An underwater photograph featuring a Nikon camera with a lens cap on the seabed in the foreground. The camera is black with 'Nikon' and 'D7000' visible. In the background, several small, silvery fish with yellowish stripes swim in the dark water above a sandy bottom with red and green seaweed.

The Buoy Tender

Marker Buoy Dive Club | Seattle, Washington
DECEMBER 2012

President's Message

Let's MEETUP in 2013

Yahoo and the way the Club has communicated online is about to change. Sentiments about Yahoo range from hearty thumbs down contributed by Matt Branson: *"Dear Yahoo, You suck. You always have."* (It gets even more graphic after that opening), to Paul Riggs's more measured *"Well I agree that is it time to move on, I will defend Yahoo Groups. Starting 12 years ago, eGroups, as it was called back then, changed the way the club communicated, vastly expanding last minute diving opportunities and drastically changing the way we operated as a club."*

At times I've swayed between both opinions, but it has worked pretty well for us. Many people have complained about its' shortcomings but until incoming Webmaster Doug Miller came forward with **Meetup** nothing seemed appropriate to satisfy our requirements (yes, some other things were tried and abandoned). He

started a test **Meetup** Group on Dec, 10. The Board was given the first option to check it out. Ten days later the Board unanimously and enthusiastically voted to switch over. Almost a third of the Club has signed up already. Check around and you'll find it's widely used by many clubs.

The Board targeted a completion date of Jan. 31. This transition is best accomplished quickly. After that we will discontinue use of Yahoo. There will be some transitional learning necessary-this is not the same as Yahoo at all, **EVERYONE NEEDS TO SIGN UP AND MAKE THEIR OWN "PROFILE"**. The Board cannot move you over. Your Profile creates a unique identity to join **Meetup** Groups. Doug Miller has made up an excellent cheat sheet that will be included in this newsletter. It will also be posted to the current Yahoo and **Meetup** Groups in the [Files] section. Expect to get another posting and reminder from Secretary Joyce mid-January.

Getting everyone switched over is critical. Though we are not there quite yet, going forward we are will be likely using it to maintain the membership, possibly collect fees, create mailing lists for stuff like the newsletter, and assemble a roster. So it's important ALL members join this **Meetup** Group. Like signing the Waiver, joining **Meetup** will be a component of membership. Just like Yahoo you don't HAVE to participate beyond joining if you really don't want to, but you'll miss a lot. It is a much richer application. I strongly urge everyone to take some time to familiarize themselves with it. Learn by joining and trying it out.

We will be having a live presentation (laptop hooked up to the projector) at the next meeting so folks can see firsthand how it works and ask questions.

Membership Renewal Time

RENEW.....RENEW.....RENEW.....It's that time of year. Need I say more? Sooner rather than later makes it much easier on the Board. Remember, these folks are your friends and volunteers. The transition will give them enough extra work to do.

Saltwater State Park Matching Grant!

The membership made it to the \$925 goal that was pledged for a matching grant last summer. A check was sent off to Washington Scuba Alliance and they were very impressed. I offer my congratulations and sincere gratitude to everyone that contributed. If you have not, and your conscience is nagging at you a little, there is constant wear and tear on these buoy systems. A steady flow of money and time to maintain them is necessary.

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If everyone gives a little to the sport we all love, it indeed will go a long way. Next time you see Randy Williams thank him for all the hard work.

GPO Count

13th Annual Seattle Aquarium Octopus Census, January 19–21, 2013
See poster on page 12. For even more information including data from 2002-2012 and visit : <http://www.seattleaquarium.org/octopus-census>

2013

The Club had an excellent year in 2012. Membership is healthy and as active as I've ever seen it. The Club did a remarkable amount of fine diving and got some notable community service done. Let's take that enthusiasm and momentum into the next year.



Fritz 'dukes it out' with sea lion at Race Rocks!

Fritz Merkel

COVER PHOTO

Photo taken by Jim Boon of his flooded camera with his new camera!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Marker Buoy Club Meeting: January 2, 2013 at 7:00 PM @ the Sunset Hills Community Center... Our Speaker will be **James Selleck and Robert Pacunsk** from the **Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife** who will talk about the rockfish conservation program and other activities of interest to the diving community.

