

# *Pacific Northwest Diver*

PUBLICATION OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY  
BRITISH COLUMBIA | WASHINGTON | OREGON | NOVEMBER, 2011



**Octo-Wolf Eel Rodeo | Laurynn Evans**  
**(Click on Image to View Video)**

# Pacific Northwest Diver

BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE & WEB SITE PROMOTING UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY, EDUCATION, & TRAVEL IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST | NOVEMBER, 2011

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# Pacific Northwest Diver: In This Issue

Welcome to the November issue of Pacific Northwest Diver! This issue's featured underwater artist is videographer Laurynn Evans. Not only is Laurynn an extremely talented photographer, she has a great sense of humor. If you have not yet viewed her Octo-Wolfeel Rodeo clip linked on the cover, be sure to do so. Our featured operator is Pacific Adventure on Hood Canal, and we will be checking out photos and videos from the Coquitlam SCUBA Club, Marker Buoys, and Jefferson Dive Locker. Also in this month's issue are some holiday gift ideas for underwater photographers and videographers, 2012 travel plans, underwater seminars, plus a feature about lessons learned on insuring your equipment. As 2011 comes to a close, our best wishes for the holiday season, and we hope you have an outstanding 2012 filled with the beauty and awe of capturing images of life below the water line.

## In this Issue: Coquitlam to Klamath Falls



Coquitlam Scuba Club

Pacific Adventure  
Marker Buoys

Jefferson Dive Locker

## To Subscribe: PNWUPS Membership



Pacific Northwest Diver is a publication of the Pacific Northwest Underwater Photographic Society (PNWUPS).

In order to subscribe to this e-publication, please complete the [Subscribe fields on the PNWUPS home page](#). Membership is free, and e-mail addresses are not shared with other groups or businesses. We need an accurate count of subscribers to assist with sponsorships and travel.

We are all over-loaded with e-mail, tweets, etc, so communication from Pacific Northwest Diver and PNWUPS will be limited to one or two e-mails per month.

If you are interested in trips with other underwater photographers and videographers, please check out the Travel Section on page 15. In 2012 we will be photographing dolphins, sharks, and caverns in the Bahamas; whale sharks, sea lions, and hammerheads in La Paz; plus the annual spring kelp forest shoot in Monterey/Pt Lobos.

If you have any questions about subscribing, please contact publisher [Dan Clements](#).

## From the Archives: Mississippi Diving in 1938



A car's old gas tank and some garden hose compose a homemade helmet for this Mississippi River pearl diver. Notes with the photo claim the apparatus enabled the man to "go down 70 feet, and remain down one and a half hours."

He would have needed that much time to find anything. When this photo was taken in 1938, the Mississippi's population of pearly mussels had already been largely depleted for use by button factories. For them, the mussels' shells proved more valuable than the gem sometimes inside. One bivalve could yield 24 buttons punched from its halves—and some six billion buttons were produced in the U.S. in 1916 alone. Though most pearl-button factories did not survive the 1940s rage for plastic buttons (not to mention zippers), the end of the harvests did not bring the Mississippi's mussels numbers back. Dozens of its species are now classified as endangered or threatened. Some might say they're as rare as pearls.

National Geographic photo by Ralph Stock. Submitted by Jim McGauhey.

# Pacific Northwest Diver: Featured Videographer- Laurynn Evans



Laurynn Evans

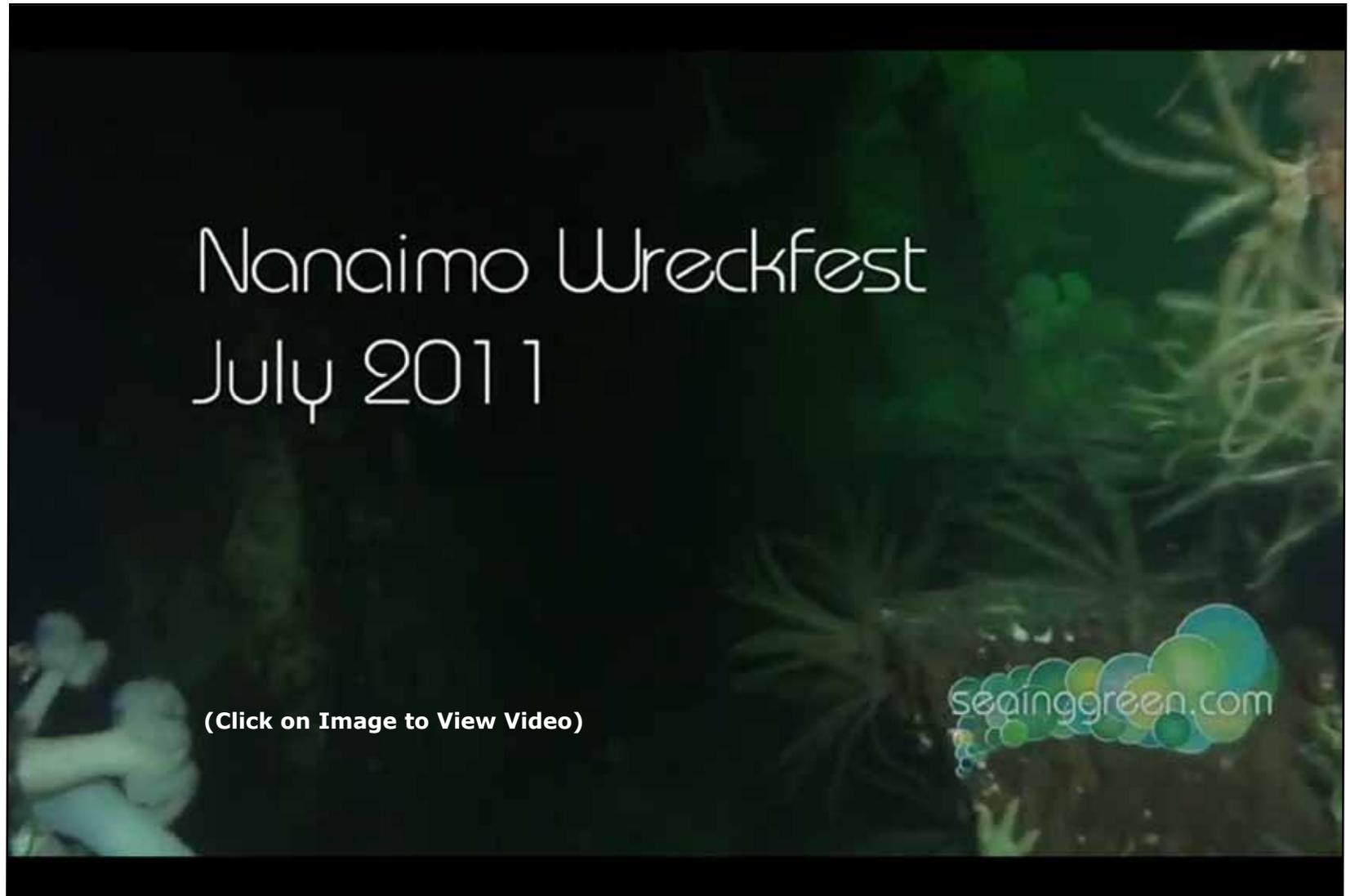
Laurynn is a multi-talented diver and videographer. She holds a Doctor of Education degree, and is a principal in the Lake Washington School District.

