



San Jose Flipper Dippers

NOVEMBER
2022

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD
3RD WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH
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October 2022 Trip to Cayman Brac and Little Cayman

Barbara Davis

Dippers **Barbara Davis** and **Teresa Hanson** enjoyed 2 weeks of great diving in the Cayman Islands in October. Our trip was pushed back a week due to Hurricane Ian but fortunately both islands weathered the storm with no damage to the resorts or the reefs.

The trip was organized by Any Water Sports and we started off on Cayman Brac with a group of 20 divers. The resort was very nice, the staff was great and the diving was wonderful! The water temperature ranged from 84 – 87 degrees. Visibility was not as great as expected (due to the hurricane), but ranged up to 60 feet.

We generally did 2 morning boat dives and 1 afternoon boat dive. One night dive was offered during the week (for an extra charge) but only Barbara chose to go. She joined 9 other divers at the other dive boat, and had an amazing dive where we saw a giant sleeping green sea turtle, 4 octopuses, 2 pufferfish, 1 huge and many smaller lobsters and a stingray.

The dive guides did a great job of describing the dive sites, the route we would take, and what we were likely to see. You didn't have to follow the guides, but you did have to have a buddy. We generally stayed close to the guide because they were great and finding and pointing out the critters.

Another great feature of diving here was the number of



We'll show you whippersnappers how to dive North Monastery!

The Flipper Dippers' "more senior members" **Tom Gardner** and **Carl Tuttle** (from left) are ready to lead **Grace Chi**, **Cedric Wright**, **Tristan Chutka** and **Andrew Grice** into the depths of North Monastery beach for the October 8th S3 dive. Even though some were not sure about the conditions, the group completed two great dives. With overcast skies, underwater visibility ranged from 20 to 40 feet during the dives. Minor surge in the shallows but not much in the deeper water. They also witnessed another group of divers that appeared to be a class as they were paired up close together. **Jackie Gardner**, **Howard Chien** and **Frances Lee** assisted with watching the gear between dives. After the dives, the group headed to the Crossroads shopping center for lunch at R.B. Burgers. As the saying goes, "You should have gone diving!" 🌟



Barbara and Teresa display perfect buoyancy.
(Photo by Tim Nelson)

swim-throughs we did. In many cases, they were open a bit along the top, but there were also a number that required you to swim head-down into a dark tunnel. It was very interesting to see the rock and coral formations and check out the various critters hiding in the holes along the way.

After the first

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Once again, the end of the year seems to be approaching with amazing speed! Where has this year gone? Soon we'll be dealing with all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season but let's keep diving too!

In October, the Dippers had a great Second Saturday SCUBA (S3) dive at North Monastery Beach, coordinated by **Carl Tuttle**. Dippers **Barbara Davis** and **Teresa Hanson** had a great time diving in the Cayman Islands and **Ken Agur** (aka The Iron Diver) had a great time

diving in Roatan. It's great to see so many club members staying active with both local and international diving.

Closer to home, there have been some Facebook postings for "Local Diver Socials." These are casual events where local divers can meet up and socialize with other divers. The event is at the Dust Bowl Brewing Company in Monterey on Sunday evenings. The next one is scheduled for Sunday, November 13th, from 3:30 – 6:30 pm. They meet up at an outdoor table with an inflated orange SMB to make it easy to find. I attended the October event. There were about 12 people, some new to me and some old friends. It was a very nice evening and I plan to continue to attend when I can. (More info at www.facebook.com/events/676085293852150?active_tab=about).

Congratulations to Dipper **Taylor Sullivan** who just became certified as a Kelp Restoration Specialist. She now joins a unique group of divers!

At the November General Meeting we will be accepting Nominations for our 2023 Club Officers so start thinking about who you'd like to nominate. And if YOU get nominated, please run. The Club can always use new officers with new thoughts and ideas on making our Club run better. See page 3 for a description of the duties associated with each position.

If you haven't paid your club dues yet, you have until November 30th to pay without a late fee. And remember to complete and sign the annual Assumption of Risk Agreement form (<http://sjflipperdippers.com/sjfd.assumption.of.risk.pdf>).

Everyone keep safe and let's go diving!

