair reservations and prepayment (form is below) will be required by the November 4th meeting (we need to provide the ca-

terers with a head count). The cost will be \$15.00 per person (scholarships are available, contact Jill for more information).

Raffle tickets will be available for \$5.00 to members' only as outlined in our bylaws.

Feel free to bring your own beverage if you prefer to drink something other than water, coffee or tea which is supplied by the club.

Any questions, comments or if you'd like to help out please contact Jill at jillk@bjbrewster.com or 425-356-9444.

RSVP Form: Please return to Jill with full payment @ PO Box 346 Clinton, WA 98236 or Emerald Sea Dive Club PO Box 72 Edmonds, WA 98020 (make checks out to Emerald Sea Dive Club or ESDC)

Name: _____

Name of Guest(s): _____

Number of people attending _____ x \$15.00/ea = _____

Current contact phone number (please) _____

Mail to form to Jill Keeler PO Box 346 Clinton, WA 98236

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.

The speaker at the October meeting was Jeff Renner. Who knew he had been around that long.

A crab dive was scheduled for October 14th at Mukilteo. Remember the good old days when we could take crab year round?

The board was wrestling with the need to increase dues to \$18.00 per year due to an anticipated postage increase.

A report on a club trip to Salt Creek questioned my culinary skills (don't ask).

There was a report on the diver's reflex free diving class. Linda Perry and I both took the course and survived.

Nominations Due This Month

Do you know someone who would make a good board member? Would you be a good board member. Nominations for the elected board positions are open at the October meeting and will be accepted there or by email until the November meeting. Voting will be at the November meeting. If you want to nominate someone and are not at the meeting contact any board member.

The following positions will be on the ballot:

- President - Runs the show. Helps to be power mad
- Vice President - Is responsible for obtaining speakers. Plots to overthrow the president
- Secretary - minutes taken by the secretary helps keep the president on track.
- Treasurer - See treasurer ,bring money
- Activities Coordinator - Keeps the list of upcoming dives up to date
- Newsletter Editor (no incumbent) - Many monkeys, many typewriters.

Results will be announced, as usual, at the Christmas Party. Non-elected board members (big buddy coordinator, web master(s), and greeter) will be appointed by the new board.

Guests and New Members

by Jill Keeler

Three new divers joined ESDC this month. Kory Gill is a certified rescue diver (he took Jerry Dollar's class this past summer). His diving experience has mainly been here in the Puget Sound and on occasion he has been seen jumping off of a perfectly good boat up in the San Juan Islands. Just this weekend I had the opportunity to spend the day with Kory aboard Lu Jac's Quest where we had two fantastic dives and to top the day off, on our return we found ourselves in a pod of Orca whales so we had a whale watching tour as well.

Diann Warner lives in California and travels most of the year in her motorhome. She is a retired nurse and was with us on the La Paz trip last March.

Lee Edgar.....He was introduced during the August meeting and became a member at the September meeting. He heard about ESDC through scuba board and a posting by Ed McNichol.

Guests at the September meeting were Todd Z. a friend of Heather and Shawn Miller. Todd grew up with Heather, certified as an open water diver in April and has dove in Hawaii.

Donna, Lauri Devore's mom attended the meeting with Lauri. Donna has been a diver for many years (15 to 20) and lives in New York.

Rhonda became a member at the meeting. She certified in July as an open water diver, has dove here and in Alaska. She became my little buddy that evening and we have already completed two of the three dives. Rhonda is a great diver for having just 12 dives down under!

A Request from Roland Anderson

[ED. - *The following was posted to the Seattle Aquarium Diver's mailing list. Let's try to help him out.*]

Hi All,

I'm looking for some information on what is in a GPO trash pile - their middens - which would indicate what they eat. I need about 10-12 midden contents in detail.

I bet you might see that many in a couple dives at Octopus Hole or Sund Rock, but I need to know how many of what kind of crab shells are in each midden, and how many of what kind of bivalves or gastropods also. No need to disturb the octopuses, and I don't need exact locations of the dens, say Sund Rock, Redondo, KVI Towers for example. Any fish should be noted also. If you don't know what a shell is, take it and I'll identify it. I suspect there will be a lot of jingle shells in middens of Hood Canal octopuses but also lots of red rock crabs and dungeness crabs, maybe some scallops.

