

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

MAY
2022

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

Dipper's descend on Bonaire

After months of planning, email messages, Skype virtual meetings, and smart phone texting, eighteen Flipper Dippers and friends gathered in Bonaire, an island municipality of the Netherlands, which lies off Venezuela's coast in the southern Caribbean. The trip ran from April 5th to April 16th. Some stayed for a seven-day trip while twelve others stayed for a ten-day trip.

Buddy Dive was the resort where everyone stayed sharing 6-person condos. The resort included their Drive and Dive Package where pickup trucks were provided, a drive-through tank station where Nitrox filled tanks awaited to be picked up – then off to dis-

cover over sixty shore diving locations.

On average the visibility exceeds 100 feet (30 meters) and the average water temperature is 80 degrees Fahrenheit (28c). The fringing reef begins close to the shore, usually, a short 30 feet (10 meters) swim or less, making Bonaire world-renowned for its ease of shore diving.

Everyone had a great time enjoying the warm, clear water and being able to search out the variety of marine life to photograph and take videos in Bonaire's reef-lined coast, which is protected by Bonaire National Marine Park.

On two of the days, divers were able to dive with Bonaire East Coast Diving off their unique Zodiac Hurricane 920, a custom build military RIB, powered by two 250hp Yamaha outboard engines. The water was a bit "lumpy"



Are you kidding me? Not Again!

The results of the 13th Annual Underwater Easter Egg Hunt included: 1st Place **Grace Chi**, 2nd Place **Carl Tuttle** and 3rd Place **Barbara Davis**. How is it that these three are winners again? Skill or dumb luck? Last year the same three Dippers placed 2nd, 1st and 3rd, respectively. The odds were against them when **Jim Rezowalli** tried to deal them a bad hand. But they came out winners again! See the report and more photos on Page 6. 🌟

but as many would say, "If you can dive in California, you can dive anywhere!"

A BIG Flipper Dippers' **Thank-You!** to **Barbara Davis** for coordinating the Buddy Dive arrangement and **Mike Chalup** for or-

ganizing the East Coast Diving boat reservations.

Instead of a full detailed report on all the diving, Dippers were asked to provide a short description of their experience for this issue of the newsletter.

See Pages 4 and 5 for their comments and some photos. 🌟



Dippers Descend on the Reefs of Bonaire! See Page 4 for the names of these undersea visitors. Special thanks to **Mike Chalup** for organizing this wet bunch of divers and taking this great photo!

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Hi All, a big Thank You! to **Jim Rezowalli** for organizing the 13th Annual Underwater Easter Egg Hunt! Jim always comes up with a new twist to keep this event fun and interesting. And of course we had our club trip to Bonaire in May, attended by a total of 18 Dippers and friends. See some of our Dippers reports and photos on Page 4 for more about this amazing trip!

For May, I'm looking forward to our S3 dive at Point Lobos on May 14th! The latest issue of *California Diving News* had a nice article on kayak diving in Bluefish Cove so we can check that out. The Long Beach SCUBA show also returns this year on May 14th and 15th.

And speaking of Point Lobos, on April 22nd, I was able to attend a webinar with the Point Lobos Foundation about Mapping the Underwater Reserve. **Andrew Middleton** made a presentation about the history of underwater mapping techniques and how he has developed 3D maps of the preserve. They also talked about a wikipedia-type page that has been developed for local diving all along the west coast: https://opendivesites.org/Main_Page. Something to check out if you want to try a new dive site.

There's a new option for getting certified as a Kelp Restoration Specialist Diver! I was recently contacted by **Bob Halem**, who teaches at Diver Dan's (after he read my President's Corner column in the March Dippers' newsletter) about the G2KR project. He is teaching the Kelp Restoration Specialty course for a total of \$100. The "catch" is that it's on Wednesdays or Thursdays because the diving is done from the BeachhopperII (boat trip cost is included in the \$100). The class is only done once a month. If you are interested, you can contact Bob via Diver Dan's.

