

# the staggering starfish

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

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## September Club Meeting

Please join us for our virtual September club meeting, which will be held at **6:00 PM** on **Thursday, September 7**. Spanky will send a Zoom invitation to the regular meeting attendees via email well in advance of the meeting time. If you do not normally receive these emails and would like to attend, please request an invitation via email to Spanky at [gsndambaa@hotmail.com](mailto:gsndambaa@hotmail.com) no later than 12:00 noon on September 7. Our meeting agenda consists of planning our January 2024 club. Hopefully someone will have tide tables for next year. We may also explore resuming in-person monthly meetings.

## Dive/Camp Weekend, Hoodspport

Our September club dives will be during the annual club Dive/Camp Weekend. For the second year in a row we will be returning to the Hoodspport vacation home of ESSDBs Richard and Michelle for a long weekend of diving and partying. This year we have booked a couple boats from YSS Dive in addition to our dives at Sund Rock on Saturday, September 23. There is still 1 opening for the boat dives, so please let Spanky know if you are interested and available for diving on Friday, September 22. It is also rumored that ESSDB Steve will again man the blender to prepare his world-famous Swedish Pancakes for breakfast on the 24<sup>th</sup>. If you want to join us for what has been in past years a very enjoyable weekend, send Spanky an RSVP via email at [gsndambaa@hotmail.com](mailto:gsndambaa@hotmail.com) by **Friday, September 15**.

## August Club Dive Report

Spanky managed to find another beautiful summer day for our August club dive. We convened fairly early on a Saturday morning at Cove 2, and everyone (except for the one who didn't read the July newsletter) managed to find decent parking. Visibility was very good - we didn't need our dive lights even at depths of 80 feet. We dodged the groups of open water diving classes and managed to find the I Beams and the Honeybear. Divers counted 5 octopuses and we saw three different species of nudibranchs in addition to the schools of Tubesnouts and sardines.. All in all, we had a very nice dive which was followed by an

## 2023-GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

09/07/2023	6:00 PM	Club Meeting via Zoom
09/22-24/2023		Dive/Camp Weekend
10/05/2023	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, probably via Zoom
10/21/2023	9:15 AM	Club Dive at the Fox Island Bridge
11/02/2023	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, probably via Zoom
11/04/2023	12:00 PM	Club Dive at Fort Flagler
12/07/2023	6:00 PM	No December Club Meeting.
12/09/2023	2:00 PM	2023 Club Holiday Party, Mount Vernon

excellent lunch at the nearby Marination, which has some of the best French fries available in Seattle.

## Save the Date

Spanky will be hosting our 34<sup>th</sup> annual **Holiday Party** on **December 9<sup>th</sup>** this year. We plan to meet around **2:00 PM** at the Mount Vernon home of ESSDBs DeeAnn and Steve. Please mark your Holiday calendar and plan to join us.

## Port Townsend Happenings

An update for the Point Hudson dive site and a new grey whale skeleton on display at the Port Townsend waterfront.

We have some good news for the Point Hudson dive site. The pier and breakwater are being replaced - construction started last year and hopefully will be finished early next year. The Port modified their pier replacement plans and have constructed a new rock reef to replace the rocks at the base of the pier that will be removed. The new reef is located between the dolphin and the old pier, and it already has significant life growing on it. The new rock reef will be expanded during the next construction phase, which is scheduled to begin in mid-September. It looks like Point Hudson will remain a good, albeit current-sensitive, dive site.

The City of Port Townsend, working with the PT Marine Science Center, WA Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife, and NOAA, have assembled a complete skeleton of a grey whale and it is on display for free in PT. The skeleton is from a grey whale that washed ashore near Port Ludlow a couple years ago. It was cleaned and assembled by volunteers. The skeleton can be viewed for free at the end of the pier extending from Taylor Street.

## Cool-?-of the Month Section

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

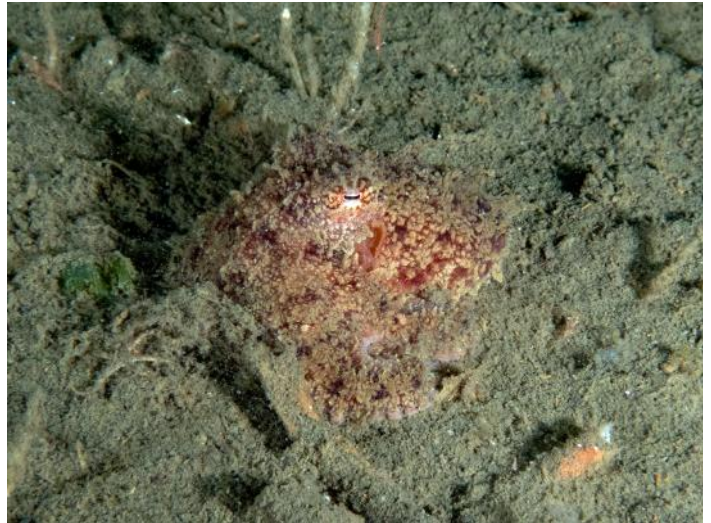
Spanky found an interesting but still cool article about marine fairy circles. We all have heard about terrestrial fairy circles in farmer's fields and grasslands. The occurrence of fairy circles in seaweed has led scientists to propose some interesting theories to explain them. You can read this cool web article by clicking on [fairy circles](#).

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

Divers are typically curious about the marine world. Spanky found some cool videos that will hopefully satiate at least some of your curiosity. These videos contain some interesting facts about the oceans and sea life that will help make you the life of the next party you attend. You can watch the videos and learn some cool things by simply clicking on [Ocean Videos](#).

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

One of our cool photos for this month was NOT taken by ESSDB Larry. The first photo of a Decorated Warbonnet was taken at Jorsted Creek by ESSDB Dan. The other photos were taken by Larry at the August Club Dive at Cove 2. The first is a Fried Egg jelly trapped under a piling with some plumose anemones. The last two are a couple of the Red Octopuses we saw on the dive.



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky .

Visit Spanky at

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The deadline for items to be included in the **Octoboo 2023 Issue** is **Monday, September 25.**