

the staggering starfish

the official newsletter of the GSNDAMBA SCUBA Diving Club

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September Club Meeting

Our September club meeting will start at the usual time of **6:00 PM** on **Thursday, September 4**. This meeting will be virtual only, as the Edmonds library space was unavailable. Spanky will send an email Google Meet invitation 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 **September 4**. Our September meeting agenda includes reviewing plans for the Dive/Camp Weekend, planning our January 2026 club dive (hopefully someone will have a 2026 tide chart) and an update for the recently resuscitated Club Tee Shirt committee. If time allows, we may talk about where we would have gone for dinner if the library had been available.

Dive/Camp Wknd - Hoodsport

Plans are firmly in place for our annual Dive/Camp Weekend!!! ESSDBs Richard and Michelle are again hosting us at their Hoodsport Retreat **September 26-28**, where we will be sharing some dives, great food, friendship, and general BS. The weekend will commence Friday morning, when a group of us will do a couple boat dives in Hood Canal. We will then regroup at Richard and Michelle's Hoodsport vacation home Friday afternoon and evening for some pulled pork and brisket. Saturday will include a couple dives at Sund Rock. On Sunday morning we will enjoy some world-famous Swedish pancakes prepared by ESSDB Steve. The T-shirt Committee has also promised to bring some sample T-shirts for us to look at.

If you haven't RSVP'd yet, there is still time to send an email to Spanky letting him know you are coming (please email by September 12). Directions to the boat dive meeting place and/or the Hoodsport Retreat will be emailed to attendees.

August Club Dive Report

The weather was perfect for suiting up and with the early meet up we had plenty of time to chat about the upcoming dive. The currents were perfect for

2025 GSNDAMBA-at-a-Glance

09/04/2025	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, Virtual via Google Meet
09/26 - 28/2025		Dive/Camp Weekend at Richard's Hoodsport 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
12/06/2025	3:30 PM	Club Dive at Edmonds EUP
12/13/2025	2:00 PM	Holiday Party at ESSDBs Steve & DeeAnn's
12/28/2025	9:30 AM	Club Bonus Dive at Redondo

a fun foray under the bridge and an exceptional dive. Unfortunately, we did not do that dive. We entered the water at the planned time, which was about 45 minutes too early, and the currents swept our dive plans aside like a fire hose trained on a poodle. ESSDB Bart quickly decided the current was too crazy and turned around right after entry. ESSDBs Kim and Shay managed to stay together, but Kim had to deal with a suit tear after being pushed on to an outcrop. ESSDB Steve had sporadic contact with his dive buddy Peter, but somehow, they managed to find each other again and they surfaced together. ESSDB Steve confirmed that it is possible to puke under water. He also thanks EESSDB Shay for towing him back to the beach against the current.

Once ashore, everyone discussed what was an exciting dive. During our excellent picnic lunch, the divers voted almost unanimously that the next time someone proposes a club dive at Deception Pass the plan be changed to do a crab dive instead. After reviewing the current predictions later that evening, the one no vote reminded everyone that we had mistimed the entry and started

way too early. Against all reason, all but one of the divers still preferred crab diving over Deception Pass.

Nuisance Nudibranchs

Blue Dragons (*Glaucus atlanticus*) are pelagic nudibranchs usually found in the open ocean. They are also a very beautiful nudibranch, with an array of black, silver, and blue colors on their back. They feed primarily on jellyfish (including the Portuguese Man-of-War) and can incorporate the stinging cells and venom from their prey into their own bodies, which makes them a very dangerous and bothersome animal. Their sting is worse than that of the jellyfish, since they maintain higher levels of venom. Due to warming of the Mediterranean Sea, these critters have been washing up on the beaches of Spain in significant numbers, causing closure of the beaches during the height of their tourist season. You can read more about these guys by clicking on [Blue Dragon](#).



Cool-?-of the Month Section

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

Our cool web article for this month is about an interesting dive site located a long distance from the ocean and beneath the city of Budapest. Molnár János is a labyrinth of beautiful caves carved by a geothermal system below the city. There's even a dive center catering to certified cave divers. You can read about it by clicking on [Molnár János](#).



Cool-Web-Videos-of-the-Month:

The Schmidt Institute recently hosted a livestream of their deep underwater videos shot off the coast of Argentina. If you want to see a bunch of really cool critters, click on [Patrick Star](#).

Cool-Photos-of-the-Month:

This month's cool photos were taken by the newest member of the club, ESSDB Kevin. Kevin and Julie recently relocated to the Seattle area and they plan on joining us on our dives after they get settled into their new house. The first shot is a Giant Plumose Anemone taken at the Wharf 2 dive site in Monterey, CA. The second shot is an Oceanic Whitetip taken at the Big Island in Hawaii.

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 Octoboo issue by **Friday, September 19**.