

# the staggering starfish

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

29621 232<sup>ND</sup> AVE SE, Black Diamond WA 98010

gsndambaa@hotmail.com



## March Club Meeting

Our March 2024 club meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 7 at 6:00 PM** via Zoom. As usual, an email invitation will be sent 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](mailto:gsndambaa@hotmail.com) no later than noon on the day of the meeting. Our meeting agenda includes planning for our club dive in July and discuss the Dive/Camp Weekend.

## March Club Dive: Fort Flagler

We tried to dive Fort Flagler in November and were stymied by fierce winds. We will try again on **March 17**. It will be the middle of the month, so March should be halfway on its transition from lion to lamb. As they did in November, Spanky believes that most members of the club have not done this dive site. The site consists of an artificial reef built from debris from demolition of a pier at the site. There are restroom facilities within walking distance from the site. Please remember to bring your Discover Pass or be prepared to buy a day pass. This is a current-sensitive site, so please arrive on time so we do our entry before slack. We plan to meet at the site at **9:45 AM**. We will splash promptly at 10:45 AM. After the dive we will head over to the Finn River Cidery for some cider and lunch.

### Directions to Fort Flagler Dive Site:

From Kingston, follow Hwy 104 from the ferry toward Port Gamble. Continue on 104 across the Hood Canal Bridge and take the first right after the bridge onto Paradise Bay Road. Follow Paradise Bay Rd for about 6 miles until you get to Oak Bay Rd in Port Ludlow. Turn right onto Oak Bay Road and continue for 8.5 miles and turn right only Hwy 116 (Flagler Rd). Follow Hwy 116 to Fort Flagler State Park. When you get to the park take the first road to the right (Wansboro Rd) and follow it until you come to the waterfront. Take a sharp right and follow the road past the gun battery to a parking area. From the Port Townsend ferry, take Hwy 19 south toward Port Hadlock. Turn left on Hwy 116 and follow the

## 2024 GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

03/07/2024	6:00 PM	Club meeting, probably via Zoom
03/17/2024	9:45 AM	Club Dive at Fort Flagler
04/04/2024	6:00 PM	Club meeting, probably via Zoom
04/13/2024	10:00 AM	Club Dive at Les Davis
05/02/2024	6:00 PM	Club meeting, probably via Zoom
05/04/2024	10:00 AM	Club Dive at Possession Point Fingers
06/01/2024	10:30 AM	Club Dive at Deception Pass
06/06/2024	6:00 PM	Club meeting, probably via Zoom

directions above. Google Maps will guide you if you tell it to take you to Battery Wansboro.

## February Club Dive Report

It was a dark and stormy night. No, wait, it was a somewhat light and foggy morning when we met at Day Island for the February Club Dive. There was some significant fog on the drive to Day Island and a light fog on the water as we entered the glass smooth water a little early. We swam out towards the wall and dropped down to find good visibility and no current. Heading south along the wall there were a lot of nooks and crannies for critters. There were a bunch of shrimps, a few ling cod, some nice perch, an octopus and about half a dozen wolf eels. There was also a huge sea urchin, about the size of volleyball. Steve saw a blue whale and was the only one to see it because he was the only one to look away from the wall.

## Remembering Jim

We are working on a celebration of Jim's life for his dive family. Stay tuned!

## Cool-?-of the Month Section

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

Ocean Conservancy [article](#) by Megan Montemurno about a giant isopod. It grows up to 20"!

Another Ocean Conservancy [article](#), this one about the Glass Octopus. Its see-thru!

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

Some truly amazing deep-sea creatures of the Phoenix Islands during a Schmidt Ocean Institute expedition. Watch it [here](#). Phoenix Islands are due east of Papua New Guinea (by quite a few miles).

Not nearly as deep creature makes an appearance in Hawaii. View it [here](#). (A friend was diving on a wall in Hawaii when it suddenly got dark. He turned around and there was a whale shark. He said it was like a bus going by.)

### Cool-Photos-of-The-Month:

To inspire divers to do the March Club Dive at Fort Flagler, here are some pictures from the site taken by ESSDB Larry. The 1<sup>st</sup> is an aerial view of an alabaster nudibranch, followed by a giant scallop (yum!) and a yellow starfish.



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky.

Visit Spanky at [www.gsndambaa.org](http://www.gsndambaa.org)

Email Spanky at

[gsndambaa@hotmail.com](mailto:gsndambaa@hotmail.com)

Please submit items for the April 2024 issue by Saturday, Mar. 23.