



Dive of the Month

Amazing Neah Bay

By Bob Bailey

I left from home at 6 AM Saturday morning for the 4-hour drive to Neah Bay ... the sun was out and it was promising to be a gorgeous day. And so it proved to be until I was west of Port Angeles ... then I drove into the fog. And it was foggy still when I got to Neah Bay at around 10 and loaded my stuff onto the Mark V.

11 AM, we left the dock and headed out in the fog for Mushroom Rock. Because of the fog I couldn't really see much of the coast line, but the dive site was centered around a large, house-sized rock that was shaped after its name. There wasn't much swell, no wind, and little current ... just about perfect conditions.

The dive site was very reminiscent of some of the dives I had done in the Channel Islands ... life-covered boulders and lots of kelp. Of the four dives I did this week-end, I took the fewest pictures here ... most of

the attraction comes in the form of the wide-angle views of structure, kelp forest and anemones ... so enjoyed the scenery, finding a few places where I could swim through narrow channels between the rocks, weave my way through the kelp beds and enjoy the beautiful *Urticina piscavora* anemones.



The fog was still with us when I surfaced after a 64-minute dive. And so we headed back toward Waadah Island to do a ridge that Scott (our boat captain) identified as East Bank. This was a series of ridges that

ran out almost in a straight line. There was a LOT more fish here than on the previous dive ... I saw China, Tiger, Vermillion, Canary, Black, Copper and Quillback rockfish in large numbers as I settled into a slow drift along the side of one of the ridges. And although I didn't get below 75 feet on this dive, the whole thing was a reverse profile where I was getting progressively deeper as the dive continued. At one point I noticed the reddest Irish Lord I think I've ever seen.



For the longest time, this dive was all about me and the rockfish ... several China rockfish ... *Dive of the Month (cont.)*

Photo of the Month

Photographer – Tina Seawell
Dive Site – Camp Casey
Two future dive buddies



January Meeting
Wednesday September 2
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



How I got addicted to Scuba Diving.

Scuba diving was never a dream to me. Though I spent every childhood summer on or in the water and watched Sea Hunt occasionally, the idea of staying underwater for any length of time never appealed to me. Swimming in fresh water as a kid, I would open my eyes and try to see stuff. There were only a few minnows and some mussels, no weird sea monsters or bad guys. Why stay down there when all that happened was that your eyes would sting. I fantasized of sailing around world or living in a hut on a warm sandy beach, but never, ever of breathing air out of a tank and descending into the cold, dark depths.

After moving to Seattle, I traveled with a small group of friends. One friend told us, "You all have to learn to dive because we're going to Australia and dive the Great Barrier Reef". Huh?

Two of us signed up for an open water class. It was a traumatic class taught by a testosterone addled young man. He told stories that were frighteningly unsafe. When in the water with him, I was as nervous as a deer on opening day. Add the nervousness to Cove 2 visibility in a class of 10 students and you can imagine the results.

We had a falling out and he told me I would never be a diver. Another instructor in the Cove 2 parking lot heard the exchange and gave me his card. We did a session in the pool, no problems. I went thru my open water dives, no problem. My instincts were right. My friend, on the other hand, finished the young man's class. On the last dive, he abandoned her and another student. When they lost him, they did the lost buddy skill and surfaced. The instructor was walking up the beach.

Three of us went to Australia. We weren't sure if we wanted to spend an entire week on a live-aboard, so we booked two, three-day trips with a week off in between for

land based exploration. Diving in Australia was very different, the water was warm and you could see your dive buddy, it was easy. Diving three and four times a day, made dealing with the gear second nature. I became addicted. I remember doing my first 45 minute dive on that trip. What a revelation.

When I got home, I went to the dive shop and ordered a dry suit. I knew that I would never dive in the cold waters in a wet suit. I spent the next year trying to find dive buddies. Then I joined ESDC. Suddenly I had lots of buddies and bonus, they all liked to eat.

The more I dive, the more I want to dive. The more I dive, the easier it is to dive and the more fun it is. When I was a kid, I never imagined that I would be spending my spare time and more than my disposable income trying to maximize my time under the cold waters of Puget Sound. I haven't seen any bad guys (well maybe a few coral killers and fish poachers), but I've seen lots of weird sea monsters. And now I enjoy the dark waters, sometimes I forget to turn on my dive light.



Editor's Column

ESDC is an active dive club. Last month in addition to local dives at Bruce Higgins Underwater Trails and Seacrest there were dives at Octopus Hole, Porteau Cove and Camp Casey. This month we have dives scheduled at Redondo, Salt Water State Park, Bruce Higgins Underwater Trails, Seacrest and the Edmonds Fishing Pier.

These dives do not just happen. Somebody must plan them and then get the word out to the club. We should all thank those who have put these dives together. Loogpla Cowden, John Hynd, Pam and Andy Norton and Ed McNichol all planned dives last month. This month Loogpla, John, Ed



and Pam and Andy again have dives on the calendar along with Fran Murray who will be leading the Edmonds Fishing Pier Cleanup.

