



The Buoy Tender

Marker Buoy Dive Club | Seattle, Washington
January, 2011

Photo by Johanna Raupe

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by [Jim McGauhey](#)

The Seattle Aquarium Octopus Count weekend taught us one thing, that one cannot predict the weather, especially in winter. From a week, to even a day before our dives on Saturday, the 15th, all was doom and gloom with an impending storm and winds.

In true Marker Buoy fashion, however, the decision was made to meet and see. And surprise! Great dives were had. Two great dives, a Lobster Shop Wall, and at Day Island, were enjoyed by many. Unfortunately I was obligated by family obligations (mother in law moved in) and my video housing was in for service.



For most of you it would be an easy decision, just dive without it. **But some don't understand me.** In the past nine years and over 400 dives I've only been on about four dives without it. **It's as essential to me as your 2nd stage is to you.** As for me, I have no 2nd stage, so But now it has returned.

Dive Planning Party

Hopefully everyone intends to be at the Dive Planning Party on Saturday, January 29th at Hiller's house. The January calendar filled nicely, but February, March, and April have mostly open dates. Whether you plan to host a dive, or just join us for a few hours of great stories, food, and company, make sure to be there! These are potluck events and BYOB. **You'll enjoy a great evening** – see you there.

Annual Banquet

And speaking of April, the banquet – that should be The Banquet – it is scheduled for April 23rd at the Yacht Club. Already the prizes are coming in. **Here's a chance to win a charter boat trip** for just a buck (raffle ticket), or win ??? Please block out the date now and plan to attend an evening of fine catered food, raffle, prizes, entertainment, and lots of laughs. Nathalie Curtis is in charge this year, and in celebration of this, our 50th birthday, **the theme is 60's**. Period attire is optional, but highly encouraged. Come see the decorations and join us in celebration of 50 years of Marker Buoy Dive Club.



Marker Buoy History

Yes, we started in 1961, as the Marker Boys, a club that sprang from the Marker Buoy Dive Shop. Our name was later changed to Marker Buoys as ladies joined. If all this is news to you, then visit our club website, and specifically the [History Tab](#) see the old photos. Many thanks to Doug Coutts, now in his second year as webmaster, for creating our visually exciting and informative site. Be sure to bookmark the **Home page as we'll be adding more for members in the future.**

Member Survey

By now you should have received a notice about the club survey. Your board intends to use this to align

the club with member's expectations and desires. We have a great and very active organization, so **don't expect a lot of big changes.** But we hope to tweak things just a bit as we strive to get better. Please only do the survey once, but be sure to participate.

We must appreciate Dan Clements as newsletter editor for his efforts to make this newsletter more interactive and visually interesting. As a published photographer and experienced editor, Dan brings his talents to our humble monthly digest. **I'm sure all of you have noticed the many links to make it easier** to find contact information and web sites, as well as the improved quality of the photographs. PLEASE – renew your membership by paying the dues and signing the annual waiver. Why not do it now?

See you underwater,

Jim McGahey

HUDSON POINT/COMET WRECK DIVES

JIM MCGAUHEY

We had a great Marker Buoy day of diving on Saturday, Jan 22. Hosts Darren and Nathalie Curtis set up a couple very nice dives. Well, the first one most of us vowed to do again; no so the second dive.

First we dove at Hudson Point in Port Townsend. Easy parking, the best restrooms of all dive sites, easy walk into the water, easy short swim out. At first, when we perused the dive site from the pier, the viz looked like it was going to be outstanding. But, alas, it was not to be. Once underwater it was a very murky 8 feet or so. **Still there were lots of critters, many nudi's, and an interesting dive.** Then we drove to Port Hadlock for lunch, thanks to Rob Henderson who brought his full size gas BBQ and fixed lots for all 11 of us.

The wreck of The Comet was not so interesting. It was a surprisingly large structure, about 100 feet long, and in very shallow water. The far end (presume the bow?) in 38 feet, and the other end in only 14 feet. The superstructure had caved in, or burned in, but there was still lots of machinery pieces about. The wood planking was very rotted. A few fish, but not much quantity or variety of marine life. **An OK dive to say "I did it" but that's about all.**

I did make a video – see it on youTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imktffqaMyo>.

