

NEWSLETTER



# San Jose Flipper Dippers

JANUARY  
2020

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

## Aloha Theme for Annual Banquet - New Menu!

Get those Aloha shirts and dresses, grass skirts and coconut bras out of storage! For something different, this year's Annual Awards Banquet is a Hawaiian/ Polynesian theme so be sure to dress accordingly. (coconut bras and grass skirts are optional.) The banquet will be held the evening of **Saturday, January 18th**. This year it will be held at **Rosy's at the Beach**, located in the heart of downtown Morgan Hill, 17320 Monterey Rd, Morgan Hill, CA.\*

This event is sure to be another fun-filled evening! The emphasis of the Awards Banquet is recognizing the outstanding efforts of Club members during the past year. Trophy winners will be presented with special awards, as will Club Officers, Committee Heads, and others who put forth much effort to make Club dives and events a success during 2019. We may even present some long-time members with their 10 or 20 year membership pins. The out-going Board will be thanked for their efforts, and the incoming officers will be welcomed.

As in past years, the Club is subsidizing the cost of

the Banquet. Tickets this year are **prix fixe** on meal selection at \$45.00.

**NEW MENU!**

**Entrée choices include:**

- **Boardwalk Burger** - 1/2lb. Ground Sirloin, Sharp Cheddar or Pepper Jack Cheese, Sautéed Onion, Lettuce, Tomato
- **Shrimp Louie** - Avocado, Cucumber, Red Onion, Hard Boiled Egg, Mixed Greens, Louie Dressing
- **Chicken Penne Pasta** - Chicken Breast, Mushrooms, Tomato, Artichoke Hearts, Basil, Spinach, Roasted Garlic Broth
- **Salmon Tacos** - Corn tortillas, coleslaw, fresh salsa, avocado. Served with rice and black beans
- **Fish and Chips** - Served with fries and cold slaw

**All Dinners Include**

- Beach House Wedge Salad with tomato, red onion, cucumber, seasoned croutons
- Wine With Dinner
- \$12 BYOB Corkage fee
- Dessert: Chocolate Walnut Brownie Sunday

No-host bar starts at 5:00 PM and dinner at 6:00 PM. Hard and soft drinks are available at the restaurant bar. Wine is included with dinner.



## New Board takes over for 2020

Congratulations to our new 2020 Board! From left: **Dennis Nasont** (Sgt.-at-Arms), **Jackie Gardner** (Treas.), **Tom Gardner** (Pres.), **Larry Ankuda** (co-Sec. sharing duties with **Teresa Hanson** and **Abby Golden** (Vice Pres.)). We're sure our Club officers will be organizing a great year of diving and other activities that everyone will enjoy. Join in on the Planning Meeting on Jan 22 or sign up to lead a dive or activity! ☆

**Carl Tuttle** will have tickets on sale at the January General Meeting. Or you can contact Carl (408-829-3660; [tutcomms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tutcomms@sbcglobal.net)) to purchase your tickets. Don't miss this fun-filled evening! ☆

\* There are a number of hotels in Morgan Hill to stay at after the banquet to avoid a late drive home. ☆



## What's Inside?



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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Last month's General Meeting brought some new leadership to the Flipper Dippers dive club. **Tom Gardner** (your's truly) has volunteered to continue as president, his wife **Jackie** will take over as Treasurer, replacing **Scott Schimberg**. A new member, **Abigail Golden**, will replace **Manuel Mangrobang** as Vice-President. Many thanks to both Scott who served two years and Manuel who served three years as officers in the club. **Teresa Hanson** and **Larry Ankuda** have both graciously accepted to continue their positions as co-secretaries, while **Dennis Nasont** has assumed the job of Sergeant-at-Arms.

The club's Annual Awards Banquet is on January 18th at Rosy's at the Beach, in Morgan Hill. If you plan to go be sure to contact **Carl Tuttle** for tickets during the January 15th General Meeting. Don't forget that there is a photography contest at the Awards Banquet too. If you are interested in entering, the rules are in the November newsletter (which can be found on the Club's website).

Another year has passed by and it's time to begin planning for the next year's activities. January 22nd is our Annual Planning meeting to be held at Teresa Hanson's house in Willow Glen. If you have any ideas or suggestions for the club as far as trips or entertainment, be sure to show up and give your suggestions.

Here's hoping for a new year of great diving!

