

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

JANUARY
2022

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



I only have eyes for you!

This sea lion was making googly eyes at **Howard Timoney** during the December 11th dive at South Monestary See the dive report on page 4.

Dive report for Saturday, December 4

Howard Timoney

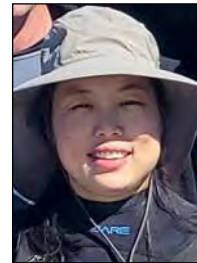
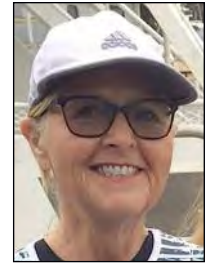
It was the Monday after Thanksgiving and yours truly, Deposed President, former Emperor and Dear Leader for Life discovered my gills were drying out. A couple of texts later and *The Gang of 4*, **Carri Edgar**, **Grace Chi**, **Barbara Davis** and I were ready to dive. Carri and Grace pulled up to my house bright and early Saturday morning, loaded up their gear into the Blue Beast Dive Mobile and we made the quick run to Gilroy to pick up Barbara. Condition forecasts looked good, so we drive to South Monastery to check it out.

It was king tide weekend all over northern California. High tide was scheduled for 9:30 am. There were minimal waves at the beach, and the water was about halfway up the steep slope at Monastery. We figured this would make our climb up the beach at exit so much easier. And there would be less of a swim to get some depth. We suited up and went diving.

The water did not disappoint.

Visibility was over 30'. We swam along the rock and sand boundary and turned to the right, looking for a rocky reef we like to dive. But we missed our turn point and all we saw was sand. Following from the front, I kept swimming towards a shadow thinking it was the rocky reef. Nope, more sand. I turned around and discovered I had left the others. A left turn, a little bit of swimming and we re-connected. We finished the dive swimming along the rock and sand barrier. A nice leisurely dive.

Remember the part about the climb out at exit being continued on page 2



New Board takes over for 2022

Congratulations to our new 2022 Board! Clockwise from top left: **Barbara Davis** (Pres.), **Tom Gardner** (Vice Pres.), **Jackie Gardner** (Treas.), **Grace Chi** (Sec.) and **Howard Chien** (Sgt.-at-Arms). We're sure our Club officers will be organizing a great year of diving and other activities that everyone will enjoy. Join in on the virtual Planning Meeting on January 26 or sign up to lead a dive or activity! ☆



Awards Banquet Postponed

Due to the continuing restrictions on gatherings during this COVID-19 pandemic the Club has decided to postpone the Annual Awards Banquet, scheduled for January 22nd. We'll have to wait until things settle down and restrictions are lifted for the opportunity to safely get together. Stay tuned. ☆

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Another year has gone by, and another year is on its way. We gained a couple of new Dippers, with many on their way to membership. So many locations have opened up for people to gather in, so many Dippers have started meeting in person in the Knights of Columbus Meeting Hall.

We finished off the year with a number of Dippers getting wet including the Point Lobos dive the week after Christmas and a night dive too. It is getting exciting here for the Dippers. The coming year for the Dippers is sure to be full of more fun-filled activities. The most significant activity is the April Club Trip to Bonaire, led by the venerable **Barbara Davis**, with 18 Dippers and friends ready to go. **Grace Chi** is coordinating a boat dive February 12 on the Double Down. Let the Club's vice president, **Tom Gardner**, know if you want a particular dive to happen, or better yet, coordinate a Second Saturday Scuba Dive (S3) so you can be totally in charge of where you want to dive. It also lets you complete tasks to earn a star in the Star Achievement program!

Future discussions of hybrid meetings are still up in the air, so attend those business meetings to voice your concerns.

New Club Officers will now taking over. As my last President's Corner, I wish them Good Luck.

Scrapped the Tanks!! – **Manuel**

continued from front page

easy? Well, being a high king tide, we exited halfway up the steep slope, which made the Monastery Crawl a STEEP Monastery Crawl. We are not sure which is worse, walking up a steep slope or crawling up a steep slope.

After about an hour surface interval we geared up and went back out. Second dive was a repeat of the first, but we stayed along the rocks.

Our après dive lunch was at Crossroads BBQ, a Flipper Dipper favorite. After lunch we headed to Aquarius to fill our tanks for the next dive day. Earlier in the week Carri had been texting with a guy who was clearing out his dive closet and was selling a couple of extra tanks. She met up with him in the Aquarius parking lot and bought herself an early Christmas present, 2 slightly used high pressure steel 100s. Carri, those tanks are almost as tall as you are!

