

the staggering starfish

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

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February Club Meeting

Our February club meeting will be held via Zoom at **6:00 PM** Thursday, **February 2**. A Zoom meeting invitation will be emailed to all regular attendees no later than the afternoon of the meeting day. If you do not attend regularly and wish to join us, please send an email to Spanky requesting an invitation at gsndambaa@hotmail.com no later than **noon** on **February 2**. The February agenda includes planning our club dives for March and May. If time allows, we will also update the status for our 2023 Club Tee Shirts.

February Club Dive- Les Davis

After our failed attempt to do our January club dive at Keystone, we will be doing our actual first club dive of 2023 at Les Davis in February. We will meet at **11:00 AM** on **Saturday, February 4** for a splash time of **12:00 noon**. This dive site has a nice easy entry, but there is a bit of a 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 we need to be on the lookout for large ling cod and cabezon guarding eggs. If we are lucky we may get to see a red Brotula or a sailfin sculpin. 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 west end of the parking area (as far from the entrance) as you can.

2023-GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

02/02/2023	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, virtual via Zoom
02/04/2023	11:00 AM	Club Dive at Les Davis
03/02/2023	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, probably via Zoom
03/18/2023	Time TBD	Club Dive, location TBD
04/06/2023	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, probably 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 TBD	Club Dive at Possession Point Fingers

Guadalupe Island Closure

Guadalupe Island, off the west coast of Baja, California in Mexico, has long been a popular diving destination for cage diving with Great White Sharks. Many of the Eastern Pacific great whites frequent the island as part of their annual migration. On January 9 of this year the Mexican government closed the Guadalupe Island Biosphere from all forms of tourism, diving, and fishing. Only scientific diving is currently allowed. It appears that this closure may be permanent, and that the Mexican government has not funded a program to monitor the site to enforce the ban. Several organizations, including shark conservation groups, are trying to get the site reopened to at least some recreational diving. Conservation organizations such as 'Be A Shark' want a return to recreational diving because having dive boats in the area serves as a means to monitor activity and discourage shark poaching. The dive boats also provided a cost effective way for researchers to get to the site and study the sharks. If you are interested in monitoring any changes in this site closure, you can get more information [here](#).

Port Townsend MSC GPO

The Port Townsend Marine Science Center (PTMSC) recently released their Giant Pacific Octopus. This was a rare case where the age of the octopus (named Sylvia) was known with a high degree of accuracy. Sylvia was collected as a paralarva in June 2020 in a sampler that had been submerged from the pier where the PTMSC aquarium is located in Fort Worden. The GPO was promptly named Sylvia, though it was later determined that Sylvia was a male. You can watch Sylvia's growth over about 6 months by clicking [here](#). The aquarium staff at the PTMSC took good care of Sylvia, and he grew to about 35 lb., which is still a bit small for a GPO. These octopuses live for about 3-5 years, can grow as large as 160 lb., and are terminal breeders - they die shortly after breeding. Males die about a month after reproducing and females stop eating and tend to their eggs for about 6 months before they die. It was determined that Sylvia had matured over a 2 and a half year period and was now ready to breed. It was decided to release him back to the environment where he was collected, at the end of the pier in Fort Worden. You can watch the video of his release by clicking on [Sylvia](#). Perhaps we should schedule a club dive to see if we can find Sylvia.

Cool-?-of the Month Section

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

Spanky found a cool web video about the efforts of researchers to find a way to restore the giant barrier reef in Australia, which has been decimated by coral bleaching as a result of global warming. Their work appears to be promising, but time will tell if they are successful. Watch it [here](#). Spanky's second selection is about an intelligence test administered to cuttlefish where the findings appear to be similar to the marshmallow test given to preschoolers. Click on [Cuttlefish](#) to see it. Spanky's third cool video is about a very large American Eel that recently washed up on Mustang Island in Texas. Watch it by clicking [here](#).

Cool-Photos-Of-The-Month:

Spanky asked ESSDB Larry to again dig into his photo archive since there were no successful club dives in December and January. The first is a peacock mantis shrimp taken in the Philippines, the second is a Yellow Mask Angel Fish and a Coral Grouper that was taken in Raja Ampat, Indonesia. The third is a Fimbriated Moray taken during a trip to Bunaken, also in Indonesia. It was fun looking at these old photos.



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky .

Visit Spanky at

www.gsndambaa.org

Email Spanky at

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The deadline for items to be included in the March 2023 Issue is Friday, February 13.