

# the staggering starfish

the official newsletter of the GSNDAMBAA SCUBA Diving Club

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## February Club Meeting

Our February 2024 club meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 1 at 6:00 PM** via Zoom. 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. Our meeting agenda includes planning for our club dive in May and continuing our discussion of moving the newsletter to our website.

## February Club Dive: Day Island

Our February dive will be in the South Sound at Day Island Wall. This is reportedly one of the best wall dives in Puget Sound. The site is known for lots of adult wolf eels and GPOs. It is very current-sensitive, so please try to be on time. We plan to meet bright and early at **8:00 AM** on **Saturday, February 3** and we need to enter no later than **9:00 AM**. We will be prepared to call the dive in the unfortunate event that our crack dive planners may have missed the time for slack. Parking is limited and there are no facilities at the dive site, so please try to carpool and plan on making a pit stop before you arrive. After the dive we will head over to Boathouse 19 for lunch.

### Directions to Day Island Wall:

From I-5 in Tacoma, take Highway 16 West toward the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. Before you get to the bridge, take the Jackson Street exit and turn left, heading south on S. Jackson. Turn right on 27<sup>th</sup> St. W, and follow it as it curves and becomes Vista before crossing the Day Island Creek bridge onto Day island. There are only two roads running N/S on Day Island (Day Island Blvd W and East Day Island Blvd W). Continue North until you reach the E/W road, 19<sup>th</sup> St. W. The beach access is across Day Island Blvd. W and 19<sup>th</sup>, on the West side of the island. Park along the street and please do not block access to any homes. You can also enter Day Island Wall dive site into Google maps and follow the directions on your phone.

## 2024 GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

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
03/17/2024	9:45 AM	Club Dive at Fort Flagler
04/04/2024	6:00 PM	Club meeting, probably via Zoom
04/13/2024	10:00 AM	Club Dive at Les Davis
05/02/2024	6:00 PM	Club meeting, probably via Zoom
06/06/2024	6:00 PM	Club meeting, probably via Zoom

## January Club Dive Report

Spanky managed to pick a beautiful winter day for our January Club Dive at the Mukilteo Tee Dock. We had a very large turnout, and everyone was able to find a decent parking space, even though there were two open water classes in session. Everyone refreshed their skills by doing a practice CESA and buddy breathing at the start of the dive. Visibility was good enough to see the dust flying from those unused octos. After doing our skills refresher everyone took a tour of the dome and newly placed underwater attractions at this site. One cool sighting was of a male Dungeness crab that was holding a female captive at the start of the dive. When we passed the crabs at the end of the dive it was apparent that the female was in the process of molting crabs can only mate after the female molts.

## Remembering Jim

Spanky is saddened to report that EESSDB (Extra Extra Special Scuba Dive Buddy) Jim Middleton, a long-time club member and lifetime diver, passed away on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Jim overcame many obstacles during his life while maintaining a positive

attitude and a good sense of humor. Diving was Jim's passion. He was a volunteer diver at the Seattle Aquarium for over 20 years and a long-term diver for the Edmunds Underwater Park. Jim was a GSNDAMBAA club member since last century and he took video of many of his dives, editing them and posting them on YouTube. You can find his YouTube videos by searching for James Middleton Scuba - you can watch his video of our Dive/Camp Weekend trips to Jones Island [here](#).

Jim had celebrity status thrust upon him when interviewed by a local news station about local diving and again when a picture of him dancing with wolf eels was published in the paper. At the following club meeting, there were several copies of the picture for Jim to autograph. He was not enthusiastic about being a celebrity. Spanky still has his autographed picture.

In the water, Jim was in his element. Moving through the water was effortless for him. He was an excellent diver and an excellent dive buddy. Being his buddy was a treat because he knew so much about what we saw that the post dive recaps were very educational and expanded the enjoyment of the dive. Spanky will miss diving with Jim and will think of him fondly.

## Cool-?-of the Month Section

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

Spanky found a cool web article with some good news about humpback whales. It appears that humpbacks have recovered to pre-whaling levels around South Georgia Island. You can read about it by clicking on [humpback whales](#). Our second article is a short one with interesting facts about several different marine animals. Read it by clicking [here](#).

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

Spanky has selected a couple of Jim Middleton's dive videos for this month's newsletter. Jim's videos date back over 10 years and document several club dives and work at the EUP. The [first video](#) is a compilation from 6 years diving at EUP - it gives a great overview of the EUP trails. Jim's second video was taken at a Point Hudson club dive with good viz. Watch it [here](#).

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

Spanky selected a couple photos of Jim for this month. The first shows Jim aboard the God's Pocket boat from a trip to God's Pocket in 2017. The second photo is of Jim during a dive in the Revillagigedos in 2019. Our last

photo was taken by ESSDB Larry at the Mukilteo Tee Dock - a Rhinoceros Crab.



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 March 2024 issue by Friday, Feb. 23.