You will note that the same few names recur every month. It is great that the club has individuals who are willing to devote the time and energy, month after month, to planning and leading dives for the club. However, this is your club. You too can plan and lead a dive.

Do you have a favorite dive site that is never on the calendar? Lead a dive there. Are you tired of getting up early or are you getting home to late after the dives? Set a time you like for the dive you lead. Do you hate shore diving? Lead a dive with one of the charter operators in the area. You pick the time, you pick the place and you choose what type of dive it is.

If you are unsure of how to lead a dive contact Wendy Drucker or any of the other club officers. We all remember the what it is like to be new at this and will be happy to help out. We will probably even grab our gear and go along. I hope to see some new names in the club calendar.

Edmonds Fishing Pier Cleanup

By Fran Murray

September 26, which is a Saturday, we will gather on the lawn in front of the Edmonds U/W Sports store for a dive briefing at 8:00 am (there's another around noon for those who only want to do the afternoon dive). It is mandatory that you attend the briefing if you wish to dive because the dive has many hazards. I would suggest that need to be more than a novice diver. You can always help on the dock which can be just as much fun (well, almost).

For this 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.

Underwater 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 fisher people.

Here are a few things to think about:

- WAIVERS ARE REQUIRED - call or see me at the 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 air

This is an inherently dangerous dive so we will do everything we can to make it safer. 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 can be contacted at 206-542-1866.

20 Years Ago

As many of you may have noted The Emerald Sea Dive Club was founded 25 years 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.

Planned dives were Salt Creek, Possession Fingers and the Edmonds Fishing Pier. In the planning stages were trips to the Queen Charlotte Strait, Roatan and Stubbs Island.

There were reviews of a Sea Wolf charter (lots of spearing and collecting) and of The Abyss. Yes, The Abyss is 20 years old.

Nitrox Diving

by Jerry Dollar

What is Nitrox

Nitrox also known as enriched air, enriched air nitrox or EANx is generally accepted to be any gas mix to which additional oxygen has been added. Air contains 21% oxygen. The most common nitrox mixtures are Nitrox 32 and Nitrox 36 which contain 32% and 36% oxygen. Historically these mixes were the mixes chosen by NOAA for their diving program.

A Little History

In 1989 Dick Rutkowski, a former NOAA diving safety officer, started teaching nitrox use to the recreational diving community. Prior to this time the use of gases other than air was restricted to military, commercial and scientific diving. When recreational divers first began using nitrox the mainline training agencies were generally opposed and agencies such as Rutkowski's IANTD were formed for the purpose of teaching about the new gas. Indeed the old *Skin Diver* magazine was adamantly opposed to the use of anything other than air as a breathing gas for divers. In the early 90's the nitrox was actually banned in the Cayman Islands However, as the dive community gained familiarity with the gas and as people began actually looking at the science and the data the hysteria abated. In 1996 PADI began teaching nitrox and with the last of the mainline training agencies onboard the assimilation of nitrox into the dive community was complete.

Why dive nitrox?

Three little words, more bottom time. By adding oxygen to the mix nitrogen content is reduced. Therefore, when breathing an enriched air mixture the divers effective depth is reduced as can be seen from the equivalent air depth table. Therefore a dive to 90 feet on 36% nitrox caused the same nitrogen uptake into the tissues as a dive to air to only 67 feet. A diver using the PADI dive tables on air would have a 25 minute maximum bottom time at this depth while a diver on diving nitrox with 36% oxygen would have a 40 minute maximum bottom time. The real advantage becomes apparent when using nitrox for repetitive dives at moderate depths as can be seen in the repetitive dive table. Using the PADI wheel and the equivalent air depth demonstrates the increase in bottom time obtained when diving nitrox. Dive times were calculated to no decompression limits and also for dives 5 minutes less than the no decompression limit. Surface intervals were two hours between the 100 and 70 foot dives and 90 minutes between the 70 and 60 foot dives. The table is for

Actual Depth	Pressure (ata)	EAD 32%	EAD 36%	EAD 40%
10	1.30	4.0	1.8	-0.3
15	1.45	8.3	5.9	3.5
20	1.61	12.6	9.9	7.3
25	1.76	16.9	14.0	11.1
30	1.91	21.2	18.0	14.8
35	2.06	25.5	22.1	18.6
40	2.21	29.8	26.1	22.4
45	2.36	34.1	30.2	26.2
50	2.52	38.4	34.2	30.0
55	2.67	42.7	38.3	33.8
60	2.82	47.1	42.3	37.6
65	2.97	51.4	46.4	41.4
70	3.12	55.7	50.4	45.2
75	3.27	60.0	54.5	49.0
80	3.42	64.3	58.5	52.8
85	3.58	68.6	62.6	56.6
90	3.73	72.9	66.6	60.4
95	3.88	77.2	70.7	64.2
100	4.03	81.5	74.7	68.0
105	4.18	85.8	78.8	71.8
110	4.33	90.1	82.8	75.6
115	4.48	94.4	86.9	79.4
120	4.64	98.7	90.9	83.2
125	4.79	103.0	95.0	87.0
130	4.94	107.3	99.1	90.8
EAD is equivalent air depth			PO ₂ >1.4 ata	

