

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

OCTOBER
2021

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD
3RD WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH
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Lora's Point Loma Whalefall (Point Loma – 180 fsw)

Brett Eldridge



Background

August 11, 2021: I was out diving with Ben Lair on the *Marissa* dive boat, with Lora and Chris, yesterday. We had two days of diving planned and we were diving mainly new targets based on some findings and data from Tyler Stalter.

On Monday, we dove a helicopter (more on that later) and yet another new “abandoned” airplane (again, more on that later). Between dives on Monday we went to go look at a target Tyler saw in the data in about 170 feet deep off of Point Loma. We didn’t find anything there but on the slow ride back to the second dive site, Lora saw something interesting on her new sonar system and she marked it.

On Tuesday we dove a different target in about 210’ (another story for later – you can see the pattern here) and then went to go check out what Lora had seen. The fun, interesting, and sometimes funny thing about diving new targets is that you never know what you are going to find...I’ve missed targets and found a cute baby octopus and other times I’ve found weird barge like structures and other times just piles of rocks in 250 feet of water

Yesterday, when I was slower going down and finally got down to the bottom of the down-line to meet Ben, he looked at me and said “It is a f’ing whale!”

The Whale

I took a bunch of pictures and some video of the whale and then thought that it might be a cool subject for a photogrammetry model and took some more photos. I missed one side and should have stayed down longer to finish photographing it, but the model turned out reasonably well.

The visibility was 5-10 feet and it was literally a night dive in terms of ambient light. I haven’t really edited any of these photos so there is a lot of backscatter but you can definitely get a sense of the whale.

continued on page 2



From left, **Carl Tuttle, Howard Chein, Frances Lee, Jackie Gardner, Jim Rezowalli, Gabi Rezowalli** and **Tom Gardner** after their bike ride along Big River.

Got Bikes?

Dippers got together for the Memorial Day Weekend at Van Damme State Park for diving, kayaking and bike riding. Unfortunately the weather stayed cool and overcast all weekend and no one wanted to get into their wetsuits to take the plunge into the cold ocean. So everyone spent time relaxing, chatting, enjoying the campfires, eating, walking on the beach, and a long bike ride along Big River in Mendocino.

While the group didn’t dive they did notice that the kelp beds appeared larger in Van Damme and Mendocino than last year. Some freedivers reported seeing more kelp and sightings of large starfish and much smaller purple urchins. They also reported seeing some improvement in the amount of abalone, although urchin barrens were still noticeable in many areas. Let’s hope the conditions continue to improve!

See more photos from the campout on page 4. ★

What's Inside?



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Spooktober is coming to rattle your bones!

Brand new Dipper **Carri Edgar** leads the way with coordinating the September S3 dive. **Barbara Davis**, ever closer to retirement, also coordinated a dive the week prior.

Dues are due in October; See page 3 of this newsletter for details. Contact our Treasurer, **Jackie Gardner** for information on how to pay your dues. And don't forget to send your liability forms too. The form is available on the

Club's website: www.sjflipperdippers.com.

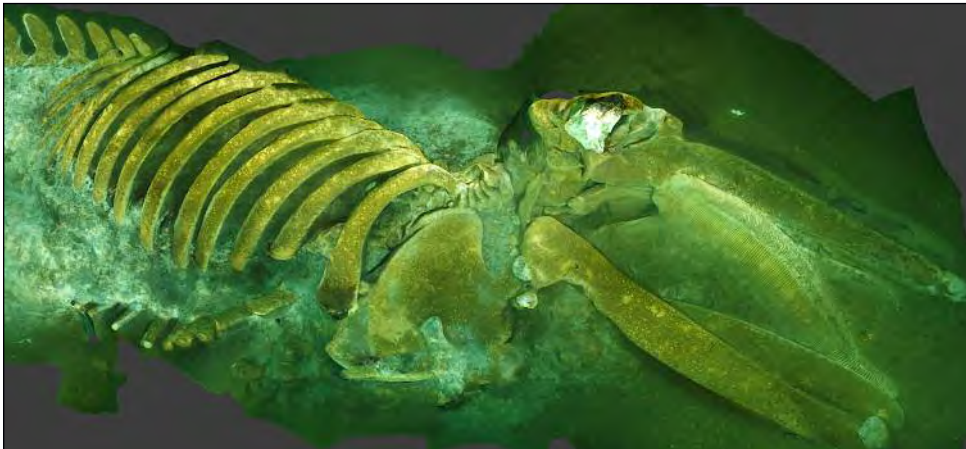
In other news, people want to start meeting in person for the General Meetings. The Knights of Columbus' Santa Maria Hall is getting more and more Dippers showing up for General Meetings. Some hope we can have a large turnout for a big Christmas meeting – including our famous big raffle! Well, I hope it happens so that the Dippers can get some normalcy again. Stay tuned as we get closer to the date for more information. But for me, as much as I want to attend, logistics does not give me the ability to participate in person unless the meetings happen on the weekend. So, virtual meetings will still be offered for those that can't or won't attend the in-person meetings.

Didn't Shoot the Tanks! – **Manuel**

continued from front page

Next Steps

We are in contact with both NOAA and Scripps institute. They are interested in potentially getting some samples of the whale. We are likely to do another dive on the site to gather more data and more pictures.



About Brett Eldridge (<https://wreckedinmyrevo.com/>)

This site is about my adventures in scuba diving – primarily technical diving. I currently dive primarily with a rebreather made by rEvo (www.revo-rebreathers.com/).

I retired about three years ago in order to pursue my dreams of diving in wrecks and caves in very remote places. I'm a beginning photographer but have slowly been working to make my photos and post-processing better. ★

Whale fall: A whale fall occurs when the carcass of a whale has fallen onto the ocean floor at a depth greater than 1,000 m (3,300 ft), in the bathyal or abyssal zones. On the sea floor, these carcasses can create complex localized ecosystems that supply sustenance to deep-sea organisms for decades. This is unlike in shallower waters, where a whale carcass will be consumed by scavengers over a relatively

short period of time. Whale falls were first observed in the late 1970s with the development of deep-sea robotic exploration. Since then, several natural and experimental whale falls have been monitored through the use of observations from submersibles and remotely operated underwater vehicles (ROVs) in order to understand patterns of ecological succession on the deep seafloor. ★



San Jose Flipper Dippers

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o Position Open o

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MEMBERSHIP

Ken Agur

Now that we're back in the water, prospective members are looking to dive. See the Club's Website (Membership Requirements) for more information.

Happy birthday! If we had a regular General Meeting, a FREE raffle ticket would be given to **Kelly Drake** and **Howard Timoney** joining a number of Dippers who have once again made a complete trip around the Sun in only 8,544 hours (More or less)! 🌟

CLUB DUES DUE THIS MONTH

It is October again and time to pay your **annual dues** at the General Meeting. Dues help cover a portion of the yearly room rental, website hosting, domain name registration, and newsletter printing and distribution. Each member will also be asked to sign an "Assumption of Risk Agreement" when dues are paid (the form is available on the Club's Website). If you can't make the in-person General Meeting please send a signed copy with your dues in the mail to: **Jackie Gardner**, 2986 Everdale Court, San Jose, CA 95148. Contact Jackie if you want to pay your dues in cash.

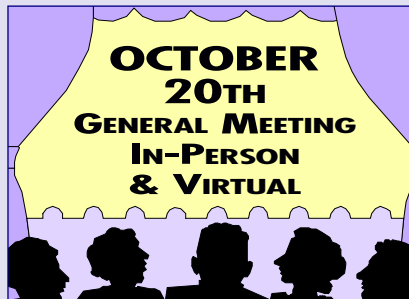
Club Dues this year are \$50.00 and \$10.00 per year to receive this Newsletter via the U.S. Postal Service. Or download it FREE each month from the Club's Website in full color. Charter and Lifetime Members will continue to receive the Newsletter by U.S. mail.

CenCal (Central California Council of Diving Clubs) dues are **\$15.00** and USofA (Underwater Society of America) dues are **\$20.00**. (Pay online at: www.cencal.org). These optional dues support the many efforts of CenCal and USofA on behalf of all divers in the areas of beach access along with conservation and state and national legislation. These two organizations form an effective method for presenting the divers' interests state-wide and nationally.

A summary of our annual dues is as follows:

CLUB DUES	\$ 50.00
Newsletter (U.S. Mail)	10.00
CEN CAL	15.00
USofA	<u>20.00</u>
Total	\$ 95.00

Remember, associate member (non-diving spouses of Dippers) dues are **\$5.00**. Associate members may attend Dipper functions at member prices, but have no voting privileges. Also, dues must be paid by November 30th or you will incur a late fee of \$5.00. **SO DON'T DELAY!** 🌟



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 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.

It has been suggested that we should have our big **Christmas General Meeting in December** and restart the raffle -- with all those treasures you've safely stored. So stay tuned for further updates as we get closer to the holidays! 🌟

NOMINATIONS FOR 2022 CLUB OFFICERS

HOW ABOUT **YOU?**



At the **November General Meeting** we will be nominating Club members for the following offices: **President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer** and **Sergeant at Arms**. To be eligible to hold an office, one must be a current member in good standing. Presidential nominees must have been a club member for at least two years. Holding an office is a rewarding experience as well as being of benefit to the club. **This is your chance to get involved** and voice your ideas as to the future of the San Jose Flipper Dippers. **The Election** of our officers will take place at the December General Meeting.

Duties of our Club Officers are as follows:

PRESIDENT: Has overall responsibility for the club's success. Presides at all general, business and special meetings and appoints standing committees for the year and special committees as seen fit. Also includes writing a monthly *President's Corner* for the newsletter.

VICE PRESIDENT: Responsible for scheduling of the dive calendar each month, arranging for dive coordinators, and writing the monthly calendar article for the newsletter. Includes presiding at all meetings in the absence of the President.

SECRETARY: Includes maintaining the minutes for all general and business meetings and handling club-related correspondence. Responsible for attending all meetings or making arrangements for someone to handle the duties in his/her absence.

TREASURER: Receives membership dues and handles all income and expenses, maintains financial records and makes monthly reports to the club. Also makes deposits into the club's accounts and issues checks for authorized expenses. Maintains expense accounts as needed for events such as boat dives, banquets, etc.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Includes making arrangements for all meetings and setting up necessary meeting equipment. Maintains order at the meetings and collects fines levied upon members. 🌟

Labor Day Weekend at Van Damme

Photos by Jackie Gardner



Above, Tom, Jackie, Carl and Howard think they're having a good time. And they were! Top right, Carl at his lucky site #13. Far right, Gabi and Jim have a new Thule Tepui rooftop tent – Rapunzel is waiting for her suit-or! Right, Gabi is ready for the chilly weather.



Bowling Ball Beach

Bowling Ball Beach is a popular tourist attraction located just north of Mile Marker Post 11.25 on the Mendocino Coast at Schooner Gulch State Beach. The natural spherical sandstone concretions are only visible at a low tide. Over the years, strong winter storms clean the balls on kelp and any other growth. 🌟

Saving Abalone

Abalone diving is banned, and work goes on to restore the giant sea snail on California's coast

Tara Duggan - San Francisco Chronicle

April used to be the beginning of abalone diving season, when Bay Area families would head up the Sonoma-Mendocino coast to harvest the creatures, whose delicate flavor seems to capture all the mysteries of the sea.

The gigantic mollusk has turned out to be too delicious for its own good. Overfishing and disease led to the collapse of many abalone populations in the 20th century, and a series of environmental catastrophes led the state to ban recreational diving for red abalone in 2018, a moratorium recently extended to 2026.

But researchers are working on restoring native abalone species that once filled the state's tide pools and littered its beaches with huge mother-of-pearl shells. The center of that research is in the Bay Area, at the UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory in Bodega Bay. There scientists have been breeding endangered white abalones so they can be reintroduced to their native Southern California and are researching how both native and farmed abalone may adapt to the ocean acidification that comes with climate change.

"The cultural and economic and ecological importance of abalone can't be overstated," said Kristin Aquilino, who heads the lab's white abalone project. "Overfishing is what caused white abalone to be on the brink of extinction. So I think that we have a responsibility to fix that." Aquilino jokingly refers to the lab as an abalone fertility clinic, where researcher Sara Boles is pioneering techniques to use ultrasound equipment designed for human breast exams to divine the gastropods' reproductive readiness, which happens in the spring. "Predicting when they're ready to reproduce — that's the holy grail," said Daniel Swezey, another project scientist at the lab.