Her non-diving interests include motorcycle racing (Suzuki GSXR600), wines, and baking. Oh yes, her first book was published in May, 2010.

With all these interests, it is hard to see how Laurynn has time for diving and videography, but she does. She shoots with a Sony HDR CX 550 housed in a Light & Motion Stingray G2+ housing and Fathom 90 port for better viewfinding. For lighting, Laurynn uses either Light & Motion Sunray 2000, or Sunray 1200, depending on conditions.

To finalize her videos Laurynn uses Final Cut Studio and Final Cut Pro on an Apple platform.

So click on the cover to enjoy the octo riding the ling cod, or the wreck, critter, or cenote videos that follow.



Nanaimo Wreckfest! For the July 4, 2011 weekend, some friends and I set off for BC to join with other friends for a spectacular weekend of wreck diving. I was the fortunate recipient of a new scooter mount for my camera system, and this weekend was focused on working through shooting sequences and processes for utilizing the mount to its fullest potential. As I was just learning the art of shooting on a scooter, some of the film is not of banner quality, but it did present some great learning opportunities on the post-production spectrum. This film was fully post-produced in Final Cut Studio and utilizes licensed music/soundtrack. This video involved approximately six hours post-production.

Laurynn's Web Site: <http://www.seainggreen.com>  
To Contact Laurynn: [information@seainggreen.com](mailto:information@seainggreen.com)

# *Pacific Northwest Diver: Laurynn Evans, continued*

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# *Pacific Northwest Diver: Laurynn Evans, continued*

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Mysteries of the Underworld:  
Discovering Mayan Blue

**(Click on Image to View Video)**

# Pacific Northwest Diver: News Corner Corner

## [ReefID Marine Data Base Project](#)



John Fifer is working on a unique new on-line marine "critter" identification system. Among others, one of his main inspirations for the project was a "Fishinar" he attended taught by Janna Nichols of the Reef Environmental Education Foundation.

This combined with an extensive background in e-learning has helped John begin building an easy to use resource that will be useful for anyone interested in marine life.

In order for the site to grow into its potential, ReefID needs to populate its data base with images of marine life from around the globe. They are looking for you to become part of the project and need your help.

If you would like to help with this project while getting some exposure for your photos, consider signing up with ReefID.org and send in your best marine critter identification shots.

Being that the site is relatively new, representation from the Pacific North West is definitely needed. By being some of the first images submitted for this area, your chances to be used in ReefID's unique identifier are very high.

The next few paragraphs are a brief write-up submitted by John for the current issue of *Pacific Northwest Diver*. Future issues will feature ReefID's most wanted segment in which requests for specific species will be noted. Entrants for ReefID's most wanted will be publicized and highlighted in our publication and on the ReefID website.

Interested in helping to build or use what will someday be the most widely used marine life identification resource available?

In July 2010, ReefID began collecting digital images from both professional and amateur underwater photographers in an effort to create the largest easy to use database of our ocean inhabitants to date.

ReefID combines underwater images and visual aids that help sort through its continually expanding database.

Using simple silhouettes and basic characteristics in drop-down fields, users are able to narrow down and ultimately identify marine inhabitants from their computers, tablets or cell phones.

The concept that it is being built with is making identifying what you see a fun and easy alternative to marine identification books that anyone can use.

Profiles created by ocean focused people, places and organizations contain images that describe who they are and what they have to offer the world. Images from these profiles are what fill the ReefID identifier and help people identify what they see.

The ReefID identifier provides information on common and scientific names as well as other information of interest about the marine inhabitants it displays.

