

The Buoy Tender

Marker Buoy Dive Club | Seattle, Washington
July, 2011



The Slow Boat: Hitchhiking on a Sea Cucumber

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

[Jim McGauhey](#)

Here we are – in the middle of summer; July to be exact. Somehow it feels like April or May; a partial day of sun, then three or four days of clouds and some rain. The only good part about this is the lack of sun has helped visibility. Last Friday I did a 6 pm dive with DATC and had 6 to 8 ft of viz. Then another dive at 11 pm and had 15 to 20 ft! That held for the next 2 dives at 2:30 am and 11 am on Sat. Reports have been for unusually good summer time visibility. Let's get out and dive!!

Thinking about Dive Around the Clock (DATC), we had a good showing with about nine club members. Randy, Randi, and I were there for the duration, and were joined at various times by Yara Silva, Drew Collins, Jim Pappin, Joel Perry, Rob Henderson, and Jim Boon. Hope I didn't miss anyone.

Randy masterminded a live video stream for most of the 24 hours that included as many as three cameras at one time, including an underwater unit. The internet stream was viewed by over 1,600 people in many countries, including

Afghanistan and India. Any DATC diver could come by the underwater mounted camera and display their signs and antics.

Many called their relatives around the US and the world, which is how so many viewers signed on the server. Not counted in the 1,600 were the many kids at Children's Hospital that watched through a dedicated channel in their rooms. Phil Busch was not at DATC, but being the video guy at Children's, he provided some equipment, some bandwidth on Children's server, and set up the hospital TV channel. More and better planned for next year!

August is just around the corner and another Marker Buoy traditional/annual dive event is planned. Christine Scott has coordinated with Edmonds Parks Dept to have our club help with their Moonlight Beach Walk.

In past years several club members have carefully collected critters to put in wading pools at the water's edge and kids came around the half dozen pools to see and touch. Randy and I provide live underwater video, and project it on the beach. That's quite a trick as there's no AC power on the beach!!



Edmonds Parks expects about 300 people this year. It's on August 20th, a Saturday. If you want to join the fun, come by at about 5:30 pm and help set up and get a briefing. No prior critter wrangling experience required. By the way, after the event, the critters are returned.

The July meeting was a BBQ picnic at Woodland Park. The usual about 25 attended for a great social time. Now we're back to Sunset Hill for the August meeting. Gene Coronetz has a great program lined up for the Aug 3rd meeting, with info on the Virginia Mason chamber complex and how deco concerns change with age. I'm up (down) for getting that info!

Sadly, I must report an opening for a board position. Ross Smith, our Treasurer, is moving to Portland. His wife finished her PhD and found a job down there, and his employer will have Ross working out of their Centralia office. They've already bought a home and will be moving down in August. Sooooo, we need a Treasurer for the remainder of the year. Scott Brockenbough, our Secretary, has offered to fill in, but then there are questions like "does he get 2 votes on the board?" etc. Our By-Laws state that mid-year board openings are to be filled by vote of the board of directors. Any volunteers? Anyone willing to be volunteered?

We're LEGAL!!! For 50 years Marker Buoy Dive Club has operated illegally. We have had a checking account opened with a member's SSN, and nobody knows who that member is. Now rulings from Homeland Security require showing ID that matches the account tax ID number to even make deposits. This was to prevent terrorist organizations from laundering money. Ross went to the bank and couldn't produce the ID; we found a work-around for the past couple months. So we've been forced into doing what should have been done years ago. We now are a registered non-profit organization with the State of Washington; and we have our non-profit IRS Federal ID number. We are a social club, not a 501 (c) 3 organization, so don't deduct your dues or any donations to the club. Technically, we are a 501 (c) 7 organization. In case you're wondering, there are no taxes to pay as long as our gross income is under \$50K. Not to worry!

Take advantage of that good viz out there – GET WET!!

Jim McGahey

Up-Coming Meeting & Announcements

AUGUST 3 MEETING: DECOMPRESSION

The presentation at the August Meeting will be on decompression and other pressure related conditions affecting older divers. Our own club Member, Frank Scarabino, and Dr Jim Holm of the Virginia Mason Hyperbaric Unit are presenting



DIVE PLANNING PARTY

Notice our calendar is looking a bit sparse? Well, you can help remedy that situation.

There is a Dive Planning Party at Catherine & Steve's place July 30th at 4:30 pm. The address is 909 NE 115th St, Seattle 98125. We're due to a good party, and it looks like even the weather might cooperate.

