



# San Jose Flipper Dippers

FEBRUARY  
2023

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD  
3RD WEDNESDAY  
OF EACH MONTH  
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## Red Sea research indicates dolphins use corals for skincare

*Dolphins waking from a nap immediately perform their self-care rituals*

Tiffany Duong - scubadiving.com

Imagine you're diving in the Red Sea, off the Egyptian coast, and you observe a pod of Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins playing on a coral reef. They organize, line up and take turns rubbing their bodies against a



particular type of coral. Very unusual behavior, you think. That's exactly what happened thirteen years ago to Angela Ziltener, a marine biologist and the president of the nonprofit, Dolphin Watch Alliance. She regularly dives with the mammals, but she'd never seen that before. "It was clear that the dolphins knew exactly which coral they wanted to use," Ziltener said. "I knew there had to be a reason."

Over the next decade, Ziltener observed roughly 360 dolphins in the wild and analyzed the chemical makeup of the specific coral they preferred to rub against. Now, she and her team think they know what that reason is: skin care. More specifically, the dolphins may be "self-medicating" using mucus that the coral releases when rubbed up against. Samples from the preferred coral have "antibacterial, antioxidative, hormonal and toxic compounds" that the dolphins could

be using to prevent or treat skin infections, said coauthor and chemist Gertrud Morlock.

Ziltener, Morlock and their colleagues published their discovery in *iScience*. More research is needed to confirm their findings. Some scientists not involved with the study believe the dolphins rub against corals because it feels good rather than to protect their skin.

Regardless of why, this latest research does demonstrate the value of observing animal behaviors up close and in the wild. Ziltener emphasized how her skills as a diver

and ability to put the dolphins at ease afforded her this "dolphin's-eye view" of their natural behaviors. According to the marine biologist, dolphins waking from a nap would immediately perform their coral-rubbing rituals.

Two species of coral are preferred: toadstool leather and the gorgonian-type bushy sea rod. *Ircinia*, a sea sponge, is also used. The dolphins rub their body parts against the hard coral to abrade their skin and then absorb the coral mucus excreted on additional passes, the scientist believes. Dolphins sometimes even plucked toadstool leather coral from the seafloor and tossed them around, causing green and yellow compounds to release into the water. They then swam through these much like a person walks through a perfume spritz, the scientist explained. "It's almost like they are showering, cleaning themselves before they...get up for the day," she said. The behaviors "are almost like a ceremony," Morlock added.

Observations of the pod told the scientists that the behavior was socially-learned rather than innate. The same goes about the knowledge of the bioactive compounds in the coral and sponges. Dolphin calves watched from the sidelines as adults interacted with the invertebrates; then, as calves matured, they also began to behave similarly. 🌟

## Ocean Sport Fishing Interactive Web Map

Did you know CDFW has an easy way to check ocean sport fishing and marine protected area (MPA) regulations? The Ocean Sport Fishing Web Map provides location-based information on ocean fishing regulations. If you have an internet or cell connection and access to

your smart phone or other mobile device's location services, your current location is displayed on the map in relation to management



area boundaries, including groundfish depth limits and MPAs. Clicking on any recreational fishing management area or MPA provides details about the regulations within that specific area. From the CDFW Marine Region home page, simply click "Ocean Sport Fishing Interactive Web Map". You can also access the interactive map directly by visiting: [wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap](http://wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap). 🌟

## Editor's Note

Due to the storms in January dives were canceled and reports and photos didn't materialize so we have a smaller newsletter. Here's hoping we get more dives in this month!

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



**H**i All.

As I noted in last month's column, we've often heard that our best local diving is in the fall and winter between storms and recent conditions had certainly reflected that. While we had some great diving in November and December, now we're just getting over that recent period of storms that put most of our diving activities on hold. So let's be sure to check our gear and dive with caution when we can get back in the water!

We discussed a few new activities at the recent Club Annual Planning Meeting. The calendar includes the usual monthly activities: business and general meetings, Second Saturday SCUBA (S3) dives and the Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC) trips. And of course we'll have our annual Underwater Easter Egg hunt in April, campouts for Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends, Point Lobos dives, Elkhorn Slough kayak trips, and some purely social get-togethers.

One new activity planned is a summer night-time kayak tour at Elkhorn Slough to see the bioluminescence. We're also looking into another club dive trip to Bonaire and hope to see the coral spawning there.

I hope to see everyone back in the water soon!

– **Barbara**



## San Jose Flipper Dippers

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## Get your underwater hunting skills ready

The Flipper Dippers will be holding our 14th Annual Underwater Easter Egg Hunt, at Del Monte Beach, on April 22. If you look at the chart below you'll see who the winners were over the past thirteen years of competition. In 2020 we had a "Virtual Hunt" due to the COVID restrictions. Do you think you can beat the competition? Watch for more information in the coming months and get ready for a fun dive! ★



Year	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
2010	Tom Gardner	Carl Tuttle	Jani Hail
2011	Barbara Davis	Carl Tuttle	Tim Jagers
2012	Carl Tuttle	Jim Hail	Larry Ankuda
2013	Barbara Davis	Larry Ankuda	Carl Tuttle
2014	Jim Rezowalli	Larry Ankuda	Carl Tuttle
2015	John Snyder	Brian Zaugg	Barbara Davis
2016	Carl Tuttle	Tom Gardner	Anton Dold
2017	A TIE! Carl Tuttle Manuel Mangrobang	None	None
2018	Barbara Davis	Tom Gardner	Donovan Hill
2019	Barbara Davis	Donovan Hill	Carl Tuttle
2020 Virtual	Abby Wilson	Jackie Gardner	John Snyder
2021	Carl Tuttle	Grace Chi	Barbara Davis
2022	Grace Chi	Carl Tuttle	Barbara Davis
2023	???	???	???

# DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

ANDREW GRICE

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FEBRUARY 2023

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1 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, FEBRUARY 4 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

## SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11 SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3) BEACH DIVE: LOCATION TBD

**- 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 an update on a location and coordinator.

## GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, FEB 15

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:

- **Social Hour • Fishy Stories**



## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 NO SCHEDULED DIVE



### UPCOMING IN MARCH

- 01 Labor Day Weekend Reservations (Aug 28-Sept 4, 2023) Van Damme
- 01 Business Meeting
- 11 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 15 General Meeting
- 26 Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)



## IN MEMORIAM

July 10, 1945 - December 26, 2022

**F**ormer San Jose Flipper Dipper **Steve Lodoen** passed away peacefully on December 26, following complications from Hodgkins Lymphoma. Steve first joined the Club in June of 1994. He immediately became very active in the Club including serving as the treasurer for many years. Steve also coordinated many dives, and helping out with Club activities including the Annual Seafood Dinner & Dance. Steve was a regular at the Club's North Coast campouts and abalone dives bringing his small inflatable boat, shuttling divers to the prime "Secret Spots" looking for those 12-inch abs. He and Bonnie, his wife of 49 years, spent many summers at a home on Lake Metigoshe near his hometown of Bottineau, ND. A small service was held there on January 3, 2023. ★



## Let's go on a kayak tour!

**H**i Dippers! I got some more information about the bioluminescent kayak tours after the planning meeting. Ben and I will probably do both Tomales Bay and Elkhorn Slough this summer. During the February General Meeting we'll ask club members which weekend this summer (likely in July or September) works best for an Elkhorn Slough bioluminescence kayak trip.

Ben and I are also looking for a 4th kayaker to join us and our friend on a bioluminescence tour in Tomales Bay

on Saturday, August 12. There are two tandem kayak slots still available if two or four more people are interested in joining too (book for 8/12/23



online at [www.bluewaterskayking.com](http://www.bluewaterskayking.com)). We are also hoping to get a campsite (or two) at Samuel P. Taylor State Park for that Saturday night in case anyone would like to join.

Cheers,  
**Abby Golden Wilson**

**NOTE:** All certified divers are encouraged to attend San Jose Flipper Dippers' dives.

Non-Club members will be required to show proof of certification to the dive coordinator prior to entering the water with our group. Please sign up for dives at the General Meeting or call the coordinator. This is needed in case of cancelation or changes.



# San Jose Flipper Dippers

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## 2023 COMING EVENTS

Feb 01	Business Meeting
Feb 11	Second Saturday SCUBA
Feb 15	👉 General Meeting
Mar 01	Business Meeting
Mar 11	Second Saturday SCUBA
Mar 15	👉 General Meeting
Apr 01	Pt. Lobos Reservations for May 13
Apr 05	Business Meeting
Apr 08	Second Saturday SCUBA
Apr 08-15	Cozumel Dive Trip
Apr 19	👉 General Meeting - SJFD 59 Years Old
Apr 22	U/W Easter Egg Hunt

*Are you looking for someone  
to dive with?*

**T**he 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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