

Barb Roy



I N M E M O R I A M



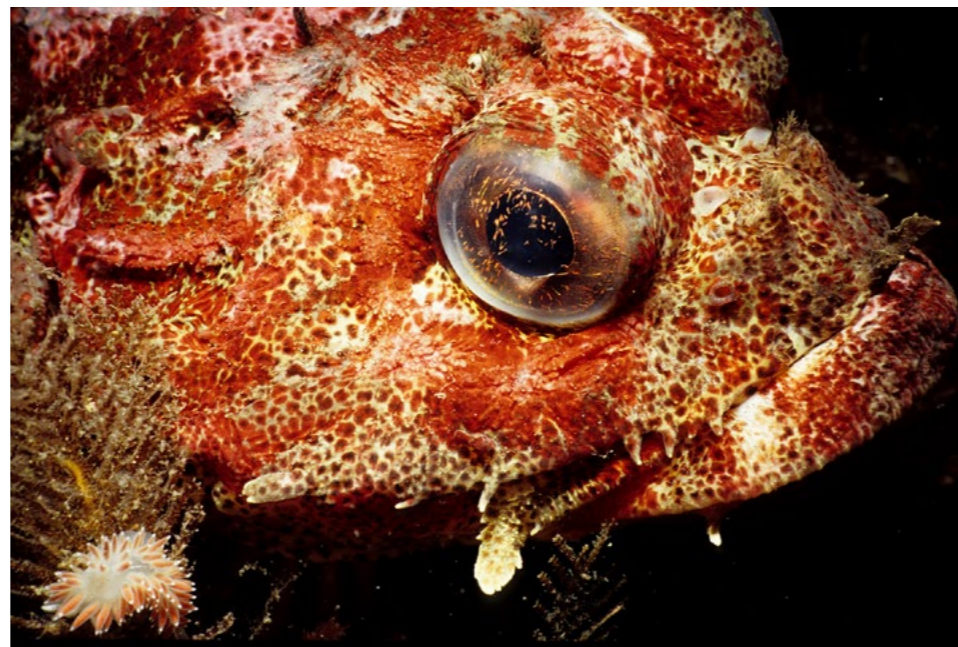
Anemones at Dodd Narrows, near Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, British Columbia

Text by Rosemary E. Lunn and Gunild Symes
Photos by Barb Roy

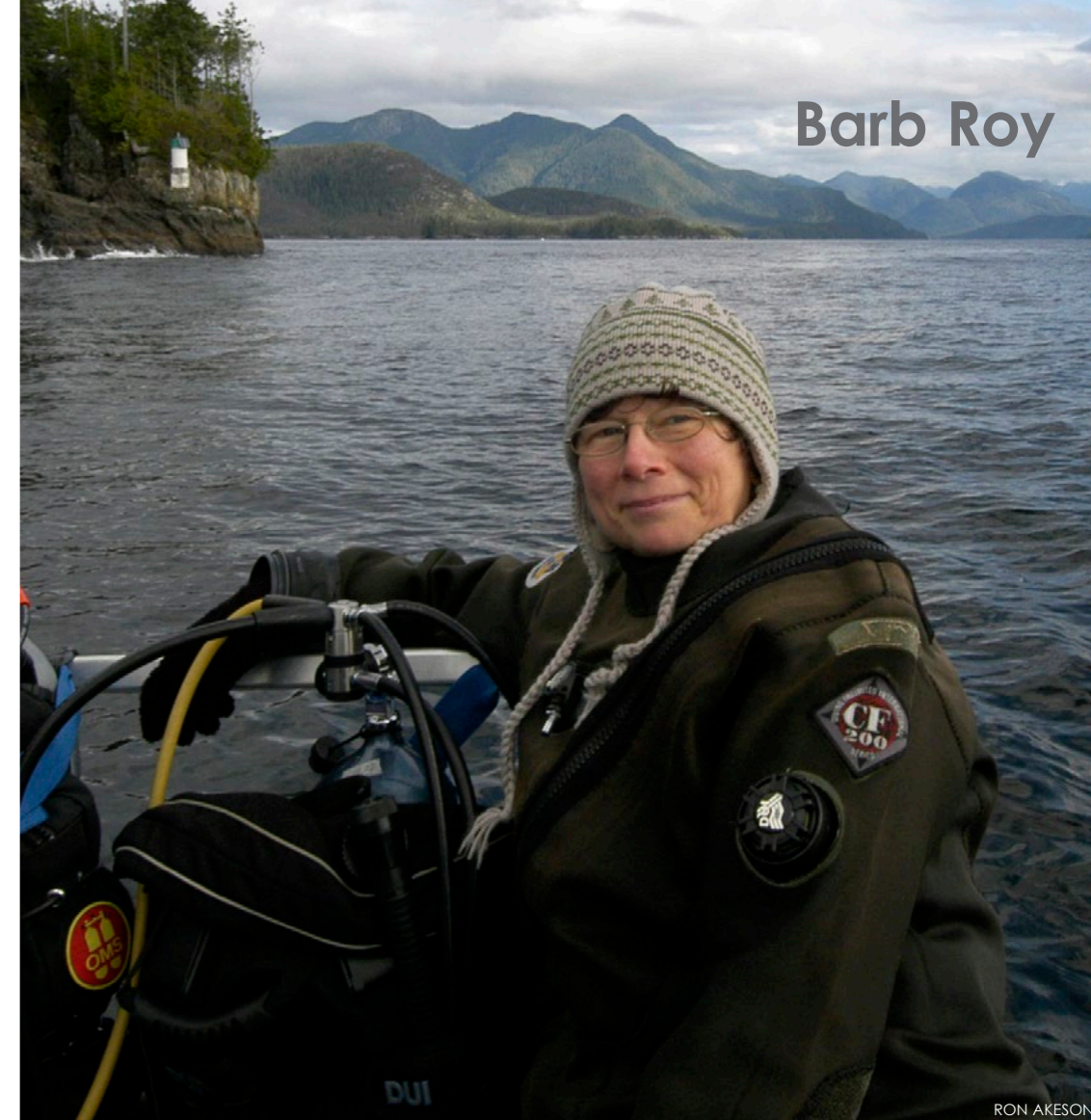
In January 2018, Barb Roy, our long-time associate editor and regular contributor, passed away after a long battle with illness. We celebrate her inspiring life and imagery in this memorial portfolio, highlighting some of the many beautiful and vivid underwater photographs Barb took during her frequent forays under the waves.