Each image in the Identifier links back to the profile it came from providing viewers with information on where the image was taken and the person who took it.

Using this technique, profile owners receive much deserved recognition and exposure for their contributions to the project's data base.

In addition to building a resource that educates and inspires new and existing ocean adventurers, ReefID also connects people with Clubs, Educational Facilities and Dive Destinations.

Articles and links throughout the site can be used to learn more about underwater photography, dive destinations, research projects, ways to get involved and much more.

With easy to use identification system and fun resources to keep the interest of all levels of ocean adventurers, ReefID is a site to check out and play your part.

Web: [www.ReefID.org](http://www.ReefID.org) Contact: [John Fifer](#), Founder & Editor

## [Underwater Workshops](#)

Looking to improve your underwater photography or videography? We have tried to list some of the top workshops taught by some of the top underwater photographers.



Stephen Frink  
[Waterhouse Tours](#)

6-9/6-16 Digital Master, Key Largo  
7-7/7-14 Digital Master, Bonaire  
7-14/7-21 Digital Master, Bonaire

Instructors also include Photoshop guru Eddie Tapp and DSLR video expert Frazier Nivens.

Several of us have taken Stephen's workshops, and they were outstanding.



Dr Alex Mustard  
[amustard.com](http://amustard.com)

1-14/1-21 Digital Madness, Grand Cayman  
1-21/1/28 Creative Lighting, Grand Cayman

Local members have taken Alex's Digital Madness class and found it excellent. Less emphasis on post processing and more on shooting.



Berkley White & Others  
[Backscatter](#)

1-28/2-4 Photo Expedition, Bonaire  
6-16/6-23 Digital Shootout, Little Cayman

Backscatter runs dozens of training events all over the globe each year. Check their website for details on the program and instructors for each event. Don't let "Mad Scientist" Berkley frighten you!

If you would like a review of any of these workshops, please contact [Jim Boon](#) or [Dan Clements](#).

# Pacific Northwest Diver: Operator/Resort Corner

[Pacific Adventure](#), located outside of Brinnon on the west side of Hood Canal, offers some of the best diving and facilities for underwater photographers in the Pacific Northwest. Don Coleman owns Pacific Adventure, and [Down Time](#), the 38 foot boat he uses for divers. Don takes out a maximum of six divers, so there is plenty of room for people and gear. The aft end of the boat is covered, so divers stay warm, even in bad weather.



Don Coleman Briefing Divers

From the Edmonds ferry terminal it is an approximately two hour trip to Pleasant Harbor, just south of Brinnon. It is about 45 miles from Kingston to the marina.

Diving with Pacific Adventure can either be a day trip, or multi-day outing. If you plan on multi-day diving, there is a convenient choice: a room in the Pleasant Harbor House at the marina (\$85/night). This includes breakfast, and can be booked through Pacific Adventure (206.714.1482). There are four rooms available for rental.

For those familiar with the area, the Bay-shore Motel in Brinnon is currently closed, so Pleasant Harbor House is the only local place to stay.

The map to the right shows the major dive locations visited by Don and crew. From north to south, these sites are: Pulali Point (three sites), Pinnacle, Black Point, Rosie's Ravine, Flagpole, and Elephant Wall.

As with most dive locations in our area, diving sites is weather dependent: some locations are diveable with north winds, others in south winds. Don is very good about notifying people 24 hours in advance if conditions do not look good.

The central Hood Canal dive sites serviced by Pacific Adventure offer a wide variety of photo opportunities.

On recent dives in the Pulali Point area we encountered several different types of nudibranchs, and a giant Pacific octopus out in the open. It was very curious, and spent several minutes with us.

My favorite dive site is the Pinnacle, a pointed seamount that rises to about 25 feet of the surface. There are all manner of critters: from vermilion rockfish, to giant Pacific octopus, to wolfeel, to sponges, to nudibranchs, ling cod, jellies, and other surprises.

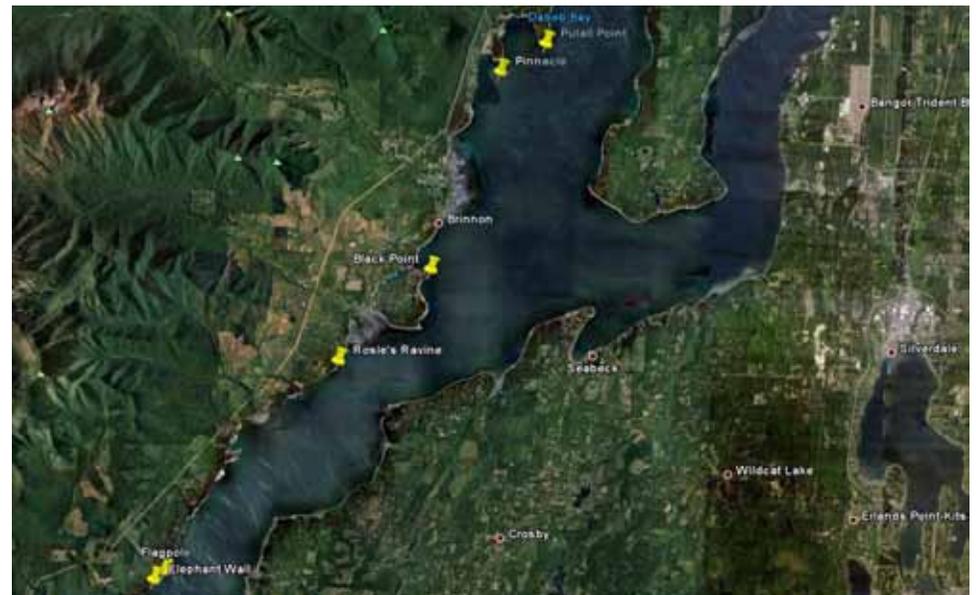
This past September we were diving Black Point, and had the good fortune to be followed by three spotted dogfish. Great to see sharks making a comeback!