This is part of a study I'm undertaking with another researcher to determine the diet of GPOs around their range, from Japan to Alaska and down to southern California. Many thanks for any help!

Retirement is great except I'm still writing papers about octopuses.

Best to all, roland.anderson@seattle.gov

Roland geoduck46@gmail.com

Dive and Trip Reports

DUI Dog Days and the Flippers from Hell

by Jack Schacher

Well, I finally made it to DUI Dog Days this year.

If you don't know what that is, it's an annual event sponsored by DUI to promote their dry suits. For \$15 bucks (\$10 for those with DAN memberships) you get to try out their gear for free and chomp on some trashy barbecue fare.

With my dry suit in the shop getting a new zipper, I figured it was a chance to get wet, so off I drove down to Tacoma.

Thankfully it wasn't one of those dog days of summer that day at Les Davis Park. Instead it was cool and cloudy until later in the afternoon.

But like dogs is how some of the people were working, including Adria and Ed representing Bubbles Below in the water. I'm sure they have plenty of stories to tell, since the main point of DUI Dog Days is to get wetsuit divers better fitted for the cold local waters. Adria and Ed were among the dive masters there taking these newbies for shallow spins to test-dive the gear. Lucky them....

I, too, was lucky because I was able to buddy up with Steve from Smokey Point Diving for a solo trip out at Les Davis, where I'd never dove before.

But this tale is more about bad luck than good luck, and about the blissfulness of ignorance, and therein lays the moral of the story.

I've got to hand it to the Dog Day staff: like a factory line for divers, they get you signed, suited and delivered for diving in a process that is both efficient and friendly.

First you sign your life away and give them your driver's license to keep with the paperwork.

Next you stand before a table with neck seals and wrist seals of various sizes and try them on to get the right fit.

From there it's over to the undergarment tent to get fitted for warmth. I was hoping to try something new and different, but I didn't like the feel of the new two piece style they had on offer because it felt like the pants were sitting too low on my hips. My son likes riding his pants down below his boxers, but that's not my style. Fashion statements aside, the pants just did not feel comfortable. No problem. They had regular one-piece undergarments there too, so I switched out for one of those. But yuck, someone must have dived in it earlier. First lesson: bring your own undergarment.

OK, so with the slightly disgusting undergarment in hand I go next for a dry suit. That went smoothly. I got one of those newer DUI clx450 numbers. Give DUI props for that: the suit is very mobile, comfortable and light. If they gave me one for free, I'd take it.

So now I'm suited up and make my way toward my BC/reg/tank setup, which I hiked over near the stairs that go down into the water before I went through the factory line to get suited. I didn't bring my undergarment, but I did bring my own gloves, hood and fins. Instead of just gearing up and going in I decided to try my fins to make sure they fit. Good move because, woops, they don't. The clx450 comes with separate dive boots, and they are too big for my fins. So I walk back over to the dog tent to borrow a free pair from the DUI dogs.

Uh oh... Trouble is coming and I don't even know it. I dive with a pair of medium-size Scubapro split fins. But with the DUI clx450 boots I need an XL. The DUI dogs are all nice and helpful, so when someone there give gives me a fin with a paddle shape and says they are 'awesome' I figure, great, thanks!

So I'm all geared now up and head on down into the water. I give my name (those dogs make sure everyone who goes in comes back out) and buddy up with Steve from Smokey Point in the drink.

We talk a dive plan, run a check, descend and head out and WTF ? ! These fins are stiff as boards and moving is hard work! I try to frog-swim, but I suck at that even with my own fins. So I slog along and figure out a kind of dolphin kick that at least keeps me moving forward.

But, yikes, what a workout! I was absolutely exhausted by the end of a 23-minute dive and was done for the day. I had energy for a burger and chips, but these legs were not going to let me back out for a second dive.

The experience was an eye-opener for me. Ever since I first took dive lessons I have always used the same exact gear, so I had no idea how different it could be with a different pair of fins. My legs just were not strong enough to deal with that stiff paddle fin. I'm glad this was a free local shore dive and not some expensive boat dive.

