

the staggering starfish

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

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Happy New Year!!!

Spanky wishes everyone a **Happy New Year** and is looking forward to diving with all of you in the coming year. Spanky also hopes that everyone had a happy, safe, and enjoyable holiday in spite of COVID 19. We are looking forward to getting back to normal and resuming our routine of diving and companionship in the coming year.

January Club Meeting

We will continue our pandemic routine of holding virtual meetings to begin the New Year. Our Zoom meeting will be held at **6:00 PM** on **Thursday, January 7**. Spanky will send an email invitation to the regular meeting attendees the afternoon before the meeting. If you would like to be sure you receive an invitation, please send an email request to Spanky at gsndambaa@hotmail.com no later than noon on January 7. The agenda for our first meeting of 2021 will include scheduling for our 2020 Holiday Party (which will probably be held during the summer of 2021) and planning for our May club dive.

January Dive, Illahee State Park

Our January Club Dive is scheduled for **Sunday, January 24** at **11:30 AM**. This will be a shallow dive where we will inspect the dock pilings and adjacent sandy areas for local sea life. We should have park facilities available. This is a fishing pier, so we will need to be on the lookout for fishing line. Also, we should have a dive flag, so if you have one please bring it along. Please remember to bring your **Discover Pass**, or be prepared to purchase a day pass at the park. If the weather looks good, bring along something to eat and we will reconvene to a picnic table at the park.

Directions to Illahee State Park:

The park is located about 5 miles north of the Bremerton Ferry Dock. From the Kingston Ferry, follow Hwy 104 to Striebel's Corner and continue straight ahead on Hwy 307/Bond Rd. Continue on Hwy 307 until you get to Poulsbo and turn right on Hwy 305. After about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile you take the ramp to go south on Hwy 3. Continue about 7 mi. and take the exit to Hwy 303 S/NE Waaga Way. Go about 6 mi. and turn left onto NE Riddell Road, which will turn to the right and become

2021-GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

01/07/2021 6:00 PM

Virtual Club meeting via Zoom

01/24/2021 11:30 AM

Club dive at Illahee State Park

02/04/2021 6:00 PM

Club meeting (probably virtual)

02/21/2021 9:30 AM

Club dive at Titlow

03/04/2021 6:00 PM

Club meeting, hopefully at Edmonds Underwater Sports

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

Perry Ave. When you reach Sylvan Way, turn left and to about 0.7 miles to the park entrance to your left. Follow the park road to the right and proceed down some switchbacks to the parking area near the dock. If you are traveling via the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, follow Hwy 16 north to Hwy 3 and continue north. When you get into Bremerton, stay right and follow Hwy 304 North. When you reach Hwy 303/Warren Ave., turn left and continue north to Sylvan Way and follow the directions above. The park address for Google Maps is 3540 NE Sylvan Way, Bremerton.

December Club Dive Report

We actually held a December club dive this year, as the Holiday Party was postponed until post-Covid times. Five of us gathered at Edmonds Underwater Park for a tour led by ESSDB Jim, a long-time volunteer working at the park to build and maintain the trails. Jim led us on a tour of some of the newer constructs in the park along Jetty Way. Visibility was decent, at around 25-30 feet. Jim showed us several of the rock piles they have been working on, which are already providing abundant habitat. We look forward to a future tour to see how life develops here. We also did a tour of the Obstacle Course, which is designed to test your buoyancy and

finning control. A very enjoyable December dive, with decent weather.

December Bonus Dive Report

The annual December bonus dive took place as scheduled on December 29 at Redondo. Four divers showed up on a cloudy day at Redondo for a very pleasant dive, with about 40 feet of visibility. ESSDB Bart unfortunately had only a partial tank fill, but the other divers continued after confirming he had made it safely to the surface. It was a rare Redondo dive, as no octopuses were sighted, but we saw plenty of other critters and had a good time. Once again, we saw a bunch of gunnels.

Cool-?-of-the-Month Section

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

Spanky selected a really cool web article to start the new year. In the mid-nineteenth century, Eugen von Ransonnet-Villez designed a diving bell and he used it to draw and paint scenes showing underwater life. His work is on display in the Natural History Museum in Vienna and the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco. You can read more about him by clicking [Underwater Landscapes](#).

Our second cool web article was written by Peter Godfrey-Smith, the author of **Other Minds**. He has been studying octopus behavior, and the article presents some of his observations in two octopus "cities." Octopus are usually considered solitary animals, but two locations have been found where many octopuses live in fairly close proximity. Click on [Octopolis](#) to read this interesting article. Spanky also recommends **Other Minds** to learn more about octopus intelligence.

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

Our cool web video for January is narrated by John Williams, a former club member. The video (almost half an hour long) shows what we see when we go diving and also presents some great information about Puget Sound. Watch it [here](#).

Cool-Photos-Of-The-Month:

The first cool photos of the new year were provided by ESSDB Larry. The first two photos were shot during the December club dive at Edmonds Underwater Park. We have a Stubby Rose Anemone decked out in Christmas colors and a Nanaimo Dorid. The last photo is a Hairy Helmet Crab that was taken during the bonus dive at Redondo. These crabs are usually very shy, making it hard to get a decent shot.



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

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The deadline for items to be included in the February 2021 Issue is Friday, January 22.