Enjoy the photos on the next few pages from trips with Pacific Adventure. If you are lucky, you may even be on a dive with Janna and Claud Nichols and witness their stand-up comedy routines!



Down Time Taking Off

Web: <http://pacadventure.com/>  
e-Mail: [don@pacadventure.com](mailto:don@pacadventure.com)  
Phone: 206.714.1482



# Pacific Northwest Diver Operator/Resort Corner



Pat Gunderson

Pat is accomplished underwater photographer who enjoys diving with Don on Pacific Adventure.

She and husband Mike look for openings on Pacific Adventure's Facebook page, and dive Hood Canal whenever they can.

Pat's favorite sites are Pinnacle, the Pulali Point dives, and any other sites where octos, grunts, wolf eel, and other critters are found.

For equipment, Pat shoots with a Nikon D200, twin Ikelite strobes, and Hartenberger focus light. Her housing is a Subal.

Pat believes in processing photos as little as possible. To finalize shots she uses Photoshop and Bridge on a Mac. Pat is an extremely knowledgeable Photoshop user, and frequently assists PNWUPS members with help post processing photos.

One of the interesting things about diving with Pat is her air consumption, or rather lack thereof. She is consistently the last person to emerge from the water, generally after a 70 or 80 minute dive.

Pat's Web:  
<http://www.sea-visions.net/>  
Pat's e-Mail:  
[patricia.a.gunderson@jci.com](mailto:patricia.a.gunderson@jci.com)



**Grunt Sculpin by Pat Gunderson**  
1/60<sup>th</sup>, f8, ISO 200, 30.5 mm focal length, single strobe.  
White Balance Auto.



**Giant Pacific Octopus by Pat Gunderson**  
1/60<sup>th</sup>, f8, ISO 200, 21.5 mm focal length, single strobe.  
White Balance Auto.



**Mike and Anemone by Pat Gunderson**  
1/200<sup>th</sup>, f6.3, ISO 200, 13.8 mm focal length, single strobe.  
White Balance Auto.

# Pacific Northwest Diver Operator/Resort Corner, continued



Dan Clements

My feeling is that Don Coleman and Pacific Adventure is one of the top dive operators in the Pacific Northwest.

Don is an excellent diver and photographer, and his boat is set up very nicely for underwater photographers and videographers. With a maximum of six divers on a 38' boat with a covered aft area you are not crowded, and have nice cover in bad weather.

And the dive sites are spectacular! At the Pinnacle there are four to six resident wolfeel, giant Pacific octopus, vermilion rockfish, nudibranchs, and many other critters.

The three dive locations at Pulali Point offer a wide variety of terrain and wildlife. On several dives we have seen large GPO's out in the open on day dives.

This past September we were diving Black Point, a shallow area just outside the marina, and were accompanied by three spiny dogfish sharks. Beautiful!

So if you want spectacular diving in close proximity to the Seattle area, call Pacific Adventure!

Dan's Web:  
<http://e-clements.com/>  
Dan's e-Mail:  
[dan@e-clements.com](mailto:dan@e-clements.com)



**Slowly Drifting into a Jelly**

Dan Clements

Nikon D300s Camera, 60 mm lens  
1/60th, f 11, ISO 200, white balance 5900



**Saddleback Gunnel**

Dan Clements

Nikon D300s Camera, 60 mm lens  
1/125th, f 11, ISO 250, white balance 5000



**Sea Star Dining on Jelly (I like spicy food, but this is ridiculous)**

Dan Clements

Nikon D300s Camera, 12-24 mm lens, set to 24 mm  
1/125th, f 11, ISO 200, white balance 4200



**Wolfeel Getting Ready to Play**

Dan Clements

Nikon D300s Camera, 60 mm lens  
1/60th, f 13, ISO 200, white balance 5900

# Pacific Northwest Diver Dive Club Corner: British Columbia

## COQUITLAM SCUBA CLUB

The Coquitlam Scuba Club is based in Coquitlam, BC, Canada with members located from Chilliwack to Denman Island. They are focused on recreational diving at local, as well as Vancouver Island, dive sites. Certified divers of all levels are welcome to join us in our activities. This is an active club, with organized weekly local dives and extended trips arranged by club members.

The Club does not provide scuba lessons or instruction, but provides opportunities for divers to join like-minded individuals for diving trips. They are fortunate to have some spectacular BC diving available. The Club has many members with extensive experience diving these sites, and are happy to share this experience with divers new to the club.

Club meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at the Coquitlam Social Recreation Centre (630 Poirier St, Coquitlam).

The Coquitlam Scuba Club started in 1972. The main force was a NAUI instructor who actively encouraged his successful students to join the club. His well attended classes were part of the city's night school program. Diver fitness was emphasized during the 60 hour Basic Course which included time for swimming many lengths with and without scuba gear. Yes, the instructor was ex-navy.

