

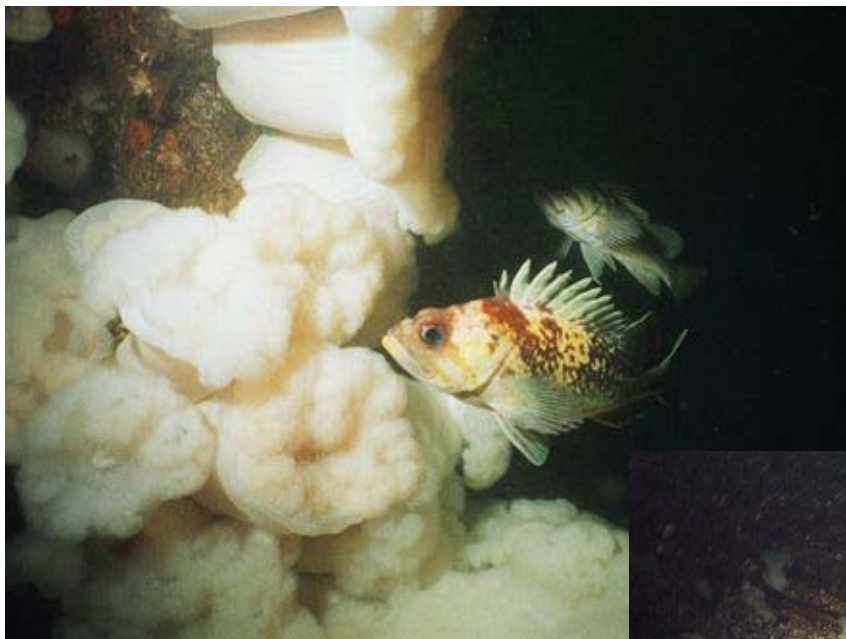


The Buoy Tender

Newsletter of
The Marker Buoy
Dive Club
Seattle, WA
April 2004

South Whidbey Boat Diving

Gene Coronetz planned a club boat dive to the south end of Whidbey Island and Possession Point ferry on March 27-28th. We always look forward to diving one of the bigger wrecks in Puget Sound.



We got through the locks and stayed at Shilshole Fri. night. On Doc Kay's Carver 34' Komokwa were myself and Doc Kay, Greg Stafford, Paul Martel and Dick Murray.

Weather started out a little rocky Sat. morning, with small craft warnings up. I must say I was pessimistic. Winds were reported at 16 knots off Alki. We also were going to be diving in a bunch of current, but as we motored north in Komokwa, we seemed to leave the worst of it south of West Point, even breaking back out into the sun. The wind did come up to about 15 knots as Gene, along with Chip Pettit, met us in Gene's 23' Boston Whaler. We waited a while, but the wind seemed to stabilize so we got divers into the water OK.

Current was weak, off predictions. Viz. was great 30-40 feet. We dove in two groups for safety, but nobody lost

the anchor line, which was just off the wreck in the rubble.

Ed, Greg, and myself dove together in the second group and enjoyed a tour around the outside of the 150' old wooden ferry. It has been down since the early 80's and is really covered with life. There are huge clouds of white plumose and fish of every size and dimension. It lies in about 80' of water at the bottom, but like most wrecks can be enjoyed at various depths from 60-80'.

There were large schools of Quillback Rockfish, many of which were pregnant and about to pop. The Lings were thick as thieves and moving about like submarines. I've never seen so many in one place. Some are huge. We were cruising by the bow, and as I stuck my light in holes I was greeted by the head of a monster ling sitting there. The damn thing must of been a foot or more in diameter, with the rest of him hidden in the wreck.



Over lunch we spotted two grey whales. After awhile they slowly swam by. Everyone had a good time crying "Thar she blows" as we spotted their spouts of water and the flukes of their tails.

continued page 2

South Whidbey cont.

The second dive after lunch was made in calm on Scatchet Head, where Gene showed us a gully that was really cool, lots of little overhangs with nervous rock fish and fat Cabezons. I've never seen so many big Cabs, I lost count at over a dozen. There was a boulder garden in the bottom of the sandy gulch and lots of invertebrates, shrimp, lemon nudis, and swimming scallops were found. About 12# of scallops swam their way into Gene's goodie bag for an appetizer that night!

