

NEWSLETTER



# San Jose Flipper Dippers

JULY  
2018

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD  
3RD WEDNESDAY  
OF EACH MONTH  
[WWW.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM](http://WWW.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM)

**JULY 18TH  
GENERAL  
MEETING  
ENTERTAINMENT**

*Social Hour &  
Great Raffle!*

At the July General Meeting we will be having a "Social Hour" to give everyone the opportunity to share their stories of past dives and activities as well as discuss the many upcoming dives during the coming months.

You will also have time to purchase tickets to our monthly raffle for a chance to win some very interesting prizes! And don't forget the **\$40 Door Prize!** Hope to see YOU there! ★

## So, just how big was that GWS? One researcher described it as "fat and robust."

A dead great white shark (GWS) was found washed ashore on Beer Can Beach in Aptos on Sunday morning, June 18. Seascape Beach Resort staff say the shark was found on the beach near the resort around 7 a.m. Marine biologist Giancarlo Thomae said the shark was 8 feet 9 inches long, weighed 500 pounds, and was 5 years old. The shark had numerous recent puncture wounds and scars from feeding on sea lions, and had sea lion fur in its jaws.

State Parks Rangers transported the carcass to the Hidden Beach ramp where UCSC researchers and Thomae transported the shark to Long Marine Lab where a necropsy was performed. Thomae said that it is unlikely the sea lions killed the shark, but "we won't know the cause of death until the results of the necropsy are released."

Thomae also said that there have been strains of bacteria that effect brain functions of sharks, and many shark deaths have been blamed on 'carnobacterium infections' in previous years. These bacteria are nearly harmless to humans.

During the necropsy, something was discovered that troubled researchers. "Upon receiving the lab's necropsy results, our law enforcement division is now taking up the investigation," said Peter Tira of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Tira would not say what researchers found that lead them to get law enforcement involved.

Suspicion that foul play may be involved in the great white shark's death sent shock waves through the research community, especially among those who study the protected species. "Great white's have numerous protections under state and federal laws. They are an extremely rare animal and play a crucial role at keeping the oceans, ecosystems and food webs balanced," said Thomae. ★



## Welcome new member

**Donovan Hill** is welcomed as a new Flipper Dippers member by **Teresa Hanson** at the June General Meeting. Not only did Donovan complete the requirements of diving with three Club members, he also took 3rd place at the April underwater Easter Egg Hunt! Beginners luck or a skilled diver? We'll have to see what happens next year. Teresa also introduced **Anenirin Nunn** as a prospective member. WELCOME! ★

Dippers donated over 45 pounds of food at the June General Meeting Food Drive. **THANKS!**



## Refreshments Are Being Served

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



A researcher lays next to the GWS for a size comparison.

## What's Inside?



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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



June went by pretty quickly. Club members went on several dives in the Monterey area but they all seem to have had limited visibility. Now that Summer's here the diving should be great. This month we have a Panther Beach cleanup the Sunday following the 4th of July. This is a good way to get a little exercise hiking the cliff and shore of Panther Beach, plus a nice Sunday morning breakfast in the town of Davenport. So come join us on Sunday, July 8th.

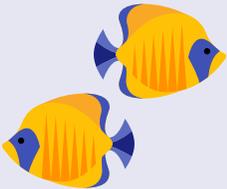
The S3 dive will be held on the 3rd Saturday of July which will be the 14th, at Lover's Point. There is also a Halibut Dive at the end of July so get those spearguns ready if you're a hunter. (We're looking for someone with a boat, too.) And looking ahead, we're looking for someone to be the Coordinator for the pot-luck dinner Labor Day weekend at Albion. Last Memorial Day's Saturday night dinner featured an "International" theme and there were a wide range of creative meals on the tables. Labor Day weekend will be a great time – even without the abalone. Contact me or Manuel to sign up!

**Brian Zaugg** was our guest speaker at the June meeting. He gave a presentation on wreck dive training classes and a wreck dive trip in San Diego that he is running in August. Both the classes and the trip are through Divers Dan's in Santa Clara. As far as other organized trips there is a 3-day dive on the *Conception* at the beginning of September to the Channel Islands which still has berths open for anyone who wants to join (See page 6). And there is a Cayman Brac trip at the end of September through Any Water Sports, which might have some openings left.