So the moral of the story is this: seemingly little changes in equipment can matter big time. For me it was another reminder not to get cocky with diving.

Full from burgers, I returned the borrowed stuff, got my driver's license back and received a free hat that says "DUI Test Diver."

So there you go. I came out tired but with a lesson learned, and a neat hat to boot.

Later someone misread it as "test driver" and assumed DUI stood for 'driving under the influence.'

7 Days On The Big Island

by John Gray

Hawaii may conjure up images of luau's, lush forests, huge waves and usually even bigger prices. We had talked of going to Hawaii for many years and these typically coincided with the wedding anniversaries that ended in multiples of 5. For our 25th, we went to Belize to see Norman and Clarice Gregory during their medical mission experience. The 30th would have to be Hawaii. Finally.

Our two adult children would be coming with us. Their last memory of a family vacation was a road trip in a Subaru wagon to the Grand Canyon about 10 years ago where they remember the discomforts more than the adventure. We wanted to replace that with a good memory. The Big Island was chosen because none of us had been there. September is the transition period between seasons; the school kids are back in school and the snowbirds have not landed. There are no lines, prices are lower and are soft for the asking.

After 70 dives, I love the sport. Laurie has about 30 dives since last March and much prefers warm water diving. Our children, Karen and Travis agreed to do the one-day Discover Scuba experience. So, the trip would have to include at least one day of diving.

Air travel was an easy choice as Alaska Airlines runs non-stop to Kona with decent fares. We chose to rent a condo and let the Google search engine help us make the choice. The further from down-

town Kona and the more distance away from the shore, the more reasonable the price. We used Sunquest Vacation Rentals and found a two-bedroom condo that was five miles from Kona and a block from the beach for just over \$100 a night.

The condo was a stroke of luck because we were at the best snorkeling in Kona. We snorkeled nearly every day before the crowds arrived and enjoyed swimming with schools of fish and being three feet above the amazing array of coral. We had puffer fish swim right up to our mask, schools of butterfly and tangs surround us. Green turtles would drift on by. We were glad we brought the dive skins as the 80-degree water was perfect and we did not get sunburned.

We snorkeled near the national historical park, The Place of Refuge, where in ancient times, law breakers could escape the death penalty if they made it to this sacred place before the king's warriors killed them during the pursuit. The coral was amazing, the turtles plentiful, and the fish were teeming.

We chose Jack's Diving Locker for a two-tank boat dive because they were highly recommended in the guidebook we were using, Hawaii, The Big Island Revealed and their advertising in Northwest Dive News. They also had received high marks for their Discovery Dives.

We watched a portion of the pool instruction that Karen and Travis received. There were two instructors for 6 students. Two of the students had experienced eight other Discover Scuba dives with Jack's. They told us that they loved diving and had not bothered to become certified. Two other students were certified but had not been underwater for 10 years. During the instruction, their older equipment had many problems. Privately, we hoped that they would find another day to dive.

Of all of our diving, this would be our first charter boat dive where all the equipment is setup by the crew and we would follow a Dive-master. Our diving experience had been shore dives, with the Gregory's on their boat or our boat, or on the Carib Inn's boat at Bonaire where it is laid back and the divers are self-sufficient. We thought about how to organize and transport our gear to the dive boat because we did not bring our mesh gear bag.

We met the next day at the dive shop to head down to the boat. We met Jeff our van driver who also selected our rental BC's. We brought regs, mask, fins and exposure suits. For \$8.50 we rented a BC, weights and tanks. Jeff was pleasant, plain spoken, down to earth and quietly competent in his manner.

At the harbor, the 46-foot, welded aluminum boat was stern tied against the dock. We watched the five employees load the tanks and fitted the BC's and regs to the tanks. Captain Jim introduced the crew and gave us the safety briefing. There would be three groups of divers on this day. The Discover Scuba group would have four participants and one Divemaster; the not-so-qualified couple was not there. Jeff would take Laurie and I plus three other divers. A third group of 6 divers, all veterans of Jack's boat dives would be in a third group with their Divemaster.