– **Barbara**



San Jose Flipper Dippers

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CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Barbara Davis 408-656-6390

VICE PRESIDENT

Tom Gardner 408-274-9447

SECRETARY

Grace Chi 858-337-2674

TREASURER

Jackie Gardner 408-274-9447

SERGEANT AT ARMS

Howard Chien 408-410-0325

CLUB COMMITTEES

AWARDS AND FINES

o Position Open o

MEMBERSHIP

Ken Agur 408-242-3779

NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE

Carl Tuttle 408-829-3660

email tutcomms@sbcglobal.net

PHOTOGRAPHY

Mike Chalup 408-744-1868

RAFFLE

Leigh Hartley Tuttle 408-829-3660

email tutcomms@sbcglobal.net

REFRESHMENTS

o Position Open o

STAR ACHIEVEMENT

Jackie Gardner 408-274-9447

TROPHY COMPETITION

John Snyder 408-378-4963

A Merry Christmas at Point Lobos!

We're diving at Pt. Lobos on **Wednesday, December 28**. The winter months can provide some of the best diving so if you want to go, you'll need to go online

to make a reservation on November 1st. The system opens up at 8 AM in the morning. **Carl Tuttle**, (408-829-3660, email: tutcomms@sbcglobal.net)



is coordinating so be sure to let him know if you make a reservation. We'll send out emails listing who has a reservation and who has space for a buddy.

On **Tuesday, November 1**, go to the Point Lobos Scuba Site: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28353

Click on the month of December and then scroll down to December 28. Sign up as a buddy team. You'll be asked for the agency that issued your c-card and its number. If you don't have your buddy's c-card number, or a buddy, just write TBD. We can always find somebody who wants to go diving at Pt. Lobos. Do this early as the park reservations fills up fast during holiday dates.

We're not sure if the park will charge the normal \$20 (+ Processing Fee) or a Holiday rate of \$30 (+ Processing Fee).

So work out your buddy teams, set a reminder on your calendar, wake up early on November 1st to make your reservation, and we'll see you in the water. And there might be non-diving hikers joining the day too. ★

NOMINATIONS FOR 2023 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:

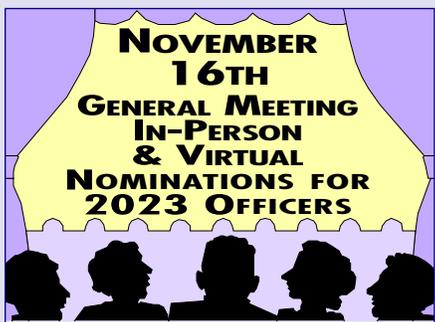
PRESIDENT: Has overall responsibility for the club's success. Presides at all general, business and special meetings and appoints standing committees for the year and special committees as seen fit. Also includes writing a monthly *President's Corner* for the newsletter.

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. ★



We'll be having our in-person General Meeting this month and holding **Nominations for 2023 Club Officers**. 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. More folks are showing up and having fun!

We're hoping to have our big **Christmas General Meeting in December** and re-start the raffle — with all those treasures you've safely stored. So stay tuned for further updates as we get closer to the holidays! ★

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 **Tom Gardner, Teresa Hanson, Ken Seaton** and **John Snyder** joining a number of Dippers who were lucky to complete a 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.

Dues must be paid by November 30th or you will incur a late fee of \$5.00. SO DON'T DELAY! ★

Continued from front page

week we transferred over to Little Cayman. The islands are only 14 miles apart and there is no ferry, so we had a 10-minute flight on a Twin Otter that seated 20 people. When we arrived, the pilot said jokingly that our baggage would be coming out on Carousel 1. (There aren't any baggage carousels or gates at the Little Cayman airport; your baggage comes off the plane and goes right over to the vans waiting to take you to the resort!) Some people were not able to reschedule their trip, so only 8 of the divers from the original group went to Little Cayman.

Again, the resort was very nice, the staff was great and the diving was wonderful! The resort is a bit smaller than the one on Cayman Brac but still quite nice. We slightly preferred the diving on Little Cayman because there were more sheer walls and swim-throughs. We also had some very close en-



Teresa and Barbara having a Cayman adventure.

counters with some nurse sharks!

At both resorts, they organized many evening events including a trivia contest, karaoke and the manager's barbeque. The group swept 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in the trivia contest on Cayman Brac, and Barbara and Teresa were part of the winning team on Little Cayman!

Barbara reached the milestone of having spent 1,000 hours underwater, during the trip, and hopes to reach a total of 1,500 dives by the end of the year.

Overall, it was a great trip and we enjoyed being able to experience the diving on both islands. ★



Barbara completes 1,000 hours underwater. Photo by Tim Nelson

A Spring Adventure in Cozumel

April 8–15, 2023

7 nights, 5 days of boat diving & more

Dippers **John Snyder**, **Carl Tuttle** and a few other Dippers have signed up with Any Water Sports, in San Jose, for this diving adventure April 8–15, 2023. The dive trip includes 7 nights double occupancy accommodations at Scuba Club Cozumel, 2 meals daily (breakfast & lunch), 5 days of boat diving (2 dives/day), unlimited shore diving, and Mexican taxes (19%). Cozumel features exhilarating drift dives in crystal clear, warm water exploring world renowned sites like Palancar Reef and Santa Rosa Reef. The trip cost is \$1025.00. **Ginny** and **Frank Barry** are the group leaders. Divers make their own flight reservations. Space is still available so if you're interested in joining this great dive trip go online (www.anywater.com) and secure your spot with a \$500 deposit. ★



Veteran Shark Diver Valerie Taylor's Advice

If a shark attacks you, says the Australian who dominated shark diving for three decades, understand that "The pain from a shark bite doesn't kick in for 10 minutes. So stay as calm as you can and wait for the shark to realize it has made a mistake and let go. Don't thrash about. Sharks don't have hands to feel with. They feel with their teeth. When the shark realizes it has made a mistake, it lets go. The biggest problem is a wound. Blood doesn't congeal in water. Get out to a dry place as quickly as possible to prevent bleeding." Good advice; we hope you'll never need it. Sydney Morning Herald. ★

Snakes Alive at Depth



Scientists have found that air-breathing sea snakes and sea kraits are living up to 500 feet deep in the ocean's twilight zone. The reptiles, including coral-reef snakes and the yellow-lipped sea krait, mostly live in the reefs of the western Pacific and the Indian Ocean, but their populations have been declining. Scientists said the population on the reefs had declined 90 percent since 2000. How the sea snakes travel back up to the surface to breathe remains a mystery. ★

Scuba Tank Blast

An Australian in his 30s was seriously injured and the shop damaged when a scuba tank he was filling exploded at a diving school in Drumcondra, Victoria. In places where it is often common to fill tanks beyond their working pressure, it is customary to fit them with burst disks. But many places have regulations specifying that compressors automatically cut off when a set working pressure is achieved instead. Authorities are looking into the Australian mishap. ★

October S3 Dive at North Monastery

Photos by Jackie Gardner



Above: Carl displays his proficiency in the "Monastery Crawl" at the end of the first dive.



Above: Cedric, Tristan and Andrew wait for the "Let's Go" call to start the first dive.



Right: Tom, Carl, Grace, Frances, Howard and Cedric.

What a happy group of Flipper Dippers!



Above: Tom, Cedric and Carl try to keep warm between dives.



Right: Cedric takes a video of divers exiting the water after the first dive.

How to Hunt Like an Octopus

Veronique Greenwood
The New York Times

In its small glass aquarium, an octopus is coiled placidly in its den (**Fig. A**). Then, a crab falls into the tank. The octopus scrambles to fling itself over the crab, looking less like a finely honed killing machine than a toddler who's spotted a cookie, engulfing its clawed prey in a cloud of suckered arms and legs (**Fig. B**).

However, there's order to this chaos of limbs, according to a paper published in the journal *Current Biology*. Scientists who observed how the octopus hunts found that the creature almost always uses its second arm from the center to make



Fig. A



Fig. B

a grab for prey, and when it needs backup, it's the arms closest to that second appendage that they bring into play. The researchers also found that different prey are hunted with different tactics: Crabs get a move the scientists call "parachuting," while shrimp, which are more skittish and sensitive to big movements, are snared with a stealthy limb.

Octopuses seem to hunt more by feel than by sight. They are often found prospecting for crabs and other prey rather than chasing them. "They wander around the reef and they speculate by sticking their arms down holes," said Trevor Wardill, a professor of ecology at the University of Minnesota who studies the vision of octopuses and other cephalopods and is an author of the new paper.

But sometimes octopuses will see a tasty critter dashing by and make a grab for it. Dr. Wardill and

Flavie Bidel, a postdoctoral researcher in his laboratory, were curious how this less-studied form of hunting worked, so they set up high-speed cameras around aquariums with octopuses and dropped live crabs and shrimp down a chute to see what the cephalopods did.

Reviewing hundreds of videos of octopus-on-prey action, they identified a number of moves used again and again. There's parachuting, for instance, where the octopus pounces, spreads the webbing between its limbs to contain the prey and uses its limbs to bring dinner into its mouth. There's the snap-trap, where two groups of arms extend like a pincer around the prey.

