

the staggering starfish

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

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Happy New Year!!!

For the 34th year in a row, Spanky is pleased to once again wish everyone a **Happy New Year!** As those of us learned at our Holiday Party in December, we are not yet at the end of the COVID 19 pandemic. Spanky again hopes that everyone had a happy, safe, and enjoyable holiday in spite of COVID 19, and hopes that 2023 will bring the end of the pandemic. Spanky is excited and looking forward to our 34th year as a dive club with almost no rules and absolutely no bylaws.

January Club Meeting

Our first club meeting of 2023 will be held at **6:00 PM** on the first Thursday of the New Year, **January 5**. We will not be holding an in-person meeting this month. A Zoom invitation will be emailed to all regular attendees the afternoon of the meeting. If you do not attend regularly and wish to join us, please send an email request to Spanky at gsndambaa@hotmail.com no later than **noon** on **January 5**. Our agenda for this month's meeting includes planning our March club dive and checking the status of what will hopefully be our 2023 Club Tee Shirts.

January Club Dive- Keystone

We are starting off the New Year with a dive at one of the best dive sites in Puget Sound. We will be traveling to Whidbey Island for a dive at the **Keystone Jetty**. The meet time for the dive is **1:30 PM** with an entry time of **2:30 PM**. This is a current-sensitive site, so please plan on arriving on time so we can be ready for the planned entry time. We should have lots of life, including GPOs (and lots of other divers). There may be showers and rinse water at the park but they may have been turned off for the winter. After the dive we will reconvene at Callen's Restaurant (near the Keystone Ferry Terminal) for an early dinner.

Directions to Keystone:

The dive site is located on Whidbey Island at the Keystone State Park, near the ferry terminal. You can either take the Mukilteo ferry to Whidbey Island or drive north and across the Deception Pass bridge. From the Whidbey Island ferry dock, proceed North on WA-525 for 22.1 miles to the intersection with WA-20/Wanamaker Rd. Turn left on WA-20 and proceed

2023-GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

01/05/2023	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, Virtual via Zoom
01/21/2023	1:30 PM	Club Dive at Keystone
02/02/2023	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, ESSDB Jim's House
02/04/2023	11:00 AM	Club Dive at Les Davis
03/02/2023	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, ESSDB Jim's House
04/29/2023	10:00 AM	Club Dive at Deception Pass
05/13/2023	Time TBD	Club Dive at Possession Point Fingers

for about 2 miles to the Keystone Spit Park, just before the ferry terminal. From the Deception Pass bridge, proceed south on WA-20 past Coupeville and follow the signs to the ferry terminal. Keystone Spit park is just past the ferry terminal. Park as close to the water as you can.

Holiday Party Report

The 2022 Holiday Party was again hosted by ESSDB Jim at his centrally located Edmonds home. We had a good turnout this year and Spanky believes that all had a nice time. We had a great selection of snack food and desserts, including homemade fudge and chocolate chip cookies. Everyone participated in the Pirate Gift Exchange and several gifts were found to be very popular, resulting in repeated piracy. Spanky is already looking forward to the next holiday party.

December Bonus Dive Report

It was a breezy and sunny day for the Club Bonus Dive at Redondo. It was also a King Tide Day. Water was up to the top of the aquarium pier and just a few steps from the top of the entry stairs. No need to deal with the tall last step! Visibility was not too bad near the surface and cleared up at about 35 feet. Since entry was near the peak of the King Tide we were extra diligent in keeping track of our bottom

time. Compared to a normal dive at Redondo, there was an additional 8 feet of water above us. The dive followed the traditional route of following the rope down to the carousel boat and then heading northish to the other rope that goes to the Volkswagen. Along the way we saw a large Frosted Nudibranch (aka White Line Dirona, see last month's photos), a school of tube snouts and some great decorator crabs. By the time we surfaced the water had dropped about 3 feet, although we felt no current. Water temperature was 46 degrees at the surface and 48 at the bottom.

PST Scuba Cylinders

Spanky has learned that the DOT permit for PST steel tanks has been renewed. You can now get them refilled, inspected, and hydro tested again. Spanky hopes that no one turned their PST tanks into bells as a result of last month's report.

Cool-?-of the Month Section

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

Our first cool web video for this month was made by the EV Nautilus, a research ship owned by the Ocean Exploration Trust. They shot this video of a gulper eel a few years ago. The footage is pretty amazing - it bears no resemblance to an eel upon first sight. Watch it by clicking on [gulper eel](#).

Our second cool web video is from the SeaDoc Society. They filmed a diving encounter with Stellar sea lions up near Hornby Island. They refer to Stellar sea lions as 'grizzlies of the sea.' Some of us have had an encounter with these guys on a trip to God's Pocket. Click on [Stellars](#) to watch this fascinating encounter.

Spanky found a third cool web video about tufted puffins in the northwest. This video was prepared by the Seadoc Society and shows an expedition to Destruction Island to capture and tag a puffin. Watch it [here](#).

Cool-Photos-Of-The-Month:

Spanky selected some photos from the archive since no one did the December dive at EUP and ESSDB Larry could not do the December bonus dive at Redondo. These photos were selected from 46 dives at Redondo, dating back to 2011. Our first photo is a Pacific Spiny Lumpsucker (arguably the cutest fish in Puget Sound), the second is a Sailfin Sculpin (although it is not a sculpin), and the third is probably a red octopus.



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky .

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The deadline for items to be included in the February 2023 Issue is Friday, January 20.