The next morning, Gene and Fran met us in Edmonds and we drove out to do it again.

This time the current was pretty strong, but as usual, only down to about 20'. Again the viz. was pretty clear on the wreck and we enjoyed a tour of the inside, poking around the old boilers, generators, gangways and other metal wreckage. I spotted several nudi's this time, including some lemons and a clown.

As we had lunch, we saw the whales again. When leaving we managed to snag our anchor. Luckily another dive boat came up and we provided a down line for them to free up.

Gene stayed to do another dive, but we wanted to get back early, so we got underway and were cleaned up and off the boat by 3:45 or so. Thanks goes to Gene for setting it all up - and as usual to my dive buddy Ed Kay for hosting us on the good boat Komokwa!

Jack Connick

Ferry Deckhands Rescue Diving Trio in Edmonds

Herald staff; Tuesday, March 23, 2004

EDMONDS — Deckhands from the ferry Walla Walla rescued three exhausted scuba divers clinging to the Edmonds ferry dock Saturday (March 20).

The three were diving at the Edmonds Underwater Park near the ferry dock, but became too tired to make it back to shore on their own, ferry system spokeswoman Susan Harris-Huether said.

"The tides and currents were really rough that day, and they'd exhausted themselves," she said.

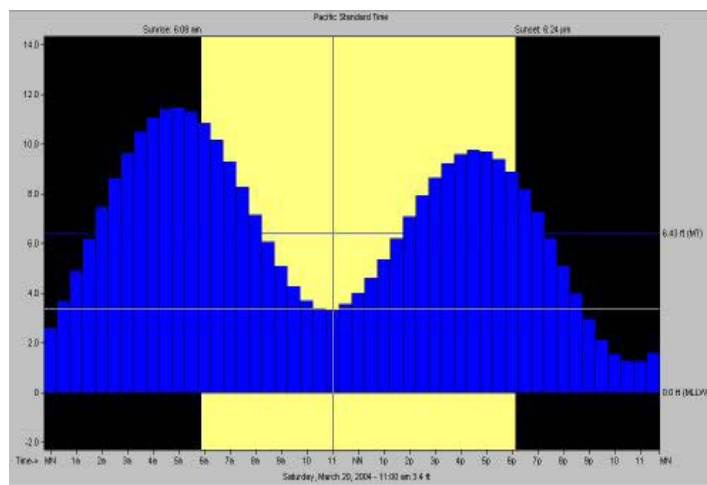
A passenger spotted the three, and deckhands John Burgh and Scott Frieboth launched a rescue boat from the

docked ferry, which was bound for Kingston.

The divers were tied to the raft and taken to the dock, where they were met by an aid car from the Edmonds Fire Department.

"One of them looked like he was in pretty bad shape," said ferry passenger Christopher Moores of Bothell. "They had them on shore within five minutes. It was pretty impressive."

None of the men required hospitalization, Edmonds police Sgt. Jeff Jones said, adding the identities of the three were unavailable.

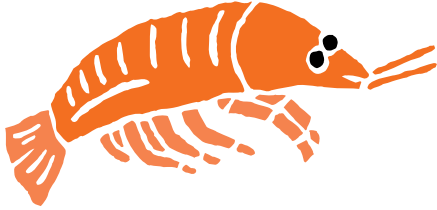


More checking on this incident shows the rescue happened about noon. Slack that day (Bush point) was about 11:55 AM with a Edmonds UW Park correction of +44 minutes-current before flood. The Tide chart (posted here) shows low tide about 10:50 AM. It's possible the divers might have used a Tide rather than a Current chart. Another diver in the park water near the dry dock about the same time reported: "... this was our first time diving EUP. Three of us had gone out to circumnavigate the dry dock, and there was actually a bit of current to contend with -- and it was flowing to the South when this happened. But the current wasn't too bad, I didn't think. (Since it was my first time at Edmonds, though, I don't have much to compare it to.)" Other divers reported the predictions that weekend seemed to be off with stronger currents than usual.