And don't forget the club camping trip to Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park for Memorial Day weekend. A good time will be had by all!

I look forward to seeing you all in the water soon.

Let's go diving!

– **Barbara**



Another Liveaboard Burns

Outside Hurghada, Egypt, MY Scuba Scene burned furiously on the morning of April 19, shortly after leaving port. It's believed the fire started in the engine room. The 43-metre steel-hulled vessel was said to be the latest and most luxurious to join the Red Sea fleet and was managed by highly respected guides including oceanic white-tip expert Elke Bojanowski and veteran Egyptian guide Ahmed Fadel. (Fadel was the general manager for the Red Sea Aggressor I when it caught fire and one

American guest died.) All the guests, many of whom were American, and crew, were evacuated safely in two zodiacs. There were no reports of casualties. Were you on board and had to be evacuated? If so, we'd like to hear about it. Write to: BenDDavison@undercurrent.org not forgetting to mention your town and state. ★

Dive Travel Insurance Woes?

We need your Help. COVID disrupted dive plans for thousands upon thousands of divers, and many lost lots of money. We're working on a story about the best travel insurance for divers, and if you have any travel insurance problems, we would like to hear about them. Not just with DAN or DiveAssure, but with any insurance carrier. Let us know how your reimbursement went, good or bad. Please tell us your story. Write to BenDDavison@undercurrent.org. ★



San Jose Flipper Dippers

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o Position Open o

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o Position Open o

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John Snyder 408-378-4963



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. ★

RAFFLE NEWS

We had our in-person/virtual gathering for the April General Meeting with a good number in attendance after Dippers returned from diving Bonaire. We're still in a holding pattern for our monthly raffle. But hold on! A Big Raffle is in the works for our planned 'Christmas in July' gathering. Remember to go through all those dive related goodies you've been saving . . . ★

MEMBERSHIP

Ken Agur

We had prospective members come to some past dives and are getting close to joining the Club. Remember, any certified diver is welcome to join in on our dives.

See the monthly calendar for locations and contact information for the dive coordinator.

Happy birthday! This Dippers survived the rigorous diving in Bonaire and made it around the sun one more time: *Ken Agur*. ★

Below: Dippers are turning out for our in-person general meetings: From left, *Barbara Davis, Chris Morris, Jennifer Morris, Carl Tuttle* and Birthday Boy, the 'Iron Diver' *Ken Agur*. Photo by *Mike Chalup*. ★



Expert chain saw carver *Jeffrey Michael Samudosky* used part of a dead redwood tree to create his incredible octopus sculpture. Wow!! ★



Regulator Recall

Aqualung is conducting a recall of specific batches of Calypso regulators on both Din & Yoke versions. These may have a quality defect due to a variation in the manufacturing process. Only some Calypso regulators with specific CPN's (common part numbers) and serial numbers are affected with this recall. As of today, the number of regulators potentially impacted is limited to 1545 units. ***If your model is affected return it to your Calypso dealer, and it will be replaced at no charge.*** ★



Common Part Number and Serial Number of potentially affected goods.

CPN	SERIAL NUMBER
RG126111	L077601 to L077700
RG126111	L084321 to L084400
RG126111	L085001 to L085100
RG126112	077401 to L077500
RG126112	L085301 to L085400
RG126112	L076501 to L076600
RG126112	L076101 to L076200
RG126112	L077501 to L077600
RG126112	L083401 to L083500
RG126112	L082801 to L082900
RG126112	L082001 to L082100
RG126112	L083801 to L083900
RG126113	L077001 to L077105
RG126114	L080801 to L080900
RG126114	L085701 to L085760
RG126114	L076201 to L076300

Flipper Dippers' Bonaire Diving Adventure Reports ☆ Photos by Mike Chalup - More Next Month!