Score Card:

- 4 went into the water (twice)
- 4 came out of the water (twice)
- Surface conditions: Very small waves
- Entrance: Easy peasy
- Exit: Steep crawl out
- Tide: High
- Water Temperature: a balmy 56 degrees
- Visibility: 30+ feet
- Time down:
 - 52 feet for 44 minutes
 - 53 feet for 50 minutes
- The usual Monastery critters
- Urchin Barren: Bad
- Sun: Came out at lunch
- Lunch: Crossroads BBQ, sooo yummy
- New dive gear: 2 slightly used HP steel 100's for Carri

And the moral of the story:

It was a great day to be in the water. You should have gone diving. ★



San Jose Flipper Dippers

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o Position Open o

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**JANUARY
19TH
GENERAL MEETING
IN-PERSON
& VIRTUAL**



RAFFLE NEWS

We had a few more in-person attendees at this meeting, and we were able to hold our Annual Christmas Raffle and share some wine and goodies. We didn't have a Christmas tree, but the money envelopes made an appearance on the raffle table. This year, the amount inside was not written on the envelopes. So even though his raffle ticket was the first drawn, **Tom Gardner** only ended up with \$20. The \$50 was later taken by new prospective member **Jennifer Morris**, and **Carl Tuttle** picked up the \$30. Several bottles of wine were later claimed by **Barbara Davis**, **Howard Chien** and Jennifer. **Jackie Gardner** picked up a box of chocolates and a

leather wallet, while Barbara also scored a cookies-and-chocolate gift basket. **Frances Lee** claimed a set of holiday glasses. It was great to see Raffle Chairperson **Leigh Tuttle** at the raffle table again! BIG FUN! 🌟

MEMBERSHIP

Ken Agur

We had two new prospective members come to the December general meeting. Welcome **Chris** and **Jennifer Morris!** They've been diving for some time but took a break for a bit and are ready to get back in the water.

Happy birthday! These Dippers have made it through another year: **Manuel Mangrobang** and **Dennis Nasont.** 🌟

We'll be having our in-person General Meeting this month. 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. See the front page for more information 🌟

Big Christmas Raffle at the December General Meeting - What Fun!



Barbara Davis ready to party!



Tom Gardner scored \$20.



Leigh Tuttle ready to sell tickets.



Frances Lee is a winner!



Barbara scores!



Jackie Gardner wants winning tickets.



Carl Tuttle is \$30 richer.



Jennifer Morris likes the \$50 Flipper Dippers.



Howard Chen is now ready for a Holiday party.

December 11th S3 Dive

Barbara Davis

Dippers **Barbara Davis**, **Howard Timoney** and **Cedric Wright** headed down to South Monastery Beach for the December S3 dive. Chilly weather was expected, so Barbara and Howard brought their drysuits, while Cedric braved the chilly waters in his wetsuit. We basically did the same dives as the previous Saturday, but with better navigation results!

There are still a lot of little purple sea urchins at South Monastery, but three playful sea lions joined us on the first dive. One was observed trying to nip Howard's fins! Without the previous kelp field, we've had trouble finding our usual rocks, and on the second dive we again found ourselves in the same wide sand patch as we had the previous week. Should we go right or left? Howard guessed left, and it worked! We found some great rocks with many critters still to be found among the sea urchins.

Each dive was over 50 minutes with max depths to almost 50 feet. Viz was about 30 feet, and the water temp about 52 degrees.

Barbara lost her balance after the second dive and fell on her back in the sand. Much hilarity ensued as Cedric



Cedric captured this playful sea lion on his GoPro during the dive.

tried to help her get up. Finally, he just rolled her over like a log and she was able to stand up for the hike back to the car. But she did report taking a record number of monster berries in her gear! We headed to Crossroads BBQ for a yummy lunch after the dive! 🌟

Scuba dive in the comfort of your own home with this virtual simulator

Virtual Divers International (VDI) is promoting this App as the world's first realistic diving simulator. This App is as close to diving as you can get on your mobile device while playing a game at the same time. VDI has changed the game, both literally and figuratively, and this is only the beginning!

The Virtual Divers International App allows you to perform skills like mask clearing, regulator removal and recovery, equipment assembly, descents, and ascents and even hand signals. This game will engage new and experienced divers or anyone just wanting to learn more about our sport or even preparing for a course. If you just want to find out about the latest innovations in equipment, you will love the VDI app.

There are two primary sections to the game:

- The first is a training module that simulates a training section with an

instructor. You will practice actual diving skills the same as you would learn in a classroom.

- The other section is more like a traditional game, but you get to perform many of the same virtual activities you would perform on an actual dive. There is an element of gaming with gold coin collection you can use to buy equipment in the virtual store.

There are two difficulty levels within the game. The first is Easy Mode which allows you to cruise around discovering new parts of the reef and finding new marine life. The Pro Mode level is more difficult and includes many real world skills like controlling buoyancy and equalizing your ears. Control your buoyancy, equalize, monitor your computers gas, depth, and time diving under real dive conditions.

