

An underwater photograph showing a large, dark kelp stalk with lighter, feathery blades extending from it. Sunlight rays, often called "God rays," are visible as bright, shimmering streaks filtering through the clear, blue-green water. The overall scene is serene and captures the beauty of a kelp forest.

The Buoy Tender

Marker Buoy Dive Club | Seattle, Washington
September, 2011

Drifting Kelp with "God" Rays by Darren Curtis

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

[Jim McGauhey](#)

September has had some great diving. Unfortunately my business has increased the past month, so I've only been on one dive, but Marker Buoys have had three to five dives each week, and in general visibility has been better than 20 feet and lots of critters have been spotted. I have been reading the reports and looking at the photos posted online. I'm seeing many new members joining the dives. I hope each of you are planning to dive soon.

Our next major event is the Pumpkin Carving Contest, a joint effort with the Boeing Seahorse Dive Club. This year it will on Saturday, October 29, again at the south end of Alki Beach (look for the banners and divers), and we will be inviting other clubs and dive stores. The diver briefing will be at 10:45, splash about 11, and judging around noon.

This is not an intra-club competition, but a buddy team competition. And friendly it is – as well as spooky. We'll have prizes for winners in categories like Most Artistic, Best Use of Marine Life, Scariest, Funniest, and more, including Better Off as Pumpkin Pie. I suggest a new prize for Best Underwater Costume.

There is a \$5 per diver donation that goes to the Edmonds Underwater Park. We use the picnic shelter at Harbor Avenue and 63rd, across from Starbucks. Starbucks provides us with coffee, we have donuts and pastries for before diving, and the Boeing club cooks hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch. The food and coffee are free. You do have to dive with a buddy, or two, but each diver can carve. The past years have really brought out the artistic talents in our club members. We've had very creative designs, like Fritz and Joyce's turtle, Christine's ferry, and many more.

If you're wondering what the event is like, I just uploaded a video of the 2009 event to [Youtube](#). This is a fun, friendly event. The judging is by anyone in the area; divers, significant others, shore supporters, passers-by, anyone. So invite your friends and family to attend a fun event and to cheer and vote for your entry. Winner for each category is via loudest applause, and you can only win once.

It's time to think about officers for 2012. The club by-laws (on the Yahoo site) limits officers to two continuous terms, so some current officers will have to step down. They can take another position. Right now we have several places that need filling. The board meetings are fun and you really get to direct the club and help it work smoothly.

You notice we hardly ever discuss business items during the membership meetings each month. That's because the board takes care of most everything behind the scenes so you can just show up at a meeting or a dive and have fun. If you are interested in being on the board, please, don't be shy. Let one of the officers know you are willing, and we



can help find the best officer position fit for your talents. Right now we need newsletter, vice-president, fund raiser, just to mention a few. Official nominations are in November, and election of officers is held at the December meeting.

After just saying we don't usually discuss business items at meetings, I will be bringing up something the board would like members input on. We have two items roughly falling under the heading of donations, that we'd like to see if there's a consensus about.

One is the Dive Around the Clock event. While many of our members participate and raise funds individually for this, which benefits Children's Hospital Cancer Research, the board is divided on whether to be an official sponsor. The sponsorship fee is \$500, which puts our club logo on the t-shirts, on the banner, acknowledgement on the website and everywhere they advertise, and, most importantly, allows us to fly the club banner and hand out club literature that weekend. Over 160 divers participated this year, so it's a major congregation of divers and potential members. This past year the club did not pay the fee, so we weren't able to promote the club. In past years we have had members sign up because they heard about Marker Buoys at the event.

The second item is WSA, or Washington Scuba Alliance. This is the official voice of the northwest diver, and they represent us in Olympia and promote diving causes. They obtained the funds and permits to put the stairs in at Les Davis, and they have installed several boat mooring buoys at popular dive sites (and some members have used these). They are working on an artificial reef, hopefully a large ship, in Puget Sound. That's a huge project.

We can donate to them out of our bank account, but that might stretch our finances and even so would be in the \$250 or less category. The board brought up the option of specific donations from members, funneled through the club, for supporting WSA (or DATC), and specifically, if enough funds are donated (\$2,500), we can sponsor a buoy and have the club name on it. Maybe a member would offer a "matching funds" donation?

Anyway, we'll take just a few minutes at the club meeting and discuss these. The options for each item are: 1) don't donate; 2) donate a small amount from dues and club bank account; 3) solicit members for individual donations that go to either of these causes. Think about it. More at the meeting. By the way, the board did authorize a \$250 donation to DAN this year, and to include it as an annual budget item each year. That's a no-brainer for a dive club, and another example of how the board operates on your behalf to support diving and diving safety.