Hopefully the winds should calm down and the visibility will improve so that those who enjoy underwater photography will finally get a chance to do what they always wanted - to get that perfect shot. I'm still working on it!

### Diver's I.Q. Review Corner

This month we have **One (1) Question** and is worth a chance to win **FIVE (5) raffle tickets** for your correct answer!

**Question:** If fish are shoaling, what are they doing? 

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



### YMCA Certification Card Replacement

**Don Mercado** lost his wallet that included his YMCA SCUBA Certification card. So how do you get a replacement should you lose yours? The YMCA of the USA discontinued the scuba certification program on December 31, 2008 but the lifetime SCUBA certification remains valid. SEI Diving can assist those with fulfillment of a lost YMCA certification card. You can find a form to get a YMCA replacement card by visiting the SEI Diving Website: [seidiving.org/](http://seidiving.org/) 



## San Jose Flipper Dippers

P.O. Box 7421, San Jose, CA 95150  
[www.SJFlipperDippers.com](http://www.SJFlipperDippers.com)

CLUB OFFICERS

#### PRESIDENT

Tom Gardner 408-274-9447

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Manuel Mangrobang 408-813-5139

#### SECRETARY

Mike Chalup 408-744-1868

#### TREASURER

Scott Schimberg 510-682-7600

#### SERGEANT AT ARMS

Lance Williams 650-321-5255

CLUB COMMITTEES

#### AWARDS AND FINES

John Schwartz 408-985-7272

#### CLUB PROPERTY

Jerry Richards 408-267-7853

#### MEMBERSHIP

Teresa Hanson 408-966-6433

#### NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE

Carl Tuttle 408-829-3660  
 e-mail [tutcomms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tutcomms@sbcglobal.net)

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

Mike Chalup 408-744-1868

#### RAFFLE

Lance Williams 650-321-5255

#### REFRESHMENTS

Steve Richards 408-267-7853

#### STAR ACHIEVEMENT

Scott Schimberg 510-682-7600  
 Michelle Schimberg 510-517-0688

#### TROPHY COMPETITION

John Snyder 408-378-4963

## RAFFLE NEWS

Lance Williams

The June raffle was a fun experience for all in attendance. After **Brian Zaugg's** wreck diving presentation and our refreshment break we got down to business raffling off 14 gifts from the Flipper Dippers. **Barbara Zwiag** donated a snorkel, won by **John Snyder**, and an aluminum ab iron and gauge combination taken by **Bill "Ship" Shipman**. **Scott Schimberg** picked out the port-hole clock donated by L.O.R.D. **Larry Ankuda**. L.O.R.D. **Hunter Reid** chose the shark embroidered Polo Shirt, Brian grabbed the dive flag jacket and **Teresa Hansen** picked up the combination light/strobe all donated by the Raffle chair. Our president **Tom Gardner** won a 2016 cabernet placed on the table by **Steve Wall**, and a bottle of chardonnay brought to the table by Scott was won by Brian. **Carl King Tut Tuttle** placed a bag with over 25 pounds of soft weights on the raffle table which was scored by Teresa. Camping seat cushion was added by **Manuel Mangrobang** and picked by King Tut. The next items on the table donated by Manuel was a water bottle taken by **John Snyder**, and 4 refillable cans of air duster won by Teresa, Brian, King Tut and L.O.R.D. Ankuda. The top item was canned "Snails" picked by Manuel.

**THE DOOR PRIZE:** The \$30 door prize would have gone to **Michelle**

**Schimberg** who was not in attendance and Scott could not stand in for her. So, the door prize is now at whopping \$40. Remember YOU must be in attendance to be eligible to win.

**THIS MONTH'S RAFFLE:** We're back to our monthly raffle donation program. 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 folks are asked to bring a dive-related gift: **Mike Chalup, Grace Chi, Dale Darnell, Barbara Davis, Greg Davis** and **Kelly Drake**.