– Your president **Tom**



## San Jose Flipper Dippers

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CLUB OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

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Abby Golden Wilson 703-405-8554

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Teresa Hanson 408-966-6433

### TREASURER

Jackie Gardner 408-274-9447

### SERGEANT AT ARMS

Dennis Nasont 669-400-1643

CLUB COMMITTEES

### AWARDS AND FINES

o Position Open o

### CLUB PROPERTY

Jerry Richards 408-267-7853

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### REFRESHMENTS

Steve Richards 408-267-7853

### STAR ACHIEVEMENT

Jackie Gardner 408-274-9447

### TROPHY COMPETITION

John Snyder 408-378-4963

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



## Refreshments Are Being Served

The following Dippers are asked to bring a tasty goodie to the next General Meeting: **Dennis Nasont, Hunter Reid, Jim Rezowalli, Gerry Richards** and **Steve Richards**. Don't forget you will receive a FREE raffle ticket for your donation! ★



## RAFFLE NEWS

*Leigh Hartley Tuttle*

This holiday's December raffle was a flurry of activity. Lots of tickets were purchased and visions of winning cash from the Christmas tree and great donations on the table were dancing in Flipper Dippers' heads. The cash winners were: **\$50.00** for new five star **Manuel Mangrobang**; **\$30.00** for **Abby** (Golden Girl) **Golden**; and **\$20.00** for former Deposed President, former Emperor and Dear Leader for Life, **Howard Timoney**. As the raffle table donations were too numerous to list, by evenings end, they all were gone. I'm sure there will be some interesting donations for the January 2020 General meeting. Happy New Year to all!!

**THE DOOR PRIZE:** The door prize is now **\$40** as **Brian Zaugg's** name was drawn from the door prize can and he was not at the meeting. So, who will be the BIG Winner at the January General Meeting? 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: **Bob Gault, Giani Dhaval, 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** (+1-829-3660, [tutcomms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tutcomms@sbcglobal.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 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: **Dennis Nasont** and **Manuel Mangrobang**. ☆

## Do we have all your correct information?

Included with the February issue of the newsletter will be the new year's roster for all "members-in-good-standing." If you have an address, phone number or e-mail change, make sure to contact **Carl Tuttle** (408-829-3660, e-mail: [tutcomms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tutcomms@sbcglobal.net)) with your

update ASAP! Don't let this new roster be printed with erroneous information! Remember, our roster is for the private non-commercial use of Flipper Dippers Club members only. ☆

## Annual Club Planning Meeting

Our annual Club Planning Meeting for 2020 has been scheduled for **Wednesday, January 22**, at 6:30 PM, at the home of **Teresa Hanson**, 1310 Cherry Avenue, San Jose. This is where the decisions are made on dates for major Club events and activities, and the master calendar for the year is set. **All new 2020 Club officers AND committee heads should plan to attend.**

Any members interested in being involved in planning Club dives and activities are encouraged to join us. Everyone please bring an appetizer-type dish to share and something to drink. ☆

## 2020 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](mailto: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!

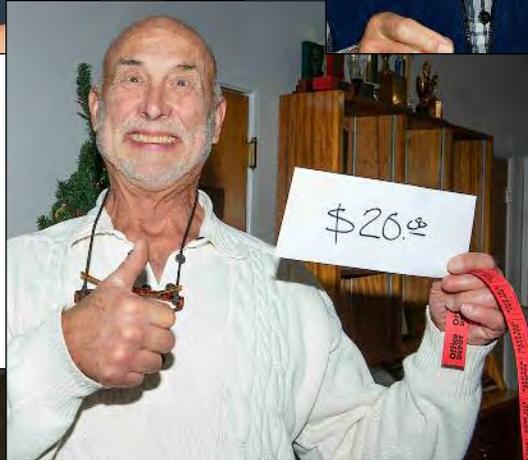


The Crystal Explorer by The Crystal Kayak Company is a totally crystal-clear canoe-kayak hybrid that lets users observe the underwater world below them! The Crystal Explorer features durable yet lightweight construction and is designed for conditions ranging from totally flat to breezy and choppy waters. It's removable frame, seats and inflatable chambers allow for easy stacking, storage and transportation. Featuring an advanced polymer hull and corrosion-resistant hardware, this kayak is sure to turn heads and is a favorite on the water. Package includes 2 paddles, 2 Seats and 2 Flotation Pouches w/ Zippered Nylon Covers. ☆



## Christmas Raffle Winners!

The turnout at the December General Meeting produced some BIG winners. And then there were those bottles of liquid refreshments . . . and LOTS of great food for all to enjoy before the holiday. Clockwise, from right: **Abby Golden, Leigh Tuttle, Jackie Gardner** and **Barbara Davis** are the evening's "Christmas Sweater Girls." LORD **Larry Ankuda** is all set, **Howard Timoney** got the \$20 cash. **Abby** scored the \$30 cash, **Teresa Hanson** adds to her wine collection, **Hunter Reid** found a new job and **Manuel Mangrobang** took the big prize envelope containing \$50 cash! (Photos by **Mike Chalup**) 🌟



## Pt. Lobos it is . . .

Howard Timoney

Friday, December 27. After the December 14 S3 dive was canceled, the gang of 5 including **Barb Davis**, **Grace Chi**, **Donovan Hill**, and **Abby Golden** and me, were hot to get into the water. Barbara and Grace were out of town, so the Gang of 3 (Donovan, Abby and HT) went down to Monterey looking for good diving. The wave models were sketchy as were the dive reports.

We stopped at Breakwater. The waves were breaking up to the stairs and the water looked brown. Abby looked online for the Pt. Lobos Whalers Cove Webcam. It didn't look good, but in her first official act as vice president-elect she decided we should take a drive down to Pt. Lobos to try out our luck anyway.

Monastery Beach was a mess. The swell was coming straight in, so the breakers were large. I'm happy to report there were no divers gearing up at Monastery.

The gate keeper at Pt. Lobos only had one reservation for the day so there was lots of room. She offered to let us drive down to Whalers Cove to check out the conditions before paying the entrance fee and we accepted. Conditions looked sketchy, there were large breakers hitting the wall on the far side of Whalers Cove. It was high tide, the swell at the boat launch ramp

was almost getting up to the road. But it was a sunny day, we had come all this way, and we were thinking Santa Claus might have one more gift for us. We drove back up to the gate to pay our entrance fee and back to the parking lot to gear up for diving. We were the only divers in the parking lot.

We didn't swim too far out. We dropped into about 20-feet of water and visibility was about 15-feet. Eh, not bad. We started swimming out to sea. The far-

didn't care for us getting up close for a look, so it took off. More sheephead. Crabs. All the usual things to see. Max depth 70 feet. Water temp was a warm 56 degrees for both dives. The waves were picking up as the day went on. It was surgery on the bottom, nothing too crazy, so it was a fun ride. With the great visibility we were more interested in cruising and enjoying the vistas instead of concentrating on the small critters on the rocks.

There was a couple from Sweden gearing up as we were changing after the second dive. Apparently, the dive reports they got in Sweden were good, so they came for a dive.

For our après dive lunch, Abby suggested Crossroads BBQ in the Crossroads Carmel shopping center. Great BBQ sandwiches on garlic bread. Abby and I had the pulled pork, Donovan had the

brisket. Great food, good prices. Large selection of beer, wine and the usual soft drinks. This is definitely the new place to go when we are down in Carmel.

Scorecard: 3 went into the water, 3 came out. +40-foot visibility. Some surge. Great BBQ. 6 thumbs up for the day.

And the moral of the story is: Some days you just got to ignore the wave model and dive reports and go diving. You can never tell. ★



ther out we got, the better the visibility got. At 40-foot deep the visibility was a solid 40-feet. At the 55-foot depth I rolled over and could see the surface.

The recent storms have broken up most of the kelp. There was some kelp still attached to the bottom. Pt. Lobos has some urchin barrens and some areas with no urchins.

First dive saw several sheepheads. I got to 67 feet. Second dive saw a large bat ray (3-feet across) on the bottom shortly after we dropped down. It



## Eagle vs Octopus

### Canadians rescue bird locked in battle with giant mollusc

Employees at a fish farm in Vancouver intervened when an eagle tried to eat a large octopus, resulting in a battle. The bald eagle on Canada's west coast has learned that its eyes may be bigger than its stomach after it was nearly drowned by an octopus it tried to eat.

After hearing shrieks coming from the water on the north-western tip of Vancouver Island, employees at a fish farm investigating the noises happened upon a bird and cephalopod locked in battle. The giant Pacific octopus, which had turned a deep crimson, had wound its tentacles tightly around the eagle, which was floating helplessly at the surface.

"At first we just watched and we didn't know if we should interfere because, you know, it's Mother Nature," John Ilett, an employee at Mowi West Canada, told CTV News.

But realizing the eagle was likely to drown, the crew decided to intervene. Ilett maneuvered a pike pole in the water to pull the octopus over



Screen capture from the video shows the giant Pacific octopus hanging on to the Bald Eagle.

to the boat. The crew managed to haul both aboard, disentangling the bird from the strong tentacles, before tossing the octopus back into the water.

"He deprived the poor octopus of a good meal," joked Jennifer Mather, an octopus expert at the University of Lethbridge. Octopuses are generalist predators, said Mather, meaning they often seek out whatever food is nearby and edible. "They're quite wide in their prey choice," she said, pointing to another recent incident on Vancouver Island where an octopus devoured a seagull. "If something is on the surface of the water, and the octopus is close to the surface of the water, it's food."

Giant Pacific octopus in the region can grow quite large, with some weighing as much as 115 pounds. But Mather cautioned that while the cephalopods can appear daunting in size, they are often incredibly shy, going into hiding when divers are nearby. After the eagle was pried from its grasp, the octopus dove back into the depths, its colours subtly shifting from reddish to brown. The shaken eagle perched warily on a nearby log before flying off.

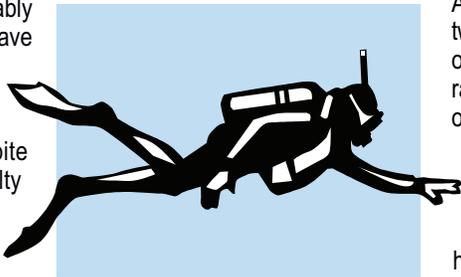
"It was a very cool situation," said Ilett. "I've been out here 20 years and that's one of the coolest things I've ever seen." ☆

## "Traditional" Fins Are Makin a Comeback

Back in the day, all diving fins were made of hard rubber. Their big advantage was that, apart from having the fin straps, they seemed to last forever. Probably many of you still have some, such as Scubapro Jetfins or Typhoon Surfmasters, despite their weight penalty when it comes to packing for a trip.

Then came lightweight

technopolymer fins. Some of them were very good, others were less effective at their ability to propel a diver through the water. Some divers preferred to stay with their traditional fins, while others embraced the new technology, and certain technopolymer fins became almost ubiquitous at dive sites. A good example is Mares Plana Avanti Quattro fins, which I consider the dive guide's fin of choice worldwide. There are others that are equally good -- Scubapro



Seawing Nova fins, and fins by Aqua Lung, Cressi, Oceanic, TUSA and a host of others come to mind.

Back in 1998, scuba diving entrepreneur Pete McCarthy thought up a fin with a split blade. He sold licenses to use the design, but Apollo and Atomic were the only two manufacturers to take him up on it. But after scuba magazines raved about their efficacy, all the other manufacturers then jumped on the idea and made their own split-blade fins.

Alas, few of these were effective, and divers attempting to head into a strong current while wearing them made little headway. This gave split fins a bad rap that is still reflected today in exchanges on social media. Divers are never short of voicing opinions, and some vociferously express their opinions that all split fins are no good.

However, over the last 20 years, scuba magazines have made science-based comparison tests of fins, and the lightweight technopolymer fins, whether with Pete McCarthy's split blades or not, have always performed better than tradi-

tional hard rubber fins because they tend to have bigger blades, use several different materials in combination to control the flex of the blade, and, being lighter, take less effort to shift through water.

(We should not forget Bob Evans, the American maverick fin manufacturer with his Force Fins made entirely from polyurethane. He may have been guilty of experimenting with some seriously off-the-wall prototype designs that were disappointing, but his popular designs had a loyal following for many years.)

Fins in the style of those original old fins still hanging in your garage are making a comeback. The traditional hard rubber ones, such as Apeks RK3, Scubapro Jetfins and Hollis F1 are regaining popularity, especially among technical divers. Because they tend to be in the water much longer than recreational divers, they usually wear drysuits. Thus, they need to wear sufficient lead to compensate for the loss of weight of the gas they breathe during a dive (as many as four tanks' worth), which leaves them ending up with quite a lot of air in their suits. This air can migrate to the lower legs, and lightweight fins increases the tendency for a drysuit diver to flip

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# DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

MANUEL MANGROBANG

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JANUARY 2020

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 4**  
**NO SCHEDULED DIVE**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8**  
**BUSINESS MEETING 7:30 PM**  
Meeting will be held at **Teresa Hanson's** home (408-966-6433, [teresa33b@gmail.com](mailto:teresa33b@gmail.com)). 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, JANUARY 11**  
**SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3) - BEACH DIVE**

Coordinator: **Howard Timoney**, 408-439-6822. [howardtoney@comcast.net](mailto:howardtoney@comcast.net). Howard is planning a beach dive. Meet in the Upper Parking at Breakwater. and we'll decide where to dive based on conditions. Bring 2 tanks and plan on making 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.

## **GENERAL MEETING** **WEDNESDAY,** **January 15**

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

**Celebrate 55 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 \$40!**  
**YOU must be present to win!**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 18**  
**ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET**

Rosy's at the Beach, 17320 Monterey Rd, Morgan Hill, 95037, No Host Bar: 5:00 pm, Dinner: 6:00 pm. **LAST CALL!** Contact **Carl Tuttle** for dinner tickets 408-829-3660, [tutcomms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tutcomms@sbcglobal.net). See the front page for details.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22**  
**ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING**

Annual meeting to plan the Club's calendar for the coming year is being hosted by **Teresa Hanson**, at 6:30 PM. Come share your ideas for dives and other Club events. All new and continuing officers and committee heads should plan to attend. Other members interested in being involved in planning Club dives and activities are encouraged to join us.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 25**  
**NO SCHEDULED DIVE**

**UPCOMING IN FEBRUARY**

- 05 Business Meeting
- 08 S3 Dive
- 19 **General Meeting**



Continued from page 6

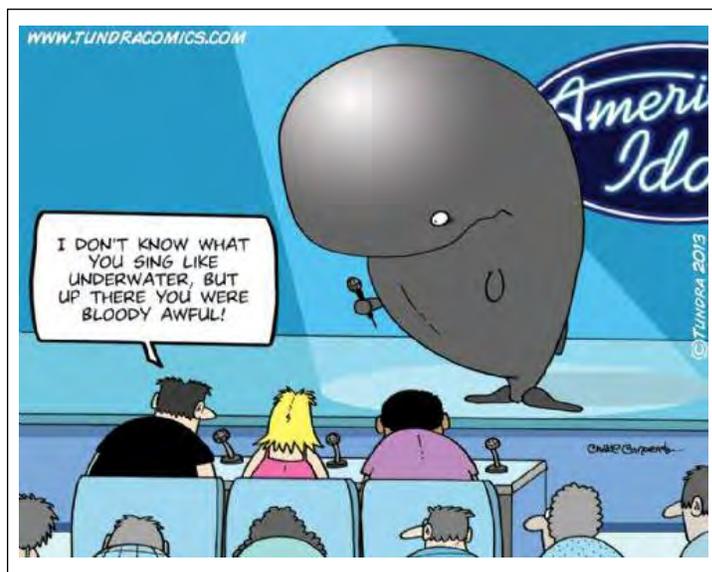
upside down -- not good. A way to compensate for this was wearing ankle weights, which negated the lightweight fins' advantage of reduced effort needed to move. But technical training agencies, notably GUE, came up with the solution of using heavier fins -- hence the resurgence in popularity of the heavy and hard rubber style. But when it comes to packing for a flight to some distant dive destination, the weight penalty makes for these fins' biggest drawback.

All the other fin types are out there still, and whatever type makes you happy is the right choice. That said, social media and forums are full of people asking about what equipment to buy when they start diving. Which would you recommend to them? Do you prefer the traditional hard rubber or lightweight technopolymer? Or do you have split fins that are effective? We'd like to know. Write your fin commentary to [BenDDavison@undercurrent.org](mailto:BenDDavison@undercurrent.org) and include your town and state. ★

## **Good News for Cozumel Divers: Reefs Reopen**

Cozumel reefs have reopened for divers. From December 15, 2019, to March 31, 2020, scuba and snorkeling activities will be allowed in the reef zones from Palancar to Colombia, however the prohibition will continue at El Cielo. During August and September 2020, the government plans to suspend diving and snorkeling in the area of Colombia reef to the Bricks and Cuevones sites of the Palancar reef system, when the corals spawn.

One of Undercurrent's undercover writers visited Cozumel during the reef closure and dived with Living Underwater. He provides the background to the closure and more information about the reefs and the crowded diving. You can read his story here: [www.undercurrent.org/blog/2019/12/23/living-underwater-cozumel-mexico/](http://www.undercurrent.org/blog/2019/12/23/living-underwater-cozumel-mexico/) ★



**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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Río Vista, CA 94571-5148



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## 2020 COMING EVENTS

Jan 8	Business Meeting
Jan 11	Second Saturday SCUBA
Jan 15	☛ General Meeting
Jan 18	Annual Awards Banquet
Jan 22	Annual Planning Meeting
Feb 5	Business Meeting
Feb 8	Second Saturday SCUBA
Feb 19	☛ General Meeting
Mar 4	Business Meeting
Mar 14	Second Saturday SCUBA
Mar 18	☛ General Meeting

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

### *ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET* *Saturday, January 18, 2020*

**T**he Flipper Dippers' Annual Awards Banquet will be on January 18, 2020. The banquet is going to be held at **Rosy's at the Beach**, located in downtown Morgan Hill. See the front page for details. ★



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