

# the staggering starfish

the official newsletter of the GSNDAMBAA SCUBA Diving Club

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## April Club Meeting

We will hold the April club meeting at the usual time, **Thursday, April 4 at 6:00 PM** via Google Meet. As usual, an email invitation will be sent to regular attendees. If you are not a regular attendee and would like to join us, please send an email request to Spanky at [gsndambaa@hotmail.com](mailto:gsndambaa@hotmail.com) no later than noon on the day of the meeting. The agenda for this meeting includes planning for our August club dive, planning for an international dive trip north of Vancouver BC, and planning for our 2024 Club Dive/Camp Weekend.

## April Club Dive: Les Davis

The Club will be travelling to the South Sound for our April club dive at Les Davis. This dive site has an easy entry, but there is a long walk from the parking area to the stairs leading to the beach. The site has an artificial reef constructed of concrete slabs and pilings that host a lot of life. We should see lots of rockfish, and there may still be some large ling cod or cabezon guarding eggs. We saw some nice nudibranchs and a rhinoceros crab on our last dive here in February 2023. After the dive we will head to the Katie Downs Waterfront Tavern for lunch.

### Directions to Les Davis:

If you prefer to use Google Maps, set your destination for the Les Davis Fishing Pier. Otherwise, take I-5 to Exit 133 and follow I-705 North, toward the City Center. Stay on I-705 for 1.9 miles and take the Pacific Ave. ramp to your left, toward Schuster Parkway. Follow Schuster Parkway for 1.5 miles until you see a ramp to the left for N. Ruston Way. Go left onto N. Ruston Way. Follow N. Ruston Way for about 1.4 miles to the entrance to the park to your right. The entrance is a short distance past the large red fire boat on your right. Park as close to the northwest end of the parking area (as far from the entrance) as you can.

## March Club Dive Report

Another glorious early spring day for a dive! Warm, sunny and no wind made the water at

## 2024 GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

04/04/2024	6:00 PM	Club meeting, virtual
04/13/2024	10:00 AM	Club Dive at Les Davis
05/02/2024	6:00 PM	Club meeting, probably virtual
05/04/2024	10:00 AM	Club Dive at Possession Point Fingers
06/01/2024	10:30 AM	Club Dive at Deception Pass
06/06/2024	6:00 PM	Club meeting, probably virtual
07/11/2024	6:00 PM	Club meeting, probably virtual
07/14/2024	10:30 AM	Club Dive at Saltwater State Park
08/01/2024	6:00 PM	Club meeting, probably virtual

Fort Flagler look so inviting! Dan was able to find a dive site map that gave guidance on how to find the anchor based on a few pilings at the shoreline. Bearings were taken and we swam out to the end of the rock pile and dropped down. There was a bit more current than expected and it was taking us in the direction of the anchor. There is a very long beach extending in both directions from the entry so there wasn't much worry about the current although it might mean that we would have a long beach walk back to the entry. Not long after getting to the bottom, the two pairs of divers went their separate ways, more by accident than design. One pair found part of the trail leading to the anchor but, unfortunately, they did not make it all the way to the anchor. The other pair found the Field of Sinks. It is very similar to the Field of Dreams, without the corn forming the outfield fence. There were also some large drums and the remains of a high-end car battery. As far as creatures were concerned, Dan found a really nice nudibranch and a Buffalo Sculpin that moved from a cluttered spot to a nice open

area so that Dan could get better pictures. After the dive we headed over to Finn River Cidery in Chimacum for lunch and cider. They have quite a variety of cider, from very dry to sweet. A very pleasant day was had by all.

## Remembering Jim - Save the Date

We have been working to find a venue and date to host a remembrance for Jim Middleton, but we have not yet been able to finalize plans. We are working to hold the event at the Seattle Aquarium, but have booked Spiros Pizza in Shoreline as a backup. We plan to hold the celebration of Jim's life the evening of April 19 or 20. Please hold those dates open if you wish to join with fellow divers from the Club, the EUP maintenance crew, and the Seattle Aquarium for the evening.

## Cool-?-of the Month Section

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

Spanky found a nice long web article for this month. Presently, all orcas are considered to be a single species. However, a recent peer-reviewed article is proposing that the orcas that frequent the Salish Sea each be designated as different species. The proposed names for the Biggs orcas (formerly known as transients) is *Orcinus rectipinnus* and for the resident orcas *Orcinus ater*. If this is accepted we will likely be seeing many new species designations for orcas in the future. Read it by clicking on [Orcas](#).

Our second article is about an effort to restore sunflower stars along the Pacific Coast. Researchers at Scripps have successfully fertilized eggs and hatched larvae. Read it by clicking on [Sunflower Stars](#).

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

This cool web video shows the top ten favorite animals selected by the staff of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute from their deep sea discoveries. Spanky hopes that you will click on [Weird Marine Creatures](#) to see their selections.

### Cool-Photos-of-The-Month:

The cool photos include a nice shot by ESSDB DeeAnn at the Fort Flagler dive. The last two were selected from ESSDB Larry's archives for Les Davis. We have a closeup of a tube worm and a sharpnose crab hitching a ride on a leather star.



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky.

Visit Spanky at [www.gsndambaa.org](http://www.gsndambaa.org)

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Please submit items for the May 2024 issue by Friday, May 24.