



San Jose Flipper Dippers

AUGUST
2021

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

Saturday, July 17 Dive Report

Howard Timoney

Former Dipper **Michael Gladden** is ready to get back in the water. After getting his regulators and gear serviced and a refresher course the weekend before, Michael and Howard (me) set up to go diving on Saturday, July 17. **Donovan Hill** and **Barbara Davis** wanted to escape the heat and decided to come along.

Donovan and Howard loaded up the blue beast at Howard's house and after a quick run to Gilroy, picked up Barbara at her house and we were on our way. We stopped by Aquarius Dive Shop (open at 7:00 am on the weekends) to pick up Barbara's favorite tanks which she had left for the week to get a VIP. We got to Monastery Beach a few minutes early. Michael, excited to get back into the water, was right behind us.

After a quick dive briefing, we suited up. Everybody was ready to go but somebody was leaking air. Turned out to be Michael's octopus regulator. After a few minutes trying to de-tune it with the usual field adjustments; banging it against the palm of the hand, pushing the purge button several times, pouring water through the mouthpiece and finally banging it against Michael's tailgate, none of which worked, we gave up. A very disappointed Michael wisely opted out of diving for the day. It was a bit odd given that he just had his gear serviced and had been in the water the weekend before with no problems. We suggested he swing by Aquarius to see if they could run a quick fix and meet us for the second dive.

Barbara, Donovan, and Howard entered the south end. After a brief surface swim, we descended into about 20 feet of water. Visibility had dropped since last weekend, only about 20-ft visibility. We switched on our dive lights to help keep track of each of other and went diving. There were the usual urchin barrens, small critters, young fish fry and a large ling cod who refused to move even after having his tail tweaked.

During our usual between dive BS and snacks we texted Michael. Aquarius couldn't help him, and he was on his



Look, it's a rock with some fins!

way to Any Water Sports to see if they could get the offending regulator to quit leaking air. Unfortunately, his weekend of diving was over.

Conditions were picking up a bit for our second dive but we entered with no problems. The second dive was a repeat of the first. Another big ling who wasn't moving and the usual Monastery critters. On the way back Donovan stopped us and started excitedly pointing to . . . a rock. Was there something else? No, looks like it's just a rock partially covered by sand. Wait, it's a rock with some fins. After attempting to fan the sand off the sleeping beast, Donovan poked the sleeping 16" California Thornback and it swam off.

Après dive lunch was at Crossroads BBQ.

Scorecard:

- 1 Former Dipper excited to be back in the water.
- 1 Former Dipper disappointed his gear that was serviced and working last weekend and crapped out this weekend.
- 3 Divers went into the water.
- 3 Divers came out of the water.
- Urchin barrens.
- 2 Large, not moving lingcods.
- Many hermit crabs.
- Some healthy kelp.
- Usual Monastery critters.
- 1 California Thornback.
- 1 Large and friendly harbor seal.
- 20-foot Visibility.
- 54-degree water (warmer than last weekend's 51-deg water).
- 1 Yummy delicious and highly nutritious BBQ lunch.

And the moral of the story:

You should have gone diving. 🌟

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



We got another jam-packed month with diving!

Leading the way is the ever-present Deposed President, Former Emperor, and Dear Leader for Life, **Howard Timoney**. With retirement on the horizon, **Barbara Davis** (close to becoming a LORD: Loyal Order of Retired Dippers) has been leading more dives as well. So, for those divers that want to dive beyond the usual Dipper S3 dives, contact these two to get your diving needs.

And if you'd like to coordinate a dive – and qualify for the Star Achievement Program – see the simple requirements on page 6 of this newsletter. Then contact our Vice President, **Abby Golden Wilson** to get your dive on the calendar!

It sounds like the Monterey Giant Kelp Restoration Project is starting to gain traction with the urchin culling class. So, sign up to help cull the Purple Urchins.

It looks like the in-person General Meeting is getting livelier, with more Dippers attending it. With this, I think more and more Dippers would be more willing to participate in the meeting or the virtual meeting. So join in!

