

the staggering starfish

the official newsletter of the **GSNDAMBAA SCUBA Diving Club**

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Club Meeting & Limerick Challenge

Spanky cannot believe that it is already March, time to get ready for all the St. Patrick's Day parties that he needs to attend. Spanky hopes that you all have spent the past year preparing your limericks for our annual challenge! You all knew this was coming, so no one will have a credible excuse for not getting your limerick(s) together and ready for public presentation. We will be meeting in-person at the **Edmonds Public Library** and virtually via Google Meet. Our meeting time is **Thursday, March 5 at 6:00 PM**. Instructions for joining us virtually were included in the email notification for the newsletter. Winning limericks that do not require mailing the newsletter in a plain brown wrapper will be published in the April issue of the Staggering Starfish. For those who need to review rules on limericks, check out this site: [Limerick Rules](#). Non-limerick entries will be judged in the category "All Other Rhymes" and the winner will also be published in the April newsletter. The Grand Prize will be a post-meeting (or post-dive) dinner purchased by Spanky. In addition to the Limerick challenge, we will be planning our May club dive, discuss updating the Club website, and further discussion on this summer's Dive/Camp Weekend. Our last agenda item for the in-person meeting will be to select an Edmond's restaurant for our evening dinner.

March Dive, Day Island Wall

We will head to the South Sound for our March Club dive at Day Island Wall. This is a current-sensitive dive site, so please be on time so we can get ready for the planned entry time. We plan to meet at **12:00 PM** on **Saturday, March 14** and we need to enter no later than **1:00 PM**. We will be prepared to call the dive in the unfortunate event that our crack dive planners may have missed the time for slack. Parking is limited and there are no facilities at the dive site, so please try to carpool and plan on making a pit stop before you arrive. After the dive we will head over to Boathouse 19 for a late lunch.

2026 GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

03/05/2026	6:00 PM	Club meeting, Edmonds Public Library & Google Meet
03/14/2026	12:00 PM	Club dive at Day Island Wall
04/02/2026	6:00 PM	Club meeting at Edmonds Public Library? & Google Meet
04/11/2026	10:00 AM	Club dive at Triton Cove
05/07/2026	6:00 PM	Club meeting, Edmonds Public Library? & Google Meet
06/04/2026	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, Google Meet & Edmonds Library?

Directions to Day Island Wall:

From I-5 in Tacoma, take Highway 16 West toward the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. Before you get to the bridge, take the Jackson Street exit and turn left, heading south on S. Jackson. Turn right on 27th St. W, and follow it as it curves and becomes Vista before crossing the Day Island Creek bridge onto Day Island. There are only two roads running N/S on Day Island (Day Island Blvd W and East Day Island Blvd W). Continue North until you reach the E/W road, 19th St. W. The beach access is across Day Island Blvd. W and 19th, on the West side of the island. Park along the street and please do not block access to any homes. You can also enter Day Island Wall dive site into Google maps and follow the directions on your phone.

February Club Dive Report

Five divers braved the waves and blustery weather to get in the water at Norranders Reef, and all had a successful dive. Despite the sub-par visibility, a variety of critters were spotted, including kelp crabs, lemon dorids, leopard nudis, and one white and purple Nanaimo dorid. A few spiral egg clusters were observed, and one octopus arm was observed through a hole in a rock, though the rest of the octopus could not be located. A post-dive pear tart was enjoyed in honor of Bart's recent birthday, and the divers

gathered for Thai food before dispersing to catch various ferries home.

Official Club Business

During the February club meeting, at which we had a quorum, it was voted that ESSDB Kim Smith should be authorized to fully access and manage the Club bank account.

Cool-?-of the Month Section

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

We have a truly cool web article from the Schmidt Ocean Institute that describes a recent deep sea expedition of a coral reef along the coast of Argentina. The reef is almost as large as Vatican City. The article includes links to some pretty amazing photos and videos, including a cool looking squat lobster sitting amidst shells of chemosynthetic clams (these clams absorb hydrogen sulfide for their respiration). You can read the article by clicking on [Bathelia reef](#). For those who want a quick sample, click on [Phantom jellyfish](#) to see a cool video of this beautiful jelly and click on [Glass Squid](#) to see something truly alien and also beautiful.

On a more sober note, the current US administration is in the process of weakening protections of marine protected areas that were established after years of work between conservation groups and governmental agencies. Last year, an executive order was issued to resume commercial fishing in the Pacific Remote Islands National Monument, which covers about 500,000 square miles. You can read about it [here](#). An executive order also opened commercial fishing in the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monument, the only marine protected area the US has in the Atlantic, to commercial fishing. Read about it [here](#).

Cool-Sightings-of-the-Month:

Bart at the February Club Dive: Larry is not diving on his last cold water dive?

Cool-Photos-of-the-Month:

The new club Tee Shirts were delivered by ESSDBs Kim and Shay at the February Club Dive. The first photo shows how good the new shirts look, as modeled by the club members at the February dive. The second photo is a Peacock Mantis Shrimp taken by ESSDB Dan during his recent trip to Dumaguete in the Philippines. The last photo is a Lewis Moon Snail taken by ESSDB Larry during a dive at Norranders Reef in 2023.



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky.

Visit Spanky at www.gsndambaa.org

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Please send items for the April issue by Monday, March 23.