This was apparently the last straw for the ferry system and the 300 foot rule diving around ferries is now being enforced. Almost the entire cove out to the jetty is now off-limits. With such limited access available to divers already it is imperative that all divers take heed not only for personal safety but also responsibility for careful and appropriate use of dive sites. The Water Taxi is slate to resume with a bigger vessel and larger turning radius. Care must be taken in Cove 2 or that site could be lost also.

Dive Sites - Abuse them and lose them. Ed.

Shrimp Season Opens



OLYMPIA - Washington's popular recreational shrimp-fishing season begins April 17, but with a reduced number of fishing hours in one area of Puget Sound, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) announced today.

In addition, the sport fishery for shrimp in Port Townsend Shrimp District will remain closed indefinitely due to a low abundance of shrimp.

"Test fisheries in the Port Townsend Shrimp District indicate that shrimp abundance is just too low to support a recreational fishery, said Dave Sterritt, WDFW shellfish biologist. "We plan to continue monitoring efforts and hope to announce an opening if catch rates pick up in the test fishery."

As in previous years, three fishing areas north of King County - Marine Areas 8-1, 8-2 and 9 (outside of the Port Townsend Shrimp District) - will be open for shrimping Thursday through Sunday only each week until the quota for each area is taken. Most other areas in Puget Sound outside of established shrimp districts will be open seven days per week.

An exception is Marine Area 10 near Seattle, where fishing will be restricted to Thursdays and Saturdays only, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Mark O'Toole, WDFW shellfish biologist, said reducing the number of fishing days and hours in Marine Area 10 was necessary because of the growing popularity of shrimp fishing in recent years.

"Last year's sport fishery in Marine Area 10 lasted just four days and went over the quota," O'Toole said. "With so many people fishing, we need to exert a little more control over the seasons or these management problems will only get worse."

Marine Area 10 includes all waters between the northern tip of Vashon Island to a line just south of Edmonds. In the last five years, participation in the recreational shrimp fishery increased ninefold in those waters, O'Toole said. According to WDFW records, the average number of shrimp pots fished each day in that area increased from 25 in 1999 to approximately 235 in 2003.

Other areas of Puget Sound are also feeling the pressure. Last year in Hood Canal, the area's most popular shrimp fishery, recreational fishers caught their annual quota of 75,000 pounds in just four days. This year's fishery in Hood Canal, which opens May 15, is restricted to Saturdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day until the quota has been reached.

Daily limits for all areas are the same as last year. In general, the daily limit is 10 pounds, including heads and tails. However, within that 10-pound limit, only 80 spot shrimp can be taken in a single day.

O'Toole suggested that shrimpers targeting spot shrimp - which are larger than other species - consider using a shrimp pot with a 7/8-inch mesh. That mesh size is large enough to allow smaller shrimp to pass through the pot as it is being pulled up. "This will reduce handling mortality for juvenile spot shrimp and non-targeted species," O'Toole said.

More information about shrimp gear, rules and seasons is available on WDFW's webpage, at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm> on the Internet. That's the same web address for emergency rule change information. Those without Internet access can call the shellfish rule change hotline, 1-866-880-5431, for the latest information in emergency rule change news.

Meeting Notes

If you have an interest in seeing and diving New Zealand the club has a real information source in member Mark Savage. He has made 6 extended trips since 1988. He and his wife either rent a motorhome (earlier trips) or stay in a "batch", New Zealand for a vacation rental home. They then explore by car. This allows them to get to know an area better. The ratio of unspoiled land/people is still very favorable. People are extremely friendly. There are a huge number of beaches and most are completely empty. Since the farthest you can get from the ocean is 60 miles the population has developed with the sea and is very interactive with it. Sailing, fishing, and diving are popular. Mark likes diving and hunting for crayfish (spiny lobster) and fishing the surf. Sea life is still abundant and getting dinner is generally easy. He showed us slide of abundant proof.

Are there any downsides? It does seem that it blows a lot there and rain is frequent. As a NW'er he didn't seem too preoccupied with that. He intends to keep going for a long time.