Didn't Shoot the Tanks! – **Manuel**

Photo By Janna Nichols



Sunflower Star Laboratory Presentation via Zoom

Vincent Christian

I will be giving a Zoom presentation on Tuesday, August 3, to announce the genesis of Sunflower Star Laboratory, a solar-powered floating laboratory in the middle of Monterey Harbor that I plan to build for the purpose of growing sunflower sea stars from larvae for eventual reintroduction into the wild. While sunflower sea stars were once very common in California and through-

out the northern Pacific coast, a disease wiped most of them out in 2015 and they are now extinct in California. I will give a 20-minute presentation about the project and then answer questions afterwards. I hope you can make it!

Topic: Sunflower Star Laboratory

Time: Aug 3, 2021 02:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88209095403>

Meeting ID: 882 0909 5403

Passcode: 201298



San Jose Flipper Dippers

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We'll be having another in-person General Meeting this month and online virtual via Skype. If you come please bring a refreshment to share – safely! We'll again have a live Skype connection as well to communicate with those who still prefer to meet virtually. ☆

RAFFLE NEWS

We're back again this month for our in-person General Meeting. Due to the fact there might be a very small group, we will again hold off this month for the raffle. So keep those treasures safely stored for upcoming raffles. ☆

Borodin and **Boris Zamoruev** who joined us for a dive in July. We look forward to you joining us on more upcoming dives and becoming members!

Happy birthday! If we had a regular General Meeting, a FREE raffle ticket would be given to **Grace Chi, Howard Chien** and **Sergei Kuznetcov** – if they were born in August. But we're missing that important information from the Club's database! ☆

MEMBERSHIP

Ken Agur

Welcome **Corini,**

Alexis Dmytro

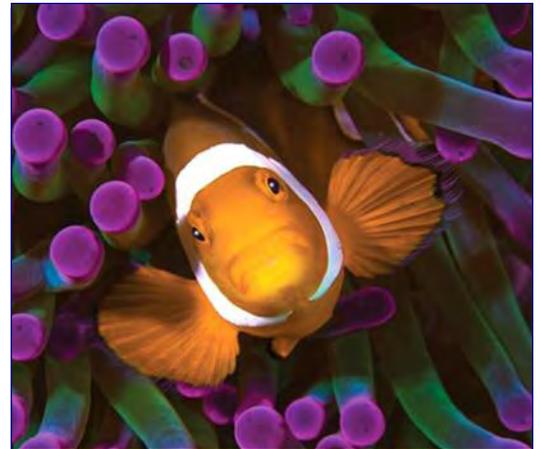
Look, it's a rock with some fins!



During the July 17 dive at Monastery Beach, Donovan stopped the group and started excitedly pointing to . . . a rock. Was there something else? No, looks like it's just a rock partially covered by sand. Wait, it's a rock with some fins. After attempting to fan the sand off the sleeping beast, Donovan poked the sleeping 16" California Thornback and it swam off. (Photos by Howard Timoney). ☆



Oh, no it's not . . . it's a California Thornback (*Platyrhinoidis triseriata*)



Please, Don't Shine Your Light on the Clownfish at Night

Scientists studying reefs at Moorea in French Polynesia have found that if exposed for long periods of (human-generated) artificial light, orange-fin anemone fish, a species of clownfish, were less likely to survive than those living on reefs farther from human habitation. Those that did survive grew at only half the rate of their nocturnal-living counterparts. It was unclear why the light affected the growth rate, but one theory is that it attracts predators. Another theory is that it has adverse psychological effects because the fish get tired by not reducing their nighttime activity. *The Guardian* ☆

Santa Cruz boating community recovers lost prosthetic leg

Santa Cruz Sentinel

Paddling beside her overturned canoe, Julie Dinsdale watched her 20-pound prosthetic leg quickly disappear into Monterey Bay's murky depths.

Boat salvage expert Monte Ash, owner and primary operator of TowBoatU.S. Santa Cruz, said Tuesday that when contacted last week, he put the odds of recovering the piece of waterproof equipment worth tens of thousands of dollars at 50-50. His work, he said, largely consists of "AAA for boats," focused on towing, recovering and jump-starting sunken, beached and otherwise troubled vessels.

"Open-water diving, looking for little things in the bottom of the ocean is not our specialty but we figured it out and we did it," Ash told the Sentinel on Tuesday after pointing out the probability that the prosthetic leg had drifted from its original point, the low water clarity, shifting tides and boat wakes just outside the Santa Cruz Small Craft Harbor. "It's a big ocean, starting right at the harbor mouth, so you never know."

