

NEWSLETTER



# San Jose Flipper Dippers

JULY  
2020

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD  
3RD WEDNESDAY  
OF EACH MONTH  
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## Yahoo! We're back in the pool!



Even Barbie enjoyed the sunny day at Monastery Beach.



The ocean has opened for recreational scuba diving! However, the state guidelines are still in place such as wearing a mask – no, not your dive mask – and keeping a 6-foot social distance while suiting up. A number of Flipper Dippers couldn't be happy-

er and took advantage of the "Pool" being open and jumped right in! The first dive was the June 13th S3 (Second Saturday Scuba) dive coordinated by **Carl Tuttle**. We had eleven folks show up at Monastery Beach for great ocean conditions and sunny, warm, weather. Some folks came to the beach just to enjoy the day and share the camaraderie with their fellow Flipper Dippers. Not satisfied with just one day of diving, emails were sent out to Club members for another dive on June 20, and five Dippers descended on Monastery Beach for a Third Saturday Scuba (TS3).

Following are the dive reports from **Barbara Davis**

### June 13th, Second Saturday Scuba (S3) – South Monastery Beach

Most of us had been out of the water for 3 months or more, so we eagerly assembled at South Monastery Beach on Saturday, June 13th to get back in the water! Diving Dippers included **Barbara Davis, Teresa Hanson, Manuel Mangrobang, Dennis Nasont, Scott** and **Michelle Schimberg** (and friend), **Howard Timoney**, and **Carl Tuttle. Bonnie Nasont, Jim Rezowalli** and **Gabi**

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### Scientists listen in on narwhals and discover they sound like chainsaws

What does the mysterious narwhal say? Bzzzzzzzzzzzz.

Narwhals, the unicorns of the sea, are almost as mysterious as their mythical counterparts. But now we know a lot more about what they sound like when they're doing their thing underwater.

A team of geophysicists led by Evgeny Podolskiy from Hokkaido University in Japan rode along with Inuit hunters to record narwhal calls and sounds in a Greenland fjord. The whales make a fascinating collection of clicking, whistling and buzzing noises.

The American Geophysical Union (AGU) described the animals as "notoriously shy and skittish." The researchers published a study on the narwhal sounds in the AGU's Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans on Tuesday. Podolskiy's main study area is the sounds of glaciers. "I realized working in the area and not paying attention to the elephant in the room -- the key endemic legendary Arctic unicorn



just flowing around our glacier -- was a big mistake," he said.

The elusive animals use whistles for social conversations and clicks for navigation and hunting. "The closer narwhals get to their food, the faster they click, until the noise becomes a buzz not unlike that of a chainsaw," the AGU said. "This terminal buzz helps the nar-

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Looks like the month of June seemed to be the opening month for Monterey diving. Some of our Club members have had several dives this past month. Almost every weekend!

They say that the beaches are now open including Monastery, Carmel State Beach and the Breakwater – and dive shops too. The reports are good visibility and many jellyfish. I haven't been this month so I can't confirm these reports but **Carl Tuttle**, **Barbara Davis** and several others can. Some dive shops are still waiting for pools to open so they can resume offering scuba classes.

Looking at this month's calendar there is a S3 dive on July 11 which will be coordinated by Barbara. So lets get back in the water! Due to continued restrictions on gathering and some areas still closed, we'll hold off on the Panther Beach Cleanup on July 12. There's a possible halibut dive on July 25 depending on boats available. Does anyone have a boat anymore?

If you're tired of sitting at home and just want to get out and dive, try joining one of our Club activities. Unfortunately, we'll still need to hold out on gathering for Club meetings. Keep your flippers crossed that this won't last much longer, but it's better to play it safe.

Everyone stay healthy and keep safe!