JANUARY PROGRAM

GENE CORONETZ

Harrison Goodall, Board Member of the Whidbey Island Historical Society, will describe the volunteer preservation effort being organized to move and restore the WW1 era fishing shack (the last of its kind on the island) located at the north end of Possession Point State Park. Many of us have enjoyed diving "the Fingers" from the Park Beach, and, in recent years, Marker Buoys have been the most visible and frequent user group at the Park. Our assistance in this endeavor could insure that the park remains open during a time when our state is closing many parks due to insufficient budgets.

MBDC member Rob Rau will provide a brief presentation about the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Dive Team – who they are and what they do. The EPA Region 10 Dive Team in Seattle provides scientific, polluted water diving services through inspections, sampling, surveys, contract oversight, and long-term monitoring. The Dive Team supports criminal investigations and Superfund and Clean Water Act projects, and assists other EPA offices, agencies, and governments.

GEAR GEEK: DEMA 2010 CONTINUED

Last month Gene reviewed several products he saw at DEMA ([Diving Equipment Manufacturer's Association](#)). This month we will review two new products which were also rolled-out. The first may be somewhat useful. You judge the second.



From the manufacturer: [Predator Power Fins](#) use the same airplane wing tail fin designs used by every ocean-going predator to help people swim with increased power and decreased stress. The aquatic wing designs work because they use the same wing shapes that killer whales, great white sharks, and marlins use to hunt prey.

Prey use fin designs that are various forms of paddles, similar to many competitors. So the question is whether you want to swim with the skill, power, and efficiency of a predator, or more like prey?

Tired of those long surface swims? Getting fed up with masks that leak and heavy tanks? Check out **Aqua Star's sea scooter**, available in one and two person models. Carefully constructed in Russia, so how can you go wrong?



No mention of price, but hey: they can't be more than a couple of rebreathers!

DIVE PHOTOS & VIDEOS

Thanks to everyone who submitted photos for the January cover! We will keep those not selected on file for future issues.

This month's cover shot was taken by Johanna Raupe on a club dive at Sund Rock in Hood Canal, hosted Rob Henderson.

In a discussion prior to the dive, Rob mentioned that he had never seen a Sea Pen. Johanna told Rob that at this particular site the subject matter can easily be found at 80 feet.

How to find the field: If standing directly midway in front of the parking area, head straight out to a depth of 80. The visibility should open way up, so you will be able to locate the field of pens. Shine your light around until you spot them.

This macro shot was taken with a Cannon 1DS Mark II, with a 100 mm lens. Settings were 1/100th at f22. Johanna's ISO was 1,000, and white balance was custom at 6,750.

On the travel front, three members headed back east for two different trips. Jim Boon and Jack Connick were off to West Palm Beach and Grand Cayman for a photo work shop with Alex Mustard, and Dan headed some 20 miles north of Grand Bahama Island on a tiger, lemon, and reef shark photo shoot.

Despite some interesting weather in both locations, there were some fantastic photo opportunities, new friends, and an opportunity to learn more about underwater photography from some world class professionals.

Below are two shots from these trips. The photo on the was shot at Stingray City on Grand Cayman Island in the morning by Jack. Alex Mustard's workshop concentrated on wide angle photography.

To the right is a lemon shark photo taken on a night dive by Dan. This was taken with a Nikon D300s, 12-24mm lens shot through a flat port. During the week trip sharks turned out in numbers and variety. There were usually 20-30 individuals, with species ranging from tigers, lemons, reef, nurse, and great hammerheads.



DIVE CALENDAR

Date Time	Location/ Host	Experience Level
January 26 (Wednesday) Splash: 7:00 PM	Three Tree Point Jim Boon 206.947.0297	Night Dive Experience Two Lights
January 29 (Saturday) Meet: 4:00 PM	Dive Planning Party, Hiller's House 17519 12 th Ave, NE, Shoreline Hiller West 206-769-4280	All Members Potluck - BYOB
February 2 (Wednesday) Splash: 7:00 PM	Dive Club Meeting, 3003 NW 66 th Sunset Hill Community Club, Ballard	Members and Guests
February 9 (Wednesday) Splash: 7:00 PM	Seacrest Cove 2 Jim Boon 206.947.0297	Night Dive Experience Two Lights
February 16 (Wednesday) Splash: 7:00 PM	Three Tree Point Jim Boon 206.947.0297	Night Dive Experience Two Lights
February 23 (Wednesday) Splash: 7:00 PM	Seacrest Cove 2 Jim Boon 206.947.0297	Night Dive Experience Two Lights
April 8-10 All Day	NW Dive & Travel Expo Tacoma Convention Center	None Required
April 23 (Saturday) n/a	Tentative Date for MB Banquet	Members and Guests
July 23 (Saturday) To be determined	World Wide Photo Walk (Underwater) Dan Clements 425.418.8755	Underwater Photographer

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

REEF STATION



2010 was a busy year for the MBDC REEF Field Station we are getting off to a great start in 2011.

