

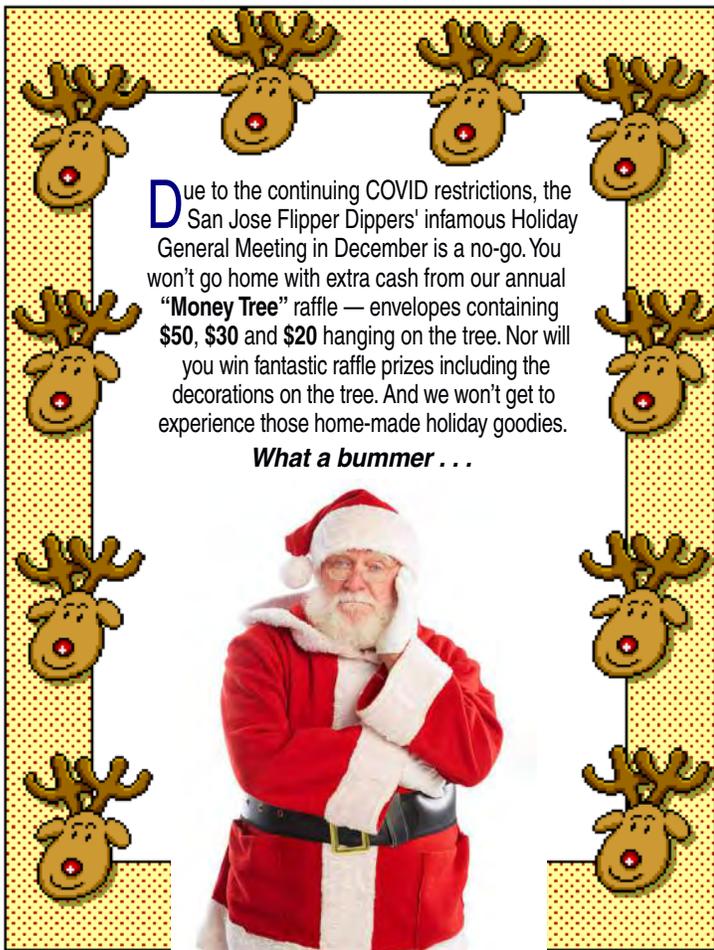
NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

DECEMBER 2020

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD
3RD WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH
WWW.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM



Due to the continuing COVID restrictions, the San Jose Flipper Dippers' infamous Holiday General Meeting in December is a no-go. You won't go home with extra cash from our annual "Money Tree" raffle — envelopes containing \$50, \$30 and \$20 hanging on the tree. Nor will you win fantastic raffle prizes including the decorations on the tree. And we won't get to experience those home-made holiday goodies.

What a bummer . . .



Diver's I.Q. Review: Who are those Masked Dippers?

Dippers enjoy the sun while warming up after their November S3 dive at the Breakwater in Monterey. The dive was scheduled for Carmel River State Beach but conditions weren't so good so the group moved to the Breakwater. See page 2 and see if you know who these Masked Dippers are, Kemosabi. 🌟

Aloha Theme for Awards Banquet

*Preliminary Menu
(Subject to Change)*

Here we go again! Get those Aloha shirts and dresses, grass skirts and coconut bras out of storage! This year's Annual Awards Banquet will again be 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 23rd**. 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.

At the present time the event will be held outdoors due to COVID restrictions. This may change by the time the Banquet is held.

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.** **Entrée choices include** (This is the menu from the last banquet but is subject to change.):

- **Boardwalk Burger** -1/2lb. Ground Sirloin, Sharp Cheddar or Pepper Jack Cheese, Sautéed Onion, Lettuce, Tomato

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Happy Holidays! Another year has nearly passed by and it's time to begin planning for next years activities.

To cap off 2020, there is the Club's Second Saturday Scuba dive on December 12th lead by *Grace Chi*. Where and when is yet to be determined but sign up if you're interested. There is also a final year-end dive planned for Wednesday December 30th at Point Lobos coordinated by *Abby Golden Wilson*. On-line reservations are sold-out but we might have a spot available so if you want to go you need to check with Abby. See the calendar on page 7 for contact information on both dives.

