

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

MAY
2025

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD
3RD WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH
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What happens under water . . . doesn't stay under water

April 5th Dive Report

Conditions for the March Second Saturday Scuba (S3) dive were a bust so it was moved to Saturday, April 5th. Only two Dippers showed up for the dive at North Monastery; **Sim Upadhyayula** and **Eva Alexander**. The two decided to move the dive to MacAbee instead. Conditions were looking good so they decided to dive the pinnacle and entered the water with high hopes.

As reported by Sim, "The conditions were good but viz was bad. It improved after



we got further out. We sighted the dive boat on the sight and followed that heading. Guess what? The pinnacle was not there! Someone moved it away from California, maybe Trump?

After some 30mins, we headed back to the shore. My compass started acting up (or maybe

it was from the start) and after some time we surfaced right in front of the aquarium. It was a long slog of surface swimming to get back to the beach. After that we decided we'd only do one dive as Eva was tired because of the compass. Surprisingly, my compass is still stuck at 210!"

Ed Note:

Looks like Sim is taking after **Cedric Wright**. Now he is going to need two compasses for diving too! 🌟



U/W Easter Egg Hunt Winners!

The 16th Annual Underwater Easter Egg Hunt, at Del Monte Beach was postponed until April 19th. Only three divers participated including **Tom Gardner**, **Grace Chi**, and **Alexandria Haraszti**, and all three were winners of the top three prizes! Now, don't you wish you had gone? See the report and more photos on page 4. 🌟



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Hi All!

We didn't have a great turnout for the rescheduled 16th Annual Underwater Easter Egg Hunt on April 19th, but those who were able to participate still had a great time! See the article on page 4 for a full report. And a big THANKS! goes out to **Tom** and **Jackie Gardner** for organizing the event.

Our Dipper group will be back from 10 days in Bonaire on May 7th and I'm sure we'll have a great report to share at the May General meeting.

Also in May, I'm looking forward to our S3 dive and our dive at Point Lobos on May 17th! This usually includes a nice potluck lunch alongside some of our non-diving buddies who go hiking while we dive.

And don't forget the club camping trip to Brannan Island State Recreation Area for Memorial Day weekend. We have four campsites reserved and plenty of room to share. A good time will be had by all! See the calendar on page 7 for more information about this fun event.

The SCUBA Show is May 31st and June 1st in Long Beach this year. This is a great opportunity to check out the hundreds of exhibitors, see the latest gear, attend seminars, and learn about great travel opportunities!

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

Stay safe and Let's go diving! – Barbara



San Jose Flipper Dippers

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o Position Open o

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TROPHY COMPETITION

o Position Open o

CLUB COMMITTEES



Dippers enjoy great diving and great food in Bonaire

Here's a photo all the way from Bonaire as Dippers and friends enjoy a meal. The group is still there and proclaim great dive conditions. We'll be looking for a full report, including photos, when they return. Clockwise from lower left: **Jeff Rowland, Cedric Wright, Sim Upadhyayula, Mike Chalup, Howard Timoney, Ken Agur, Barbara Davis, Eva Alexander, John Snyder, Maribella Ibarra, Teresa Hanson, and Tristan Chutka.** ★

MAY 21ST GENERAL MEETING IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL



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 MS Teams or Zoom connection for those who still prefer to meet virtually. Watch for a email update. ☆

MEMBERSHIP

Ken Agur

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

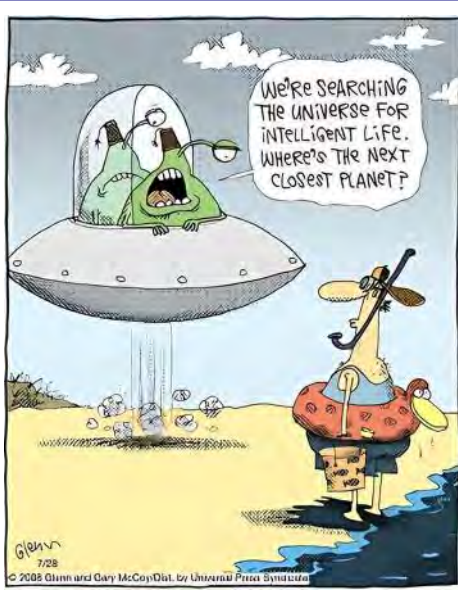
Happy Birthday! These Dippers are completing another trip around the Sun this month. Happy Birthday to Flipper Dippers **Ken Ager** (the Iron Diver) and **Barbara Zwieg**. ☆



