

Emerald Sea Dive Club

July 2011



Spawning *Tresus nuttalli* (horseneck clam)
Photo by Steve Berthinier



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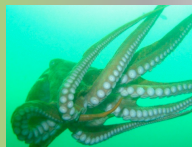
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President's Column

by Andy Norton

Can you believe that it's summer already? Sure can't tell by the weather, but I can tell you from personal experience that this was one June I was happy to see end. As most of you already know, fellow ESDC member Adria Ali and I both decided to step up to the next level and become PADI Instructors. Between May and June, many hours were spent studying in the classroom with our own PADI IDC Staff Instructor, Steve Hotchkiss, and Course Director Keith Chesnut. As Pam can attest, many more hours were spent at home preparing lesson plans for classroom, confined water and open water presentations, all the while neglecting household chores! I'm not sure I fully understood just what I was getting into when I started the process, but I can tell you it was one of the most rewarding things I've done.



When I look back on my diving career, I can honestly say that I had no idea I would one day become an instructor. It wasn't on my agenda. I just wanted to dive! Of course, I had no idea what that really meant in the beginning either. I don't think I ever even thought of continuing education! It really wasn't until Pam and I joined the club that I began to see the value of training on top of experience, and gained valuable experience thanks to the many dives we've made because of the club. Since joining, I've taken rescue, many specialties, became a divemaster and now, finally, an instructor. I'm almost certain this isn't the path I would have taken if not for the friends we've made and the encouragement I've received. I'd just like to extend a HUGE thank you to all of you who helped in that journey!!! I wish you all the best in your own diving careers and look forward to helping you get you wherever you want to go. For now, my energy has been used up for these past few months so I'm keeping this mercifully short. © Until next month, I look forward to seeing you all in the water or at the dinner table!

Notes from the Newsletter Editor

By Tina Seawell



Here is another edition of the newsletter to read with your morning coffee. Reminder that there will not be a speaker at Wednesday's meeting, instead there will be a social hour and/or night dive. For details of the night dive check the Future Tense section or Meetup. For members searching for scholarships, last month's speaker, Commander Iskra from Women Diver's Hall of Fame

mentioned that they have several scholarships available. Links and information is in the Past Tense section.

There are many great articles in this months newsletter. Jerry overdid himself, retirement must be nice. He wrote three articles, one on an infamous shore diving hill and a deformed tree, one on the time consuming chore of hatching octopus eggs, and another on accident analysis and proper weighting. And apparently Linda and Toai took off on a clandestine dive trip to warmer, sunnier climes. Did you know that there is a previously unknown fish hybrid living in the Bruce Higgins Underwater Trails? Beau encountered a cross between a Cabezon and a puffer fish. This hybrid gets larger the madder it gets! Johanna gives us some hints on avoiding flooding an underwater camera housing. Underwater photographers clean your lenses. Glen has written a great how to on the photo contest. Just as Bruce dives, Bruce writes, Bruce gives two fast and furious dive reports. Now that he has his “THING” no one will be able to keep up with him. You may want to be careful if you try Bruce’s “THING”. Wonder what Bruce’s “THING” is, check out the June Tune on meetup.

Speaking of the June Tune. If you didn’t go you missed a great opportunity to eat, try out new dive stuff, practice skills and harass your dive buddies by turning off their air. First things first, several members met for breakfast at [Brown Bag Cafe](#). At the pool there were eighteen ESDC divers and two Moss Bay divers. We had the pool all to ourselves, no swimmers thinking the evil divers were looking at their flotation devices. Steve B. brought his new Scubapro Seawing Nova fins. Divers that tried them out were impressed. Kris gave her new yellow and blue USIA dry suit a trial dunk. I was in my dry suit practicing air in the feet recoveries until I was dizzy. All the skills are more difficult in a dry suit, even share air buddy ascent. Glen and Sabine practiced a spontaneous out of air scenario. I think Glen is still sleeping on the couch. Frank worked on his pony bottle configuration. Linda and Toai worked on all their skills and I had a chance to do a share air ascent with Toai. We discovered that his octopus is extremely difficult to breath off of. Luckily his gear is due for its annual service next month. It’s amazing what you discover at June Tune. Debra was brushing up on her skills after several years out of the water and managed to drag Jerry into the pool. Adria practiced her teaching skills on anyone within fin reach. Jack T. was in the pool displaying demonstration quality skills. He helped me correct my lost primary recovery. The first try I couldn’t find my primary and stuck my octo in my mouth instead. Jack T. made me do it again. Steve B. and Andy stayed topside practicing beach dude. I won’t mention what Bruce was playing with in the water. It was good to see people in the water practicing skills that they haven’t practiced since OW or last June Tune. Then we headed over to [Juanita Beach Park](#) and had a wonderful potluck BBQ. Debra managed to get sunburnt even though we in a grove of beautiful oak trees. We finished the day with raffle. I won! It was a big beautiful [DAN](#) safety sauasge or as DAN calls it a signal tube.



Sunrise

Story and photos by Jerry Dollar

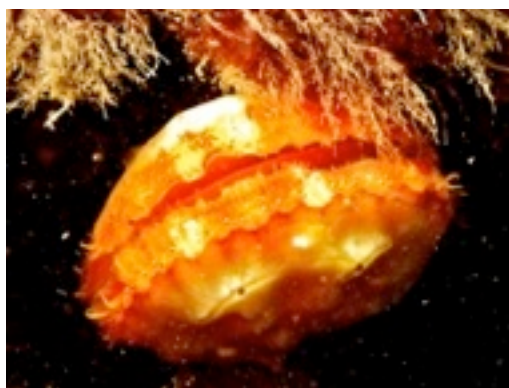
The hill! Everybody fears the hill. However, there is no diving Sunrise Beach without a boat unless you are willing to face the hill. The best way to tackle the hill is to forget about it until after the dive. At this point hunger will force the issue and sitting in a bar afterward does seem to dull the memory if not the pain. So back to the beginning.

On Sunday, June 12, four of us braved the wilds of I-5 and journeyed afar into southern lands. Well, to Tacoma anyway and then to Gig Harbor and finally to Sunrise Beach County park. Meeting in the upper parking lot (why do they call it that, it is the only parking lot) we plotted our dive. We paired Bruce and his flying horse up with rocket man (aka Skip) figuring they would churn the water to a froth and interfere only with each other. Meanwhile, the adults in the group (Scott Steinbright and your truthful scribe) teamed up for a more sedate and leisurely tour of the reef.



We planned to enter the water at 9:00 AM and were right on schedule. [Fischnaller's](#) directions for this site are to enter the water 30 minutes before slack before flood at the Narrows. Slack was predicted for 9:39 AM but we had a large tidal exchange that day and we wanted to be a little early since sometimes on these large exchange things are a little different.

As expected, we found a stiff current flowing south as we entered the water by the deformed tree that was our marker. Our prescribed heading of 115° took us directly to the center of the wall. While the current was flowing in the expected direction the velocity was substantial and the rocky outcropping on the reef produced a turbulent ride. In spite of, or maybe because of the turbulence Scott and I had a very enjoyable dive marred only by the flybys of Bruce and Pegasus.