Depth		Air	EANx 32	EANx 36	EANx 40
		Time	Time	Time	Time
100	No Decompression Time	20	27	35	NA
	Actual Bottom Time	15	22	30	NA
70	No Decompression Time	31	44	67	100
	Actual Bottom Time	30	39	62	95
60	No Decompression Time	39	59	75	117
	Actual Bottom Time	35	56	70	112
	No Decompression Time - Total	90	130	177	217
	Actual Bottom Time - Total	80	117	162	207
				* PO ₂ =1.45	

illustration only and any diver planning dives needs to do their own dive plan.

Hazards of nitrox

If there were no hazards associated with nitrox we would all just fill our tank with nitrox and go diving dramatically reducing our chances of decompression illness. In fact, we would just breath pure oxygen while diving. Then we would not have to worry about nitrogen loading in our tissues at all and we could dispense with those complicated dive tables and expensive computers. Unfortunately as we all learned on our open water class there is a down side. At high oxygen partial pressures we are subject to central nervous system oxygen toxicity. CNS toxicity, in its most severe manifestation, can cause loss of consciousness and seizures, a fatal combination underwater. Therefore diving with nitrox is a balancing act between minimizing nitrogen exposure and keeping oxygen toxicity at bay. This is done by controlling both the partial pressure of the oxygen and the exposure time. These simple calculations can allow us to avoid the hazards of nitrox while enjoying the benefits.

Nitrox training

All of the major dive training organizations now offer nitrox training. Most if not all of the agencies no longer require dives on nitrox for certification and the classes may be completed in one or two sessions if the student completes the home study prior to the class. The nitrox student will learn dive planning using nitrox mixes up to 40% oxygen, equipment considerations, calculations and limits of oxygen exposure and recognition of oxygen toxicity. After training the student will be able to obtain nitrox fills.

Equipment considerations

Most regulator manufacturers now state that their regulators can be used for nitrox up to 40%. Tanks generally need to be specially serviced for nitrox use this consists of cleaning them so that they have no residual oil residue, replacing O rings in the valve with oxygen compatible O rings and using only oxygen compatible lubricants. Once a tank is put into nitrox service it must be filled only with nitrox or with air which has been filtered to nitrox standards. If the diver decides to fill air at a fill stations where the air does not meet nitrox standards then the tank may no longer be filled with nitrox until such time as the tank is again serviced for nitrox use. Tanks in nitrox service generally have a nitrox tank band as seen here.



Nitrox enabled dive computers are now readily available and, while no substitute for planning by the diver, can maximize the benefits of nitrox while helping the diver to monitor oxygen as well as nitrogen exposure.

Finally, most other dive equipment is generally considered safe to use without special care or modification.

Big Buddy Program

Wendy would like to invite our new members to participate in the Emerald Sea Dive Club's big buddy program. You and your big buddy will make three dives together. Your big buddy will be an experienced Puget Sound diver. Most of our big buddies are rescue certified. During these dives you will become more familiar with Puget Sound diving. If you are a new diver you will be able to practice your dive skills in a non-instructional setting. Best of all, you will have a new dive buddy.





(dive of the month cont.)...fish seemed to want to drift alongside me for quite a long time ... as long as I wasn't trying to take pictures of them. When I'd point the camera their way, they'd swim off ... only to come back as soon as I put the camera down. I didn't know fish could be so camera shy. It was toward the end of this dive that I stumbled onto one of the largest octopus I have ever seen ... each one of its tentacles was longer than I am, even with my fins on. I spent my last 10 minutes of bottom time taking pictures of him ... then when my strobe batteries finally gave out, I shot my SMB and headed up ... my best dive at 73 minutes and probably 100 pictures.

The next morning we started out earlier ... 8 AM departure for Slant Rock. The fog was thick, and Scott took the slow (and safe) route getting us there ... there were no waves nor wind, but the swells were pretty large. Eventually the rock appeared out of the fog, and we dropped into the water. Vis at the beginning of this dive was the best of the week-end ... easily more than 50 feet ... and the topography of giant boulders, ledges, and underhangs completely covered in life made for a fantastic dive. The rocks were covered with these snails I had never seen before ... literal colonies of them on almost every rocky surface.