We had a good number of new or interested members at the meeting. Spring is in the area and local divers are starting to think about getting wet, especially those without drysuits.

Fritz Merkel

Local Dives Calendar

Date/Time	Location	Dive Coordinator	Experience Level
4/17 Sat. 8:30 AM	Union Wharf Port Townsend	Greg Goebel (206) 915-8371 greg@brinybay.com	Intermediate/advanced
Must have self-rescue abilities. Be prepared for deep no-deco dive to 120ft. Gear requirements-redundant air source, shears & knife, main & back-up light.			
4/17 Sat. 10 AM	Seacrest Cove 2	Rhoda Green (425) 430-5571 dolfin@drizzle.com	All Divers
4/17 Sat. 8:30 PM	Mukilteo T-Dock Shrimp Dive	Jason Lammers 425.418.3487 jason@cdduplication-cdburning.com	Advanced (Avg. depth 80'-100')
Saltwater shell fish license, Advanced OW cert., primary and backup light, something to catch your shrimp in.			
4/18 Sun. 3 PM	Edmonds UW Park	Jason Lammers 425.418.3487 jason@cdduplication-cdburning.com	Intermediate (long swim possible)
Post Dive Debrief at Rory's			
4/24 Sat 2 PM	KVI Tower Shore dive Vashon Island	Robert Horsley 206-547-7950 (Wk) Rhprinting@qwest.net	Intermediate/advanced Good physical Condition
Long walk and swim. Possible 2nd night dive at Tramp Harbor with cookout in between.			
5/1 Sat 2 PM	Keystone Whidbey Is.	Steve deBlois (206) 369-3457 skdeblois@aol.com	Intermediate
5/15 Sat. 3 PM	3-Tree Burien	Chip Pettitt 206 768-8426 chip_pettitt@msn.com	All Divers
5/29 Sat. 11:30 AM	Ft. Flagler 8 miles NE of Pt. Hadlock	Steve deBlois (206) 369-3457 skdeblois@aol.com	Intermediate
5/30 Sat. 2:30 PM	Skyline/Burrow's Pass Anacortes	Fritz Merkel 206-525-0736 fmerkel@att.net	Advanced (current, depth)
6/12 Sat. 2:18 PM	Titlow Beach Tacoma	Chip Pettitt 206 768-8426 chip_pettitt@msn.com	Intermediate
6/27 Sun. 1 PM	Sunrise Gig Harbor	Joyce Merkel (206) 525-0736 jamerkel@att.net	Intermediate/advanced
6/26 Sat. 12:30 PM	Day Island Tacoma	Robert Horsley 206-547-7950 (Wk) Rhprinting@qwest.net	Intermediate/advanced
(Very limited parking- small neighborhood with hostile neighbors. Carpool if possible. Be very quiet and courteous. Ed)			
7/10 Sat. 9 AM	South Whidbey boat dive	Gene Coronetz 206-351-9864	Advanced
8/21-22 Weekend	Saltcreek Campout Strait of Juan de Fuca	Paul Riggs (206) 935-8105 paul_riggs@yahoo.com	Advanced

Congratulations to the following divers for completing advanced course work. \$15 is a good return on membership and an excellent return on safety. MBDC recommends, and rewards, SCUBA education beyond Basic OW1. Diving is a safe sport when based on a foundation of education and experience. Even experienced divers can benefit from structured classes as skills, especially unused "rescue" skills get rusty.

<i>Betsy Bruce</i>	<i>Advanced Open Water & Nitrox</i>	<i>Jason Lammers</i>	<i>Rescue and Master Diver</i>
<i>Dana Joy</i>	<i>Advanced Open Water & Nitrox</i>	<i>Greg Stafford</i>	<i>DAN Oxygen Provider</i>
<i>Scott Brockenbrough</i>	<i>Advanced Open Water & Rescue</i>		

Dive Trips Calendar

DynaMike Charters, Campbell River, BC Canada

**April 29th-May 2nd, contact Jack Connick (206) 284-1142 / JConnick@JackConnick.com
Only \$325CDN (aprx \$255), all-inclusive!! \$75US non-refundable deposit. Trip includes 5
boat dives, tanks/air, weights, lodging and meals. (Trip full-waiting list only)**