With the help of the Santa Cruz Harbor Patrol's sonar equipment, it took TowBoatU.S.'s diver two dives and about 40 minutes of searching by hand in 16 feet of water to surface, prosthetic leg in hand and a smile on her face. Visibility at the site, about 100 yards from the harbor mouth, was at best several feet in front of her face, Ash said.

"We got her as close as we could, just using our GPS and our compass to the reference point and she dropped the weight and about 30 seconds later, she came up with the prosthesis," Ash said. "I was checking the map and making sure we dropped her in the right spot before she got too far into her search — I was staring at my instruments, making sure we were OK and Keith at the back of the boat says, 'Oh, we've got it.' I was like, 'No way.'"

Harbormaster Blake Anderson said the types of recovery expeditions he is most likely to be called to are reported keys lost in-harbor. "It's really really difficult finding something like that without specialized equipment and a robot," Anderson said of the prosthetic lost in the bay.

Team effort

Getting the odds as high as they were was largely thanks to Dinsdale's teammates in the Outrigger Santa Cruz paddling club, she wrote in an email to the Sentinel. "We paddled back into the harbor dock and it was then that the amazing women that make up the OSC women's

racing team leapt into action," Dinsdale said.

The prosthetic came off on the evening of June 28, at the end of an intensely grueling day of racing practice for Dinsdale and her fellow women's racing teammates. The six-person canoe Dinsdale and other novice racers were paddling in together had done a "huli," when the canoe overturns, dumping out its occupants — who must then right the vessel, bail it out and get safely back inside. This was not Dinsdale's first huli, but it was the first time her prosthetic leg was affected, she said.

Teammate Christine Arias said she saw the canoe flip from a distance and cheered as they righted it and everyone got back inside. It soon became clear, however, that something was amiss, she said. "We were off of Twin Lakes Beach and it's fairly deep, but everyone wears some kind of GPS because we're training," Arias said. "Our team is in training for some upcoming races. We were able to give the Harbor Patrol the exact coordinates of where the leg had gone down."

Once they knew what had happened, Outrigger Santa Cruz coach Debbie Lockett said teammates borrowed a beach wheelchair in lieu of crutches to move Dinsdale out of the water while others began discussing how they could help offset the cost of purchasing a new prosthetic and who they could reach out to for help. She and others flagged down a Santa Cruz Harbor Patrol boat, while others reached out to the Chardonnay yacht operators, Santa Cruz Port Commission Dennis Smith and Harbormaster Blake Anderson.

"I knew it was a long shot but I knew I'd be kicking myself if we didn't try," Lockett wrote in an email to the Sentinel about the decision to push for a dive search.



U.S. Santa Cruz diver Ryan Springer-Carter holds up a rescued prosthetic leg near where it was pulled June 28 out of Monterey Bay just outside the Santa Cruz harbor.

Betting the odds

"Then, not too much longer, Ryan surfaced and we could see she had something! As she got closer we could see her huge smile as she held up the lost prosthesis," Dinsdale added of the next morning's rescue operation. "We all started screaming. We were so, so ecstatic. So many people really pulled together and I can't thank Monte and Ryan enough."

After being rinsed, thoroughly dried and secured under her canoe seat, the prosthetic was back in action the very next evening, according to Dinsdale. "I will in future paddle without wearing it so in the event of another huli I will never lose it again," Dinsdale wrote. "We live and learn!" 🌟

Freak Accident Sinks Dive Boat

Seven people were left in the water when a dive boat, Safari Diver of South Florida Diving Headquarters, sank off Pompano Beach on July 19. Other boats raced to the rescue, and all seven passengers were saved, but they lost their car keys, wallets, phones, and anything else they had on board. An Undercurrent subscriber, diving the next day with South Florida Dive



Company's Black Pearl, was told by a crew member that the vessel's propeller fouled the mooring line the captain had attached to the wreck they intended to dive. The rotating prop managed to winch the vessel's stern underwater before the captain could grasp what was happening and stop the engine. The hull quickly filled with water and the vessel went down within minutes. ★



Check Your Passport

It's taking the U.S. State Department at least ten weeks to renew passports (in some cases even more), so if your passport is about to expire or if you are going to a country that requires your passport to be valid six months past the expiration date, or if you don't have enough blank pages to satisfy the country you're entering (usually 1-2, but a few require more), you had better get that renewal going. Passport expedition services like Its Easy Passport and Visa, which for a fee have been able to get passports completed in just a few days, are also facing long delays. ★



I'm not moving . . .