Seven abalone species inhabit the California coast, suctioned to rocks with a muscular foot, their tentacles quivering like a fringed skirt under oval shells. They have been a source of food for native people for more than 10,000 years and became part of a commercial fishery in the Gold Rush era. In addition to the white and red species, black, pink and green abalones were also commercially fished (two other native species, pinto and flat abalones, were not). Overharvesting caused their populations to collapse starting in the mid-20th century, leading to the end of all commercial fishing by 1997. By then, all that was left was the recreational fishery for red abalone north of the Golden Gate. While scientists estimate that each species of abalone in California once numbered in the millions, the legal catch of red abalone dropped to about 240,000 annually in its last few years.

The closure of that last fishery in 2018, which cut off an estimated \$15 million to \$25 million spent annually at businesses frequented by abalone divers, according to the Fish and Game Commission, was in response to environmental disruption. Most current threats to abalones are climate-related: Marine heat waves are partly responsible for the near disappearance of the kelp forest on the North Coast, the red abalone's food source. An explosion of purple sea urchin, which devoured the remaining kelp, was another

factor. In recent months, the endangered black abalone became an unwitting victim of last year's Dolan Fire, when resulting mudslides on the Big Sur coast buried thousands of them, biologists embarked on a huge rescue effort. They packed up survivors in coolers and transferred them to a makeshift rehab facility, where they're staying until it's safe to return them to the Big Sur coast.

Abalones are found on almost every continent, and worldwide their biggest looming threat from climate change is ocean acidification, which happens as the ocean absorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The lower-pH water makes it difficult for them to grow hard shells.

In the lab, Swezey and Boles created the ocean acidification conditions expected to exist in 10 to 20 years to see how both farmed and wild red abalone from the Mendocino coast will fare. In a study published last fall, they found that the wild ones survived better because they've already been conditioned by the more acidic water that comes from marine

upwelling in their area. Swezey, also a scientist at a commercial abalone farm near Santa Barbara, said future restoration efforts will have to focus on which animals are the hardest and what enables them to tolerate acidification.

Coaxing abalone to reproduce in the wild or in a lab is not easy. In the ocean, the giant marine snails aren't very prolific when their numbers drop and they become less densely populated. Males and females do what's called broadcast spawning, sending their eggs and sperm out into the water, and need to be within a few meters of each other.

In the lab or at abalone farms, humans must try to first create the right conditions for abalones to become reproductive, through diet, water temperature and light, and then have to predict when the males and females are ready to spawn. Aquilino was disappointed last month when none of the two dozen animals she thought were ready spawned. "It happens from time to time that they don't cooperate," she said. "Maybe they were feeling the pandemic stress." They'll give it another go later this month.

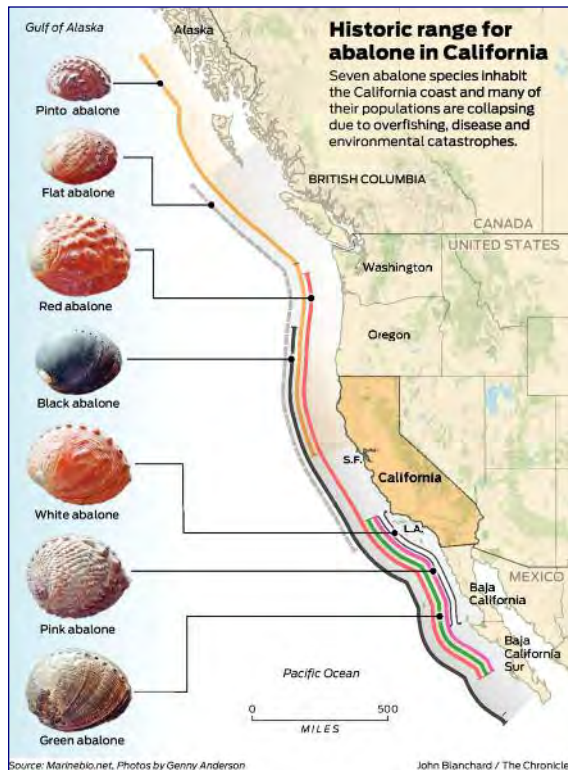
Captive breeding of white abalone began in 2001, when it became the first marine invertebrate to receive endangered species status. Scientists at the Channel Islands Marine Resource Institute bred over 100,000 juveniles, but most perished from a disease called withering syndrome. Recovery efforts moved to Bodega Lab in 2011, which now breeds about 20,000 juveniles a year. The goal is to increase to 100,000, Aquilino said.

Last year, they introduced 1,000 captive-bred abalone in Southern California. They won't know how successful they were for three to five years, when they grow larger.

Figuring out the best spots for introducing abalone is an area that Todd Braje, a professor of anthropology at San Diego State University also affiliated with the California Academy of Sciences, researches from a historical perspective. Braje studied archaeological shell middens, or abalone trash piles up to 12,000 years old left behind by the Chumash tribe and their ancestors, on the northern Channel Islands, for a study he published in 2019. After determining where abalone fishing was most intensive based on the location of middens, he compared that to maps of the most popular commercial fishing grounds from the 19th and 20th century. He found three specific locations where people from each era fished for abalone, which led to a surprisingly upbeat conclusion — that they'd also make the best places to start bringing back black abalone because historically that's where the species was most abundant.

"Through those 10,000 years there's been tremendous changes in climate, along with other pressures like fishing. Black abalones seemed to do well through all of that," he said, even though that's where they were fished the most. "Let's start reseeding in these spots first, because they seem to be the most resilient."

It's a small sign of hope for the state's beloved giant sea snail, after all it's been through. 🌊



Freediving and Scuba May Enhance the Side Effects of the Vaccine

Diver Alert Network (DAN) reminds us that divers should keep out of the water about seven days after receiving the COVID vaccination and keep that in mind when it's time for your booster. Mild side effects are common in the first three days, and these can include a sore arm, red at the injection site, fever/chills, headache, fatigue, muscle aches, or nausea, which may be enhanced by increased ambient pressure. As for the side effects, not to worry; they simply indicate your body is building an immune response (called 'reactogenicity').



Is It a Shark or Is It a Pig?

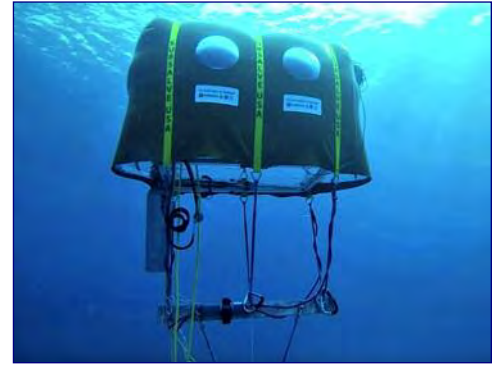
In early September, Italian naval officers near Portoferraio on the island of Elba, a popular diving spot, were stunned when they pulled the corpse of a shark with a face of a pig from the water. Rumors of it being some kind of mutant were quickly dispelled when it was identified as



a rare angular rough shark. You won't get to see one while diving because these animals inhabit waters 2,300 feet beneath the surface. *Daily Mirror*

Camping at Sea

The press calls it an inflatable tent, but it is an inverted tent that holds air underwater so that divers can effectively use it for camping out. It was invented by Winslow Bureson, a professor at the University of Arizona College, and professional diver Michael Lombardi. The tent provides a relatively dry and protected space underwater for divers to enter, remove their equipment, and carry out tasks before returning to the surface. The high-tech habitat provides a place for divers to decompress after deep scientific dives and even an underwater facility to treat decompression sickness in remote locations. It also provides shelter for long-term observations of wildlife behavior. The highly portable system can provide adequate life support to two occupants through an overnight stay.



So Now You Know . . .

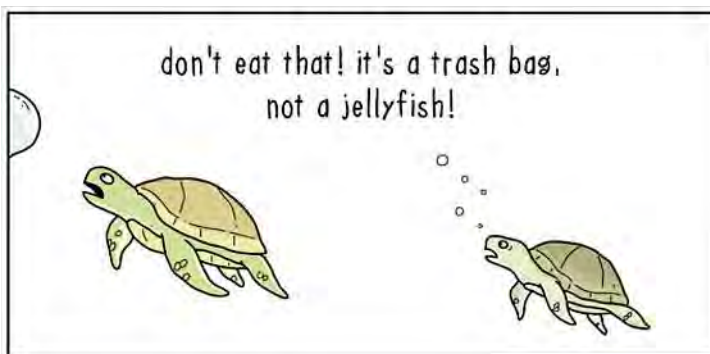
P.G. Beach Blasted Out By Dynamite

The late William S. Smith built the Pacific Grove beach in the summer of 1904, blasting out the beach area by use of dynamite.

Shortly before his death in 1948, Smith recalled the stormy opposition he received when he made the beach. "I guess I was a devil to them and they gave me hell. Nobody wanted a beach where people could go on Sundays, because we had what we called the Sunday Blue Laws in those days.

"Whatever laws weren't written were understood anyway. It was wicked to swim on Sunday, and despite the opposition, I started to work."

With the rock he blasted loose, Smith built the stone wall and pier that still stand. The tides brought in the sand and made the beach beautiful as it is today.



DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

ABBY GOLDEN WILSON

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OCTOBER 2021

SATURDAY OCTOBER 2
LOBSTER SEASON OPENS
NO SCHEDULED DIVE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6
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 OCTOBER 9
SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3)
BEACH DIVE: CARMEL RIVER STATE BEACH Join coordinator **Howard Timoney**, (408-439-6822, howardtimoney@comcast.net) and the rest of the Flipper Dippers for this month's Second Saturday Scuba! Plan is to make a 2-tank dive. Meet at 8:00. Parking lot and restrooms available. Kayaks are optional. Please see Howard's article in this month's newsletter (below) for additional details!

SATURDAY OCTOBER 16
NO SCHEDULED DIVE

GENERAL MEETING **WEDNESDAY, OCT. 20**

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 OCTOBER 23
NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SUNDAY OCTOBER 24
FOURTH SUNDAY CYCLE

Join us for our monthly Fourth Sunday Cycle led by **Jim Rezowalli**. Remember to bring your bike and helmet, some water, and a snack! Please RSVP at jimandthebeach@gmail.com, 408-293-7390 to receive final details and any last minute updates!

SATURDAY OCTOBER 30
NO SCHEDULED DIVE



UPCOMING IN NOVEMBER

- 03 Business Meeting – VIRTUAL
- 13 Second Saturday SCUBA – Beach Dive
- 17 **General Meeting – Nominations for 2022 Office !!!**
- 20 Wine Tasting & Picnic
- 25 Memorial Day Weekend Reservations (May 25-29, 2022) Big Sur
- 28 Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)



October 9 Second Saturday Scuba (S3) - Sign Up!

Good People

It's October
Where did the summer go?
October is fall and fall means shorter days, falling leaves and curling up in front of the fire with a good book of poetry:

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day;
Emily Bronte

Who's kidding who?
Autumn means diving and lots of it.

Join me, your deposed President, former Emperor, and Dear Leader for Life, this October 9 at Carmel River State Beach for our October S3 dive.

Carmel River is a great intermediate to advance dive site. What makes it an intermediate dive site is the long walk across the beach to the water.

There is a nice rocky reef fairly close to the shore with depths running between 20 and 40 feet. Swim far enough and depths of 80-90 feet can be reached.



This will be a 2-tank dive. For those kayak divers, kayaks are optional.

The parking lot gate opens at 8:00 AM. Meet before 8:00 to make sure you get a parking spot. There are bathrooms next to the parking lot with flush toilets.

If conditions do not warrant safe diving at Carmel River Beach we will move to another dive spot.

Give me a call, or email me, if you have any questions or concerns.

Please let me know if you are planning on diving so I can let you know of any last-minute changes.

Howard Timoney
408-439-6822, howardtimoney@comcast.net.

Driving Directions: Any of the smart phone map aps or car GPS systems will get you to Carmel River State Beach. Address: 26478 Carmelo St, Carmel-By-The-Sea, CA 93923. From southbound Highway 1 in Carmel, the park is one mile south of Ocean Avenue. Turn right on Rio Road, then turn left on to Santa Lucia, then left on Carmelo. ★

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 cancelation 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

Oct 02	Lobster Season Opens
Oct 06	Business Meeting
Oct 09	Second Saturday SCUBA (S3)
Oct 20	👉 General Meeting
Oct 24	Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)
Nov 03	Business Meeting
Nov 13	Second Saturday SCUBA (S3)
Nov 17	👉 General Meeting - Nominations for 2022 Office
Nov 20	Wine Tasting & Picnic
Nov 25	Memorial Day Weekend Reservations (May 25-29, 2022) Big Sur
Nov 28	Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)
Dec 01	Business Meeting
Dec 11	Second Saturday SCUBA (S3)
Dec 15	👉 General Meeting - Election of Officers & Christmas Raffle



*Kayaks are optional for the
October 9th S3 Dive*

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



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