

the staggering starfish

the official newsletter of the GSNDAMBAA SCUBA Diving Club

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Happy New Year!!!

It's the start of another year of great diving and club companionship. Spanky wishes everyone a **Happy New Year** and is looking forward to diving with all of you in the coming year. Spanky also hopes that everyone had a happy and safe holiday.

January Club Meeting

Our first club meeting of 2020 will be held at **6:00 PM** on the first Thursday of the New Year (**January 2nd**). We will meet at our usual place, Underwater Sports of Edmonds. Please come prepared to talk about your most favorite Christmas, Kwanza or Hanukkah present. Our agenda for the meeting includes planning our March and April club dives. Spanky would also like everyone to start thinking about a warm water destination for the club trip in 2021. Our final order of will be achieving consensus for our post-meeting meal.

January Club Dive, The Ranger

We will start our 2020 dive season early in the year, on January 4 with a site that is new to nearly all of us - the Ranger in Port Townsend. We hope to find the wreck of the Ranger, which was a wooden-hulled boat about 70-80 ft. long. The site is reportedly good for seeing a variety of nudibranchs. If we finish the wreck with time to spare we will inspect the pilings left over from the former wharf. Please bring a dive flag if you have one. After the dive we will reconvene at Doc's Marina for lunch.

Directions to The Ranger:

Take Highway 20 to Port Townsend from the south. When you get down the hill and into town, watch for the Safeway to your left. You will take the next right after seeing Safeway, onto Haines Place. Follow Haines as it winds past the waterfront businesses until you reach a tee with Washington St. Turn right on Washington and park to your left, near the bathrooms.

December Club Dive Report

In keeping with tradition, the December club dive was scheduled a few hours before the Holiday Party. Three divers showed up this year, but only 2 made it into the water. The dive was kept fairly

2020-GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

01/02/2020 6:00 PM

Club meeting at Edmonds Underwater Sports

01/04/2020 9:00 AM

Club dive at The Ranger in Pt. Townsend

01/18-25/2020

Club dive trip to Saint Eustatius

02/06/2020 6:00 PM

Club meeting at Edmonds Underwater Sports

02/06/2020 6:00 PM

Club meeting at Edmonds Underwater Sports

02/08/2020 9:00 AM

Club dive at Tramp Harbor on Vashon Island

03/05/2020 6:00 PM

Club meeting at Edmonds Underwater Sports

04/02/2020 6:00 PM

Club meeting at Edmonds Underwater Sports

short so we could get cleaned up for the holiday party.

ESSDB Steve worked on the trails with Bruce prior to the club dive. The dive was very pleasant, with good visibility. We saw 4 species of nudibranchs and a red cabezon.

GSNDAMBAA Holiday Party Report

A good time was had by all at the 2020 GSNDAMBAA Holiday Party. We had a good turnout and many of the divers that work with Bruce Higgins on the EUP joined us. The Pirate Gift Exchange set a 30 year record for the number of pirated gifts. Spanky wants to say **Thank You!!!** to Underwater Sports of Edmonds for donating several items to make our raffle fun and rewarding. We hope the club will continue to support Underwater Sports for the coming year. Special thanks to ESSDB Jim for again hosting the party and ESSDB Bart for making sure we had enough great food, beer, and wine.

December Bonus Club Dive Report

For the Bonus club dive in December, we had 3 divers brave the cold Puget Sound waters - ESSDBs Bart, Jim, & Larry. We managed a 54 minute dive in the 46 degree water, and had about 10 -15 ft. of viz. We found the remains of the fabled Volkswagen and had a mostly relaxing, albeit cold, dive. We may return

to Redondo for a bonus dive early in the New Year to look for Spiny Lumpsuckers, the cutest fish in Puget Sound! We did note that there have been almost no changes to the dive site, in spite of the renovations proposed for the site by the WA Scuba Alliance.

Cool-?-of-the-Month Section

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

If you have walked along the Seattle waterfront since construction of the new sea wall, you may have wondered about the glass blocks installed in the sidewalk. They are actually part of a habitat restoration program for sea life, including endangered Coho Salmon. The sea wall redesign incorporated some state-of-the-art features to enhance habitat along the artificial shoreline. You can read about it [here](#).

Spanky's second article provides a good overview of many of the problems and discoveries for the marine environment that have occurred over the past decade. You can read about these issues and see what we can all do to try and improve the environment we all love to explore by clicking [Oceans](#).

Spanky's third article doubles as a cool internet video. Those of us who have traveled to the Philippines or Indonesia have probably seen the Electric Clam (also known as the Disco Clam). These clams are fascinating to watch. It turns out that Mantis Shrimp are also fascinated by these clams. You can learn how the clams do their trick and watch a cool video at this [link](#).

Cool-Internet-Video-of-the-Month:

Our cool video for December is about Sea Toads. As you would expect, Sea Toads are something like Frog Fish. I guess they couldn't be called toadfish because that name was already taken. Click [Sea Toads](#) to watch an informative video.

Cool-Photos-Of-The-Month:

The photos for our last issue of 2019 were taken by ESSDB Larry at the last club dive of the year, which was at Redondo on December 27. The first is a large Rock Sole who patiently posed for his portrait. The second is a Nanaimo Dorid with unusual body coloration. The third is a Penpoint Gunnel sharing a condo with an anemone and Spaghetti Worm.



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 February 2020 Issue is Friday, January 17.