

# the staggering starfish

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

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## November Club Meeting

The November club meeting, which will be the last of 2022, will be held at the usual time, **6:00 PM** on **Thursday, November 3**. We will again meet at ESSDB Jim's home in Edmonds. For those who cannot travel to Edmonds, we will also hold a virtual meeting via Zoom. If you wish to attend via Zoom and do not normally receive a Zoom invitation, please request one by emailing Spanky at [gsndambaa@hotmail.com](mailto:gsndambaa@hotmail.com) no later than **12:00 noon** on **November 3**. Our meeting agenda includes planning the club dive for February of next year. We also hope to get more information about our long-awaited club tee shirts and sweat shirts. The last agenda item will be to select a local eatery for the post-meeting meal.

## November Club Dive-Alki Junkyard

The club will be returning to West Seattle for our November club dive, at the Alki Junkyard, now that the bridge is again available. We plan to meet at the site on **Saturday, November 19 at 12:00 Noon** with our entry time at **1:00 PM**. This is an interesting dive site with easy entry. As the name suggests, there is lots of junk which provides habitat for a variety of critters. Divers need to keep their eyes peeled for gunnels, wolf eels, nudibranchs, and even some sea spiders. Following the dive we will head up the hill to Talarico's for some pizza.

### Directions to the Alki Junkyard:

Take the West Seattle bridge to the Harbor Ave. SW exit. Follow Harbor Ave SW past Alki Coves 1,2 and 3, and past the boat ramp. The road will turn into Alki Ave SW and you will pass by Alki Beach. Continue until you pass 64th Ave SW and park along the road wherever you can find parking. You want to enter the water at the very last stair case at the end of the sea wall, before the residential homes start.

## October Club Dive Report

Holy Cow, what a great day for a picnic and a dive! The extended summer brought a nice sunny day on the first day of Octobooo at the Possession Point Fingers. This was the first club dive at this current sensitive site so we decided to provide ample

## 2022-GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

11/03/2022 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, ESSDB Jim's House

11/19/2022, 12:00 PM

Club Dive at the Alki Junkyard

12/03/2022 11:15 AM

Club Dive at Edmonds Underwater Park

12/03/2022 4:00 PM

Club Holiday Party at ESSDB Jim's House

12/28/21022 9:00 AM

Club Bonus Dive at Redondo

01/05/2023 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, ESSDB Jim's House

01/21/2023 1:30 PM

Club Dive at Keystone

time to assess the current and scheduled the post dive BBQ for before the dive. There are a couple of nice picnic tables provided by the Marker Buoy dive club and we took full advantage of them. After allowing plenty of time to digest the meal we checked the current and it was looking like the predicted entry time was right on the mark. Led by ESSDB Joe, who has frequented the Fingers, we headed into the water, swam out a little ways and dropped. As we dropped it seemed as though the entire bottom was moving. There were about a billion shrimp darting off in all directions, bouncing off of clam necks and anemones. We continued down past the shrimp and took a right. Visibility was about 25 feet, providing opportunity to scan for interesting features and creatures. We followed the Fingers, which are an undulating series of outcroppings. We saw some small juvenile (baby?) wolf eels in holes, older wolf eels, an octopus, some nice ling cod, yellow perch, a humongous Dungeness crab (could have fed two people) and a billion shrimp. The entire dive was without current, showing ESSDB Joe's prowess planning dives at the Fingers.

## Club Tee Shirts

The select committee for designing and delivering the 2022 version of the club tee shirts has nearly completely their work, and we will soon be ready to order them. It appears that the design for the

new shirts will be essentially identical to the old design. The next step is to determine the number and sizes to order. Spanky will be sending an email to all members (and non-members that receive the newsletter) to see who is interested in getting a tee shirt or sweatshirt (or both) and what size they need. Details as to color and other options will be included in the email.

## Holiday Party

Spanky hopes that everyone is planning on attending this year's Club Holiday Party! It's only about a month away. ESSDB Jim has again graciously volunteered his home in Edmonds for our holiday extravaganza. We will meet on **Saturday, December 3** at **4:00 PM**. Please RSVP by sending an email to Spanky at [gsndambaa@hotmail.com](mailto:gsndambaa@hotmail.com) no later than **December 1** so that Spanky will know how much food to bring. In your RSVP, please identify the number in your party and note any special food requirements (such as vegetarian fare). Directions will be emailed to attendees prior to December 3. Spanky will once again be holding the infamous Pirate Gift Exchange, so it is definitely time to start thinking about your gift. Your Pirate Gift should be around \$25. Please mark your calendar now and plan on joining us!

## Cool-?-of the Month Section

### Cool-Web-Article-Of-The-Month:

Our first web article may not be so cool, but it is important. A dive instructor recently died during a class due to a mismatched valve on his tank. This emphasizes the need to check everything when we have our gear serviced. You can read it [here](#).

### Cool-Web-Video-Of-The-Month:

Spanky selected a cool web video about kelp for this month's newsletter. The kelp forests from California to Washington have been impacted by side effects of sea star wasting syndrome and ocean warming. You can learn more about it and see what some divers are doing to help by clicking on [kelp](#). You can also learn about hand-made, 100% kelp baskets by clicking on [kelp baskets](#).

### Cool-Photos-Of-The-Month:

Our November newsletter photos were selected from ESSDB Larry's previous dives at the Alki Junkyard. These photos give you an idea of what we might see during our November club dive. The first photo is a couple sea pens, the second is a gang of Striped Nudibranchs (these guys like to eat sea pens). The last is a small GPO that posed for a portrait.



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky at [gsndambaa@hotmail.com](mailto:gsndambaa@hotmail.com).

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The deadline for items to be included in the **December 2022 Issue** is **Friday, November 18**.