Jeff started taping the experience using a high definition, underwater camera. He filmed above and below the water and I was impressed with his powerful swimming and one-hand use of this sizable housing as he followed fish, found octopus, zoomed in on small hermit crabs and pursued Moray Eels.

For both dives, the boat maneuvered close up to the vertical lava cliffs. A mooring buoy hovered below the surface; you had to know where to find these. A crewmember was sent over the side with a line and they dove to the buoy and passed up the bow line to secure the boat. The water temperature was 80 and the visibility was at least 100 feet. I was very comfortable in a full one mill wetsuit with a hood and boots. Laurie was toasty with a 2/3 mill full wetsuit and boots.

The buoyancy that I perfected in Bonaire last April came back to me in a minute. The coral was abundant with life and more fish that I could name or remember. For both dives, I was almost the last diver up with over an hour of bottom time. After a summer of disappointing coldwater dives including aborted ones because of no visibility at any depth, we re-discovered the joy of diving.

Laurie's dives were great and a bit shorter. On the first dive, we enjoyed flying on a wonderful current but Jeff took us too far and we had to fight it for nearly 10 minutes and this sapped Laurie's air. On the second dive, both Jeff and Laurie had a bad O-ring and lost about 1/4 of their air.

Karen and Travis enjoyed their second dive more than the first. They were frustrated with their Divemaster who was more interested in showing them cool critters than helping them handle their buoyancy issues and other immediate needs. By the second dive, they were more relaxed and began to see beyond their anxiety. At the end, Karen was interested in getting her Open Water Certification.

Back at the harbor, the crews rinsed the equipment and put the gear bags on the dock. Jeff showed us the raw footage he took and we ordered a DVD of the final cut. On the way back to the dive shop and responding to our questions, Jeff told us that he was the owner of Jack's Diving Locker. He and his wife have owned it with another couple since the early 1980's when they came to the Big Island to teach diving. He has over 14,000 dives and leads groups six days a week. Back at the dive shop, we found letters and photos of Jeff with celebrities and awards for his support of protecting the reefs.

Of course we did more than just diving. We spent a day at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and were thankful for Jeff's admonition to wait a day after diving for this. We drove over 4,000 foot passes, hiked in lush rainforest and explored lava tubes in the drizzle and then drove 11 miles to the coast and watched the steam caused by lava hitting the ocean as it lifted under clear skies.

Another day while the kids worked on darkening their pale north-west skins, we drove to the north end of the Big Island, through the scrub vegetation of cattle ranch country to near Hilo to jungle-like conditions and the surf and wind pounded the coast. We toured the Kona coffee plantation region and the Macadamia orchards. We saw the athletes training on their high-tech bikes for the approaching Hawaiian Ironman competition.

We found the local's spots and ate at the tourist places. The kids took us to the nightly live music at "On the Rocks" that is a bar on the beach. Though the Hawaiian language is still a mystery to us, we are thankful ("Mahola") for this great experience!

SEPTEMBER 26TH EDMONDS FISHING PIER CLEAN-UP

by Fran Murray

Once again we had and successful and very fun Pier Clean-up. I want to thank all who participated in the water as well as topside –

Jerry, Lee, Skip, Linda, Tina, Steve, Brad, Matt, Shawn, Heather, Jack, Laurie, Barbara, Frank, Rich and Matt. I couldn't have done it without you! Thanks, too, to U/W Sports for giving us a free air fill for our efforts.

The array of stuff was pretty run of the mill except for a few bullets Laurie and Barb left on the bottom. Lots of little crabs and a few prickbacks and some weird kind of tunicate that I think is a Club tunicate called a *Styela clava* which is considered a prize seafood in Korea called mideuduck. This definitely did not look good enough to eat.

Our sale to the fishermen was very successful, too. We raised \$400 for the club and added to that \$92.50 from my garage sale several weeks ago. The best part is that I don't have to store a bunch of stuff in my garage all winter.



We'll do it again in the spring.

