

# the staggering starfish

the official newsletter of the GSNDAMBAA SCUBA Diving Club

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## December Club Meeting

In keeping with our long-standing holiday tradition, we will NOT be holding a club meeting this month. We will, however, hold our annual **Holiday Party** on **Saturday, December 14** at **2:00 PM**. Our regular monthly meetings that are held on the first Thursday of each month (other than December) will resume on **January 2, 2025** at **6:00 PM**. Please remember that we plan to resume in-person meetings (with optional connection via Google Meet) at the Edmonds Public Library starting in January.

## December Club Dive-EUP

For the first time in a very long while, we are actually holding a club dive in December. Spanky hopes that everyone will join us this month for a dive at **Edmonds Underwater Park**. Along with the amazing structure that has been built at the park, we plan to visit Passages, where former ESSDB Jim's ashes were placed last spring. Our meet time for this dive is **10:00 AM** on **Saturday, December 7**. Entry time is **11:00 AM**. As Spanky is sure everyone already knows, this is a very interesting dive site with an easy entry and a large variety of marine life. After all our gear has been packed away, we plan to head over to Salish Sea Brewing for some lunch and maybe a beer. Also, don't forget to attend the club **Bonus Dive** on **Friday, December 27, 10:00 AM** at the Alki Pipeline.

### Directions to Brackett's Landing:

Take I-5 to exit 177.

Head west on SR 104.

Follow the signs towards the ferry, but don't enter the ferry lanes. Go past the ferry booths and continue until you reach the traffic lights at Main Street.

Take a left.

Cross the train tracks and take an immediate right into the parking lot, north of the ferry ramp.

Once in the lot, find a convenient place to park.

## November Dive Report

The day dawned rainy. With the rain came better parking for our dive at the Alki Junkyard.

## 2024 GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

12/07/2024 10:00 AM

Club Dive, Edmonds Underwater Park

12/14/2024 2:00 PM

Holiday Party at the home of ESSDBs Steve & DeeAnn

12/27/2024 10:00 AM

Bonus club dive at the Alki Pipeline

01/02/2025 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, Edmonds Public Library

01/12/2025 10:00 AM

Club Dive, West end of I-90 Bridge

02/06/2025 6:00 PM

Club Meeting

03/06/2025 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, Edmonds Public Library

04/03/2025 6:00 PM

Club Meeting, Edmonds Public Library

We geared up and headed into the water that was flat enough to get in a good water ski run. Visibility was clearly (no pun intended) great as we swam out. As soon as we dropped down we came upon a lion's mane nudibranch (aka Hooded Nudibranch) hanging out on some eel grass. As we continued down the slope, Kim and Steve spotted a couple of rat fish but missed the washing machine drums. We located the rope trail at about 60 feet, and with little current, decided to go to the right. Along the trail there were plenty of clumps of rocks, plastic spheres, old crab traps and some toilets. Amongst the critters spotted were alabaster nudibranchs, Monterey Dorids, striped nudibranchs, flounder, buffalo sculpin, perch and a Snyder's blade shrimp. One of the more interesting sights was an alabaster nudibranch with what appeared to be a worm wrapped around it. It was a really good dive, followed by some really good pizza.

## Holiday Party

Spanky cannot help but have noticed that most (almost all) of you have failed to RSVP for our 2024 Holiday Party which will be held at the home of

ESSDBs DeeAnn and Steve on **Saturday, December 14** at **2:00 PM**. Spanky sincerely hopes that this will be rectified by the reminder in **this newsletter**. Please join us to enjoy an afternoon with your diving buddies. Friends and significant others (diving or non-diving) are always welcome. Spanky asks that you please RSVP by **December 11<sup>th</sup>** by sending an email to Spanky at [gsndambaa@hotmail.com](mailto:gsndambaa@hotmail.com) indicating the number attending and any diet restrictions. Directions to the party will be emailed back to you sometime before the party.

**Holiday Sustenance:** Our dinner will again be provided free for **\*CURRENT\*** members. For the modest membership fee of five dollars (\$5) U.S. per person, you will get dinner and an annual club membership. Membership forms might be available on-site for new members, and your five-bucks-cause-I'm-a-non-member fee can be applied directly and immediately toward your it's-free-cause-I'm-a-current-member membership dues. Spanky might surprise us with his culinary selections for our dinner, but it is more likely that long term club members will not be surprised. We can be sure that he will put something together from the money he gets from all those dues. The club will not be providing beer, wine, or soft drinks, so bring whatever you want. Also plan on bringing an appetizer or dessert (perhaps both?) to share with everyone. Chocolate chip cookies and pico de gallo are always welcome.

**The Pirate Gift Exchange:** Participation in The Pirate Gift Exchange (PGE) necessitates bringing along a clever gift valued at about \$30. It does not need to be diving (or pirate) related. The PGE is most fun if there are lots of PGE gifts that people want to pirate. So help peg the fun meter by skipping the white elephant gifts. If you disregard these instructions and actually bring that lame gift that you got at last year's office Christmas party or a gift that no one would pirate if it was the last gift on earth, you will be assigned responsibility for writing the 2025-2029 newsletters.

## Cool-?-of the Month Section

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

Spanky is extremely proud to have found a Cool Web Article that includes a CoolWeb Video. Researchers at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute spent 20 years determining that an unusual deep sea critter was actually a free-swimming nudibranch. This guy

apparently feeds like the Lions Mane nudibranch seen on the November club dive. The article includes some links to other cool web articles, including one about a swimming spaghetti monster. You can read it by clicking on [Devious Nudibranch](#).

### Cool-Photos-of-the-Month:

We only have room for 2 photos this month. These photos were taken by ESSDB Larry during previous dives at Edmonds Underwater Park. The first is a kelp crab eating on a fried egg jellyfish and the second is a Heath's Dorid.



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky.

Visit Spanky at [www.gsndambaa.org](http://www.gsndambaa.org)

Email Spanky at

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Please send items for the January 2025 issue by Friday, December 20.