

Location in Kruse Audio file: #2: 38:32- 42:00. Pages 63- 63

*Jennifer Stock:* Well, now it's 2010 and you were just on this cruise on the research vessel, *Fulmar*, and they put NOAA divers down and they went to this dive spot. How was it to hear what their experiences were like in this place that you pretty much found and discovered and dove around yourself?

*Bill Kruse:* Well, to back up just a little bit, the Fulmar expedition, the Reef Crest expedition this year, I was concerned that these professional NOAA high-tech, experienced, probably bored divers had seen it all and they were gonna come up and say, "Oh, it's just another dive site." We dove the day before on the 19-fathom pinnacle and they just couldn't stop talking when they surfaced after that and they were blown away and they were excited and that was extremely satisfying. First of all, it was still there and it was still good but real experienced people enjoyed it and were enthused.

So the next day, on the second dive, we got to the Western Pinnacle. The water conditions were not as good as we had hoped because they didn't have 100-foot visibility. They had 30, 40-foot visibility. But we were able to get them right down on top of the pinnacle and they were able to both shoot video and stills on there. And everybody came up who – the three guys, maybe two – two divers who actually dove there came up and did not discount all of the discussion we'd had about how nice it was. They said it was really, really incredible. The only thing that would have been better is a little more light down there and a little better visibility, but they saw the same pinnacle and they saw the same place, and yes, it's still there, too, and we were happy.

00:40:32

*Jennifer Stock:* Did you see some of the pictures? Were there some pictures taken there or is that where the lights went out?

*Bill Kruse:* I saw all the pictures and to the best of my knowledge, I've got copies of some of them, too. One's on my screen saver now. The technology for the video and the still photography has improved significantly since we used film. The set up's the same. The general alignment of the lights is the same but the quality of the imagery is extraordinarily improved and it's instant, too. It's instant gratification. We can see the pictures as soon as the divers come to the surface and everybody can talk about it while it's

still fresh in their mind and that was an experience we wish we had been able to have before.

So when I was out there on the vessel, we really visited three sites, Craine's Point, the Western Pinnacle, and the 19-fathom point, and every site was a new experience and was different for the team. But the fact that they came up enthused and impressed and these people who work in other marine sanctuaries, they know what cool is and they know what good is and they've rated this pretty high on the list, perhaps near the top. They were not expecting it. They were expecting much less.