

the staggering starfish

the official newsletter of the GSNDAMBA SCUBA Diving Club

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July Club Meeting

Our July club meeting is scheduled for **6:00 PM** on **Thursday, July 3**. This month's meeting will be virtual only, as the library meeting room was unavailable. 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 the day of the meeting. Our meeting agenda includes more planning for the September Dive/Camp Weekend at Hood sport. We also need to remind Spanky about the location for our November club dive, as he neglected to write it down in his notes. If time allows (and if we can work out the technical details), we can view some of ESSDB Larry's photos from Anilao.

July Club Dive - Point Whitney

Spanky hopes that our club members will be able to travel to the Olympic Peninsula for our July club dive at **Point Whitney**. This site has good restroom facilities, which will probably be welcome after the drive from the ferry or the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. The dive site has an easy entry and we are likely to find a few GPOs in dens beneath the pipeline. If we are lucky we may also find a GPO on eggs. Our meet time for this dive is **10:00 AM on Saturday, July 19**. Our entry time will be around **11:00 AM**. Be sure to obtain and bring your **Discover Pass** along for this dive - they are not available for purchase at the dive site. When everyone has removed and stowed their dive gear, we will head north to QuilBilly's for lunch and (perhaps) a beer.

Directions to Point Whitney:

You need to get across to the Peninsula. If you take the Edmonds-Kingston or Seattle-Bainbridge ferry, take Highway 104 across the Hood Canal Bridge and go South on Center Road (about 10 miles west of the Hood Canal Bridge). You will exit to the right to go south on Center Road. Continue south on Center Road until it joins Highway 101 in Quilcene. Continue south on Highway 101 for about 8.5 miles and watch for Bee Mill Road on your left (it is at the bottom of a long hill). There is a left

2025 GSNDAMBA-at-a-Glance

07/03/2025	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, Virtual
07/19/2025	10:00 AM	Club Dive at Point Whitney
08/02/2025	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	11:00 AM	Club Dive at ???
12/13/2025	Time TBD	Holiday Party at ESSDBs Steve & DeeAnn's

turn lane. Turn left on Bee Mill Road and continue for about 1.5 miles where Bee Mill Road turns left and Point Whitney Road continues straight. Go straight on Point Whitney Road and take it about 1 more mile where it ends at the WDFW shellfish lab. There is a parking lot to your left, past the boat launch. If you are coming from the south on Highway 101, watch for Bee Mill Road on your right, about 4.5 miles north of Brinnon. It should be about 1/2 mile past the southern intersection with Hjelvick Rd. Alternatively, you can enter Point Whitney Water Access to Google Maps for directions to the boat launch.

June Club Dive Report

Apparently the local dive shops and other clubs have been reading the Staggering Starfish, because they all showed up at Redondo for the June Club

Dive. They have come to realize that we always pick a good day to dive! There were many divers, yet we saw only one during our dive, and that was just after we dropped down. The plan was to drop down, visit the first boat and head west to find the bottle garden. We never made it to the bottle garden, but we did see something we cannot recall having seen before in Puget Sound, a Sea Whip. There was just one sticking out of an otherwise rather uneventful bottom. A close inspection by divers with dubious eyesight did not reveal any small shrimp. From the whip we headed north and caught the rope trail that goes past the dissolving aluminum light fixtures, some of the pipe sculptures, a boat, the shark, and the large steel pipe. Despite the number of divers that were in and out of the water, the visibility was pretty decent for this time of year. There were the usual creatures on the dive, flounder, shrimp, ling cod, perch, decorated war bonnet and an octopus. After a great dive, there was a unanimous vote to ignore the planned lunch venue and celebrate with some great Mexican food.

Dive/Camp Weekend

We will again do our annual Dive/Camp Weekend; at the Hoodsport 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, and we are looking into the possibility of doing a boat dive on the 26th. Unfortunately, YSS will not be available for boat diving that weekend. We need to do a headcount for Sund Rock at the July club meeting so we can make reservations. If you are interested in joining us for the weekend and cannot attend this meeting, please email Spanky no later than **Sunday, July 6**. This headcount only needs to be approximate.

Cool-?-of the Month Section

Cool-Movie-Coming to Mt Vernon

As part of Mount Vernon's Lincoln Theater's Wes Anderson series, they will be showing "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou" at **7:30 PM on Tuesday, July 8**. Spanky invites anyone interesting in seeing this classically strange film that scored a resounding 57% Rotten Tomato rating to head up to Mount Vernon!

Cool-Web-Article-of-the-Month

Spanky found a cool web article discussing the very

recently discovered practice of Orcas using bull kelp in a heretofore unseen way. Drone footage has shown members of the Southern Resident Orca pod using bull kelp to rub each other, possibly as a grooming tool or a way of bonding. Read about it by clicking on [Orca](#).

Cool-Photos-of-the-Month:

Spanky asked ESSDB Larry to pull a couple archive photos taken at Point Whitney for this month's newsletter. The first is a Golden Dirona and the second is a Sandalwood Dorid. These dorids reportedly smell like sandalwood when handled out of water.



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky.

Visit Spanky at www.gsndambaa.org

Email Spanky at

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Please send items for the August issue by **Friday, July 25**.