Bring something to BBQ for yourself, and a dish to share. Some sodas and lots of water will be provided. Whether you are going to host a dive or not, all members are welcome.

BUT we hope you will host a dive. We'll have current info and lots of experienced hosts on hand for newbie hosts. Significant others welcome. Hope to see you there.

Many thanks to Catherine and Steve for hosting.

LOS ISLOTES (LA PAZ, MEXICO) SEA LIONS BY [Gene Coronetz](#)

We had an extraordinary experience on our first dive on Wednesday. The sea lions were especially playful and several big ones cavorted with me; we spiraled and twisted and stood on our heads together.

They came right up to my face and zoomed away many times. They pulled at our fins in a classic tug-of-war that you might have with your dog.

After we'd finished with our scuba dive, the most endearing encounter of all occurred when a small pup, perhaps 3 months old, adopted us as its family.

The little guy swam along with us belly to belly and would touch us with its flippers. I then plunged to about 15 ft and turned up; the pup would torpedo after me and bump my face mask with its nose.



Then, it put its head on my shoulder and we hugged, just as if it were a human child being cuddled. A remarkable feeling. I was the only one to do this with the pup and we repeated the exercise several times.

After about 1/4 hour of this play, we had to depart for our next dive site. The pup went over to another group of snorkelers, But I soon observed its mom, who swooped in and cut him out of that group. "Time to come home, Homer!"

The sea lions here have become very accepting of human interaction, probably due to many years of positive contact. I've never heard of an instance of injury between either species, so hopefully this happy condition will always be so.

I find it is still remarkable that the parents let the pups play so freely with us divers, while they sleep up on the rocks. Occasionally, one or two will swoop through the group to check things out, then back to their nap!



We returned to Los Islotes the next day in hope of repeating the experience, but the sea lions were not as engaging as they had been the previous day. What a special moment we had experienced on our first day of diving!

Gene Coronetz

Travel Note:

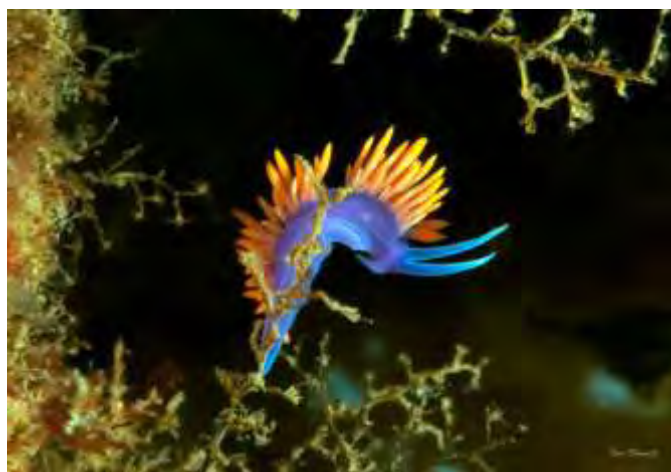
If you are interested in swimming with sea lions, whale sharks, and numerous other critters off of La Paz, Baja California, consider joining Drew Collins, Jay Sprenger, Rick Bressler, and Dan Clements in October.

The trip is being organized by well-known underwater photographer [Scott Geitler](#) from the Los Angeles area. Please see the Trips and Travel section for more information.

If your timing is off for October, it looks like there will be a local group heading down to Cabo and La Paz mid-March, 2012.

PHOTOGRAPHY CORNER

This month's photo theme was nudibranchs. There was a wide variety of shots. Here are some from the gallery.



Jim Boon took the Opalescent Nudibranch opposite, top. Below is Karin Fletcher's photo of Bushy-Backed Nudibranch.

In this column Drew Collins captured the spotted Aglajid, and below is Dan Clements' shot of a Spanish Shawl Nudibranch.

Thanks for submitting photos!

DIVE CALENDAR

DATE TIME	LOCATION/ HOST	EXPERIENCE LEVEL
Aug. 6 (Sat) Meet: 8:30 am	Pacific Adventures Boat Dive – Hood Canal Contact Hiller West if interested	2-tank, Max. 6 Divers Return 3:00 pm
August 13 (Sat.) Meet: 11:00 AM	Dive Kayak Training, Cove 3 , Seattle Kevin Casey	Training Class
October 1-2 (Sat.) Meet: TBD	World Wide Photo Walk (Underwater) Dan Clements	Underwater Photographer

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



REEF STATION

Congratulations to Ross Smith and Doug Miller for passing their REEF Surveyor Level 5 test! Since joining Marker Buoys both Doug and Ross have been

active divers, regular participants in REEF fish and invertebrate identification classes and REEF survey dives hosted by Rhoda Green and others.



