

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

SEPTEMBER 2020

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD
3RD WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH
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Men rescued from deserted Pacific island after writing SOS in sand

Three men have been rescued from a tiny Pacific island after writing a giant SOS sign in the sand that was spotted from above, authorities say.

The men had been missing in the Micronesia archipelago for nearly three days when their distress signal was spotted Sunday on uninhabited Pikelot Island by searchers on Australian and U.S. aircraft, the Australian defense department said.

The men had apparently set out from Pulawat atoll in a 20-foot boat on July 30 and had intended to travel about 30 miles to Pulap atoll when they sailed off course and ran out of fuel, the department said.

Searchers in Guam asked for Australian help. The military ship, Canberra, which was returning to Australia from exercises in Hawaii, diverted to the area and joined forces with U.S. searchers from Guam.

The men were found about 120 miles from where they had set out. They were found in good condition, and an Australian military helicopter was able to land on the beach and give them food and water.

A Micronesian patrol vessel was due to pick them up. SOS is an internationally recognized distress signal that originates from Morse code. ★



What a Dump!

On August 15th, Dippers *John Snyder, Carl Tuttle, Tom and Jackie Gardner, and Jim and Gabi Rezowalli*, along with some friends, joined together to assist in cleaning up a newly acquired piece of property of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation. The property is one of a number of parcels the Foundation has recently acquired. This particular area has a home – if you want to call it that – the owner appears to have rented out rooms to some of the people who worked in the agricultural fields in the area. There was even a ‘Double wide’ trailer on the property along with a kluge of ‘rooms’ added to the back of the house. The Foundation had already removed the trailer and the trash and junk from inside the house when the Dippers and friends stepped in to aid in further cleanup. Apparently the owner was a hoarder as the rooms were piled high with ‘Stuff.’

It also became apparent that a watershed ravine behind the house became a dumping ground for all kinds of trash, carpet, toys, aluminum and garbage. After a couple of hours bagging an amount of trash, it was determined some heavy equipment would be needed to dig into the hillside to uncover the additional debris. Thanks to the Dippers for their support! ★

What's Inside?



President's Corner 2
I.Q. Review 2
Membership 3
In Memoriam 4
S3 Dive Report 5
PADI Rescue Class 7
Activity Calendar 7

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



September is already here. Another summer is in the past, fall is on its way but the weather is still hot and muggy with forest fires raining ash over much of California. This has unfortunately caused the cancelation of activities that club members enjoy.

There was supposed to be a non-club dive at Pt. Lobos on Aug 25th but it was canceled and all beach activities in Monterey, Carmel and up the coast to Half Moon Bay also appear to be on hold due to the amount of smoke in the air from the area forest fires. At present the camping trip to Van Damme on Labor Day Weekend and the S3 Dive for September 12th still seems to be on, but who knows.

Last month **Gabi** and **Jim Rezowalli** led a cleanup at Elkhorn Slough watershed. The Club volunteers pulled about 2 dozen trash bags out over a 3 hour period but there is much more to do. It was hot but still fun to get out and enjoy the land. Many thanks to those who came and participated.

Don't forget that October is when the club dues are due and voluntary fees towards CenCal (Central California Council of Diving Clubs) and USofA (Underwater Society of America) to support their efforts on behalf of all divers in the areas of beach access along with conservation, and state and national legislation are also collected. These two organizations form an effective method for presenting the divers' interests state-wide and nationally.

Well, hopefully the weather will hold and the fires will die down to allow for some great diving.

Everyone stay healthy and keep safe!