Club activities have changed with the times. The first members were active in spear fishing and underwater hockey competitions on snorkel gear. They were also experienced, strong scuba divers and introduced new members to marine identification, photography and the multitude of local sites. The new divers gained experience quickly and the club started organizing trips to Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast.

Trips to Barclay Sound on the Rendezvous were well attended for many years.

By the 1990's, dive organizers mastered the tide and current tables which permitted the club to consistently book trips with good slack tides. Trips to Gabriola Passage, Dodd Narrows, Poirier Pass, Active Pass, Race Rocks, Discovery Passage, Seymour Narrows and the Skookumchuk became the club's forte.

A few of the more adventurous members started exploring sites at the north end of Vancouver Island. Participation in the Top Island Econaut's May Long Weekend became an annual club event. Trips to God's Pocket Resort and Seymour Inlet Lodge were filled.

Popular sites included; Dillon Rock, Browning Pass, Hunt Rock, Broughton Island Group, Barry Island, Booker's Lagoon, Outer Narrows and Nakwakto Rapids. After the lodge in Seymour Inlet burned down, the club went to Sun Fun Divers. They cover all the north island sites out of Port McNeil and Port Hardy with a fast boat.

Access restrictions have reduced the number of local sites, however members continue to "get wet" prior to trips and help new divers. Club activities continue to revolve around diving with a few social events to present photography.

Club photographers include: Norris Colby, Walter Horton, Jim McNaughton, Val Parrish, Harvey Schneider, Dave Twitchett, Lisa Zazzi, Marli Wakeling and Kim Brown. Videographers are Rob Ross, Jennifer Ingram, and Lisa Zazzi.

Enjoy the photos and video from this active dive club: from Humpbacks to wolfies, to invertebrates.

Web: <http://coquitlamscubaclub.ca/>  
e-Mail: [swimgoddesslisa@hotmail.com](mailto:swimgoddesslisa@hotmail.com)



Post dive dinner and libations at Divers Den (Sun Fun Divers) in Port McNeill. "Leaky" Bill Turner, Lisa Zazzi, Norris Colby, Peter MacLean, and Frank Seki



Humpback Surfacing, Photo by Kim Brown

# Pacific Northwest Diver Dive Club Corner: British Columbia



Norris Colby

Norris uses a Nikon D200, Nexus housing, Inon Z240 strobes. The photo was taken with ISO 160, 1/160th, f 20. Norris uses Photoshop for post-processing.



Norris Colby Photo: Decorated Warbonnet Playing "Hide & Seek"  
Nikon D200, Sigma 28-80 lens@ 80mm, ISO 160, 1/160th, f 20



Lisa Azzzi

Lisa uses the same rig for video and stills: Fuji FinePix f40 with matching housing, camera flash plus hand-held HID light, hand-held G&R light, and two different video lights (UltraPower-II UXLG-1, and I-Torch VideoPro 3).



Kim Brown

Kim's beautiful anemone photo was taken with a Cannon SR80, with two slave Bonica Neon XP strobes.



Lisa Zazzi (Click on image to view video): George Klikach feeding friend  
Fuji FinePix f40, ambient lighting at 75 feet



Kim Brown  
Cannon SR80 2 slaves Bonica Neon XP

# Pacific Northwest Diver Dive Club Corner: Washington

## MARKER BUOYS

Marker Buoy Dive Club traces its roots to 1961 as a shop-sponsored dive club in Ballard, WA. The club was founded by John T. Miller, who together with his wife Alma, owned and operated the Marker Buoy dive shop in Ballard.

The club was originally called "The Marker Boys" because in the early 60s, scuba diving was a male-dominated sport and the membership was entirely male.

However within a few years, the club name was changed to "Marker Buoy" as more women became interested in scuba diving and joining the club, and also to more closely identify with the business name of the shop.

The original Marker Buoy dive shop closed in the late 60s for reasons lost to history.

Marker Buoy continued as a shop-sponsored club with Lighthouse Diving until 1987, then with Underwater Sports until 2007, when it became an independent dive club.

Club membership tops 120 divers, and this is a very active dive club. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month in Ballard.

There are usually one to three club sponsored dives each week, and several out of area trips annually that are put together by club members. Jim notes that even hard core Northwest divers need an occasional tropical fix!

There are a number of photographers and videographers in the club: Joyce Merkel, Rhoda Green, Karin Fletcher, Yara Silva, Johanna Raupe, Drew Collins, Jim Boon, Bobby Berenson, Jim McGauhey, Doug Coutts, Darren Curtis, Jack Connick, and Steve Metzner.

Web: <http://www.markerbuoydiveclub.org/>  
e-Mail: [markerbuoys@gmail.com](mailto:markerbuoys@gmail.com)



Jim McGauhey

Jim is currently President of Marker Buoy Dive Club, and is an avid diver/videographer. One of the more humorous videos Jim has produced was the moray video shot on Maui (right).

He shoots with Sony A1U HDV camera in a Ocean Images housing, with Pro-Watt twin 50 watt halogen lights. Camera is mostly auto exposure, manual white balance, and focus constantly changed between manual and auto. External 7" monitor from Walter Marti. Editing is with Magix Video Pro X2.5.

e-Mail: [jmcgauhey@usa.net](mailto:jmcgauhey@usa.net)

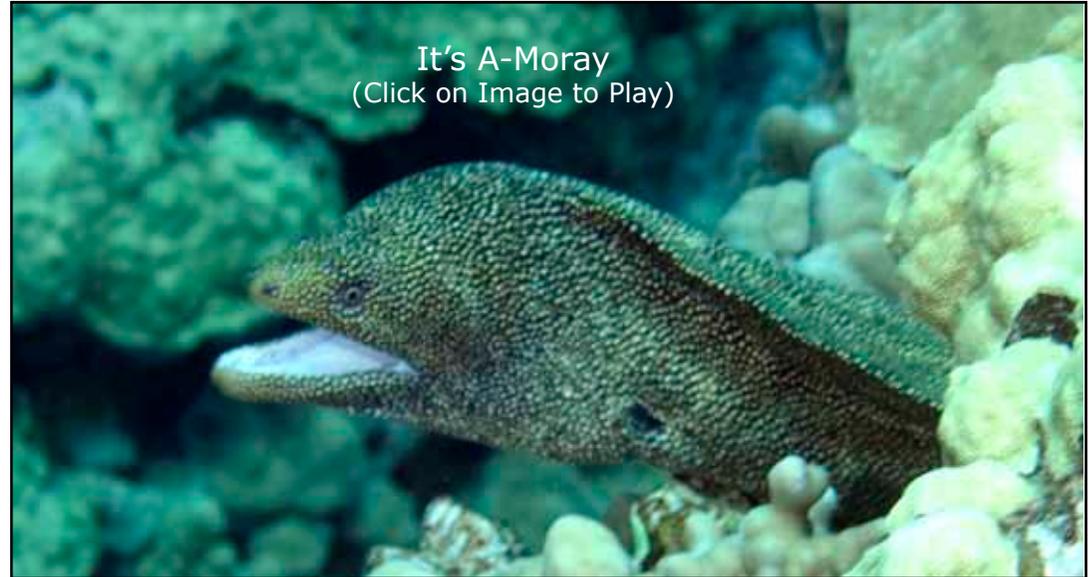


Drew Collins

Drew is another active Marker Buoy diver/photographer. Drew captured the sole hiding in the sand on a dive at the Alki Junk Yard in West Seattle.

Drew's camera of choice is a Cannon T2i in an Aquatica housing. He uses dual Inon z240 strobes and a Sola 600 focus light. For post processing and cataloging he uses Lightroom 3.

Web: <http://photographyunderwater.net>  
e-Mail: [drew\\_collins@comcast.net](mailto:drew_collins@comcast.net)



**Jim McGauhey: "It's a-moray" Video (With apologies to my Italian family & friends)**  
Song "It's a Moray" by [George Nowak](#) (Used with permission)



**Drew Collins: Sole Hiding in Sand**

Canon T2i, Aquatica Housing, Inon z240 dual Strobes, Light 7 Motion Sola 600 focus light  
ISO 100 60 mm 1-200 sec at *f* - 6.3

# Pacific Northwest Diver Dive Club Corner: Oregon

## JEFFERSON DIVE LOCKER

If you want to dive the clear and cold mountain lakes of Oregon, or Lake Tahoe, you may want to contact Dan Benson.

Dan had a retail dive shop in Klamath Falls for many years. When the economy tanked, he closed up the store and moved the base of operations for Jefferson Dive Locker to their fully equipped trailer.

The informal "club" consists of twenty to thirty divers who hit the water as frequently as possible. One of his dive spots is Lake Waldo.

Waldo Lake is one of the purest lakes in the world. And it is right here in Oregon. Imagine diving in visibility that is the best possible! Waldo Lake is called the Gem of the Cascades.

Dan notes that the combination of high altitude (5,400 feet) cold temperatures (low 40's) and deep dives (100+ feet) stresses both body and gear. On two different occasions he has had his regulator freeze up and free flow.

And what is there to see in one of the purest lakes in the world? Dan says: "Nothing! There are some rocks that grow underwater. But aside from that and some strange little insects there is NOTHING to see. There is nothing to see except the curtain of bubbles from other divers and the shaft of sunlight reaching down to bathe the bottom."

Dan is a videographer, while his wife Michele shoots stills.

Web: <http://www.jsdive.com/>  
e-Mail: [dan@jsdive.com](mailto:dan@jsdive.com)



### **Lake of the Wood Salvage Dive**

Improvisation is the name of the game in our part of the world  
Creative lift bags. Clean up dive organized by Matt Duffy



### **Schuch in "camo" diving gear.**

You can take the diver out of the marine, but not the marine out of the diver!



### **Close the Storefront, Move to Trailer**

With the economic down-turn we decided to close our store front  
Base of operations is now our dive trailer: complete with compressor and beds!



### **OIT Certification Dives**

Think Puget Sound is cold? Try snow fed mountain lakes in winter!

# Pacific Northwest Diver Travel Corner

## 2012 TRAVEL



### **La Paz Whale Sharks Up-close & Personal**

La Paz's resident whale sharks are beautiful, and a few minutes from the hotel. Here is Scott Geitler up close and personal with a subject.

At this time we have three out of area trips lined up: Monterey in April, Bahamas in June, and La Paz in October. Here are the details. If any of these trips are of interest to you, please contact [Dan Clements](#).

### Monterey/Pt Lobos

We will be diving/photographing at Monterey/Pt Lobos from April 23-27. As currently structured, these will be shore dives. If there is sufficient interest, we will look into some boat diving. Lodging in Monterey it is approximately \$85/night.

### Bahamas: May 31 - June 9

For the fourth year in a row we will be heading to Grand Bahama Island and diving with UNEXSO. The trip includes two dolphin dives, a shark dive, a cavern dive, and diving the coral and wrecks off Lucaya. You do not need to be cave certified to dive Ben's Cavern: the exit point is visible at all times.

This past year pricing was approximately \$1,560 per person, double occupancy, and it is anticipated this year's cost will be similar. Included are all dives, room, breakfast, and airport transfer. Not included is airfare, lunch, and dinner.

### La Paz: October

We just returned from an October dive/underwater photography trip to La Paz, Baja California, Mexico with Scott Geitler. The diving was spectacular!

La Paz has resident whale sharks from September through March, and we saw 3-10 each time we went out to photograph them. Sea lions at Los Islotes, scalloped hammerheads, and many other photo subjects are present.

Dates are being firmned up, but Club Cortez has said they will honor 2011 prices for bookings made this year. Cost is approximately \$1,300, per person, double occupancy, for six day's diving, four whale shark trips, breakfast, lunch, room, and airport transfer. There is a media room for post dive photo/video review. Not included is airfare. Alaska Airlines has flights from LA to La Paz.



### **Grand Bahama Bottlenose Dolphins**

This is an outstanding opportunity to photograph and interact with dolphins in their own environment.



### **Sea Lion Playing with My Fin at Los Islotes**

Young sea lions approached divers to frolick and play.



### **Tropicals**

And, of course, the Bahamas have a full array of tropical fish and wrecks for your enjoyment.

# Pacific Northwest Diver Technical Corner: Holiday Gift Ideas

OK: we are approaching holiday time, and we thought it might be nice to profile some items that you actually might like to either receive, or gift to your dive buddy. So check the items below out and have fun this holiday season!



## [Eye-Fi SD Card](#)

Wirelessly download images and video from your camera to your laptop while your camera is still in its housing.

This product was reviewed in the September [Pacific Northwest Diver](#), and priced at about \$89 makes a great, inexpensive gift

for yourself or underwater diving buddy. Available at Amazon and other camera/electronic stores and outlets.



## [Nikon & Cannon Lens Thermos & Mugs](#)

These Nepmandu Cannon and Nikon lens mugs and thermoses look like the real thing. My wife almost fainted the first time she saw me drinking out of what she thought was a \$1,200 lens.

At \$25 on Amazon, these mugs are another inexpensive gift for yourself or favorite photographer.

Oh, did I forget to mention the fun you can have with the good folks at TSA? I placed one in a camera bag on a recent trip, and it was highly entertaining. The aluminum lining apparently throws off a much different image than a regular lens. If you bring it through airport security, be sure you have a little extra time to explain to the screeners that this really is a coffee mug, and that it is very difficult to take photos through a lens without any glass!

## [Nautilus Life-Line GPS-VHS Radio](#)

After the supposed product launch at DEMA, 2010, the Life-Line GPS-VHS is finally shipping.

Priced at \$299, this product has the potential of saving lives and tracking divers who have either been caught in currents and drifted out of site, or been left at a dive site.

The VHS radio can be set to any marine channel, and automatically sends out an emergency signal with GPS coordinates to any vessel or shore based radio monitoring channel 16 within a 12 mile range.

This is also an excellent piece of equipment for blue water sailors. Depth rated to 425 feet/130 metres.



## [Aqua Star Underwater Scooter](#)

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?

The AS1 and its twin 2 person AS2 model underwater scooters offer a new and easy way for underwater exploration. They are easy to use & control with twin motor application.

The patented canopy provides undistorted and fog free visibility and great viewing. Battery powered with almost 3 hour operating periods. Available on e-Bay for \$12,500. But heck, shipping is included.



## [Buddy Link](#)

Dislike "tank-bangers" as much as I do? Now there is an electronic substitute out on the market that does not involve prodding, poking, or sounds an entire group will hear. Check out the Buddy Link system from Affinity Devices.

The Buddy-Link is a thumb-size device that attaches unobtrusively to the outside of your mask. It transmits an ultrasonic digital signal when you tap its button. Your Buddy's unit responds by flashing multicolored lights in your Buddy's peripheral vision and sounding a matching tune.

The Buddy Link Kit (two units), retails for \$350. It is moderately expensive, but anything to get rid of the "tank-bangers."



## [Happy Holidays!](#)

Have an outstanding holiday season with family and friends, and best wishes for 2012. Have great adventures diving and photographing the beauty below the waterline!

SCUBA Santa Andrea DosSantos at the Seattle Aquarium. Photo by Alan Berner, [Seattle Times](#).

# Pacific Northwest Diver Technical Corner: Camera Insurance

Jim Boon took some time off from diving and headed to the UK for some hiking in the country-side. Unfortunately, he and his wife encountered the remnants of an Atlantic hurricane that dropped prodigious amounts of liquid both on them and in Jim's pack. Read on for the resolution . . .

I've heard the horror stories from so many divers that I almost stopped listening or just plugged my ears until the whining stopped. Here's how it usually goes: diver falls in love with underwater photography, takes the new digital-gizmo to a blue water destination, dives to 60-feet or so and sees water filling up the case.

By the time our victim arrives back at the dive boat there is nothing to do but notify the insurance carrier and file a claim for damages. End of the story?

It could be the 'end of the story' if more divers paid just a little more attention and a little money for some insurance for their camera equipment. I too was almost in that under-insured situation except for the benefit of a casual conversation I had with one of my dive buddy's that provided me with a very timely awakening.

I think I'm like many divers with a photo-addiction. The new 'must have' gear just seems to accumulate and over some period of time your camera bag is very heavy and that certainly must mean something. I think it means that either you are getting weak or there is substance to your photo-addiction.

So, right after the timely conversation with my dive buddy, I did the unthinkable; I put all of my underwater camera gear out on a table and looked at the plethora of 'must-haves' I had amassed. My eyes were not good enough for me to focus and have full depth of field from one end of the table to the other without causing tears to run down my face. I was the perfect model, the poster-child for the under-insured-underwater-photo-diver.

I knew that I could get camera gear insurance through Divers Alert Network (DAN) or I could add a rider onto my homeowner policy. Regardless of which direction one takes for camera gear insurance, the most important thing is that you get it done before there is the flood or theft and then the whining starts again.

With all of my most valued photo toys still on the table I made a list, reviewed sales receipts, recorded serial numbers and dollar values. Then I added it all up and almost gave myself a heart attack (for which I am insured). Retaining my composure, I next went online to the DAN site, filled out some easy forms, pushed the enter button and viola, my treasured camera gear was insured. I actually felt very good because now I would not be joining that chorus of whining photo-divers.

I do a lot of diving and I never enter the water without my camera. I've still not had a flooded housing but recently I did have a flood, for which I was totally unprepared except for my DAN Insurance.

On a recent hiking vacation with my family, we were caught in a heavy rainstorm that lasted almost four hours. Without any place for shelter, we slogged on to the small village where we planned to spend the night. I unwrapped my camera from the inside of my daypack and found the body sitting in about 3 inches of water. The back of the housing was submerged in the water, however the lens was dry. An hour with a hair dryer pumping warm air did nothing to wake it up. No picture taking for the rest of this trip.

The day I returned home I rushed the body and lens to Photo-tronics in Seattle. Their initial assessment was 'maybe' and then 'no', the body can't be fixed but the lens is fine. I was ready to do some serious whining.

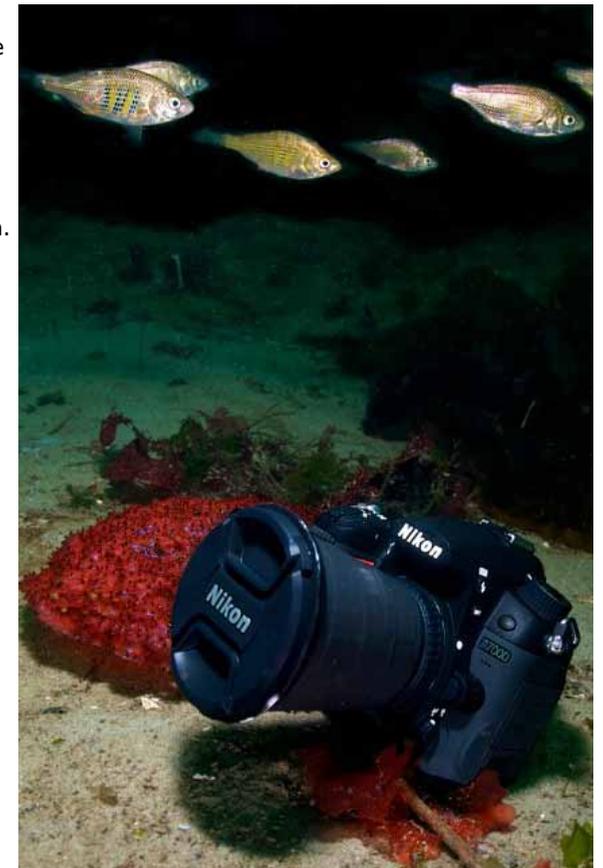
With the postmortem in-hand for my dead camera body, I sat down and read all of that itty-bitty fine print you never wanted to read in an insurance policy. I was looking for those magical words of 'exclusion', the golden parachute language written by a lawyer and never meant for me, but only suited to fit the insurance carrier who would never have to pay me a dime. As I continued to read, I could feel my anxiety level rising. Before I ever contacted the insurance underwriter I already knew I hated them and they certainly must hate me. Luckily, my initial contact was made online, which was good, so they did not sense the defensive posture that had overtaken my usually mellow demeanor. I was ready to do battle. I tactfully explained in writing that I had flooded my camera body. I was just certain I had a weak argument however when I explained that my camera was flooded in a non-dive related event.

As requested, I provided them with the required paperwork (original receipt for the body, written damage assessment from Photo-tronics, quote for a replacement body) and then I waited. I waited for an email response that would surely say 'CLAIM REJECTED'. The golden parachute people win again.

Last week I got an email that said 'CLAIM APPROVED' and the check is in the mail. Now I won't be whining but I'll sure be telling my dive buddies to get insured for the eventual flood because you never can tell where the water is going to come from.

*- Jim Boon*

Editor: If you elect to cover your gear on your Homeowners' insurance, be sure to ask your agent what the ramifications are if you have a loss. With current market conditions a major camera loss could lead to big increases or cancellation of your Homeowners' policy.



# Pacific Northwest Diver: Our Team

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The Pacific Northwest is a large, diverse region with diverse interests in underwater photography and videography. In order to make it easier for you to submit information about photographers, dive clubs, and operators/resorts in your area we have key contacts for British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon. Since we are all volunteering our time and efforts, we also hope to spread the work-load so we will all have ample time for diving and photography!

Below are our contacts, please either get in touch with one of the regional contacts listed below, or contact editor [Dan Clements](#) directly.

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