

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

OCTOBER 2018

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD
3RD WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH
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Channel Islands Dive Trip Report

Barbara Davis

A few years ago, a group of Dippers joined the Vaqueros Del Mar ("Cowboys of the Sea") dive club from Livermore on their annual 3-day trip aboard the *Vision* for some fun diving in the northern Channel Islands. This year, a group of Dippers were able to make the trip again.

On Saturday, September 8th, Dippers **Barbara and Greg Davis, Grace Chi, Tom and Jackie Gardner, Jim Rezowalli and Howard Timoney** made the trek down to Sea Landing in Santa Barbara, and after a nice dinner at Longboard's Grill on Stearns Wharf, we boarded the boat, stowed our gear and got our bunk assignments. We got reacquainted with the VDM divers, including trip organizer Bill Delameter, and some members of the Aqua Tutus dive club from Castro Valley. We were all looking forward to some great diving!

Overnight we motored out to the Northern Channel Islands. Swells were up, so Sunday morning found us cruising along Santa Cruz Island where we hoped to do up to 5 dives. The diving here was a little disappointing, with little to no kelp and way too many little purple sea urchins. We dove Emerald Cove, Quail Rock, Fry's Harbor and 5-Stone Grotto. Only 4 of the 29 divers on the boat did the night dive. The Dippers elected to skip the night dive and instead enjoyed the excellent dinner.

On Monday we dove some marine preserves near San Miguel Island, where conditions were much improved. We did two dives at Portuguese Rock and also dove a site called Winfield Scott and another named Goldfish bowl. Plentiful kelp and fish, and giant lobsters everywhere! Grace found an octopus on one dive and Jackie saw a giant black sea bass.



From left, Barbara, Greg, Grace, Jim, Howard, Tom, and Jackie.

On Tuesday we were back at Santa Cruz Island, but found much better dive spots! Cavern Point had bountiful marine life, including lots of fish and more lobsters, octopus and a harbor seal. We also dove South of Spelunkers and Scorpion rock.

The water temps ranged from 61 – 68 degrees but the viz not as clear as we hoped, mostly ranging from 20 – 30 feet. There was some current on some of the dives, but Captain Ian kept an eye on the conditions and found sites that were mostly calm.

Early Tuesday evening we returned to Sea Landing, unloaded our gear and headed for home. Barbara, Grace, Greg and Howard stopped at the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo for the traditional post Channel Islands trip dinner.

It was a nice and relaxing trip with good diving, great food, and a congenial group of people to hang out with between dives. We look forward to joining the Vaqueros Del Mar divers and friends again next year! ★

**OCTOBER 17TH
GENERAL
MEETING
ENTERTAINMENT**

It's all about YOU!
At the October General Meeting we'll be having a "Social Hour" which will allow everyone to share their latest diving adventures. Or, bring up some ideas on when and where you'd like to dive; Local and out of state too! ★



Special THANKS! to **Brian and MaryJo Nelson** who gave a very informative presentation about the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary at our September General Meeting. ★

**Refreshments
Are Being
Served**

The following Dippers are asked to bring a tasty goodie to the next General Meeting:
Steve Davis, Kelly Drake, Tom Gardner, Jackie Gardner and Teresa Hanson. Don't forget you will receive a FREE raffle ticket for your donation! ★

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



September was a very busy month for the Flipper Dippers. There was the Labor Day Weekend get together at Albion and Van Damme State Beach, where members kayaked, rode bikes, and generally relaxed, and no rain! It was quite enjoyable even without the abalone diving. Then the Santa Barbara trip on the *Vision*, again the weather was pleasant. There were plenty of lobsters seen, bat rays and a giant black sea bass observed in addition to a pod of dolphin that followed the boat for a short time. The trip was sponsored by the

Vaqueros Del Mar ("Cowboys of the Sea") club who invited both the Flipper Dippers and the Aqua Tutus clubs. to join the trip. A total of 29 divers showed up for a 3-day trip and everyone had a good time.

Also at the September General meeting, **Brian** and **MaryJo Nelson** gave a very informative presentation about the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS), and the many different groups that are working together to improve the local ocean environment. It was a great and informative presentation with lots of Qs and As.

