

# the staggering starfish

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

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## April Club Meeting

Our April club meeting will be held via Zoom at **6:00 PM** on **Thursday, April 6**. As usual, an email Zoom invitation will be sent to the regular meeting attendees. If you would like to participate in this meeting, please email a request to Spanky at [gsndambaa@hotmail.com](mailto:gsndambaa@hotmail.com) no later than 12:00 noon on April 6. Our meeting agenda includes planning for our July club dive and further planning for our 2023 Dive/Camp weekend. If time allows, we will also check on the snail-like progress on our new club tee shirts.

## April Club Dive, Deception Pass

For the second year in a row, we will be doing our April club dive at one of the coolest dive sites in Puget Sound, Deception Pass. As Spanky is sure everyone knows, this is an advanced dive with significant potential for strong current, so please be on time for preparing your gear and listening to the dive briefing. The dive will be on **Saturday, April 29**. We need to arrive at the parking lot no later than **10:00 AM** so that we can all get fully geared up and lug our gear down for our entry time of **11:00 AM**. Be sure to bring your **Discover Pass** with you or be prepared to buy a day pass. We will be watching the current and will enter the water when conditions look right. If we are late for entry or if conditions do not look right we may need to scratch the dive. There is a significant walk on a downhill trail to get from the parking lot to the beach at this site. Parking may be tight, so carpool if you can. After the dive we will have lunch at the Rockfish Grill in Anacortes (320 Commercial Ave).

### Directions to the Deception Pass North Beach Parking Lot:

Take I5 north to the exit for Highway 20 (Exit 230) and head west, toward Anacortes. Continue west on Highway 20 and follow the signs to Deception Pass. Continue on Hwy 20, across the Deception Pass Bridge. About 1 mile from the center of the bridge you will come to a stoplight with the park entrance to your right. The road to Cornet Bay is to the left. Turn right into the park and continue for 1 mile, past the ranger booth to the North Beach parking lot. The road winds through the forest and ends in a circular parking area;

## 2023-GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

04/06/2023	6:00 PM	Club Meeting via Zoom
04/29/2023	10:00 AM	Club Dive at Deception Pass
05/04/2023	6:00 PM	Club meeting, probably via Zoom
05/13/2023	Time 10:00 AM	Club Dive at Possession Point Fingers
06/01/2023	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, probably via Zoom
06/11/2023	11:45 AM	Club Dive at Titlow
07/06/2023	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, probably via Zoom
08/03/2023	6:00 PM	Club meeting, probably via Zoom
09/07/2023	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, probably via Zoom
09/22-24/2023		Dive/Camp Weekend

stay on the main road. Do not take the roads to the left, toward the camping sites..

## March Club Dive Report

The spring weather was perfect for our March dive at Norrander's reef. Turnout was light, with only 4 divers who entered the water exactly on time. Spanky led us directly to the rock reef, where we had a pleasant dive. Visibility was good, at about 20-25 feet. We saw lots of nudibranchs and the largest Moon Snail that Spanky has ever seen.

## Limerick Challenge Results

We once again had an enjoyable Limerick Challenge during our March meeting. Several poets read their original works. Fortunately, all entries were suitable for general audiences. The winning entry was authored by ESSDB DeeAnn, who will be collecting her free dinner at the next live club meeting or at one of the club dives.

ESSDB DeeAnn was thinking of a pair of octopuses we watched during our first dive in the Maldives. Her winning entry:

Oh, to dive with octopuses,  
not the same as platypuses.  
Who did they see?  
It was me!  
With the underwater apparatuses.

Our runner-up entries:

ESSDB Peter:

There once was a diver from Arlington,  
Who liked to swim with nothing on.  
He jumped in a lake,  
And was scared by a snake.  
Now he only swims with his clothes on.

ESSDB Dan:

There once was a diver named Dan,  
Octopi and Nudies he loved to scan.  
In order to thrive,  
He had to dive,  
Underwater every day is his plan.

ESSDB Bart (thinking of the Maldives):

There once was a dive master Tasleem  
Who divers did hold in esteem.  
All you had to do was wish,  
And he would find you great fish,  
So our dives were just a dream!

## UN Biodiversity Pact

In early March the UN concluded negotiations for an international treaty with a goal to establish marine protected areas over 30% of the world's oceans. The treaty includes provisions to conduct environmental reviews of marine projects and funding to protect biodiversity. This treaty culminates 20 years of negotiations and is a first for regulating fishing and development projects conducted on the high seas. You can read more about it [here](#).

## Save-the-Date

Spanky would like everyone to mark their calendars and join us for the **2023 Dive/Camp Weekend**, which will be held from **September 22 - 24** this year. Richard and Michelle are again offering to host our group at their retreat near Hoodspout. We had a great time there last year, so please try to join us again this year. We will be diving at Sund Rock on

Saturday, September 23. This year we also plan to do a couple charter boat dives in Hood Canal (with YSS) on Friday, Sept. 22. We have room for one more diver for the Friday boat dives, so send Spanky an email if you would like to join us.

## Cool-?-of the Month Section

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

Spanky selected 2 cool web articles for this month's newsletter. The first article shows some really great underwater photos; you can see it [here](#). The second article is about some pioneering researchers who demonstrated that women can perform as good (or better) than men during long-term work in an underwater habitat. Click on [Tektite II](#) for the article.

### Cool-Photo-Of-The-Month:

Our April photo was taken by ESSDB Larry during the March club dive at Norrander's Reef. at our February dive at Les Davis. We have a pair of Barnacle Eating Dorids. Each one is about 1 ½ inches long.



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky .

Visit Spanky at

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The deadline for items to be included in the **May 2023 Issue** is **Friday, April 21**.