

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

DECEMBER
2022

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

G2KR Project collects purple urchins

The Giant Kelp Restoration Project (G2KR) develops training for citizen-scientist divers in kelp restoration methods, communicates about the impact of public policy on kelp forest restoration and conservation, engages communities through volunteer programs, and collaborates with scientists and government. According to founder Keith Rootsart, G2KR is now collaborating with Dr. Luke Gardner at Moss Landing Marine Labs by collecting

starving urchins for food trials. Research student Keirsten Thigpen will feed batches of thirty 5cm and larger purple sea urchins spinach, carrots and even artichoke skins to see what tastes best. Researchers will try different collection methods, urchin feeds and distribution to see if this works as a marketable food product. Kelp restoration is a complicated problem, and it's going to take a complicated solution. A large portion of the purple urchin population developed wasting disease. It's science folks, weird things happen! We'll figure it out. When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. ★



From left: James Penny, Keirsten Thigpen, and Keith Rootsart with the dozen 300 gallon tanks where urchin food trials will occur.



Barbara, Carl and Cedric are three happy Dippers attending the November S3 dive.

How many times must you be told, "You should have gone diving!"?

Barbara Davis

The Flipper Dippers' scheduled S3 (Second Saturday Scuba) dive on November 12th, at Carmel River State Beach, went off as planned. Except coordinator **Tom Gardner** woke up not feeling so well and let the others know he wouldn't make it. A few others decided to opt-out too. Bummer for them!

The dive conditions looked very promising, and there was a marathon going on in Monterey, so we decided to head south to Carmel for our dive. We'd done several recent dives at Monastery Beach, so we decided to head for Carmel River State Beach for a change.

Dippers **Barbara Davis**, **Carl Tuttle**, and **Cedric Wright** were our hardy divers, while **Howard Chien**, **Frances Lee**, **Howard Timoney** and **Abby Golden Wilson** and her husband **Ben** (who took the group photos) came along to socialize and provide surface support.

It was a chilly morning as we geared up and entered the flat calm water. Things looked promising as we could easily see the bottom beneath us. We swam on the surface to the edge of the kelp field, descended and headed out at a compass heading of 250 degrees. This is an uneven rocky area and the first half of our dive was only in 20 – 30 feet of water. But it was gorgeous! Viz was up to 40 feet. Carl discovered the battery in his computer went kaput but was able to monitor his tank pressure during the dive – gotta love that analog gauge!

We swam along vertical rock walls just covered with life (and not too many purple

What's Inside?



- President's Corner 2
- Holiday Gen Meeting 2
- Club Election 3
- Dive Reports 5
- Cordell Bank 5
- Holiday Treats 7
- Activity Calendar 7

WWW.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM

Continued on page 4

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



We have such a great community of divers here! I recently had the opportunity to complete my 1500th dive and I was glad it was in my home waters of Monterey! It was a midweek dive with a new buddy I connected with on Facebook and we found we have very similar diving styles so I hope we can dive together again. I was able to do a second dive that day with some other divers I had met at Aquarius Dive Shop and the Giant Kelp Restoration (G2KR) project who also happened to be diving in Monterey that day. **Taylor Sullivan** and I did two urchin-culling dives on the Beachhopper on November 26th, and we met up with a pair of divers from Livermore who have been looking for new buddies to dive with. I hope to see them at our December General meeting.

We had a great November S3 dive at Carmel River State Beach. Calm conditions, great viz, fall diving at its best!

The Dippers will finish off the year in style! In addition to the December Second Saturday Scuba (S3) dive, December's General Meeting brings our Christmas Raffle, our homemade holiday goodies table and the entertainment will be a presentation by **Jim Rezowalli** on his and Gabi's trip to Cuba! We'll also have the election of our 2023 Club Officers. (Check out page 3 to see who's running).

I look forward to seeing all of you on the dive or at the meeting. Winter diving can be great diving in and around Monterey. Changing conditions can also make it challenging diving. Be careful and be safe out there and enjoy the holiday season.

Everyone keep safe and let's go diving!

– Barbara



San Jose Flipper Dippers

www.SJFlipperDippers.com

Follow and Like Us on Facebook

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



IT'S BACK!