According to the Activity Calendar, October looks to be a quiet month. **Manuel Mangrobang** will be leading a S3 dive on the second 13th of the month at Monastery Beach. Want to do another dive? Contact some members and go!

Our Sergeant at Arms, and Raffle Chair, **Lance Williams**, has moved to Oregon so we're looking for someone to take over the Raffle duties. This is one of the highlights of the general meetings. **Larry Ankuda** has stepped in for the months of October and November, but we need a Dipper to step up and take the brass ring! How about you? Let me know and we'll give you all the details.

Looking ahead, Club dues are due this month. Pay on time and avoid the \$5 late fee! See page 3 for a breakdown. Remember, dues go towards the rental of the hall for our general meetings and other club expenses.

And in November, we'll be looking to nominate some of our fellow Dippers for 2019 Club Officers. Maybe you have been thinking about getting more involved in club activities? Here's your chance!

Have fun diving. – **Tom**



San Jose Flipper Dippers

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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

OPEN

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
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PHOTOGRAPHY

Mike Chalup 408-744-1868

RAFFLE OPEN - HOW ABOUT YOU?

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

CLUB COMMITTEES

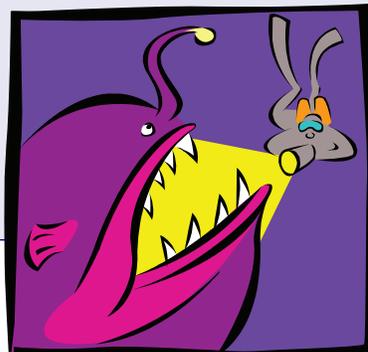
Diver's I.Q. Review Corner

This month we have **One (1) Question** and it's worth a chance to win **TEN (10) raffle tickets** for your correct answer!

Question: Give two symptoms of poisoning from palytoxin:

1 _____ 2 _____

Send your answer by e-mail to **Larry Ankuda** at 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!



RAFFLE NEWS

Lance Williams

I'm sorry to say this is my final RAFFLE and report. There were a lot of prizes for Dippers to choose from last month. I lost my list of donations and winners during trips between California and Oregon, so here are some of the highlights: The mystery gift was provided as a thank you to all the Dippers and was picked by Pres **Tom Gardner**, a Dive Caddy carry-on bag for all your warm water dive adventures, Mr. Pres also won a bottle of vino donated by **Dennis** and **Adam Nasont**. Tom had another winning ticket and wife, **Jackie**, requested the Cayman Islands tour guide supplied by L.O.R.D. Lance. L.O.R.D. **Hunter Reid** scored a number of gifts including a bottle of red wine placed in the raffle by **Giani Dhaval**, a layer cake by **Jim Rezowalli** and the second mystery gift. L.O.R.D. **Bill** "SHIP" **Shipman** picked a float-line, a fin carry bag, and an extension hand grabber. Overall with 30 plus gifts there were a lot of winners!

THE DOOR PRIZE: The \$10 door prize would have gone to **Jim Rezowalli** who's name was drawn, but he left early! So this month the Door Prize goes back to \$20. Remember, Jim, 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: **Jerry Richards, Michelle Schimberg, Scott Schimberg, John MIA Schwartz, Bill Shipman** and **John Snyder**.

As Lance is moving out of the area, **Larry Ankuda** offered to run the October and November raffles, so if you live out of the area or can't attend the General Meeting, please contact Larry at, 1-408-378-4963, lankuda@comcast.net, 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! Prospectives must have a Club jacket either in possession or on order to be voted into the Club. Contact **Teresa** for specifics.

A FREE raffle ticket will be given to the following Dippers who have a birthday this month: **Debby Alarcon, Kelly Drake, Howard Timoney** and **Lance** (I don't live here anymore) **Williams**. Happy Birthday! ☆

CLUB DUES DUE THIS MONTH

It is October again and time to pay your **annual dues** at the General Meeting. Dues help cover a portion of the yearly room rental. Each member will also be asked to sign an "Assumption of Risk Agreement" when dues are paid. These forms will be available at the October General Meeting. Members are asked to complete a new form each year. Out-of-town members will be mailed a Risk Agreement form to be signed and returned (one copy only) with their dues. Please mail your dues and completed form to: **Scott Schimberg**, 21 Haven Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94597.