– Your president **Tom**



San Jose Flipper Dippers

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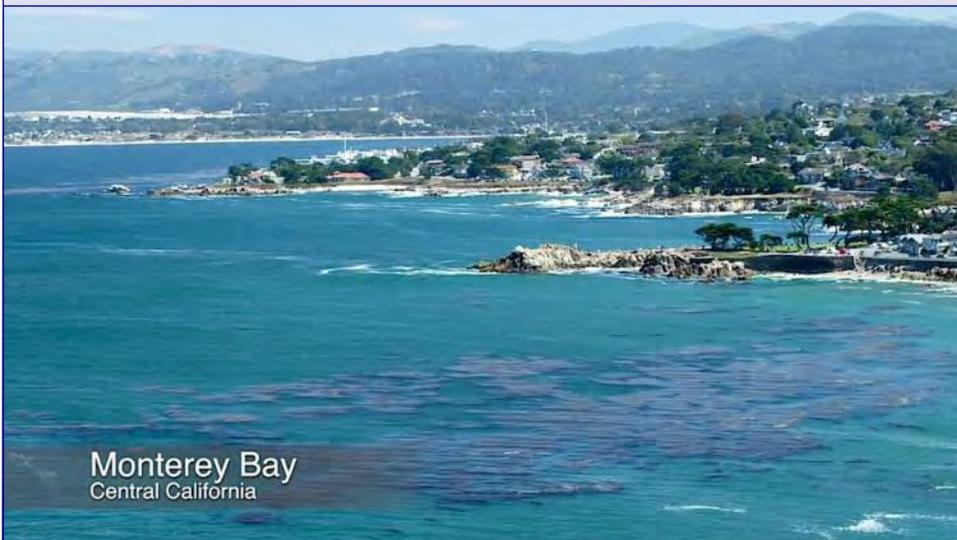
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TROPHY COMPETITION

John Snyder 408-378-4963

Diver' I.Q. Review Corner

★ ★ On Hold – But Don't Hold Your Breath while Diving! ★ ★



Monterey Bay
Central California



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

RAFFLE NEWS

Leigh Hartley Tuttle

Well, did you win? And here we are still waiting to get back together. Hang in there Dippers! ☆

MEMBERSHIP

Teresa Hanson

We're always looking for new members that are looking for someone to dive with. So be sure to pass on this newsletter to anyone you know. See the Club's Website for more information. Contact **Teresa** for additional information on any and all Membership Requirements.

Happy birthday! If we had a regular



General Meeting, a FREE raffle ticket would be given to **Abby Golden-Girl Wilson** who has made it another 584 million miles around the Sun! **You go Girl!** ☆

Greetings!

Well, In doing some spring cleaning, I ran across this old relic.



The San Francisco Flipper Dippers were a spinoff of your San Jose group, forming in the late 1960s. We, like you, were a very viable, active club at the

time. I think, at our peak, we had around 50 members. We were active in NAUI, and other national organizations.

As a teaser, when I started diving, one of my older friends told me his limit was 7 abalone when he began diving. And, before that, no limit. He mentioned that when he was young, he used to see lots of abalone meat in the garbage cans around the campgrounds where he dove – people only wanted the shells! And, his outfit consisted of old wool shirts and trousers, from Goodwill. No neoprene yet.

When I started, the ab limit was 5. We used to dive at Fort Ross, when the highway ran right thru the old fort, and abs were plentiful. It would average two, to three, dives to take a limit of large abs. We often held competitions to see who could take a limit without using an ab bar. I was also active in spearfishing. I attended events with Terry Mass, and Carl Krupansky, who were young men at the time. I remember Terry telling me that he was practicing diving to 100', and staying three minutes.

Eventually our club just seemed to shrink. Attrition finally caught up with us, and we all went our own separate ways.

I've always had wonderful memories of my time as a member of the San Francisco Flipper Dippers.

– Doug Floyd



Amazing discoveries to be found . . .

Dippers Tom and Jackie Gardner work on the cleanup at Elkhorn Slough on August 15th. The property also contained the cab of a GMC pickup trunk that had been buried in a hillside. Speculation was the property owner let people dump their trash and unwanted discards on the property for cash payments. Easy money . . . ☆



❧ IN MEMORIAM ❧

The Flipper Dippers lost a longtime friend, dive buddy and a founding Club member when **Jan** (Howarth) **Robinson** passed away on August 18. She was born on February 10, 1941. In spite of Coronavirus restrictions, she was able to be comforted by her daughters Paige and Sara at the time of her passing.

Jan came to California from Michigan with a friend in a Volkswagen 'Bug.' In 1963 she found work at the San Jose YMCA where she worked as an assistant in the newly formed "Y SCUBA" program. In 1964 she earned her YMCA instructor's certificate. The following year she attained the highest scores ever by a woman at the NAUI Institute, in San Francisco of 97%. She joined an elite group of only 14 female NAUI instructors in the U.S. During her time teaching Jan, was responsible for certifying over 400 divers – including a couple of blind students!