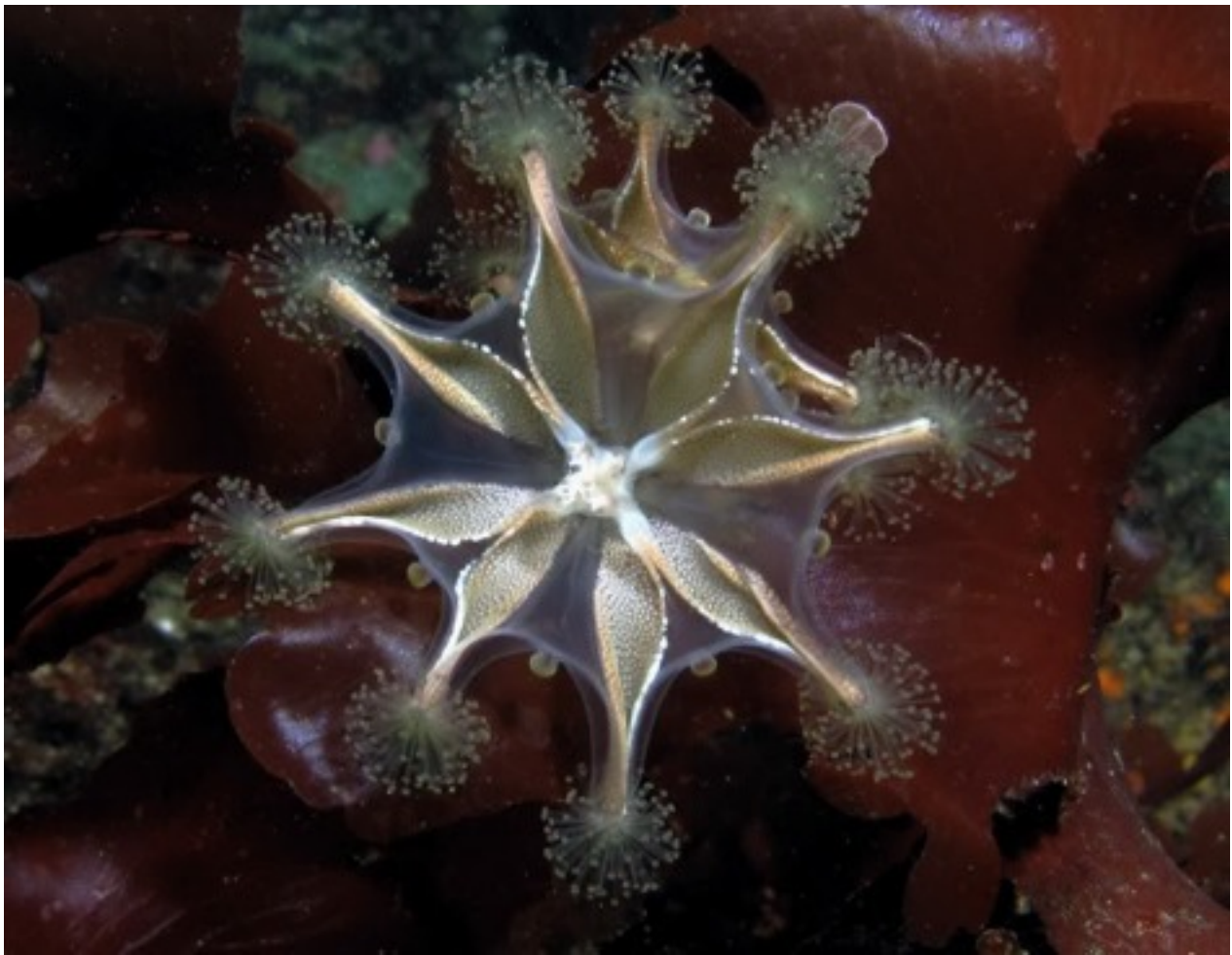
But the best part of the dive for me was what was in between those rocks and ledges. The sandy bottom was covered in kelp ... and attached to all that kelp were thousands of stalked medusas ... a rather strange form of jellyfish.

I spent the better part of an hour taking pictures of the things ... or better to say, trying to ... the surge made it challenging, between tossing them around and tossing me around. Unfortunately, they were anchored and I was not, so I got tossed farther. Suffice it to say I took an awful lot of bad pictures ... but I kept try-



ing. Overall it was another fantastic dive ... 68 minutes and almost wore out my strobe batteries once again.

Once back on board, the fog finally started to lift ... and for the first time all week-end we got some bright, sunny weather. Scott headed us for Third Beach for our fourth and final dive. As we approached the dive site, someone called out that there was a whale in the water, and sure enough a short ways in front of us we saw first the spout, then the tail fluke as a massive gray whale dived down beneath the surface. A moment later, another ... and another ... were spotted. Oh cool ... we're going diving with the whales! Once again I was first in, and hoping against hope for the experience of a lifetime. But it was not to be. Third Beach is a series of shallow reefs that run roughly parallel to shore ... coming up quite shallow, to about 20 feet or so, with depths of about 50 feet between the ridges. And in those deeper, hollow spots between the reefs were the densest krill clouds I think I've ever seen ... the water was dark with them. That's what the whales were after. I



spent my dive up on one of the ridges ... doing a gentle drift along the ridge just letting the current carry me where it will. I found my only Puget Sound King Crab of the trip on this dive.