To begin, we are very excited to announce that the MBDC REEF Field Station

will be sponsoring three classes in February and March. Mark your calendars for the following dates and contact [Ross Smith](#) to reserve a space:

- February 6 (9 am to Noon) – Introduction to Pacific Northwest Invertebrates
- February 20 (9 am to Noon) – Fishwatching in Hawaii: Introduction to Hawaiian Fishes
- March 13 (9 am to Noon) – Introduction to Pacific Northwest Fishes

All of the courses will be held at the office of OTB Solutions on the second floor of the University Heights Building at 5031 University Way NE, Seattle and street parking is free on Sundays.

Following the Pacific Northwest Invertebrate and Fish Identification classes Rhoda Green will be hosting a dive at Seacrest for class participants (or anyone who is interested in conducting a REEF survey) to practice their identification skills on a survey dive. The meeting times for the dives will be 2:30 pm. At our last REEF Fish ID class in 2010 Carol Murren, Greg Gilson and Steve Lodge used their identification skills on a dive at Cove 2. A great time was had by all!

In the coming year we will be featuring member photographs in our REEF Critter of the Month columns so we would like to put the word out to our club photographers to send Ross their photos. Photographs that are used will be watermarked with **the photographer's name so please look** through your underwater photo albums and submit some pictures.

February is Anemone Month! If you have a picture of plumose, white-spotted, fish-eating, tube-dwelling or strawberry anemones we would love to feature it in an upcoming [Buoy Tender!](#)

In other news we are also very pleased to announce the addition of another new survey site to the REEF site database. Following a very interesting dive at the Tides Tavern hosted by Matt Branson, Ross went to enter his field report in the online database and found that neither the Tides Tavern nor any part of Gig Harbor was in the REEF site list! Janna Nichols (our regional REEF coordinator) was all too happy to add it to the list. So the next time you spot a Lumpsucker, Red Irish Lord, Slender Cockscomb or any other critter at the Tides Tavern (in the water of course!), you can report it on your REEF survey form.

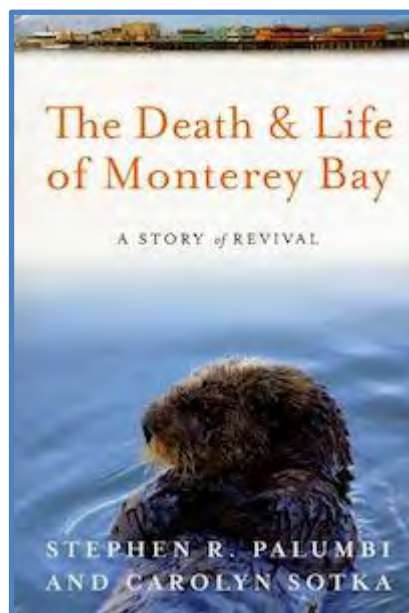
We look forward to seeing you underwater and hearing your fish stories!

Ross Smith & Rhoda Green

[THE DEATH & LIFE OF MONTEREY BAY](#)

BY STEPHEN PALUMBI & CAROLYN SOTKA

For those of you interested in how individuals and communities can work together to clean-up our **marine environment**, check out Stephen and Carolyn's book about the effort to restore Monterey Bay.



[Stephen Palumbi](#) is the director of Stanford's Hopkins Marine Station, And [Carolyn Sotka](#) is a project coordinator with Communication Partnerships for Science and the Sea.

CRITTER CORNER

NAME THAT CRITTER by [Karin Fletcher](#)

There are many sea creatures that are fairly common but require a little extra observation to be



seen. They are not necessarily tiny, but are often overlooked because they are inconspicuously marked or camouflaged. This month's mystery critter is such a creature.

Its 6 cm/2.5 inch body column is usually buried in gravel or sand, leaving only its 6 mm/1/2 inch oral disc and ten tenta



cles visible. Its tentacles are often banded or mottled and blend in well with the sandy/gravelly areas in which it lives. It is found from the intertidal to 300 meter range.

Due to its small size and burrowing nature, it most likely feeds on detritus. It ranges from Puget Sound to Central California .

An equally overlooked and related creature is usually white with twelve tentacles.