Due to the Covid restrictions we missed our annual December Christmas Holiday General Meetings – **but we're back this year!**

Don't miss the San Jose Flipper Dippers' infamous **December Holiday General Meeting.**

You may go home with extra cash from our annual "Money Tree" raffle — envelopes containing \$50, \$30 and \$20 will be hanging on the tree!

You may win fantastic raffle prizes!

In order to get you into the holiday spirit of giving we ask that **every member bring a donation** for this special raffle. This can be a dive-related item, a Christmas craft, holiday goodies, a bottle of cheer, etc. **BE CREATIVE!** The more prizes in the raffle, the more chances you have to win. So **come to the December meeting with your raffle donation, a tasty treat to share, and your holiday spirit. See you there!**

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

MEET YOUR 2023 CLUB OFFICER CANDIDATES



PRESIDENT:

BARBARA DAVIS Joined the Club in 1993 and has been a force to reckon with in the water. She has served as the Club's president the past year. She really enjoys diving and has served as Club Vice President and President in the past. Barbara is always up for 2-tank dives on any of the scheduled S3 dives. She has been diving in many places around the world and has now completed over 1,500 dives!



SECRETARY:

GRACE CHI Joined the Club in 2016 and has been participating in a wide range of Club dives including beach dives, boat dives, the UW Easter Egg Hunt, she even took home the Golden Dippy one month! Grace has held the office of Club secretary the past year.



VICE PRESIDENT:

ANDREW GRICE Got his certification in February, 2022, and since finding the Flipper Dippers has participated in a wide number of activities from camping to diving – especially the diving! He has lots of energy and is looking forward to expanding his diving experiences here in California as well as some international diving.



TREASURER:

TOM GARDNER Has served as the Club vice president during the past year. He was the Club's President for two years: 2018-2019. He's been diving for many years and became a member in 2009. Tom has served as the raffle chair during 2013 (and assisting Jackie in 2012). Tom participates in many of the Club's activities including beach dives, campouts and bike rides.



SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:

HOWARD CHIEN Has been the Club's sergeant-at-arms the past two years. He joined the Club in October 2020 quickly joining in on dives, campouts and bike rides. He is excited about the many activities the Club has to offer and has been a very active member including assisting other divers when he isn't diving.



**DECEMBER
21ST
GENERAL MEETING
IN-PERSON
& VIRTUAL
ELECTIONS FOR
2023 OFFICERS
CUBA PRESENTATION**

We'll be having our in-person General Meeting holding Elections for 2023 Club Officers and a Presentation on a trip to Cuba. ★

RAFFLE NEWS

We're back again this month for our in-person General Meeting. More folks are showing up and having fun! We're planning our big **Christmas General Meeting** with a BIG raffle with all those treasures you've safely stored and great treats! See page 2 for more information. ★

MEMBERSHIP

Ken Agur

We're a dive club and we're diving! If you're looking for a dive buddy look no further. See the Club's website for more information on becoming a member. (Membership Requirements). We'd love for you to join us!

Happy Birthday December Baby! If *Michael Gladden* shows up at the December General Meeting, he'll get a FREE raffle ticket! ★

CLUB DUES PAST DUE

It is well past October 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.

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.

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
Late Fee	<u>5.00</u>
Total	\$ 55.00
Newsletter (U.S. Mail)	+10.00
Optional:	
CEN CAL	15.00
USofA (\$30 on 1/1/23)	20.00

Remember, associate member (non-diving spouses of Dippers) dues are \$5.00. Dues not paid by November 30th will incur a late fee of \$5.00. ★

Continued from front page

sea urchins)! We eventually found some sand at a max depth of 65 feet and headed back to shore underwater. It was a great 63-minute dive!

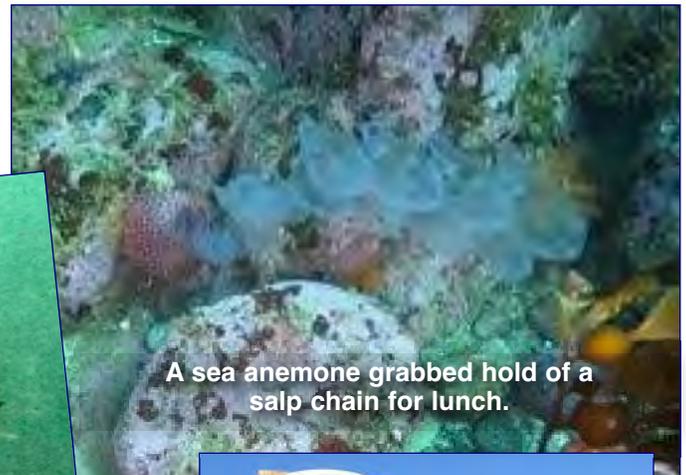
The sun came out as we completed the first dive and we tried to warm up during our surface interval by bundling up, eating some brownies and filling our wetsuits, gloves and booties with hot water from Howard Timoney's big cooler. Hey, why didn't we think of this trick before?

For the second dive, we again swam out to the kelp bed, descended and headed out on a slightly different compass heading (260 degrees). The swell models indicated an uptick in the swell and they were accurate. Viz was not quite as good but we got buzzed by a big sea lion and again enjoyed the abundance of marine life, including a sea anemone eating a salp chain and a large number of crabs hanging onto the rocks – all captured by Cedric on his GoPro camera. On the way back in to shore the surf had picked up a bit, so Barbara and Carl elected to crawl out after removing our fins.

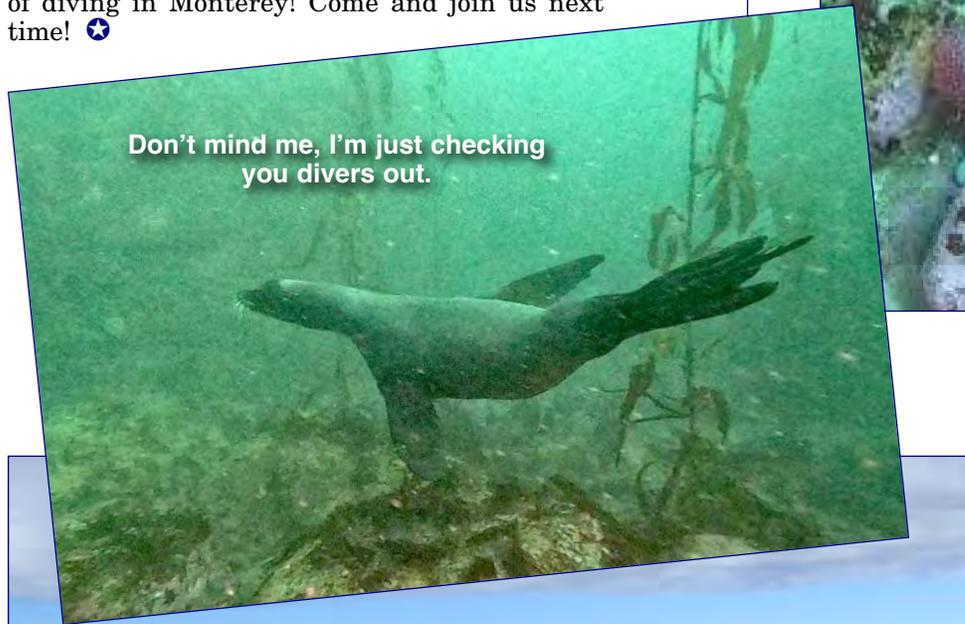
After the dive the group enjoyed some socially distant socializing and a great lunch at RG Burgers in the Crossroads Carmel, before heading home. Another great day of diving in Monterey! Come and join us next time! ★



The S3 support staff: Abby Golden Wilson, Howard Timoney, Frances Lee and Howard Chien enjoying the day and sun while waiting for the divers to return.



A sea anemone grabbed hold of a salp chain for lunch.



Don't mind me, I'm just checking you divers out.



Cedric, Barbara and Carl make their way out to the kelp bed.



Cedric discovers hot water in your booties makes your feet much warmer for the second dive.

'Wow, that's right off our coast'

A rare trip to photograph wildlife at California marine sanctuary

Tara Duggan

San Francisco Chronicle

With deepwater spires plastered in pink and orange coral, Cordell Bank sits on the edge of a canyon that drops down a mile or two. The colorful, breathtaking seamount has been seen by only a few divers even though it's 22 miles from Point Reyes National Seashore.

"There's probably been more people in space than have ever been in Cordell Bank," said Robert Lee, a diver with the group Bay Area Underwater Explorers.

Over the past month, Lee and a handful of other highly skilled divers spent five days diving as far down as 250 feet to view and photograph the sponges, anemones and bocaccio rockfish that make their home among the pinnacles and valleys of Cordell Bank. It was their fourth time diving in the area but the first in six years, an experience Lee calls "sensory overload."

"Every square inch, literally, of rock or substrate is covered in sometimes multiple layers of invertebrates. You've got sponges growing on top of anemones, on top of corals," he said. "Just to see the vibrance, the variety and the sheer volume of biomass and life there is just incredible."

Part of a National Marine Sanctuary with the same name, Cordell Bank demands a high level of diving skill. It also requires a permit to drop even a downline, a cord used by divers to descend and find the site, at least at

depths shallower than 300 feet. Lee's group got permission to do so as part of an ongoing partnership with the sanctuary to take still photos and virtual reality video — yet to be published — for its education and outreach programs, including in schools.

"It really helps us expand the awareness of the existence of this special place and its value," said Jennifer Stock, education and outreach coordinator with the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine sanctuaries. "When they see the photos, people are completely blown away — 'Wow, that's right off our coast?' With those beautiful pink and blue colors, it looks like it's a tropical coral reef, but it's in the cold, temperate ocean."



A photographer gets close to a school of rockfish on at Cordell Bank. (Robert Lee / Bay Area Underwater Explorers)

Bay Area Underwater Explorers has about 15 to 20 members, mostly Silicon Valley tech executives who dive in their spare time, usually in Monterey Bay. Lee, chief technology officer at a data company called Pure Storage, lives in Pebble Beach with his wife, Allison Lee, who is also a diver and videographer

who was part of the group of five who went to Cordell Bank.

The base of the 4½-by-9½-mile underwater plateau, or seamount, is 300 feet, with pinnacles that rise higher. The group's recent dives ranged from 140 to 250 feet.

"In the grand scheme of Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, that's considered shallow because it goes to like 10,000 feet," said Lee. "But in the scheme of where humans have gone, it's definitely on the deep side."

It takes only minutes to get to the bottom, where the divers spend about 45 minutes before allowing another 45 minutes to an hour to return slowly and safely decompress. On this trip, they were rewarded with sightings of

huge rockfish, giant Pacific octopus, and a mother and calf humpback whale pair.

The group's previous trips to the bank took place in 2013, 2014 and 2016. Because getting to the site is difficult — with wind, fog and high seas — if they don't get good weather, they don't go.

While most of the group's trips are funded personally by the divers, this one was funded by Lee's private foundation, called Lee Oceans Foundation, because it had a charitable cause — aiding education.

Lee thinks it's important to raise awareness about the beauty of the location as well as the effects of climate change

on the ocean, since there's a lot more knowledge about what is going on land with wildfires and heat waves.

"What's under the ocean, even if it's a stone's throw away, is out of sight, so easily dismissed, out of mind," he said. "But it's all super interconnected." ★



I like to ride my bicycle . . .

When not diving Dippers get together for the monthly Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC) and enjoy different routes in the Bay Area to get some much needed fresh air, socialize and find a place to have lunch. For the November FSC, **Jim Rezowalli** led a group of Dippers including

Gabi Estill Rezowalli, Carl Tuttle, Howard Chien, Frances Lee and Tom and Jackie Gardner on a 5-mile ride from Harvey Bear County Park in Morgan Hill, to Verde Vineyards in Gilroy. There the group of riders met up with **Barbara and Greggie Davis and Andrew Grice**. Everyone enjoyed sharing picnic treats, wine, laughter and stories on a warm and sunny fall day. 🌟



Above: From left: Howard, Jim, Carl, Gabi, Tom, Jackie and Frances get ready to head back to the starting point at Harvey Bear County Park.