Another view of the Pier Cleanup

by Linda Perry

On Saturday, September 26th I arrived at the parking lot next to Underwater Sports in Edmonds to meet the other divers who enjoy a good scavenger hunt. We planned to join Fran in cleaning up some of the rubble and trash littering the floor of the sea off the Edmonds fishing pier. Emerald Sea is the only dive club contracted to clean under the pier for the city. I look forward to the two scheduled clean-up dives every year, partly because in my youth I dreamed of diving for treasure and partly because my dad recycled scrap metal – sorting through junk is in my blood. This dive is my own special "Sea Hunt".

I got to the site well before the dive briefing. I actually thought I would be the first person at the beach, but Tina, Steve, Fran and Lee were already there, and others began arriving in a steady stream. There were a lot of us old regulars and a few new faces

who had read about our task in Northwest Dive News. Without waivers and membership they were unable to dive with us; perhaps next time.

This time there was no boat to ferry us out to the pier. This wasn't a problem, except that the set of gauges and regulators I was using lacked an inflator hose (this is the set-up I use in the pool, sans dry suit) and so I had to orally inflate my BC. It made the surface swim a bit more challenging. In addition, my dive partner holds the title of fastest surface swimmer. I am not the second fastest surface swimmer, and I struggled to catch up with him. Fran cordoned off the south end of the pier so we had quite a bit of distance to cover.

I was delighted to finally descend and breathe more easily. Skip and I swam out to 70 ft expecting to find tons of lures and lead. What we found were small tire structures and very little else. We did have great visibility (considering summer diving) and there were all the familiar creatures; nudibranchs, crabs, sea stars and fish. A very large ling cod lurked under one of the tire structures. Fran informed me this was a female waiting for a mate. At the end of the dive, under the pier, Skip found a couple of fishing poles, one of which belonged to a fishing buddy, and I decided to bring up a bulky shrimp trap.

After a fairly long surface interval, eating and sitting in the sun, we made a second dive. This time we dove the near end of the pier and the visibility, although not quite so good as the morning, was still better than usual. There were tons of big shrimp on this dive. We tried out the lift bag I bought specifically for the pier clean-up. It can be a struggle for two divers to balance a heavy milk crate between them. Even though we didn't find as much lead as usual, the lift bag was a great help. Skip gave it just a little air and we easily guided our milk crate from place to place. It was especially handy in limited visibility; its bright color was like a beacon, so we could set the basket on the bottom and come back to it without difficulty. It also made it easier to hang mid-water for the safety stop. Although we didn't find lures dripping off the pyramids, other dive teams did bring up quantities of booty and Fran had a very successful sale after the dives.

TGIF #9 Review

September 19th, 2009

by Andy Norton

Traffic sucks! That's why at least after spending an hour sitting in it, it's great to be rewarded with an awesome dive. TGIF #9 of this year was exactly like that. With the car all loaded and ready to go, Pam and I began making our way to Cove 2 at 5:15. Slogging through that traffic can really get you down, and I was fretting a bit that we weren't going to be there at 6:00 PM like we tell everyone. We knew President Tina was going, so we gave her a quick call to give her the heads-up. We were all running late! Oh well. At least we knew the water would still be there.

Arriving at 6:15, we were met by Tina and Jack Titterness and we were all eager to get in the water. Continued reports of a huge giant Pacific octopus under the Honey Bear, as well as great visibility, had us really excited to get in. Well, that and the promise of a good dinner afterwards of course! We geared up as quickly as we could and all four of us set out for the white & orange buoy. On descending, we made our way down to the I-beams to start the dive. Sure enough, our way down slope was interrupted by the first cool find of the night. Jack had come across a nice little octopus out in the open

