

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

Happy New Year!!!

Spanky is pleased to once again wish everyone a **Happy New Year!** For the 33rd year, Spanky is looking forward to diving with all of you in the coming year. Even though Spanky said this last year, he again hopes that everyone had a happy, safe, and enjoyable holiday in spite of COVID 19, and hopes that the new year brings the end of the pandemic so we can get back to normal and resume our routine of diving and companionship. Spanky is looking forward to celebrating his 33rd year with the club, which is pretty incredible since the average life span of most sea stars is around 20 years.

January Club Meeting

We will hold a virtual club meeting to begin 2022. Our Zoom meeting will be held at **6:00 PM** on **Thursday, January 6**. Spanky will send an email invitation to the regular meeting attendees the afternoon before the meeting. If you are not a regular attendee and would like to attend, please send an email request to Spanky at gsndambaa@hotmail.com no later than noon on January 6. The agenda includes planning our March, April, and May club dives and telling Spanky about your favorite holiday happening or gift..

January Club Dive, Driftwood Park

Assuming that January is warmer than the last part of December, we will be returning to Driftwood Park for our January club dive. This will be the second time for most of us for this dive. We plan to meet at this current-sensitive site at **9:30 AM** and to enter the water at **10:30 AM** sharp. Please try to be on time for this dive. This site has an easy entry and not a lot of structure. However, last time we did this site (June 2020) we saw lots of gunnels and a red octopus. There was a port-a-potty here last time. There are facilities a short drive away nearby at the Keystone dive site. For those wanting to eat in a restaurant, we will organize a lunch at a nearby facility.

Directions Driftwood Park:

Driftwood Park is about 1.7 miles E. of Keystone Jetty. From the **Clinton Ferry Terminal**, take Hwy 525 north for about 22 miles and turn left (south) on Hwy 20/

2022-GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

01/06/2022 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, virtual via Zoom

01/15/2022 9:30 AM

Club Dive at Driftwood Park

02/03/2022 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, probably virtual via Zoom

02/12/2022 9:00 AM

Club Dive at Titlow

03/03/2022 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, possibly at ESSDB Jim's House

04/07/2022 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, possibly at ESSDB Jim's House

Wanamaker Road. After about 1.7 miles Hwy 20 takes a sharp turn to the right where you continue straight onto Keystone Ave. The park is at the waterfront where Keystone Ave, turns to the left. From **Deception Pass**, follow Hwy 20 west until it turns sharply to the right, toward the Keystone Ferry Terminal, where you continue straight to the Park.

From the **Keystone Ferry Terminal**, follow Hwy 20 east along the waterfront until it turns sharply to the left where you turn right and enter the Park at the waterfront.

Holiday Party Report

Our 2021 Holiday Party was again graciously hosted by ESSDB Jim. The Party was well attended, and Spanky confirmed that all had been fully vaccinated. Everyone brought some great food to share (although the pico de gallo was a teensy bit below par). Spanky provided the usual fare, and he made sure that he collected annual dues from everyone. The Pirate Gift Exchange went well, with a couple items pirated the maximum number of times. A good time was had by all.

Sea Otters

Spanky recently learned that a solitary sea otter was spotted near Port Ludlow, which is located at the northern end of Puget Sound. Sea otter hunting in the 1700's and 1800's eliminated all animals from the Washington and Oregon coasts. Their fur, which contains about 500,000 hairs per square inch,

was very popular for making warm winter coats. A sea otter recovery plan was launched for Washington in 1969-70, with 59 otters transplanted from Alaska to the Pacific coast of Washington. An otter census in 2014 yielded a count of 1600. Although sea otters apparently did not live historically within Puget Sound, we do get the occasional visitor. Let's hope they continue to expand their numbers and that they eat lots of urchins.

Did you know that sea otters are one of the few mammals that use tools? They keep their favorite rocks with them to use to break open shellfish. They are also the largest member of the weasel family, but are the smallest marine mammal. They also are not as cute and cuddly as they appear - the former owner of God's Pocket once observed a sea otter bite the head off of a baby harbor seal.

Cool-?-of the Month Section

Cool-Web-Article-of-the-Month:

Spanky found an interesting article about "blue carbon." The oceans, which cover most of the Earth's surface, can contribute to carbon sequestration through kelp farming. Kelp is one of the fastest growing plants on the planet, and restoring and expanding kelp forests and salt marshes can sequester significant amounts of carbon in addition to creating beautiful dive sites. You can learn more by clicking on [blue carbon](#).

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

The researchers at the Monterey Bay Aquarium have posted a beautiful video of a rare deep sea jellyfish, the Giant Phantom Jelly. This jellyfish has a swimming bell around 3 ft. in diameter and has feeding arms over 30 feet long. It lives mostly at depths between 1000 and 4000 meters. Even though they have conducted tens of thousands of hours from ROV dives, this jelly has only been observed 9 times. You can watch their jelly video [here](#).

Another rare and weird find (also only observed 9 times) is the barreleye fish, which has a transparent skull with its eyes normally oriented upward. This fish lives along the US west coast at depths between 600 and 800 meters. There are a couple cool videos you can watch by clicking on [barreleye](#).

Cool-Photos-Of-The-Month:

Since we had to cancel our bonus dive this month (and since no one took any photos at the club dive), Spanky had ESSDB Larry pull some photos taken at our last Driftwood Park dive. We have a graceful cancer crab, red octopus, and a red rock crab with a snail snack.



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 February 2022 Issue is Friday, January 21.