The Final Club General Meeting on December 16th will bring the election of the 2021 Club Officers and the Annual Christmas Non-Raffle so be sure to show up at the Webex meeting and vote.

There is a camping/diving trip planned at Pfeiffer Big Sur for Memorial Day 2021 starting on May 26 or 27 thru the weekend. Sites are hard to get so if you want to go signup now. A number of Dippers scored some sites for the whole week and will have camping space to share. More information to come as we get closer to Memorial Day.

Also, if you haven't yet paid your annual dues please remember to do so. Send a check to the Flipper Dipper Club in care of *Jackie Gardner*, 2986 Everdale Court, San Jose, CA 95148.

The Club's Annual Awards Banquet is January 23th at the same location as last year, Rosy's at the Beach located in Morgan Hill on Monterey Rd. If you plan to go be sure to contact *Carl Tuttle* to get on the signup list. Final prices and menu items are TBD. This is a good opportunity to join your fellow Dippers for a socially distant get together. Outdoor seating is the plan but could move indoors if COVID restrictions are modified.

– Your president **Tom**



San Jose Flipper Dippers

www.SJFlipperDippers.com

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VICE PRESIDENT

Abby Golden Wilson 703-405-8554

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AWARDS AND FINES

o Position Open o

CLUB PROPERTY

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Diver's I.Q. Review Corner

This month we have One (1) Question.*

Question: Can you name these 5 Masked Dippers?

See page 7 for the correct answer. **Good Luck!**



* Individuals in the photo are disqualified from winning any prizes for the correct answers.





Join us online at our virtual December General Meeting for a great time to share your latest dive stories and the Nominations for 2021 Club Officers. ☆

RAFFLE NEWS

Leigh Hartley Tuttle

Well, dang it all! This COVID thing has messed up our BIG Christmas raffle. Disappointing to be sure. A little elf wispered in my ear that there might be something special for all of you who attend the Annual Awards Banquet. Hmm-m-m-m-m . . . ☆

MEMBERSHIP

Teresa Hanson

We have another prospective member, **Steve Fortino**. Steve joined some club activities many years ago and is excited to get into

diving with the Dippers. Welcome Steve to the San Jose Flipper Dippers!

We're always on the lookout for new divers who 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 **Adam Nasont** who has now joined an elite number of Dippers who made it around the Sun in only 365 days! ☆

SCUBA Diving Tidbits

From Undercurrent

Airline Ticket Refunds; It's the Law!

The U.S. Department of Transportation has issued an enforcement notice regarding refunds by carriers given the unprecedented impact of the coronavirus on air travel. "The Department is receiving an increasing number of complaints and inquiries from ticketed passengers, including many with non-refundable tickets, who describe having been denied refunds for flights that were canceled or significantly delayed . . . the passengers stated that the carrier informed them that they would receive vouchers or credits for future travel. Carriers have a longstanding obligation to provide a prompt refund to a ticketed passenger when the carrier cancels the passenger's flight or makes a significant change in the flight schedule and the passenger chooses not to accept the alternative offered by the carrier." www.transportation.gov/airconsumer



Shark-Free Fish 'n Chips

Australians inherited the British love of fish and chips. Little do they know that their battered fish, euphemistically called "flake," is shark and that its heavy-metals content, at often 14 times recommended levels, is such that it's often not fit for human consumption. The double tragedy is that it is supplied by a shark-fishing fleet operating off the coast of South Africa on a devastatingly intense basis that has overfished smoothhound and soupfin shark.

Each demersal shark longlining vessel regularly catches up to a thousand sharks per trip and by way of bycatch also kills CITES-protected species such as smooth hammerhead and great white sharks. South Africa's shark population is collapsing at an alarming rate as a consequence.

You can directly tweet at the South African Minister of Environment by visiting www.sharkfreechips.com, asking



her to close down this fishery, which is destroying South Africa's tourism economy and poisoning unwary Australians.



