

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

FEBRUARY
2018

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD
3RD WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH
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Western Flyer, boat that carried John Steinbeck to The Sea of Cortez, to be restored by 2020

Tom Leyde, Monterey Herald

Somehow in the Western Flyer there is a spirit, said Chris Chase, project director for the Western Flyer Foundation, the nonprofit group restoring the fishing boat that carried Ed Ricketts and John Steinbeck to The Sea of Cortez in 1940.

"I don't know who it is," said the 51-year-old shipwright. "It could be Ed (Ricketts). It could be John Steinbeck. It could be Carol Steinbeck (John

Steinbeck's first wife)."

Whoever it is, something has saved the 80-year-old, 77-foot purse seiner from destruction. It now sits in a building at Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op in Port Townsend, Washington. A crew is bringing her back to life, plank by plank, spike by spike, nail by nail.

When the \$4 million to \$5 million project is completed the Western Flyer will be returned to Monterey, where it will become a floating scientific classroom. It will also make port calls along the West Coast. The boat is slated for completion sometime in 2020. The Western Flyer Foundation, Chase said, is hoping to return the boat the follow-



Shipman family takes over Awards Banquet

The family of **Bill Shipman** joined the Flipper Dippers at the Annual Awards Banquet in January. They were all recognized and thanked for helping out over the past number of years with the Saturday evening abalone dinners during the Club's weekend dive and camping trips at Albion. Many years ago Bill and his family spent holiday weekends camping right next to the Club's sites – and we didn't even know it! ☆



Awards Banquet Review

January's Annual Awards Banquet was an entertaining and enjoyable evening for close to 30 Flipper Dippers, family and friends who attended. Viva, in Los Gatos, provided an intimate room and great food enjoyed by all. Someone suggested we hold next year's banquet there again. During the social hour, Dippers and guests were able to enjoy a glass of wine and share many stories of the past year and share plans for the

upcoming year's activities.

At the start of the dinner 2017 Club president **Barbara Davis** welcomed everyone and acknowledged the many strengths of the membership, their contributions towards the success of the Club and introduced the new Board for 2018.

After the dinner break the banquet continued with **John Snyder** presenting the 2017 Spearfishing Trophy winner with an Award: a \$50 bill to go towards a 2018 fishing license

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Refreshments Are Being Served



The following Dippers are asked to bring a tasty goodie to the next General Meeting: **John Snyder, Howard Timoney, Carl Tuttle, Lance Williams and Barbara Zwieg**. Don't forget you will receive a FREE raffle ticket for your donation! ☆

ing year, on the 81st anniversary of the beginning of the Sea of Cortez expedition, which began March 11, 1940.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



We had a good start to our year with many club activities in January, including the Annual Awards Banquet at Viva's in Los Gatos, a chance for members to catch up and socialize at the monthly General meeting, and the annual planning meeting.

The Awards Banquet on January 20th was enjoyed by all who attended. We had good food, good friends, and, of course, an entertaining presenter for the evening! In addition to presenting awards to the trophy winners, the Awards Banquet provides an opportunity to acknowledge all those Club members - and non-members - who helped out during the past year. Everyone's efforts are greatly appreciated!

Several Dippers had a great time doing a night dive at Breakwater for our first S3 dive of the year. Conditions were surprisingly good considering all of the storms and rain we got in January. (And the following weekend saw record swells in Monterey!) We'll need to continue to keep a close eye on the marine forecasts, but as we experienced, winter diving can be great between storms.

We had our annual planning meeting on January 24th at *Teresa Hanson's* house. Teresa was very gracious to open her home this year for this important meeting. Thanks to Teresa and all those who attended and helped plan the events for this coming year.

The board has been brainstorming new ideas and new activities for 2018 and we want to hear from YOU! You can email your ideas to me or any of the club officers, put them into the "Suggestion Bag" at any meeting, or come to any business meeting. Let us know what needs to change and what club traditions we need to continue!

