

the staggering starfish

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

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August Club Meeting

Our virtual meeting will be held at the usual hour of **6:00 PM** on **Thursday, August 3**, which just happens to be the first Thursday of the month. Spanky will send a Zoom invitation to the regular meeting attendees via email well in advance of the meeting time. If you do not normally receive these emails and would like to attend, please send an email request to Spanky at gsndambaa@hotmail.com no later than 12:00 noon on August 3. Our August meeting agenda includes planning our November club dive and planning for the 2023 club Holiday Party.

August Club Dive, Cove 2

We are returning to West Seattle for our August club dive at Cove 2. It's been almost seven years since the club has scheduled a dive at this site. This is one of the most popular dive sites in Seattle, so parking can be an issue. We plan to meet at the dive site at **8:30 AM** on **Saturday, August 26**, and we will splash around 9:30 AM. A Red Brotula is rumored to inhabit the I-Beams. The site is also known for GPOs, rockfish, and even an occasional Red Irish Lord. Spanky also saw a Quillfish here a couple times. After the dive we will drive up to the top of West Seattle for some Talarico's Pizza.

Directions to Cove 2:

Follow I-5 South or North to exit 163 to the W. Seattle Freeway Exit

Take the W. Seattle Freeway West and get off at the Harbor Avenue Exit.

Follow Harbor Ave to the fishing pier.

Park in the fishing pier lot (Marination) parking lot if space is available. You can also park along Harbor Avenue.

If you drive past the Alki Boat launch or start curving around Alki Point back to the West, you've gone too far. If you enter Seacrest Park Cove 2 into Google Maps your phone will tell you how to get there.

July Club Dive Report

Another beautiful summer morning - nice and cool because the Sun and the Moon had the good sense to position themselves so that slack would occur early before the heat would set in. Something that was

2023-GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

08/03/2023	6:00 PM	Club meeting, virtual via Zoom
08/26/2023	8:30 AM	Club dive at Cove 2
09/07/2023	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, probably via Zoom
09/22-24/2023		Dive/Camp Weekend
10/05/2023	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, probably via Zoom
10/21/2023	9:15 AM	Club Dive at the Fox Island Bridge
11/02/2023	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, probably via Zoom

appreciated as we got into our dry suits (those of us that were diving dry). Tide was out so it was a long walk to where it was deep enough to get fins on. Water in the shallows was crystal clear. Not so clear as we headed down the buoy line in search of the reef. Visibility was not too good but was good enough to keep track of buddies. On the way down there was a fried egg jellyfish floating upside down. Once hitting the bottom it was just a short swim to the pile of large rocks and cement pilings. During inspection of the reef ESSDB Peter found a large GPO in its den. There were a few large ling cod, a bunch of rock fish and three decorated warbonnets trying to hide between anemones on the pilings. The largest of the three was about 18" long. A couple of crabs were locked in battle when they fell off the rocks and landed upside down on the bottom. They laid there motionless as crabs tend to when upside down. Flicking them up with a finger allowed the battle to resume. It ended a few seconds later as one crab was able to escape and they faced each other with claws spread wide. After the dive a consensus decision was made to forgo the BBQ and head to El Reconcito for Mexican food. It was a really good dive on a beautiful day.

2023 Dive/Camp Weekend

Spanky hopes that you will join us for our 2023 club Dive/Camp Weekend. We need to get a head

count, so please RSVP by sending an email to Spanky at gsndambaa@hotmail.com no later than **Friday, September 15**. Please indicate in the email how many people will be attending and if you have any special food requirements. In case you did not read last month's newsletter, the Dive/Camp weekend will be held at the Hoodsport retreat of ESDBs Richard & Michelle on **September 22-24**. We will be doing a boat dive on **Friday, September 22** (there is still one space left) and we will be doing a couple dives at Sund Rock on **Saturday, September 23**. Richard and Michelle have lots of bed space available, and we can set up tents if needed to accommodate everyone. We all had a great time at their place last year and we fully expect to have a great time again this year.

Cool-?-of the Month Section

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

Our first cool web article for August is about the Gulper Eel, a deep sea eel that can unhinge its jaw and swallow large prey whole. Researchers at the Schmidt Ocean Institute found one of these eels that appeared to have recently had its dinner. You can read the article by clicking on [Gulper Eel](#).

The second cool web article of the month about the world's largest freshwater fish. A freshwater stingray (an endangered species) was recently captured in the Mekong River in Cambodia that weighed in at 661 lb., making it the largest freshwater fish ever collected. Researchers were amazed that such a large specimen of an endangered species was found. Read it by clicking [here](#).

Our third and final web article is not so cool. Beach water temperatures in Florida have exceeded 100 °F for several days in a row, setting a new temperature record. The Florida beach has reached temperatures usually maintained in hot tubs. This water temperature will not cool you off, but it also contributes to coral bleaching, having significant effects on the ecosystem. Corals that were being grown to restore dying reefs are being affected by high water temperatures. You can read about it by clicking on [hot water](#).

Cool-Photos-of-The-Month:

This month's photos were taken by ESSDB Larry in previous dives at Cove 2. The first is a Scalyhead Sculpin, followed by a Janolus Fuscus nudibranch and a small GPO.



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky .

Visit Spanky at
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The deadline for items to be included in the **September 2023 Issue** is **Friday, August 25**.