

the staggering starfish

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

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June Club Meeting

Our first meeting of the summer will be held on **Thursday, June 6** (assuming you are not of those who insists that summer starts on July 5) at the usual time, **6:00 PM**. We will again be using Google Meet for this virtual meeting. Spanky will send an email invitation to regular attendees. If you are not a regular attendee and would like to join us, please send an email request to Spanky at gsndambaa@hotmail.com no later than noon on the day of the meeting. For this meeting we will do some planning for our extra dive/camp weekend, start preliminary planning for our annual Holiday Party, and we will plan our October and November club dives if we have time.

June Club Dive: Deception Pass

Unfortunately, the newsletter was not completed prior to the June Club Dive which was scheduled for June 1. Spanky hopes everyone had a great dive at this very interesting dive site.

May Club Dive Report

The day dawned gloomy and grey. During the ferry ride to Whidbey Island we endured a few rain drops. The ride to Possession Point Park was dry and hopeful. As we arrived, there were divers just packing up from a dive and a couple of divers planning to enter well before us, taking advantage of the low exchange and planning to do two dives. As the club gathered, the day stayed dry and the wind was calm. Our selected entry time was good with no current. We dropped into the water and there were plenty of shrimp on the bottom, though not nearly as many as the last time we did this site. Once hitting 50 feet, a right turn was initiated and the cruise to the fingers began. Along the way there were many Rough Piddock clams, some sticking out horizontally from the clay walls. There was an octopus that made it easy to find with a pile of clam and crab shells outside the den, nice anemones, a wolf eel, a few ling cod and a bunch of yellow perch. Decorator crabs should learn that their camouflage works best when they aren't moving. Had they not moved, we would have missed them. After the

2024 GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

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| 06/01/2024 | 10:30 AM | Club Dive at Deception Pass |
| 06/06/2024 | 6:00 PM | Club Meeting |
| 07/11/2024 | 6:00 PM | Club Meeting |
| 07/14/2024 | 10:30 AM | Club Dive at Saltwater State Park |
| 08/01/2024 | 6:00 PM | Club Meeting |
| 08/10/2024 | 9:30 AM | Club Dive & Crab Feed, Boeig Dock in Mukilteo |
| 08/??/2024 | | Domestic Dive/Camp Weekend TBD |
| 09/05/2024 | 6:00 PM | Club Meeting |
| 09/20-22/2024 | | International Dive/Camp Weekend at Horseshoe Bay |
| 10/03/2024 | 6:00 PM | Club Meeting |

dive we finished packing our gear just as it started to rain. The Village Pizzeria was just what we needed after a great dive.

Dive/Camp Weekends

For the first time in our Club's 35 year history, we will be holding not one, but **TWO** Dive/Camp Weekends this year. Our first Dive/Camp Weekend will be held on a yet-to-be-determined weekend in August at the Hoodspoint vacation home of ESSDBs Richard and Michele. We will be sharing the date in the July issue of The Staggering Starfish.

Our second Dive/Camp Weekend will include an international trip to Horseshoe Bay, just north of Vancouver BC on **September 20 - 22**. If you have not yet done so, send an email to Spanky to let him know you would like to join us. We will be doing a couple boat dives on Saturday, September 21 and several divers are planning 2 more boat dives on Sunday, September 22.

Details for making reservations for housing and boat reservations will be sent to those who are interested. There are plenty of available activities for non-divers at this location, including kayaking and hiking.

Jim Middleton Memorial Plaque

A memorial plaque for Jim Middleton will be placed at Edmonds Underwater Park on **Sunday, June 9 at 11:00 AM**. In addition to being a long-term club member, Jim volunteered at EUP for many years, helping with construction of the underwater trails. He also posted some excellent videos of EUP on YouTube. Jim's plaque will be placed at Passages by Bruce Higgins. You can come to EUP for a short remembrance and then get your dive gear on to accompany Bruce and the plaque to Passages.

Cool-?-of the Month Section

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

The cool web article for June is about a Hooked Squid that was filmed attacking an underwater camera. Hooked squid are a family of 20-25 species that include some of the largest squid known. They can reach about 2 m in length. They also have bioluminescent organs on their arms that apparently are used to startle their prey. You can read the article and watch a short film clip by clicking on [Hooked Squid](#).

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

This month Spanky found a couple cool videos of hunting orcas. The first is quite cool and shows a lone orca attacking a Great White shark. Watch it by clicking on [Poor Shark](#). Our second video is a bit longer and shows a pod of orca in Alaska attacking a Stellar Sea Lion bull. These are probably the Biggs orcas that also frequent Puget Sound. Watch the second video by clicking on [Poor Sea Lion](#).

Cool-Photos-of-The-Month:

We have some really good macro shots for this month. These were taken at Possession Point Fingers by ESSDB Bill Horist. The first is a Red Irish Lord that was patiently posing. The second is a juvenile Blackeyed Hermit Crab. Our last photo is a White-and-Orange-Tipped Nudibranch. For any biology nerds out there, this nudibranch was recently renamed *Antiopella fusca*. It was previously known as *Janolus fuscus*.



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky.

Visit Spanky at www.gsndambaa.org

Email Spanky at

gsndambaa@hotmail.com

Please submit items for the July 2024 issue by Friday, June 21.