Marker Buoy Dive Planning Party

Saturday, January 12th, 2013, 6:30-10:00 pm

Hosts are Doug and Kristen Coutts

Bring your tide logs and a pot luck item. We're planning dives to fill the calendar for the next few months and this is the place to be. Let's make this a great social event. (BYOB). Everyone is invited so mark your calendar.

Reminder:

The club's 2 O₂ kits reside with Kimber Chard (Everett) & Gene Coronetz (Bellevue); You may requisition the kit if a participant in your dive is a certified O₂ provider.

Dive Calendar

Date & Time	Location & Contact Information	Notes
Dec 29 Sat	Sunrise, Gig Harbor. Current sensitive dive site. A long moderately graded hill to walk. Very low exchange	Moderate divers Portapotty on site
Dec 30 Sun	3-Tree N, Burien. Little to no current	All divers
Dec 31	Alkai Junkyard, West Seattle	Night dive exp. 2 lights + marker
Jan 2, Wed 2013 Meet 7pm	MB Club Meeting Sunset Hill Community Center 3003 NW 66th St	Everyone welcome
Jan 3 Thurs	Alki Junkyard, West Seattle. Little to no current.	Night dive exp. 2 lights + marker
Jan 12 SAT: Dive Planning Party	Doug & Kristen Coutts 6:30-10:00 pm	Everyone welcome
Jan 13 Sun	Agate Pass, north end of Bainbridge Island. Current "fly" dive up channel from bridge to Old Man St. Pk.	Mod divers Comfortable in strong current

Dive Calendar Trips

Date & Time	Location & Contact Information	Notes
April 21-25, 2013	God's Pocket, Port Hardy, BC. A 5 day/4 night package, 3 boat dives per day for 3 days	Contact for pricing
April 29 –May 5	God's Pocket, Port Hardy, BC	Contact: Dan Clements
Sept 19 –26 (1) Sept 27-Oct 4 (2)	(1)Philippines & (2)Palau Contact Judi Brooks or Gene Coronetz	See Ad Below

April 21 to 25 God's Pocket Resort Port Hardy

Dive the spectacular, frigid waters of Browning Pass from God's Pocket Resort!

Accessible only by boat, it is a secluded wilderness spot surrounded by forested islands and the waterways of the Queen Charlotte Strait. A visit to God's Pocket provides not only spectacular cold



water diving, but also an opportunity for kayaking, hiking, shore walks, swimming with dolphins, and whale watching.

The cost : \$1256.23 per person all taxes included. NOT included: transportation to and from Port Hardy, nor tip.

If you're interested, send me a non-refundable deposit for \$350.00 Please make checks out to **God's Pocket Resort**. The balance of **\$906.23** will be due by **Feb 15th, 2013**.

This is a 5 day / 4 night package (**3 full days of diving**): **Pick up Saturday, 4/21** in Port Hardy, BC; Dive 4/22, 4/23 & 4/24: **Drop off at Port Hardy on 4/25** am. For each person reserving a spot, either send a check of \$350 directly to God's Pocket: info@godspocket.com

April 29 – May 5, 2013: God's Pocket, Port Hardy

Trip cost is \$2,100, with Anacortes Diving. Several Marker Buoys have already signed up.

Travel to the far North end of Vancouver Island to Port Hardy. This is where Captain Bill will pick us up for the 10 mile boat ride through the wilds of Queen Charlotte Strait and take us to Hurst Island, where God's Pocket Resort is located.

God's Pocket Resort is the only resident here nestled in a quiet cove off of Christie Passage. The resort is about a 5 minute boat ride from the famous Browning Wall, the most requested dive site in the area. Other incredible dives in the area are Barry Islet, Dillon Rock, Hunt Rock and Nakwakto Rapids to name a few. Each area is rich in colorful marine life from Wolf eels, Octopus, huge Lingcod, Clown Shrimp, Purple Ringed Top Snails, Grunt Sculpins, Sea lions and more nudibranchs than you can name.



Contact: Dan Clements

Double Dip Dive Trip for 2013:

Philippine Visayas, SEPT. 19-26, 2013. 8 days/7nights aboard the "S/Y PHILIPPINE SIREN", 23 dives **INCLUDING** 3 night dives, beer, rental equipment, nitrox, airport transfers. diving around the islands of Cebu, Bohol, Negros, Apo, Cabilao, Balicasag, Oslob and Pescador. COST: approx. U.S. \$2750pp double share (if we have 16, 3 are free which will be equally divided; a discount of approx. \$516pp) \$300 non refundable deposit is due now.