Diving with Mike Richmond at Quadra Island near Campbell River in Canada. Dives are primarily drift dives with fantastic color and diversity of animals and bottom terrain, as well as wrecks and interesting topography to explore. Campbell River has some of the highest currents in the world, and you have to dive on the slack tides, so the dives are around 6 hours apart. Mike's lodge is very comfortable and includes a hot tub, fireplaces, and plenty of living room and gathering places. For a trip report and photos see: <http://JackConnick.com/deepics.html>

San Juan Islands, April 30 - May 2, 2004. Dive with Island Divers out of Friday Harbor.

Cost: Includes lodging. One night (very early ferry Saturday to make the 9 AM boat departure) \$255, tax included. Two nights (come up Friday) \$287, tax included. 50% deposit required to hold the boat (\$127.50 or \$143.50)

Sponsors: Carol Murren and Greg Gilson gregge@ix.netcom.com

Three dives Saturday and three Sunday. By leaving from Friday Harbor, we can make it out to Henry Island (Turn Point) and other spots on the West side of the island. We'll also dive Dawns Bottom, the only place I know South of Campbell River, which is carpeted with strawberry anemones. We'll have a party Saturday night.

Port Hardy Dive Trip at God's Pocket May 7-14, 2004; 7 nights/6 days

Judi Brooks; 425-641-2570 or divegal@concentric.net

Price: \$242.50 pp/day Canadian or \$1455 Cd for trip. (US \$ 1062-US \$ fluctuates) (This includes a 10% discount if we fill the trip.) Deposit of CD \$200 pp or approx. US \$150 holds your spot. Due now.

British Columbia offers the best cold water diving in the world. Explore current swept passages, plunging walls, wrecks, and reefs. Enjoy the abundant sea life both above and below the water. Accommodates 12 guests in private cabins. Many new features including 3 boat dives daily, Nitrox, kayaking and a hot tub! Make checks to: Judi Brooks PO Box 6574 Bellevue, WA 98008

Dive Baja Mexico - La Paz!

Jack Connick / JConnick@JackConnick.com / 206-284-1142

July 18th-25th, 2004 - Divers: \$1025; deposit \$275, non-divers \$175.

Dive the magnificent Galapagos-like Sea of Cortez, turquoise water meets desert and mountains! Only 5 hrs by air! Lots of fish and moray eels as well as a chance to see Pelagics such as hammerhead sharks, manta rays, whale sharks, whales, dolphins and lots of friendly sea lions. We'll fly in/out of Los Cabos, transfers included. Does not include food at hotel, tips or airfare (aprx \$450-500). Photos at: <http://JackConnick.com/deepics.html>. Stay at Hotel La Concha in large, beautiful (shared) condos. Dive with Cortez Club Diving on fast 6-pack boats. Great time of year for whale sharks and mantas. Lots for non-divers to do! Trip limited to 12 divers. Includes: Transfers from condo, hotel (condos), 5 days, 3 tanks diving/7 nights hotel, for at least 15 dives. Wednesday is a day off, option to dive.

DynaMike Charters, Campbell River, August 26 - 29, 2004. Cost: \$330 Canadian (non divers-same price). Deposit \$75 U.S.

Sponsors: Carol Murren and Greg Gilson gregge@ix.netcom.com

Mike and Darline Richmond's lodge. Will do our five dives on Friday and Saturday. On Sunday we'll head to Vancouver Island to Campbell River. We'll snorkel down the river against the on coming King Salmon (peak season). This is fascinating. We'll get a few feet from a hundred or more salmon. People can keep snorkeling and leave to catch whichever fish they plan on.

Meeting Announcement

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 5th, 7 PM - Visitors Welcome!