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

There are prospective members looking to dive and we look forward to diving with you! 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: **Barbara Davis, John Jones, Scott Schimberg, Michelle Schimberg**, and **Carl Tuttle**. Happy birthday to all!! ★

## 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!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## Diver's I.Q. Review Part II

Can you spot the Cabezon in this photo?

There is no prize, but see page 7 for the answer.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



## This day in History: June 17, 1579

Sir Francis Drake lands on coast of California at Drakes Bay, and names it "New Albion"

## It's called a 'cleaner' wrasse

The 'cleaner' wrasse is a small fish, 10 centimeters max, that lives from the Red Sea to Australia and the whole Indo-Pacific. These are the fish that essentially eat the parasites and dead scales off of other fish.



Each cleaner wrasse sets up shop at a particular spot on the reef — kind of like a string of car washes — and the client fish line up at their favorite station to have their parasites removed. That's their reason of being, so to speak, in a coral reef. From sunrise to sunset, 11 hours, they clean. They have 2,000 interactions per day. And a single client typically goes five to 30 times a day to see a cleaner fish.

The cleaner wrasse will even service predators, like the barracuda. One of the scariest looking fish in the ocean, it's got a crocodile mouth, needle-sharp teeth. The cleaner wrasse will go in its mouth and eat the parasites from between its teeth. ★

## 2nd Sea Urchin Removal Event

July 21 & 22, 8:00am – 3:00 pm Albion Cove

This is the SECOND recreational purple sea urchin removal event of 2018. Recreational divers will help protect the kelp by removing as many purple urchins as possible over these two days. The event is organized by the Watermen's Alliance and the NorCal Underwater Hunters

The first Urchin Removal weekend was a fantastic success with volunteer divers and their kayak teams helping to remove over 50,000 purple sea urchin (~7000lbs) from Ocean Cove over the Memorial Day weekend. The fundraising raffle that was supported by donations from generous dive and coastal communities helped raise \$13,600, with all proceeds going to fund the commercial urchin removal efforts.

The plan is for divers to be transported to and from the dive site in available boats. The divers will go down with one or more lobster bags. After filling the bag(s) with purple urchin, the diver brings them to the surface. Kayakers will exchange the full bags with empty bags and the divers go back down to fill the new bag. Dive depth is expected to be 10 to 30 feet with freedivers harvesting the shallower end and scuba divers at the deep end. Tech divers can go deeper if desired.

**WHEN:** July 21-22, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Meet at the boat launch under the bridge for the pre-activity briefing. This will entail what is legal and what is not. Each diver's daily limit is 20 gallons, which may be interpreted as 20 gallons of crushed PSUs.

**WHERE:** Albion Cove, Mendocino County. When making reservations be sure to tell them you are with the Purple Urchin Removal Event. Albion River Campground and Marina has RV and tent camping, plus trailer rentals available (\$45-55 a night). 707-937-0606

**BRING:** Your own gear, including tanks. A California fishing license. Kevlar gloves or a tool (ab iron) to remove the urchin. A clip to attach the lobster bag to your BCD. A lift bag, if you are trained. 🌟

### Stunning recovery for starfish

Starfish are again brightening up tide pools along the California coast after being ravaged by a mysterious wasting disease, and the colorful invertebrates have undergone a remarkable genetic adaptation that is protecting them from the deadly pathogen, a new study has found. The genealogical transformation, observed throughout the species' range, is a rare example of microevolution in the wild and an encouraging example of resilience in the face of environmental peril, says the UC Merced study, published in the scientific journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.



"We have known for some time that evolution of populations can be rapid, theoretically in as little as a single generation, but empirical examples come mostly from terrestrial environments," said Michael Dawson, a professor at UC Merced and co-author of the study. "This is a great example that adaptation also can be very rapid in the

oceans." The study documented a 74-fold increase since 2013 in the number of surviving offspring of the ochre star, the purple or orange starfish most commonly seen in California intertidal regions. That alone is extraordinary given that the illness, dubbed sea star wasting disease, wiped out more than 80 percent of the population — millions of starfish — between 2012 and 2015. Even more significant, though, were the results of a comparison of DNA samples taken from ochre stars before

and after the outbreak. It turns out their genetic code had changed since the epidemic.