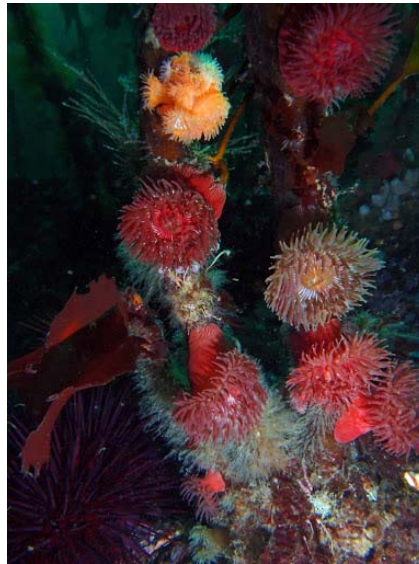
Palau, Micronesia, SEPT 27-OCT 4, 2013, 8 days/7nights at the PALAU PACIFIC RESORT and 5 days of diving with SAM'S DIVE TOURS. **Includes:** NITROX, LUNCHES DAILY (on dive days), airport transfers, use of reef hooks. Cost: \$1585 PP/double share garden view, \$1825 PP double share ocean view (If we have 12 guests, 1 will be free which will be divided equally) \$400 Non refundable deposit is due now.

For more info, contact Judi Brooks OR Gene Coronetz. So don't delay!send your deposits now. WE HOPE THAT YOU CAN JOIN US ON ONE OR BOTH OF THESE TRIPS !

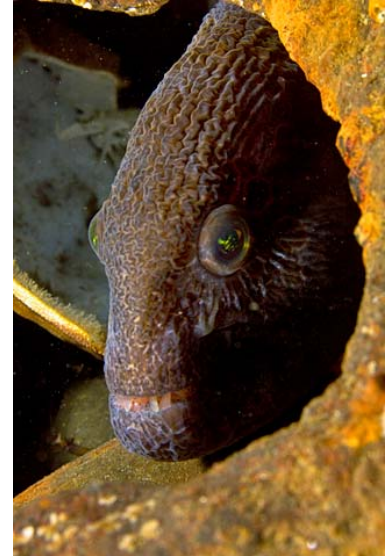
2012: Marker Buoy Photographers doin' it right!



Voracious Sea Lion chasing Jim Boon (again!)



Psychedelia @ Race Rocks by Joyce Merkel



Cute little fella @ Alkai Junkyard by Drew Collins



Cove 2 GPO by Steve Kalilimoku



Cousins of camouflage by Dan Clements



Now, take a DEEP breath! (Drew Collins Photo)

Environmental Stewardship



REEF STATION NEWS – JOYCE MERKEL

This year was full of great marine conservation successes! The following are some of REEF's major accomplishments in 2012:

- Working with the Cayman government to pass a new **Grouper Amendment Law** granting Nassau Grouper permanent protection through complete closure of the fishery throughout the reproductive season.
- Co-authoring **Invasive Lionfish – A Guide to Control and Management**, which tackles the invasion on an international level and provides direction on how best to deal with the emerging lionfish risk to marine systems.
- Coordinating **34 online "Fishinars"** through the Volunteer Fish Survey Project, which allow members worldwide to learn interactively about marine life from the comfort of their home.

REEF CRITTER OF THE MONTH

Showy Snailfish

Species – *Liparis pulchellus*

Family - Liparidae

Description: Dorsal and anal fins continuous ending in a rounded point. Head broad and somewhat flattened with large eyes. Often have stripes but also found without. Small mouth. Tends to curl up when it comes to rest. On their belly is an adhesive disc formed by its modified pelvic fins.

Color: Often a shade of brown but can vary widely.

Range: Central California to the Aleutian Island chain and the Bering Sea coast of Alaska.

Size: 3-6 Inches. Max 10 inches

Habitat & Behavior: During the day normally remain curled up and hidden under solid structures including shattered rocks. Most often found at night by divers when the showy is cruising over sandy or other soft bottom areas. Found at depths as shallow as 10ft or less but have also been brought up in trawler nets as deep as 600ft.

To Find: Look under solid structures or in the bottom of bottles or other debris during the day. Also can sometimes be found curled up on the bottom. At night you may find one out free swimming along the bottom in open areas.



- Contributing sources are 'Coastal Fish Identification' by Paul Humann, and 'Coast Fishes of the Pacific Northwest' by Andy Lamb and Phil Edgell



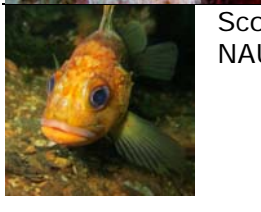


Classified

ACCOMMODATIONS

La Paz BCS Condo @ Costa Baja; On the marina where the "mui excelente" Dive Charter FUN BAJA is located. View Website: <http://vrbo.com/143122>

MAUI CONDO: Great for divers. Ground floor, 1/4 mi. from B&B Scuba in Kihei. Centrally located to dive sites. Ref: <http://vrbo.com/123327>.

Instructor Members

	<p>GREG WILSON – NAUI,</p>	 <p>Rhoda Green – PADI</p>
	<p>Scott Christopher- SDI /TDI/ NAUI/NACD/ PADI/ DAN,</p>	 <p>Kim Thomas – NAUI</p>
	<p>Randy Williams - TDI/SDI Open Water - Advanced Mixed-Gas Instructor NAUI Technical Instructor</p>	

Club Air Card Summary @ 12/28/12

<u>Shop</u>	<u>Starting Inventory</u>	<u>Issued</u>	<u>Added</u>	<u>Ending Inventory</u>
UWS	1	15	20	6
Lighthouse	0	5	5	0
<u>5th Dimension</u>	<u>2</u>			<u>2</u>
	3	20	25	8

13th Annual Seattle Aquarium Octopus Census January 19-21, 2013



Calling all divers!

Here's an excuse to go diving during the holiday weekend and collect data on a Puget Sound icon. Help us learn more about Puget Sound's Giant Pacific Octopus population and environment.

Collect your data at these suggested sites: Sund Rock, Octopus Hole, Flagpole, Jorsted Creek, Black Point, Point Whitney, Pulali Point, Alki Pipeline, Alki Junkyard, Alki Cove 2, Elliott Bay Marina, Harper's Ferry, Waterman's Wall, Rich Passage, Boeing Creek Reef, Edmonds Underwater Park, Fox Island, Z's Reef, Day Island, Titlow Beach, Point Defiance, Sunrise, Les Davis, Tramp Harbor, Three Tree Point North, Redondo, Mukilteo State Park, Langley Tire Reef, Possession Point, Alaskan Reef Wreck, Public Dock (Port Townsend), Hudson Point and Keystone.

For a map that includes all dive locations, [click here](#).

Information to collect during your dive(s):

- ▶ Date of dive
- ▶ Depth
- ▶ Den type
- ▶ General size
- ▶ Location of dive site
- ▶ Bottom substrate
- ▶ How many Giant Pacific Octopuses were seen at a single dive site during each dive. ([How to tell the difference between a giant Pacific octopus and a Pacific red octopus](#))
- ▶ Is the octopus on eggs

If you go diving during these three days, we'd like to know whether or not you see any giant Pacific octopuses. Please fill out the following [form](#).

To view the findings from the 2012 Octopus Census, [click here](#).

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 Joyce Merkel.

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 Mark Wilson, 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 Kimber Chard and Gene Coronetz.

MEET UP/ MARKER BUOYS

Join our members only on-line web group! Find a last-minute dive buddy, signup for a scheduled club dive, get directions to a dive, find trip reports, join member discussions about dive related subjects, as well as lots of other information about the club. You'll need to join Meetup and then the Marker Buoy Dive Club group. Go to: <http://www.meetup.com/Marker-Buoy-Dive-Club/>

MARKER BUOY 2013 BOARD

President: Fritz Merkel

Vice President: Brian Nyenhuis

Secretary: Joyce Merkel

Treasurer: Mark Wilson

Programs: Gene Coronetz

Newsletter: Bob Grenier

Webmaster: Doug Miller

Fundraiser: Catherine Knowlson

Refreshments: Steve Deblois