Program: Jeff Christiansen of the Seattle Aquarium - 6-Gill Sharks

Marker Buoy Dive Club Board of Directors

President:	Jack Connick	(206) 284-6451	JConnick@JackConnick.com
Vice President:	Greg Goebel	(206) 915-8371	greg@brinybay.com
Secretary:	Paul Riggs	(206) 935-8105	paul_riggs@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Chip Pettitt	(206) 768-8426	chip_pettitt@msn.com
Program Chair:	Gene Coronetz	(206) 351-9864	ecoronetz@vircom.net
Fundraiser:	Christine Scott	(425) 493-1985	christine@netpremiums.com
Newsletter Editor:	Fritz Merkel	(206) 525-0736	fmerkel@att.net
Refreshments:	Catherine Knowlson	(206) 368-3457	ccknowlson@aol.com

Underwater Sports: Benefits provided by our club sponsor UW Sports include 10% discount on all parts for regulator overhauls, \$14 tank hydrostats, 10% discount on merchandise (does not apply to books, tanks or merchandise on sale), prize donations for club events, and a Marker Buoy Dive Club booth at the annual Northwest Diver's Fair. Ask Chip Pettit, Treasurer, for your Marker Buoy Membership Card to present at UW Sports for your discount.

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 Paul Riggs.

Diver's Ed: The club will reimburse members \$15 for successful completion of advanced certification courses that increases the member's competency and safety. Courses that qualify are advanced diver, rescue diver, divemaster, instructor, nitrox, DAN O2 Provider, and initial First Aid & CPR (non-renewal). Reimbursement for other courses subject to board approval. Show proof of course completion to Chip Pettitt, Treasurer, to collect.

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 Underwater Sports 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. The club has two O2 kits: One is with Randy Williams (Lower Queen Anne/Nickerson Ave.) and the other is with Fritz & Joyce Merkel (Sandpoint).

Contact either one of them to check out a Kit. An Air Card gets you 10 tank fills at any Underwater Sports location.

YahooGroups Marker Buoys: Join our **members-only** on-line web group! Find a last-minute dive buddy, a ride, or directions to a dive, trip reports, as well as our roster and newsletters.

Go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MarkerBuoys> on the web, or send an email to:

MarkerBuoys-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

INSTRUCTOR MEMBERS

Rhoda Green - PADI

dolfin@drizzle.com / 425-430.5571

Randy Williams - NAUI

heliox@comcast.net / 206-286-6596

CLASSIFIED ADS

Awesome Dive Boat:

26 ft. Wellcraft w/ 300 h.p. Evinrude outboard, EZ Loader trailer. Set up for diving & tank storage. Sleeps 4. A steal at \$16,000. Dave Hancock:dave@divealert.com (206) 612-5623; or Steve Zimmerlund:zimmerlund@earthlink.net (425) 771-5405.



MBDC Picnic/Potluck:
Lower Woodland Park;
July 7
Reserve the date.

Prez Report



What's the Most Important Piece of Dive Gear?

Recently there have been a couple of disturbing accidents that might have been avoided with some “on-the-beach” thinking beforehand. All too often we think that the most important piece of safety gear is that new piece of technology we just bought; be it a redundant air source, surface marker, scuba horn, HID light or whatever. But the most important piece of dive gear is the one between your ears.

The first incident was where the ferry at Edmonds picked up a trio of divers. This has caused further consternation and problems with the ferry at the park. It could easily of been avoided by careful dive planning and respect for the currents at the park. I am speculating a bit, but diving the dry dock at the turn to flood and going beyond the end of it isn't a good idea. Nor is swimming too far, running out of air and trying to surface swim back in. The surface currents can be strong at the park.

I'm sure there were complicating factors in this incident, there always are. And that's the other part of the equation. Dive plans change. Plan on the plan changing. Adapt and have a fall back that doesn't get you into trouble. For instance, you may plan your dive in the parking lot and find out the current is doing the opposite of what you thought when you get in the water. Or a piece of gear may fail, or the viz. is bad, or any number of things. Part of dive planning is talking through the known problems that might occur, and being ready to deal with them, or just abort the dive.

The second recent incident is the experienced Oregon diver who died at Sunrise while wading back in from a dive.

He and his wife were trying to avoid problems with landowners by staying in the water. She fell into a deeper hole. While helping her, he fell also and drowned. How tragic and horrible for both of them.