who was feeling very photogenic. We then kept going down the slope, really taking our time in the process. In fact, we took so much time getting there that I was amazed at how little ND time we had left for exploring the I-beams. Of course it was high tide, so the 100 foot depth didn't help that any. A few minutes later, it was already time to begin making our way shallower. That was okay though, as we were really looking forward to seeing the GPO. Pam and I hadn't been there to see it yet and the reports were that it was enormous. Before getting to the Honey Bear, I made the obligatory stop at the jack pilings to see if the resident decorated warbonnet was home. That fish is big and is always a nice find. It's a little shy though, so good pictures can be hard to come by. Especially on a night dive. It was particularly cool to look in the end of the piling and see the warbonnet, a white lined dirona, a red dendronotid and a rockfish or two all in one shot. We finally got to the Honey Bear and it was definitely no trouble figuring out that something hungry lived in the vicinity. Crab and clam shells littered a very large area, actually making it somewhat challenging to figure out which crevice the GPO called home. We searched for a few minutes before finally finding it snuggled in deep under the boat. That was a relief, as I thought perhaps we'd missed it and it was already out on the evening hunt. We really had to squeeze in there for a closer look and to get a quality photo. I'd have to agree on the size estimates. This was the biggest GPO I've ever seen. Incredible! When it finally began to reach out for me and the camera out of curiosity, I knew it was time to back out and give it some space. I was looking forward to having dinner, not being dinner! After a few more cool finds, it was finally time to head in after a wonderful 1 hour of bottom time.

I love coming up from a night dive at Seacrest. The view of downtown Seattle across the water at night is one of the best around. The surface was like glass and with the warm air temperature, it was just so peaceful and comfortable. Great way to end the dive! The four of us then relocated to the Luna Park Cafe, located right under the West Seattle Bridge along Harbor Av. They've got some of the best burgers in town, and definitely have awesome shakes! Just ask Steve Berthinier, who passed on the diving but still joined us for dinner. Another great time was had by all.

So what are you doing next month?? We'd love to have you join us for the October installment of the TGIF dive. We'll meet on Friday, October 23rd at 6:00 PM at the Mukilteo T-Dock and splash when ready. And you know we're gonna find someplace good to eat afterwards, so bring your appetite! Hope to see you then.

Continuing Education

Emergency Oxygen Provider Course

September 12th, 2009

by Andy Norton

Hey there, did you know your Emerald Sea Dive Club owns its very own emergency oxygen (O2) kit? Did you know that it resides with the Activities Coordinator and is available to check out for any club sponsored dive? Did you know that its generally along for the ride at any club sponsored dive? No?? Well now you do! Yes? Well then I have to ask you, would you feel comfortable assembling it and putting it to use in the event of an emergency? How about this... Did you know that emergency oxygen is the primary first aid in dive accidents but statistics show that less than half of divers in need actually receive it?



That was a sobering statistic. I thought I could answer about using O2 but when I really thought about it, my knowledge of providing it for diving emergencies, or any emergency for that matter, seemed very limited. We

learned to use it in Rescue and again in the Divemaster course, but neither of those really got into the how's and why's or gave me the confidence to get in there and do it. So when Loogpla Cowden, one of ESDC's resident PADI Instructors, offered to teach PADI's Emergency Oxygen Provider course at a discounted rate, Pam and I jumped at the chance.

Five of us got together with Loogpla in the early morning hours of Saturday, September 12th. Besides Pam and me, we also had Jill



Keeler, Brad Waldron and Frank Andersen on hand. Pam and I had offered to host the class at our house, so first we all had to fill up

on a yummy breakfast prepared by Pam and some excellent bagels and cream cheese that Brad had brought. Fully awake and with satisfied bellies (hey, this was an ESDC class after all!), we began going over our knowledge reviews. The lively (and sometimes off-topic!) discussion gave us ample opportunity to really get into the subject matter. It was obvious that all of us had studied hard and really wanted to get all we could out of the class. We first learned how to recognize those illnesses that were treatable by the application of emergency oxygen. We then followed up discussion by taking plenty of time to fully learn and understand how to set up the O2 kits and which mask was appropriate for which circumstances. Then it was time for scenarios! Those really got us thinking and really helped us get into rescue mode. By the end of our four hour class, every one of us felt totally confident in our ability to put O2 to use.

ESDC strongly promotes safe diving as well as ongoing education.



So much so that the club will reimburse you \$15 per calendar year for any continuing diving education you complete! I now consider the Emergency Oxygen Provider course to be one of those that all of us should go through. We have been blessed to have experienced very few diving emergencies within the club but if it happened, would you know what to do? Would we do better than that "less than half" statistic I mentioned at the beginning? I really encourage you to contact Loogpla if you're interested in the PADI O2 course.