Just for Fun . . . and a little history



"Well, it just sort of wriggled its way up the beach, grabbed Jonathan and dragged him back again. I mean, the poor thing must have been half-starved"



"Ok, last night you washed the dishes, and today you're folding the laundry... What dive trip did you sign up for, and how much did it cost?"

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It was an Eggexacta Scramble for Easter Eggs!

Tom Gardner

The original dive supposed to be on Apr12th but was cancelled because there were three-foot waves which blew out the visibility, so we moved it to the next Saturday the 19th. Since practically everyone was busy packing for their trip to Bonaire only four people were going to make the dive including myself, **Jackie Gardner**, **Grace Chi**, and **Alexandria Haraszi**. Unfortunately when I packed the tanks for myself and Jackie, one of the tanks only had 800psi in it, so Jackie declined the dive.

Jackie and I used the 2-man kayak and distributed 48 numbered eggs over a smaller grid than usual because there were only 3 active divers. The breakers were maybe a foot high, almost flat. The visibility probably 10 feet; not too bad since I talked to some UW photographers who said the previous weekend was “mud.”

The three of us went in and were planning to dive together, but after two minutes I lost contact with the other two which was OK since they were headed in the wrong direction and I knew where the eggs should be! The depth was about 15ft and you had to swim out a good distance, to where the wooden pilings started on the commercial pier, a good hundred yards at least. Grace and Alexandria gathered about 8 eggs, and I miraculously found 22 eggs.

For some reason they claimed fraud! They said the fix was in so I 'let' them have first and second prize.

First Place was a \$50 gift certificate pizza card and a \$20 gift card for Peets coffee. Second Place was a \$50 pizza gift card, and Third Place was a \$20 Peets coffee card.

Since neither Grace or Alexandria like coffee, Grace gave Jackie her Peets card, everyone was a winner. Also I had some nice Lindt chocolate bunnies mixed with Jelly Bellies for consolation prizes and everyone got one. Everybody was happy and yes, YOU should of been there!

I only did one dive but Grace and Alexandria did a second under the pier.



Tom trying to pay for parking via the Park Mobile App. “It worked before!”



Jackie, Grace, Alexandria and Tom. Ready? Get Set! Go!

Highlights from the 1st & 2nd dives — Grace Chi

Crabs, nudibranchs, comb jelly, and an unidentified small jellyfish—about 1-2 in length with a circle of red dots inside the body, potentially where the legs came out. Alexandra got the first eggs between the two of us. Surprisingly, I found 6(?). I was not hopeful about finding any as I usually don't find much and end up getting distracted by the scene. 54 degree water, viz varied but maybe 10 feet max near the shallow end.

For the second dive, Alexandra and I went under the wharf. There was a large white

mass that quickly moved away from us when we reached the wharf. Lots of huge starfishes and strawberry anemones on the pilings. The large white mass appeared again on the edge of the wharf and it was a harbor seal that was once again eager to get away from us. Once we exited the wharf, three sea lions appeared and swam around us. A juvenile was very curious and an adult kept approaching too. I wasn't sure what to make of their behavior. Alexandria pointed to one near my hand. Not sure if it was the same one that blew bubbles a few feet away. Visibility was maybe 15 feet ft under the wharf. Having lights really helped us keep track of each other during both dives. 🌟



Tom was declared a cheater . . . er, winner!



Grace and Alexandria scored some eggs and prizes too!