Like a lot of traditional games, you can explore, collect gold, and get points. There are additional skills and fun like a swim through "the rings of destiny." There are literally hours of fun and education for the whole family. Virtual Divers International has multiple courses due for release soon where you can explore options for future real certifications. 🌟



Car Tires Discarded in the Ocean Trap Hermit Crabs Forever

Car tires abandoned on the seabed are creating inescapable traps for hermit crabs, leading to slow or even brutal deaths of the “cleaners of the ocean,” researchers at Hirosaki University in Aomori Prefecture said.

The tires are another example of how reckless human activity can lead to an endless cycle of destruction in

the seas. Fishing nets and other “ghost gear” left in the oceans have long been killing marine life.

The university research team, in a report published in October, said discarded tires are also damaging the marine ecosystem by destroying hermit crabs, which purify water and sand. The study started after Atsushi Sogabe, an associate professor at the university, noticed many sea snail shells and hermit crabs in the interior of a discarded tire.

The researchers sank six tires into the ocean for an experiment, and a total of 1,278 hermit crabs had gotten inside the tires in a year. Although the researchers saw some hermit crabs gaining entry into the tires, none of them were able to come out.

When the hermit crabs tried to escape the tire, likely in search of larger shells to fit their growing size, they moved along the wall of the interior. But the tire’s re-curve kept the crabs stuck inside. Many hermit crabs found

inside the tires had damaged shells.

“Trapped in an environment with poor resources like the tire’s interior, they might have been fighting for shells or cannibalizing each other for food,” Sogabe said.

Although it remains unknown how each tire specifically affects the environment, abandoned tires continue to be found during marine cleanups. Sogabe says that the issue cannot be ignored and has called for countermeasures.

The team’s study was published in the Royal Society Open Science at (<https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rsos.210166>). ★



The damaged shells of hermit crabs inside an abandoned tire indicates they likely cannibalized each other or struggled to find larger shells for their growing bodies. (Provided by Atsushi Sogabe)



“It seems that when hermit crabs die, only their shells remain,” said Atsushi Sogabe, an associate professor at Hirosaki University who studied the damage caused by abandoned tires. (Provided by Sogabe)

Where's the COVID Risk High for Traveling Divers?

Undercurrent

Omicron variant of the Coronavirus may be a game changer. In late November the U.S. CDC listed many dive destinations popular with Undercurrent members as having the highest risk for COVID-19 infections: French Polynesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Costa Rica, Aruba, Curaçao, Cuba, U.S. Virgin Islands, Dominica, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent (and the Grenadines).

Divers should consider Puerto Rico, where we have reported on some good diving. And Florida and Hawaii, as well.



Foreign destinations to consider include: Indonesia, Micronesia, St. Eustatius, St. Barts, Saba, and Palau, but some remain closed to travelers, and many countries see travelers from the U.S. as high risk, thanks to people who refuse to wear masks and the unvaccinated. ★

GoPro Selfie-Stick an Unwanted Shark Bait?

Undercurrent

Many divers use a GoPro extending stick to get their little camera closer to wildlife while keeping their hands and bodies away. However, reef sharks in the Bahamas and elsewhere are becoming accustomed to being offered fish on the end of a short spear.

John Miller, a shark instructor and CEO of Lubbock’s Texas Dive Center, tells us that sharks are following divers with GoPro sticks, thinking the GoPro on the tip is food.

We have learned of several divers losing their cameras when a shark took a nibble on the plastic housing.

In our October 2021 review of the Belize Aggressor IV, our author watched a diver lose her GoPro to a shark. Be careful when extending an arm with a GoPro too. Your fist could look tasty. ★



Stranger Things: Rare, deep-sea fish washes ashore at San Diego beach

KGTV San Diego

Many people have their speculations about the thousands of unknown species that swim in the unattainable trenches in the deep blue sea. Some of those rare species have managed to find their way to shorelines in the San Diego area, and a beachgoer in North County came across a strange discovery when he spotted a scary-looking fish washed ashore at Black's Beach in Torrey Pines nearly two weeks ago.

Jay Beiler says he was walking on the beach around 4:40 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13 when he saw an odd-looking object on the beach. He initially thought it was a jellyfish from a distance, but as Beiler got closer, he noticed it was something far stranger.



According to experts, the Pacific Footballfish, or scientifically known as *Himantolophus sagamius*, usually lives in waters that are 3,000 feet deep. As in most other deep-sea anglerfish families, sexual dimorphism is extreme: the largest females may exceed lengths of 60 centimetres (24 inches) and are globose in shape, whereas males do not exceed 4 cm (1 1/2 in) as adults and are comparatively fusiform.