We do have a dive planning party scheduled for October 8, at 5pm, at Dan and Karen Clements house. They are graciously offering to provide all the food (no pot luck), and even beer and wine (bring your own "other" if you want).

I'm looking forward to leading a dive at Edmonds Underwater Park on Sunday, Oct 2 at 10 am meet time. I hope to see you there, and at the club meeting Oct 5th for a presentation on one of the most famous wrecks in this area, the Diamond Knot. No, not the brewery, the shipwreck the brewery is named after, silly!!

Jim McGahey

Up-Coming Meeting & Announcements

OCTOBER 5 MEETING: RANDY WILLIAMS

Randy will share photos, video, and the history of the Diamond Knot wreck. He and Gene Coronetz recently dove the wreck in perfect conditions, with outstanding visibility.

Apparently this is prime wolfeel habitat, as the divers reported seeing "hunnerds of `em." Come and join us for this excellent program.

OCTOBER 29: ANNUAL PUMPKIN CARVE DIVE

As Jim noted in his President's Message, October 29 is the date for our annual pumpkin carve dive. This is a combined event with Boeing Seahorses. There is a \$5 per diver admission feed, with proceeds used to support work on the Bruce Higgins trail system at the Edmonds Underwater Park.

Please see the poster on the next page.

Pumpkin Carving Contest

- Saturday, Oct 29th, Alki Beach south end (Harbor & 63rd)
- Meet 10 am; diver briefing 10:45; splash 11, judging at noon
- \$5 entry per diver goes to Edmonds UWP
- Prizes for Most Artistic, Scariest, Best Use of Marine Life, Funniest, Better Off as Pumpkin Pie & Best Judging by the crowd – invite your family & friends
- Starbucks coffee, pastries, and burgers & dogs lunch free
- Marker Buoy Dive Club & Boeing Seahorse Dive Club, and others
- Rules:
 - Must dive with a buddy
 - Sharp carving tools must be sheathed/covered
 - Can use felt tip to draw design, but
 - Cannot puncture pumpkin until at depth of 10+ ft
 - All carving must be done underwater
 - All props must be from the sea-return live critters after
 - Must be in, carve, and out of the water in 1 hour, ~by noon
 - All divers must check in/out with beach master
- Hints:
 - Small pumpkins are easier to sink – bring right amount of weight
 - Get there early for parking – it's very limited
- Restrooms are available and we're in the covered shelter



REDONDO SIX GILL Steve Metzner

2011 has turned out to be a great year for shark sightings in our area. In August the Barkley Sound crew encountered a six gill. In early September Yara, Helle, and Dan encountered three spiny dogfish in Hood Canal. On an MBDC outing on September 11, Steve had the following adventure. -Editor

Diving in Puget Sound is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you are going to get"

After 30 years diving the South Sound I finally saw my first 6 gill. I have seen them up in the islands, Sechelt Inlet and a big one off of Texada Island but nary a one in the Sound. I was diving with club buddy when this one came right up to us at 80'. Viz was pretty decent. This 6 gill was small 4 - 5' and willowy in conformation, at a distance I thought it was a dogfish.

I have to apologize for the going away shots, I had the chance of a lifetime but experienced "buck fever" and blew it.

It swam up to me and stuck his/her nose right in front of the wide angle lens but I was so busy being awestruck, looking for dorsal fins (lack of) and actually counting the gill slits that it was off before I could pull the trigger. For now I'll settle for the experience and look for a do over!

Also worthy of note was Randy with rebreather and snorkel!



PHOTOGRAPHY CORNER

Cover Shot

This month's cover shot was taken by Darren Curtis and really captures our green water environment when the sun dances on the water.

Scott Wilson took the picture of our President vide-ing a sea lion. Steve contributed the six gill photos, Joyce the sturgeon poacher, and Karin the macro-critter photos.

World Wide Photo "Walk"

For Club photographers of all levels, October 1, 10:00 AM, Cove 2, is the location for the [World Wide Photo "Walk"](#). Lots of prizes, and a great chance to meet other underwater photographers. After the dive we will be meeting at Jack Connick's Optical Ocean shop of Westlake for post processing, file up-loading, and snacks. Come join us!



(Click on image for registration link)

DIVE CALENDAR

Date & Time	Location and Contact Information	Notes
Oct. 1 (Sat) Meet: 10:00 AM	Scott Kelby Underwater Photo Walk Seacrest Cove 2 – Seattle, WA Dan Clements	Photographers
Oct. 2 (Sun) Meet: 2:00 PM	Day Island Wall – Tacoma, WA Fritz Merkel	Advanced Drift Dive - Current
Oct. 2 (Sun) Meet: 10:00 AM Splash: 11:00 AM	Edmonds Underwater Park Jim McGauhey	All Divers
Oct. 8 (Sat) Meet: 2:45 PM	Skyline – Anacortes, WA 2.4F > 4:25PM > 1.4E Fritz Merkel	Int – Advanced Possible Current No facilities
Oct. 29 (Sat) Meet: 1:30 PM	Saltwater State Park Joyce Merkel	All Divers

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



REEF STATION

Marker Buoy's continue supporting REEF and moving up the education ladder. Congratulations club members Doug Miller (Level 5) and Josh Sera (Level 3) on their advancement!