We found no wolf-eels, which is a first for this site, and we suspect that they may have been hiding from the current. We were rewarded for our efforts though. Scott began frantically flashing his light in my eyes so I gave up photographing a very photogenic sculpin to see what wonder he had found. He seemed to be illuminating one of the many scallops and since I already had multiple photos of these little bivalves I was suitably unimpressed. However he insisted that he had found something interesting (have you ever noticed that some divers can shout with their light) and finally I saw it, a big octopus sitting right out in the open. After incinerating the poor creatures retinas we continued our tour of the reef.



Shortly after this, observing a couple of curious stripes through a narrow slit in the rock, we discovered everybody's favorite little fish, a [Rhamphocottidae](#). This little guy is the only member of this family of fishes and I wonder if he was hiding out from the females in the area. Rumor has it that the females of the species are similar to Tina in that they find a male they like and chase him into a rock crevice where she holds him until after mating. (Note from Tina, they stay willingly.) After he calmly posed for several pictures we replaced his rock and left him in his hiding place.

[Fischnaller](#) says that about 4 minutes after slack at the Narrows the current will slacken and then begin to flow toward the North. Checking my watch at 9:24 I was expecting another 10 minutes before slack. However, at 9:26 we were being blown north by a steadily increasing current. Arriving at the north end of the reef we decided to terminate our dive, even though we both had ample air remaining. Demonstrating again that caution is always warranted, particularly when diving in unusual or unfamiliar circumstances, we found that when we left the shelter of the reef we were subjected to a strong down current. The current lessened as we ascended the slope but both of us surfaced with less than a thousand pounds.

Happy with the results of the dive we waded back to our entry point to find Steve Murphy happily ensconced on the beach reading. Despite our pleas and threats he walked back up the hill empty handed leaving the real divers to attack the slope with all dive gear still in place. After a short, happy stroll (damn, those drinks really did work) we found ourselves at the top of the hill engaged in ESDC's most common debate. Where's lunch? Having read about the Tides Tavern in Gig Harbor we quickly regrouped and descended on the joint.



In spite of our generally disreputable appearance we were allowed a table. Talking to the manager of the tavern we confirmed that they will allow us to make a dive from their dock. Our next trip to Sunrise will, therefore, include a second dive as well as a meal at Tides Tavern. Watch for details coming soon.



Skip, unfortunately has a sadistic streak and proceeded to devour one of the more intelligent denizens of the deep.

Congratulations New Instructors



Photo by Steve Hotchkiss

Andy, Adria and Billy just after they successfully passed all requirements of the Open Water SCUBA Instructors examination on June 19th at Seacrest Cove One. We all know Adria and Andy, both are going to apply their new skills here at ESDC and Bubbles Below. Billy is a northwest native who has been living in the south pacific and plans to return to work and teach. Congratulations to all three of them!

Brush with Death

by Beau Hall

Photos by Tina Seawell

The first rays of sunlight reached out its tentacles and touched my pale, unacclimated skin after a winter that had moved well in to June. The parking lot was an empty, lonely place. After a Friday night of sightseers and beach combers, it lay deserted as the sleeping masses hadn't yet woken up to re-descend upon her. The air was cool and nipped at me as I tried to quickly switch from my street clothes to my undergarments. The water was smooth with hardly a ripple. A fine morning for an uneventful dive, tranquility at 30 feet below, or at least that was what we had been sold during our Open Water certification class.



The quiet was at last disturbed by the sound of a vehicle swinging around the rusty entrance gate and screeching to a halt next to my SUV. It was Jeremy, anxious and at the same time brimming with his new found love of diving. He threw his Jeep in to reverse and backed in next to me.

I continued to unload my gear and prepare for suit up when he walked up to exchange greetings. After a bit of chit chat and routine social offerings, we both set about getting in to our gear. Now the anticipation started to build as the planning phase was over and the plan was ready to be executed. Jeremy and I discussed our dive plan, entry, surface swim, time, current, and then we set out down the path toward the beach. We passed the jetty which reached out toward the sea like a warning sign trying to wave us off from the danger ahead.

First to the beach, I started my walk in to the water. My dry suit and undergarments kept the waters icy teeth from biting me on all sides which helped give me a false sense of security. Just another piece of equipment to blind my eyes from the dangers of the deep.

Jeremy followed me in, we installed the rubber webbed feet that help us move under the layered blankets of murky soup we call the Puget Sound and then, like drifting in a dream, we were moving toward the second pink buoy of the Edmonds Underwater Park. The simple life I had lived until this point was about to be shattered by natures mean spirited cocktail of survival, instinct, and panic! Everything went according to plan for the first half of the dive. The decent down to 30 feet, starfish and sea life playing the game of life with hardly a notice of Jeremy and I. Gliding along a rope trail like a feather on the wind, not a care in the world.

Using Jerry's advice I watched the pressure tick down until it reached 1400 PSI, the amount needed to return to shore underwater and minimize the surface swim back. I signaled to Jeremy, making a circular motion with my index finger, and we swung around like an ice skater doing a perfectly executed reverse.



Only 15 minutes of dive left and we'd be out, back in the safety of our atmosphere. I did a quick check back to confirm Jeremy's location and then turned back forward. That's when something caught my eye. It was a fish. Not a fish, a monster fish, 300 pounds or more, at least that's what it looked like to me. A Cabezon sitting on the bow of a sunken boat no more than 10 feet from me. It's big black eyes staring that cold dead stare straight in to my soul. My heart started to speed up at a noticeable rate, my breathing tried to go shallower but my training kicked in and I managed to maintain a steady flow.

This Cabezon was different from the others, I could hear it's thoughts, feel it's anger beaming directly toward me. Of course I was being ridiculous, it wasn't thinking that, YES IT IS, my mind screamed! I'm being paranoid I thought. Strange things flashed through my mind:

"Turn about Mr. Murdoch!"

"I tried to port round her but we hit!"

Quotes from Titanic? At a time like this! I felt like I was the heavy giant trying to turn away from that mighty iceberg with a rudder too small for its hulking mass. It couldn't turn fast enough. I could feel my course shifting away from this mighty animal but it was like running in slow motion and going nowhere. I could hear its anger growing louder in my mind.



Then it bolted from the safety of its perch, all 500 pounds of it moving with the ease of a Ferrari going from 0-60 in 3 seconds but with the bulk of a freight train behind it!

My heart stopped beating for that split second as the beast, born years before I even knew what diving was, waiting and feeding and lying in wait for me to arrive, barreled toward my mask to show me that I didn't belong here, in this world, I was the square peg in a round hole, I was fire to oil, and that this was where my journey would end. Not in the comfort of

my own bed breathing in the very atmosphere that had sustained me for years, but in this watery grave where I needed machinery and tools to supply me with the very things that are provided naturally above.

Without warning it turned away from me. No less than an inch away from my mask it turned on a dime, off to my right, and swam the length of my body. In that split second I let out a breath, my mind thought it was over, the tension in every fiber of my body eased for a moment and then, I made what could have

been the biggest mistake of my life; I turned my head to verify the threat was over. I looked over my shoulder at medusas head because I had thought it was safe to look at it after she was dead, but the power was still there, the lifeless eyes were waiting for just that move, it had baited me in to thinking the worst was over.

When I looked, its eyes were watching my actions. It was watching for this very movement. Its eyes were already locked with mine. It radiated its thoughts in to my head, it said, "I KNEW YOU WOULD BE STUPID ENOUGH TO LOOK AT ME." At that it swung out away from me about three feet, then swung around 180 degrees like a record spinning on a turntable, and it charged, its eyes challenging me all the way. It didn't break its stare from me. It looked at the terror in my soul and knew it had me. I flailed my arm as its massive 750 pounds crashed in to my body at 30 miles per hour. The shock wave traveled through me at the speed of light disconnecting my brain's circuit board for a moment. White noise filled my vision; panic welled up from the pit of my stomach.

When the lights came back on I was back in the classroom. Jerry was at the board talking about open water. I scanned the entire Open Water class in the blink of an eye, every second and every detail of Jerry's lectures. Not once was it mentioned that the Northwest had deadly monsters that attack at the drop of the hat. I missed that part of the training. Now Jerry's face was staring at me in the dark classroom, he was laughing at me, his white whiskers moving up and down with every belly filled laugh. He was pointing to Cabezon pictures on the wall. He leaned in close and through the laughs was saying, "Watch out for these guys, THEY'LL GET YOU!" Slowly the frayed ends of sanity started to return. I was still alive; I was looking ahead swimming at full speed. I was afraid to look back. Trauma had erased some of my memory. The water seemed calm again.

The next attack, the mouth full of teeth, gone. Nothing now! I was past the wreck where the ordeal had started and the great animal was not in front of me. If it was behind me I was unaware of it. I kept moving until I thought I was safe. Then I looked around. Jeremy was still with me. I stayed on track and kept moving. What seemed like after an eternity, I finally emerged from the water. Once out the tension eased, I felt like I had just awoken from a nightmare. I made sure Jeremy was out and I kept moving.

At my vehicle I started the slow task of peeling off layers. I had met death and survived. Calmed down, the first warm sun of the year on my face, and a towel around my shoulders, I turned to Jeremy. Before I could mutter a word Jeremy looked at me and said:

Dude! I think that fish hit you!





Photo by Jerry Dollar

Octopus Egg Development

by Jerry Dollar

I have been watching a brooding octopus since early March. As of today (June 15) she is still tending her eggs so, being curious about how long development should take, I found a book. *Reproduction and Development of Marine Invertebrates of the Northern Pacific Coast* by Megumi F. Strathmann, 1992, gives the following information.



Photo by Steve Berthiner

“The approximate development schedule at 12.8°C is as follows (Gabe 1975):

- 3 mo Eyes visible
- 3.5 mo Mantle length noticeably increased and yolk sac diminished.
- 4 mo The second of two rotations during development occurs.
- 5 mo Hatching.

Hatching of a clutch may be spread over a long period, 78 days in one report (Gabe 1975).”

“Yamashita (1974) estimates an integrated time-temperature to hatching of 2300-2600 degree-days, within a temperature range of 8.5°C to 21.3°C An outside estimate of 2000-2800 degree-days to hatching can be made from data given by Gabe (1975). Time to hatching might thus vary from 4.5 months at 15°C to 11.5 month at 8°C.”

The temperature in Puget sound ranges from 8 to 11 degrees C below about 30 feet. Assuming an average temperature of 9.5°C degrees the midrange prediction, using 2400 degree-days would be 253 days or over eight months. Playing with the parameters would change this slightly but a time to hatching of 7 to 9 months would not be unreasonable. Therefore, once you find a brooding octopus you will have a lot of time to watch her. Providing of course, that she is successful in hatching her brood.

Gabe, S.H. 1975. Reproduction in the giant octopus of the North Pacific, *Octopus dofleini martini*.
Veliger 18: 146-150

Yamashita, Y. 1974. Spawning and hatching of *Paroctopus dofleini dofleini* (Wulker).

Hokkaidoritsu Suisan Shikenjo Hokoku 31: 10-22 (English translation from Japanese, 1979, Can. Fish.
Mar. Serv. translation #4517, 20 pp.)

Check out these videos of octopus hatchings [Time lapse of Individual Egg Hatching](#) and [5000 babies in Cove 2](#)

Taking Care of 'ALL' of your dive Gear

by Johanna Raupe



Photograph by [Stephen Frink](#)

Several times a year I get a call from a diver asking me “What type of a Housing should I buy that won’t flood?” And of course I know this diver and know that he already has a camera and dives with it regularly. So of course I ask him, “I thought you already have a Housing for your camera!” The response always is, “Well it flooded and someone told me I should give you a call to find out what type of Housing I should buy that won’t flood.”

Think about this ... Every year we send our scuba gear in to have it serviced. Various parts are replaced. Other pieces are inspected for integrity and if a problem is found the issue is addressed and care is taken to put that gear back in a serviceable mode. But how many of you look out for your Camera’s dive gear? Did you realize that your

housing, regardless of what you paid for it, needs to be serviced or it will fail. And if you bought a non-serviceable housing, then you seriously need to look into replacing it on a periodic basis.

Just to give you an idea, my housing goes out for service once a year when I am diving. I send it to San Diego. The service guy disassembles and replaces all the moving parts, just like the local dive shop replaces all the moving parts on your regulator. Sometimes I even have to replace some of the internal electronics.

To make a long story short; when you think about servicing your life support system, also take a look at your camera’s life support system. It needs to be inspected for service or replacement just like your personal life support system. Otherwise it is just a matter of time before you have to replace that camera.

Diving with Dolphins in the Bahamas

by Linda Perry



Photograph by Linda Perry

On May 24th Toai Nolan and I arrived on Grand Bahama Island to dive with the dolphins. We waited half an hour in balmy weather for the last member of our dive group to arrive. Then Paddy, the taxi driver, drove us to our lodging at the Unexso Marina, in Lucaya. We stayed at Pelican Bay resort which offered two swimming pools, a hot tub, and two bars, mere steps away from our room and the dive boats.

Our first dive was a dolphin dive. It allowed us to fine tune our warm water weights and provided a delightful interaction with the dolphins. Our boat went up the canal entry to the dolphin enclosure where Becky, one of the dolphin trainers, introduced us to the subject of dolphins and

explained how our dives would unfold. She told us to feel free to rub the dolphins but warned us not to scratch them with our nails because scratching is a form of dolphin play, and they play rough. The trainers led the dolphins, two males named Kahola and Cacique, and followed us to our dive site in their small boat. We got some great photographs of the dolphins as they swam between the vessels. At the dive site we formed a large circle on the bottom so the dolphins could interact with each of us individually. First the dolphin came up to us to be petted and stroked. Then we removed our regulator and were graced with a kiss. Finally, we kicked off the bottom and extended a hand so the dolphin could place his rostrum in it and spin us like a top. Afterward we swam through the reef with the dolphins, taking photos and enjoying the great vizibility.

Soon we were off to another site for our shark encounter with ten to fifteen Caribbean reef sharks. A dive master wore a suit of chain mail and carried a bucket of fish to keep the sharks' interest. We knelt side by side on the bottom with our backs to an old dinghy. Toai found he was alone on the boat's tow line looking out at the rest of us and the circling sharks. Since we had been assured that the sharks truly aren't interested in humans except when they have food, he swam down and squeezed into the space reserved for him. However, Toai can't hold a kneeling position, so he sat on his bum with his toes sticking out in front of him (no fins), wondering if they resembled fish or eels. The sharks swam over us and around us. There was a lot of activity. I saw the dive master take a terrific jolt to the abdomen and then the shark sank his teeth into the chain mail and shook it, much like a child shaking his mother's shirt to get her attention. He held a shark by the nose, which seems to lull it, and we were able to stroke it. Back on the boat I asked the dive master if he really enjoyed the shark dives and he assured me he did, and that there was quite a waiting list for the opportunity to don the mail.

We enjoyed several days of reef diving, one included a small wreck. There were a few morays, sand eels, colorful reef fish, and lobster and some beautiful lion fish that were hunted on every dive, since they are an invasive species and decimate the local reef population. Reef sharks were usually present, circling, during our dives, hoping for a lion fish appetizer.

Due to a circular stairway at the entrance, Toai had to miss the cavern dive. I joined three of our group on a tour of Ben's Cavern. It wasn't very big but it was beautiful with large stalactites and stalagmites, clear cool water and bats hanging on the cave ceiling at the entrance. There was a clearly delineated halocline that made for interesting photos.

This is a great dive destination to enjoy a close encounter with dolphins in fifty feet of water. They are truly incredible animals. Read more about [Unexso](#) on line



July Calendar Contest Winner

All 2010 Photo Contest winners can be viewed at emeraldseadiveclub.org.



Photo by Kris Reinbold

Rick and I were at Rendezvous Resort on Vancouver Island, BC. I had been taking photos of the octo in his den with my point & shoot, Canon A-80, with brand new SeaLife Strobe. We decided to SWIM AWAY, as he had started coming out of his den. He decided to swim with us - only faster... He swam out in front of me, I stopped and aimed my camera at him, closed my eyes, (I'm sure I screamed too) and snapped the photo! Wha-la! Gotta love my new flash!!!!



ESDC 2012 Calendar Photo Contest

By Glenn Bulat (ESDC Web Master/Photo Contest Manager)

The time is approaching to start to think about what photos you want submit for the 2012 ESDC calendar photo contest. Even though the contest is made up of primarily underwater photos, it is not limited to just those types. If you haven't gotten into underwater photography and are land photographer, you can still submit photos. We only request that they are related to diving and of course follow the contest rules. Remember also that the calendar is comprised of 12 top-voted photos in which only one 1 photo per photographer can be included in the calendar (see rules in the event we do not have 12 photographers) and since we generally have about 12-15 photographers submitting photos, this gives you a great chance of having a photo appear in the calendar!

I am posting some guidelines for submitting photos which you can also find them posted on the ESDC web site at,

<http://www.emeraldseadiveclub.org/PhotoContest/ContestGalleries.aspx>,

or on the ESDC Meetup Pages under "2012 ESDC Calendar Photo Contest",

http://www.meetup.com/EmeraldSeaDiveClub/pages/2012_ESDC_Calendar_Photo_Contest.

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

Participation and Photo Submissions

To submit your photos and participate in the contest, please read the following rules:

- All entries must be from a current club member.
- **All participants must register** to participate in the contest. Use the link on the Photo Contest page to submit your registration form: [ESDC 2012 Photo Contest Registration](#)
- Each member is limited to 6 entries. These entries may be submitted at any time up to the submission closing date of Midnight, September 23rd, 2011.
- Entries must have been taken by the photo contest participant between October 1st, 2010 and September 23rd, 2011.
- Participants may change their submissions at any time up to the submission closing date as mentioned above.
- Please submit your photos using the following email link on the Photo Contest web page, [Email Photos](#)

Each submission will get a confirmation that your photo(s) have been received. Please allow up to 5 days for your photos to appear on the site.

Tips for the Best Photographs for the Contest

Use the following information to help you submit the best photos for the contest and calendar.

Submit Photos in “Landscape” Orientation

When submitting your photos for the photo calendar contest, they need to be in “landscape” orientation, not “portrait”.

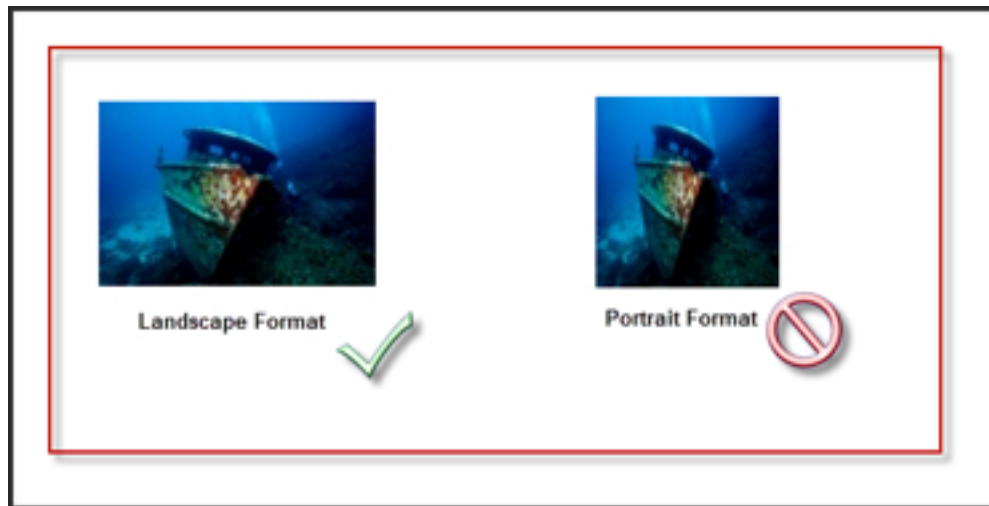


Illustration 1 – Orientation.

Photo Image Format

The best image to send for the contest is the one that you originally took with the camera. Cameras vary as to what format they store the pictures but most are in either JPG/JPEG (pronounced “Jay-Peg”) or RAW. In the latter case of an image stored as RAW, it will be necessary to convert the image into a format that we can use for the calendar. Most camera manufactures include a photo conversion program, but if not you can use such photo editing programs as “Adobe Photo Elements” or free programs such as Windows Live Photo Gallery or Google’s Picasa.

If you convert the photo, check to see if you can save the photo in “*.tiff” (TIFF) format. This preserves the maximum quality of the original photo as compared to when the program converts the photo into JPG format. This is because most programs use some type of “compression” algorithm when saving the photo to JPG format which reduces the image quality. In fact, saving the picture repeatedly even in JPG format will slowly degrade the image quality. If you cannot save the photo in TIFF format and can only use JPG, check the settings when saving the file to see if you can change the “Quality” factor. This is typically mentioned as “Large -> Small” file format size. If you have such an option, save the image in the largest file size possible. This reduces the amount of compression, unfortunately not entirely while preserving the most image quality

If you want to know more about saving photos and the best format, please read the following online article for more information, <http://www.scantips.com/basics9j.html>. (Thanks to Steve Hotchkiss for this link!)

Image Resolution

Like image format, the resolution or “size” of the image is also important when submitting photos that will be printed. Many email photo email programs will reduce the image to save file attachment space which can cause the image resolution to be reduced significantly and may cause the image to appear distorted or grainy as a result. If your email provider or program will not allow you to do this, then send them in 1600x1200 or 10" x 8" size format. This should help preserve most of the image quality and make them suitable for printing in the calendar. Here is some more information on resolution.

- Resolution refers to the number of pixels in an image. The more pixels your photo has the more clarity and detail it will retain as you increase its dimensions. Resolution is sometimes expressed by the width and height of the image as well as the total number of pixels it contains. For example, an image that is 1600 pixels wide and 1200 pixels high (1600 x 1200) contains 1,920,000 pixels-or almost two megapixels (two million pixels). Most digital cameras offer a range of resolution settings. It's a good idea to use a higher-quality setting if you plan printing larger-than-wallet-sized pictures. Here are some general guidelines: Photo for calendars 1600 x 1200 6MP-8MP 8" x 10" or larger
- Make sure to preserve the aspect ratio of your image if you are going to crop the image. Images that are not 1600x1200 or 10"x8" may get distorted when we go to resize them for printing in the calendar.

Note that “cropping” an image though keeping the size of the original image reduces the pixel-depth of the image. This too can make what appears to be a great picture up close unprintable because there are not enough pixels for the printer to adequately print a quality photo. It’s like taking a pair of scissors and cutting out a small piece of the page and then stretching it to keep it the same size.

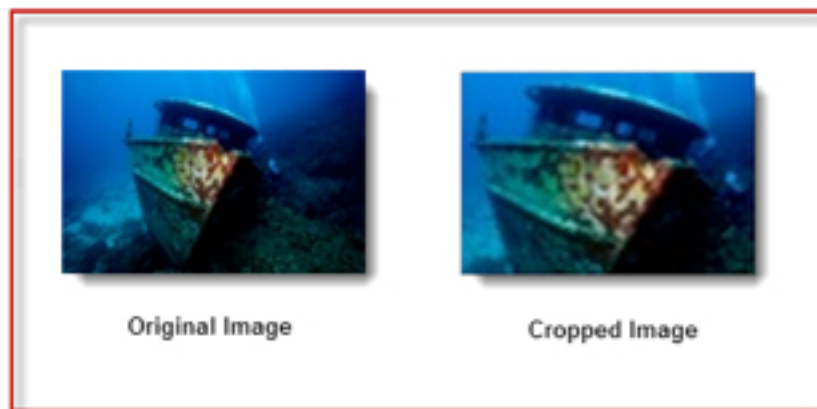


Illustration 2 – Cropping.

Modifying Images

Most photo editing programs will allow you to change many aspects of an image such as fixing the contrast or exposure, or the highlights. Some more sophisticated programs will even allow you to change the colors of selected areas.

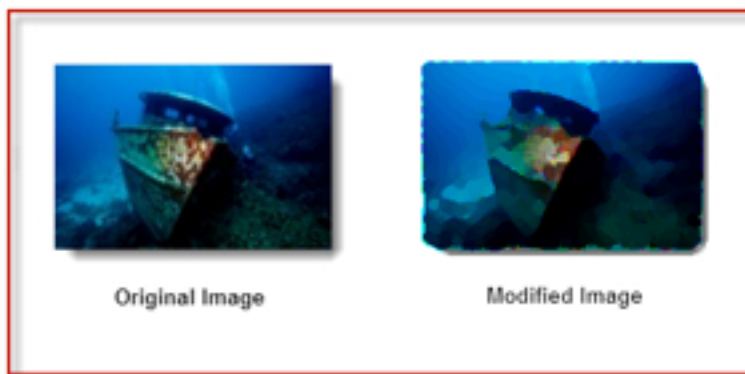


Illustration 3 – Modifying format/style.

As a UW photographer myself, I do use these programs to do just that, fix exposure, maybe sharpen the image if necessary, crop a bit, etc. However, please do not substitute colors. The photos are supposed to represent to the best of your camera's ability the original image that was taken. Also, we don't want people to think we have florescent blue "Stimpson" or "Stripped" sun stars in the Pacific Northwest!

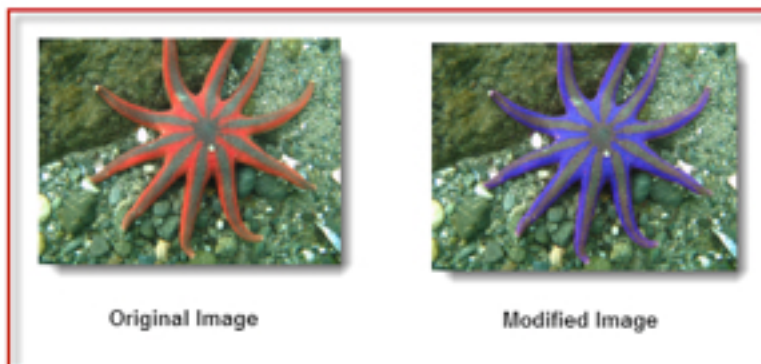


Illustration 4 – Modifying colors.

Summary

Think of images like photos, you want to:

1. Submit the image in as high as resolution as possible
2. Images should be in landscape format just like it would appear in the calendar
3. If you crop the image, you are really taking a piece out and then "magnifying it". This may result in an image that will not print well so limit how much cropping you do to your photo.
4. Only fix up the photo to the extent of correcting for exposure, back scatter or contrast and try to have the photo represent the actual image.

Thanks for reading this article!

Contact Information

For any questions regarding the participation, submitting photos or the contest itself, please email.



Emerald Sea Dive Club - Photo Contest Manager

email: photocontest@emeraldseadiveclub.org

References and/or Links

Photo Editing Sites/Software

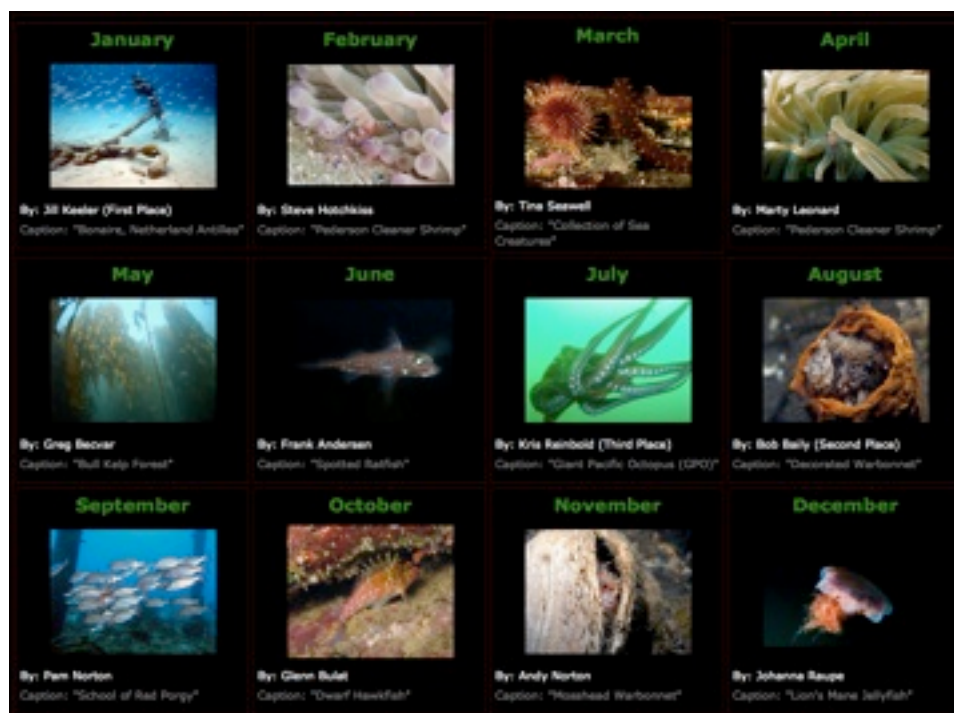
- Google's Photo Editing Software Picasa (Free): <http://picasa.google.com>
- Windows Live Photo Gallery (Free): <http://explore.live.com/windows-live-photo-gallery?os=other>
- Adobe's Photoshop Element 9: <http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshopel>
- Apple Aperture: <http://www.apple.com/aperture/>

ESDC Photo Contest Information

- ESDC Meetup Site: http://www.meetup.com/EmeraldSeaDiveClub/pages/2012_ESDC_Calendar_Photo_Contest
- ESDC Web Site: <http://www.emeraldseadiveclub.org/PhotoContest/ContestGalleries.aspx>

Referenced Articles

- "A few scanning tips" <http://www.scantips.com/basics9j.html>



Bruce Dives

by Bruce Bury

Mukilteo Lighthouse Park

I want to say I had a really good time with all the divers that came out to dive at the Mukilteo Lighthouse Park. There were four of us on the first dive, five on the second dive, and three for the third dive. In all, seven divers total showed up to do any of the three dives. Thanks for the support.

We saw a seal on the surface before the first dive. We visited the clay walls and found two huge GPOs hiding in their dens on the side of the walls. A crab trail leads to one of the dens. On the third dive, we even found a juvenile wolf-eel with all its beautiful color markings of orange and brown. It was in its den too, on the side of the clay wall. There were crabs, some at the clay walls, and some in the sand hiding in the slope above the clay walls. Below the clay walls were lots of sole in the debris field. Blackeye gobies, Spotted shrimp and small Copper Rockfish also had dens too in the clay walls. Piddock clams were plentiful on the walls too. I was amused at the crabs running from me in the eel grass I used my Dive Float to warn boaters for all three dives. See you later, Live Fast, Dive Hard!

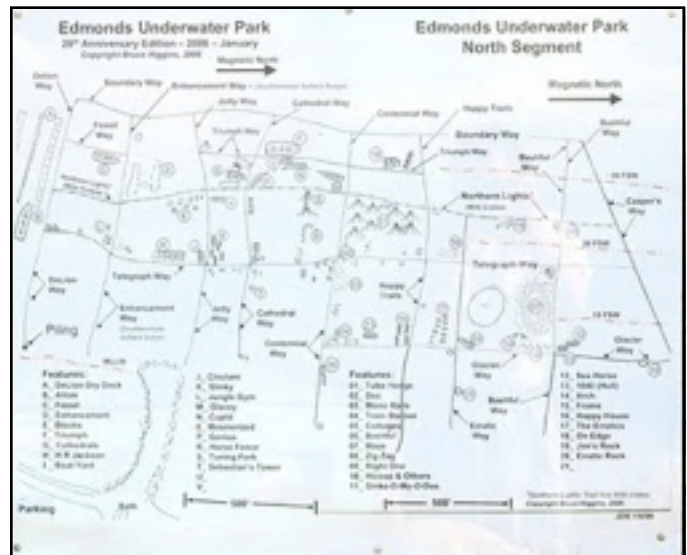
Birthday Dives at Edmonds Underwater Park

We did two dives at the Bruce Higgins Underwater Trails Park on my Birthday. I really enjoy everyone's love for diving. Toai said to me afterwards, I wore him out after the first dive. He is Truly a 'Ironman' to swim to all that I showed him underwater from the Boatyard, Tripod, Cathedrals, Triumph, Pontoon, and finally the South side of Tubehege. Then I brought us to the North side of the Jetty where we came ashore.

I want to say Thank you to all of you who showed up for diving and/or the Lunch afterwards. I was really Happy to see everyone! Toai Thank you for the Birthday Brandy and Larry Thank you for the Lunch and my Porter! I checked out the shops in Edmonds afterwards till I felt safe to Drive again!

The total of 9 that attended included my two dive buddies from my other club that came to celebrate with me on my special day too. I hope to do the same for all of you in the future too! That's what Great Dive Buddies do, they show up to enjoy the Diving and/or the Dining afterwards!

Thank you again, I had a great week off to enjoy this day.



Accident Analysis

by Jerry Dollar

"...but I had a hard time with buoyancy due to my empty tanks and air expansion in my suit and bc from the rapid ascent. I did not have enough weight to compensate for the empty tanks. I have never had an empty tank... always come up with at least 1000psi... when I was forced to the surface I knew that I only had minutes before DCS symptoms took over."

In the complete post that the above excerpt was taken from there are noted several other contributors leading to this point. In this article I will address only the issue of proper weighting and buoyancy control. It is not the intention of this article to question the skills of the diver, they are to be commended for writing such an honest and self-critical post describing the events that led up to the accident. Analysis of accidents can help the rest of us examine our practices and training with the objective of reducing our chances of having a similar mishap.

First, you will note that he was coming up too fast. We can infer from the fact that his tanks were empty, and that is the reason for his rapid ascent. However this demonstrates the desirability to always have a slow controlled ascent. When circumstances, such as an out of air emergency, demand a more rapid ascent, we are putting ourselves at risk of lung expansion injuries by simply losing control of our ascent rate and never recovering that control until we are on the surface.

As in most accidents, a chain of events, none of them necessarily serious in their own right, leads to an accident. While we might have to ascend more rapidly than we would like due to other circumstances, good buoyancy skills can help reduce the chance that the ascent will get completely out of control.



The second issue that the diver had is air expansion in their suit and BCD. Because of their rapid ascent they were unable to get their ascent rate under control. In some cases it is beneficial and even necessary to use both the suit and the BCD for buoyancy. However, as noted here, using both can increase the risk of an uncontrolled ascent. If you are diving a shell suit and a single tank you should be able to control buoyancy using only your drysuit. If you find the air bubble is too big you are probably overweighted.

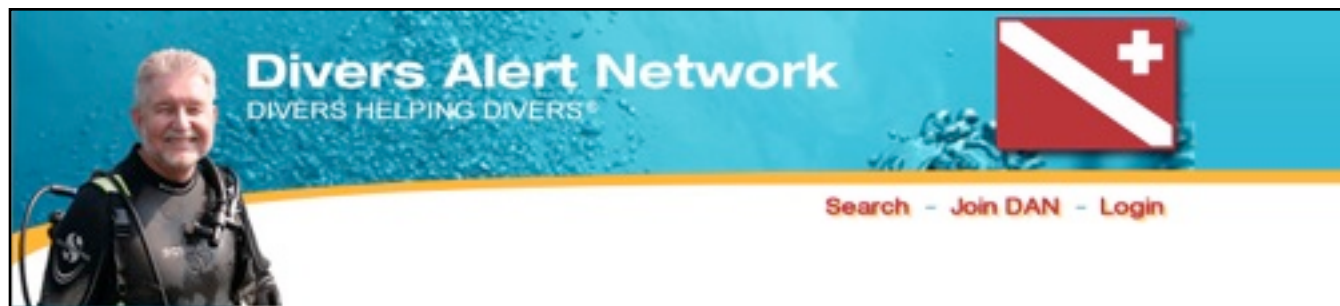
This brings us to the third and final issue raised by this excerpt, proper weighting. The diver was in an out of air situation and they were using their BCD as well as their drysuit for buoyancy control. This was

probably necessary at the start of the dive. However, if they had been weighted correctly they would not have been forced to the surface by buoyancy issues at the end of the dive. They state that they always come up with 1000 psi and had never drained their tank before. Always having a reserve is good practice but the purpose of a reserve is to provide air when things do not go as planned. Therefore, in deciding how to weight themselves a diver must consider how much that air on their back weighs.