Free Underwater Photography Lessons Online

Among several pros offering online classes, Frenchman Guy Chaumette and partner Anita will launch a free series of lessons and practical tips for both photography and video on YouTube. It's the Liquid Motion & Underwater Photo & Film Academy. <https://tinyurl.com/y96anodb>



Face Masks from Recycled Ocean Plastic

PADI has partnered with sportswear company Rash'R to make face masks out of plastic recovered from the ocean. Each mask is sold with five replacement filters (at \$20.40). These PADI masks are a sustainable alternative to the N95 respirator masks reserved for front line workers. Children's masks are available too. So far, 1,300 pounds of ocean plastic have been recycled into masks to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.



Facetimeing Eels

It seems that it's not only humans that are getting a bit anxious during lockdown. Since Tokyo's Sumida Aquarium has been closed to the public, its 300 garden eels have become very shy and burrow down at the sight of the staff, just as they would in the ocean. They've forgotten about people. So, the aquarium arranged five iPads around their tank so that people could Facetime them during a three-day event in early May.



MEET YOUR 2021 CLUB OFFICER CANDIDATES



PRESIDENT:

MANUEL MANGROBANG Manuel is running for Club President "I got started scuba diving after snorkeling in the Philippines and became a member of the Flipper Dippers in February of 2016. Diving for several years now and it has been great. This President thing actually looks pretty easy and I look forward to it!"



TREASURER:

JACKIE GARDNER Jackie has been the Club treasurer this past year. A Club member since 2011 and has been on many local dives and campouts and international dive trips. She held the position as Raffle Committee in the past and is always eager to go diving.



VICE PRESIDENT:

ABBY GOLDEN WILSON Abby has jumped into diving and Club activities big time. She officially joined the Club in January 2020, just in time to take the Vice President position. She's excited about the many activities the Club can offer going into 2021 and looks forward to seeing you in the water!



SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:

HOWARD CHIEN Joined the Club in October 2020 after participating in a number of dives. He even flew his plane to Van Damme to join Club members for dinner Labor Day Weekend! He is excited about the many activities the Club has to offer and looking forward to being an active member.



SECRETARIES:

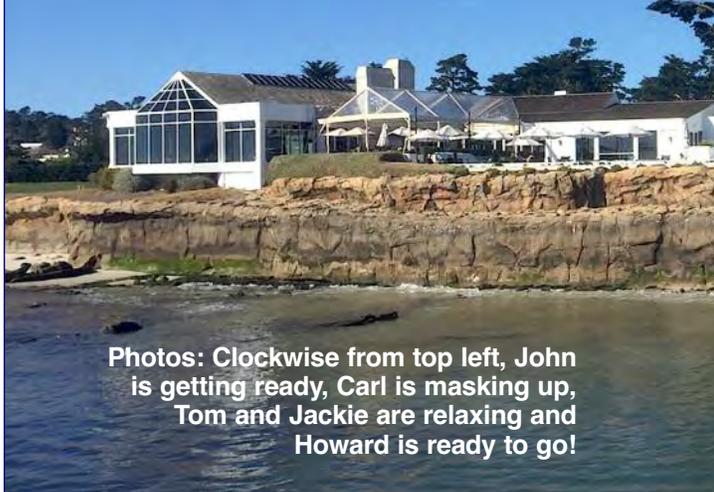


BARBARA DAVIS Joined the Club in 1993 and has been a force to reckon with in the water. She really enjoys diving and has served as Club Vice President and President in the past. Barbara is always up for 2-tank dives on any of the scheduled S3 dives. She has been diving in many places around the world and has completed over 1,300 dives!



Stillwater Cove S3 Dive

The weather in the Bay Area was gloomy, but the weather in Carmel was fabulous! Coordinated by **Jackie Gardner**, Dippers **Tom Gardner**, **Howard Timoney**, **Manuel Mangrobang**, **Carl Tuttle** and **John Snyder**, along with **Donavon Hill**, joined up at Stillwater Cove for the November 14th S3 dive. Howard, Carl and John brought their kayaks and paddled out to the wash rocks while Jackie and Tom teamed up and Manuel and Donavon teamed up. The vis wasn't so great so everyone only made one dive but the weather made for a great day. ★



Photos: Clockwise from top left, John is getting ready, Carl is masking up, Tom and Jackie are relaxing and Howard is ready to go!