"This revealed consistent changes between the original population and survivors, between the original population and new juveniles, and across geographic locations," said Lauren Schiebelhut, a UC Merced biologist and lead author of the study. "Subsequent generations will be the progeny of survivors and so we expect the genetic shift to be maintained." Schiebelhut attributed the finding to a pre-existing genetic variation in the survivors of the die-off. The disease-resistant gene was apparently passed on to their offspring, allowing the modified starfish to repopulate the California coast.

The disease, which is believed to be a type of parvovirus, began killing sea stars in Southern California in the summer of 2013, and the problem quickly spread northward. The situation worsened quickly, becoming a kind of tidelands horror show, with the arms of starfish rotting and falling off, their skeletons disintegrating and their bodies wasting away until they were little more than gooey blobs. The pathogen wiped out sea stars along huge swaths of the coast from Mexico to Alaska. The wasting disease was eventually detected in 20 varieties of starfish, ravaging sunflower stars, the largest sea stars in the world. Shortspined sea stars and giant sea stars were also hit hard.

But it was the species known as *Pisaster ochraceus*, the ochre star, that took the brunt of the damage. Only one out of every five ochre stars along the 100-mile stretch north of San Francisco survived, researchers said. Scientists believe some sort of environmental stress caused sea stars to become more susceptible to the pathogen, such as warmer water, ocean acidification or other changes caused by global warming. It is believed the pathogen spread in the water — almost like a common cold — among the dense, often interwoven, populations of starfish. The initial worry was that the starfish would never be able to recover and starfish prey would proliferate and alter the ecosystem. Starfish feed on a variety of invertebrates, including mussels, sea urchins, clams and snails. Without starfish, these species could wipe out algae, plants and other sea life that thrive when hungry snails and urchins are controlled.

What actually happened was not something anybody predicted. Huge numbers of baby sea stars began appearing in previously devastated areas. In one 2014 study site, on a reef called Terrace Point, off Santa Cruz, researchers found more juvenile sea stars than had been seen in 15 years of monitoring. One hypothesis is that the plague caused the sea stars to go into reproductive mode, shooting out sperm and eggs as an evolutionary response to stress. Whatever the cause, researchers said, the sea star larvae that came from the few animals with plague-resistant genetics survived and thrived.



It means the starfish now hugging the rocky shore are living examples of natural selection in process, Dawson said. "That ochre sea stars had the capacity to adapt to events as dramatic as this is remarkable, and perhaps reassuring that future climate change may be withstood by some species," Dawson said. "But the ochre sea star is perhaps a species with greater resilience than

many, and with projected climate swings expected to be more extreme, the ochre sea star's resilience is perhaps a small, distant bright light on a pretty stormy sea." The research team plans to continue studying this, including genetic testing on some of the 20 other species impacted by the infection, in search of a blueprint for how marine species might adapt to future changes in their environment. (*SF Chronicle*) 🌟

## Synthetic 'blubber' could triple divers' survival time in icy water

Even the hardest diver can't last longer than an hour in cold water using a modern wetsuit, and that's no good if you're a special ops soldier or otherwise need to stay under the sea for hours at a time. MIT has a simple solution: imitate the blubber that keeps seals



and polar bears safe. They've developed an "artificial blubber" that promises to extend swim times in chilly water (under 50F) to as long as three hours. The approach combines a newly processed material with pockets that keep the cold out.

The team starts by placing a typical neoprene wetsuit in an autoclave filled with a heavy gas (such as argon, krypton or xenon) for one to three days. The design replaces the usual air gaps in the wetsuit with that heavy gas, giving the material itself a thermal conductivity so low that it's comparable to air. It not only keeps you toastier on long dives, it doesn't require a pump, a warm-water suit or other approaches where a tear could be deadly.