– Your president **Tom**



## San Jose Flipper Dippers

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## Diver' I.Q. Review Corner

★ ★ Just For Fun ★ ★

## What's your solar eclipse identity?

### Your Day of Birth:

- 1 – 5 Creator
- 6 – 10 Ruler
- 11 – 15 Guardian
- 16 – 20 Oracle
- 21 – 25 Angel
- 26 – 31 Seeker

### The Last Number of Your Birth Year:

- 0 of Powerful
- 1 of Cosmic
- 2 of Divine
- 3 of Limitless
- 4 of Sacred
- 5 of Radiant
- 6 of Profound
- 7 of Spiritual
- 8 of Radical
- 9 of Magnificent

### Your Zodiac Sign:

- Aries – Passion
- Taurus – Pleasure
- Gemini – Ideas
- Cancer – Compassion
- Leo – Strength
- Virgo – Excellence
- Libra – Peace
- Scorpio – Mysteries
- Sagittarius – Truth
- Capricorn – Wisdom
- Aquarius – Revolution
- Pisces – Visions



Join us online at our virtual June General Meeting for a great time to share your latest dive stories or discuss how you're keeping busy. ☆

### RAFFLE NEWS

*Leigh Hartley Tuttle*

It sure miss the Flipper Dippers' meetings and the raffle. Always so nice seeing everyone and selling tickets for wonderful table items that the Dippers donate. It was a bummer not being able to hold the Spring Fling Raffle in May. Maybe when we get back to in-person General Meetings, we'll kick it off with a

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whals pinpoint the location of their prey."

The soundscape produced by narwhals is giving researchers new insights into their summer-time feeding behaviors. It also shows that the whales have a daredevil streak as they swim close to glaciers that are in the process of releasing icebergs.

The catalog of narwhal noises adds to a growing understanding of these enigmatic animals. Scientists recently looked into the advantages for narwhals with big tusks.

While most of us will never encounter a narwhal in the wild, we can live vicariously through the scientists' recordings. Narwhal chatter may

COVID-Fling Raffle? I hope we can all get together soon. Be safe out there and join in on the dives. At least you can do that and do your social distancing after the dives. ☆

### MEMBERSHIP

*Teresa Hanson*

Now that we're back in the water prospective members looking to dive and we look forward to diving with you! Prospective **Ken Agur** only needs one more signature. See the Club's Website (Membership Requirements) for more information. Contact **Teresa** for additional information on any and all Membership Requirements.

If we had a regular General Meeting, a FREE raffle ticket could be given to the following Dippers who have a birthday this month: **Barbara Davis, Scott Schimberg, Michelle Schimberg** and **Carl Tuttle**. Happy birthday to all! ☆

sound quite different from the more familiar soaring songs of humpback whales, but it's plenty charming in its own right. ☆



### 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, **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*



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*Estill* came along to enjoy the beach, and Jim used his drone and camera to document the day.

Our dive teams were Barbara/Howard/Manuel, Carl/Dennis/Teresa and Scott/Michelle/friend. It was a beautiful sunny day and the viz was great! Up to 30 – 40 feet. Water temp was a chilly 48 degrees on my computer, but several people reported 50 degrees. It was pretty calm, so for the entry, it was easy to walk in and put our fins on in the water. Teresa and Dennis had some difficulty in getting their fins on so Carl provided some assistance to both – after all, aren't dive buddies supposed to help one another?

For the first dive we swam out to the kelp and followed the line with kelp and rocks to our left and sand to our right. Lots of the little purple sea urchins but they thinned out as we got farther out. There were a lot of fish, including a good-sized lingcod. I saw 3 live abalone, which was great because there are a lot of abalone shells on the bottom. Lots of feather duster worms. Dive time was 47 minutes with a max depth of 50 feet. (We use a compass heading of 320 degrees to find the kelp.) Exiting the water we crawled out, just to be safe!

On the way back into shore, the waves did a little number on Dennis and he lost his GoPro camera. While he made his way back to the cars, as luck would have it, Jim was double checking the beach and spotted the GoPro just down a ways from where Dennis lost it. A lucky day for Dennis!

Carl, Dennis and Teresa elected not to do the second dive, but for the rest, we swam along the rocks to the left, at a bearing of 270. After a few minutes, we headed due North to look for some rocks we found before. Great viz made it easy! We found a wolf eel (probably the same one we saw out there a couple of months ago.) Coming back we triangulated the headings and ended up coming back along the



Above left, Howard found a new dive buddy. Above, Manuel isn't sure about this Skinny Dipper. Far left, Barbara didn't have her glasses on and couldn't figure out who was taking her picture.



same rock/sand boundary as the first dive. There were clouds of tiny fry. Dive time was 37 minutes with a max depth about 42 feet. (Next time we're going to try to find the rocks in a straight line. Figure a heading of 315 or so.)