Doug Miller



Ross Smith

NAME THAT CRITTER by [Karin Fletcher](#)

Summer is kelp season here in the Pacific Northwest and kelp season means *Corambe* season for nudibranch enthusiasts.

Both *Corambe pacifica* (Pacific or Frost-spot nudibranch) and *Corambe steinbergae* (cryptic or Steinberg's nudibranch) feed on the kelp-encrusting bryozoan, *Membranipora*, which they resemble (Photo to the right).

Bryozoans are also called moss animals because they can look like underwater patches of furry moss. However, they are actually a colonial animal and each worm-like individual secretes a calcium carbonate chamber in which it lives, extending a ring of tentacles that it uses for filter feeding. It's the extended tentacles of the individual zooid



Kelp-encrusting bryozoan, Membranipora

worms that give bryozoans their mossy look.

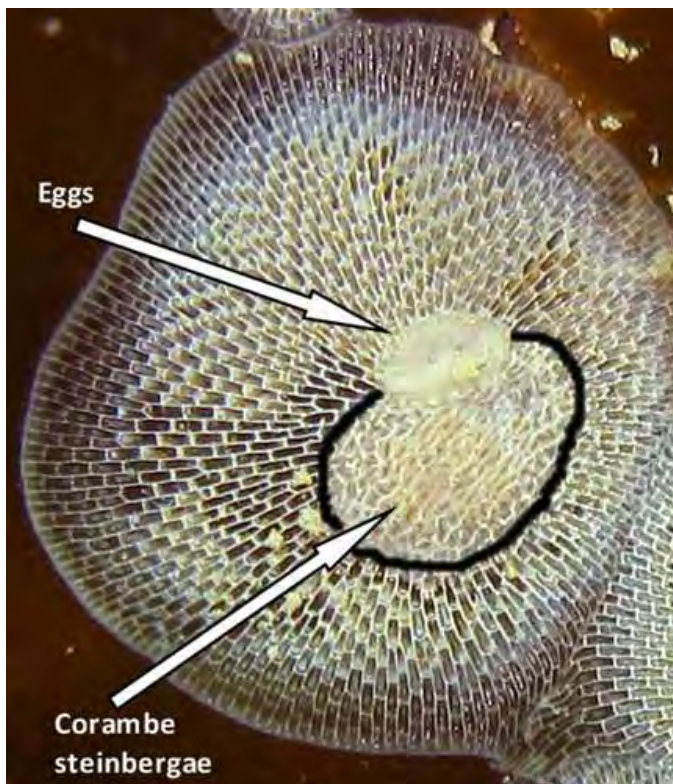
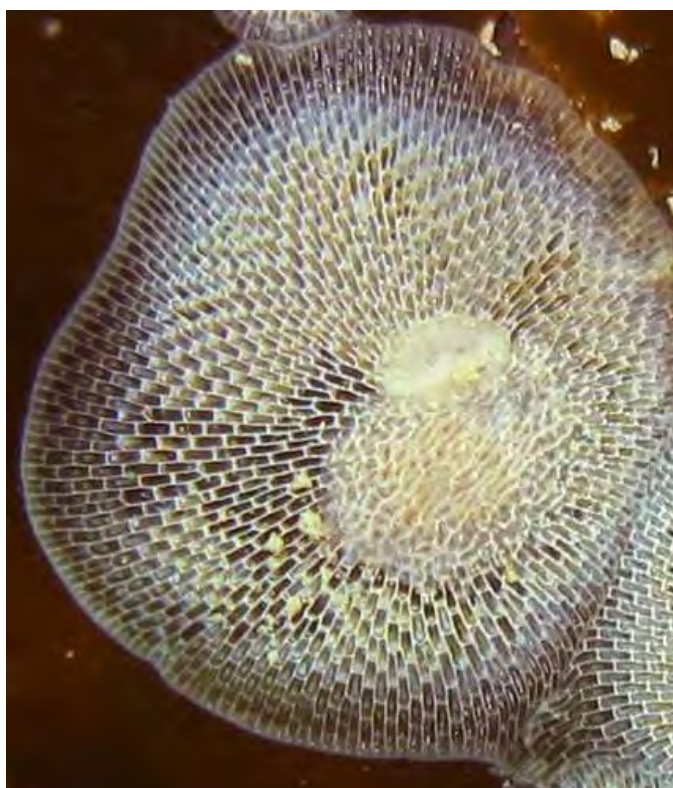