Everyone keep safe and keep diving! – **Tom**



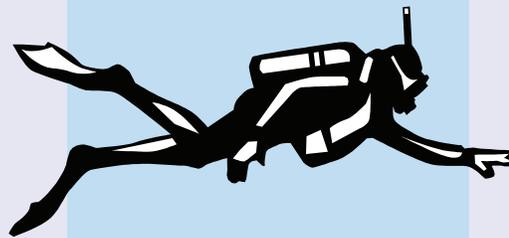
Diver's I.Q. Review Corner

This month we have Two Questions which are worth a chance to win FIVE (5) raffle tickets for each correct answer!

Question #1: Can I conserve air by inflating my BC orally when I'm submerged?

Question #2: What former FD officer is pictured with the harbor seal on page 6 of the January 2018 newsletter?

Send your answer by e-mail to **Larry Ankuda** at lankuda@comcast.net. All attendees at the next general meeting with the correct answers will be included in a drawing for 10 free raffle tickets. Good Luck!



San Jose Flipper Dippers

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TROPHY COMPETITION

John Snyder 408-378-4963

RAFFLE NEWS

Lance Williams

The January raffle table was stacked with a lot of GOOD STUFF L.O.R.D. **Larry Ankuda** dropped off a dive light that was picked by **Steve Wall**, **Jerry Richards** donated a set of plastic tubs won by **Mike Chalup**, **Barbara Zwiig** offered a set of Jet Fins picked-up by **Manuel Mangrobang**. **Teresa Hansen** brought in a bottle of Lido Bay Red Reserve, procured by KING TUT (**Carl Tuttle**). Steve Wall offered up a bottle of Yellow Tail Cabernet which was scored by L.O.R.D. Ankuda. **Mike Chalup** provided a \$20.00 Gift Certificate won by Lance. Kathy and Lance gave up a bottle of Brute won by **Kelley Drake**. Two diving related books presented by Lance were won by **Tom Gardner** and Kelly. And last but not the least the Club, donated a Flipper Dippers' refrigerator clip/magnet, and the winner is unknown. All this information is now on the way to the way to the halls of congress to be archived

THE DOOR PRIZE: The door prize is now up to \$20 as **Scott Schimberg** was not in attendance when his name was drawn from the door prize can! Remember, YOU must be in attendance to be eligible to win.

THIS MONTH'S RAFFLE: For this month we're back on our rotation for donations. Each month we pick names from the Club's Roster for members to bring a donation for the Raffle Table. So this month the following are asked to bring a dive-related gift: **Barbara Davis, Greg Davis, Steve Davis, Kelly Drake, Tom Gardner, Jackie Gardner** and **Teresa Hanson**. If you live out of the area or can't attend the General Meeting, please contact, **Lance Williams** (+1-650-321-5255, Willo1044@yahoo.com) to send in a check. He will pick up a raffle donation in your name. The raffle has always been an important part of our General Meetings. Please do your part as a Club member and provide a raffle donation when your name comes up. Thank you! ★

MEMBERSHIP

Teresa Hanson

Welcome **Steve Davis** who was voted into the Club at the January General Meeting! Look for Steve to join in on many dives in the new year. He's excited to get into the water with the Club. We have some other prospective members



looking to dive and we look forward to diving with you. Prospectives must have a Club jacket either in possession or on order to be voted into the Club. Contact **Teresa** for additional information on any and all Membership Requirements.

A FREE raffle ticket will be given to the following Dippers who have a birthday this month: **Mike Chalup** and **Jan Robinson**. Happy birthday to YOU! ★

It was a dark and wet night ...

Dippers **Howard FEADLFL** (former emperor and dear leader for life) **Timoney**, **Grace Chi** and **Manuel Mangrobang** ready for a night dive in early January. **Steven Wall** tries out his Elon Musk flamethrower shower heater. Photos by **Mike Chalup**.



2018 TROPHY STANDINGS

Each month the person whose name appears in the newsletter will receive **3 FREE RAFFLE TICKETS** at the General Meeting — if in attendance. If you hold a trophy several months in succession, you will receive **3 FREE** tickets each month until someone beats your catch.