Club Dues \$50.00 per year and **\$10.00** per year to receive this Newsletter via the U.S. Postal Service. Or download it FREE each month off the Club's Website in full color. Charter and Lifetime Members will continue to receive the Newsletter by U.S. mail for FREE. CenCal (Central California Council of Diving Clubs) and USofA (Underwater Society of America) dues are **\$15.00 each**. These optional dues support the many efforts of CenCal and USofA on behalf of all divers in the areas of beach access along with conservation, and state and national legislation. These two organizations form an effective method for presenting the divers' interests state-wide and nationally.

A summary of our annual dues is as follows:

CLUB	\$ 50.00
Newsletter (U.S. Mail)	10.00
CEN CAL	15.00
USA	<u>20.00</u>
Total	\$ 95.00

Remember, associate member (non-diving spouses of Dippers) dues are **\$5.00**. Associate members may attend Dipper functions at member prices, but have no voting privileges. Also, dues must be paid by November 30th or you will incur a **late fee of \$5.00. SO DON'T DELAY!** ☆

Glass, Not Plastic

Ken Paff (Richmond, CA) makes the point that when choosing a magnifying glass for spotting macro critters underwater, it's important to choose one with a glass lens. The refractive index of plastic is too close to that of water to be effective when immersed. ☆



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

❑ Cabazon ❑

Steven Wall 4 Lbs
Moss Landing 07/13

❑ Lingcod ❑

John Snyder 10 Lbs
Moss Landing 07/31

❑ Halibut ❑

Tom Gardner 32 Lbs
Moss Landing 07/13

❑ OPEN CATEGORIES ❑

Sheephead, Lobster

Good luck to all!



Did you go diving lately?

Dippers were at Lover's Point for the August 11, S3 (Second Saturday Scuba) dive. Great ocean conditions and weather! The group included (from left) **Ken Agur, Tom Gardner, Grace Chi, Barbara Davis, Howard Timoney, Donnavon Hill** and **Jackie Gardner**. Need to get in the water? Join in on a S3 dive with a great bunch of diving Dippers! Next up: Monastery Beach on October 13. See the Activity Calendar on page 7 for information.



Teenager Survives Being Lost at Sea for 49 Days on a Wooden Raft

'I Just Prayed Everyday'

A teenager from Indonesia working as the solo lamp keeper aboard a wooden raft was rescued just off the coast of Guam after drifting in the ocean for seven weeks, reports the Jakarta Post.

Aldi Novel Adilang, 19, was first swept out to sea on July 14 after a strong wind snapped the line that anchored his fishing raft, called a "rompong," which was positioned 78 miles out into the Pacific Ocean. Adilang was at the mercy of the currents and waves as he had no way to steer himself back, as the raft is not powered by an engine and has no other instruments to control its movements. "I thought I will never meet my parents again, so I just prayed every day," Adilang told the Associated Press.

Adilang ran out of food after a week and survived by eating fish and drinking partially-filtered seawater, he said. "After he ran out of the cooking gas, he burned the rompong's wooden fences to make a fire for cooking," Mirza Nurhidayat, Indonesia's consul general in Japan, told the Jakarta Post. "He drank by sipping water from his clothes that had been wetted by sea water."

According to the AP, Adilang's six-month contract with his employer required him to use a lamp at night to capture fish. It is a lonely job, they note, as the rompong's are positioned so far out into the ocean that they can't be seen from shore and other rafts are miles away. Supplies are usually dropped off once every seven days, and he was only left with a gas stove, utensils and a generator.

"I was on the raft for one month and 18 days. My food ran out after the first week," said Adilang. At one point, Adilang says he was even followed by a shark. "I could only pray that the shark went away," he told *TribunManado* news, according to NBC.



Adilang found himself using the lamp and walkie-talkie to try to signal passing boats during the 49 days he was afloat, but each boat passed by with no idea the trouble he was in. "Aldi said he had been scared and

often cried while adrift," Fajar Firdaus, a diplomat at the embassy in Japan, told the Jakarta Post. "Every time he saw a large ship, he said, he was hopeful, but more than 10 ships had sailed past him, none of them stopped or saw Aldi."