In 1964 she joined a small group of SCUBA instructors, and other devoted divers, dedicated to the promotion of safety and diver training and formed the San Jose Flipper Dippers Skin and SCUBA Diving Club. By 1965 the Club had a "Charter Member" list of 46 divers strong.

Jan participated in many Club activities including Cen-Cal SCUBA competitions – taking first place in women's teams in California and U.S. National meets – winter ski trips, lobster dives, abalone dives, campouts, cave diving, spearfishing, beach cleanups, fish fries and international dive trips.

Over the years, Jan held many Club positions including secretary, membership chair, and most importantly, newsletter editor. The early issues were put together typing articles on a typewriter and cutting and pasting them onto separate sheets of paper then taking them to a printer for reproduction. She would then get with Club members **Carl** and **Val Sermon** to fold, place address labels and stamps on the newsletters for delivery to the post office. During the early days the Club had well over 150 members that the newsletters were mailed to. This went on for many years until the Club got her a computer. Then she would type up the articles, save them on a disc and take it to **Carl Tuttle's** home where they worked together laying out the newsletter for printing.

During the 27 years of the Club's annual seafood dinner and dances, Jan would put in a full day by helping decorate the hall, abalone preparation, table setup, and serving food in the evenings – and then dancing the night away!

Jan was always in attendance for both Club business and general meetings – except maybe the times she was giving birth to her two daughters.

Services are undetermined at this time but her wishes were to have her ashes spread in the ocean she loved. Our thoughts are with her family and Jan will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. ❧



Above and at left, the early days of SCUBA diving and NAUI Instructors: 1. Ken Finley, 2. Neil Lehman, 3. Steve Boyer, 4. Stan Sheley, 5. Bob Mosher, 6. Tom Johnson, 7. unknown, 8. Jan (Howarth) Robinson, 9. Alta Wagner, 10. Chuck Hankins. Below, Val Sermon, Joe Ingram, Jan and Carl Tuttle at a Seafood Dinner & Dance.



August 8th Second Saturday Scuba (S3) – Lovers Point

Barbara Davis

We decided to try Lovers 3 (aka Outer Lovers) for our August 8th S3 dive in August. Dippers **Ken Agur, Barbara Davis, Grace Chi, Tom** and **Jackie Gardner, Carl Tuttle** and **Howard Timoney** were in attendance. We had a few mishaps, but overall enjoyed the day and the great company.

Lovers 3 is known for its challenging entry, which involves steep stone stairs leading to a rocky beach leading to a rocky entry with various types of kelp. The tide was out, so it was a bit hard to find the sand channels between the rocks in the shallow water.

Jackie made it down the stairs but slipped on a rock on the beach. Fortunately, she was ok except for a bruised shin. Gentleman Howard extended a hand to help some of the other divers down to the beach. Upon entry, Barbara tripped over a rock in the shallows, but was able to glide over it and stand up on the other side to put her fins on. After swimming out a bit, Tom realized he had lost one of his BC weight pouches. No doubt caught on the kelp and eel grass during entry. He and Jackie swam back to look for it, but ended up calling the dive.

Our other buddy teams were Carl and Ken, and Barbara, Grace and Howard. On the surface swim out, Barbara noticed that the viz was so bad she could not see her fins. We were hoping for better conditions underwater. Buddies were lost and found several times. Ken lost Carl and found Barbara, but then regrouped with Carl. They decided the viz was so bad they called the dive. Barbara lost Grace and Howard and surfaced to look for them. They didn't surface, but Barbara saw some bubbles and tried to follow them to the bottom, but lost them in the murk. Upon surfacing again, Barbara regrouped with Grace and Howard on the surface and then



Smile for the Camera! Can't you see me now?

Ken, Tom, Jackie, Barbara, Grace, Carl and **Howard** are all smiles after an interesting dive at the Lover's Point S3 Dive. What? You can't see their smiling faces? The camera doesn't lie . . . even if the subjects are wearing the required face masks.

continued the dive.

We only got to 35 feet, and there the viz was a murky 10 feet or so. But we found some beautiful rocks, and not too many little purple sea urchins. We spotted a big cabezon and some good-sized rockfish, and schools of small blues. We also saw 4 types of crabs, 3 types of nudibranchs, featherduster

worms, orange sea cucumbers, and carpets of strawberry anemones.

Bottom time was 56 minutes. Temp 55 degrees. We elected to do a surface swim back to the beach so we could keep an eye on the swells and time our exit. The surf had definitely increased so it was a challenging exit. Barbara actually got one fin off intending to walk out and then decided to put it back on to crawl out. And unfortunately Grace lost a fin in the surf. Barbara posted a dive report on Facebook and a few days later someone posted a comment that they had found a fin there! But so far they have not connected to see if it is a match.

Ken made a short GoPro video which is on the Club's FaceBook page so you too can check out the conditions in the water.

So overall, not our best day of diving, but we're looking forward to the next one! 🌟



Is that a Selfie or are you just happy to see me?

Ken, Carl, Jackie and **Howard** relax on the wall above Lover's Point enjoying the great weather after the S3 dive.

PADI Rescue Diver Course

Interested in expanding your diving skills? **Brian Zaugg** is offering to host a PADI Rescue Diver Course for the Flipper Dippers.

He needs a minimum of 4 Dippers to make this go. Currently **Tom** and **Jackie Gardner** and another Dipper have expressed interest. So we need another person to make this happen. This is a great opportunity to take your skills to the next level.

PADI Rescue Diver Course Fees

\$25.00 - Registration Fee

\$112.50 - Instructor / Certification Fee



If you're interested, contact **Tom Gardner**, 408-274-9447, email: tomandjackieus@yahoo.com, to signup! ★

Spearfishing Duo Stage Dramatic Rescue of Whale Entangled in Ropes

Stu Glover via Storyful

A spearfishing trip off the coast of Redhead Beach in New South Wales was the scene for an incredible rescue of a whale calf that had become entangled in ropes on July 2.



Local men Korben Donaldson and Mark Di Nardo cut the whale loose after Di Nardo's daughter, Kate, spotted "buoys out in the distance" that were "coming towards" their boat. She soon realized it was a whale in distress. Speaking to Australian media outlet NBN News, Donaldson said, "In the spur of the moment we just decided to, y'know, jump in and help it."

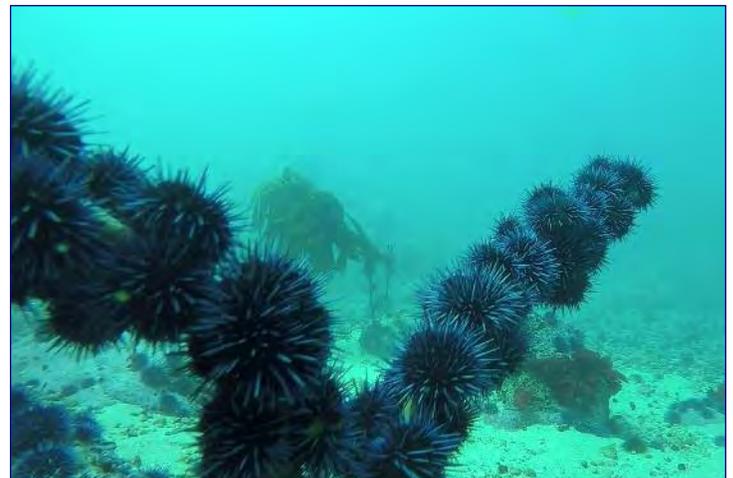
Donaldson was the first to swim out to the whale, and in footage recorded by Di Nardo's daughter and another of the spearfishing party, Stu Glover, he can be seen attending to the whale for several minutes.

He told NBN that when he first arrived alongside the whale "its face... looked at me... and the boat was behind me," a moment where he said he thought to himself, "I dunno if I feel comfortable in this situation right now." After that, though, he said the whale stopped moving and "let me do what I jumped in the water to do, and I was pretty comfortable."

