

NEWSLETTER



# San Jose Flipper Dippers

FEBRUARY  
2019

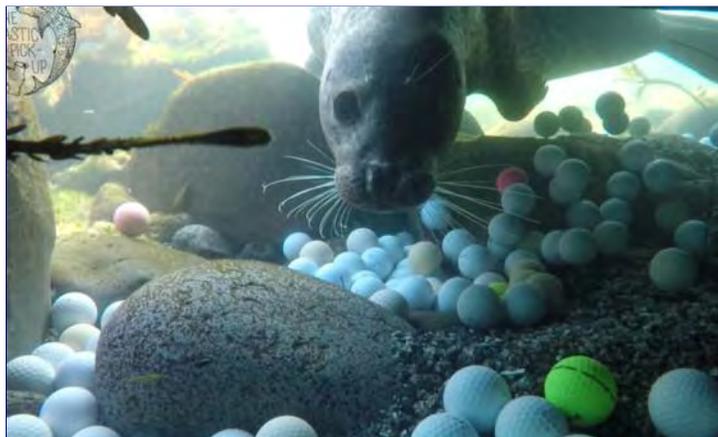
GENERAL MEETINGS HELD  
3RD WEDNESDAY  
OF EACH MONTH  
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## Teenage diver finds tons of golf balls rotting off Carmel

A diver in California has stumbled on an unexpected source of plastic waste in the ocean: golf balls. As the balls degrade, they can emit toxic chemicals. And there appear to be lots of them in certain places underwater — right next to coastal golf courses.

Two years ago, a 16-year old diver named Alex Weber was swimming off Pebble Beach along the Pacific near Carmel, Calif. “My dad raised me underwater,” says Weber, and she means it. She’s a free diver: no scuba tanks; she just holds her breath. She was diving in a small cove and looked down and saw something weird. “You couldn’t see the sand,” she recalls, still sounding incredulous. “It was completely white.”

White with golf balls. “You looked down and you’re like, ‘What are you doing here?’” There were thousands of them. “It felt like a shot to the heart,” she says. She was offended. Right then, she decided to haul them up. Thus began a Sisyphean task that went on for months: She and her father would haul hundreds of pounds of them up, and then of course more golfers would hit more into the ocean.



She took what she and her father collected back home. “I had all of these golf balls in the garage,” she says. “And they stank.” Then she heard about a Stanford University scientist, Matt Savoca, who studied plastic waste in the ocean. She emailed him, and he came to look at her collection. “Fifty thousand golf balls, just sitting in the garage,” she says.

Savoca was impressed. Weber recalls that he turned to her and said, “You should write a paper about this,” and I was like, “Matt, I’m 16 years old. I don’t know how to write a scientific paper!” He said he would help, which meant diving with her. Not easy. “The oceans off California are actual-

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## Thank you for your service!

A BIG thank-you to our 2018 board for their leadership of the Club and activities. From left, **Tom Gardner**, Pres., **Scott Schimberg**, Treas., and **Manuel Mangrobang**, V.P., were presented special gifts at the Annual Awards Banquet. All three are serving another term for 2019. Mike Chalup, Sec., was MIA for the evening but was given his gift at the Planning Meeting. (Greg Davis photo) ★



### Refreshments Are Being Served

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

## Awards Banquet Review

January’s Annual Awards Banquet was an entertaining and enjoyable evening for Flipper Dippers, family and friends who attended. Viva, in Los Gatos, provided an intimate room and great food enjoyed by all. During the social hour, Dippers and guests were able to enjoy a glass of wine and share many stories of the past year and take a look at the photogra-

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



We had a good start to our year with a couple of 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 19th 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 dive at Breakwater for our first S3 dive of the year. The official dive was cancelled because of weather but a few Dippers went anyway and felt that conditions were surprisingly good, considering all of the storms and rain we got that week. 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 23th 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. We received lots of input from the tables at the Awards Banquet and will be announcing many of them over the year including wine tasting/picnics, new camping/diving weekends, and more. The 2019 Activities Calendar will be posted on the Club's Website soon. The board has been brainstorming new ideas and new activities for 2019 and we want to hear more 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 let's go diving! – **Tom**

## Diver's I.Q. Review Corner

This month we have **Two (2) Weather-Related Questions** and each is worth a chance to win **FIVE (5) raffle tickets** for your correct answer!