This lingcod wasn't having anything to do with **Howard Timoney** during the July 17th dive at Monastery Beach. But the lingcod did stick around for Howard to take his (her?) photo. ★

San Jose Flipper Dippers'

DIVE COORDINATOR GUIDELINES

How About You?



To be a Club dive coordinator you need only be a certified diver with some diving experience. It is important to remember that you are coordinating other certified divers who are diving within their training and experience limits. You should take care to not exceed that role. You should not act as a divemaster or an instructor (even if you are so qualified).

Safety should be the concern of all divers. Information such as who has a cell phone and whether oxygen is available should be shared with all the participants. In most locations the emergency number is 9-1-1 and is a free call.

It should be assumed that a certified diver is qualified to dive in a situation that is within the limits of his/her training with a diver of equal qualifications. If you suspect that a dive situation exceeds the qualifications of a diver, you should explain to them the potential difficulties they may encounter. However, remember that it is ultimately the diver him/herself who must make the decision as whether to dive, and he/she is ultimately responsible for his decision. Safe diving is a must!

Follow the Club constitution: "Encourage the conservation of all marine life by obeying all Federal and State game laws and urging others to do likewise."

A Simple Ten Point Guideline:

1. Choose a site/situation that you are familiar with and will be enjoyed by all divers.
2. Schedule your dive in time to be in the newsletter and announced at the Club meeting. Include the best method of contact so interested divers can contact you if they aren't at the meeting: Phone and/or email.
3. Collect the sign-up sheet after the Club meeting. If you can't attend, ask another member to get it for you.
4. If the dive will not occur as planned, make your best effort to contact all that expressed interest. Otherwise divers will assume the dive will occur as planned and show up at the site.
5. Make sure non-members are appropriately certified and have signed the Club's Assumption of Risk disclaimer (Available on the Club's Website).
6. Coordinate buddy teams to make sure that all divers who need a buddy, have one.
7. Tell all divers who are not familiar with the site/situation what they can expect entering/exiting the water and things to be on the lookout for.
8. Ask any divers who may want to leave early to let someone know so all divers can be accounted for after the dive.
9. Try to make the dive an enjoyable and safe experience for everyone, including yourself.
10. Plan to give a report on the dive at the next Club meeting. You can also submit a written report for the next Club newsletter so others can read about the dive. Take some photos of the divers too! ★

Labor Day Weekend

Sept 1-5

A number of Dippers have campsite reservations for the Labor Day Weekend in the "Lower Loop" at Van Damme State Park, in Mendocino.

- #4 - Howard Chen and Francis Lee
 - #5 - Tom & Jackie Gardner
 - #6 - Jim & Gabi Rezowalli
 - #7 - Dennis & Bonnie Nasont
 - #12 - Carl Tuttle - Up for Grabs!
 - #13 - Carl Tuttle
- (Some have reservations from Wednesday, Sept 1st thru Sunday, Sept. 5th).



Abalone fishing is closed but, we plan on bringing tanks, kayaks, mountain bikes to do some bike riding, and maybe some hiking. There is a great bike path along the coast in Ft. Bragg. The dive shop in Ft. Bragg closed a couple of years ago so there's no place for air fills or gear rentals. 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. ★



Space is available to share in their sites and Carl (tutcomms@sbcglobal.net) has an extra site he reserved (#12) and is available if someone wants to grab it. So contact him before he cancels the reservation.

DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

ABBY GOLDEN WILSON



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AUGUST 2021

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4

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 we'll discuss ideas for upcoming dives and events.

SATURDAY AUGUST 7

ELKHORN SLOUGH KAYAK

Join the Flipper Dippers for a kayak trip around Elkhorn Slough led by **Jim Rezowalli!** Be on the lookout for an email in early August with the full details on when and where to meet, and plan on bringing or renting your own kayak. If you plan to join us, or want to learn more, please RSVP at jimandthebeach@gmail.com, 408-293-7390 to receive final details and any last minute updates!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14

SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3) – BOAT DIVE, BEACHHOPPER II

Join **Barbara Davis** and the rest of the Flipper Dippers for this month's Second Saturday Scuba! Plan is to make a 2-tank dive on the Beachhopper II. At time of printing,

the boat is full. If you have reservations, please let Barbara know you will be there by contacting her at bjdscuba123@gmail.com.

GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18

The Dippers are excited to be hosting hybrid meetings for the next few months!

The **in-person General Meeting** will be held at **7:30 PM** at the Knights of Columbus Santa Maria Hall 2211 Shamrock Dr., Campbell.

The **virtual meeting** will continue to be hosted via Skype.

Please contact **Carl Tuttle** for more details on the in person meeting, and **Abby Golden Wilson** for a link to the virtual Skype meeting.

Celebrate 57 Years of the San Jose Flipper Dippers

**Entertainment:
Socially Safe Social Hour**



**SATURDAY, AUGUST 21
NO SCHEDULED DIVE**

SUNDAY AUGUST 22

4th SUNDAY CYCLE - Canceled

SUNDAY AUGUST 22

BEACH DIVE: LOCATION TBD

Join **Grace Chi**, chi.gracechi@gmail.com, and the rest of the Flipper Dippers for a beach dive! The plan is for a 2-tank dive. The dive site will be chosen based on surface conditions and the comfort and skill level of the attending divers. Meet at the dive site at 8:00 AM. Please RSVP with Grace to receive final details and any last minute updates.

SATURDAY AUGUST 28

NO SCHEDULED DIVE

TUESDAY AUGUST 31

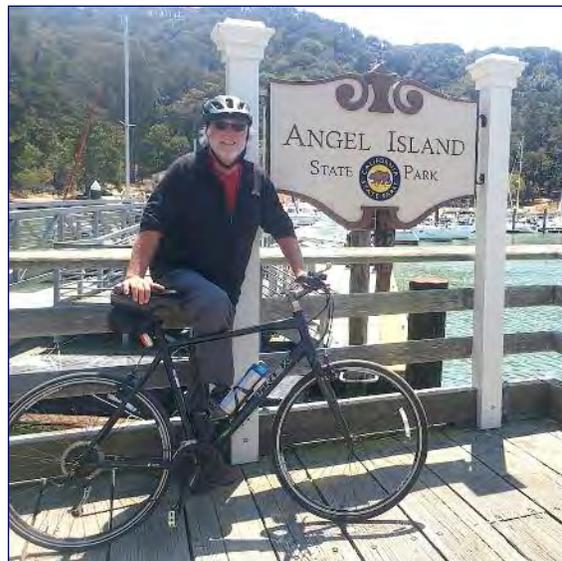
BUSINESS MEETING 7:30 PM

-
- UPCOMING IN SEPTEMBER**
- 01 Business Meeting – Moved to Aug 31
 - 01-05 Labor Day Weekend @ Van Damme + Albion
 - 11 Second Saturday SCUBA – Beach Dive
 - 15 General Meeting – HYBRID
 - 18 International Coastal Cleanup Day
 - 26 Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)



Some bodies missed the boat!

The early bird got the worm and many didn't! For the July 25th Fourth Sunday Cycle, everyone was given instructions on when and where to meet as well as information on purchasing tickets for the Blue & Gold boat trip from San Francisco to Angle island. Well . . . those who didn't get online early were outa luck as the boat sold out! So only **Jim** and **Gabi Rezowalli** (photos at right) and **Carri Edgar** got tickets. Sorry you missed da boat, looks like it was a great day! ★



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

Aug 04	Business Meeting - Virtual
Aug 07	Elkhorn Slough Kayak
Aug 14	Second Saturday SCUBA
Aug 18	👉 General Meeting
Aug 22	Beach Dive
Aug 31	Business Meeting
Sept 01	Business Meeting - Moved to Aug 31st
Sept 01-05	Labor Day Weekend Van Damme
Sept 04	No License Fishing Day
Sept 11	Second Saturday SCUBA
Sept 15	👉 General Meeting
Sept 18	International Coastal Cleanup Day
Sept 26	Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)
Oct 02	Lobster Season Opens
Oct 06	Business Meeting
Oct 09	Second Saturday SCUBA
Oct 20	👉 General Meeting
Oct 24	Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)

How About You?

Got a favorite
dive site? We're
looking for
Club Members
to step up and
lead a dive.
Contact VP
**Abby
Golden
Wilson** to
join 'the
force.' 🌟



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



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