

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

JANUARY 2025

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

New Board takes over for 2025

Congratulations to our new 2025 Board! Above from top right:

- Barbara Davis** (Pres.),
- Sim Upadhyayula** (Vice Pres.),
- Tom 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 22 or sign up to lead a dive or activity! ★



Show Me the Money!

Three lucky Dippers show off their cash winnings picked off the Christs tree during the December Christmas General Meeting. It pays to attend the General Meetings in person – especially for the December Meeting. So who were the lucky winners? See page 4 to find out who got the cash and other prize winners. ★

You think your diving suit is old?

Behold the remarkable relic known as "The Old Gentleman of Raahe," the world's oldest intact diving suit, hailing from the 1700s in Finland.

Crafted from supple calfskin and ingeniously sealed with a blend of pork fat, tar, and pitch, this suit stands as a magnificent tribute to the pioneering spirit of early underwater adventurers. Its hood, elegantly framed with wood, features an air pipe



opening that reveals the ingenious methods divers employed to explore the mysterious depths long before modern technology.

This extraordinary artifact is more than just a piece of diving history; it is a stunning showcase of the craftsmanship and ingenuity that defined its era, inviting us to dive into the depths of our shared human story. ★

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Happy New Year!

I'm looking forward to some great diving in 2025! Let's make sure our gear and ourselves stay in great shape and let's continue our club's great safety record. We look after ourselves and our buddies and we take the time to mentor our new and prospective members.

I have been reflecting on the purpose of our Club, which remains today as it was when the club was originally founded in 1964. In particular:

- We promote active participation in diving for safety, education and pleasure.
- We encourage the conservation of all marine life by obeying all Federal and State game laws and urging others to do likewise.
- We take an active interest in and to stimulate legislature favorable to, and promoting, the sport of "Skin and Scuba Diving."
- We promote safety on the beaches as well as in the water.
- We encourage good sportsmanship and cooperation in our club - and with other diving clubs - and to extend the universal fraternal courtesy to all fishermen and women, boaters and swimmers.

The Club offers its members a wide variety of skin and Scuba diving activities and other social, sport, recreational and community service projects in which participation is both enjoyable and rewarding. I am proud to have been a member of our club since 1993!

We had a great hybrid general meeting on December 18th. We had an abundance of yummy goodies and a great raffle. We also elected our 2025 Club Officers. I want to thank the 2024 club officers for their willingness to continue to serve in 2025!

As for upcoming activities, please note that we'll be moving the January business meeting to Wednesday, January 8th. And on Wednesday, January 22nd, we have our virtual Annual Planning Meeting to plan the Club's calendar for the coming year. Everyone is encouraged to join in and share their ideas for dives and other Club events.

We are still planning to hold our Annual Awards Banquet again this year and we're in the process of finding a location. If you have any ideas, please let Carl know! The Awards Banquet lets us recognize everyone who pitched in and helped at club events in 2024 and it's always a lot of fun!

I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming meetings and events in 2025!

Let's go diving! – Barbara



Annual Club Planning Meeting

Our annual Club Planning Meeting for 2025 has been scheduled for a virtual meeting on **Wednesday, January 22**, 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 2025 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 7:30 pm. Email Carl Tuttle (tutcomms@sbcglobal.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. 🌟



San Jose Flipper Dippers

www.SJFlipperDippers.com

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CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Barbara Davis 408-656-6390

VICE PRESIDENT

Sim Upadhyayula 669-286-9796

SECRETARY

Grace Chi 858-337-2674

TREASURER

Tom 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

o Position Open o

REFRESHMENTS

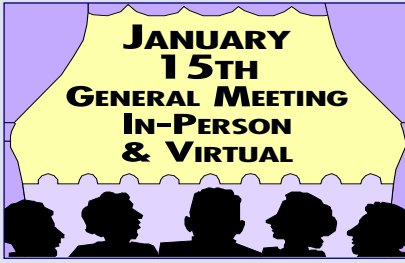
o Position Open o

STAR ACHIEVEMENT

Jackie Gardner 408-274-9447

TROPHY COMPETITION

o Position Open o



We'll be having our in-person General Meeting this month. If you come please bring a refreshment to share! We'll have a live Skype connection for those who still prefer to meet virtually. ★

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 New Year Babies! Someone was doing the Hokey Pokey during the month of August so **Grace Chi** and **Dennis Nasont** are this month's birthday winners. ★

CLUB DUES LAST CALL

Don't get dropped off the list to get notifications of Club dives and activities!

It is well past time to pay your **annual dues** and **we'd hate to loose you!**

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: **Tom Gardner**, 2986 Everdale Court, San Jose, CA 95148. Contact Tom 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 **\$30.00**. (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.

A summary of annual dues are:

CLUB DUES	\$ 50.00
Newsletter (U.S. Mail)	10.00
Optional: CEN CAL	15.00
Optional: USofA	30.00

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.