There was also a strange little maneuver that the octopuses deployed when they were faced with a shrimp, which the scientists called "waving."

If a shrimp senses movement in the water nearby, it will flick its tail and zoom away, in what Dr. Wardill calls a "ballistic, get-the-heck-out-of-here" move. In the videos, octopuses often snaked an arm out in front of them, waving it gently, before wrapping it tightly around a shrimp's antennae and going in for the kill (**Fig. C**). He speculates that this wavelike movement could be a way of spoofing the shrimp's sensors: To the shrimp, it might feel about the same as a piece of seaweed undulating nearby, thus concealing the octopus's actions.

The researchers were also interested to see that octopuses tended to use the second arm out from the midline of their body, on the side facing the prey, to lead an attack. "There must be a hierarchy in the brain of the octopus," a way to control the order in which limbs move, Dr. Wardill said. Octopus limbs "are highly flexible to some really amazing level," he added, capable of taking on nearly infinite arrangements and forms to a degree that may appear random.

But each limb might have a specific role during a bout of hunting by sight, the study suggests. All that swirling might obscure, to the average viewer without a high-speed camera, a carefully choreographed response.

To understand what's going on within the brain and limbs of the octopus, the team would like to be able to record what happens in the animal's nervous system as it leaps into action. Does the brain recruit arms in specific groupings or in a certain order? Does the octopus react differently in dim light?

For Dr. Wardill, Dr. Bidel and their colleagues, the answers lie ahead, on the other side of experiments where myriad octopuses dance in a rain of snacks. 🌟



Fig. C

DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

TOM GARDNER

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NOVEMBER 2022

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 1 POINT LOBOS RESERVATIONS

On November 1st reservations become available for Diving at Point Lobos in December. **Make your online reservation for Wednesday, December 28** if you plan to dive. **Carl Tuttle**, (408-829-3660, email: tutcomms@sbcglobal.net) is coordinating so be sure to let him know if you make a reservation. See separate article for more information.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2 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 NOVEMBER 12 SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3)

BEACH DIVE Coordinator: **Tom Gardner**, (408-274-9447, email: tomandjackieus@yahoo.com) Dive site will be chosen based on the conditions and the skill level of the attending divers. Plan is to make a 2-tank dive. Meet at 8:00 AM. Let Tom know if you are interested.

GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16

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:
Nominations for 2023 Officers
Social Hour & Fish Stories**



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19 WINE TASTING & PICNIC

Coordinator: **Jackie Gardner**. 408-274-9447, email: tomandjackieus@yahoo.com. Jackie is working on setting up this event at a winery in Morgan Hill. Be sure to join the November General Meeting where we'll have final information on where and when this will take place.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22 RESERVATIONS FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND -

May 22-28, 2023 The Club is considering places to camp, with or without diving. Discussions will be held during the General Meeting on November 16.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 24 THANKSGIVING DAY

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27 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!



UPCOMING IN DECEMBER

- 07 Business Meeting
- 10 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 15 **General Meeting**
 - Elections for 2023 Officers
 - Possible Christmas Raffle
- 28 Pt. Lobos Scuba Dive - See Article



WHO'S CALLING?

Scientists found that the songs produced by humpback whales can easily spread from one population to another across the Pacific Ocean, just as new words can move from continent to continent among humans. ★



MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH OUR OXYGEN MIX - I SEEM TO BE LOOKING AT A LEGO FIGURINE UP THERE...



WHEN A SUB TRIES TO SURFACE IN A FLOATING ISLAND OF PLASTIC WASTE.

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

Nov 01	Pt. Lobos Reservations for Dec 28
Nov 02	Business Meeting
Nov 12	Second Saturday SCUBA
Nov 16	🐡 General Meeting - Nominations for 2023 Officers
Nov 19	Wine Tasting & Picnic
Nov 22	Memorial Day Weekend Reservations TBD (May 22-28, 2023)
Nov 27	Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)
Dec 07	Business Meeting
Dec 10	Second Saturday SCUBA
Dec 21	🐡 General Meeting Election of Officers & Christmas Raffle
Dec 28	SCUBA Dive Pt. Lobos
Jan 04	Business Meeting
Jan 14	Second Saturday SCUBA
Jan 18	🐡 General Meeting
Jan 25	Annual Planning Meeting

*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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