Underwater Navigator
by Jerry Dollar

Some divers have it easy. Given 100 foot visibility, a well defined reef and a divemaster hovering overhead navigation is a no brainer. However this does not describe Pacific Northwest diving. With visibility in the single digits, a bottom that is often flat and featureless, currents and no guardian angel to get us home we better learn to navigate.

Most of us can at least get back to the beach although often not where we intended. By spending a weekend with Loogpla or I you can increase your navigational skills and increase the chances that you will not have to hail a cab to get back to your car.

The PADI Underwater Navigation Specialty course consists of a classroom session and three open water dives. During these dives

you will develop your natural and compass navigation skills and distance estimation. By the end of the course you will be able to estimate distances while navigating with a compass, follow a complex predetermined course, relocate an underwater position from the surface, use your compass to set and follow a course while underwater. You will have learned to accurately swim a pattern (a useful skill when trying to find an object underwater) and the skills you learn will even allow you to map a dive site.

Finally, by honing your navigation skills you can reduce your stress on a dive, avoid long surface swims, plan your dive more effectively and increase the amount of dive time you spend at your objective. Either Loogpla or myself would be happy to see you in our class.

Deep Speciality

by Jerry Dollar

As you were told in your open water class and have observed in your own diving there is a lot to see at depths of less than 60 feet. However, there are times you may wish to go deeper. Whether looking for sea whips, six gills or gorgonian coral, some animals are just commonly found deeper. If you have an interest in wreck diving you will find that most interesting wrecks are lie at greater depths because shallower wrecks are destroyed either incidentally by weather or intentionally to prevent the wreck from becoming a hazard to navigation. So there are times that you may want to descend below 60 or even 100 feet.

When you decide to dive deeper, dive planning becomes more complex, air management becomes an issue and good buddy skills are even more important than usual. Nitrogen narcosis and decompression limits become factors as you go deeper. If you would like to learn the skills necessary to safely plan and execute dives below 100 feet you should consider a deep speciality class.

The class is comprised of a classroom session and four open water dives with a maximum of 130 feet. All dives will be no decompression dives. During these dives you will have a chance to experience the effects of nitrogen narcosis in a controlled situation and perform a decompression stop while using an alternate air source. You will also be exposed to other effects of depth and pressure and you will practice navigation at depth. During the course of the dives you will refine your buddy skills and air management techniques. After finishing the class you will be qualified to plan and perform no decompression dives to recreational limits.

Knowledge!!!! Where do you find it????

by Jason Miller

Diving knowledge, personal development, structured training, experience and good ol' fashioned know-how combine to further our pursuits to become better divers. Where do we look to find the answers? Who do we approach to find insight? How do we process the information into a usable context that we can apply to our own thought process? The first step in becoming a SCUBA diver is to take an Open Water SCUBA class. Upon completion of the class we are sent into the world to "go forth and DIVE". The Professional Instructors and Certified Assistants impart their knowledge to create certified SCUBA divers. In the span of 3 weeks the student's diving knowledge grew by a factor of 100. What happens to somebody who has been the industry for close to 20 years? How do you increase their knowledge by a factor of 100? The answer is to keep learning. You need to search for answers in a variety of locations. The internet, books, industry publications, other divers and dive

professionals. Our very own Dive Club has combined experience that is measurable in decades possibly approaching the century mark.

A few weeks ago my diving knowledge grew a substantial amount. The education came from a statement I had made to a good friend who happens to be a very trusted and very experienced Dive Master. I had mentioned that if someone needs to get experience, then they should dive with the very best divers. His comment was not the one that I had expected. I had anticipated he would say "You are absolutely correct". I was wrong; his comment was "how do you expect to grow if you are coddled all the way?" The point was made. In order to grow an individual needs to experience good and bad. In my effort to protect an individual I was actually hampering their growth. More than learning what I just explained, I also gained perspective and judgment. The conversation that ensued leads me to think on my past diving experiences and how those shaped my approach to diving. If I had no bad experiences then would I have learned as much?