After our second dive we enjoyed a nice socially-distanced lunch, along with Barbara's killer brownies. Since Scott was unable to attend last January's Awards Banquet and the beaches have been closed, Carl was finally able to present Scott with his "Award" a special 24-oz Hydro Flask, a hot & cold insulated thermos.

There were not many people on the beach when we arrived at 8 am, but quite a few when we left around 2 pm. People definitely enjoying the warm, sunny weather and getting out of the house!

## June 20th, Third Saturday Scuba (TS2) – South Monastery Beach

Conditions continued to look good, so Dippers *Grace Chi, Barbara Davis,*

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**John Snyder, Carl Tuttle and Abby Wilson** decided to head for South Monastery again on Saturday, June 20th. We were also joined by Abby's husband Ben, who enjoyed the beach and carried everyone's fins back to the cars.

Dive conditions were very similar to



Left, Scott is one happy diver! Above, what's wrong with this picture? Oh, that's right, "Don't take my picture with wet hair!" Sorry Michelle . . . didn't you read that sign behind you? It says, "DANGER!"

the correct compass heading to the beach. Carl, Grace and Abby were waiting patiently on the bottom wondering if Barbara had ditched them. She was having a bit of difficulty clearing her ears on her way back down and after joining up the group headed towards the beach. John surfaced as well, and then made his way in separate from the group. We surfaced again after our safety stop to check our heading and swam on the surface to our exit point at the end of the beach. The surf had picked up a little, so we had to time our exits. Abby got rolled in the surf a little, but made it out safely. Carl did the "Monastery Crawl" out of the water and experienced the typical infusion of Monsterberries in his Air II.

After our second dive we again enjoyed a nice socially-distanced lunch, along with Barbara's killer brownies!

Carl, John and Barbara stopped by Aquarius Dive shop to get tanks filled before heading home. There were not as many people on the beach this time, but it was great to be back in the water again! 🌟

what we had experienced on June 13th, but the weather was cloudy and overcast all day.

John had a bad o-ring on one of his high pressure hoses so he headed to Aquarius Dive Shop, in Monterey, to get it fixed and was able to join us for the second dive.

The first dive was pretty much the same as last weekend, with a max depth of 50 and a dive time of 43 minutes. We think we saw the same lingcod in the exact same spot! Still clear water and great viz! Carl spotted a second, but smaller ling in the same area. There's a rock on a section of the beach where we've found the exit is easiest halfway between it and the end of the beach. Barbara and Abby surfaced a bit too close to the rock and elected to descend and swim to the right a bit before exiting. Grace and Carl exited closer to the rock. It was challenging, but everyone made it out safely!

During the surface interval the surf picked up a bit, but we studied the waves and sets and decided it was still doable. John had returned with his o-ring replaced and was getting ready to join in on the second dive when the o-ring on his tank valve split. Rather than dealing with replacing it, he just pulled out his second tank, swapped over the BCD and everything was good-to-go.

For the second dive, we used a heading of 290 degrees. We found some very nice rocks, but not the same ones as last weekend. No wolf eel this time. Carl and John saw a big cabazon in the rocks the others swam right over and didn't see it. Max depth was 52 feet and the dive time was 45 minutes. After we turned around to head in, Barbara had a little navigation trouble and decided to surface to ensure we had



## Turtles get boost as Malaysian state bans egg trade

A Malaysian state that is a major nesting site for turtles will ban the trade in their eggs in a boost for the threatened creatures. Terengganu, with a long coastline along the South China Sea, is the biggest nesting centre for turtles in peninsular Malaysia.

Turtles regularly crawl ashore to lay their eggs on beaches in north-eastern Terengganu state, and the spectacle of babies hatching and scurrying into the sea is a major draw for tourists. But numbers have declined rapidly over the decades as they are hunted for their meat and shells, while rampant poaching of their eggs is also a major threat.