☆ Warm water! Fish! Easy to doff and don the thin wetsuit! More fish! Jackie passing around orange segments and bananas in the car as we drove to the next dive site! Yum! And did I mention the fish? Clouds of fish! Remembering how to drive a stick shift! Vroom, vroom. Such an amazing variety of marine life! AND I SAW A SEAHORSE! (I love seahorses!) And little puffers! I love puffers! And turtles and rays and eels! Oh my! Looking forward to the next trip already, both for the wonderful diving and the wonderful dive buddies!

– **Barbara Davis**



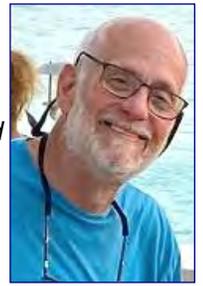
☆ Bonaire is a shore divers paradise. It seemed like there was a great dive spot every 1/2 mile on the west coast! Buddy Dive is reasonably priced and well set up for on-site diving at their fabulous "House Reef" or for picking up gear at their drive through tank filling station and heading out to dive, so I was able to do 18 dives in 7 days.

Although each dive was memorable in its way, diving with the East Coast Divers was the highlight for me, more turtles than I could count, sting rays, spotted eagle rays and a nurse shark! Overall, it was a well-planned, well-executed and a super fun trip! I'm looking forward to the next Flipper Dippers dive vacation!

FYI – I uploaded a video to YouTube "Scuba Diving with East Coast Diver": https://youtu.be/NdU96Hc_kJw
– **Cedric Wright**



and agree where each person needed to be located and how to pose for the photographer. Everyone hopped in the water, went to the bottom, assembled in the correct order, and waited the pre-arranged time for the kicked-up sand to settle down, and then take lots of shots. The result: This is eight times more divers per picture than I ever previously attempted underwater – thanks Dippers – whew!
– **Mike Chalup**



- ☆ • Total number of dives- 23
 - Number of holes punctured in my BCD: 2
 - Missed flights: 1
 - Number of grocery stores I was thrown out of for not wearing pants: 1
- **Carri Edgar**

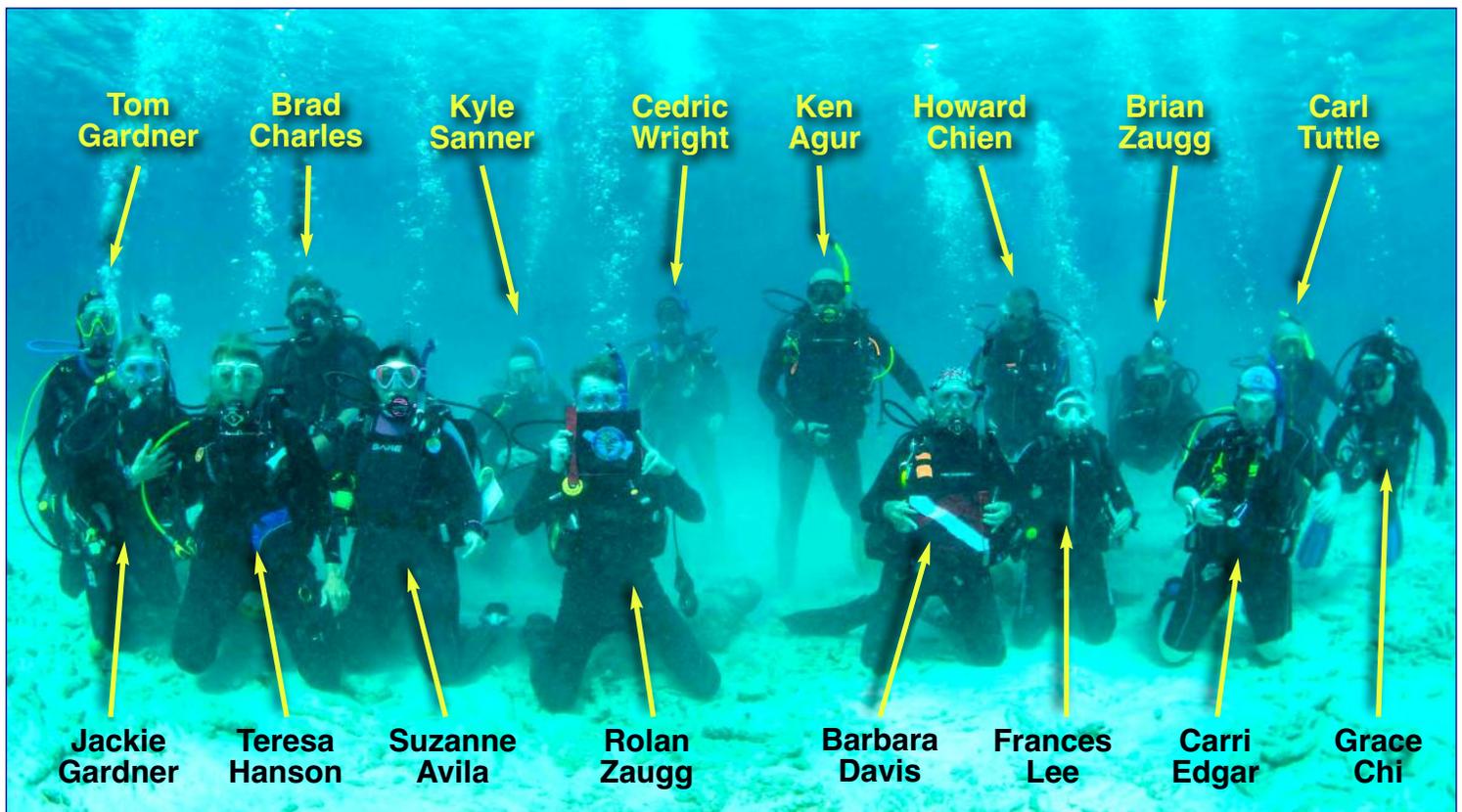


☆ We've all heard the saying, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder." That was certainly the case with me. I really missed diving due to the pandemic and most noticeably, missing my Dippers. It wasn't until I moved to San Diego that I realized how much my social life centered around diving.



I missed the monthly business meetings at my home, BBQ's and wine tastings. I miss you guys!!!!

☆ Assignment: Create a single U/W image with all the participants on this Bonaire Trip. First, have all sixteen divers assemble on the dock at Buddy's



Another awesome thing happened. My son-in-law is a fireman and his fire chief was in Bonaire diving at the same time as us. One thing led to another and now my son-in-law wants to get certified. My daughter wants to take a refresher course and is going with me on the Indonesia trip!
– Teresa Hanson

★ Some things that stood out to me:

1) I didn't realize how liberating it was to not be held to a boat's schedule. I initially wasn't sure about a shore diving vacation and the flexibility never crossed my mind. I guess the lack of traffic, a great house reef, and sites a short drive away sealed the deal.

2) My first impression will be imprinted in my mind forever. While waiting for others to get into the water for the checkout dive at Buddy, a large tarpon swam by, just a few feet away from me and the stairs. I was also surprised by the amount of fish I saw in the sandy



area near the stairs. I was expecting to see no fishes and instead saw plenty foraging. During the dive, I was very impressed by the diversity and quantity of fishes.

Bonaire in general beats the other places in the Caribbean and Hawaii.
– Grace Chi

★ Great warm water, easy diving, great camaraderie and great weather! Beautiful reefs with a variety of marine life to witness. SO MUCH FUN!!
– Jackie Gardner



★ Sighted spotted eagle rays, sting rays, sea horses, frog fish, octopus, turtles, many eel species, stone fish or scorpion fish, slipper lobsters, huge tarpon and a variety of all caribbean fish. Bucket list fulfilled. Let's go again!
– Tom Gardner



★ Upon returning home, my wife, Leigh, asked me, "Did you have a good time?"