Galapagos Islands Trip Report

Barbara Davis

Dippers **Barbara Davis** and **Les Addison** spent a few days in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in April before boarding the Galapagos Aggressor III for a great week of diving in the Galapagos Islands!

We did three days of sightseeing in the coastal city of Guayaquil, including a tour of the city and learning about the history of Ecuador (and feeding the iguanas in a city park), taking a boat tour through the mangroves and taking a hike to see (and hear!) the elusive howler monkeys, a visit to a cocoa (pronounced kakow) farm where we roasted and ground some cocoa “beans” (actually seeds) and enjoyed a fresh cup of hot chocolate. The hot chocolate was made with water, because there weren’t any cows in Ecuador back when cocoa seeds were originally processed. We also went birdwatching in a large nature preserve. Everywhere we went we found friendly and helpful people and great food!

Then we flew to Isla Baltra to board the Galapagos Aggressor III. After we settled in, we did our first dive in Itabaca Channel. Due to the thermoclines, the water temperatures ranged from 75 – 84 degrees. On this dive we saw sharks, a turtle and some eels.

We spent a few days at the southern islands where we hiked to the top of Bartolome Island to enjoy the amazing view, and did 6 more dives. One highlight of the dives at Cowley Island was a HUGE bait ball of black striped salema. It was dark as a night dive under the school of fish, and the divers enjoyed swimming into the school and having the fish close in behind us. We also swam slowly up to the top and found ourselves in a vertical tunnel as the fish swirled around us. During our dives we saw several types of sharks (hammerheads, white tip reef sharks, black tip reef sharks, Galapagos sharks, and silky sharks), rays (giant mantas, cownose, spotted eagle rays, stingrays), eels, octopuses, and schools of assorted brightly-colored fish. Some dives sites also included groups of playful sea lions. We also went snorkeling with hopes of seeing Galapagos penguins. While there were groups of penguins on the rocks, they declined to join us in the water.

Then we headed up to Wolf and Darwin Islands. The

water was warmer here, with most dives ranging from 80 – 85 degrees. Again we were treated to schools of fish, rays hanging out in the sand or gracefully swimming by, and a variety of sharks, turtles, and eels. We also saw some dolphins swimming along with the boat. On one dive we spotted some red-lipped batfish and a unique fish called a sea robin, which are bottom-dwelling fish with wing-like pectoral fins and distinct “walking legs” that allow them to walk on the ocean floor! We also spotted some large mola molas. We also got to observe the marine iguanas feeding on the algae on the rocks in some locations.

After returning to the southern islands, we did one more dive and then a land tour on Santa Cruz Island that included a drive to the top of the island to enjoy the views, visiting a farm to see some giant tortoises, and then free time to wander around town and grab dinner.

After breakfast the next morning, we were transferred



Iron Divers Barbara and Les

back to the Baltra airport to return home, or continue our adventures. Many of the divers headed up to Quito for more sightseeing.



Barbara watching the eagle rays from the reef



Departing the Mother Ship for a dive

Most of the 15 divers completed all of the 20 dives offered and thus earned the Aggressor Fleet’s “Iron Diver” award. We encountered some pretty strong currents, but nothing this group couldn’t handle! The dive masters gave great pre-dive briefings and were great at pointing out critters during the dives.

Overall, it was a great trip. The crew was great, the food yummy and plentiful, and our fellow divers were an amiable bunch. Definitely a bucket-list trip! As the saying goes, “They don’t make them like they used to!” ★

A bit more history on the movie *Jaws*

Jaws will be re-released in theaters on August 29th

Hedges Sara – Member of 'Jaws Fans'

When the mechanical shark on the set of "*Jaws*" (1975) sank to the bottom of the ocean on the very first day of filming, the crew thought the production was doomed. The saltwater corroded the pneumatic system, and Bruce, the name Spielberg and his team gave the shark after his lawyer, malfunctioned so badly that scenes involving it had to be restructured or improvised entirely.