Despite pressure from conservation groups, Terengganu continued to allow the trade in some species' eggs, which are a popular local delicacy

and are sold openly in markets. But authorities have decided to ban all egg trade by the end of the year due



to a "sharp decline in arrivals of all types of turtle species in Terengganu," Azman Ibrahim, a senior politician in the state, told AFP.

"It is hoped that we can save marine life, protect the environment and help boost tourism revenue for the state." He gave no indication of

the proposed penalties for breaking the ban. But it has seen a sharp fall in arrivals of Hawksbill and Olive Ridley turtles -- two of the main species -- said Azman.

The sale of critically endangered Leatherback turtles' eggs had already been banned after massive declines in the number of creatures coming ashore to nest. Elizabeth John, a spokeswoman for wildlife trade watchdog Traffic, hailed the proposed ban as "a critical move to safeguard marine turtles".

Mohamad Uzair Rusli, a biologist working on saving sea turtles, also welcomed the "bold move" but warned that the rules must be strictly implemented.

Enforcing a ban may be difficult -- selling and eating eggs is part of local culture in Terengganu, where some consider them aphrodisiacs. Malaysia's states make their own laws relating to turtles and others, including Sabah and Sarawak on Borneo island, had already banned the sale of eggs. ★

## Giant octopus attacks steamer ship!



Trees – even beautiful front lawn set-piece trees – eventually die. Whether it's a fatal wind or blight or old age, their demise may leave an emotional and aesthetic hole.

One remedy enthusiastically endorsed was to carve the stump remains into a thought-provoking sculpture.

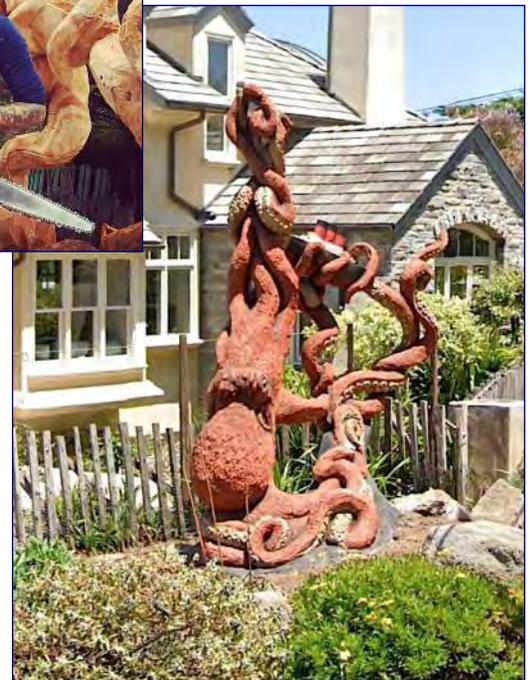
Pacific Grove homeowners Matthew and Jessica Denecour looked at their fallen giant, with only a pair of tall stumps remaining, and saw opportunity. They commissioned artist Griffon Ramsey to transform the tree with one of her imaginative chain-saw carvings. The result was an intricate scene of a monster octopus crushing a steamer ocean liner with its tentacles. Ramsey completed the spectacular "Bad Day on the S.S. Normandie" in September 2017. She said it was her largest sculpture to date.

The S.S. Normandie was the

name of an actual ship which had its own bad days (though none involving a giant octopus). In 1939, the new French ocean liner was seized and interned while visiting New York harbor when France and Germany went to war. Three years later an accidental fire and sloppy extinguishing caused the docked ship to flip over and sink on February 10, 1942. It was broken up for scrap in 1946.

Since the artist completed her work

there have been changes to the landscaping and the sculpture is no longer hidden amongst the trees. The sculpture is visible from the public street next to the driveway, facing a golf course. If your interested, after your diving, you can drive by and see the sculpture on Del Monte Boulevard. at Crest Avenue, in Pacific Grove. ★



# DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

ABBY GOLDEN WILSON



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JULY 2020

## ★ NOTICE ★

With the “stay-at-home,” 10 person social gathering and 6-foot social distance order in place around the state, to deal with the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, both the June Business and General Meetings will be “virtual” meetings. All previously scheduled activities are to be determined (TBD).

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 1  
BUSINESS MEETING 7:30 PM**  
NO BBQ - The meeting **virtually**. All members are invited to attend, please email **Carl Tuttle** or **Abby Golden Wilson** if you need the link to join. Bring your own food, drinks, and internet connection and let's discuss ideas for how we can stay connected while apart!

**SATURDAY, JULY 4  
NO LICENSE FISHING DAY**

**SATURDAY, JULY 11  
SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3):  
BARBARA'S SECRET SPOT**  
Coordinator: **Barbara Davis**, 408-656-6390, bjdscuba123@gmail.com.

Details: Barbara is coordinating this S3 dive at a 'Secret Spot.' Meet at 8:00 A.M. Bring 2 tanks and plan on making a 2nd dive under the water. As this dive is before the General Meeting, you'll need to contact Barbara to get the location and directions. In addition, due to the COVID-19 social distancing requirement, a mask will be needed while suiting up.

## GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

7:30 PM

### Celebrating 56 Years

Join us online for our Virtual General Meeting. Virtual meeting invites will be sent to all members, but everyone is welcome to join in the fun!

Please contact us on our website, or email the club VP, Abby Golden Wilson (abbygolden15@gmail.com), if you would like to attend.

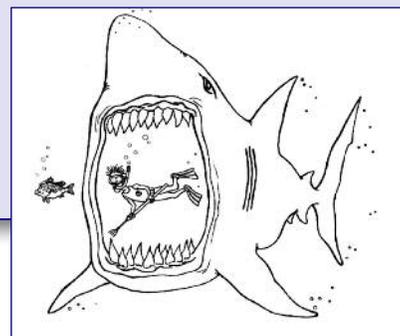


**SUNDAY, JULY 12  
PANTHER BEACH CLEAN UP**  
On Hold for this month

**SATURDAY, JULY 18  
NO SCHEDULED DIVE**

**SATURDAY, JULY 25  
HALIBUT DIVE**  
Coordinator Wanted! – Boats Too!

.....  
**UPCOMING IN AUGUST - TBD**  
5 **Business Meeting - TBD**  
8 **Second Saturday SCUBA - Boat Dive - TBD**  
15 **Elkhorn Slough Cleanup - TBD**  
19 **General Meeting - Food Drive - TBD**



## Labor Day Weekend

Sept 3-6 (subject to change)

Dippers **Carl Tuttle**, **Dennis Nasont** and **Tom Gardner** each have campsite reservations for the Labor Day Weekend at Van Damme State Park in Mendocino.

(Unless the State Parks remain closed and reservations are canceled due to COVID-19.) They all indicated that space is available to share in their sites. Abalone fishing is closed but, they plan on bringing their tanks, kayaks, mountain bikes to do some bike riding, and maybe some hiking. The dive shop in Ft. Bragg closed so



there's no place for air fills. It's always a fun time to sit around the camp fire in the evening, telling stories and sharing great food! So if you're interested in joining in for the holiday weekend be sure to let them know. More details in next month's newsletter ★



☛ **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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## 2020 COMING EVENTS

July 1	Business Meeting
July 4	No License Fishing Day
July 11	Second Saturday SCUBA
July 12	Panther Beach Clean Up - On HOLD
July 15	🐡 General Meeting
July 25	Halibut Dive
Aug 5	Business Meeting - TBD
Aug 8	Second Saturday SCUBA - Boat Dive - TBD
Aug 15	Elkhorn Slough Cleanup
Aug 19	🐡 General Meeting - Food Drive - TBD
Sept 2	Business Meeting - TBD
Sept 3-6	Labor Day Weekend - Van Damme & Albion
Sept 5	No License Fishing Day
Sept 12	Second Saturday SCUBA
Sept 16	🐡 General Meeting - TBD
Sept 19	International Coastal Cleanup Day

### ★ NOTICE ★

**D**ive activities are now **open** with the mask wearing and 6-foot distancing orders in place to deal with the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Both the Club's Business and General Meetings continue to be "virtual" meetings. **All scheduled activities continue to be determined.** ★

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



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