Sources: J.M. Watanabe/Seanet; [Intertidal Invertebrates of California](#) – Robert H. Morris, Donald Putnam Abbott, Eugene Clinton Haderlie; [Marine Life of the Pacific Northwest](#) – Andy Lamb and Bernard P. Hanby

REEF CRITTER OF THE MONTH by Kirby Johnson



Lingcod (*Ophiodon elongates*)
Greenling Family

Description

Lingcod are the largest members of the greenling family (Hexagrammidae). Females can reach 5 feet in length and weigh as much as 100 pounds. Males are smaller, around 3 feet long. Body is elongated, length being about 5 times the depth.

The head is large and somewhat flattened. The mouth extends back past the eye and has large, sharp teeth. The dorsal fin has two joined segments and extends the length of the body. Scales are very small; the skin appears smooth. Color is variable with dark mottling on many shades of brown, gray, and even green.

Range

Lingcod are found in the coastal waters of the north Pacific from California to Alaska. They are found at all depths from the shallows to hundreds feet.

Habitat

Adult fish prefer rocky reef habitat. Artificial reef habitat is also used.

Behavior/Life History

Lingcod do not have a swim bladder. They are demersal; usually found resting on the bottom, often partially or completely hidden. Lingcod can sometimes be approached by watching the dorsal fin. A fish that is observed with the dorsal fin laid back is relaxed, an upright dorsal fin is a signal of wariness. Lingcod are voracious predators; feeding on a wide variety of fishes, cephalopods, and crustaceans. They feed by lunging and grabbing their prey and holding it with their teeth until they can maneuver it to be swallowed, usually head first. It is not unusual to see a lingcod with a tail sticking out of its mouth. Female lingcod spawn in mid winter depositing a large white egg mass in a crevice. The male remains with the eggs, protecting them until they hatch.

Recognition Tips

Look for mottled markings, the long dorsal fins and a large mouth with big teeth. Smaller lingcod can be confused with other greenlings. Partially hidden Cabezon are sometimes mis-identified as lingcod.

- Contributed by Mark Dixon, photo by Herb Albin, Edmonds Underwater Park

DIVES & TRAVEL

(JOIN FELLOW MARKER BUOY MEMBERS ON LOCAL & EXOTIC DIVE OUTINGS)

March 1-10: Maui with [Jim McGauhey](#)



Click on Image
for Video

Jim McGauhey Photo

Trip cost approximately \$1,650 includes airfare, shared rental car, condo (2 per bedroom), any rental equipment you want (including regulators, BC, most get a shortie), unlimited air fills and beach dives, four 2 tank boat trips, and a whale watching trip. This is for 10 days, 9 nights, so it's quite a bargain.

May 27-June 4: Bahamas with [Dan Clements](#)



- Dan Clements Photo

Trip cost is \$1,573, which includes diving (including two dolphin, shark, and cave), breakfast, and airport transfer. This does not include airfare. This is a nine night, eight day trip. While not on the specialty **dives mentioned above, we will dive the area's wrecks and reefs.** Based in Lucaya, Grand Bahama Island. We will be diving with [UNEXSO](#).

August 6-12: Barkley Sound with [Dan Clements](#)



Trip cost is \$1,290 CDN, 2-3 dives per day, with [Rendezvous Resort](#) in Barkley Sound, Vancouver Island. This is six gill shark week, and [Dr Chris Harvey Clark](#) is the scheduled shark biologist/scientist. Price includes transportation from Port Alberni, meals, lodging, and air for tanks.

October, 2011: Fiji with [Judi Brooks](#)



Staying at Wananavu Beach Resort and diving the Bligh waters and Sailstone reefs, Oct. 2-8. Transferring to Kadavu Island, staying at Matava Resort and diving the Great Astrolab Reef, Oct 8-15. Options include staying at both resorts, staying at only Wananavu or staying only at Matava.

CLASSIFIED

MAUI CONDO: Great for divers. Ground floor, 1/4 mi. from B&B Scuba in Kihei. Centrally located to divesites. Ref: <http://vrbo.com/123327>. Cheryl Hughes -, (206) 200-4609

BOSTON WHALER: On trailer. Either needs a new engine, or a good mechanic to restore the 90 HP Mercury. Transom fiberglass needs some work. Boat has not left its heated garage since 2007. Do not allow your winter to pass without a fun project to pursue! \$999.99 (OBO) [Gene C](#)

USIA Drysuit - Large - Size 10 Boots. Undergarment, carry bag, neoprene gloves and hood. 1993 vintage but has had little use, good care, and excellent storage. Seals are supple, and zipper is excellent. Boots are brand new. We know the history of the suit. Selling for a friend. Try it before you buy it. \$400. [Fritz or Joyce Merkel](#), 206-525-0736



INSTRUCTOR MEMBERS

GREG WILSON – NAUI, www.eastsidediving.com
greg@eastsidediving.com, 425-941-4783

Jerry Effenberger -PADI - Master Scuba Diver Trainer
Edmonds Underwater Sports
<mailto:jerrysafediver@comcast.net>, 206-579-9773.

Randy Williams - TDI/SDI Open Water - Advanced
Mixed-Gas Instructor & NAUI Technical Instructor
<mailto:heliox@comcast.net>, 206-387-6749.

Rhoda Green - PADI
<mailto:rhodagreen@yahoo.com>, 425-652-7699.

Scott Christopher- Multiple certifications-SDI /TDI/
NAUI/NACD/ PADI/ DAN, www.soundaquatics.com
<mailto:scott@soundaquatics.com>, 425-241-1113.

Kim Thomas – NAUI
Northwest Sports Diver
<mailto:kimmichelle@earthlink.net>, 425-361-7696

ABOUT MARKER BUOYS

[The Marker Buoy Dive Club](#) of Seattle meets 7:00 PM, the first Wednesday of each month at the [Sunset Hills Community Center](#) in Ballard. The Marker Buoy Dive Club is one of the most active dive clubs in the Pacific Northwest. Membership level is around 150. Our members include some that are new to diving or to the Seattle area. Many have over 1000 dives in their log.

In addition to hosting many dives each month, monthly meetings are held at the Sunset Community Center in Ballard. Monthly meetings give members an opportunity to give reports on club dives of the previous month, information on upcoming dives, and occasionally slide and video presentations of dives. A guest speaker related to scuba diving, the marine environment, or something of interest to divers is featured every month. Club-sponsored activities include over 100 dives each year, dive planning parties, an annual picnic at Woodland Park, and an annual banquet.

GENERAL CLUB POLICIES

CLUB ROSTER

The Marker Buoy Club Roster lists each member's name, address, phone numbers and email address. The purpose of the list is for diving - to find a buddy for a spontaneous dive, to drum up interest in your forthcoming sponsored dive, or let people know if there has been a change in dive plan. No commercial use is permitted. If you have information to change on the roster contact Scott Brockenbough

DIVER'S ED

The club will reimburse members \$15 for successful completion of advanced certification courses that **increases the member's competency and safety.** Limit of 3 reimbursements per club member per calendar year. Courses that qualify are advanced diver, rescue diver, dive master, instructor, nitrox, DAN O2 Provider, and initial First Aid & CPR (non-renewal). Reimbursement for other courses subject to board approval. Just show proof of course completion to Ross Smith, Treasurer, for your reimbursement.

WEIGHT BELT REPLACEMENT POLICY

The Marker Buoy Dive Club will replace any weight belt lost during an emergency on a club sponsored dive. Weight Belt accessories are not covered.

SPONSOR A DIVE, EARN AN AIR CARD

Dive hosts receive an Air Card good at local dive shops when 6 Marker Buoy members participate on the dive. The Club Oxygen Kit counts as a buddy as long as one member of the party is O2 trained. Limit of 1 Air Card per club member per calendar month. The club has two O2 kits - currently with Fritz & Joyce Merkel (Sandpoint) and Gene Coronetz (Kenmore).

YAHOO GROUPS MARKER BUOYS

Join our members only on-line web group! Find a last-minute dive buddy, ride, or directions to a dive, trip reports, as well as our roster and newsletters: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MarkerBuoys>, or email MarkerBuoys-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

MARKER BUOY 2011 BOARD

President: [Jim McGauhey](#)

Vice President: [Darren Curtis](#)

Secretary: [Scott Brockenbough](#)

Treasurer: [Ross Smith](#)

Programs: [Gene Coronetz](#)

Newsletter: [Dan Clements](#)

Webmaster: [Doug Coutts](#)

Fundraiser: [Nathalie Curtis](#)

Refreshments: [Catherine Knowlson](#)

TREASURER'S REPORT by [Ross Smith](#)

As of the end of November, the Marker Buoy checking account balance stood at \$3,979.46. Air card inventory is as follows: Underwater Sports- 10, Fifth Dimension- 4, Lighthouse- 0, Starfish Diving- 1, Northwest Sport Diver- 2.