**Question No. 1:** What is the difference between a watch and a warning?

- A.** When a "watch" is issued, that means the conditions are present that could make the storm possible, so keep an eye on the sky. When a "warning" is issued, a storm has been sighted or has appeared on weather radar; immediate action should be taken."
- B.** When a "watch" is issued, that means storm is present, but is not severe. When a "warning" is issued, it means a severe storm is present and action should be taken.

**Question No. 2:** Which is TRUE about a waterspout?

- A.** A waterspout resembles a tornado and typically forms over tropical ocean waters.
- B.** A waterspout resembles a tornado and typically forms over cold ocean waters.
- C.** Waterspouts never make landfall.
- D.** To evade a waterspout you should move away from it at a 30-degree angle.



Send your answer by email to **Barbara Davis** at [bjdscuba123@gmail.com](mailto:bjdscuba123@gmail.com). All attendees at the next general meeting with the correct answers will be included in a drawing for 5 free raffle tickets per question. Good Luck!



## 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

Larry Ankuda 408-378-4963  
 Teresa Hanson 408-966-6433

### TREASURER

Scott Schimberg 510-682-7600

### SERGEANT AT ARMS

John Snyder 408-378-4963

CLUB COMMITTEES

### AWARDS AND FINES

o Position Open o

### CLUB PROPERTY

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### MEMBERSHIP

Teresa Hanson 408-966-6433

### NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE

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### 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

### Leigh Hartley Tuttle

It was a very cold and windy night. Really. The Flipper Dippers showed up anyway with great goods for the raffle table. My first meeting on the job! Balanced logging in raffle donations as well as seeing members and hearing the new board members speak. Then it was my turn after the refreshment break. Wow, some great stuff was on the table. **Jerry Richards** brought **Francis's** wonderful peanut brittle along with a mystery gift. **Dale Darnell** donated a bottle of wine, **Barbara Davis** had adorable cat mugs (2) and **Mike Chalup** donated an LED flashlight along with a digital photo key-chain. **John Snyder** donated two tanks as well as two bottles of lovely Clos du Bois wines with a VIP wine tasting and tour. Nice John! LORD **Larry Ankuda** donated an air valve as well as a plastic poncho, which was so appropriate for the weather outside. **Teresa Hanson** donated a very nice bottle of wine as well. Last but not least, **Dennis Nasont** showed up a bit later with not one but two pizzas. You rock Dennis. They were so popular, I never got a slice!

So, who were the lucky winners?

Teresa had a winning streak. Someone even said don't sit down Teresa and they were right! Four wins! She walked away with the kitty mugs, a tank, and Francis's peanut brittle and surprise gift. She was so gracious to give **Carl Tuttle** the peanut brittle as he had his eye on it all evening.

**Jackie Gardner** got the two pack of wine with the wine tour and VIP passes. **Bill Shipman** won big with the \$10.00 door prize and a lovely bottle of wine.

### Komodo Park Fees on the Rise

If you want to visit Komodo and see the dragons, be prepared to pay a



Okay, **Howard Timoney**, you also scored with the poncho, valve and key-chain and the flashlight. Nice. **Manuel Mangrobang**, get good use of the tank you won.

If I left anyone out, please complain to Carl! See you on Feb. 20th for the general meeting.

**THE DOOR PRIZE:** The door prize is now \$10 as **Bill Shipman** was in attendance when his name was drawn from the door prize can and scored the \$10! Remember, YOU must be in attendance to be eligible to win.