My comments here are more speculative, as circumstances are sketchy. My experiences at Sunrise are that the current is almost always northbound. After swimming into shallow water there, it is very easy to just float back into the small cove and get out in the back-eddy. Or walk along the shore in ankle deep water safely. Taking off their fins and walking in waist deep water just isn't entirely safe. Then you don't have the means to swim. Your arms are burdened and it's easy to trip or find a hole that's deeper. You have the weight of all your gear throwing you off-balance. Without a regulator in your mouth a problem can occur in very shallow water. A swift current area such as Sunrise complicates the situation (and the exchanges on the day in question were too high to dive there in my opinion). Again, just some simple thinking about where they were, and the conditions there, might of saved a life.

So while you're fiddling with all that great technology and preparing for a dive, don't forget that low-tech device that makes it all work correctly. Use your head, think things through, and have a safe dive.

Jack



**ODDYSEY MARITIME DISCOVERY CENTER
PRESENTS PUGET SOUND UNDERWORLD:
INHABITANTS, HIDEOUTS AND EXPOSURES
MARCH 8 - JUNE 30, 2004**

A photo exhibit of 49 images will transform viewers to the deep, underwater world of the Puget Sound. The exhibit highlights the lesser-known creatures of Puget Sound as seen through the eyes and lenses of five Washington State divers : Ken Blauvelt, Randy Glen, Katrina Kruse, Karlista Rickerson and Veronica von Allworden.

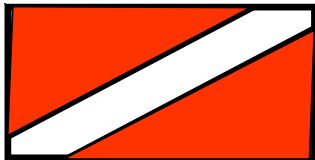
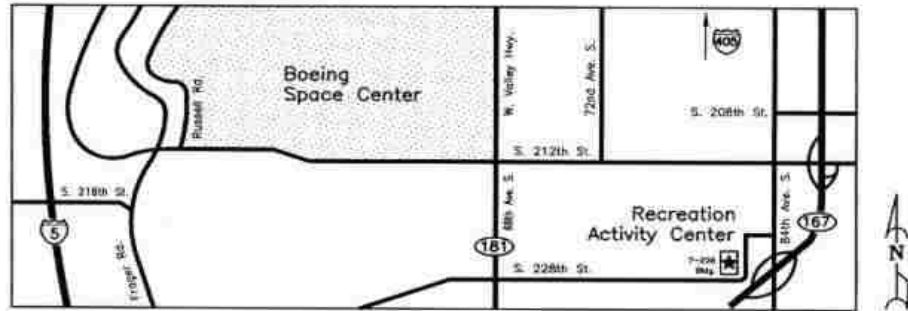
Tue-Sat 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; Sun 12:00 noon - 5:00 pm
Adults \$7.00; Seniors \$5.00 Students 5-18 years \$5.00;
http://www.ody.org/newsroom/info_news_pr030804.htm
Pier 66, 2205 Alaskan Way

SCUBA SWAP MEET

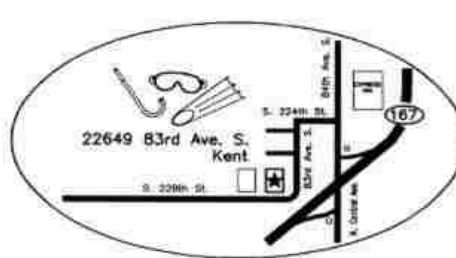
Sat April 24th - 9 AM to 12 AM

Recreation Activity Center - 22649 83rd Ave S. , Kent, WA

Boeing Sea Horse Dive Club will hold its annual Scuba Swap Meet. Dive shops, charter operators and dive travel operations as well as every dive club and diver in Western Washington have been invited.



Door Prizes!



Door Prizes!

©\xxx\4036

For more information:

<http://www.seahorsediveclub.com/> (better map here)

**Marker Buoys will be staffing an information table.
Contact Jack Connick about helping.**

Marker Buoy Dive Club
P.O. Box 31163
Seattle, WA 98103

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month, at 7 pm, at the Sunset Hill Community Center (Ballard) 3003 NW 66th St, Seattle.

See our website: <http://www.markerbuoydiveclub.org>