

the staggering starfish

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

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December Club Meeting

D Spanky is sorry to disappoint everyone, but we will NOT be holding a club meeting this month. We will instead be holding our annual Holiday Party at the home of ESSDBs DeeAnn and Steve on **Saturday, December 9th** at **2:00 PM**. We will resume our regular monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month (other than December). Our next meeting will be at **6:00 PM** on **Thursday, January 4, 2024**.

December Club Dive

D The Club has traditionally held a sparsely attended December Club Dive at the Edmonds Underwater Park. Since we will be holding the Holiday Party in Mount Vernon, Spanky decided to forgo the EUP dive this year. We will, however, be holding a bonus Club Dive at Redondo on **Thursday, December 28**. We will meet at **10:00 AM** and plan to enter at **11:00 AM**. This is a nice dive site where we usually see several octopuses in addition to wolf eels and gunnels. After the dive we will head over to the Time Out Ale House for some lunch.

Directions to Redondo:

Take I 5 to Exit 147 and head west on S 272nd St. After about a mile the road curves left and changes name to Marine View Dr. Continue winding down the hill (road will change to 10th and then 281st).

At the waterfront, bear left on Beach Drive and proceed to the 3-way stop just past Salty's.

Turn left and park along the street for free or in the pay lot to your right. Entry for the dive is across the street from the northwest corner of the parking lot. If you enter MaST Center Aquarium into Google Maps your phone will give you directions.

November Club Dive Report

N For the second month in a row, the Club Dive did not go as planned. The dive was cancelled due to strong winds from the Southeast that caused high waves at Fort Flagler. Fortunately, one of our club members was able to check out the site before divers made the long drive to Marrowstone Island. We will try to do Fort Flagler again, as it is a nice site and several club members have not dived there.

2023-GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

No December Club Meeting.

12/09/2023 2:00 PM

2023 Club Holiday Party, Mount Vernon

12/28/2023 10:00 AM

Bonus Club Dive at Redondo

01/04/2024 6:00 PM

Club meeting, probably via Zoom

01/20/2024 10:00 AM

Club Dive at the Mukilteo T Dock

02/01/2024 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, probably via Zoom

02/03/2024 8:00 AM

Club Dive at Day Island Wall

03/07/2024 6:00 PM

Club meeting, probably via Zoom

04/04/2024 6:00 PM

Club meeting, probably via Zoom

GSNDAMBAA Holiday Party

G Our 2023 Holiday Party will be held at the home of ESSDBs DeeAnn and Steve on **Saturday, December 9** at **2:00 PM**. Please join us to enjoy an afternoon with your diving buddies. Friends and significant others (diving or non-diving) are always welcome. Spanky asks that you please RSVP by **December 6th** by sending an email to Spanky at gsndambaa@hotmail.com indicating the number attending and any diet restrictions. Directions to the party will be emailed back to you.

Holiday Sustenance: In keeping with our 34-year tradition, our dinner will be provided free for *CURRENT* members. For the modest membership fee of five dollars (\$5) U.S. per person, you will get dinner and an annual club membership. Membership forms might be available on-site for new members, and your five-bucks-cause-I'm-a-non-member fee can be applied directly and immediately toward your it's-free-cause-I'm-a-current-member membership dues. Our dinner this year will again be **Spanky's Surprise** (actually, we will probably not be surprised, as Spanky is pretty predictable). We can be sure that he will put something together from the money he gets from all those dues.

The club will not be providing provide beer, wine, or soft drinks this year so bring whatever you want. Also plan on bringing an appetizer or dessert (or both) to share with everyone.

The Pirate Gift Exchange: Participation in The Pirate Gift Exchange (PGE) necessitates bringing along a clever gift valued at about \$30. It does not need to be diving (or pirate) related. The PGE is most fun if there are lots of PGE gifts that people want to pirate. So help peg the fun meter by skipping the white elephant gifts. If you disregard these instructions and actually bring that lame gift that you got at last year's office Christmas party or a gift that no one would pirate if it was the last gift on earth, you will be assigned responsibility for writing the 2024-2029 newsletters.

Time to Update the Newsletter?

Spanky had a bit of time over the Thanksgiving holiday to contemplate the current state of our newsletter. The newsletter was state-of-the-art when first conceived in 1989, but it may be time to bring it into the 21st century. It seems like we could use social media such as Facebook or create a blog site using something like Blogger to do key parts of the newsletter. These formats would allow everyone to contribute to the site and they would be readable using your phone. Let's discuss it at our next club meeting.

Cool-?-of the Month Section

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

This month's cool web article is about the search for a brain in one of Spanky's favorite creatures, the chiton. These animals were long thought to be like the Scarecrow, but new cutting-edge research seems to show that they actually have one. Read it [here](#).

Cool-Web-Videos-of-the-Month:

Our December cool video shows a deadly interaction between a Stellar sea lion and a Giant Pacific Octopus that was filmed near Nanaimo. They call it a fight, but it is probably more accurate to say that the sea lion was preying on the octopus. Watch it [here](#).

Cool-Photos-of-The-Month:

Our photos for this month were not taken at a club dive. The first two were shot by ESSDB Dan during his recent trip to Port Hardy where he did some dives in Browning Pass - Gooseneck Barnacles and an Orange Peel nudibranch. The last photo is by ESSDB Larry from a recent dive at Point Whitney. Two Hudson's Dorids and a formerly brainless chiton.



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky .

Visit Spanky at
www.gsndambaa.org
Email Spanky at
gsndambaa@hotmail.com

The deadline for items to be included in the January 2024 Issue is Friday, December 22.