

the staggering starfish

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

29621 232ND AVE SE, Black Diamond WA 98010



gsndambaa@hotmail.com 360.886.1679

February Club Meeting

Our virtual club meeting will be held at our regular time of **6:00 PM** on the first **Thursday**, of the month, **February 4**. An email invitation will be sent to regular meeting attendees sometime during the afternoon before the meeting. If you would like to be sure you receive an invitation, please send an email to Spanky at gsndambaa@hotmail.com no later than noon on February 4. Our meeting agenda includes planning for our postponed 2020 Holiday Party and planning for our June club dive. If we have time, we may discuss (or bemoan) the absence of a 2021 Club dive trip.

February Dive, Titlow

The February Club Dive will be held one week after Valentine's Day, on **Sunday, February 21** at Titlow. Our meet time is **10:15 AM** (the time has been revised) and we plan to enter the water at 11:15 AM. Please try to be on time, as this is a current-sensitive site and we need to splash on time. This site has an exceptional display of plumose anemones at the pilings and we hope to visit the shelf south of the pilings to look for GPOs. If the weather looks good, bring along something to eat and we will find some picnic tables for a group lunch.

Directions to Titlow Beach:

Take I-5 to Highway 16 in Tacoma

Take Highway 16 West

Exit at Jackson Street

Make a left at the light at the end of the exit

Make the first right after crossing over 16 (6th Ave).

Follow 6th Ave road down to the water.

Find a good place to park.

If you put the Beach Tavern (8612 6th Ave, Tacoma) into Google maps you can use your phone to get there.

January Club Dive Report

Our January dive was at a new site for everyone, Ilahee State Park. Five divers showed up on a grey, rainy Sunday to explore the sandy flats along the park shoreline. Not surprisingly, the park was not very busy, which allowed us to use a covered picnic table to suit up. The site has an easy entry, with some steps that take you through the bulkhead. Visibility was

2021-GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

02/04/2021 6:00 PM

Virtual Club meeting

02/21/2021 10:15 AM

Club dive at Titlow

03/04/2021 6:00 PM

Virtual Club meeting

03/21/2021 8:30 AM

Club dive at Point Hudson

04/01/2021 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, hopefully at Edmonds Underwater Sports

04/04/2021, 9:15 AM

Club dive at Norrander's Reef

05/06/2021 6:00 PM

Club meeting, possibly at Edmond's Underwater Sports

05/22/2021, 1:00 PM

Club dive at Mukilteo Tee Dock

acceptable at about 15 feet. We explored the dock pilings and areas adjacent to the dock. There was not a lot of structure to see, but we did find an Albertsons shopping cart (with a hard drive in the basket) and an outboard motor. Spanky also saw his first Shaggy Mouse nudibranch.

Holiday Party for 2020

Our pandemic-delayed holiday party is being planned for this coming summer. We are hoping that gatherings will be allowed by mid-summer, so we have tentatively scheduled the party for Saturday, **July 17**. We are trying to get a reservation for a group picnic site at Rosario so that we can also do a dive. So, please **save the date** and plan on joining us for the 2020 Holiday Party. Additional details will be posted in the newsletter as they become available.

Sculpins

Spanky thought it might be good to have a short write up about sculpins, as these are fish we see on nearly every dive in Puget Sound and that we see often when tide pooling. Additionally, Sculpin is the name of an excellent beer made by Ballast Point Brewing. Sculpins are bottom-dwelling fish and

generally have large heads, large dorsal fins, and a short tapering body. They include one of Spanky's favorite fish, the Grunt Sculpin. Puget is also home to the world's largest sculpin, the Cabezon. Most sculpins are very well camouflaged and they tend to become very still in the presence of divers, which can make them hard to observe. They are also notoriously hard to identify. You can learn more about them and get a helpful identification guide for free by downloading Greg Jensen's sculpin book [here](#).

Edmonds, Now and Then

ESSDB Jim has put together an interesting YouTube video showing many of the changes that have taken place in Edmonds over more than 70 years. He has used old and recent photos to present a stark comparison of changes at the city. Many of the photos were taken along the waterfront, near the underwater park. Watch it by clicking [Edmonds](#).

Cool-?-of-the-Month Section

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

Spanky's first cool web article is about a tradition of women divers in South Korea. These women divers, in what is apparently a dying tradition, consists of elderly women free divers who harvest seafood from depths to about 30 feet. They have transformed from being perceived as shameful to being something of pride to their island. They have developed a unique culture and help support a recent surge in tourism. You can read about the impact these divers have had by clicking [Haenyeo](#).

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

Spanky selected 2 cool web videos for February. The first is a short, but beautiful video showing bioluminescence and dolphins. This fascinating video is [here](#). The second cool video was done by DolphinDroneDom, and should be watched when you have almost an hour to relax and possibly a glass of wine. The drone video shows his encounters with whales off the coast of southern California during 2020. Click on [whales](#) to watch this cool video.

Cool-Photos-Of-The-Month:

This month's photos were taken at the January club dive at Ilahee State Park by ESSDB Larry. We have the first Shaggy Mouse nudibranch that Spanky has seen, the best Moon Jelly photo that Larry has taken, and a Sand Dab that appears to have had an unfortunate (but not fatal) encounter with a Ling Cod.



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

Visit Spanky at

www.gsndambaa.org

Email Spanky at

gsndambaa@hotmail.com

The deadline for items to be included in the March 2021 Issue is Friday, February 19.