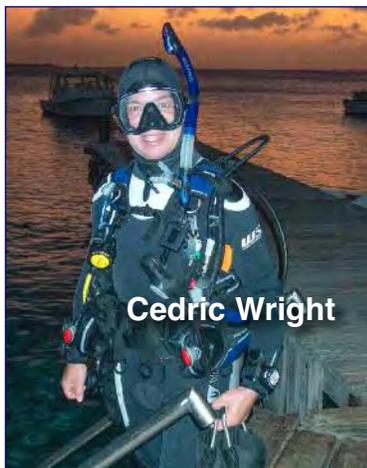
Lots of great things were seen this trip: seahorses! (although one looked fake to me), lion fish, big green morey eels, bat rays, a spotted eel chasing and eating fish during a night dive, two frog fish sitting next to each other, and dolphins swimming by under water! – just to name a few. Most importantly, was the enjoyment of diving with my fellow Flipper Dippers and having the great camaraderie shared by all.

Oh, and growing up with a family of eight kids we learned a valuable lesson from our parents: "You ARE going to go . . . And you ARE going to have a good time!" . . . Why yes, I did have a good time.

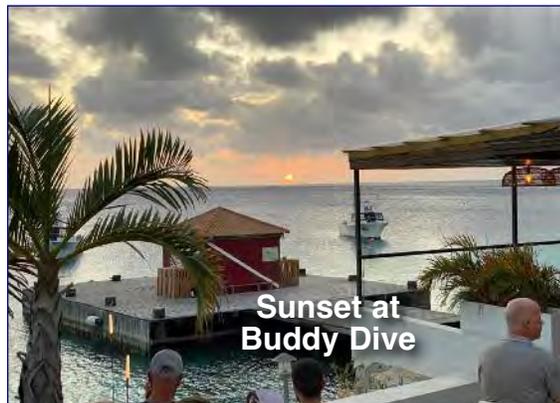
– Carl Tuttle



Carl Tuttle



Cedric Wright



Sunset at Buddy Dive



Ken 'Iron Diver' Agur

Barbara Davis

Brian Zaugg

Rolan 'Sparkie' Zaugg



Frances Lee & Howard Chien

13th Annual U/W Easter Egg Hunt - Winners!

**You've got to know when to hold 'em
Know when to fold 'em
Know when to swim away
And know when to chum . . .**

On April 23rd Dippers participated in the 13th Annual Underwater Easter Egg Hunt. This year was a game-changer. **Jim Rezoualli** came up with an underwater Poker Game. There were 48 eggs dropped in the water off Del Monte Beach marked with numbers 3 thru 10, jack, queen, king, ace, and the 4 suits; hearts, diamonds, spades, clubs (four dozen eggs leaving out the #2 cards).

Divers searching for eggs could only have 5 eggs in possession at any time. They could replace eggs with another one in an attempt to come up with a higher poker hand. The divers with the best poker hands came away with 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes they could select from. Not all the eggs were found but the divers came up with some winning hands (eggs). The results:

- 1st: **Grace Chi** - Four 3s
- 2nd: **Carl Tuttle** - Three Queens
- 3rd: **Barbara Davis** - Three 10s
- 4th: **Tom Gardner** - Two 9s
- 5th: **Howard Timoney** - Two 8s
- 6th: **Jackie Gardner** - Two 5s
- 7th: **Manuel Mangrobang** - One Ace
- 8th: **Mike Chalup** - None (equipment issues)

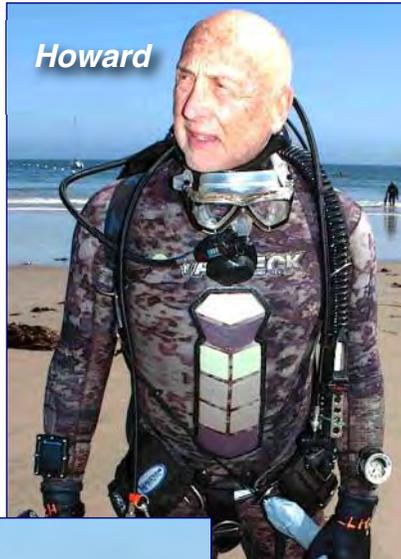
Everyone had a great time with lots of prizes given to all (chocolate bunnies and eggs too!) and Mike took lots of photos. **Howard Chien** and **Frances Lee** joined the group at the end of the hunt and everybody joined in at the London Bridge Pub for lunch. 🌟