You as a diver need to ask yourself, what would I do if XYZ happened to me? The answer would have to be formulated from past experience. If you never had that experience then the answer is "You don't know" You cannot be 100% certain how you will react until the situation is upon you. In order to cope with the countless situations that you could encounter while diving. You need to continue seeking knowledge. Take different classes, Navigation, Advanced Diver, Rescue Diver and Emergency O2. In my opinion the very best teacher is the experience. Get out and dive, who knows I might need your experience to save me from a bad situation.

ESDC 2010 Calendar Photo Contest Voting Ends on October 7th

By Glenn Bulat (ESDC Web Master)

Once again you can use the ESDC web site to cast your ballot for this year's photo contest. Online voting will end at the October club meeting on Wednesday, October 7th. Those who do not or cannot vote online can submit a paper ballot in person at the October meeting.

For complete details, gallery views and links to submit your ballot, please visit the ESDC web site (<http://www.emeraldseadiveclub.org>) and click on the left navigation menu item, "Photo Contest".



Dive and Event Calendar

Date	Event	Time	Location	Sponsor
10/07/09	Club Meeting	7:00 PM	Shawn O'Donnells	Tina Seawell seaphila@gmail.com
10/10/09	Fun Dive	10:00 AM	Seacrest Cove 3	Ed McNichol ed@mcnichol.com
10/10-10/11	Underwater Navigator Spec. Course	8:00 AM	Bruce Higgins UWT	Jerry Dollar gmdollar@gmail.com
10/18/09	PADI O ₂ Emergency Provider Spec.	8:00 AM	Smokey Point	Loogpla loogplacowden@att.net
10/20/09	Fun Dive	5:30	Bruce Higgins UWT	John Hynd 425-890-3952
10/23/09	Tank Gawd it be Friday	6:00 PM	Bruce Higgins Underwater Trails	Pam -pam_norton@comcast.net Andy-andy_norton@comcast.net
10/24-10/25	Hornby Island Trip		Hornby Island BC	Kim and Leanne Voltz 206-554-1902
10/25/09	Fun Dive	8:00 AM	Mukilteo T Dock	Loogpla loogplacowden@att.net
Oct TBA	Deep Specialty Class	all day	TBA	Jerry Dollar gmdollar@gmail.com
11/2,11/7,11/8	Underwater Navigator Spec. Course	TBA	TBA	Loogpla loogplacowden@att.net
12/5/09	ESDC Christmas Party	TBA	Snohomish	Jill jillk@bjbrewster.com

Divers on the Loose

If you would like to be a loose diver contact the editor at gmdollar@gmail.net.

Greg Becvar	360-659-2853	tridoxia@yahoo.com
Skip Stacy	425-775-2410	skipstacy@comcast.net
Sean Barker	425-351-6850	SeanhBarker@comcast.net

Membership Information

Member Benefits

Win \$50—You can be eligible to win \$50 up to four time 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 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 lick on “Join this Group” or contact Andy Norton at: webmaster2@emeraldseadiveclub.org

Membership Dues

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

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 Information

Who do I contact about:	
not receiving my newsletter	NewsletterEditor@emeraldseadiveclub.org
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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	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
help planning or hosting a dive	BigBuddyCoordinator@emeraldseadiveclub.org
getting listed as a Diver on the Loose	NewsletterEditor@emeraldseadiveclub.org

Please contact the editor 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
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Webmasters	Glenn Bulat Andy Norton	Webmaster1@emeraldseadiveclub.org Webmaster2@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Greeter	Jill Keeler	Greeter@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Big Buddy Coordinator	Wendy Drucker	BigBuddyCoordinator@emeraldseadiveclub.org

Club Notices

October Meeting

The Month Emerald Sea Dive Club Meeting will be Wednesday October 7th at Shawn O'Donnell's in Everett. The speaker this month will be our own Bob Bailey. The board meeting begins at 6:00 PM (all members are welcome). The general meeting begins at 7:00 PM.

Photo Contest

Don't forget to vote in the ESDC photo contest. You will be looking at each photo chosen for a whole month. See page 10 for details.

Nominations Open

Please enter the your name, the names of your friends or even the names of your enemies into nomination for the ESDC board positions See page 4 for details.

Directions to Meeting

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.