Contact **John Snyder** at +1-408-202-5196, e-mail: john.fishhunter@gmail.com, **WITHIN 1 WEEK** and give him all the proper info (include the name of one Club-member witness). ★

SKIN DIVING

❑ OPEN CATEGORIES ❑

Lingcod, Cabezon, Sheephead, Lobster, Halibut, White Sea Bass, Striped Bass

SCUBA

❑ OPEN CATEGORIES ❑

Cabazon, Lingcod, Halibut, Sheephead, Lobster

The race is on! Good luck to all!



to **Adam Nasont** for a 9.3-inch abalone taken at Albion, **Steve Wall** for his 18-pound halibut and **Carl Tuttle** for a 7-pound Cabazon and 6-pound lingcod (on scuba). There were no other trophy winners for 2017, so maybe it's your turn in 2018?

Our guest Master of Ceremonies was then introduced by Awards & Fines Chair **John Schwartz**, "You may have been unlucky enough to have seen our guest during some of your dives and witnessed overgrazing by huge numbers creating what biologists call "barrens," vast areas covered with this kind and little else. This individual is possibly responsible for the closure of our beloved abalone fishing. Our guest is known to have eaten everything in sight and although undernourished, just won't die. MOST RECENTLY, studies have found that even with shrunken gonads this creature is still able to have limited, but continuous, reproduction. So please give a warm Flipper Dippers' welcome to, **Purple Urchin!**"

Starting out, Purple Urchin did a short "roast" of **John Schwartz** – something about educating his twin sons on purchasing tickets to Pittsburg and change for a dollar in nickels. The evening continued with door prize drawings and the winners received DVDs.

And then the fun began. "Tonight is going to be a gift-exchange activity. However, it's obvious that none of you have brought a gift to exchange. Not to worry, I did! But you don't get to pick this gift. No, this gift picks you and this gift is actually an 'Award.' Here's how it works: If you're lucky enough, you'll get the award. But then you must pass it on to the next lucky winner, that I will identify . . . until the last one gets to keep this amazing 'Award.'"

With that, Purple announced, "This Year's Top Ten Golden Dippy Dippers." As the 'winners' were announced, the Club's Golden Dippy was passed along to the next winner – which went to one Dipper more than once!

10. YOU have a simple job at the general meetings: sell raffle tickets. But you ran out during the big christmas meeting - **Lance Williams**

9. I'm glad to see all you folks made it here tonight . . . even though tonight's banquet was listed as Sunday in the newsletter! - **Carl Tuttle**

8. Tonight is a business meeting? Oops! I thought it was last night and baked a pizza. - **Teresa Hanson**

7. Yes, you are correct. Fiddling with your p-valve while descending into the depths can cause you to drift far away from the boat. - **Mike Chalup**

6. Good for you! You won one of the money envelopes off the Christmas tree at the December general meeting. Are you going to hold on to that check for a year, like you did last year? - **Dennis Nasont**

5. You're ready for a great day of diving and spearfishing and everything is packed . . . except your fins - **Steve Wall**

4. You might want 3 tickets to Pittsburg, but the person who correctly answers the diver's I.Q. review is awarded 5 raffle tickets, not 10 - as you listed in the newsletter - **Carl Tuttle**

3. Your checklist for dive gear is all in your head. So why

wasn't your wetsuit top there when you went diving at the Ab Lab? - **John Snyder**

2. You signed up to participate and meet everyone at the site. Then what happened? You disappeared. They finally found you in your kayak when the Elkhorn Slough trip was starting. At the end you disappeared, again! Later to be found . . . eating extra desserts at the restaurant - **Manuel Mangrobang**

1. You join your fellow Dippers at a wonderful state park near Mendocino to enjoy nature at it's finest. Then you sit in your camp chair spraying carcinogenic chemicals on every little flying creature that comes near you! - **Greggie Davis**

Purple Urchin then recognized the efforts of the many Dippers who gave time and effort to benefit the Club during 2017. Each was rewarded with their choice of either a wine glass, a drink koozie or a shopping bag, all with the Flipper Dippers' logo printed on them.