Barb was an avid technical and wreck diver, underwater photographer and instructor, having learned to dive in Anchorage, Alaska, in 1979. She was a PADI Master Instructor and held instruc-

tor ratings with DAN, IANTD and NAUI. She became a NAUI Wreck and Archaeology Instructor to explore wrecks and an IANTD Trimix diver to photograph giant gorgonian sea fans at 200 feet.



Red Irish lord eyeing a nudibranch (in the lower left-hand corner of the frame), British Columbia



Barb Roy

RON AKESON



Barb Roy, on her way to a dive in Nootka Sound (top right); Frosted nudibranch (above). PREVIOUS PAGE: Crimson anemones, San Juan Islands, Washington, USA





In 1980, she opened a dive business in Anchorage called Orca Oceanic Research & Salvage, where she taught hundreds of people how to scuba dive, organized local and international dive travel and sold diving equipment. After almost ten years, Barb took on a business partner, Ron Akeson, and changed the company name to Alaskan Underwater Adventures.

In 1991, they moved the business down to Washington State and again the name was changed to Adventures Down Under (ADU). It is no surprise that Barb was certified to repair regulators, drysuit seals and inspect cylinders. In 1997, Barb sold her half of the company to Ron but continued to work, teach and provide the marketing for ADU.

In 1995, Barb also began a part-

Red Flabellina nudibranch
at West Race Wall

What I remember most about Barb, beyond her deep passion for cold water diving and her journalistic and creative gifts, was Barb was a consummate human who reveled in being alive. She was insatiably curious about the world around her; was humble and deeply grounded. And she was always kind, always smiling, always looking at you with a twinkle in her eye that made you want to follow her journey to see what treasure in life it would shine upon. Barb's passing darkens a vast knowledge of the undersea realms, but the memory of her relentless and egoless passion for life will stay with, and inspire, those that knew her, and I am exceptionally grateful and lucky to have crossed paths with her during my life. I will celebrate her memory in my heart on my next dive (sorry, Barb, it may be in warm water)."

— Ty Sawyer
Skin Diver Magazine



Barb Roy

time career as an outdoor adventure photojournalist, specializing in dive travel stories. Since then, her written work and photography have appeared in various international and local print magazines, books and digital publications, including *Diver UK*, *Scuba & H2O Adventure Magazine*, *Skin Diver Magazine*, *Wreck Diving*, and *X-Ray Mag*; as well as for dive businesses such as Tahtsa Dive Charters.

After the passing of her good friend and business partner, Ron Akeson, in April of 2014 and the closing of ADU, Barb and her daughter, Tallen Patrick, opened a dive travel business in the same Bellingham location

As an outdoor adventure writer, dive travel photographer, friend and colleague, I will miss her greatly, as indeed will all of her fellow writers at X-Ray Mag. She was a consummate professional who enjoyed giving presentations about her many adventures to various dive clubs, museums and schools.

— Peter Symes
Publisher and Editor-in-Chief
X-Ray Mag

called Orca Oceanic Diving & Photography. It specialized in underwater photography and videography.

Barb had also served as a board member with the Dive Industry Association of British Columbia, the Maritime Documentation Society, and the Technical Dive Training Facility at ADU. She also assist-



Basket star on soft coral (above); Anemonefish on USS *Arkansas*, Bikini Atoll (left)





Barb had a love for diving and the dive industry. You could see it in her photography as well as in her articles. She put time into helping promote the industry and saw the benefits of the industry working as a whole to promote a passion that is shared by so many. She was very social and always put her heart into all she did. She shared her activity with so many of her friends, both in the industry and outside. She will be missed, but remembered, and that smile will keep smiling on.

— Ed Singer, Owner
Sunset Diving, Nanaimo, BC



Nutrient-rich water feeds this wall of life at Race Rocks near Victoria, British Columbia (above); A cluster of anemones paint the terrain of the Skook (top left)

ed the Washington Scuba Alliance (WSA) in collecting donations.

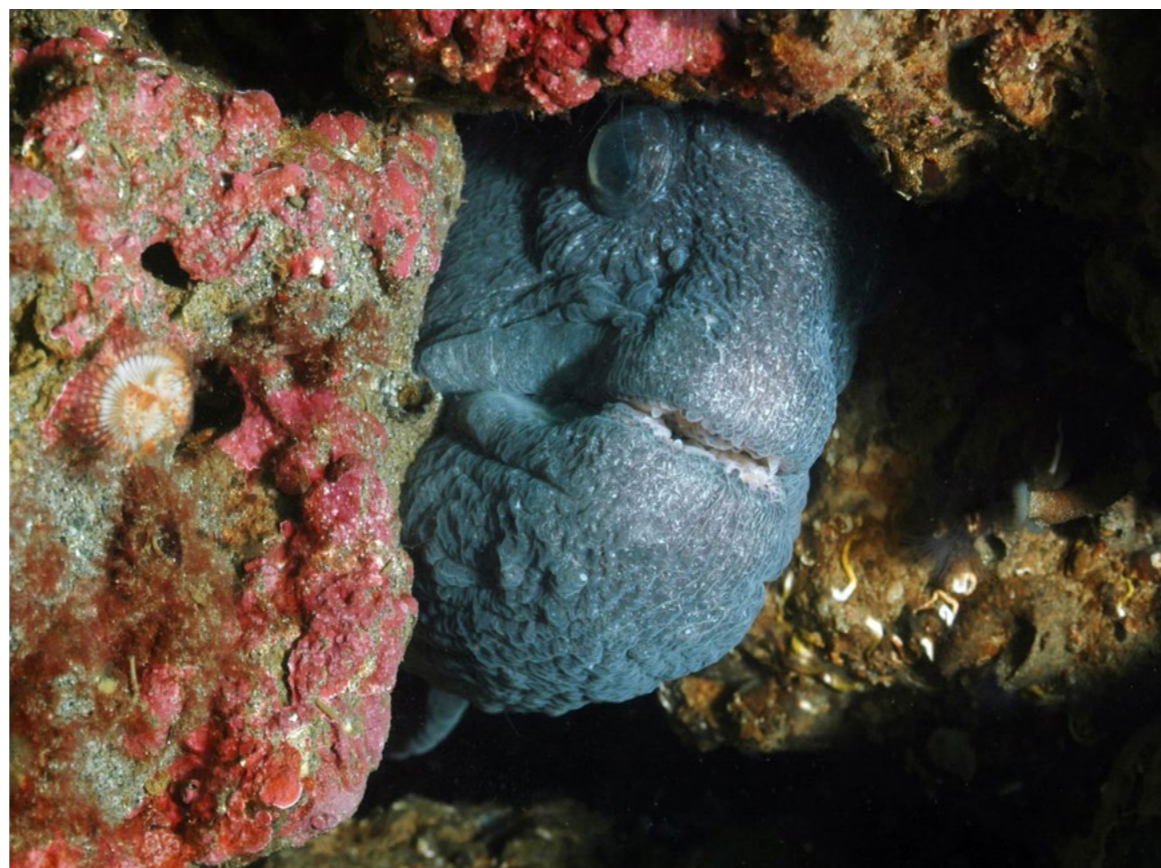
Diving advocate

Barb was a big advocate of diving in Canada and the Pacific Northwest. It was one of her great loves. Her images

were widely used to promote ecofriendly diving in British Columbia, and she spoke at the Vancouver Aquarium Diver's Weekend and at the dive show in Tacoma. Last March, she gave four photography seminars on diving in BC at the Tacoma Show.

Barb Roy made an indelible mark on this sport we love so much and will always be remembered for her passion and years of remarkable work in photo journalism, telling the story so well with her artistic eye to divers and non-divers alike around the world of why our emerald waters in British Columbia and Washington are so uniquely special. She will be forever remembered and has left a legacy of work that will live on for years to come.

— Deirdre Forbes McCracken
Owner and PADI Master Instructor
Ocean Quest Dive Centre, Burnaby, BC



A wolf eel peeks out from its den in the Victoria area, British Columbia

Shared adventures

With over 30 years of experience in the dive industry, with special interests in marine life, science, photography and shipwrecks, Barb offered presentations to the public about her various dive journeys to places like Tasma-

nia, Egypt, Churchill (Manitoba), Alaska and Guadalupe (Mexico). Barb enjoyed sharing stories of her adventures but also liked to hear about everyone else's too. She often traveled with family members, including her husband, Wayne Grant, children





Wayne Grant with octopus at Browning Pass Wall, British Columbia

It is very difficult to put into words how Barb was a gift to all of us, particularly in the dive community. Her constant upbeat nature, and enthusiasm for our sport is irreplaceable. Thanks for the memories.

— Virginia and Andy Lamb
Marine Naturalist, Author, Educator

The dive community has lost a great underwater explorer. May she rest in peace.

— Diane Reid
Underwater Photographer



ington State's Hood Canal, Churchill: Trekking Canada's Sub-Arctic Region in Manitoba, San Juan Islands, BC's Southern Gulf Islands, BC's Critter Connection, Red Sea Safari: Journey from Cairo to El Quseir, BC's Port Hardy: Aboard the Nautilus Swell,

Guadaloupe's Great White Sharks, Diving the Hot Spots of Vancouver Island, Socorro, Technical Diving Paradise in the Pacific Northwest, Journey to Bikini Atoll, Choosing a Technical Instructor, Thetis Island, Hawaii, New Zealand, Skookumchuck: Challenging

and grandchildren, so she could offer refreshing new perspectives in her stories and photography.

For X-Ray Mag, Barb was one of our most prolific and popular contributors, writing a long list of in-depth articles and news stories, often together with her husband, Wayne, over the past decade— with each article accumulating tens of thousands of reads from divers around the world.

Her stories included topics such

as Diving Coastal British Columbia, BC's Wreck Trek, Underwater Nanaimo, Diving Canada's Freshwater Interior, Vancouver's First Major Artificial Reef: HMCS Annapolis, Pavillion Lake, Wash-

Thanks to Barb for all the many years of support for the dive industry.

— Jan Breckman, Director
Dive Industry Association
of British Columbia



Mosshead warbonnet (above); Gorgonians (left) at Socorro, Revillagigedo Islands, Mexico

I first met Barb as she arrived on the dock in 1996, with her mischievous grin, while I was managing Ex-HMCS Columbia Artificial Reef project. In quick order (“somehow”) she was riding the ship on its tow to Campbell River. Barb had an ability to know when something was going to happen, OR she made it happen. Maybe the word is tenacity. Barb was always nearby. Maybe it has something to do with her relationship with my best friend and associate Wayne Grant (eventually her husband). She later joined us in Portimao, Portugal, to report on the four-ship “Ocean Revival” project. With Barb things were always interesting. She will be missed.

— Wes Roots
Canadian Artificial Reef Consultants





Dodd Narrows (above) near Nanaimo, BC; Barb Roy at the X-Ray Mag staff dinner, DEMA 2016 (top center); Male scalyhead sculpin likely guarding eggs in an empty barnacle shell (right)

the Rapids, and BC's Reefs of Steel.

One of Barb's favorite quotes (originated by E.J. Stieglitz, but often attributed to Abraham Lincoln) was: "In the end, it's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years." Barb certainly

fully lived life in her years, and was an inspiration to us all. ■

Special thanks to Wayne Grant and Deirdre Forbes McCracken for their kind assistance and dedication in compiling this memorial article.



PETER SYMES

"The entire BC Dive Industry was deeply saddened by the news of Barb Roy's passing. Barb was a friend to diving and the whole diving community. She will always be remembered for her passion and devotion to the emerald waters of the Pacific Northwest. We are a little less of a community without Barb here amongst us, lighting up our days with her images and stories."

— Donnie Reid, Dive Safety Officer and Photographer
Pavilion Lake Research Project
NASA Moon Mars Analog Mission Activities



Wayne Grant on wreck of Saskatchewan, Nanaimo, British Columbia

Barb was an enthusiastic and engaging reporter whose photography and writing reflected her pure love of diving. She will be sorely missed.

— Jeremy Heywood
Diving and Boating Safety Officer
Vancouver Aquarium

Barb, thank you for all your efforts on behalf of the dive community. It was a privilege knowing you.

— Bernie Hanby
Conservation and Education
Committee
Vancouver Aquarium Marine SeaLife
Science Centre

