

the staggering starfish

the official newsletter of the GSNDAMBAA SCUBA Diving Club

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January Club Meeting

Spanky wishes everyone a very Happy New Year!!! He hopes all will prosper in what should be a very interesting year. Since this newsletter is unavoidably late, we have already had our January Club meeting. Therefore, we really have nothing more to say about it, except that the library worked very well for the meeting. Thanks to ESSDB DeeAnn for making meeting arrangements and volunteering to continue to make arrangements.

January Club Dive - I-90 Bridge

For our first dive of the New Year, we will be diving at a site that most of have not been to. This will be a fresh water dive, so we may not need to rinse our gear after the dive. Spanky avoids all fresh water, so he has no idea what we may see besides silt and sand (perhaps some crawfish and bluegills?), oh, and the remains of the original pontoon bridge. We will meet at the **South Day Street Park** at **10:00 AM** on **Saturday, April 12**. No facilities are available at this park, but restrooms are available at Mt Baker Beach, about a half mile south of the Bridge. It looks like an easy entry from this park. After the dive we will head down to the Columbia City Ale House for some lunch and perhaps a beer.

Directions to South Day Street Park:

Take I-5 to I-90 and head east, toward Bellevue. Take Exit 3, Ranier Avenue from I-90; Immediately get into the left lane and take the first left on S. Massachusetts St. Continue east on S. Massachusetts a block past the traffic circle and turn right on 29th Ave. S. Turn left at the next block onto S. Massachusetts St. and turn left again on 31st Ave. S. Head north to S. Atlantic St. and turn right. Take another right onto 32nd Ave. S. and turn left when you get to S. Massachusetts St. Continue straight for several blocks and turn left on Lakeside Ave. S. Head north until you get beneath the westbound bridge for I-90 and turn right into the South Day St. Park. You can also set Google Maps to South Day St. Park.

2025 GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

01/02/2025	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, Edmonds Public Library
01/12/2025	10:00 AM	Club Dive, West end of I-90 Bridge
02/06/2025	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, Edmonds Public Library
02/22/2025	9:30 AM	Club Dive, Fort Ward State Park
03/06/2025	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, Edmonds Public Library
03/23/2025	10:40 AM	Club Dive at Keystone
04/03/2025	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, Edmonds Public Library
04/06/2025	8:30 AM	Club Dive at Point Hudson
05/01/2025	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, Edmonds Public Library
07/19/2025	Time TBD	Club Dive at Possession Point Fingers
08/02/2025	9:30 AM	Club Dive at Deception Pass

December Dive Report

Several of us gathered on a beautiful winter day for our club dive at Edmonds Underwater Park. ESSDB Steve served as our guide, giving us a nice tour of the park. Our first stop after what seemed like a never-ending surface swim was at the memorial for our former club member, Jim Middleton. As you can see in this month's Cool Photos, Spanky was waiting for us when we got there. After paying our respects (and cleaning off his memorial plaque), Steve took us on a tour of some of his favorite places on the trails. All-in-all, it was a nice dive on a nice day, with about 30 feet of visibility. We saw several large lingcod, several species of nudibranch, and lots of rockfish.

Holiday Party Report

Our 35th Holiday Party was a resounding success this year! Spanky especially thanks EESSDBs DeeAnn and Steve for again hosting this get-together. Spanky enjoyed visits from several long-term members that no longer dive regularly in the Salish Sea. Spanky actually surprised everyone this year (including himself) by preparing something other than lasagna. As usual, we had a lot of really good food to share again. Special thanks to Taffy for making an excellent Dungeness crab dip. Spanky also enjoyed the chocolate chip cookies and is already looking forward to our 36th annual Holiday Party.

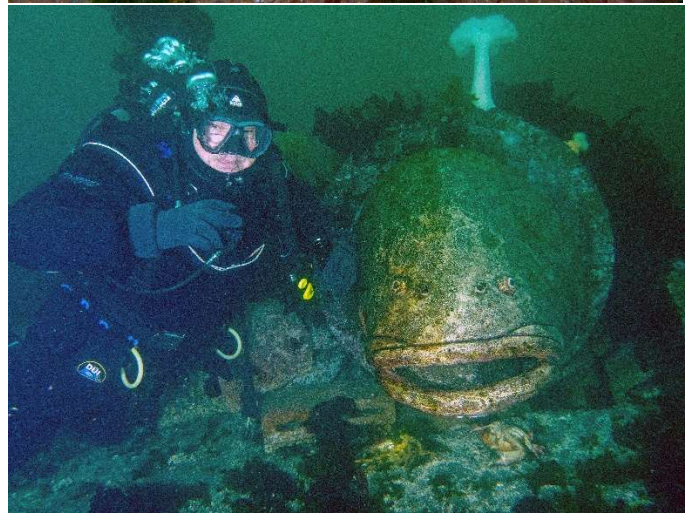
Bonus Dive Report

The bonus dive at the Tubular Reef was a good one. The rain stopped as we began to suit up and did not restart until we headed into the water. The surface was fortunately calm, considering a significant breeze was forecast. Visibility was outstanding - at least 30 feet. We headed out from shore to get some depth and then hung a left towards the pipeline. Pretty quickly we came across the elongated rock pile that had a lot of life. There were many Leopard Dorid and Sea Lemon nudibranchs, as well as lingcod guarding massive egg masses and lots of Red Rock, Dungeness and Kelp crabs. After we left the end of the reef we continued on, coming across islands of plumose anemones in the sandy bottom and eventually finding the end of the pipeline. There were lots of large kelp crabs all over the rocks that cover the pipeline. We hung out there for a bit, alas no Grey Whales swam by. On the way back there were fields of sea pens, a perfect White Lined Dirona, and a tire that was full of shrimp. One of the large shrimp would allow us to pet it. By the time we surfaced, the dive had lasted 75 minutes.

Cool-?-of the Month Section

Cool-Photos-of-the-Month:

Our January 2025 photos include a shot of Jim Middleton's plaque at Passages in EUP and a shot of ESSDB Steve posing with D.B. Grouper at our December club dive. The last picture is a White Line Dirona that was taken by our newest club member, Hillary, from one of her dives at the Fort Worden pier.



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky.

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Please send items for the February 2025 issue by January 24.