

**Obituary**  
**Dr. Roland Corey Anderson (1946 - 2014)**

It was a shock for club members when they learned that Dr. Roland Anderson had passed away on February 19th. Roland was retired from the Seattle Aquarium, where he worked for 32 years as a biologist and researcher. His interest, and main field of study, was with cephalopods (octopuses and squids). His study of behavior of Pacific octopus, that he had done for 35 years, was world renowned. Roland gave several talks to the club, and was a frequent contributor to the *Dredgings* with articles and items. He left a lasting legacy through books and papers he authored and co-authored. Ever a gentle person, he was easy to talk to, and his presence at clubs meetings will be missed. G.H.

**Roland Anderson - Some Recollections** by Ronald L. Shimek, Ph.D.

I first met Roland over the phone in 1985. I was working at what was then the Bamfield Marine Station and he contacted me with some questions about the aquarium husbandry of *Antalis pretiosum* as part of a Native American cultural exhibit at the Seattle Aquarium. Our interests meshed from the beginning with a continuing collaboration based around our mutual diving and aquarium observations of, at first, *Rossia*, and then octopuses, and sea stars. Finally, we had the most wonderful of collaborations where we found ourselves going from each other's experiences in different areas where we were each able to fill in the blanks in the other's narrative to build a coherent groundwork. This has resulted in several publications where we were able to publish information that would have otherwise languished. These articles ranged from observations about *Rossia* egg deposition, to escape responses in some funky sea stars, to bona fide attacks of the Giant Pacific Octopus on divers, to the Giant Pacific Octopus capturing and eating birds.



**Above** - Roland Anderson observing a soft coral at Belau's Rock Islands, 24 April, 1991. **Right** - The Pacific Red Octopus, *O. rubescens*, photographed during a dive with Roland. **Ronald L. Shimek photos**

Roland was a superb diving biologist. Like all good research divers, at times he could spend a whole night dive examining a field of old beer bottles located off of a Seattle marina looking for small *Octopus rubescens* which lived in those bottles. I have often wondered what someone walking by on the shoreline sidewalk would think of the



flashes of my strobes going off in the bay on a rainy winter night. Then, of course, the answer is nobody saw the flashes of light because we two divers were the only ones insane enough to be diving offshore of a marina at night in the rain. But we got some good observations about these little octopuses and some other things such as large swimming nemertean worms.

It takes people like Roland, who are willing... Nay...who are ENTHUSIASTICALLY DRIVEN to go out in places like that marina's embayment to find out about the animals there; to want to find information about these small animals, and to tell their story. With his passing the world of Seattle's scientists gets significantly smaller. Roland was one of a special breed....He investigated animals that lived in places that few other people would venture into. Without people like Roland, we lose a very special window on the world.