

the staggering starfish

the official newsletter of the GSNDAMBA SCUBA Diving Club

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January Club Meeting

Spanky is pleased to wish everyone a **Very Happy New Year!** Spanky is also pleased to be sending out the 37th edition of our club newsletter. Our first meeting of 2026 will be held in person at the Edmonds Public Library on **Thursday, January 13 at 6:00 PM**. We will also meet virtually via Google Meet. Meeting invitations will be emailed to regular attendees prior to the meeting time. If you do not normally receive meeting invitations, you can request one by sending an email to Spanky at gsndambaa@hotmail.com prior to noon on the day of the meeting. Our January meeting agenda includes planning our April club dive and selecting an Edmonds restaurant for our after-meeting repast.

January Club Dive - Saltwater SP

We selected a south Sound location for our first dive of the New Year. We will meet at **Saltwater State Park** in Des Moines at **10:00 AM** on **Sunday, January 18**. Bring your power fins for the seemingly never-ending surface swim to reach the artificial reef at this site. The reef provides habitat for a variety of marine life, including large ling cod, lots of rock fish, and lots of nudibranchs. Be sure to bring your **Washington Discover Pass** or be prepared to buy a day pass at the park. After the dive we will head further south to Mama Stortini's for lunch.

Directions to Saltwater State Park:

From the North:

Go S on I-5 to Exit 149 and go West on SR516
In about 2 miles, go South on Marine View Drive
The park will be about a mile down the road on
your right. Once in the park, drive down to the
water and park close to the shore.

From the South:

Go N on I-5 to Exit 147 and go West on S 272nd St.
After about a mile, turn right on 16th Ave S. Go N
for about 1.25 mi and turn left on S 250th St.
In about 0.5 mi turn left on Marine View Drive and
enter the park on your right.
You can also enter **Saltwater Underwater Park**
into Google Maps for directions.

2026 GSNDAMBA-at-a-Glance

01/08/2026	6:00 PM	Club meeting, Edmonds Public Library
01/18/2026	10:00 AM	Club dive at Saltwater State Park
02/05/2026	6:00 PM	Club meeting, Virtual via Google Meet
02/28/2026	10:00 AMD	Club dive at Norander's Reef
03/05/2026	6:00 PM	Club meeting, Edmonds Public Library
03/14/2026	12:00 PM	Club dive at Day Island Wall
04/02/2026	6:00 PM	Club meeting at Edmonds Public Library

December Dive Report

December was a wonderful evening as the Greater Seattle Night Diving and Microbrewery Appreciation Association made good on its name for a Club night dive at Edmonds Underwater Park. This one had an emotional element, as some of us would be visiting ESSDB Jim's memorial for the 1st time. Steve guided us directly to the memorial site where we spent some time telling Jim we missed him and cleaning off his plaque. We then went for a stroll around the park seeing a number of critters. Possibly the most interesting was a sailfin sculpin that was coiled up on the bottom playing dead. Joe watched it swim to a spot and coil up. Bart then happened upon it and could not tell if it was alive or dead. Later on there was another sailfin sculpin acting normal, whatever that is. We also saw a number of hairy crabs, two really nice frosted nudibranchs, a nice ling cod, a school of tube snouts and more shrimp then you could shake a stick at. Visibility was at least 25 feet and there was no current at all on the dive.

December Bonus Dive Report

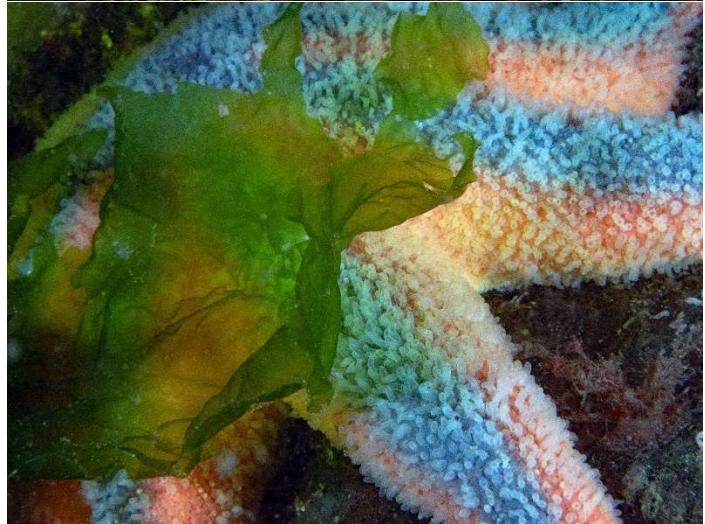
December was quite cold but very sunny for the Club December Bonus Dive at Redondo. The tide was in, nearly to the base of the Aquarium. There was a No

Diving sign posted at the entry stairs. A new fishing pier is being built and the sign warned against diving during pile driving. With it being Sunday and no one on the pile driving barge, we entered the water without a care and dropped down to 92 feet to check out the carousel boat. From there, we followed a rope to shallower waters, seeing some nice nudibranchs, including a frosted nudibranch being hassled by a very small decorator crab. At the Volkswagen, we noticed that there was a laminated picture of a diver affixed to the steering wheel. We cleaned off the picture as best we could but could not see a name. Does anyone know who the diver in the photo is?

Cool-?-of the Month Section

Cool-Photos-of-the-Month:

Our cool photos for this month's newsletter were taken at a few different locations. The GPO was recently taken by ESSDB Dan at Pulali Point West Wall. The Monterey Dorid photo was also taken by Dan during a dive at Jorsted Creek. The last two photos were taken by ESSDB Larry during a dive a few years ago at Saltwater State Park. We have a Striped Seastar (Solaster stimpsoni) and a Horned Nudibranch (Hermisenda crassicornis).



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky.

Visit Spanky at
Email Spanky at
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Please send items for the February issue by Friday, January 23.