Sunday, November 22nd, Dive at the Breakwater

Having missed the November S3 dive, **Barbara Davis** decided to schedule a dive the following weekend. Consensus was to dive on Sunday, so we met up at Carmel River State Beach. Waves were up (and so was the wind!), so we decided to relocate to the Breakwater. Dippers in attendance were **Grace Chi, Barbara Davis, Howard Timoney** and, **Tom** and **Jackie Gardner**.

It was pretty cold that morning, so Howard decided to dive his drysuit for a change. (After standing in the wind at Carmel River Beach, Barbara was wishing she'd brought her drysuit! But fortunately, Howard's huge thermos jug of hot water saved the day!)

For our first dive, we followed the big pipe out to the metridium field. Viz was a murky 10 – 15 feet. There were just enough jellies in attendance to make things interesting, but not hazardous. We reached a max depth of 47 feet with a dive time of 47 minutes. Water was 52 degrees. As Dive Team #1 (Barbara, Grace and Howard) was starting to head back, Dive Team #2 (Tom and Jackie) arrived at the metridium field. Barbara reported seeing a cloud of sand and a shape that looked like a turtle. Of course, it couldn't be a turtle. A moment later it was identified as a cormorant swimming by! Tom reported sighting a type of nudibranch he'd never seen before.

Our second dive was out along the Breakwater wall to hang out with the sea lions. Between dives Barbara made copious use of Howard's hot water and put on a fleece hat, fleece gloves, a fleece sweater, and her Surf Fur to get warm between dives. And before we headed back to the water, she topped off her wetsuit with hot water. This was a good thing, because we hung out with the sea lions for over 15 minutes! And it was cold!

Barbara, Grace and Howard dropped down at number 7 on the wall and swam steadily for about 15 minutes. Suddenly, there were sea lions all around us! Twisting and turning and blowing bubbles. Grace showed perfect form in a horizontal hover for the 15 – 18 minutes we spent with the



Above, Jackie Gardner swims with 'Jared the Jelly' during the Breakwater dive. Photo by Tom Gardner.

sea lions. After the show, our plan was to meander back to shore and check out the critters along the wall, but Barbara got too cold and requested that we speed things up. (She was shivering and reported not being able to feel her feet!) Just as we started to speed up our swim, Howard got hit with leg cramps that took some time to work out.

Both coming and going we passed the underwater anchor. It is just past number 5 on the wall, so it's a good navigation reminder. Max depth was 47 feet, with a dive time of 57 minutes. We saw many types of nudibranchs, including several Hopkin's Rose, and several types of yellow and white dorids. Also schools of several different types of fish, including some sheephead.

Tom and Jackie discovered that one of Jackie's tanks only had a partial fill, but they figured they could do a short shallow dive. During the surface swim out, Jackie had some problems with her BCD and they decided to call the dive. Good decision! There will always be another day.

The sun was out for most of the day and the group enjoyed some "socially distant" socializing and lunch before heading home. Another great day of diving in Monterey! Come and join us next time! 🌟

'Some nibbling may have occurred'

A sea otter off the coast of California caused a splash when it was photographed apparently trying to eat a shark – though it appears it did not manage to complete its meal. Photographers Don Henderson and Alice Cahill captured the unusual event, which involved a small horn shark, in Morro Bay.

The images were shared by Sea Otter Savvy, a non-profit which seeks to promote "responsible wildlife viewing, awareness of the effect our behavior can have on sea otters and other wildlife, and a safer, healthier coastal environment for all of us, otter and human alike." Michael Harris, of the California department of fish and wildlife, told the website For the Win Outdoors: "To my knowledge ... this is the first documented horn shark capture by a sea otter. There are reports of sea otters capturing skates and rays, but



this is the first report of a shark. Sea otters will feed on fish, but it's a very rare observation in California."

