

the staggering starfish

the official newsletter of the GSNDAMBAA SCUBA Diving Club

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August Club Meeting

The monthly club meeting for August will commence at **6:00 PM** on **Thursday, August 7**. Since ESSDB DeeAnn was successful in reserving space, we will be holding an in-person meeting at the Edmonds Public Library. For those that are not able (or willing) to attend in person, Spanky will send an email invitation for Google Meet to regular attendees prior to the meeting. If you do not receive an invite and would like to attend, please send an email to Spanky at gsndambaa@hotmail.com prior to noon on **August 7**. The meeting agenda includes final planning for the September Dive/Camp Weekend at Hoodspoint and planning for our December club and bonus dives. The final agenda item, which is reserved for those attending in person, is selection of an Edmonds restaurant for the post-meeting meal.

August Club Dive - Deception Pass

Spanky has vivid memories of the last time we did a club dive at **Deception Pass**, where all divers were reminded that this is a current-sensitive site. Spanky also hopes that everyone remembers that this is one of the best dive sites in Puget Sound and will join us at **9:30 AM** on **Saturday, August 2**. Please arrive on time and be ready for entry by **10:30 AM**. Be sure to obtain and bring your **Discover** Pass along for this dive - they are available for purchase at the state park, but it will require extra time. Spanky hopes that ESSDB Steve will bring his electric wheelbarrow to assist in hauling gear up and down the bluff. Spanky will bring a small grill, so bring something to grill after the dive and something to share.

Directions to the Deception Pass North Beach Parking Lot:

Take I5 north to the exit for Highway 20 (Exit 230) and head west, toward Anacortes. Continue west on Highway 20 and follow the signs to Deception Pass. Continue on Hwy 20, across the Deception Pass Bridge. About 1 mile from the center of the bridge you will come to a stoplight with the park entrance to your right. The road to Cornet Bay is to the left. Turn right into the park and

2025 GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

8/02/2025	9:30 AM
Club Dive at Deception Pass	
08/07/2025	6:00 PM
Club Meeting, Edmonds Public Library	
09/04/2025	6:00 PM
Club Meeting, Edmonds Public Library	
09/26 - 28/2025	
Dive/Camp Weekend at Richard's Place	
10/02/2025	6:00 PM
Club Meeting, Edmonds Public Library	
10/25/2025	11:30 AM
Club Dive at Possession Point Fingers	
11/06/2025	6:00 PM
Club Meeting, Edmonds Public Library	
11/23/2023	11:15 AM
Club Dive at Keystone	
12/13/2025	Time TBD
Holiday Party at ESSDBs Steve & DeeAnn's	

continue for 1 mile, past the ranger booth to the North Beach parking lot. The road winds through the forest and ends in a circular parking area. Stay on the main road. Do not take the roads to the left, toward the camping sites. If you enter Deception Pass parking into Google maps it will take you there.

July Club Dive Report

There was actually rain on the drive to Point Whitney and it seemed so out of character for mid-July. The rain had called it quits by the time the divers arrived but there was a cool breeze. This was a good thing because it meant that wrapping ourselves in a quilt and watertight baggy would not cause overheating. Visibility was not good as we made it to the bottom after our surface swim. Water temperature at the surface was 70 degrees! Following ESSDB Larry's advice, we took a 45 degree bearing and swam right to the pipe. Just before the pipe was a small white clam taking lunging steps to the west. There was a large mass of seaweed blanketing the bottom along the pipe, obscuring almost

all of the bottom. At about 30 feet, visibility improved nicely and at about 45 feet the seaweed carpet ended. We saw a nice octopus under the pipe and then at about 75 feet there was an octopus in the process of devouring a Dungeness crab. It had the crab covered with its web and was chowing down. (Actually, there was not a whole lot of movement going on.) Further along the pipe there was a spidery looking crab with thin legs, maybe 4" long. At the end of the pipe there was a rather large octopus under the block that is just west of the pipe. Temperature was 48 degrees. We didn't spend a whole lot of time at the end of the pipe due to the depth, and then headed up slope to follow the pipe back to shore. Along the way there were a couple of yellow dorid nudibranchs and that octopus still working on the crab. For some of us, the octopus eating the crab and the clam realizing its Manifest Destiny were a first-time sighting. A very good dive that lasted nearly an hour.

Dive/Camp Weekend

Our select committee for planning our Dive/Camp Weekend has made substantial progress since the last newsletter. We will be doing a couple of boat dives on **Friday, September 26**. ESSDB Richard will bring his boat (accommodates up to 6 divers) and ESSDB Dan will bring his boat (accommodates up to 3 divers). We still have a little more room, so if you would like to join us on Friday, send an email to Spanky ASAP.

We will again be staying at the Hoodspout vacation home of ESSDBs Richard and Michelle from **Friday, September 26 through Sunday, September 28**. We will do a group dive at Sund Rock on Saturday. If you can join us and have not already done so, send an email to Spanky identifying the number of divers and nondivers (and any special dietary needs) by **August 31**.

Membership Renewal

At the last minute, the club SVPFA (Senior Vice President for Financial Affairs) has demanded that Spanky remind everyone that it is once again time to dig deep into your cash reserves and renew your club membership. In spite of inflation, annual Club dues remain at the amount set 36 years ago, \$5. Your annual dues will get you 12 monthly issues of the Staggering Starfish, access to the club web site, invitations to monthly club dives, and an invitation to the Holiday party! To renew your membership simply give your \$5.00 bill to

Spanky by August 31. To join, go to the club website (<https://www.gsndambaa.org/>), download and fill out the membership form, and snail mail it with your \$5 to GSNDAMBAA c/o Bart Selz, 29621 232ND AVE SE, Black Diamond WA 98010 (by August 31).

Cool-?-of the Month Section

Cool-Photos-of-the-Month:

ESSDB Larry selected a couple more photos from the recent trip to Anilao in the Philippines for this month's newsletter.



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky.

Visit Spanky at www.gsndambaa.org

Email Spanky at

gsndambaa@hotmail.com

Please send items for the **September** issue by **Friday, August 22**.