

# the staggering starfish

the official newsletter of the GSNDAMBAA SCUBA Diving Club

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## May Club Meeting

The May club meeting will be (as usual) at **6:00 PM** on **Thursday, May 2**. We will 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](mailto:gsndambaa@hotmail.com) no later than noon on the day of the meeting. The agenda for this meeting includes noting that the June club dive is before the meeting and planning for our Dive/Camp weekend in September. If time allows, we will also plan our October club dive.

## May Club Dive: Possession Point

Our May club dive will be at one of the best sites in Puget Sound, the Possession Point Fingers. This dive is located at the southern tip of Whidbey Island and is known to be current-sensitive, so please plan to be on time and ready to dive. We plan to meet at **10:00 AM** on **Saturday, May 4**. This dive is in a State Park, so remember to bring your Discover Pass. Spanky believes that you cannot purchase a pass at the dive site. Parking at the lower parking area is also limited. Depending on how many divers will be going, we may need to shuttle gear between the upper and lower parking areas. If you plan on doing this dive, please RSVP to Spanky via email no later than **Monday, April 29**. Potential critters at this site include GPO's, rockfish, greenlings, and ling cod. After the dive we will drive over to the Village Pizzeria in Langley for lunch.

### Directions to Possession Point:

You can enter Possession Point Dive Site into Google Maps and have it plot your route.

From the Clinton Ferry Terminal:

Head west on Hwy 525. At about 1.5 miles turn left onto Deer Lake Road.

At about 3.2 miles, turn left onto Cultus Bay Rd.

After about 2.1 miles, Cultus Bay Rd. turns to the right but you need to continue straight onto Possession Rd. Follow Possession Rd. for about 2 miles and take a right turn onto Franklin Rd. Take Franklin to its end and park in the narrow parking area. A few cars will be able to

## 2024 GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

05/02/2024	6:00 PM	Club meeting, virtual
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 virtual
07/11/2024	6:00 PM	Club meeting, probably virtual
07/14/2024	10:30 AM	Club Dive at Saltwater State Park
08/01/2024	6:00 PM	Club meeting, probably virtual
08/10/2024	9:30 AM	Club Dive & Crab Feed, Boeing Dock in Mukilteo
09/05/2024	6:00 PM	Club meeting, probably virtual

drive to the lower parking area for the dive. From the north end of Whidbey Island, take 525 south and turn right onto Cultus Bay Rd. Follow the above directions after passing Deer Lake Road.

## April Club Dive Report

Another beautiful, sunny day in Tacoma as five Intrepid Divers gathered at Les Davis Park to avail themselves of the stairs installed by the Washington SCUBA Alliance! Les Davis is not a current sensitive site, and yet we got in on time - probably due to being hungry and looking forward to the post dive meal. Regardless of the reason, we did a short surface swim to the 1<sup>st</sup> light pole, dropped down and headed north. We quickly came upon the 1<sup>st</sup> set of slabs and began exploring. There were some nice size perch hanging out and it was possible to get very close to them. Along the edge of anything that touched the bottom there was a phalanx of shrimp guarding their little slice of the third rock from the Sun. They're so cute when they charge! We also saw three good size Lemon Peels, a Northern Opalescent nudibranch, and the obligatory Ling Cod. Kim saw a Wolf

Eel that disappeared before she could get anyone's attention. It was a long dive even though we got down to 70 feet. Visibility was reasonable for Puget Sound - we were able to stay together by using our dive lights as beacons in the turbulent fog of Commencement Bay.

## Save-the-Date - D/C Weekend

We will be holding this year's **Dive/Camp Weekend** on **September 20 - 22**. We have not yet finalized the location, but we are considering travelling north to Horseshoe Bay (Just north of Vancouver BC) for a weekend of boat dives in Howe Sound. If you have not yet done so, please RSVP now to Spanky to let him know you are interested.

## Cool-?-of the Month Section

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

Our first cool web article for this month is about some amazing creatures that were discovered at a depth of about 5,000 meters in an area being evaluated for mining of undersea nodules. As one would expect, these creatures are downright weird. You can read it [here](#).

The second cool web article includes a video of a Goosefish taking a stroll near the Galapagos Islands. These ambush predators live at depths up to 500 meters and have been known to eat sea birds (when they are at shallow depths). You can read the article and watch the video by clicking on [goosefish](#).

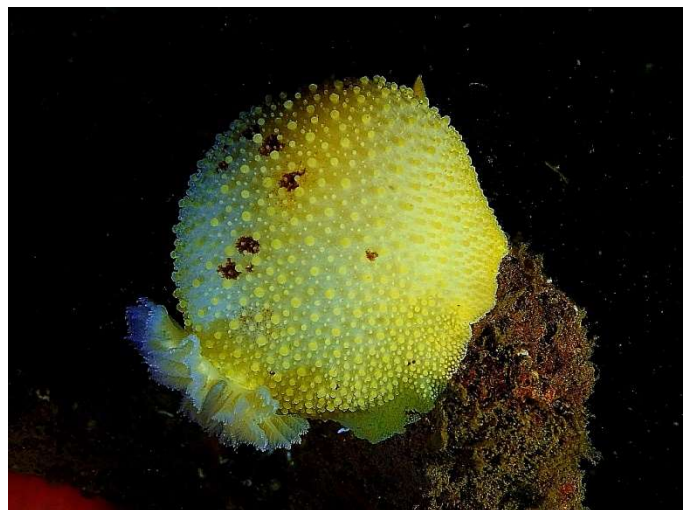
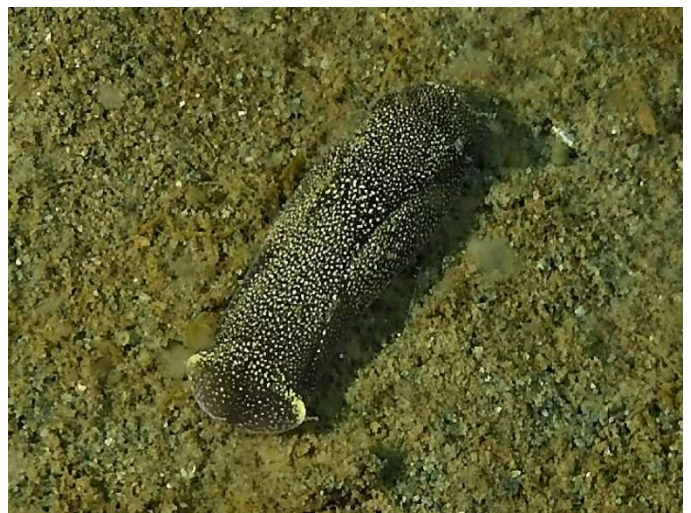
Our third (and last) cool web article could not be resisted by Spanky. The article is about recently discovered sea stars that live at great depths. This article is available by clicking on [Spanky's Cousins](#).

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

For this cool web video, Spanky recommends firing up the big screen, making a batch of popcorn, and opening up a can of your favorite beverage. This YouTube video is a compilation from the 2023 expeditions by the E/V Nautilus that is about 44 minutes long. As usual, the video includes the commentary of the researchers operating the ROV. You can watch it [here](#).

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

Our cool photos for this month were taken by ESSDB Dan. The Pacific Spiny Lumpsucker was at Redondo and the Spotted Aglaja (this one is a sea slug rather than a nudibranch) and the Monterey Dorid were taken at the April Club Dive at Les Davis.



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 June 2024 issue by Friday, May 24.