But that breakdown became the film's secret weapon. Because the shark could not function properly, Spielberg decided to show it as little as possible, letting sound, suggestion, and the ominous cello notes of John Williams' score build dread instead. That unplanned limitation turned into a revolutionary storytelling technique. Most people don't realize that the shark only appears on screen for about four minutes in the entire two-hour film.

Steven Spielberg was 26 years old and had directed only one theatrical feature when he took on the film adaptation of Peter Benchley's novel. He later admitted he feared he would be replaced mid-shoot. The crew worked six-day weeks on the open ocean near Martha's Vineyard, enduring unpredictable tides and weather. Spielberg chose to shoot on the actual sea rather than in a tank, which made everything harder. Boats drifted, the lighting changed constantly, and the ocean swallowed expensive equipment. One assistant director described it as "a floating madhouse."

Roy Scheider, who played Chief Brody, famously came up with the iconic line, "You're gonna need a bigger boat," off-script. It was an inside joke among the crew who kept demanding a bigger support boat for all the equipment. Spielberg loved the line's delivery so much, he left it in. It became one of the most quoted movie lines in cinema history, and it emerged from pure improvisation.

Richard Dreyfuss, who played marine biologist Matt Hooper, nearly turned down the role. He did not think the movie would work and wasn't impressed by the script. But after seeing himself in another film and feeling disappointed by his performance, he changed his mind. During filming,

Dreyfuss and Robert Shaw, who played the hard-drinking shark hunter Quint, had such a tense relationship that many of their on-screen arguments did not need acting because they were real. Shaw would taunt Dreyfuss off-camera, criticizing him and throwing insults, especially when drinking. Spielberg later said their antagonism fueled their characters' chemistry in a way that benefited the story.

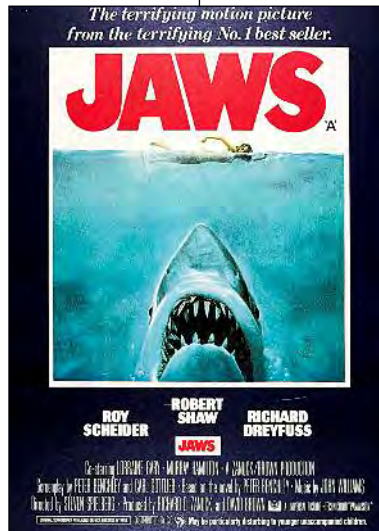
Robert Shaw's USS Indianapolis monologue, where Quint recounts the horrific World War II shark attack that killed hundreds of sailors, remains one of the film's most powerful moments. Shaw helped rewrite the monologue and delivered it in one uninterrupted take that left the crew stunned into silence. That speech was not part of the original novel. Spielberg added it to deepen Quint's character and give the story emotional gravity. The tale was loosely inspired by a real naval tragedy and is one of the rare moments in the film when time seems to freeze.

The film's production ran 104 days over schedule and tripled its original 4 million dollar budget, ballooning to nearly 12 million dollars. At one point, Universal Studios executives panicked and considered pulling the plug. But when it premiered on June 20, 1975, "*Jaws*" changed everything. It played in over 400 theaters during its first week, an unheard-of strategy at the time, and relied on television advertising to attract audiences nationwide. The film created the blueprint for what would become known as the summer blockbuster.

John Williams' haunting two-note theme was initially met with laughter. Spielberg thought it was a joke until Williams demonstrated how its repetitive simplicity mirrored the lurking, unstoppable nature of the shark. That music became inseparable from the film's terror. Even people who haven't seen "*Jaws*" can hum those notes instinctively, a testament to the score's psychological power.

Spielberg was so traumatized by the chaos of production that he skipped the final day of shooting. He feared the crew might throw him overboard. He directed the final shot, the underwater explosion, from a safe distance on dry land.