- For the monthly diver's I.Q. review in the newsletter: **Larry Ankuda.**

- For coordination of Beach Clean-Ups: **Hunter Reid.**

- For coordination of Philippines warm water trip: **Barbara Davis** and **Jim Rezowalli**

- For local dive boat coordination: **Mike Chalup, Manuel Mangrobang** and **Grace Chi.**

- For coordination Elkhorn Slough kayak tour: **Jim Rezowalli & Gabi Estill.**

- For leading the most scheduled club dives and activities: **Jim Rezowalli, Larry Ankuda,** and **Manuel Mangrobang.**

- For having their picture in the newsletter most often: **Barbara Davis**

(28), **Tom Gardner & Grace Chi** (tied at 15), **Jim Rezowalli** (14).

- For coordination of "New & Improved" Annual Easter Egg hunt: **Jim Rezowalli.**

- For coordinating North Coast ab dive and campouts: **Bill Shipman** and **his wonderful family!**

- For the biggest bone-headed goof-up of 2017: The Special Award was presented by **Larry Ankuda** to **John Snyder** for a number of frustrating, perplexing and confounding issues which no one would like to experience.

John Snyder and **Howard Timoney** were presented their 10-year pins for continuous membership in the Club.

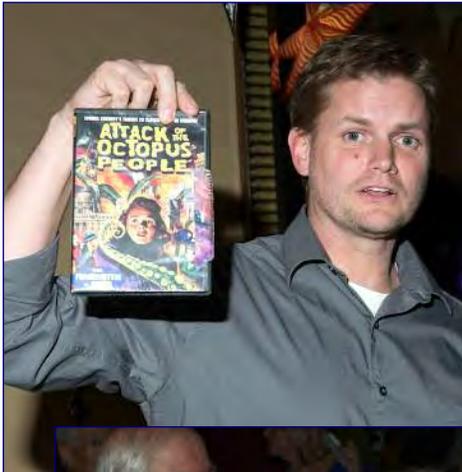
Many Members in attendance were acknowledged for their continued membership in the Club for over 20 years and former Club officers were asked to stand and be acknowledged and received warm applause.

In recognition for their dedication to the Club in 2017, officers, **Lance Williams, Mike Chalup, Jim Rezowalli, Manuel Mangrobang** and **Barbara Davis** were each presented with a special 8-gallon size, snap-basket cooler.

Barbara then concluded the evening by thanking the guest MC and everyone who has participated in the many Club activities and again encouraged members to get involved in their Club. A special thank-you to Teresa Hanson for suggesting the night's venue as everyone who attended had a great time enjoying the terrific food. If you couldn't make it, you missed a great evening with your fellow Flipper Dippers! 🌟



January Awards Banquet (Photos: Mike Chalup)



Continued from front page

The Western Flyer has changed Chase's life. He left his career as a partner in Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op to become the restoration project director. That change occurred after becoming acquainted with John Gregg. Gregg, a marine geologist and Steinbeck-Ricketts enthusiast, bought the Western Flyer from real estate developer Gary Kehoe for \$1 million.

Kehoe had plans to disassemble the boat, bring it back to Salinas, reassemble it and place it in a hotel he planned to create in the former Dick Bruhn Building at 300 Main St. in Salinas (before the building was gutted by a fire in February 2016).

But Kehoe's plans waned after the Western Flyer sank twice: Once in Anacortes, Washington, and again after it was towed to Port Townsend. It was raised by the U.S. Department of Natural Resources after being submerged for six months, and placed on land behind the co-op.

There it sat. The once-proud fishing vessel was reduced to a shadow of its former self. Its hull was encrusted with barnacles. Its interior was full of mud. Its planking was falling off. It was possible that the Department of Natural Resources would destroy the boat, because Kehoe was not paying his bills for berthing it on time, Chase said.

The boat was moved into the co-op's building for restoration and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Chase came to Port Townsend from Boulder, Colorado, in 1988 to attend a wooden boat trade school. Since then he has spent his life working in several boatyards there. Eventually, he became a partner in Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op. The business specializes in boat restoration and repair. "I fell in love," he said. "I liked

wood and I liked boats."

In a telephone interview from Port Townsend, Chase talked about his love for the Western Flyer and its restoration.

Q: What were your thoughts when you first saw the Western Flyer?

A: I remember talking to one of my partners, and I said, "We're going to restore that boat someday." ... My first impression was it was a ghostly ship and it needed to be saved. ... It was a unique project, a unique boat.

Q: How did you become involved as project director?

