

the staggering starfish

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

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Club Meeting & Limerick Challenge

We will be continuing our club tradition and hold our annual Limerick Challenge during our virtual March club meeting. It will be held at our regular time of **6:00 PM** on first **Thursday, March 4**. An email invitation with a Zoom link will be sent to regular meeting attendees the afternoon before the meeting. If you would like to be sure you receive an invitation, please send an email to Spanky at gsndambaa@hotmail.com no later than noon on March 4. Winning limericks will be published in the April issue of the Staggering Starfish (assuming that printing the limerick would not require this publication to be emailed in a plain brown wrapper). For those who need to review rules on limericks, check out this site: [Limerick Rules](#). Non-limerick entries will be judged in the category "All Other Rhymes" and the winner will also be published in the April newsletter. Spanky will buy dinner for the winner of the Limerick Challenge when we are able to resume in-person club meetings. In addition to the Limerick challenge, our meeting agenda includes sculpin identification (see below) and an update on State parks for availability of group picnic sites for our postponed 2020 Holiday Party. We will also discuss the potential for fall 2021 and/or winter 2022 dive trips. Since we planned dives for June, July, and August at our February meeting, we will not be planning any dives this month. Due to the abbreviated agenda, Spanky will entertain suggestions for suitable agenda items for this meeting.

March Club Dive, Point Hudson

For our March dive, you will need to travel to the Victorian city of Port Townsend. We will meet at **8:30 AM** on **Sunday, March 21**, just after the Vernal Equinox. Our splash time is 9:30 AM. Please be on time, as this is a current-sensitive dive site. This dive site is on the waterfront in Port Townsend. It is a very nice site, with potential to see GPOs, wolf eels, gunnels, nudibranchs, and, if we are really lucky, Puget Sound King Crab. If the weather is nice, we can walk down the street and buy a slice of pizza and then find somewhere outside to sit and eat. Dessert can be obtained at the Elevated Ice Cream Company.

2021-GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

- 03/04/2021 6:00 PM**
Virtual Club Meeting
- 03/21/2021 8:30 AM**
Club Dive at Point Hudson
- 04/01/2021 6:00 PM**
Club Meeting, probably virtual
- 04/04/2021, 9:15 AM**
Club Dive at Norrander's Reef
- 05/06/2021 6:00 PM**
Club Meeting, possibly at Edmond's Underwater Sports
- 05/22/2021, 1:00 PM**
Club Dive at Mukilteo Tee Dock
- 06/03/2021, 6:00 PM**
Club Meeting, possibly at Edmond's Underwater Sports
- 06/19/2021, 11:30 AM**
Club Dive at Point Whitney
- 07/01/2021 6:00 PM**
Club Meeting, possibly at Edmond's Underwater Sports
- 07/17/2021, Time TBD**
2020 Holiday Party, Tentatively at Rosario Beach

Directions to Point Hudson:

Head to Port Townsend from wherever you are. Follow Highway 20 into town (it becomes Sims Way). Continue down the hill and along the waterfront. After you pass the ferry terminal it becomes Water Street. Continue on Water Street until you reach the Maritime Center, just past Monroe Street (there is a stop sign at Monroe). Park wherever you can find a place near the Maritime Center. We will enter at the boat ramp or just east of the Maritime Center. There are public restrooms within walking distance, and there is water to rinse your gear. If you set your GPS to the Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend you should be able to get there just fine.

February Club Dive Report

For our February dive, we visited Titlow Beach. We had a good turnout for this dive; a total of 7 divers showed up. Several divers had not been to this site before. We entered the water on time on a cool and cloudy day. We managed to enter the water without disturbing the birds, resting on the pilings, which were

being photographed by a photographer on shore. Visibility was good, about 25 feet. Spanky saw a record number of different nudibranchs on this dive, a total of 7 different species. We also saw several gumboot chitons. We had a pleasant dive lasting just over an hour.

Sculpins

Since everyone has downloaded Greg Jensen's free sculpin book (see [Staggering Starfish, Vol. 32, No. 2](#)), Spanky thought it would be fun to get some practice using it. Spanky retained ESSDB Larry to include some photos of sculpins in this month's newsletter. You can use your new copy of [Pacific Northwest Sculpins](#) to identify the 3 sculpins shown in the Cool Photos of the Month. We will discuss the fish ID's during our March Club Meeting. Anyone identifying all three of them correctly will receive a free virtual dinner from Spanky. Hint: at least one of them is a scaly head sculpin.

Cool-?-of-the-Month Section

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

Our first cool web article for March shows the winners of the 2021 global underwater photo competition. The competition is based in the UK, and accepts underwater photographs taken around the globe. Spanky enjoyed looking at them and hopes that you will too. You can see them by clicking [here](#).

The second cool web article is actually a few years old, but Spanky thought it was still cool and worth sharing. As we all know, seawater supports a wide range of life. A lot of it consists of microscopic plankton. This article shows the kind of life that was observed in a single drop of water taken from a dip net sample collected near Hawaii. Puget Sound also supports a high density and high diversity of plankton. This article will make you want to make sure you have no open wounds while diving. Click on [a single drop of water](#) to see it.

Cool-Photos-Of-The-Month:

In response to Spanky's special request, ESSDB Larry took these photos during the February Club Dive at Titlow Beach. Fortunately, sculpins will sit still long enough to get a decent shot. We will save the 7 different nudibranchs for another time.



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky at gsndambaa@hotmail.com.

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The deadline for items to be included in the April 2021 Issue is Friday, March 26.