Once again, it was a dive where I didn't take a whole lot of pictures, preferring to just kick back and enjoy the wider views and scenery of the reefs. After a 68-minute dive, I shot my SMB and ascended. The boat was well down-current picking up another diver, and looking off to the west I spotted a whale spout ... then another one closer to me. That second whale was actually swimming in my direction! I was hoping ... anticipating ... and even a bit intimidated by the thought that it might actually swim to me. But when it got within 100 feet or so it dived down ... massive tail fluke going skyward briefly and then slipping silently beneath the water. It was just a lovely way to end the dive ... and the trip.

Scott told me later that there were about a half-dozen of them swimming all around us while we were diving ... but that they can hear (and most likely see) us and keep their distance from divers.

Overall it was a fantastic four dives ... and a great week-end on a great boat with a great bunch of people...
Bob (Grateful Diver)

My First Dive with Emerald Sea

by Tim Harvey

I attended my second meeting in August and joined my new dive club. Sitting behind me at the meeting was a guy I had met on a previous dive. He was a former student of my instructor and we got along quite well. Will also signed up that same night. We went through the sign up sheets for upcoming dives and found one to Octopus Hole that following Sunday. I had heard of this site and seen a few pictures. It looked like a great opportunity for our first club dive.

Saturday night came quickly. I tried to go to sleep but was very excited and could not fall asleep. 5:30 a.m. came fast. I awoke and rushed out of the house to meet up with Will. I found him at the arranged park & ride. We loaded his gear and hauled ass down 405 to Southcenter to meet up with the rest of the gang. We found the place okay and soon met up the John and Loogpla. From there we made the drive south to Hoodspout and stopped at the dive shop. Oh yeah, they had a restroom - none too soon.

It was cool that morning but the sun was promising. We soon headed on up the road to find parking. They were not kidding when they said show up early or else. Once parked we geared up and got ready for some fun. Loogpla gave a great description of the site and into the water we went.

Will and I tagged along with everybody for the first dive and tried to stay out of the camera's way. Damn bubbles stirring up all that mud. The wall was awesome and the Octopus Hole was not hard to find. There was a large debris field right in front. We peered in and saw one very, very large octo. He was not impressed with us as he no doubt is stared at in his sleep quite often.

From there we clambered up and down that wall like school kids. With air running low it was time to go back to the car for some R & R. To my surprise, Loogpla began pulling out snacks, snacks and more snacks. I had heard it mentioned that you guy's like to eat - but man, she had snacks and more snacks. How cool.

After snacks and some down time we geared up again. This time Will and I set out on our own. This was our first time without a guide but we both felt comfortable with the site. We had a great time going up and down that wall. With air going away it was time to go. We found the lion I had seen in pictures. This was cool to see for myself. I also found a bear half buried in the silt. This was not right so I unburied him and stood him back upright in his proper place.

After talking for a while, we loaded up and headed off for lunch. More food - I'm liking this. We had a great overpriced lunch with marginal service but good conversation. Hope I didn't bore them all. I tend to talk a lot. With lunch over, everyone talked out, we hit the road. A Sunday afternoon drive from Olympia through Federal Way. I don't recommend it.

In closing - a great day, good people, good food and a great dive. No worries other than tomorrow is Monday. Yuk. My thanks to all who attended and chose to spend the day having fun. I look forward to many more great days, dives and lunches.

Please Welcome Our New Members

by Jill Keeler

Here's the scoop on our new members and guests at the August meeting.

Lee who heard about us through scuba board and a posting by Ed McNichol. He first certified in 1992 in Atlanta and has done most of his diving in clear, crisp lakes.

Sarah and Jacob are newly certified divers, taught by Steve Hotchkiss. These two had little choice but to come to our meeting as I twisted Jacobs arm until he said he would attend our meeting - this was accomplished while sitting on the bulkhead at cove 3 waiting for Sarah to come up from dive number 4 as a certified diver! Both Jacob and Sarah have the 4 open water dives logged in their books and are looking for a dive buddy with a bit of experience to guide them along to independence.

Will Youngk is a newer diver who met up with Pam and Loogpla for a dive at Les Davies. Apparently he enjoyed his day with the girls and came to the meeting looking for more diving experiences.

Tim Harvey certified in March and is signed up to take advanced open water in the fall. He is looking for dive buddies to lead the way into the underwater world for Puget Sound!

Tom Bice has about 150 dives under his belt although he has not been in the water for close to 4 years. Tom is a certified advanced diver looking for dive buddies. He came to the meeting thinking he was the newest member and he was before the meeting started....now he is a seasoned member as Will and Tim became members this evening at the meeting and are now the "new" members.