Western Flyer at a glance

Length: 77 feet.

Beam: 20 feet.

Built: In 1937 by Martin Petrich Sr., owner of Western Boat Building Co., Tacoma, Washington.

Type: Purse seiner.

Weight: 110 tons.

Use: Harvesting sardines and perch in Monterey Bay until the 1960s. Later used to harvest salmon, perch and crab, from California to the Aleutian Islands in Alaska.

Significance: Chartered by Ed Ricketts and John Steinbeck in 1940 for their six-week biological collecting expedition to the Sea of Cortez. The expedition resulted in Steinbeck's 1951 book "The Log From the Sea of Cortez."

Original owner: Tony Berry and Martin Petrich Sr. Berry was the captain for the Sea of Cortez expedition.

Other owners: The Western Flyer has had many owners, including businesses and individuals. In 1976, Clarence Fry bought it for \$30,000. He renamed it Gemini. Later it was purchased by Ole Knudson and his father of Anacortes, Washington at auction in 1986. It was purchased in 2011 by real estate developer Gary Kehoe, with plans to use it in a hotel in Salinas, but he sold to John Gregg in 2015 for \$1 million.

Number of sinkings: Three and a half times. Besides the two sinkings in Washington state, the boat grounded on a reef in southeast Alaska in 1971 and was nearly lost. In the 1960s it nearly sank in Prince William Sound.

Current location: Port Townsend, Washington, where it is being restored by Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-Op for use as a floating scientific classroom in Monterey.

Restoration group: The nonprofit Western Flyer Foundation.

Cost of restoration: \$4 million to \$5 million.

Completion date: 2020. It will be returned to Monterey. The Western Flyer Foundation is hoping it will enter Monterey Harbor on the 81st anniversary of the Sea of Cortez expedition



A: I met John (Gregg) with in weeks (of him) buying the boat (in 2015). As head shipwright and owner of the boathouse, I gave him estimates on costs. We developed a friendship. ... My commitment to the project was growing every month. I did talks (about the project) on the West Coast. My role was growing from just being a shipwright to being a spokesman for the project. ... I got bit really hard by this project. It's very unique and I wanted to be involved. I gave up (in March of this year) the security of a job at the shipyard.

Q: What was the first step in the restoration process?

A: The first real task was to evaluate it out of the weather. People scraped barnacles and got mud out before it was moved into the building. We wanted to find out what was the true condition of the boat. What parts were from when. Some were indecipherable. What was old and what was new?

We did a second cleaning and documented it with a digital scan. ... We measured every piece of wood on the boat. The documentation and evaluation took about six months. ... Then we

went about building a community of support. John (Gregg) wanted advice about what it means to be a foundation and how are we doing to do this? ... We began developing a revenue stream (through the foundation).

Q: What else was involved in the documentation process?

A: The boatyard where it was built burned in 1952 in Tacoma (Washington). All records were lost. We got help from Ed Ricketts Jr. (son of Ed Ricketts) and (Monterey photo archivist) Pat Hathaway to get a catalog of historical information. Since there were no blueprints for the Western Flyer, the

shipwrights created their own.

Q: Did you find anything surprising when you began to dig into the actual restoration?

A: The boat's the boat. It was built in 1937. They built hundreds of these boats. They're all carbon copies (built) in the same order. After 30 years, they all rot in the same place and they all fall apart in the same place. It's a survivor. It sank three and a half times. It sank outside Ketchikan, Alaska, in 1971. It sank in Prince William Sound in the mid-1960s.

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DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

MANUEL MANGROBANG

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FEBRUARY 2018

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7 BUSINESS MEETING 7:30 PM

Meeting will be held at **Teresa Hanson's** home (408-966-6433, teresa_hanson@comcast.net). All members are invited to attend. This is a good time to share your ideas for dives and entertainment. Refreshments to share are welcome.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3)

Coordinator: **Manuel Mangrobang**, 408-813-5139, manuel.a.mangrobang.iv@gmail.com. Manuel is planning another night dive. Meet in the Lover's Point parking lot at 3:00 pm and we'll decide where to dive based on conditions and sign-ups. Bring 2 tanks and plan on making 2 dives. Please RSVP in case the dive gets cancelled or moved due to weather or surf conditions.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 PANTHER BEACH CLEAN UP

Coordinator: **Hunter Reid**, (408) 871-8836. Meet at 9:00 A.M. Parking on the left just past mile marker 26.4 on Hwy 1 north of Santa Cruz, just before the town of Davenport. The Club will buy

GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21st

7:30 PM at the Knights of Columbus Santa Maria Hall 2211 Shamrock Dr., Campbell.

Celebrate 53 Years of the San Jose Flipper Dippers at our General Meeting.

Entertainment:

- ★ Social Hour
- ★ Share Your Dive Stories
- ★ Great Raffle Prizes

THE DOOR PRIZE IS \$20!

YOU must be present to win!

lunch at the Whale City Bakery Bar & Grill in Davenport, for all who attend. For those new members, we have "Adopted" this beach (Panther Beach) and the Flipper Dippers have been cleaning up for several years.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 VAN DAMME RESERVATIONS

Make your reservations for Labor Day Weekend (Sept 1-3 - Starting Aug): Reserve California, www.reservecalifornia.com, 1-800-444-7275 8:00am-6:00pm Pacific Time.

UPCOMING IN MARCH

- 07 Business Meeting
- 10 Second Saturday SCUBA (S3): Carmel Beach
- 21 General Meeting
- 21 Lobster Season Closes
- 24-31 AWS Cozumel Trip



Continued from page 6

Q: What has been your most lasting impression of the project?

A: I think the eye-opening part for me was the community. I pulled the boat out of the water and there was somebody standing there that wanted to see it. I didn't realize what it meant to so many people. The absolute gem for me personally is the people I have met. The people are fascinating.

I had a man visit the boat two weeks ago who had been a crew member in 1955 when he was 15 years old. We got incredible stories. We had a great time. This guy hadn't been on the board since 1959. When he walked on board he walked on it like it was yesterday. He came and found it. He lives in Las Vegas. There are hundreds of stories of people making pilgrimages to the boat, people who couldn't believe they were stepping on the boat.



Q: What the most critical part of the Western Flyer project?

A: The most critical part of the job is not the money. The big part is what the legacy of the Western Flyer is going to mean. It's a very open interpretation of what this means and what it's going to do and what the foundation is going to do. This is not closed science.

It's important to everyone involved. All of the

foundation and the board and the money has come very organically. It's come by word of mouth. It's from people who have heard the story and want to be part of the story. It's a living, breathing continuation of Ed Ricketts and John Steinbeck. This isn't a pay to play organization. It's critical to everyone. There's no ownership. It's everybody helping to make this happen. I would like the city of Monterey to embrace this project.

This is a Monterey Peninsula, Monterey Bay project. It just happens to be 1,000 miles away.

For more information visit the Western Flyer Foundation: www.westernflyer.org



NOTE: All certified divers are encouraged to attend San Jose Flipper Dippers' dives.

Non-Club members will be required to show proof of certification to the dive coordinator prior to entering the water with our group. Please sign up for dives at the General Meeting or call the coordinator. This is needed in case of cancellation or changes.



San Jose Flipper Dippers

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San Jose, CA 95150



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

2018 COMING EVENTS

Feb 7	Business Meeting
Feb 10	Second Saturday SCUBA
Feb 21	☛ General Meeting
March 7	Business Meeting
March 10	Second Saturday SCUBA
March 21	☛ General Meeting
March 24-31	AWS Cozumel Trip
April 4	Business Meeting
April 14	Second Saturday SCUBA
April 18	☛ General Meeting

Watch This Space - Much More To Come!
See the Club's Website for the full Calendar

Enjoy Spring Break in Cozumel! March 24-31, 2018

Dipper **Jim Rezowalli** is joining *Any Water Sports* for this trip. Only \$1195/diver – per person, double occupancy. (Air fare additional.) This fantastic dive trip includes 7 nights double occupancy accommodations at Scuba Club Cozumel, all meals (3 meals daily), 5 days of boat diving (2 dives/day), unlimited shore diving, and Mexican taxes (19%). Contact *Any Water Sports* to join in! (408) 244-4433 www.anywater.com. ★



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