The Scripps Institution of Oceanography says the last time a fish like this washed up in San Diego was 20 years ago in Dec. 2001 at Dog Beach in Del Mar, and this is the third one known to wash up in California. This anglerfish has been found in California, Japan, Hawaii, Ecuador, Chile, and the Philippines. But the first deep-sea anglerfish discovered was found on a beach in Greenland in 1833. This species is a close relative to *Himantolophus groenlandicus*, the Atlantic Footballfish. In the 1960s, a footballfish was found floating alive off Japan, and researchers were able to keep it alive in a tank for 8 days.

Pacific Footballfish

In 1985, deep-sea fishermen in Monterey Bay,

California, hauled up their nets to find a menacing-looking fish with a 6-inch-long globular body, prickly skin, needle-sharp teeth, miniscule eyes, and a strange stalk on its head. This was the same Pacific footballfish (*Himantolophus sagamius*) we

now have in our collections, and one of more than 300 living species of anglerfish (of the order Lophiiformes) found around the world.

The first spine of an anglerfish's dorsal fins, called the illicium, extends out-

ward to end in a fleshy, phosphorescent bulb (or esca), which the fish use to lure prey. Male and female anglerfish differ dramatically in size, with some females measuring up to ten times larger than their male counterparts. The males of some anglerfish species, including the football fish, have evolved into "sexual parasites." Using well-developed olfactory organs, they find and fuse themselves to females, eventually losing their eyes, internal organs, and everything else but the testes. The male becomes a permanent appendage that draws nutrition from its female host and serves as an easily accessible source of sperm.

Experts say there are only 30 known specimens of this species. During that time period, researchers noted the "fishing lure" on its head, called an "esca," was continuously glowing and if they startled or poked the fish it would eject glowing goo from the lure. This is the only time anything like this has ever been reported from an anglerfish.

If anyone finds an unusual organism like this, they are advised to not take it home. Much of La Jolla is a Marine Protected Area and taking home organisms is prohibited.

Discoverers are asked to alert lifeguards or notify Scripps Institution of Oceanography at scrippsnews@ucsd.edu or (858) 534-3624. ★



DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

TOM GARDNER

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JANUARY 2022

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5 BUSINESS MEETING 7:30 PM

The meeting will be held **virtually via Skype**. All members are invited to attend. Please email **Carl Tuttle** 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 JANUARY 8 SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (\$3)

BEACH DIVE - We're looking for a coordinator! Join the Flipper Dippers for this month's Second Saturday Scuba! Plan is to make a 2-tank dive. Meet at 8:00. Be sure to watch your email for update on location and coordinator.

SATURDAY JANUARY 15 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

POSTPONED Due to continued restrictions the San Jose Flipper Dippers have again decided to postpone our annual awards banquet. We are looking forward to celebrating our members together when it is comfortable for everyone.

GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, JAN. 19th

The Dippers are excited to be hosting in-person and hybrid meetings!

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 or a link to the virtual Skype meeting.

Celebrate 57 Years of the San Jose Flipper Dippers

Entertainment:

Social Hour



SUNDAY JANUARY 23 FOURTH SUNDAY CYCLE

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26 ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

Annual meeting to plan the Club's calendar for the coming year. Meeting will be held **virtually** via the Skype link used for business and general meetings. You are encouraged to join in and share your ideas for dives and other Club events. All new and continuing officers and committee heads should plan to attend. The meeting will be held virtually and will begin promptly at 7:30pm. Please contact **Carl Tuttle** if you need the link and a copy of the preliminary calendar

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30 NO SCHEDULED DIVE



UPCOMING IN FEBRUARY

02 Business Meeting – Virtual
12 Second Saturday SCUBA – Boat & Beach Dive

16 General Meeting
26 Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC) - TBD
March 01: Labor Day Weekend
Reservations Van Damme
(Aug 29-Sept 4, 2023)



Annual Club Planning Meeting

Our annual Club Planning Meeting for 2022 has been scheduled for a virtual meeting on **Wednesday, January 26**, at 7:30 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 2022 Club officers AND committee heads should plan to attend.**

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.

The meeting will be held virtually and will begin promptly at 7:30pm. Email Carl Tuttle (tutcomms@sbc-global.net) for the Skype link to the meeting, if you need it, and a copy of the preliminary calendar. The final calendar will be posted on the Club's Website. ★



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
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

2022 COMING EVENTS

Jan 05	Business Meeting
Jan 08	Second Saturday SCUBA
Jan 19	☛ General Meeting
Jan 22	Annual Awards Banquet - Postponed
Jan 26	Annual Planning Meeting
Feb 02	Business Meeting
Feb 12	Second Saturday SCUBA (S3)
Feb 16	☛ General Meeting
Mar 02	Business Meeting
Mar 12	Second Saturday SCUBA-Boat Dive
Mar 16	☛ General Meeting
Mar 16	Lobster Season Closes
Mar 27	Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)

*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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