REEF CRITTER OF THE MONTH: STURGEON POACHER

Joyce Merkel

Sturgeon Poacher, *Podothecus accipenserinus*

Description: Body covered with bony, armor-like plates. Grayish brown with touches of yellow. Long, slender body which is wider at the head and comes to a blunt point at the nose. It has a clump of bushy cirri at the tip of the chin and another at the corner of the mouth on each side. In addition it has two sharp, upward pointing spines on the snout

Range: Siberia, Aleutian Islands, Alaska to Northern California

Size: 4-7 inches. Max 12 inches

Habitat: Sand, silt, mud, gravel, around eelgrass

Behavior: Tends to be nocturnal, though can be seen in daylight. They often do not move when approached. They use their cirri to taste the substrate for shrimp and other shrimp like food

The Northern Spearnose Poacher is often confused with the Sturgeon Poacher. It can be differentiated by a shorter nose, no yellow coloring, and shorter cirri which covers the full length of the chin....not in bunches like the Sturgeon. It has a tendency to curl its tail. In general it is slightly shorter with a maximum length of 8 inches.



NAME THAT CRITTER by [Karin Fletcher](#)

One of the well-camouflaged creatures mentioned in a previous article was the ten-tentacled burrowing anemone (*Halcampa decmtentaculata*).

Just to make your underwater identification a little more challenging, there is a similar-looking anemone that begins its life in a different way but winds up burrowed in mud or sand just like the ten-tentacled burrowing anemone. It is the jelly-dwelling anemone (*Peachia quinquecapitata*).

Where the ten-tentacled anemone has ten somewhat blunt tentacles, the jelly-dwelling anemone can have twelve somewhat long, tapering tentacles once it has reached its mature phase.



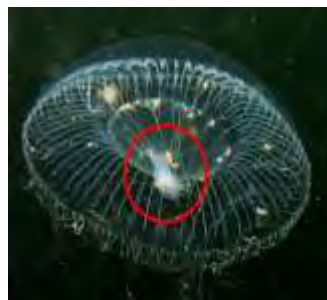
Ten-tentacled burrowing anemone



Jelly-dwelling anemone (mature)

The jelly-dwelling anemone begins life as a free-swimming larva. Once the jelly-dwelling anemone larva is eaten by a jelly – usually either a cross jelly (*Mitrocoma cellularia*) or a water jelly (*Aequorea* spp.) , the larva becomes a parasite of the jelly and begins to feed on the jelly's stomach tissues.

After 11 days, the larva migrates to the jelly's reproductive organs where it continues to feed and grow for about a month.



Water jelly with jelly-dwelling anemone (circled)



Jelly-dwelling anemone (immature)

Once it matures, it drops from the jelly and begins its sedentary life in the sand. It is not known what becomes of the jelly once the anemone leaves its host.



Jelly-dwelling anemone after leaving host

Sources: Vancouver Aquarium press release "There's a New Jelly in Town – And He Has Company"
[Marine Life of the Pacific Northwest](#) – Andy Lamb and Bernard P. Hanby

DIVES & TRAVEL

September 26-30, 2012: [Hornby Island](#) with [REEF](#)



Trip cost is \$857 CDN, plus \$150 US for REEF program fee. Join REEF staffer and critter ID expert Janna Nichols next year at this spectacular diving location.

Janna will teach you everything you ever wanted to know about Pacific Northwest fish and invertebrates at this premier temperate water diving destination! Contact [Dan Clements](#) for info.

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](#), 425.418.8755 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@yahoogroups.com.

MARKER BUOY 2011 BOARD

President: [Jim McGauhey](#)

Vice President: [Darren Curtis](#)

Secretary: [Scott Brockenbough](#)

Treasurer: [Randi Weinstein](#)

Programs: [Gene Coronetz](#)

Newsletter: [Dan Clements](#)

Webmaster: [Doug Coutts](#)

Fundraiser: [Nathalie Curtis](#)

Refreshments: [Catherine Knowlson](#)

TREASURER'S REPORT by [Randi Weinstein](#)

As of the end of August 31, the Marker Buoy checking and PayPal balances stood at \$4,624.87. Air card inventory as of the end of June are as follows: Underwater Sports- 6, Fifth Dimension- 3, Lighthouse- 0, Starfish Diving- 1, Northwest Sport Diver- 1.