A broken shark led to a master class in suspense through restraint and imagination. ★



Diving Into History

David Lazenby

Back in the 1990s I was dull enough to be the Creative and Development Director at 'Middelaldercentret' (The Middle-Ages Centre) in Nykøbing Falster, Denmark for several years. It is an open-air museum where medieval life is depicted in a reconstructed town. The centre is well known for its 'experimental archaeology' where little known or understood ancient technologies are reconstructed and tested using only period techniques and materials.

Based on a drawing I found in a German medieval manuscript dated 1425, I had my team of talented craftspersons create this reconstruction



The helmet, based on the contemporary military 'great bascinet' is an 'open' design, the exhaust air vents from beneath the gorget (collar) — which means that remaining upright is vital, falling

of an underwater divers dress and equipment, which was (with a degree of care) both functional and practical. Air delivery was from a set of 3 blacksmiths bellows, the hose is a series of hollowed wooden tubes, articulated with leather junctions.

over would flood the helmet!

continued on page 7



DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

SIM UPADHYAYULA

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MAY 2025

SATURDAY, MAY 10 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.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14 BUSINESS MEETING: 7:30pm

The meeting will be held **virtually via MS Teams or Zoom**. Watch for an email with details. Bring your own food, drinks, and internet connection and we'll discuss ideas for upcoming dives and events.

SATURDAY MAY 17 PT. LOBOS SCUBA DIVE

Coordinator: **Carl Tuttle**, (408-829-3660, tutcomms@sbcglobal.net). We have a number of teams with space available. Meet at the entrance before 8AM. Be sure to bring your reservation confirmation **and YOUR "C" Card!** Let Carl know if you are looking to join in, or if you've

signed up and are not going to make it as we may have some folks who want to dive.

GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, MAY 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 now be hosted via MS Teams or Zoom. Watch your email for info.

Please contact **Carl Tuttle** for more details on the in-person meeting or a link to the virtual Skype meeting.

Celebrate 61 Years of the San Jose Flipper Dippers!

Entertainment:

- **Social Hour**
- **Sign Up for Dives**



WED-SUN, MAY 22-26 MEMORIAL DAY WEEK AT BRANNAN ISLAND SRA

Coordinator: Join **Barbara Davis**, (408-656-6390, email: bjdscuba123@gmail.com) and the rest of the Flipper Dippers for camping at Brannan Island State Rec. Area, in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (1-1/2 hour drive from San Jose). Dippers have 4 sites and are open to sharing space. The Dippers are planning on hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, and sharing food, drink, and stories around the campfire. Contact Barbara regarding sharing space. Spaces are limited to 2 vehicles, but additional parking may be available.

SATURDAY, MAY 31 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

.....

UPCOMING IN JUNE

04 Business Meeting
14 Second Saturday SCUBA
18 General Meeting



continued from page 6

I tested and got used to the equipment in a Danish Royal Navy dive training tank, then progressed to deeper water in a public aquarium and finally the sea. It allowed me to work at a depth of 5m (15ft). That's around 35 bananas. I could have gone deeper but that would have required additional (and smaller) bellows. I could stay down for as long as the pump crew could manage to keep my air supply flowing,



that and how long as I could stand the cold water of the Baltic! Most medieval sources refer to divers working on shipwreck salvage, particularly in the 15th century to retrieve early cannon.

It is still highly debatable as to whether the divers actually used breathing equipment (as opposed to breath-hold) but this reconstruction, using only early 15th century materials and technology, proves that it was indeed possible. ★



☛ **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

c/o 1108 Sunset Landing
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

2025 COMING EVENTS

May 10	Second Saturday SCUBA
May 14	Business Meeting
May 17	Pt. Lobos Dive
May 21	🐡 General Meeting
May 22-27	Memorial Day Campout
June 4	Business Meeting
June 14	Second Saturday SCUBA
June 18	🐡 General Meeting
July 2	Business Meeting
July 5	No License Fishing Day
July 12	Second Saturday SCUBA
July 16	🐡 General Meeting
July 24-27	Lake Tahoe Weekend (TBD)

*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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