MIT developed the process with the help of the US Navy, and it's easy to see this helping SEALs on covert missions in the Arctic or wintery climates. This could be useful for undersea maintenance crews, long-distance swimmers and even surfers. And it might be helpful even if you aren't diving into frigid waters. Scientists envision wetsuits that offer the same insulation as you get today with a much thinner design. That could be helpful for athletes, or simply diving enthusiasts who want to be more comfortable underwater. (Royal Society of Chemistry. This article originally appeared on Engadget.)

## Grumpy toadfish sings love songs

The grouchy-looking toadfish might not be the most attractive creature in the ocean, but that doesn't mean it won't do its best to lure in some loving. To attract a mate, the toadfish sings using a series of boops and grunts that almost

sounds like a vibrating cell phone. A similar species -- the Bocon toadfish -- creates its mating song using muscles surrounding its swim bladder. Ocean videographer Bob Mazur thought he was hearing sounds coming from his scuba gear, until he spotted the noisy sea creature hiding under some coral.

"Some toadfish sounds are used to attract females to nesting sites, and others are used as warning signals--probably the case in this instance," according to a National Geographic video posted on May 8. "During this dive in Cozumel, several fish could be heard singing over each other. What a splendid toadfish surprise. "While the sounds of the toadfish amuse humans, they could prove to be deadly for the toadfish if dolphins are around. A whopping 80 percent of bottlenose dolphin diets contain the sound-producing toadfish, according to Live Science.

On the flip side, if toadfish hear dolphin whistles, the fish stops its mating call to increase its chances of not being eaten. [www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=5&v=kT9Vj\\_c8nJE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=kT9Vj_c8nJE)



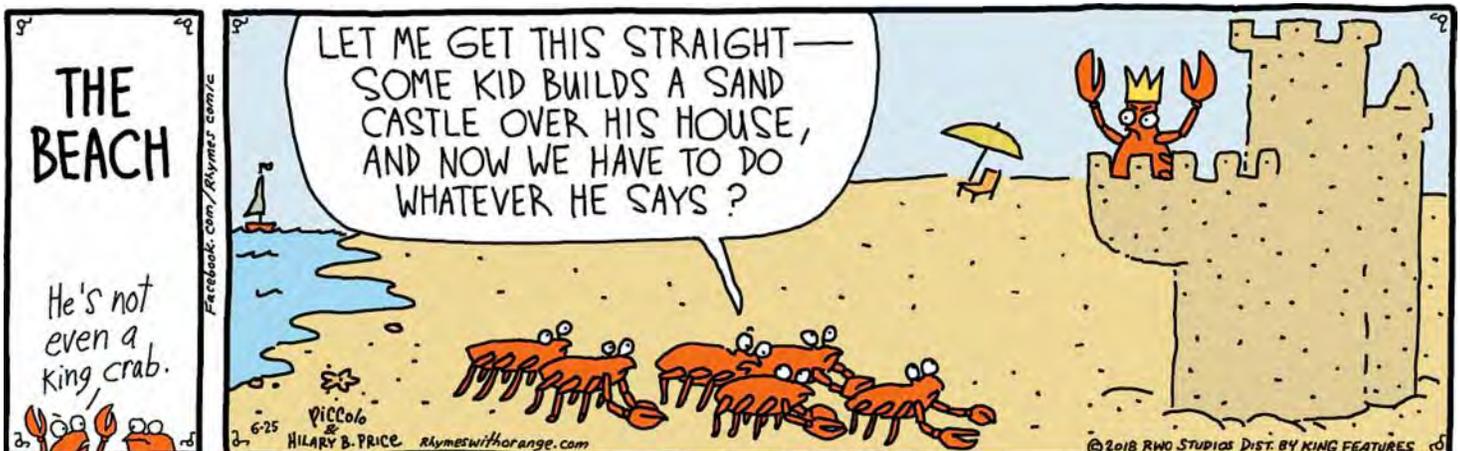
Want to keep old wetsuits out of landfills and help fund Diveheart ([www.diveheart.org/](http://www.diveheart.org/)) programs for children, veterans and others with disabilities at the same time?