Late dues incur a late fee of \$5.00 ★

STAR ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Jackie Gardner

Ever notice some Club members with Gold Stars on the back of their jackets? Here's how to get yours! These achievements may be accomplished and recorded in any order. Stars will be awarded in numerical order upon completion of all previous requirements. It is the Club member's responsibility to make sure these accomplishments are recorded with the Star Achievement Program Chairperson. Chances are, you already qualify for your first or second 'Star' and don't know it. Review the list below – and you're on your way! Then contact **Jackie Gardner**, phone: 408-274-9447, email: tomandjackieus@yahoo.com, and start your collection of stars.

1st STAR AWARD ★

1. Show SCUBA certification from a nationally recognized certification agency.
2. Log ten (10) dives with the Club.
3. Dive to 60 feet in the ocean on a Club dive.

2nd STAR AWARD ★ ★

1. Log 20 total dives (not necessarily Club dives).
2. Have current CPR AND First Aid certification.
3. Coordinate two (2) scheduled Club dives.
4. Assist at two (2) scheduled Club activities.
5. Prove ability to use a compass by showing proof of: a) Navigation Specialty, OR b) Advanced Diver certification.

3rd STAR AWARD ★ ★ ★

1. Obtain a Scuba Rescue course certification from a nationally recognized certification agency.
2. Complete one (1) year as an active skin and SCUBA diver AND Club member.
3. Complete at least one (1) of the following: a) assist at four (4) club activities, b) coordinate four (4) scheduled Club dives, OR c) dive with four (4) prospective Club members.
4. Have current CPR AND First Aid certification.
5. Show certification of one (1) of the following courses: a) O2 Provider, b) Nitrox, OR c) Advanced Diver.

4th STAR AWARD ★ ★ ★ ★

1. Complete two (2) years as an active skin and SCUBA diver AND Club member.
2. Log at least two (2) night dives.
3. Serve as a Club Committee Chair, OR participate in at least two (2) different ocean/dive-related public services.
4. Have current CPR, First Aid AND Scuba Rescue certification.
5. Coordinate the following scheduled Club dives: a) one (1) boat dive, b) ~~one (1) abalone dive~~, AND c) one (1) night dive.
6. Dive with at least six (6) prospective Club members.

5th STAR AWARD ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

1. Successfully complete all previous requirements.
2. Complete three (3) years as an active skin and SCUBA diver AND Club member.
3. Have current CPR, First Aid AND Scuba Rescue certification.
4. Be a nationally certified: a) SCUBA Instructor, b) Assistant Instructor, c) Dive Master, d) Master Scuba Diver, OR e) serve one (1) year as a Club Officer.

December General Meeting

Show Me the Money!

Lucky winners and the cash they scored off the Christmas Tree included **Grace Chi**: \$50, **Ken Agur**: \$30, and **Carl Tuttle**: \$20. These three had their raffle ticket pulled at random out of the hamster wheel drum.

The three envelopes were placed on the Christmas tree and had some dollar signs (\$\$\$) written on them. There was no indication of the amount of cash inside. We wonder, are these three lucky in Las Vegas, PowerBall or the California Lottery? Mum's the word! 🌟



Grace



Ken



Carl

Ed. Note: Grace hasn't been to a General Meeting in-person for some time and attended so she could pay her Club dues. Wow! That \$50 just covered them!



Howard Timoney, above, helped the meeting by selling raffle tickets. He's a winner too!

Sim Upadhyayula won a number of times too.



Jeff Roland scores!

Wait! How is it that the person (Howard Timoney) selling raffle tickets wins a lot?



Grace Chi is a lucky Dipper again.



December S3 Dive Report

Grace Chi

Due to extremely poor forecasts for December 14, the December S3 dive was moved to The Breakwater on December 21. Very few divers were there and parking was wide open as we suspect many looked at the forecast for poor conditions and decided to sleep in. Since the ocean was projected to get rougher as the day went on, Dippers **Carl Tuttle, Eva Alexander, Ken Ager, Jeff Rowland,** and **Grace Chi** geared up quickly for the first dive out to the Metridium Fields, uncertain what to expect. Carl had a malfunction with his mask and luckily Ken had an extra on hand to loan him. The ocean was calm and we were able to see the bottom as we swam out.



Image from the Pebble Beach Golf Course webcam on December 14th

After descending we found the pipe (Grace signaled to Carl that he swam right over it - of course he blamed it on Ken's spare mask fogging up!) and made our way to the fields, where we saw plenty of metridiums, large fishes, etc, and some divers even got buzzed by a sea lion. Visibility was well above average at 30-40 feet and water temperature was in the low 50s as usual.

For the second dive, we dove the Breakwater wall. Interesting sightings included a cormorant and octopus. Schools of fishes were out in full force and the sea lions joined us barking and blowing bubbles as they buzzed our group of divers. Visibility was again above average although the ocean had definitely picked up when we exited. Both dives were about 50 minutes.

Towards the very end of the dive on the way back in to shore, Carl had an encounter with a fisherman's hook and he was pulled up to the surface from about 8 feet! The hook had snagged the cloth mask strap and the line wrapped around his snorkel nearly pulling his mask off. At the surface he pulled out his trusty "**Mike Nelson, Sea Hunt Dive Knife**" and cut the line. This is a reason we should all carry a knife, or line cutting device, when diving in the Monterey Bay.



After everyone got dressed, we enjoyed hot clam chowder and pizza for lunch at Piccolo, a new Italian restaurant, on the Breakwater where Pig Wizard used to be. 🌟

DOUBLE DIPPERS DOUBLE UP WITH THE GOLDEN DIPPY!

At the December General Meeting there was a bit of an issue with the lock on the front door to the Knight's Hall. Two out of three keys wouldn't work in the lock. We were finally able to get in and hold our meeting. As the last of the Dippers exited the building, **Carl Tuttle** closed the door and everything was secure. Fifteen seconds later, **Grace Chi** called his phone, she had left her backpack with her laptop inside. Carl and **Barbara Davis** made a valiant effort with the key he had to get the door open, but it wouldn't open.



The next day Carl contacted **Jerry Richards** to see if someone was going to be at the hall. No such luck and he didn't know if any maintenance people would be available.

He decided to go to the hall and see if he could get the door open. After a number of attempts, he got it open and was able to retrieve Grace's backpack and laptop! He delivered it to Grace at Saturday's dive at the Breakwater along with the *Golden Dippy*.

🌟 🌟 🌟 🌟 🌟

During the December 21st dive, **Ken Ager** had to add some extra mileage to his drive to the Breakwater. Almost to Gilroy, he realized he'd left his fins at home, right where he always puts them in the garage.

So he had to make a quick back track to get them. He was able to get home and to the Breakwater as the others were just showing up – along with the *Golden Dippy*. We won't ask how fast he was driving, but suffice it to say he made the dive!



The Club's **Golden Dippy** is alive and well. Are you a candidate? 🌟

Entangled humpback whale breaches off Newport Beach

Rescue teams search for entangled whale off Orange County coast

A humpback whale that had been thrilling boaters off Newport Beach, Ca., for several days breached for a prolonged period, revealing that the mammal is hardly free and thriving.

The Instagram post by Mark Girardeau highlights “the tragedy of yet another human-created problem” in the form of a commercial fishing rope running through the whale’s mouth and wound tightly around its right pectoral fin. “We’re hoping the best for this whale!” Girardeau, who was with Newport Coastal Adventure, stated in his description. “Rescue teams are on the lookout for this whale to be sighted again.”

Even if a NOAA-trained rescue team locates the juvenile whale, approaching for an attempt to cut or loosen the rope would be challenging and dangerous – perhaps impossible if the whale is breaching or actively feeding. Alisa Schulman-Janiger, a researcher, stated via Facebook that the whale was probably trying to free itself when it breached repeatedly for 2.5 hours.

She added that the whale could lose its pectoral fin because the rope is wound so tightly. It’s unclear when or where the whale became entangled, but ropes attached to crab and lobster gear always pose threats to whales.

Aerial photos shot by Mark Girardeau also shows rope caught in the humpback whale’s mouth. Girardeau was among a number of photographers capturing footage of the whale.

While trained rescuers would love to free the whale, they might not get an opportunity because humpback whales presently off Southern California are migrating to Mexico for the winter. The whale is known to science, cataloged by Happy Whale as HW-MN0503323, and has been documented five times since 2023 between Morro Bay and San Diego.

Video recorded by Davey’s Locker and Newport Landing Whale Watching, that was shared with KTLA TV, shows what appears to be a strong piece of fishing line wrapped around the pectoral fin and through the mouth of a humpback whale.

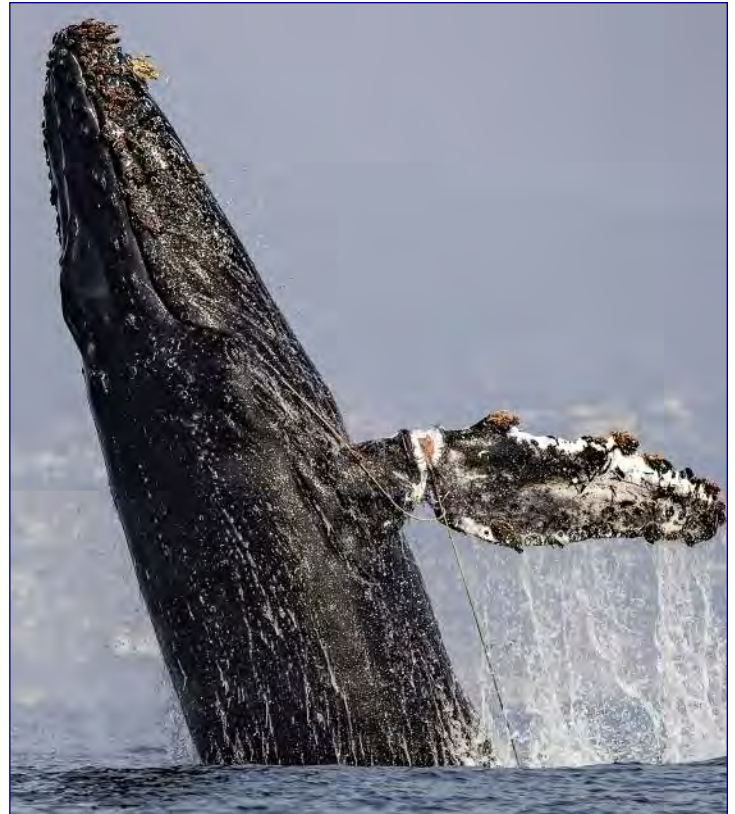


The humpback whale raises its entangled pectoral fin. Photo: Mark Girardeau



A whale entanglement response team has been notified and is searching for the whale, which is one of a large number of humpbacks that have been showing up over the past several months, to see if they can help. “The fear is that it will become so tight around the whale’s pectoral fin that it might end up in an amputation of the whale. It could prevent the whale from feeding. It definitely will slow them down and make them sick,” spokesperson Jessica Rodriguez said. “So, hopefully, it will become disentangled at some point.”

As for now, the whale-watching groups are keeping an eye out and notifying rescuers of any sightings. There are concerns however about how to safely remove the entanglement even if the distressed whale is spotted. 🌟



Closeup reveals rope around the humpback whale's pectoral fin. Photo: Mark Girardeau

DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

SIM UPADHYAYULA

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JANUARY 2025

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1
BUSINESS MEETING: Moved to
Wednesday, January 8

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4
NO SCHEDULED DIVE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8
BUSINESS MEETING: 7:30pm
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 11
SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3)
BEACH DIVE: LOCATION TBD
Coordinator: **Sim Upadhyayula**,
(email: toytacous@yahoo.com or
text/phone: 408-608-5009). Join the
Flipper Dippers for this month's
Second Saturday Scuba! Be sure to
watch your email for an update on
a location and coordinator.

GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, JAN 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 60 Years of the San Jose Flipper Dippers!

Entertainment:

- Social Hour
- Sing Up for Dives



SATURDAY, JANUARY 18
NO SCHEDULED DIVE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22
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 7:30 pm. Please contact **Carl Tuttle** if you need the link and a copy of the 2025 preliminary calendar

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
NO SCHEDULED DIVE



UPCOMING IN FEBRUARY

- 05 Business Meeting
- 08 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 19 General Meeting



When you're richer than Croesus

Undercurrent



A rich person might have their dive kit couriered to their dive destination. But Mark Zuckerberg, who is more than rich, rushed his support vessel, *Wingman*, with 20 crew members onboard, on a 4,200-mile journey from California to Tahiti to assist the Meta CEO's \$300 million superyacht *Launchpad* in scouting for the best surfing and diving spots. The world's fourth-richest man, worth \$191 billion, now owns not one but two superyachts. We guess he still has to work his fins himself when underwater. ★

The accident waiting to happen

Undercurrent

A tiger shark bit a Chinese diver wearing a brightly colored novelty hood on the back of his head at a popular Maldives dive site. Undercurrent has chronicled past diving incidents at the heavily trafficked site near the Hulhumale airport (Undercurrent News May 2024). Called the Shark Tank, it's near the harbor entrance, where fishing boat crews gut their catches, attracting a permanent residence of sharks. Apparently, the dive guide used bait to attract the sharks. The diver required more than 40 stitches. ★

Bitten by a nurse shark

Undercurrent

A day before the Chinese diver was bitten by a tiger shark, Lilian Tagliari, a female Brazilian diver, was



bitten on the leg by a nurse shark in the Maldives at Alimathaa Island, Vaavu Atoll. The sharks tend to mass near a dock used by fishing boats. Her injuries were superficial, and she posted a video of the incident on Instagram. ★

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

2025 COMING EVENTS

Jan 8	Business Meeting
Jan 11	Second Saturday SCUBA
Jan 15	☛ General Meeting
Jan 22	Annual Planning Meeting
Feb 5	Business Meeting
Feb 8	Second Saturday SCUBA
Feb 19	☛ General Meeting
Feb 25	Labor Day Weekend Reservations (Aug 25-Sept 1, 2025) Van Damme

*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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