Finally, a Panamanian-flagged vessel spotted Adilang off the coast of Guam,

almost 1,200 miles from his original position. Adilang used his walkie-talkie to radio "help" to alert the crew, who fed him and cut his hair once they got him aboard. The vessel transported Adilang to Japan (their original destination), and he was finally reunited with his family on September 8. Adilang no longer wants to work on a rompong, he told the AP. ☆

NOMINATIONS FOR 2019 CLUB OFFICERS



At the **November General Meeting** we will be nominating Club members for the following offices: **President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer** and **Sergeant at Arms**. To be eligible to hold an office, one must be a current member in good standing. Presidential nominees must have been a club member for at least two years. Holding an office is a rewarding experience as well as being of benefit to the club. This is your chance to *get involved* and voice your ideas as to the future of the San Jose Flipper Dippers. The election of our officers will take place at the December General Meeting. ☆

Missing sub rumored to have brought Nazis to South America discovered

A missing German submarine said to have taken the defeated Nazi leadership to South America has been discovered after being lost at sea for nearly 73 years.

The U-3523 was one of Hitler's Type XXI submarines – a new and highly advanced design which came too late to stop an allied victory. It was the first class of U-boats designed to sail submerged for a prolonged period of time and had a range which allowed it to sail non-stop to South America.

The U-3523 was thought to have been sunk by a British B24 Liberator attack on May 6, 1945, but the inability to locate the wreck fuelled rumors that it had escaped.

Now the wreck has been located ten nautical miles north of Skagen – Denmark's northernmost town – and nine miles west of the position reported by the British bomber.

Denmark's Sea War Museum, which found the submarine, said there was no evidence that it was escaping with Nazi leaders or loot.

Gert Normann Andersen, the museum's director, said: "Rumor has it that the submarine had great valuables from Germany because it was heading away from Germany even though the war ended."

"I think the rumor developed because U-3523 was a very modern, long-distance U-boat and some Nazis tried to escape with valuables in the last days. But the submarine was going to Norway, and not to South America with Nazis and valuables."

Modal Trigger The German Type XXI submarine was so advanced that the US, France, Soviet Union and China would end up copying it. Declassified documents from US intelligence have fuelled claims that the Nazi leadership, including Adolf Hitler himself, escaped to South America in the final days of the war. One CIA file dated October 3, 1955, carried allegations from a former SS trooper named Phillip Citroen that Hitler had been hiding in Colombia and later Argentina. The trooper even had a photo taken in 1954 in the Colombian city of Tunja, allegedly showing him with a man said to be Hitler.

For years, the missing submarine was a locus of conspiracy theories. Sea War Museum Jutland The document stated: "According to Citroen, the Germans residing in Tunja followed this alleged Adolf Hitler with an idolatry of the Nazi past, addressing him as 'der Fuhrer' and affording him the Nazi salute and storm-trooper adulation."

Meanwhile a file from the FBI archives, dated September 21, 1945, detailed eyewitness claims that Hitler had arrived in Argentina via a submarine two-and-a-half weeks after the fall of Berlin. It said: "By pre-arranged plan with six top Argentine officials, pack horses were waiting for the group and by daylight all supplies were

loaded on the horses and an all-day trip inland toward the foothills of the southern Andes was started."

"At dusk the party arrived at the ranch where Hitler and his party, according to (redacted), are now in hiding." Several prominent Nazis are also known to have fled to South America, including Adolf Eichmann – a leading architect of the Holocaust, and the notorious Auschwitz doctor Josef Mengele. However, the new discovery proves that U-3523 never made the trip and sank with all 58 crewmen.

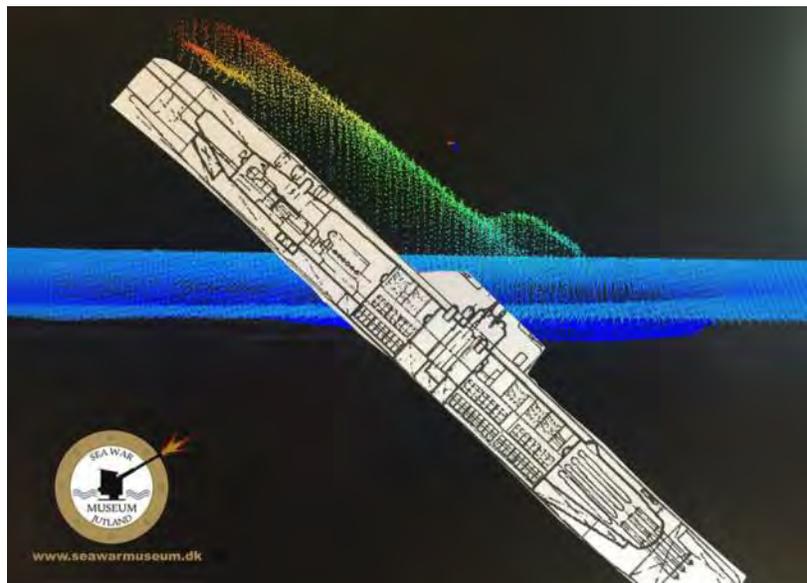
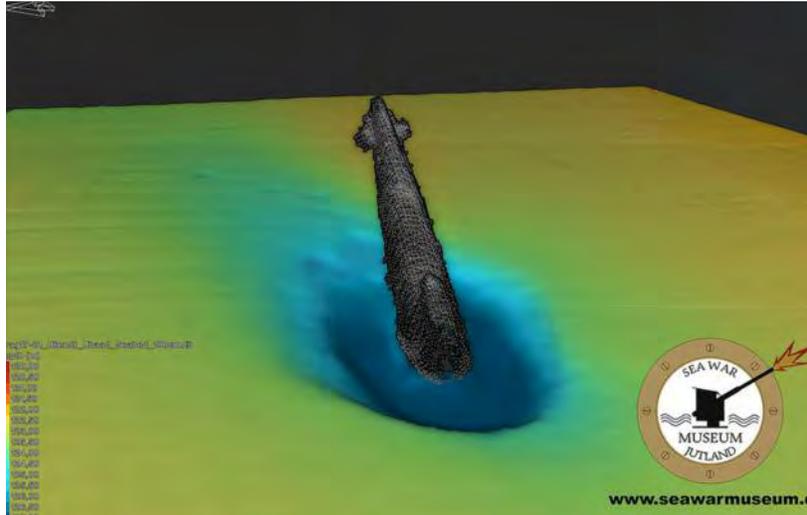
Andersen also has a copy of the last telegram sent by the submarine, dated May 5, 1945, which makes no mention of any precious cargo or high-ranking passengers. Nazi Germany would sign the first instrument of unconditional surrender just two days later on May 7, 1945.

Scans of the seabed reveal the U-boat now lies in 403 feet of water, making it very difficult to access. Unusually, the

whole fore of the ship lies buried in the sand, while the stern stands 65 feet above the bottom.

Nazi Germany built 118 Type XXI U-boats but – due to poor quality control – only four were fit for combat before World War II ended and just two were deployed, neither sinking any allied ships. Their design was later copied by Britain, the US, France and the Soviet Union with Soviet models subsequently inspiring Chinese submarines.

Only one original Type XXI U-boat survives, the Wilhelm Bauer (formerly U-2540), which is now part of the German Maritime Museum in Bremerhaven. ★



California bans drift gill nets

Blamed for killing sea turtles, whales

Mercury News

Ending years of controversy and debate, Gov. Jerry Brown signed a new law phasing out the use of giant ocean fishing nets used to catch swordfish, but blamed for accidentally killing sea turtles, dolphins and other sea creatures. The bill, SB 1017 by state Sen. Ben Allen, D-Redondo Beach, requires the state to set up a program to buy back nets and fishing permits from commercial fishermen who work in the state's drift gill net fishery.