Jim waits for the divers to return



Manuel



Howard



Carl

Grace



Barbara



Jackie

Tom

DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

TOM GARDNER

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MAY 2022

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4 BUSINESS MEETING

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 MAY 14 SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3)

Coordinator **Howard Timoney**, (408-439-6822, howardtimoney@comcast.net). Join me, Deposed President, Former Emperor and Dear Leader for Life for this S3 dive. We have 5 Teams signed up. Meet at the entrance at 8AM. Be sure to bring your reservation confirmation **and YOUR "C" Card!** Let Howard know if you are not going to make it as we have some folks who want to do this dive.

SATURDAY, MAY 21 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, MAY 18th

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 58 Years of the San Jose Flipper Dippers!

**Entertainment:
A Social Hour**



MON-SUN, MAY 23-29 MEMORIAL DAY WEEK AT PFEIFFER BIG SUR SP

Coordinator: **Carl Tuttle** (408-829-3660, tutcomms@sbcglobal.net). Dippers have 3 sites for the week and are open to sharing camping space. Scuba diving, spearfishing, bike riding and campfires. Contact Carl regarding sharing space or if you just want to join in on a dive. Spaces are limited to 2 vehicles, but additional parking is available outside the park.

MONDAY, MAY 30 MEMORIAL DAY



UPCOMING IN JUNE

- 01 Business Meeting
- 11 Second Saturday SCUBA - Boat Dive
- 15 General Meeting - Food Drive
- 26 Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)



Working Under Water

One of the greatest construction challenges took place underwater. The south tower of the Golden Gate Bridge was located more than 1,100 feet (335 meters) from the San Francisco shore. To build the south tower structures, divers played a critical role descending up to 110 feet (33 meters) into the tumultuous waters of the Golden Gate Strait. They placed dynamite charges and removed loose material down to bedrock with high-pressure hoses. Later, they descended to guide the positioning of the forms and funnels used to place the concrete for the south tower fender.



Divers worked in water that was dark,

murky and cold, and only when the tide changed and the usually strong currents lessened, which occurred four times in a day. Portable air tanks for diving had not yet been invented. A diver's life depended on the continuous pumping of air through a long hose to the surface. Decompression chambers were kept nearby just in case.

Learn More: www.goldengate.org/exhibits/working-under-water/ ★



Dive the Sea of Cortez?

Teresa Hanson

While in Bonaire there were some folks discussing the next dive trip . . . to the Sea of Cortez. What about this September? Let me know if you're interested and I will let everyone know who may want to join in.

And, if you have a camper or RV you are welcome to stay at my San Marcos property anytime you'd like. It's close to SD Wild Animal park and Lego Land. 3020 Lynn Lane, San Marcos, CA 92069. www.buenavistaestate.net. ★

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

2022 COMING EVENTS

May 04	Business Meeting
May 14	Second Saturday SCUBA - Pt. Lobos
May 18	General Meeting
May 23-29	Memorial Day Weekend - Big Sur
May 29	Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)
June 01	Business Meeting
June 11	Second Saturday SCUBA - Boat Dive
June 15	General Meeting
June 26	Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)
July 02	No License Fishing Day
July 06	Business Meeting
July 09	Second Saturday SCUBA
July 10	Panther Beach Clean Up
July 20	General Meeting
July 24	Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)
July 31	Halibut Dive

*Are you looking for
someone to dive with?*

The San Jose Flipper Dippers Dive Club is a great way to meet divers who are always having fun times.

Come join us!



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



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