The Great Crawdad Hunt of '09

by Jason Miller

On a recent sunny day, I got to experience a couple of new "firsts". Armed with my trusty instructor Mr. Jerry "The Bum" Dollar I set out to learn how to Kayak and Crawdad hunt. To say that Kayaking and Diving complement each other is like comparing oil and water as best of friends. Jerry and I unloaded the kayaks at Magnusson Park in Seattle. There sat the innocent plastic kayak looking ever so sweet. Little did I know that they are modern implement of torture, designed to cause pain and suffering to all parties involved. After a quick tutorial on how to rig a kayak we set off for the warm water of Lake Washington. We paddled for a spell to a nice little area not too far off shore. Gaining entry into the water is quite simply a controlled fall. That was the easy part of the instruction. The difficulty came during the reentry of the vessel. To the untrained eye this also resembled an uncontrolled fall with a few half gainers coupled with the ever so graceful belly flop. On my fifth attempt I actually took command of my ever so seaworthy kayak. The previously mention pain and suffering was actually imparted on the ever present Mr. Dollar. He was laughing so hard that his ribs and facial muscles were sore. Ha-Ha-Ha could be heard for miles around.

Now that I am the master of my ship we set paddle to the north to find the elusive Crawdads. We set anchor and dismounted with the grace of Olympic divers. The water was 72 degrees and perfectly calm. This is as close as we come to tropical conditions, minus the infinite visibility and coral. For those who have not had the pleasure to dive in Lake Washington the bottom is a giant mud plain dotted with countless beer bottles and the occasional pair of sunglasses.

After 20 minutes we found an old log that was teeming with Crawdads. This is the equivalent of an underwater Easter egg hunt with claws. We collected all that we could and headed back to the Kayaks.



With superb navigation skills we came up right under the kayaks. On my first attempt I loaded my butt back on to the boat and we headed back to the beach. It was one of the best dive experiences that I have had the pleasure of doing. I recommend that everybody give it a shot. You will not be disappointed.

ESDC 2010 Calendar Photo Contest Submission Deadline ** Extended ** to Tuesday, September 8th.

By Glenn Bulat (ESDC Web Master)



Don't forget to register and submit your entries for this year's photo contest. The deadline for submitting photos for this year's contest has been extended one week in order to those holiday divers to submit any last minutes photos. The new deadline is Tuesday, September 8th. Online voting will begin on Wednesday, September 9th and extend through 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 register or submit photos visit the ESDC web site (<http://www.emeraldseadiveclub.org>) and click on the left navigation menu item, "Photo Contest".

Remember, have fun and encourage your fellow photographers to participate!

The Emergency O2 Provider Class Full

The September 12th Emergency O₂ Provider class is full. However Erik Granroth will be hosting another class at his office in Smokey Pt (3131 Smokey Pt Dr, #7, Arlington, WA) on Sunday October 18th at 9 AM. Contact Erik or Loogpla to for additional information or to enroll.

Crawfish Etouffee

by Deborah Dollar

- 3 cups crawfish tail meat
- 1 stick butter
- 1 tbl. flour
- 3 sticks of celery (chopped)
- 1 lg. onion (chopped)
- 1 red bell pepper (chopped)
- 6 toes of garlic (finely chopped)
- 1 tbl. liquid crab boil
- 2 lg. cans whole tomatoes
- salt and pepper to taste

In a large pot melt the butter and saute vegetable until translucent over low heat.

Add flour while stirring

Add garlic

Mash whole tomatoes and add to pot

Add liquid crab boil

Add crawfish and stir

Let simmer for 20-30 minutes

Serve over rice



Sloooow doowwnn

by Steve Berthinier

Hey Everybody! Bet I can swim around the whole Edmonds Dry dock on one tank! Want to know why I don't? Ah, come on..... pleaseo.k..

Many of you know that I like to take pictures. I have found I enjoy taking macro shots and really close close-ups. I have found that this has changed my diving quite a bit. I first got a taste of this change before I had my own digital camera. I was diving with Buck. anybody remember Buck? Anyway, he got a new U/W camera and we were diving so he could try it out. I asked him what he wanted to take pictures of. He said he was shooting macro. I asked how small and he held up his fingers about 1 - 2 inches apart. So off we go and down we go and I am looking for small stuff for Buck to take pictures of when he tugs at me and points out a nice size Octopus that I had gone right past. We stopped and checked out the Octopus and then moved on. He stopped me again because I had swam right by another large critter and that's when I realized that I was seeing only small things. Now this dive was at Seacrest Cove 2 and I don't think we made it to even the Honey Bear before we turned our dive. I have been on a couple of dives since then and every so often I run across somebody that still thinks they have to swim really fast and see everything. (Now, every so often I run across a diver that feels they have to keep moving or they will float or sink. This is another problem, best dealt with in peak performance buoyancy and weight checks.) Then, I show them the herd of Nudibranch they swam over, or the Sculpin on eggs.....etc. Now yes I am sure you are going to say that is because of my experience. Well, you are partly right. I had an interesting thing happen on one dive when I was helping with an Openwater class. Now, when I am working with Openwater students, I generally try to find large easy to see things to show the students. Well, this student, on their 3rd dive of their life, started showing ME very small *Hermisenda crassicornis* (horned aeolid) nudibranch. See? I have found that going slow and looking for small are as much a mind set as a skill. Ever notice how Glen's great shots in his yard are complete flowers, whole bushes. Mine are single bugs, pistols and pollen. Mind set. He sees the big picture and I can't see past the end of my nose. NOoo that is not because I am blind as a Bat! Now, how many of you "Slow Pokes" have been on a dive and come up thinking it was great, because of all the small things you saw. You get back on the boat and people are griping because the site sucks. There were no Octopus, Giant Squid, Whale Sharks, Lingcod..... Too bad they didn't notice the "Stubby Squid" you saw or the White lined Nudibranch or the small sharp nose crab with a barnacle on top of its carapace. Or the really cool small crabs that come out of the coral. Or the small crabs that are climbing up the fan corals. Oh sorry, the fan was less than 10 feet tall so they didn't stop to look at it. Too bad they missed the almost completely black Painted/Convict Greenling, nestled on the bottom, on an egg mass with 4 different colored eggs.... orange, yellow/gold, red and grey. You want to know why it is almost black.....? This is the male, which darkens to almost black when they are ready to mate and they have their nest ready for the lady folks,HAH! Finally, some males get to wear slinky black when they are in the mood.

What do you do when you see really small things. Well, there is a nice tool that we use that I got a couple years back when somebody that works in the Edmonds U/W park gave a great talk. One of the things they showed us was a really cool magnifier they use underwater. I now have made one for Tina to use. What will happen is we see something very small, too small to tell what it is, so we use the magnifier.

TROPICS, anybody dive the tropics? Night dive? Ever notice the worms swimming around you UP in the water column. How about how the coral is now fuzzy? How about night dives around here? Notice the little critters swimming around ABOVE you? So, when you think the the dive is boring.....slowdown..... Think small and Look small and enjoy. Oh yeah, the slower you go the longer your dive may be. You usually use less air because you are not swimming so fast.

Here is something I found because it moved. Can you see it? I've cropped it pretty close.





How about now?



To give you some perspective. This is the top of my index finger.

Dive Club Picnic

by Linda Perry

It was one of those wonderful summer days we so rarely see in the NW. I arrived at the beach about quarter to ten...and there was no gathered group of divers to greet. There was one pickup and yes, there was a tank stem showing. I was slightly comforted. I sat listening to my audio book and no one came. Did I have the wrong day... the wrong week? I was about to call Skip when the first group of divers came from the ferry. Thank goodness!

There were a few who felt the call of nature and we tried the door of the lab. It was locked. Someone, to remain nameless, suggested another, also nameless, diver could access the premises without a key, as had been successfully done before. Just as the aforementioned diver raised the window and prepared to enter, a Pacific University truck arrived with a driver who wasn't amused by our trying to help ourselves. He did flourish the key, however, and we were grateful.

I was anxious to dive, but the order of the day was food. After all it was the dive club picnic. Jerry and Steve started the coals. There were lots of fruit, cookies, some bread and chips. We grazed. Then the meat was ready, with beans and chili. The spicy dogs were a hit. This year we were a little shy on deserts, but no one went away hungry.

At last we suited up. Steve gave the dive briefing. Tina was beach master, making sure everyone had a partner. Skip and I checked out the out-

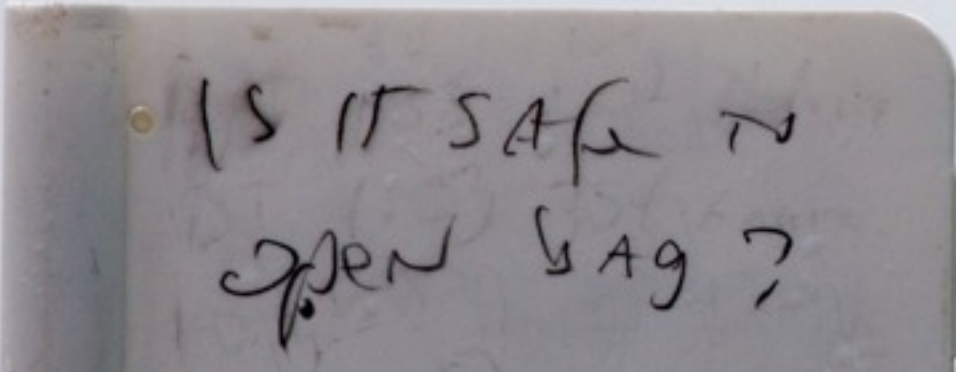
let box and we all searched for critters. And were we ever successful. We filled the tanks with all the usual sea denizens and Jerry and Jack brought in the piece de resistance...a lovely octopus of feminine persuasion. They also got a large heart crab and a swimming nudibranch. Skip found a large lemon peel (I thought it was a gumboot chiton and wondered why he was so elated...and wasting space in the specimen jar for a creature that could not be damaged).

Afterward, we badgered Keith about our particular babies and divers vied for the best place to photograph the catch.

The best was yet to come. We spent a couple of hours off-gassing, lying, or sitting in the sun just relaxing,, solving world problems and telling tall tales. Finally ferry riders started moving off and the day was over. If you missed the picnic this year be

sure to put it on the calendar for next year... and bring desert.

Good question when the bag contains one very agitated octopus



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

by Jill Keeler

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 caterers 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

Name: _____

Name of Guest(s): _____

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

Current contact phone number (please) _____

Instructor's Corner

The following classes are being offered by ESDC instructors:

Emergency First Response (1st aid and CPR)

This course teaches people how to provide emergency care for someone in need. The course is a prerequisite for the Oxygen Provider course. Loogpla Cowden will be teaching this course on September 6. Contact Loogpla at loogplacowden@att.net for additional information or to enroll in the course.

Oxygen Provider

Participant will review the signs and symptoms of major diving injuries including near drowning and decompression illnesses. They will learn to deploy, assemble, disassemble and use the DAN oxygen unit including the use of the demand inhalator valve/mask, constant flow, non-rebreather mask and Pocket Mask with supplemental oxygen inlet.

Loogpla Cowden will be teaching this course twice. The first class on September 12 is full but she will be teaching a second course on October 18. Contact Loogpla at loogplacowden@att.net for information and to enroll in this class.

PADI Deep Specialty

The purpose of the PADI Deep Diver course is to familiarize divers with the skills, knowledge, planning, organization, procedures, techniques, problems, hazards and enjoyment of diving between the depths of 60 feet to 130 feet. The course is intended to serve as a safe, supervised introduction to deeper diving within the limits of recreational scuba diving.

Jerry Dollar will be teaching this course on the weekend of September 12 and 13. The classroom session will be arranged. Contact Jerry at gmdollar@gmail.com for more information or to enroll in the class.

Nitrox Class

This non-diving course is designed to enable the diver to plan and make no decompression dives using nitrox blends containing 22 to 40 percent oxygen, remaining within accepted dive table and oxygen exposure limits. This will enable the diver to obtain and care for equipment used in Nitrox diving.

This course involves self study before the class. If the student completes the pre-class assignments the classroom portion can be completed in one evening.

Jerry Dollar will be teaching this course on Friday, September 18. Contact Jerry at gmdollar@gmail.com for more information or to enroll in the class.

Dive and Event Calendar

Date	Event	Time	Location	Sponsor
9/02/09	Club Meeting	7:00 PM	Shawn O'Donnells	Tina Seawell seaphila@gmail.com
9/18/09	Tank Gawd it be Friday	6:00 PM	Alki Cove 2	Pam -pam_norton@comcast.net Andy-andy_norton@comcast.net
9/19/09	Loogpla's Dive Marathon	7AM-8 PM	7 am Les Davis, 10 am Redondo, 2 pm Salt Water State Park, 5 pm Cove 2, 8 pm Edmonds)	Loogpla Cowden
9/20/09	Cove 3 Fun Dive	9:00 AM	Alki Seacrest	Ed McNichol
9/22/09	Tuesday after work fun dive	5:30 PM	Bruce Higgins Underwater Park	John Hynd
9/26/09	Fishing Pier Clean Up	8:00 AM	Edmonds Marina	Fran Murray
9/6/09	Emergency First Response	8:00 AM	Norton's Lynnwood	Loogpla Cowden will be the instructor
9/12/09	PADI O2 Emergency Provider Specialty	8:00 AM	Norton's Lynnwood	Loogpla Cowden will be the instructor
9/12 & 9/13	PADI Deep Speciality	tba	4 open water dives	Instructed by Jerry Dollar
9/18/09	Nitrox Class	6 to 10 PM	Edmonds	Sponsored by Steve and Francis Murphy Jerry Dollar Instructor
10/18/09	PADI O2 Emergency Provider Specialty	8:00 AM	Smokey Point	Loogpla Cowden will be the instructor

Divers on the Loose

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

Membership Information

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 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 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. Join at www.groups.yahoo.com/group/ESDClist click on "Join this Group" or contact Andy Norton at Webmaster2@emeraldseadiveclub.org

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
a guest speaker	VicePresident@emeraldseadiveclub.org
the one list	Webmaster2@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	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	ActivitiesCoordinator@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Newsletter Editor	Jerry Dollar	NewsletterEditor@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Webmasters	Glenn Bulat Andy Norton	Webmaster1@emeraldseadiveclub.org Webmaster2@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Greeter	Jill Keeler	Greeter@emeraldseadiveclub.org

Club Notices

August Meeting

The Month Emerald Sea Dive Club Meeting will be Wednesday August 5 at Shawn O'Donnell's in Everett. There is no speaker this month. The board meeting begins at 6:00 PM (all members are welcome). The general meeting begins at 7:00 PM.

Emergency O2 Classes Set

Loogpla will be teaching two DAN oxygen provider courses. The September class is full but there is space in the October class. Contact Loogpla at loogplacowden@att.net for additional information or to enroll.

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.