The nets — giant nylon curtains that can stretch one mile long and extend 100 feet underwater — are used mostly by fishermen between San Diego and Big Sur. Although they are intended to catch swordfish, thresher shark and opah, studies have shown that they entangle dozens of other marine species, including whales, dolphins, sea lions and sea turtles, fish and sharks. Those animals, known as bycatch, are often thrown back overboard, injured or dead. “There is no longer room in our oceans for any fishery that throws away more than it keeps,” said Susan Murray, deputy vice president for Oceana, an environmental group with offices in Monterey that pushed for the new law.

Because of their impact on marine life, drift gill nets have been banned in other countries and states. California is the last West Coast state to allow drift gill nets. Voters banned their use in state waters out to three miles offshore in 1990, but they remain legal beyond that in federal waters.



Many other states already have banned them, including Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Hawaii.

Critics say there are other ways to catch swordfish, including using baited hooks attached to buoys. Last June, the Trump administration killed an Obama administration rule that would shut down the drift gill net fishery for two years if two sea turtles or large whales were killed or injured by the nets.

There are 20 commercial drift net boats left in California — down from 129 boats in 1994. Supporters of the industry note that federal and state rules, along with industry practices, have reduced the amount of bycatch by using nets with larger mesh openings 14 inches wide, placing electronic devices that send out pinging sounds to scare away dolphins, and other measures. “All fisheries have some bycatch if you catch anything in numbers,” said Gary Burke, a Santa Barbara drift gill net fisherman, in a May interview with this news organization.

Banning the nets in California won't stop demand for swordfish, he said. The fish now will come from other countries with fewer rules. California fishermen are to transfer their drift gill net permits starting March 31, 2019. After that, the state Department of Fish and Wildlife is required to set up a program by March 31, 2020 to pay fishermen \$10,000 for their permit. Active fishermen will be paid an \$100,000 for surrendering their nets to the state for recycling and disposal. The program will be funded with \$1 million in donations from foundations and other organizations and \$1 million in state funding. Within four years of it being up and running, any remaining drift gill net permits will be revoked. 🌟

Deadman Diving: Not a dive agency product

But are the dive agencies turning a blind eye to it?

Undercurrent

A number of readers wrote us to say they're concerned about this new fad, “Deadman Diving,” which we mentioned in the May issue. It's apparently sweeping across Asia, and ostensibly enjoyed by many Chinese tourists. What is it exactly? Some dive centers give untrained tourists an in-ocean experience by putting them in scuba gear, minus the fins, and having dive guides drag them around underwater and be the ones in sole control of their well-being.

Tim Williams (Dana Point, CA) told us he's witnessed something similar, with dive guides towing client divers by their extended reef hooks. Jim Lyon (Los Gatos, CA), a PADI Master Scuba Diver Trainer, says he's seen it all too often. In the Thailand resort town of Pattaya, he saw one instructor, ostensibly conducting a Discover Scuba Diving course, dragging two Chinese clients by their tank valves, with two more holding on to the first ones' arms. When Lyon questioned him later, the instructor said PADI allowed a four-to-one ratio for training. Not like that, it doesn't!

Lyon also told us about the practice of “tea bag” diving in China. “Divemasters on the beach in Qingdao will offer a dive to tourists during the summer. Tourists pre-pay for the experience. The divemaster gears them up,

drops them in and descends [with them], way too fast for the tourists to equalize. A tourist complains of ear pain, they are all brought back up to the surface and the dive ends. They are told, ‘Diving is not for you.’ The experience takes all of five minutes and \$60 for the unsuspecting tourist to be ‘tea-bagged’ -- dipped in and pulled out.”

Craig Howe (Penn Valley, CA) wrote us about taking pictures while diving in Puerto Galera in the Philippines, then looking up to see a diver holding on to two others, who were waving at him. The first diver had both of them by the tank valves, and neither had fins. Howe was told they were South Koreans. While he, too, was in the Philippines, Greg White (Cobden, IL) also witnessed a similarly odd dive near Miniloc in the Palawan Islands. Two people, fully equipped, were held by their regulators while a third (a dive guide, presumably) steered them around. “I guess if people want to go back home and say they went scuba diving on vacation, then this is one way to do it,” White wrote us. “Fortunately, there wasn't much coral in the area where we saw this, and I never saw them walk on anything. Somebody's always looking to make a buck from anything that tourists will pay to do.”