We have all gotten beyond the “strap a lot of lead on and race me to the bottom” school of buoyancy. However fine tuning the amount of weight we carry requires a little thought. If you weight yourself properly at the beginning of a dive you will be too buoyant at the end of the dive. Air weighs approximately 0.08 pounds per cubic foot. The 80 cubic foot tank you dive has 6.4 pounds of air in it. That means if you lay on the bottom in 10 feet of water and remove weight until you are perfectly neutral you had better add another 7 pounds if you wear an 80 cubic foot cylinder. If, as some do, you wear a 130 cubic foot tank you better add an extra 11 pounds. Notice that you are weighting yourself so that you can maintain neutral buoyancy even if your tank is empty. Not only will this allow you to control your ascent rate but also to stop if necessary whether for a safety or decompression stop or to wait until that boat you hear buzzing around leaves.

On your next dive, check your weight at the end of the dive, not just at the beginning of the dive. Being able to achieve neutral buoyancy at the end as well as at the beginning of a dive, could prevent you from becoming an accident statistic.



Reach DAN by Phone:

- **Diving Emergencies (Remember: Call local EMS first, then DAN!)**
1-919-684-9111
[International Emergency Hotlines](#)
- **Non-Emergency Medical Questions**
1-800-446-2671 or 1-919-684-2948, Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5:00pm (ET)
- **All Other Inquiries**
1-800-446-2671 or 1-919-684-2948

Drowning Doesn't Look Like Drowning

Published by [Mario Vittone](#)

Note from Newsletter Editor. The Seattle times had a report on the Instinctive drowning response and link to this article published by Mario Vittone in June 16th, 2010. His blog is at [gcaptain.com](#). There was also discussion on the scuba forums. In a rescue class there is often a scenario with a “panicked diver” who is wide-eyed and splashing. Panicked is easy to notice, but the “Instinctive Drowning Response” is not easy to see nor is it intuitive.



The new captain jumped from the cockpit, fully dressed, and sprinted through the water. A former lifeguard, he kept his eyes on his victim as he headed straight for the owners who were swimming between their anchored sport fisher and the beach. “I think he thinks you’re drowning,” the husband said to his wife. They had been splashing each other and she had screamed but now they were just standing, neck-deep on the sand bar. “We’re fine, what is he doing?” she asked, a little annoyed. “We’re fine!” the husband yelled, waving him off, but his captain kept swimming hard. “Move!” he barked as he sprinted between the stunned owners. Directly behind them, not ten feet away, their nine-year-old daughter was drowning. Safely above the surface in the arms of the captain, she burst into tears, “Daddy!”

How did this captain know, from fifty feet away, what the father couldn’t recognize from just ten? Drowning is not the violent, splashing, call for help that most people expect. The captain was trained to recognize drowning by experts and years of experience. The father, on the other hand, had learned what drowning looks like by watching television. If you spend time on or near the water (hint: that’s all of us)

then you should make sure that you and your crew knows what to look for whenever people enter the water. Until she cried a tearful, “Daddy,” she hadn’t made a sound. As a former Coast Guard rescue swimmer, I wasn’t surprised at all by this story. Drowning is almost always a deceptively quiet event. The waving, splashing, and yelling that dramatic conditioning (television) prepares us to look for, is rarely seen in real life.

[The Instinctive Drowning Response](#) – so named by Francesco A. Pia, Ph.D., is what people do to avoid actual or perceived suffocation in the water. And it does not look like most people expect. There is very little splashing, no waving, and no yelling or calls for help of any kind. To get an idea of just how quiet and undramatic from the surface drowning can be, consider this: It is the number two cause of accidental death in children, age 15 and under (just behind vehicle accidents) – of the approximately *750 children* who will drown next year, about *375 of them* will do so within 25 yards of a parent or other adult. **In ten percent of those drownings, the adult will actually watch them do it, having no idea it is happening** ([source: CDC](#)). Drowning does not look like drowning – Dr. Pia, in an article in the Coast Guard’s On Scene Magazine, described the instinctive drowning response like this:

Instinctive Drowning Response

1. Except in rare circumstances, drowning people are physiologically unable to call out for help. The respiratory system was designed for breathing. Speech is the secondary or overlaid function. Breathing must be fulfilled, before speech occurs.
2. Drowning people’s mouths alternately sink below and reappear above the surface of the water. The mouths of drowning people are not above the surface of the water long enough for them to exhale, inhale, and call out for help. When the drowning people’s mouths are above the surface, they exhale and inhale quickly as their mouths start to sink below the surface of the water.
3. Drowning people cannot wave for help. Nature instinctively forces them to extend their arms laterally and press down on the water’s surface. Pressing down on the surface of the water, permits drowning people to leverage their bodies so they can lift their mouths out of the water to breathe.
4. Throughout the Instinctive Drowning Response, drowning people cannot voluntarily control their arm movements. Physiologically, drowning people who are struggling on the surface of the water cannot stop drowning and perform voluntary movements such as waving for help, moving toward a rescuer, or reaching out for a piece of rescue equipment.
5. From beginning to end of the Instinctive Drowning Response people’s bodies remain upright in the water, with no evidence of a supporting kick. Unless rescued by a trained lifeguard, these drowning people can only struggle on the surface of the water from 20 to 60 seconds before submersion occurs.

(Source: [On Scene Magazine: Fall 2006](#))

This doesn't mean that a person that is yelling for help and thrashing isn't in real trouble – they are experiencing aquatic distress. Not always present before the instinctive drowning response, aquatic distress doesn't last long – but unlike true drowning, these victims can still assist in their own rescue. They can grab lifelines, throw rings, etc.

Other signs of drowning when persons are in the water:

- Head low in the water, mouth at water level
- Head tilted back with mouth open
- Eyes glassy and empty, unable to focus
- Eyes closed
- Hair over forehead or eyes
- Not using legs – Vertical
- Hyperventilating or gasping
- Trying to swim in a particular direction but not making headway
- Trying to roll over on the back
- Ladder climb, rarely out of the water.

So if a crew member falls overboard and every looks O.K. – don't be too sure. Sometimes the most common indication that someone is drowning is that they don't look like they're drowning. They may just look like they are treading water and looking up at the deck. One way to be sure? Ask them: "Are you alright?" If they can answer at all – they probably are. If they return a blank stare – you may have less than 30 seconds to get to them. And parents: children playing in the water make noise. When they get quiet, you get to them and find out why.

Rescue Class in the Works

From: [Gerald Dollar](#)

Sent on: Monday, June 20, 2011 6:14 PM

Steve H., Adria, Andy and myself are putting together an ESDC rescue class for August. We will also offer a first aid and CPR and, if there is interest, an oxygen provider class.

If you are interested in earning your rescue certification please contact me. If you are a rescue diver or a divemaster who would like to participate let me know. Finally, if any of the other PADI instructors in the club are interested in participating contact me.

Our intent is to make this a rescue class you will long remember so be forewarned.

Jerry

Hornby Island

Hosted by Larry Warren

Dive the waters of beautiful Hornby Island with hosts Amanda and Rob Zielinski. Hornby Island Diving was started by Rob's father. The resort has a boat designed for diving, a fill station with nitrox and argon, and provides emergency repair service. This all-inclusive land-based operation was "built by divers for divers".

The visibility in September and August can be greater than 60 feet, so good that you can see clouds of krill. The currents are gentle and there are octopus, wolf eels, yellow eye rockfish, giant nudibranchs ([*Dendronotus*](#)), abalone, and sea lions. Many of Hornby Island Diving's dive sites are located within the marine component of [Helliwell Provincial Park](#). This area is closed to taking of marine life by divers!

We will be staying at the Hornby Island Diving Lodge. The lodge has a drying room, a large covered changing area, and a charging station. Dining is by a large open kitchen where you can interact with the chefs. The food is all made in house and is delicious and healthy. They happily accommodate special diets. The diver's fridge is kept full of tasty snacks.

Special guests for the end of the week will be Janna and Claude Nichols. Janna is the REEF coordinator for the Northwest. She is the critter id guru for the Salish sea. Hornby Island is one of her favorite dive destinations.

**Dates: Fri, Sept 30th - Fri, Oct 7th
or: Fri, Sept 30th - Mon, Oct 3rd
or: Tues, Oct 4th - Mon, Oct 3rd**
Location: Hornby Island, BC, Canada
Cost 7-day / 7-night: \$ 1420 Canadian
Cost 3-day / 3-night: \$ 655 Canadian
Non-divers are less than half-price
Host: Larry Warren



Past Tense

Last month was another interesting speaker, Commander Iskra spoke about her career as a navy salvage diver. In 2008 she was inducted into the [Women Divers Hall of Fame](#). If you didn't get a chance to purchase one Limited Edition WDHO 10th Anniversary Commemorative Book, you can order it off the website. The website also has a scholarship section listing with many grants and scholarships, <http://www.wdhof.org/scholarships/scholarships.shtml>.

The June raffle winner was Larry Warren. He won the "Secrets in the Sound" DVD. You can order your own copy from [Sealife Productions](#). Harry Truitt from [Lighthouse Diving](#) dropped by and raffled off two air fill cards. New member Larry Malato won the first card and Howard Lazzarini won the second card.

Future Tense

Date	Time	Event	Contact	Where
Tues, Jul 5th	6:30 pm	Seacrest with Bruce II	Bruce Bury	Cove 2
Wed, Jul 6th	7 pm	Emerald Sea Dive Club Monthly Meeting		O'Donnell's
Thu, Jul 21st Sun, Jul 24th		Salt Creek Camp & Dive Weekend	Pam & Andy Norton	Salt Creek Recreation Area, Port Angeles
Sun, Jul 24th	8 am	Fox Island West Wall	Bruce Bury	Fox Island Bridge
Sun, Aug 14th	7 am	Here Comes the Fun Boat Diving with Howie and the Aluminator	Jill Keeler	slip N-14 at Elliott Bay Marina
Sun, Aug 21st	10 am	ESDC Summer Picnic	Donna Blades	Camp Casey
Sun, Sep 4th	10 am	Boat dive on Aluminator	Bruce Bury	slip N-14 at Elliott Bay Marina
Sat, Sep 17th	7 am	Here Comes the Fun Boat Diving with Howie and the Aluminator	Jill Keeler	slip N-14 at Elliott Bay Marina
Sat, Sep 17th	8 am	Edmonds Fishing Pier Spring Cleanup	Fran Murray	Edmonds Fishing Pier
Fri, Sep 30th Fri, Oct 7th		Hornby Island Dive Trip	Larry Warren	Hornby Island Diving, BC

Monthly Meeting

at [Shawn O'Donnell's](#)

Guest Speakers

After meeting night dive and/or social hour.

This month we will not have a guest speaker. There will be an after meeting night dive. If you don't want to do the night dive then you are welcome to hang around O'Donnell's and swap dive stories. The after meeting dive is an annual tradition of ESDC. The vice-president usually hosts the dive. It's the only ESDC dive that I have ever participated in when we didn't eat afterwards. This year the dive is hosted by Ed McNichol, ESDC VP and will be at the Mukilteo T-Dock.

Meeting Information

Emerald Sea Dive Club meets the first Wednesday of every month, except holidays. If the first Wednesday is a holiday, we meet on the second Wednesday. The board meeting starts at 7pm and the general meeting starts at 6pm.

Date: Wed. July 6th

Time: 7:00 pm

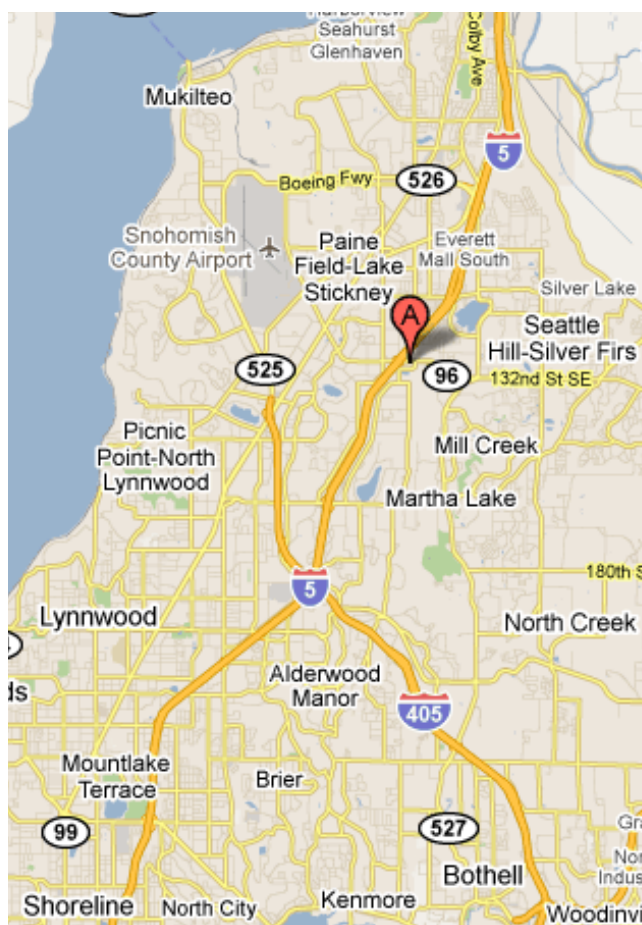
Location:

Shawn O'Donnell's

122 - 128th Street Southeast

Everett, WA

(425) 338-5700 ↑



2011 ESDC Board Members

President	Andy Norton	President@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Vice-President	Ed McNichol	VicePresident@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Secretary	Joelle Blais	Secretary@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Treasurer	Fran Murray	Treasurer@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Activities Coordinator	Steve Berthinier	ActivitiesCoordinator@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Newsletter Editor	Tina Seawell	NewsletterEditor@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Greeter	Kris Reinbold	Greeter@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Big Buddy Coordinator	Jason Miller	BigBuddyCoordinator@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Webmasters	Glenn Bulat Andy Norton	Webmaster1@emeraldseadiveclub.org Webmaster2@emeraldseadiveclub.org
Scuba Santa	Greg Becvar	ScubaSanta@emeraldseadiveclub.org

ESDC Contact Information

Snail mail	Emerald Sea Dive Club P.O. Box 73 Edmonds, WA 98020
External Web site and Photo Contest	http://www.emeraldseadiveclub.org/
Meetup (members only) and Events Calendar	http://www.meetup.com/EmeraldSeaDiveClub/