Sea otters, the smallest North American marine mammal, typically eat invertebrates such as sea urchins, clams and crabs. But as Sea Otter Savvy posted on Twitter: "If you watch sea otters long enough you will see a range of sea life brought to the surface. While fish are not unusual prey for more northern sea otters (Alaska & Russia), they are quite uncommon in California." Horn sharks live on

the seabed, eating a similar diet to otters with an extremely powerful bite. Whether or not the shark seized by the otter managed to bite back, Sea Otter Savvy noted: "Not surprisingly, while some nibbling may have occurred, the prey was not consumed." Harris told For the Win Outdoors he was "fairly certain" the otter was an adult female. 🌟

continued from page 1

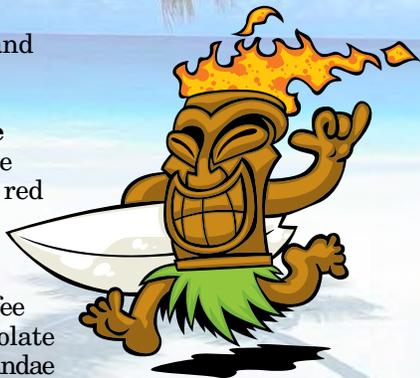
- **Shrimp Louie** - Avocado, Cucumber, Red Onion, Hard Boiled Egg, Mixed Greens, Louie Dressing
- **Chicken Penne Pasta** - Chicken Breast, Mushrooms, Tomato, Artichoke Hearts, Basil, Spinach, Roasted Garlic Broth
- **Salmon Tacos** - Corn tortillas, coleslaw, fresh salsa, avocado. Served with rice 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 Sundae

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.

Carl Tuttle is coordinating the attendee list and meal selections so be sure to contact him: Phone (408-829-3660; email: tut-comms@sbcglobal.net) Don't miss this fun-filled evening! ★



Orcas blamed for disappearance of S.Africa great whites

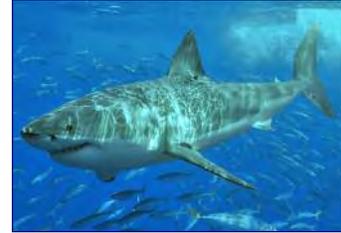
Killer whales are suspected to be behind the disappearance of great white sharks off Cape Town's coast over the last few years, according to a report published by South Africa's government.

The vanishing of great whites from the coastal sites False Bay and Gansbaai had previously been blamed on illegal hunting and overfishing, among other causes. But the results of a study conducted by a government-appointed team of nine local and international experts suggest that orcas could be the culprits, after a pair of killer whales was first sighted in the area in 2015.

The researchers said they "found some evidence for a causative link between the appearances of a pod of

orcas that had specialized on preying on white sharks." The number of great whites in the area is not known, but spotters initially reported steep declines in 2017 – then an extended absence.

The remains of five great white sharks killed by orcas were discovered in the Gansbaai area in 2017. Another shark killed in a similar fashion



was found on a beach this year, and there could be many more, a marine biologist

and one of the researchers, Alison Kock, said during the report presentation.

"Each and every time that this happened, there was an immediate drop and gap in white sharks sighting," Kock said, conceding that "we still don't have all the answers." Great white sharks are a big tourist attraction in South Africa — they are viewed from boats or from cages lowered into the water. ★

Whale Sculpture Stops Train from Plunge in the Netherlands

A train that went careening over the end of elevated tracks in the Netherlands was left teetering about 30 feet above the ground. But no one was injured or killed in the accident — thanks to a sculpture of a whale's tail that stopped the train from plunging. "It's like the scene of a Hollywood movie," said Ruud Natrop, a spokesman for safety in the Rotterdam-Rijnmond area, where the accident occurred. "Thank God the tail was there."

The derailment, in the city of Spijkenisse, happened around 12:30 a.m. The driver was the only person on the city train and was unharmed. Mr. Natrop said there was no indication that the driver had done anything wrong, and train officials are investigating how safety systems designed to stop the train failed.

Locals couldn't resist coming out to see the strange sight of a train car dangling over the platform edge atop the sea creature's 32-foot tail. In the background of news footage that captured the initial aftermath, laughter could be heard. But

officials cautioned that onlookers should abide by coronavirus measures and keep their distance.