Left: Clockwise from lower left, Carl, Greggie, Barbra, Jackie, Tom, Frances, Howard, Andrew, Jim, and Gabi toast to a great day and great friends.

Right: Gabi, Tom, Carl and Jim get ready to ride back to the starting line. Oops! Watch out for that CHP officer, Jim.



DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

TOM GARDNER

www.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM

DECEMBER 2022

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3
NO SCHEDULED DIVE**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7
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 DECEMBER 10
SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3)
BEACH DIVE: LOCATION TBD**

Join **Barbara Davis**, (408-656-6390, email: bjdscuba123@gmail.com) and the rest of the Flipper Dippers for a beach dive. The plan is for a 2-tank dive. The dive site will be chosen based on surface conditions and the comfort and skill level of the attending divers. Meet at the dive site at 8:00 AM. Please be sure to RSVP with Barbara to receive final details and any last minute updates.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17
NO SCHEDULED DIVE**

GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, DEC 21

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:

- **Election of 2023 Officers**
- **Presentation on Cuba**

Big Christmas Social



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25
MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28
PT. LOBOS SCUBA DIVE**

Coordinator: **Carl Tuttle**, (408-829-3660, tutcomms@sbcglobal.net). We have 5 Teams signed up. Meet at the entrance before 8AM. Be sure to bring your reservation confirmation **and YOUR "C" Card!** Let Carl know if you are not going to make it as we may have some folks who want to dive.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31
NO SCHEDULED DIVE**



UPCOMING IN JANUARY 2023

- 01 Happy New Year!
- 04 Business Meeting
- 14 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 18 General Meeting**
- 25 Annual Planning Meeting



DECEMBER HOLIDAY TREATS

Besides the **election of officers** and our fantastic **Christmas holiday raffle**, another reason our December General Meeting is

so popular is that **homemade holiday goodies** are the main feature at refreshment time. Everyone helps out by baking their favorite holiday specialty and sharing it with their fellow Dippers. Do *your* part to help feed the large turnout expected to attend this special holiday meeting. All donations will be greatly appreciated! ☆



Point Lobos Dive: December 28th

We're diving Pt. Lobos on **Wednesday, December 28** and have 5 teams signed up including:

- ★ Carl Tuttle & Ken Agur
- ★ Tom Gardner & Howard Chien
- ★ Andrew Grice & Cedric Wright
- ★ Jennifer & Chris Morris
- ★ Jennifer Morris' Daughter & Friend

At last check **reservations are still available** so if you want to join in get online ASAP and make a reservation. You'll also need to find a buddy to dive with: www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28353.

Remember, you and your buddy will need to present your certification cards to the park staff to dive at Pt. Lobos. We can mix and match "Teams" at the dive site if needed. The Point Lobos gate opens at 8:00 AM, so plan to be there **before 8:00!**

There will be a group of non-divers attending for the day and will be hiking in the park so join in! And you'll also want to get there early as the parking is limited and fills up early.

If your plans change, be sure to contact the coordinator **Carl Tuttle**, (408-829-3660, tutcomms@sbcglobal.net) to let him know. ☆

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.



San Jose Flipper Dippers

c/o 1108 Sunset Landing
Rio Vista, CA 94571-5148



Follow and Like Us
on Facebook!



FIRST CLASS MAIL

2022 COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Dec 07 | Business Meeting |
| Dec 10 | Second Saturday SCUBA |
| Dec 21 | 🐡 General Meeting
Election of Officers & Christmas Raffle |
| Dec 28 | SCUBA Dive Pt. Lobos |

2023

- | | |
|--------|-------------------------|
| Jan 01 | Happy New Year! |
| Jan 04 | Business Meeting |
| Jan 14 | Second Saturday SCUBA |
| Jan 18 | 🐡 General Meeting |
| Jan 25 | Annual Planning Meeting |
| Feb 01 | Business Meeting |
| Feb 11 | Second Saturday SCUBA |
| Feb 16 | 🐡 General 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**



WWW.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM