

the staggering starfish

the official newsletter of the **GSNDAMBAA** SCUBA Diving Club

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April Club Meeting

Spanky noted that it has been a year since we have had a face-to-face club meeting. Since our pandemic guidance still prohibits meetings, we will again meet virtually. Our meeting will be held shortly after you receive this newsletter, at our usual time of **6:00 PM** on the first **Thursday** of the month, **April 1**. An email invitation with a Zoom link will be sent to regular meeting attendees the afternoon before the meeting. If you believe that you are not a regular attendee and would like to be sure you receive an invitation, please send an email to Spanky at gsndambaa@hotmail.com no later than noon on April 1. The April meeting agenda includes another update on State parks for availability of group picnic sites for our postponed 2020 Holiday Party and initial planning for a possible 2021 Dive/Camp weekend.

April Club Dive, Norrander's Reef

The dive club will travel across the sound for the second month in a row to dive at Norrander's Reef, over on Bainbridge Island. Our meet time for this dive is **9:15 AM** on **Sunday, April 4**. Parking can be a bit tight, so please carpool if you can. There are no facilities, so you should plan on stopping somewhere on the way. This site has some natural rock reefs where you can see lots of life. It is not known for large fish. If the weather is nice you can bring some lunch and we can sit around a picnic table at the dive site, Rockaway Beach Park.

Directions to Norrander's Reef:

The address for Rockaway Beach Park is 4002 Rockaway Beach Rd NE, Bainbridge Island, if you want to set your GPS. Otherwise, travel to Bainbridge Island by ferry or other convenient route. From the Kingston ferry, stay in the left lane and turn left onto Iowa. Continue straight onto NE West Kingston Road, and continue until you reach Miller Bay Road NE at a tee. Turn left, and continue until it takes a right run and becomes Suquamish Way NE. Suquamish will end at Hwy 305, where you turn left. Follow Hwy 305 until you reach Sportsmen Club Road NE, where you turn right. Follow Sportsmen Club Road (it will eventually turn left and become Finch Road NE) until you reach Wyatt Way

2021-GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

04/01/2021 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, probably virtual

04/04/2021, 9:15 AM

Club Dive at Norrander's Reef

05/06/2021 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, probably virtual

05/22/2021, 1:00 PM

Club Dive at Mukilteo Tee Dock

06/03/2021, 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, possibly at Edmond's Underwater Sports

06/19/2021, 11:30 AM

Club Dive at Point Whitney

07/01/2021 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, possibly at Edmond's Underwater Sports

07/17/2021, Time TBD

2020 Holiday Party, Tentatively at Rosario Beach

07/17/2021 Time TBD

Club Dive at Rosario Beach

08/05/2021 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, hopefully at Edmond's Underwater Sports

NW, and take a left. After 0.1 mi the road turns left and becomes Eagle Harbor Dr. NE. Follow Eagle Harbor; it will turn to the right as you approach the waterfront and become Rockaway Beach Road NE. Continue until you see the park to your left, toward the waterfront. Park along the street. From Tacoma, follow Hwy 16 to Hwy 3, get onto Hwy 305 in Poulsbo, and follow the directions above. From the Seattle/Bainbridge ferry, exit the ferry and turn left onto Winslow Way E, and then right on Ericksen Ave NE. Turn left onto Wyatt Way, and follow the directions above. If you live on the Peninsula, you will figure it out.

March Club Dive Report

Several divers gathered in Port Townsend on a blustery day for our Point Hudson dive. Eight divers showed up, but 2 ended up not diving. We had pretty good visibility for this dive, about 20 feet. We had a very pleasant dive. Critters that were sighted included a GPO, grunt sculpin, penpoint gunnel, several nudibranchs, and an impressive scalyhead sculpin in full breeding regalia. After the dive we convened for a

chilly and windy outdoor lunch of pizza slices from Waterfront Pizza. No one opted for ice cream after lunch.

Limerick Challenge

The Limerick Challenge this year ended up truly being a challenge for most participants. Although our membership staunchly denied not having read the March newsletter, most participants seem to have forgotten that there even was a Limerick Challenge and had to compose one on-the-spot. After taking the vote for the best limerick we ended up with a tie for ESSDBs Kim and Steve. They will both get a free dinner from Spanky once we resume in-person meetings. We have reproduced all the submitted limericks* and poetry here.

ESSDB Kim's winning entry:

Bob went muck diving on sand,
with a new sausage he thought was just grand.
But it was too newfangled,
and kept getting tangled,
so next time he'll leave it on land.

Kim's second entry and her Bonus haiku:

Dave bought a new GoPro with glee,
to take pictures of shipwreck debris.
But he tripped on the boat,
and cameras don't float,
so now it belongs to the sea.

Lost gear is no fun
Sinking down into the depths
Ratfish has my weights

The winning entry authored by ESSDB Steve:

The divers were stuck in their houses,
COVID had turned them to mice.
But the blue water calls,
with sights that enrapture,
when we dive in the substance that douses.

The third place entry by ESSDB Bart:

There once was a diver named Fred,
that had a dive buddy to dread.
He would dive on a reef,
with a big ol' roast beef,
so that Fred wished his buddy was dead.

* Honorable mention to ESSDB DeeAnn for her ode to Chester.

Cool-?-of the Month Section

Cool-Web-Articles-of-the-Month:

Spanky found a really cool web article about

nudibranchs for this month's newsletter. Researchers have found truly bizarre behavior in these neat little animals. You can read it [here](#).

Cool-Photos-Of-The-Month:

ESSDB Larry took these photos at Point Hudson during the March Club Dive at Point . In the first photo we have two Hudson's Horned Dorids along with a tube worm and a large assortment of other critters. The second shows one of Spanky's favorites, a Grunt Sculpin that is unusually orange.



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky at gsndambaa@hotmail.com.

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The deadline for items to be included in the May 2021 Issue is Friday, April 23.