Discussions have begun on how to remove the train, a process that will require heavy equipment such as cranes anchored into the ground. "It's raining constantly — the grass is not steady," Mr. Natrop said. "That's a problem." Maarten Struijs, who created the sculpture, told the Dutch broadcaster NOS that the image of the train car balancing on the tail looked like a work of art itself, but added that he was worried about the structure of the nearly 20-year-old structure. "This is very over the top," said

Joey Bremer, a photographer whose tweeted photos of the dangling train soon went viral. When he arrived at the scene shortly after the accident — at the end of a train line, in a residential neighborhood — it was quiet, "no panic, absolutely nothing," he said. But when he returned in the daylight, he said, hundreds of people had gathered. "It's almost an attraction. I stood there full of disbelief last night," he said. "I've been doing this job for about 10 years, but this is one to remember. You can't make this up." ★



DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

ABBY GOLDEN WILSON

www.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM

DECEMBER 2020

★ NOTICE ★

With the social distance order in place around the state to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, both the Business and General Meetings will be "virtual" meetings.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2 BUSINESS MEETING 7:30 PM

The business 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 start discussing ideas for 2021!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12 SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3) BEACH DIVE

Coordinator: **Grace Chi**. Phone: +1-858-337-2674, email: chi.gracechi@gmail.com. The location is TBD based on conditions. Plan to meet at 8:00 A.M. Bring 2 tanks and plan on making a 2nd dive. As this

dive is before the General Meeting, you'll need to contact Grace to get on the list.

GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, DEC 16

7:30 PM

Celebrating 56 Years

Join us online for our Virtual General Meeting via WebEx. Virtual meeting – everyone is welcome to join in the fun!
Election for 2021 Officers

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



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26 NO SCHEDULED DIVE



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30 YEAR-END POINT LOBOS DIVE

Grab your masks, 2 tanks, and join us as we send 2020 and all of its weirdness off a day early! **Abby Golden Wilson** is coordinating the dive, and we already have 6 pairs of Flipper Dippers (and friends) registered. We will meet at the Point Lobos gate at 8:30 AM. If you have not paired up with a buddy, please contact Abby at abbygolden15@gmail.com or 703-405-8554. You may be able to join another Dipper's existing reservation as the dive spots are sold out. Kayaks optional (and additional kayak reservations not required)!



UPCOMING IN JANUARY

04 Business Meeting - Virtual
14 Second Saturday SCUBA
18 General Meeting
23 Awards Banquet
27 Annual Planning Meeting



Annual Club Planning Meeting

Our annual Club Planning Meeting for 2021 has been scheduled for a virtual meeting on **Wednesday, January 27**, at 6:30 PM.

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 2021 Club officers AND committee heads should plan to attend.** An email with virtual meeting sign-in information will be sent out to all Club members.

Any members interested in being involved in planning Club dives and activities are encouraged to join us. Everyone please enjoy your appetizer-type dish along with something to drink. In case of relaxed COVID restrictions we may be able to have an in-person meeting at someone's home. ★

Diver's I.Q. Review Answer (from page 2)

Did you know who the Masked Dippers are? Well let's see if you guessed right:

1. **Tom Gardner**
2. **Barbara Davis**
3. **Howard Timoney**
4. **Grace Chi**
5. **Jackie Gardner**

Make sure you bring your mask to wear before and after diving. And yes, Kemosabi, you can go inside a bank with your mask on! ★

Tundra Chad Carpenter



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

Dec 2	Business Meeting
Dec 12	Second Saturday SCUBA
Dec 16	🤿 General Meeting Election for Officers
Dec 30	Pt. Lobos Year-End Dive

Upcoming in 2021

Jan 6	Business Meeting
Jan 9	Second Saturday SCUBA
Jan 20	🤿 General Meeting
Jan 23	Annual Awards Banquet
Jan 27	Annual Planning Meeting
Feb 3	Business Meeting
Feb 13	Second Saturday SCUBA
Feb 17	🤿 General Meeting

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET *Saturday, January 23, 2021*

The Flipper Dippers' Annual Awards Banquet will take place on January 23, 2021 at **Rosy's at the Beach**, located in downtown Morgan Hill. See the front page for details. 🌟



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



WWW.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM