

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

MARCH
2021

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

S3 Dive Report

Howard Timoney
(aka Deposed President, Former Emperor
and Dear Leader for Life)

Our Second Saturday Scuba for February 13th was postponed for a week. Apparently, a mutant, zombie causing virus had entered the water and the county health commissar (commissioner?), unable to deal with 2 pandemics at once, had armed patrols at all Monterey County beaches with shoot to kill orders for anything crawling out of the water. This gave me a one-week reprieve on being declared the official club jinx.

With waves of 6-to-7-ft forecast for all the Monterey bay area on Saturday, February 20th, **Donovan Hill, Grace Chi, Tom and Jackie Gardner** and I met at Monastery north. The 6-ft swell was an accurate forecast, and the waves were about 6 seconds apart, making diving at Monastery a bit suicidal. So, we decided to go to the Breakwater instead.

The waves at the Breakwater were in the 2-to-3-ft range instead of the 6-to-7-ft waves forecasted. As usual, there were several classes at breakwater. We parked in the lower parking lot and suited up. Jackie is nursing a broken toe and didn't dive but was there as acting dive safety officer and key holder. **Barbara Davis** wasn't on this dive and we didn't have her pre-dive brownies, but my Girl Scout cookie order came through and, while not the same as pre-dive brownies, the cookies fortified us to make the walk across the beach for a dive at the Metridium fields.

Divers exiting the water reported 15-ft visibility as we were making our entrance. We only missed the pipe by a few feet, made the swim to the end of the pipe, turned

north, and arrived at the Metridium fields in a few minutes. The dive was good with little to no surge and 10-to-20-ft visibility. On the way back we hit the pipe, followed it in for a bit and cut diagonally on a southerly course to lessen the beach walk. No problems on our exit.

The wind had picked up, so we bundled up for our surface interval while Jackie tried out her new cell phone camera.



In this picture, above, we think that this group is, from left, Tom, Howard, Grace and Donovan. Below? That you, Jackie? But we're not sure. See page 4 to be sure.

For the second dive we decided to swim along the Breakwater wall. We had 10-to-15-ft visibility and little to no surge. At the turn-around point we were buzzed by several sea lions. The tide was on its way out on our exit and the wind had kicked up some surface waves that wanted to push us into the wall, but we exited with no problems. By that time, the wind had blown the cloud cover away and the sun was out in full force.

Tom and Jackie had some plans for later

continues on page 4

Tiger shark caught in rope 'noose'



Samuel Osborne
(Mediadrummyimages / Jason Lafferty)

A shark has been caught on a camera tangled in a rope 'noose' that had wrapped around its body, cutting into the flesh around its gills in an image showcasing the impact ocean pollution can have on marine life.

Photos of the approximately continues on page 5

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Springtime is in the air, and people want to go diving. Skies may be clearing up, but conditions might not be.

There's already some rescheduling this past month to get some diving done. But don't worry, **Jim Rezowalli** has started the FSC (Fourth Saturday Cycle) for those Dippers that still want to meet up between diving.

Barbara Davis had planned two dives in February but had to move to March due to poor conditions. **Howard Timoney** rescheduled the February 13th S3 Dive to February 20 because of conditions and those who participated had a good dive.

And stay safe out there; COVID-19 is not the only danger. Make sure to wear protective gear when going biking. Or maybe biking is not the Dippers' forte.

Point Lobos has changed their reservation system for scuba diving. Only two months are now listed to make a reservation instead of three. So be sure to get online on April 1st (No Foolin'), to make a reservation for our May 8th S3 Dive.

Lots of activities in March so check out the activities calendar. And be sure to join us in our Club virtual meetings – we'd like to see you!

Didn't Shoot the Tanks! – **Manuel**

Giant Giant Kelp Restoration Project

Divers are needed for kelp restoration in Monterey



Informational webinar, via Zoom, for the *Giant Giant Kelp Restoration Project* at Tanker's Reef, in Monterey, will be held on Monday, March 8, 2021, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. **Keith Rootsart**, **Marc Shargel** and **Genevieve Rohe** present an introduction to the project and ways for divers to cull urchins and restore native kelp forests in an organized and scientifically meaningful program beginning in April.

Web Address: <https://tinyurl.com/TankersReefKickOff>

Meeting ID: 988 1254 0142

Passcode: 37589

Be sure to get online early so you don't miss this important presentation. The Flipper Dippers are planning to support this activity in the future – in the water in person! 🌟



San Jose Flipper Dippers

www.SJFlipperDippers.com

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RAFFLE NEWS

Leigh Hartley Tuttle

Well, here we are again. Waiting, waiting, waiting . . . Let's be safe out there! ☆

MEMBERSHIP

Ken Agur

Congratulations go to *Sergei Kuznetsov* who completed all his requirements and was voted in as a Club Member during the February virtual general meeting! We also had two divers looking to join in on some dives last month, but

conditions didn't cooperate. So, *Christine Berube* and *Carri Edgar* will need to keep trying just like the rest of us. Hope you can join us on one of this month's dives.

The Club is 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 membership information.

Happy birthday! If we had a regular General Meeting, a FREE raffle ticket would be given to *Don Mercado* who has joined a number of Dippers who have once again made a complete trip around the Sun in only 8,544 hours! ☆

**MARCH 17TH
VIRTUAL
GENERAL MEETING
ENTERTAINMENT**



Join us online at our Skype virtual March General Meeting for a great time to share your latest dive stories and tell everyone how your wetsuit didn't get wet! ☆

The Predator That Makes Great White Sharks Flee in Fear

The great white shark—a fast, powerful, 16-foot-long torpedo that's armed to the teeth with teeth—has little to fear except fear itself. But also: killer whales. For almost 15 years, Salvador Jorgensen from the Monterey Bay Aquarium has been studying great white sharks off the coast of California. He and his colleagues would lure the predators to their boats using bits of old carpet that they had cut in the shape of a seal. When the sharks approached, the team would shoot them with electronic tags that periodically emit ultrasonic signals. Underwater receivers, moored throughout Californian waters, detected these signals as the sharks swam by, allowing the team to track their whereabouts over time.

In 2009, the team tagged 17 great whites, which spent months circling Southeast Farallon Island and picking off the local elephant seals. But this period of steady hunting ended on November 2 of that year, when two pods of killer whales (orcas) swam past the islands in the early afternoon. In the space of eight hours, all 17 great whites abruptly disappeared. They weren't dead; their tags were eventually detected in distant waters. They had just fled from Farallon. And for at least a month, most of them didn't return.

Jorgensen wondered if this was a one-off, but the tags recorded similar examples in later years—orcas arrive, and sharks skedaddle. Some orcas also hunt seals, so it's possible that the sharks are just trying to avoid competition—but that seems improbable, given how quickly they bolt. The more likely explanation is that the most fearsome shark in the world is terrified of orcas.

Killer whales have a friendlier image than great white sharks. (Perhaps because of their respective portrayals in movies: *Jaws 2* even begins with the beached carcass of a half-eaten orca.) But orcas are "potentially the more dangerous predator," says Toby Daly-Engel, a shark expert at the Florida Institute of Technology. "They have a lot of social behaviors that sharks do not, which allows them to hunt effectively in groups, communicate among themselves, and teach their young."

Combining both brains and brawn, orcas have been known to kill sharks in surprisingly complicated ways. Some will drive their prey to the surface and then karate chop them with overhead tail swipes. Others seem to have worked out that they can hold sharks upside-down to induce a paralytic state called tonic immobility. Orcas can kill the fastest species (makos) and the

largest (whale sharks). And when they encounter great whites, a few recorded cases suggest that these encounters end very badly for the sharks.

In October 1997, fishing vessels near Southeast Farallon Island observed a young white shark interrupting a pair of orcas that were eating a sea lion. One of the whales rammed and killed the shark, and the duo proceeded to eat its liver. More recently, after orcas passed by a South African beach, five great-white carcasses washed ashore. All were, suspiciously, missing their liver.

A great white's liver can account for a quarter of its body weight, and is even richer in fats and oils than whale blubber. It's "one of the densest sources of calories you can find in the ocean," Jorgensen says. "The orcas know their business, and they know where that organ lies."

Rather than ripping their prey apart, it seems that orcas can extract livers with surprising finesse, despite lacking arms and hands. No one has observed their technique, but the wounds on otherwise intact carcasses suggest that they bite their victims near their pectoral fins and then squeeze the liver out through the wounds. "It's like squeezing toothpaste," Jorgensen says.

An orca, then, is an apex predator's apex predator. No wonder sharks flee from them. But orcas don't actually have to kill any great whites to drive them away. Their mere presence—and most likely their scent—is enough. Many predators have similar effects. Their sounds and smells create a "landscape of fear"—a simmering dread that changes the behavior and whereabouts of their prey. The presence of tiger sharks forces dugongs into deeper waters, where food is scarcer but cover is thicker. The mere sound of dogs can keep raccoons off a beach, changing the community of animals that lives in the tide pools.

The fear of death can shape the behavior of animals more than death itself. "Lions, for example, do not eat a lot of impala, but impala fear lions more than any other predator on the landscape except humans," says Liana Zanette from Western University in Canada, who studies landscapes of fear. Similarly, killer whales don't have to kill many white sharks to radically change their whereabouts. In 2009, for example, orcas passed by Southeast Farallon for less than three hours, but the great whites stayed away for the rest of the year. For the elephant seals, the island became a predator-free zone. "The two predators faced off, and the winners were the seals," Jorgensen says.

And what about the sharks? "They had to move to find a new food source when the killer whales ruined the neighborhood," Zanette says. "This could interfere with their ability to successfully migrate, which requires a bulk-up of fat and nutrients. We think of white sharks as these great ocean predators, but their bag of tricks includes knowing when to pack it in," Jorgensen says. "That play might have contributed to their long-standing success." ☆



S3 Dive Report – continued from front page

in the day and didn't stay for lunch. Grace, Donovan and I had lunch at Pig Wizard and tried to keep out of the wind.

Score card:

4 went into the water, 4 came out on their own power.

- 10-15 ft visibility
- 49-51 degrees cold reported underwater, depending on which computer you were looking at
- 47-ft and 41-ft maximum depths
- Little to no surge underwater
- Minor wave action
- Some light rain, some wind, some sun
- 1 feisty crab
- 1 cormorant underwater
- Several sea lions on the surface
- A few sea lions underwater
- The usual Metridium Field and Breakwater critters

The moral of the story: Ya shoulda' been there. **Go diving!** 🌟



Top right, Grace is ready to go. Right, the group ran into Brian Zaugg with his dive class. Left, Tom, Grace, Howard and Donovan try to stay warm. Bottom left, Carl Tuttle couldn't go on the dive, but went online to the Breakwater's live Webcam to look at conditions and hoped to see the divers. Lo and behold, there was Howards truck with his hot water shower bucket on top. About five minutes later the parking patrol was seen, bottom right, checking windows for parking tags. Howard was good, but the car two spots away wasn't so lucky!

continued from front page

1,400-pound tiger shark were taken by a concerned photographer in Kailua Kona, Hawaii.

One image shows how the circle of rope has cut deep lacerations into the animal's back. In another, the thick rope appears to have burrowed under the shark's skin, pushing the joint of its right fin away from its body.

Marine photographer Jason Lafferty, 36, was diving in Kailua Kona when he spotted the tiger shark tangled in the rope just meters away. Mr Lafferty swam alongside the shark for several minutes while attempting to remove the rope, but was unable to do so without the proper tools. When he returned the following day - with the right equipment for the task of freeing the animal - the shark was nowhere to be seen.



"The image is a reminder of how our carelessness and disregard for proper trash disposal can lead to suffering or death to our marine life." Ocean pollution is becoming an increasingly pressing issue, with around 17-billion pounds of plastic being dumped in the seas each year. 🌊

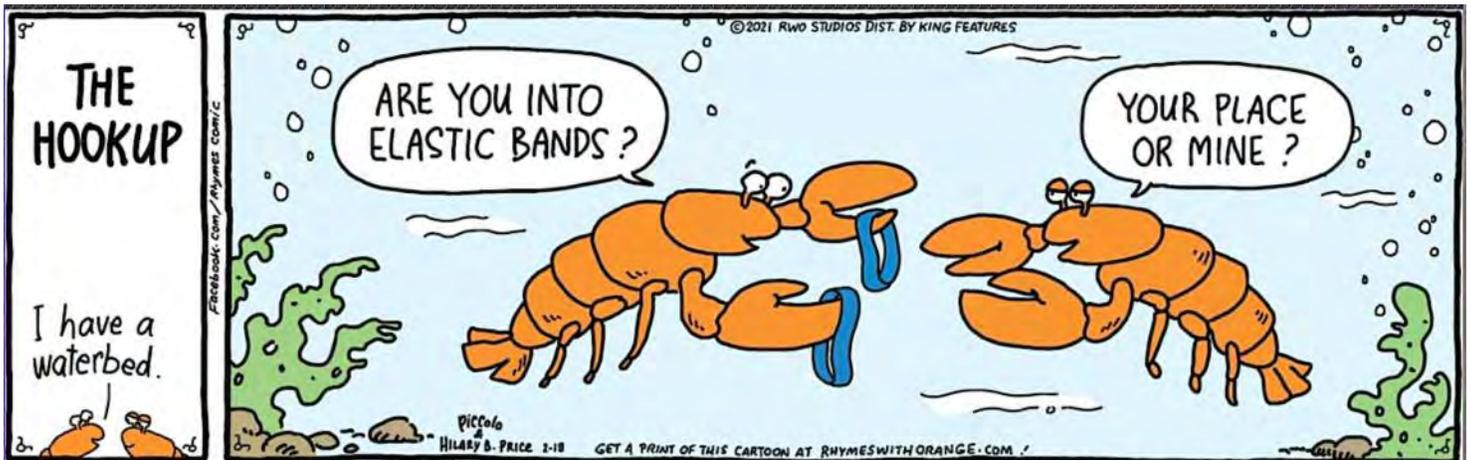
Octopus Selfie Wins the Competition

Gaetano Dario Gargiulo took the best of show award in the wide-angle category of the Ocean Art Underwater Photo Competition, organized by the Underwater Photography Guide, with a picture that an octopus took of itself in the tidal pool of Kamay Botany Bay National Park in New South Wales, Australia. Photographers from 80 different countries submitted work, but the octopus beat them all to win the prize. We assumed Gaetano shared the proceeds with it, but it's not clear how the animal did it. CNet 🌊



"I saw a large shadow emerge and thought, 'It's a tiger shark – fantastic,' but as it got closer, I saw how skinny it was and it looked like there was something trailing on its side," Mr Lafferty said. "It turned within a couple feet of me and my stomach dropped. I saw a heavy-duty rope around the entire shark. "It was so tight it was cutting into the shark and causing a loss of appetite which is why the shark was so seriously underweight.

"I had no cutting devices, so I documented the interaction to spread awareness around the shark community. "Later that week, the shark was seen again, and a lot of locals made attempts to cut the rope off but they weren't successful." He added: "The story has a happy ending. A few weeks later, the shark was spotted with the rope off.



Multiple agencies stop suspected abalone poachers in the act

On the night of Jan. 30, 2021, a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) law enforcement officer based out of Long Beach partnered with the Long Beach Police Department (LBPd) on a joint agency boat patrol in and around Long Beach Harbor. While on patrol, the officers observed the silhouettes of two subjects on the rocks of a jetty. LBPd boat operators dropped the wildlife officer off on the rocks to make contact. When he attempted to contact the subjects, they immediately fled, initiating a brief foot pursuit. Upon a subsequent search and with the help of the LBPd Air Support Unit, officers located two men hiding in the rocks who were in joint possession of 16 abalone. The nearby Los Angeles Port Police also assisted with the response.

The wildlife officer cited both subjects for 16 counts related to the unlawful take and possession of green and pink abalone. The abalone appeared to be in survivable condition and were carefully returned to the ocean.

"This is a perfect example of mutual aid cooperation allowing us to create a force multiplier in order to protect our precious resources," said David Bess, CDFW Deputy

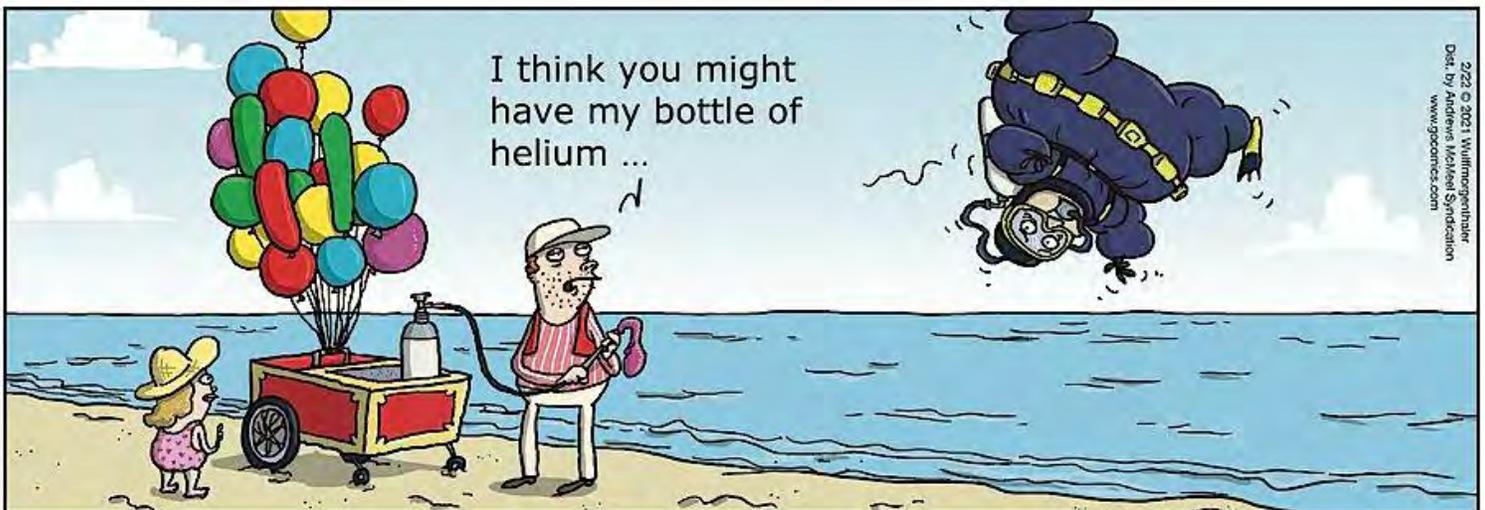
Director and Chief of the Law Enforcement Division. "This joint patrol effort allowed us to apprehend these suspected poachers who were targeting abalone, a protected species south of the Golden Gate for more than 23 years."

CDFW thanks LBPd and the Los Angeles Port Police for their continued dedication in helping keep Southern California's fish and wildlife populations safe.

A moratorium was established in 1997 for the take of abalone, commercial or recreational, south of the Golden Gate Bridge after the population neared collapse. A statewide closure of any abalone harvest took effect in mid-2017 as the red abalone population has continued to decline mostly due to environmental stressors.

The recreational closure of abalone harvest has since been extended north of the Golden Gate Bridge until 2026.

If you witness a poaching, wildlife trafficking or pollution incident, immediately dial the toll free CalTIP number, (888) 334-2258, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Tips may also be submitted by texting to tip411 (847411). Anyone with a cell phone may send an anonymous tip to tip411 by texting "CAL TIP" followed by a space and the message. Tips can also be reported through the free CalTIP smartphone app, which operates similarly to tip411 by creating an anonymous two-way conversation with wildlife officers. The CalTIP app can be downloaded via the Google Play Store and iTunes App Store. 🌟



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DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

ABBY GOLDEN WILSON

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MARCH 2021

★ 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, MARCH 3 BUSINESS MEETING 7:30 PM

The meeting will be held virtually via Skype. 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, MARCH 6 BEACH DIVE: LOCATION TBD

Coordinator: **Barbara Davis**, 408-656-6390, bjdscuba123@gmail.com. Details: Barbara is coordinating this dive which was moved from February. Dive site will be chosen based on conditions. Meet at 8:00 A.M. Bring 2 tanks. 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.

MONDAY, MARCH 8 GIANT KELP RESTORATION PROJECT WEBINAR

Divers needed for kelp restoration in Monterey! Opening webinar,

via Zoom, for the Giant Kelp Restoration Project at Tanker's Reef will be held from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. **Keith Rootsaert**, **Marc Shargel** and **Genevieve Rohe** present an introduction to the project and ways for divers to cull urchins and restore native kelp forests in an organized and scientifically meaningful program beginning in April.

Meeting Info:
<https://tinyurl.com/TankersReefKickOff>
Meeting ID: 988 1254 0142
Passcode: 37589

SATURDAY, MARCH 13 SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3) BEACH DIVE: LOCATION TBD

Coordinator(s): Join **Tom** and **Jackie**

GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

7:30 PM

Celebrating 57 Years

Join us online from the comfort of your own home (or wherever else you may be) now via Skype! The Club will send a meeting invitation to all members via email.

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



Gardner, 408-207-6294, tomandjackieus@yahoo.com, for this month's Second Saturday Scuba! Plan is to make a 2-tank dive. Plan to meet at 8 A.M. Bring a lunch for a proper social distanced post-dive lunch at the site. The dive site will be chosen based on conditions and the comfort and skill level of the attending divers. Let Tom and Jackie know you are interested by contacting them at tomandjackieus@yahoo.com. More details to come!

SATURDAY, MARCH 20 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SATURDAY, MARCH 27 FOURTH SATURDAY CYCLE

Coordinator: **Jim Rezwalli**, Phone 408-293-7390, email: jimandthebeach@gmail.com. Join us for our monthly Fourth Saturday Cycle. Remember to bring your bike and helmet, some water, and a snack! Exact location and timing TBD depending on weather, so sign up!

UPCOMING IN APRIL

01 Pt. Lobos reservations for May 8

(www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28353)

07 Business Meeting – Virtual

10 Second Saturday SCUBA

17 General Meeting – Virtual SJFD 57 Years Young!

24 Fourth Saturday Cycle (FSC)



Wear a mask, but not that mask



Brothers Rob and William Joseph (Mahwah, NJ) were kicked off a flight to Florida on January 23 because they weren't wearing the prescribed surgical masks. Instead they wore Narwall masks; airtight face shields with inhale and exhale filtration systems, inspired by full-face scuba masks. United Airlines was unrepentant, saying that the masks they wore did not comply with

the company's mask policy and could create certain impediments in a variety of emergency scenarios. ★

Shark fins smuggled in a consignment of fish

The Maldives declared a total ban on shark fishing in the country's exclusive economic zone in 2010, following a decline in shark population in the region. Despite this, Maldivian customs authorities seized 21 boxes earlier this month containing 429 kg of shark fins that were about to be illegally exported from Velana International Airport. The shark fins were found hidden in a cargo declared as salt fish. ★

☛ **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

2021 COMING EVENTS

Mar 1	Labor Day Weekend Reservations (Sept 1-5, 2021) Van Damme
Mar 3	Business Meeting
Mar 13	Second Saturday SCUBA
Mar 17	🐡 General Meeting
Mar 27	Fourth Saturday Cycle (FSC)
Apr 1	🐡 Pt. Lobos Reservations for May 8
Apr 7	Business Meeting
Apr 10	Second Saturday SCUBA - Easter Egg Hunt
Apr 21	🐡 General Meeting - SJFD 57 Years Old!
Apr 24	Fourth Saturday Cycle (FSC)
May 5	Business Meeting
May 8	Second Saturday SCUBA Pt. Lobos
May 19	🐡 General Meeting - Spring Raffle
May 22	Fourth Saturday Cycle (FSC)
May 26-30	Memorial Day Weekend

*Are you looking for
someone to dive with?*

The Flipper Dippers are an active group of SCUBA divers with our S3 (Second Saturday Scuba) dives every month. If you need someone to dive with, join us! 🌟



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



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