Di Nardo then jumped into the water to help the rescue, as the two freed the whale from "three lines" of rope around a fin, and a "ball entanglement" of rope "sitting under its tail." In the aftermath of the rescue, the whale slowly makes its way past the party's boat, letting out several loud noises, with one member of the party wondering aloud: "You reckon that's 'thank you?'" ★

Shark 'Extinction'

New research reveals that sharks are disappearing at an alarming rate in a trend that is upsetting the ecological balance across many marine ecosystems. Writing in the journal *Nature*, scientists say that habitat destruction and overfishing have caused shark numbers to crash in many of the world's coral reefs. Underwater cameras used in the study revealed that one in five of the 371 reefs studied during a four-year period had shark numbers so low that the species there could be considered "functionally extinct." This is causing further stress on reefs that are also under threat from global heating and the ocean acidification brought on by a changing climate. ★



A GoPro Moment – Dennis Nasont captured this image of purple urchins on a kelp stalk during a Monastery Beach dive. We're hoping for a return of the starfish who would devour these nasty critters.

DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

ABBY GOLDEN WILSON

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SEPTEMBER 2020

★ NOTICE ★

With the 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 Business and General Meetings will be “virtual” meetings. All previously scheduled activities are to be determined (TBD).

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31 BUSINESS MEETING 7:30 PM

Sept Business Moved: The meeting will be held **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, SEPTEMBER 2-5 LABOR DAY WEEKEND VAN DAMME

Coordinator: **Carl Tuttle**, 408-829-3660, tutcomms@sbcglobal.net. Diving, kayaking, bike riding, hiking, food, campfires and more.

Space to share in campsites. See the August newsletter for more info.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 NO LICENSE FISHING DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3): JACKIE’S NEW SECRET SPOT Coordinator: **Jackie Gardner**,

GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, SEPT 16

7:30 PM

Celebrating 56 Years

Join us online for our Virtual General Meeting via WebEx. 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.



408-274-9447, email: tomandjackieus@yahoo.com. Details: Jackie is coordinating this S3 dive at a ‘New 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 Jackie to get the location and directions. In addition, due to the COVID-19 social distancing requirement, a mask will be needed while suiting up.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 INTERNATIONAL COSTAL CLEANUP DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 NO SCHEDULED DIVE



UPCOMING IN OCTOBER

- 03 Lobster Season Opens
- 07 Business Meeting
- 10 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 21 General Meeting



Well Done!

Dennis Nasont

Several new nominations for awards were made during the August 5th business meeting. During the review of activities last month, divers noted the following; One diver held up all others from a quick entry into the gorgeous Pt. Lobos cove by discovering his fin strap was broken. It took several minutes to locate and repair only to discover a SECOND broken strap – 2X!!! Ka-Ching! **Jim**



Resowalli. Thanks to **Carl Tuttle** for giving Jim two fin straps from his ‘Save-A-Dive Kit.’

After the divers finished their dives, another diver blocked the use of the boat ramp while trying to locate his missing fin while exiting the water – only to discover it was still on his foot! Come on, **Carl Tuttle**. You know how impatient your fellow divers are. Cost you a quarter!

To ease Jim’s pain a bit, all his fellow divers chimed in when he was credited with his initiative to contact the California State Parks department to inquire (complain) about the kayak policy at Pt Lobos. Due to his efforts, as reported in last month’s newsletter, Jim got them to confirm the policy that allows SCUBA divers to bring a kayak, and not be counted in the park’s limit of 4 kayaks per day. The entire diving community thanks you, Jim and your reward is 5 raffle tickets (if we ever have another F2F general meeting). ★

☛ **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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FIRST CLASS MAIL

2020 COMING EVENTS

Sept 2	Business Meeting - Note: Moved to Aug 31
Sept 2-5	Labor Day Weekend - Van Damme
Sept 5	No License Fishing Day
Sept 12	Second Saturday SCUBA
Sept 16	👉 General Meeting
Sept 19	International Costal Cleanup Day
Oct 3	Lobster Season Opens
Oct 7	Business Meeting
Oct 10	Second Saturday SCUBA
Oct 21	👉 General Meeting
Nov 4	Business Meeting
Nov 14	Second Saturday SCUBA
Nov 18	👉 General Meeting Nominations for Office
Nov 21	Wine Tasting & Picnic
Nov 27	Reservations Memorial Day Weekend (May 27, 2021)

Helping Fire Victims



**American
Red Cross**

Interested in helping victims of the devastating California wild fires? The American Red Cross is taking financial donations. Due to the COVID restrictions, any donations of physical items is discouraged. 🌐

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



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