Close-up of zoid tentacles

Both *Corambe* nudibranch species are dorid nudibranchs, meaning that they have a circle of respiratory gills rather than feathery cerata along the edge of their bodies, but their gill plumes are underneath their bodies rather than on top like other dorids. They can be between 15-17 mm and their habitat is restricted to the encrusting bryozoans patches that form on kelp.

It is difficult to spot these nudibranchs since they both are nearly invisible when on their bryozoan food source, so telling one species from the other is quite a challenge. Should you spot a *Corambe*, there are two features which distinguish the Frost-spot from the cryptic: the Frost-spot has a notch on the back edge of its dorsum and its rhinophores have ridges where the cryptic nudibranch does not have a posterior notch and has smooth rhinophores.

Generally, the best way to spot either the Frost-spot or the cryptic nudibranch is to look for their small, white, coiled egg ribbons on encrusting bryozoans. By carefully examining the surrounding area, you may find one of these well-camouflaged critters.



[Intertidal Invertebrates of the Monterey Bay Area, California](#) by McDonald; [Eastern Pacific Nudibranchs](#) by Behrens and Hermosillo, 2005; and [Marine Life of the Pacific Northwest](#) by Lamb and Hanby, 2005

DIVES & TRAVEL

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

September 9-13: Port Hardy with [Frank Scarabino](#)



- Click on image to visit site

Trip cost approximately \$1,300 CDN. Total of six divers, four slots are currently available.

Mamro is a 52 foot live aboard owned and operated by Dan and Debbie Ferris. Price includes boat, breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, aluminum 80 tanks, weights, pillows and towels.

You will need to bring a sleeping bag, dive gear, and any photography equipment you may want to use.

First day up to three dives, other days up to four dives, last day two dives. There is an excellent write-up on Wetpixel about Alex Mustard's visit and dive with Mamro last year.

October 22-29: La Paz Mexico with [Scott Geitler](#)



Trip cost is \$1,399, which includes diving, meals, room, and airport transfers. This does not include airfare. This is an underwater photography workshop with Scott Geitler and Todd Winner.

Warm water, whale sharks, pelagics, sea lions. Join Drew, Jay, Rick, and Dan on this outing.

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. Three slots left.

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

ACCOMODATIONS

MAUI CONDO: Great for divers. Ground floor, 1/4 mi. from B&B Scuba in Kihei. Centrally located to divesites.

EDUCATION



Book: Critters, Creatures, & Kelp. This book describes the Edmonds Underwater Park and its history, along with photos and descriptions of major fish, invertebrates, and plants. Price is \$19.95 from the web site. Contact [Dan Clements](#), for more information.

INSTRUCTOR MEMBERS



GREG WILSON – NAUI,



Jerry Effenberger –PADI
Master Scuba Diver Trainer
Edmonds Underwater Sports



Randy Williams - TDI/SDI Open Water -
Advanced Mixed-Gas Instructor
NAUI Technical Instructor

Rhoda Green - PADI

Scott Christopher- Multiple Certificatons
SDI /TDI/ NAUI/NACD/ PADI/ DAN,



Kim Thomas – NAUI
Northwest Sports Diver

Why Take Lessons from a Marker Buoy Instructor?



Marker Buoy instructors have dived in many different places with many different people. Just take a look at a younger Gene Coronetz in the photo left.

While obtaining his NAUI Celebrity Dive certification he had the opportunity of buddy breathing with the likes of Lloyd Bridges and Zale Parry!

Club instructors also work to make us all safer divers. They convinced Gene to quit smoking, and, as the photo shows, dropped Gene's post-dive libations from three beers to a single bottle.

Dive safe: dive with Marker Buoy instructors!

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 club will reimburse any member who ditches weights in what they consider an emergency during any dive, anywhere. The reimbursement is for replacement cost of all items ditched and not recovered, up to a maximum of \$150.

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 and Gene Coronetz.

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@yahogroups.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

There is no Treasurer's Report for the July issue of the [Buoy Tender](#).