**THIS MONTH'S RAFFLE:** For this month we're 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: **Greg Davis, Kelly Drake, Tom Gardner, Jackie Gardner, Teresa Hanson, Manuel Mangrobang** and **Adam Nasont**. If you live out of the area or can't attend the General Meeting, please contact, **Leigh Hartley** (+1-408-829-3660, tutcomms@sbc-global.net) to send in a check. She will pick up a great 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. See the Club's Website (Membership

whopping \$500 for the privilege. The administration is planning to raise the Komodo National Park's entrance fee for divers (at present around \$12 per day) to at least that number as part of their effort to boost the conservation area's prestige. They are also considering whether tourist ships entering the area should pay \$50,000 so that only people with deep pockets can visit. Is that the end of liveaboard diving at Cannibal Rock? ☆

Requirements) for information and where to purchase. Contact **Teresa** for additional information on any and all Membership Requirements.

A FREE raffle ticket will be given to the following Dipper who has a birthday this month: **Adam Nasont**. ☆

## PASSING THE BUCK / THE BUCK STOPS HERE

In the early west most men carried a jack knife made by the Buck Knife Company. When playing poker, it was common to place one of these Buck knives in front of the dealer, so that everyone knew who he was. When it was time for a new dealer, the deck of cards and the knife were given to the new dealer. If this person didn't want to deal he would "pass the buck" to the next player. If that player accepted, then "the buck stopped there." ☆

## 2019 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, email: 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**

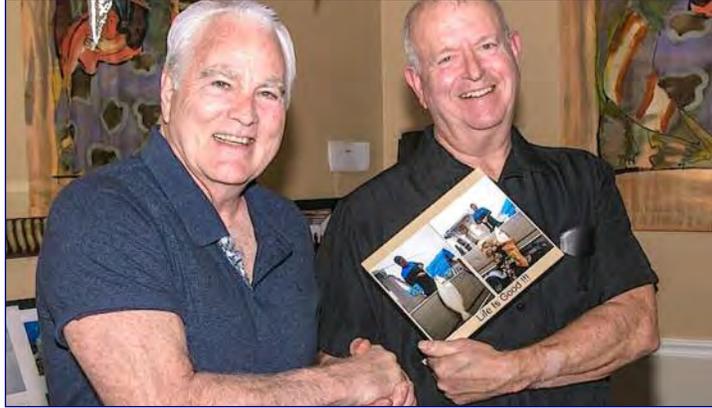
Good luck to all!

☆☆☆☆☆

phy competition entrants.

At the start of the dinner, 2018 Club president **Tom Gardner** welcomed everyone and acknowledged and introduced the new Board for 2019. In addition, there was a request that each table was to "Brainstorm" some ideas for the coming year's dives and other activities. Paper and pens were available and lots of suggestions were written down. The suggestions were reviewed at the Annual Planning Meeting and many will be included in this year's calendar.

After the dinner break the banquet continued with voting on the photo competition. Then **John Snyder** presenting the 2018 Spearfishing Trophy winners with an Award: a \$50 bill to go towards a 2019 fishing license. **Steve Wall** for his 4-pound Cabazon, John Snyder for a 10-pound Lingcod, and **Tom Gardner** for a 32-pound Halibut (all on scuba). Tom also received a nice photo collogue of him holding that bad-boy fish. There were no other trophy winners for 2018, so maybe it's your turn in 2019?



Our guest Master of Ceremonies was a no-show, so Carl Tuttle had to do a stand-in. He kicked off the presentations with a couple of door prize drawings. 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, he 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. Oh, lucky, lucky, you. You got to retire. Just stop rubbing it in everyone's face - by posting all your weekday dives on Facebook! - **Howard Timoney**

9. According to the financial report, your club is in fine shape. So why are you in Las Vegas during the business and general meetings? - **Scott Schimberg**

8. Question, "Is tonight a business meeting?" Yep, it was listed in the club newsletter. Oh, that's right ... you read the newsletter AT the business meeting. - **Teresa Hanson**

7. You went on a dive trip with the manta rays. Don't look now ... there's one flying right over your head ... and you missed it! - **John Snyder**

6. Where's the beef? So, you weren't going to come tonight ... until you found out there was steak on the menu. - **Kelly Drake**

5. You thought it would be a good idea to have a table at the general meeting for things to give away - for FREE! If not taken, you take it home. Yep, that worked as well as the old garage sale proverb: Out crap could be your crap! - **Larry Ankuda**

4. You're such a great guy ... carrying your dive buddies' prescription drugs concealed in your luggage - on airline flights to Micronesia. What were you thinking?! International drug smuggling is frowned upon - **Carl Tuttle**

3. You've been telling your fellow Flipper Dippers that your eyesight is bad and have been going to the doctor to figure out what's wrong. Obviously nothing is wrong if you can win the underwater Easter egg hunt! Lab? - **Barbara Davis**

2. You were skiing in Lake Tahoe and you needed to purchase tickets for the Awards Banquet. OK, what would your meal choice be; ham, ram, lamb, buffalo, beef or bear? Yes, the menu options were published in the December newsletter! - **Jim Rezowalli**

1. Why do you need a needle and thread? Simple, to sew up your dive skin so your private parts don't hang out and attract the sharks. Wait, aren't you supposed to wear a bathing suit too? - **John Snyder**

Carl then recognized the efforts of the many Dippers who gave time and effort to benefit the Club during 2018. Each was rewarded with their choice of either a wine glass, a drink koozie or a apron, 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 joint club Channel Islands dive trip:

**Barbara Davis.**  
• For the night's Awards Banquet: **Teresa Hanson.**  
• For coordination of 2017 Elkhorn Slough kayak tour:

**Jim Rezowalli & Gabi Estill.**  
• For leading the most scheduled club dives and activities: **Manuel Mangrobang.**

• For having their picture in the newsletter most often: **Tom Gardner (17), Barbara Davis** and **Howard Timoney** (tied at 13).

• For coordination of the Annual Easter Egg hunt: **Jim Rezowalli.**

• For coordinating North Coast ab dive and campout: **Tony and Debby Alarcon**

• For the biggest bone-headed goof-up of 2018: Sorry, no one is worthy of this fine trophy ... but there's always this year!

**Dennis Nasont** was presented his 20-year pin 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 2018, officers; **Mike Chalup, Scott Schimberg, Manuel Mangrobang** and **Tom Gardner** were each presented with a special *luminAID* combination solar light/cell phone charger.

Tom concluded the evening by thanking 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 organizing 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! ★

Annual Awards Banquet - Photos by Greg Davis



Continued from front page

ly quite cold, so you suit up in a pretty thick wetsuit,” he says. “It’s incredibly physically demanding.”

They took kayaks out to ferry the golf balls back. “Once you recover many, many golf balls, you put them on the kayak,” he explains. Adds Weber: “We’ll have the kayaks so filled with plastic that we’ll end up just having to tow the kayaks — we’ll have to swim (them) to shore.” There are sharks in the water there, but Savoca says that wasn’t the real threat. “When we were out there,” he says, “We’d hear, ‘plink, plink,’ and we’d look up on the hill and there’d be golf balls flying in off the course right into the ocean where we were doing collections.”

Despite the aerial barrage, they kept at it, says Weber. “Whenever we had good conditions, we were able to pull out between, like, 500 to 5,000 golf balls,” she says.

Over two years, they found more than 50,000 golf balls. The source: five golf courses. Two along the coastline, and three up the Carmel River — those golf balls rolled underwater

down the river to the ocean. In the journal *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, the team notes that golf balls are coated with a thin polyurethane shell that degrades over time. They also

contain zinc compounds that are toxic. Savoca points out that the surf and currents act like a rock grinder and break down the golf balls. While chemicals from 50,000 or so golf balls will have only a small effect on the ocean, Savoca says they do degrade into microplastic pieces that marine animals could eat. The team also notes that there are lots of coastal golf courses around the world, so this may go beyond California.

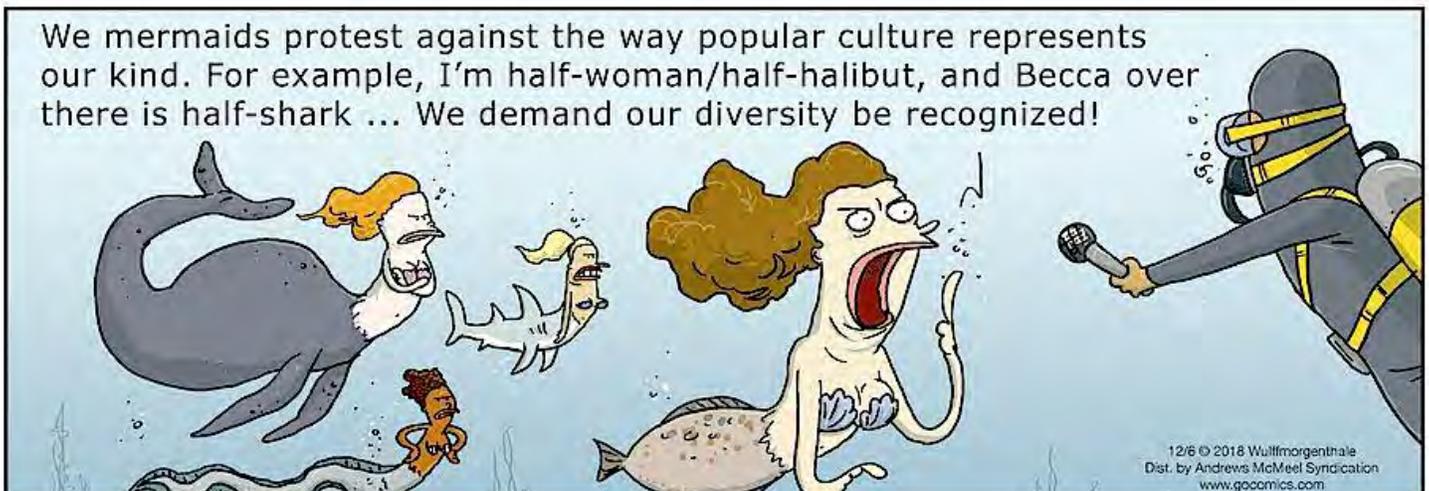


Alex Weber, now 18 and a published author in a scientific journal, plans to apply to university to study marine science. In the meantime, she is still collecting, and keeping up her website. She says it is too bad the golf balls sink. If they floated, people would be shocked and outraged. “If a person could see what we see underwater,” she says, “it would not be acceptable.” See more at: [www.theplasticpick-up.org](http://www.theplasticpick-up.org)

### In Search of Artists!

As of 2018, we have 50,000 golf balls in our garage and are in search of an artist or location to create a piece of art that can be used educationally about our cause. Please reach out!

Email: [theplasticpickup@gmail.com](mailto:theplasticpickup@gmail.com)



# DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

MANUEL MANGROBANG

www.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM

FEBRUARY 2019

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2  
NO SCHEDULED DIVE**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6  
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.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9  
SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3)  
- BREAKWATER NIGHT DIVE**

Coordinator: **Manuel Mangrobang**, 408-813-5139, [manuel.a.mangrobang.iv@gmail.com](mailto:manuel.a.mangrobang.iv@gmail.com). Manuel Mangrobang is planning a night dive. Meet in the upper parking lot at Breakwater at 2 PM. Bring 2 tanks and plan for 2 dives. Please RSVP in case the dive gets canceled or moved due to weather or surf conditions. Please have your waiver if not submitted already.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16  
ANO NUEVO ELEPHANT SEAL  
TOUR** Coordinator: **John Snyder**, 408-202-5196, email: [\[hunter@gmail.com\]\(mailto:hunter@gmail.com\). The elephant seals are in and here's a chance to get a guided tour to see them. Each individual \(or group\) needs to make their own reservation. To make reservations for the Elephant Seal Guided Walks visit Reserve California at \[www.reservecalifornia.com\]\(http://www.reservecalifornia.com\) or call 1-800-444-4445.](mailto:john.fish-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

## GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20th

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
- ★ Share Your Dive Stories
- ★ Great Raffle Prizes

**THE DOOR PRIZE IS \$10!**

**YOU must be present to win!**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23  
NO SCHEDULED DIVE**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28  
PFEIFFER BIG SUR**

**RESERVATIONS** for August 30 **Labor Day Weekend**. The Club is planning to camp and dive at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park during Labor Day Weekend. Make your camping reservations now at Reserve California [www.reservecalifornia.com](http://www.reservecalifornia.com) or call 1-800-444-4445

**FRIDAY, MARCH 1**

**PT LOBOS RESERVATIONS FOR MAY 11** Coordinator: **Scott Schimberg**, 510-682-7600, [scott@schimberg.net](mailto:scott@schimberg.net). Get online to make a team reservation for this Saturday, May 11 S3 dive at Point Lobos: [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=28353](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28353). There is a direct link on the Club's Website, too.

## UPCOMING IN MARCH

- 01 Pt. Lobos Reservations for May 11
- 06 Business Meeting
- 09 Second Saturday SCUBA (S3): Boat Dive
- 20 General Meeting
- 20 Lobster Season Closes



## Ano Nuevo Elephant Seal Tour Saturday, February 16 – Make Your Reservations Now!



The elephant seals are in and here's a chance to get a guided tour to see them. Each individual (or group) needs to make their own reservation. Length: The trail to see the elephant seals includes a 3-4 mile hike and is considered moderate with varied terrain including sand dunes. Time Needed: Guided walks run 2.5 hours from

start to finish and operate daily from early morning to mid-afternoon, rain or shine. Price: \$7.00 + \$3.99 reservation fee for public walks. Children age 4 and under are free.

No food or beverages (except bottled water) are allowed on the tour, and no refreshments are available at the park. Pets are not allowed in the park. Even if it's raining, umbrellas are not allowed on the walk because they frighten the animals.

To make reservations for the Elephant Seal Guided Walks visit ReserveCalifornia at [anonuevo.reservecalifornia.com](http://anonuevo.reservecalifornia.com) or call 1-800-444-4445. After you get your reservation contact Coordinator: **John Snyder**, 408-202-5196, email: [john.fishhunter@gmail.com](mailto:john.fishhunter@gmail.com). ★



## SHIP STATE ROOMS

Traveling by steamboat was considered the height of comfort. Passenger cabins on the boats were not numbered. Instead, they were named after states. To this day, cabins on ships are called staterooms. ★

**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 1108 Sunset Landing  
Rio Vista, CA 94571-5148



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## 2019 COMING EVENTS

Feb 2	Business Meeting
Feb 9	Second Saturday SCUBA
Feb 20	☛ General Meeting
March 7	Business Meeting
March 10	Second Saturday SCUBA
March 21	☛ General Meeting
April 3	Business Meeting
April 13	Second Saturday SCUBA UW Easter Egg Hunt
April 17	☛ General Meeting
April 26-27	SFO Dive Show-Santa Clara
May 3	Business Meeting
May 13	Second Saturday SCUBA
May 17	☛ General Meeting
May 24-27	Memorial Day Weekend



**Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-27:** Come join your fellow Flipper Dippers for a fun-filled weekend at Van Damme State Park. A number of Dippers have reservations and will share their camping sites. Contact Carl Tuttle, 408-829-3660, tut-comms@sbcglobal.net 🌟

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



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