We asked Mark Caney, vice-president of training, education and memberships for PADI Europe, Middle East and Africa, for a comment. He told us that none of these practices comprise a PADI product, but PADI officially declined to comment. We got a similar lack of response from the dive training agency SSI, and even Britain's BSAC was silent on the matter. Certainly we

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DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

MANUEL MANGROBANG

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OCTOBER 2018

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3 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 new ideas for dives and entertainment. Refreshments to share are welcome. Could be the last time for the BBQ. So be there by 6:30 with your food if you wish to BBQ.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13 SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3) SOUTH MONASTERY BEACH

Coordinator: Manuel Mangrobang, 408-813-5139. manuel.a.mangrobang.iv@gmail.com. Manuel is planning a dive. Meet at the MONASTERY BEACH at 8:00 am,

and we'll decide where to dive based on conditions and sign-ups. Bring two tanks and plan on making two dives. Please RSVP in case the dive gets canceled or moved due to weather or surf conditions.

GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, October 17th

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 - Bring your tails
- ★ Great Raffle Prizes

THE DOOR PRIZE IS \$20!

YOU must be present to win!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27 NO SCHEDULED DIVE



UPCOMING IN NOVEMBER

- 07 Business Meeting
- 10 Second Saturday SCUBA (S3)
- 21 General Meeting



continued from page 6

can take that as tacit approval, but why the silence?

Bret Gilliam, founder of the TDI and SDI agencies and a former board chair for NAUI, says the inherent problem lies with the rogue instructors. "Many of [them] may have had status as active instructors with an agency, but have dropped into inactive status by not paying annual dues, or because they know that they are conducting unsanctioned diving activities. If an instructor is not a member in good standing with a training agency, the agency has no oversight and control of that individual. On the other hand, if any instructor with active teaching status were to conduct such activities, the agency does have jurisdiction over them. If a complaint came forward from another instructor who saw the dangerous practices, or from a customer who complained, the agency would likely have this investigated by their "Quality Assurance" department. They could decide to suspend the instructor or revoke his or her instructor rating completely. In most situations, the agency would kick the instructor out and be done with it. But if the unsanctioned activities, however unsafe, are making money for the rogue instructors, they will not be inclined to listen to any criticism, and probably don't care if they were ejected from the agency. They'll just continue to do what makes money, and the customers really have no idea of the insidious dangers they face. The diving industry should stand up and condemn such activities, and try to get some help and oversight from local government authorities to stop the unsafe programs."

Unfortunately, "diving as a sport is largely unregulated, and the overwhelming attitude at the top is one of 'we don't want to get involved,'" says Gilliam. "The rogue instructors know this and are taking advantage of the 'hole' in the system where they can pretty much do anything without intervention. It's a sad and very serious situation that should be met with aggressive objection." ★



Diving Gnome Visits Rome

A Diving Gnome was spotted traveling in a First Class cabin on a train, in Italy, by **Jim Rezowalli**. The Diving Gnome must have scored some big coin somewhere to afford this trip. Was that bottle of wine included? Must have been. After all, this is "First Class." Rumor has it he's made a visit to the Channel Islands lately. Could be he's planning to score a winning prize for the Flipper Dippers' photo competition. Better check with **Jackie Gardner**. Stay tuned . . . ★

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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FIRST CLASS MAIL

2018 COMING EVENTS

Oct 3	Business Meeting
Oct 13	Second Saturday SCUBA
Oct 17	☛ General Meeting
Nov 1	Van Damme Reservations for May 2019
Nov 3	Business Meeting
Nov 13	Second Saturday SCUBA
Nov 17	☛ General Meeting
Dec 1	Van Damme Reservations for May 2019
Dec 5	Business Meeting
Dec 8	Second Saturday SCUBA
Dec 19	☛ General Meeting

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

*ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET
Mark Your Calendars:
Saturday, January 19, 2019*

The Flipper Dippers' Annual Awards Banquet will be on January 19, 2019. The banquet is going to be held at **Viva**, 15970 Los Gatos Blvd, Los Gatos where it was held this past January. Details to come. ★



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