

the staggering starfish

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

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2023-GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

07/06/2023	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, via Zoom
07/23/2023	8:00 AM	Club Dive at Saltwater State Park
08/03/2023	6:00 PM	Club meeting, probably via Zoom
08/26/2023	12:00 PM	Club dive at Cove 2
09/07/2023	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, probably via Zoom
09/22-24/2023		Dive/Camp Weekend
10/05/2023	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, probably via Zoom
11/02/2023	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, probably via Zoom

July Club Meeting

We will meet via Zoom at **6:00 PM on Thursday, July 6** for our regular monthly meeting. Spanky will send a Zoom invitation to the regular meeting attendees via email some time before the actual meeting. For those who do not normally receive these emails, please send an email request to Spanky at gsndambaa@hotmail.com no later than 12:00 noon on July 6 if you would like to attend. The agenda for our July meeting includes selecting a time and site for our October club and preliminary planning for the 2023 club Holiday Party.

July Club Dive, Saltwater SP

For the second month in a row we will be diving in the South Sound, with our July club dive at Saltwater State Park. Spanky knows that all divers will enjoy the surface swim, which will keep everyone warm until we reach the buoys so we can descend to the artificial reef. Make sure you have an early breakfast - the meet time is **Sunday, July 23, at 8:00 AM** for a **9:00 AM** splash. This dive site includes an artificial reef that was finished by the Washington Scuba Alliance in 2009. The structure includes concrete slabs and beams which provide habitat for a variety of marine life, including large ling cod, lots of rock fish, and the occasional dog fish, if we are lucky. Be sure to bring your **Washington Discover Pass** or be prepared to buy a day pass at the park. The park has excellent facilities near the beach, including a shower to rinse gear. After the dive we will head south to Mama Stortini's for lunch.

Directions to Salt Water State Park:

From the North:

Go S on I-5 to Exit 149 and go West on SR516
In about 2 miles, go South on Marine View Drive
The park will be about a mile down the road on your right.
Once in the park, drive down to the water and park close to the shore.

From the South:

Go N on I-5 to Exit 147 and go West on S 272nd St.
After about a mile, turn right on 16th Ave S.

Go N for about 1.25 mi and turn left on S 250th St.
In about 0.5 mi turn left on Marine View Drive and enter the park on your right.
Once in the park drive down to the water and park close to the shore.

You can also enter Saltwater State Park into Google Maps to let your phone guide you there.

June Club Dive Report

Spanky (with the help of a few club members) managed to select a beautiful day for our June dive at Titlow Beach. We had to compete with others for parking, but we all managed to get reasonably good parking spaces for our walk to the beach entry. A Reef training session was also being held at the site. We had a total of 6 divers and we split into two groups - one group of 4 divers committed to find the wall while the other 2 divers decided to explore the dolphin and pilings. For the first time in many years, the wall was actually found! No GPOs were found, but we did see an unusually high number of buffalo sculpins. Visibility was decent and we all had a pleasant dive followed by a pleasant lunch at Boathouse 19.

2023 Dive/Camp Weekend

This is a short reminder about our 2023 club Dive/Camp Weekend. We are holding it at ESDBs

Richard & Michelle's vacation home near Hoodsport on **September 22-24**. We have 1 space left for a Hood Canal boat dive on **Friday, September 22** and we are planning on diving at least 2 dives on **Saturday, September 23** at Sund Rock. If you would like to join us for either dive please send an email to Spanky at gsndambaa@hotmail.com. This will be a fun weekend with some really good food, so join us if you can.

Membership Renewal

The club Vice President for Financial Affairs has asked Spanky to remind everyone that it is once again time to dig deep into your cash reserves and renew your club membership or to pony up and become a new member. Although this is the 34th year for our club, our annual dues remain at \$5. Your annual dues will get you 12 monthly issues of the Staggering Starfish, access to the club web site, invitations to monthly club dives, and an invitation to the Holiday party! To renew your membership simply give your \$5.00 bill to Spanky by July 30. Or, to join the dive club with the world's hardest to pronounce acronym, go to the club website at www.gsndambaa.org and navigate to the Membership Form. Please download and fill out the form completely, and snail mail it with your \$5 to GSNDAMBAA c/o Bart Selz, 29621 232ND AVE SE, Black Diamond WA 98010. Please return the completed membership form and payment no later than July 30th.

Underwater Sports Diver's Fair

Underwater Sports is holding their 45th Annual Diver's Fair from **Friday, July 27** through **Sunday, July 29**. The fair will again be held at their Seattle store (10545 Aurora Ave N), The Diver's Fair always has their best prices of the year for both gear and classes.

Cool-?-of the Month Section

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

This month's cool web articles are about free diving with orcas and a newly discovered deep sea nursery for octopuses. A free diver and an underwater photographer jumped into the frigid Norway waters to interact with orcas. You can read about it by clicking on [orca](#). The second article is about a newly discovered species of octopus that has a nursery about 2 miles deep. The octopuses congregate to tend their eggs. Click on [Deep Sea Octopus](#) to read the article

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

Our cool web video was submitted by ESSDB Bart. The EV Nautilus found a smiling snailfish in the Marianas Trench. You can watch it [here](#).

Cool-Photos-of-The-Month:

Our cool photos for July were taken by ESSDB Larry at our June club dive at Titlow Beach. The first photo is one of the many Buffalo Sculpins that were seen On the dive. The second is a Clown Dorid that was found hanging out near the dolphin.



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky .

Visit Spanky at
www.gsndambaa.org
Email Spanky at
gsndambaa@hotmail.com

The deadline for items to be included in the **August 2023 Issue** is **Friday, July 21**.