Well, now you can! Send your old wetsuit, dive gloves, hoods and boots to the Diveheart Wetsuit Recycling for Good project. You will get a tax letter for your donation. All neoprene items should be sent to:

Lava Rubber  
ATTN: Upcycle Diveheart  
2138 Bridge Ave.  
Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742



## Rhymes with Orange - Hilary Price



## Channel Island Dive Trip September 9-11

The Vaqueros Del Mar Dive Club is once again chartering one of the fine Truth Aquatics' dive boats for a 3-day scuba diving trip to the Channel Islands. We are now taking sign-ups.

**Dates:** Sept 9 – 11, 2018 (board on Sat, Sept 8)  
**Cost:** \$600  
**Boat:** The *Conception*  
**Destination:**  
Northern Channel Islands

The charter this year will be aboard Truth Aquatics' ultra-premiere live-aboard, the *Conception*, with expert captain Jerry at the helm. The trip dates are September 9 – 11, 2018. We will board the boat in Santa Barbara harbor on Saturday night, September 8, dive for 3 days, and return on Tuesday, September 11, at about 5 p.m.

The price for the trip is \$600, same as last year. This price includes a reasonable crew tip.

The current plan is to dive the Northern Channel Islands. However,



if the diving at Catalina Island looks better, we may decide to go there instead. Let me know if you have a strong preference for one place or the other.

As always, your bunk assignment will be based on your sign-up date. Early sign-ups get the better bunks, but we won't overfill the boat, so there are no

really bad bunks. Some are just better. To secure your reservation, please send a check for \$600 made out to "VDM" to me at the following address: Please read The Fine Print message below.

Bill Delameter  
VDM Treasurer  
864 Alden Lane  
Livermore, CA 94550

When you mail me a check, please let me know by email: delameterb@comcast.net

For more information on this trip, don't hesitate to contact me. General information about Truth Aquatics, including the

*Conception's* bunk diagram, can be found at: [www.truthaquatics.com](http://www.truthaquatics.com). ☆

**Note:** A number of Flipper Dippers have already signed up including: **Barbara** and **Greg Davis**, **Grace Chi**, **Howard Timoney**, and **Tom** and **Jackie Gardner**. There will be car pooling for the drive down and back. ☆

## Albion Non-Ab Dive: Labor Day Weekend - Aug 31 - Sept 3

### International Pot-Luck on Sat Night

Our next big North Coast dive will be Labor Day weekend, August 31st – September 3rd, at Albion River Campground (ARC).

#### Albion has instituted a NEW Reservation System

Each individual camping space must now be reserved in advance. The Club has 10 spots on hold: Sites #C18-#C27. So if you're planning on camping at Albion, each Club member must either fill out the online form under the **Group Registration** box on ARC's website ([www.albionriver-campground.com](http://www.albionriver-campground.com)) using the Dipper's Club I.D. Number #: **flipper2018** or call the campground office (707) 937-0606).

The cost is \$45 for tents and \$55 for RVs (includes electric and water) per night. Rates are based on double occupancy and limited to 2 vehicles – one recreational vehicle and one

passenger vehicle – per site, or two passenger vehicles per site without RV. Boat launching is extra. Check the Albion Website for additional fees.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the General Meetings for Flipper Dipper members in-good-standing (dues paid!) and their guests, and prospective members. **Remember, you must make your own reservations to be admitted to the campground.**



Maybe Barnacle Bill will get his motor running!

This is a great place to freedive and scuba dive for fish - and don't forget your fishing license.

Remember, our infamous potluck is on Saturday night. Although there won't be abalone bring a potluck dish (hot dish, salad, dessert, etc.) to feed 5+ people. After dinner there will be a great bonfire to enjoy.

A special invitation is extended to all new and prospective members to join us for a weekend of diving to remember. Look for additional information and the coordinator in next month's Newsletter. ☆

# DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

MANUEL MANGROBANG

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JULY 2018

**SATURDAY, JULY 7**  
**NO SCHEDULED DIVE**

**SATURDAY, JULY 7**  
**NO LICENSE FISHING DAY**

**SUNDAY, JULY 8**  
**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 lunch at the Whale City Bakery Bar & Grill in Davenport, for all who attend.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 11**  
**BUSINESS MEETING 7:30 PM**  
Meeting will be held at **Teresa Hanson's** home (408-966-6433, [teresa\\_hanson@comcast.net](mailto:teresa_hanson@comcast.net)). All members are invited to attend. This is a good time to share your new ideas for dives and entertainment. Refreshments to share are welcome. **Warm weather brings out the BBQ, too! So be here by 6:30 with your food if you wish to BBQ.**

**SATURDAY, JULY 14**  
**SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3) LOVER'S POINT** Coordinators: **Teresa Hansen** and **Manuel Mangrobang** are teaming up on this S3 dive. Manuel: 408-813-5139. [manuel.mangrobang@gmail.com](mailto:manuel.mangrobang@gmail.com). Meet in Lover's Point at 8:00 am 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.

## GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, JULY 18th

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

**Celebrate 54 Years of the San Jose Flipper Dippers at our General Meeting.**

### Entertainment:

- ★ Social Hour
- ★ Great Raffle Prizes

**THE DOOR PRIZE IS \$40!**  
**YOU must be present to win!**

**SAT & SUN, JULY 21-22**  
**PURPLE URCHIN REMOVAL - ALBION** See page 4 for details.

**SATURDAY, JULY 21**  
**NO SCHEDULED DIVE**

**SATURDAY, JULY 28**  
**HALIBUT DIVE**  
Coordinator Wanted!

### UPCOMING IN AUGUST

01 Business Meeting  
10-12 Monterey Bay Shootout  
11 Second Saturday SCUBA (S3)  
**15 General Meeting**  
31 Labor Day Weekend - Albion



## Bizarre deep-sea creature washes up on Texas beach, puzzles park rangers

An odd-looking fish that lives on the ocean floor shocked Texas park rangers when it washed up on Padre Island National Seashore in Corpus Christi. Photographer Edie Bresler was scanning the beach for hidden treasures when he spotted the big-eyed fish. With its bumpy skin and wide mouth, Bresler wasn't exactly sure what he was looking at. So, he quickly took out his camera and started snapping. "I have been beach combing all my life so to come across something strange like this was totally exciting," Bresler explained in a Facebook post. "It got even better when I took the photographs to the park rangers and they were equally baffled."



Bresler sent his photos to officials at Padre Island National Seashore. After carefully studying the creature and comparing images of the fish to various science books, they determined it was a thick-tailed batfish. "These fish come from

600-1200 feet (180-365 meters) deep, where ocean life gets WEIRD," the park posted on Facebook, including two photographs taken by Bresler. "Batfish use their pectoral, or side-

fins, as 'legs' to 'crawl' on the seafloor to feed on worms, and small crustaceans and fish. They live their lives in complete darkness, where large eyes probably come in handy to avoid lanternfish or other possible predators." The rare find

tickled "the science nerd that lives happily inside me," said Bresler, adding that the fish reminded him of a creature from "the black lagoon." Unfortunately, he added, it was too late to rescue the fish. ★



**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

c/o 1350 Magnolia Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95126-2106



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## 2018 COMING EVENTS

July 7	No License Fishing Day
July 8	Panther Beach Clean Up
July 11	Business Meeting
July 14	Second Saturday SCUBA
July 18	☛ General Meeting
July 21-22	Sea Urchin Collection at Albion
July 28	Halibut Dive
August 1	Business Meeting
August 10-12	Monterey Bay Shootout
August 11	Second Saturday SCUBA (S3)
August 15	☛ General Meeting
Aug 31-Sept 3	Labor Day Weekend at Albion
Sept 1	No License Fishing Day
Sept 5	Business Meeting
Sept 8	Second Saturday SCUBA
Sept 9-11	Channel Islands - Vaqueros Del Mar
Sept 19	☛ General Meeting
Sept 29	Lobster Season Opens



### **Albion Dive & Campout**

Our next big North Coast dive will be Labor Day weekend, Aug 31-Sept 3, at Albion Flat Campground. The Club has ten camping spaces on hold for Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. Albion has a new reservation policy in place. See more details on page 6. 🌟

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



[WWW.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM](http://WWW.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM)