

NEWSLETTER



# San Jose Flipper Dippers

JUNE 2024

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD  
3RD WEDNESDAY  
OF EACH MONTH  
[WWW.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM](http://WWW.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM)

## Follow along on your bike . . . if you can

The Flipper Dippers aren't just all about diving. Our FSC (Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC) is a popular monthly event. The April 28th ride was coordinated by **Cedric Wright**.



The group gathered at the Woodside Town Hall and then peddled their way (except those E-bike riders) along Canada Road to highway 92. A section of the road is closed to auto traffic and makes for a save ride. There was a stop at the San Francisco-built Pulgas Water Temple, a monument to the engineering marvel that brought Hetch Hetchy water more than 160 miles across California



from the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the Bay Area. After the ride the group went to Bucks for a great lunch! 🌟



### Early birds get the front of the line

Flipper Dippers **Ken Agur**, **Taylor Sullivan** and prospective member **Chris Matheny** were the first to arrive at Pt. Lobos State Park for the May 11th Second Saturday Scuba (S3) dive. Fellow Dippers and friends were in line waiting patiently for the park to open at 8AM. We had a total of 16 divers join in for a great day. Park personnel got a jump on the crowd of divers by confirming reservations and dive teams before the gate opened, making for a smooth transition into the park. See more photos on page 4. 🌟



Frances Lee, Jackie Gardner, Tom Gardner, Kyle Sanner, Rick Bernal, Cedric Wright, Carl Tuttle, Howard Chien

### What's Inside?



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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



### Greetings Divers!

May was a great month for the Dippers, with our S3 dive at Point Lobos on May 11th, and the club camping trip to Henry Cowell State Park for Memorial Day weekend. A good time was had by all! Check out the newsletter articles and photos for more about these fun events!

Saturday, June 8th, is World Oceans Day (more info at <https://worldoceanday.org/>) and there are plenty of activities to get involved in to celebrate and support our oceans! The theme for World Ocean Day 2024 is Catalyzing Action for Our Ocean & Climate. We need to conserve our wonderful marine resources for future generations.

Locally, the Sunflower Star Laboratory in Moss Landing is currently raising hundreds of juvenile sunflower stars (*Pycnopodiahelianthoides*) in their aquaculture facility. Check out [www.sunflowerstarlab.org](http://www.sunflowerstarlab.org) to learn more.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature reclassified the species as endangered in 2020, and a petition to list the species under the US federal Endangered Species Act was filed in 2021. Public hearings were held in 2023, and I have not seen an update yet on the progress of this initiative. Stay tuned! More info here: [www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/noaa-fisheries-proposes-listing-sunflower-sea-star-threatened-under-endangered-species](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/noaa-fisheries-proposes-listing-sunflower-sea-star-threatened-under-endangered-species).

We are still planning for our popular Christmas in July event so watch for more information in the July Newsletter.

**NOTICE: Due to many of our fellow Dippers' travel activities this month, our General Meeting will be held virtually via Skype.**

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

**Let's go diving! – Barbara**



## San Jose Flipper Dippers

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### AWARDS AND FINES

o Position Open o

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### RAFFLE

o Position Open o

### REFRESHMENTS

o Position Open o

### STAR ACHIEVEMENT

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### TROPHY COMPETITION

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### The Old Dive Tower!

The Submarine Escape Training Tank, long known as the "Dive Tower," became a prominent feature to the local landscape from 1930 to 1992. Generations of submariners practiced escaping from sunken submarines through the Dive Tower by ascending in a 100-foot column of water. ★



We'll be having our **General Meeting virtually** this month. We'll have a live Skype connection for everyone to meet virtually. ★

## RAFFLE NEWS

Stay tuned for an upcoming Christmas in July BBQ and picnic with another great Raffle! ★

## 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).

**Happy Birthday to You!** This Dipper completed another annual trip around the Sun this month: *Jackie Gardner*. ★



## San Jose Flipper Dippers'

### DIVE COORDINATORS WANTED

*We're looking for some. How About You?*



To be a Club dive coordinator you need only be a certified diver with some diving experience. It is important to remember that you are coordinating other certified divers who are diving within their training and experience limits. You should take care to not exceed that role. You should not act as a divemaster or an instructor (even if you are so qualified).

Safety should be the concern of all divers. Information such as who has a cell phone and whether oxygen is available should be shared with all the participants. Remember the 9-1-1 emergency number is a free call.

It should be assumed that a certified diver is qualified to dive in a situation that is within the limits of his/her training with a diver of equal qualifications. If you suspect that a dive situation exceeds the qualifications of a diver, you should explain to them the potential difficulties they may encounter. However, remember that it is ultimately the diver him/herself who must make the decision as whether to dive, and he/she is ultimately responsible for his decision. Safe diving is a must!

Follow the Club constitution: *"Encourage the conservation of all marine life by obeying all Federal and State game laws and urging others to do likewise."*

## Simple Ten Point Guidelines

1. Choose a site/situation that you are familiar with and will be enjoyed by all divers.
2. Schedule your dive in time to be in the newsletter and announced at the Club meeting. Include the best method of contact so interested divers can contact you if they aren't at the meeting: Phone and/or email.
3. Collect the sign-up sheet after the Club meeting. If you can't attend, ask another member to get it for you.
4. If the dive will not occur as planned, make your best effort to contact all that expressed interest. Otherwise divers will assume the dive will occur as planned and show up at the site.
5. Make sure non-members are appropriately certified and have signed the Club's Assumption of Risk disclaimer (Available on the Club's Website).
6. Coordinate buddy teams to make sure that all divers who need a buddy, have one.
7. Tell all divers who are not familiar with the site/situation what they can expect entering/exiting the water and things to be on the lookout for.
8. Ask any divers who may want to leave early to let someone know so all divers can be accounted for after the dive.
9. Try to make the dive an enjoyable and safe experience for everyone, including yourself.
10. Plan to give a report on the dive at the next Club meeting. You can also submit a written report for the next Club newsletter so others can read about the dive. Take some photos of the divers too! ★

If you're up for your next adventure in diving, contact the Club's vice president: *Sim Upadhyayula*.  
Text: 669-286-9796 or email: [toytacous@yahoo.com](mailto:toytacous@yahoo.com).



## Pt. Lobos S3 dive May 11th.

Sixteen Dippers and friends joined together for another excellent adventure in diving. **Tristan Chutka** wasn't feeling well enough to dive but came to lend a hand to the divers suiting up – and showed up with a big box of donuts!

The ocean was smooth but the vis was a hazy 10-15 feet. The sun was playing peak-a-boo and made for a cool day. Some only did one dive and most joined together at the Crossroads BBQ in Carmel for lunch. **(Photos by Jackie Gardner)** 🌟



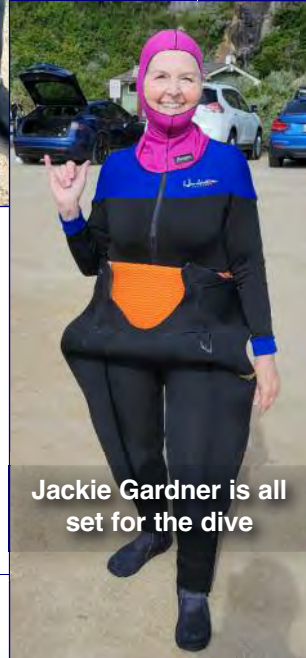
Eva Alexander and Ken Agur get suited up then make their way down the boat ramp.



Carri Edgar is excited to get in the water



Howard Timoney is ready



Jackie Gardner is all set for the dive



Taylor Sullivan is waiting for a buddy



Tom Gardner relaxes after his dive (eyes closed, he must be asleep)



Donovan Hill needs a little help suiting up



Jeremy Bridon and Grace Chi think this diving stuff is funny

## Memorial Day Weekend with the Dippers

Another great weekend of camping, hiking, eating, campfires, and great company! Dippers **Barbara Davis**, **Howard Chien** and **Frances Lee**, and **Carl Tuttle** had campsites for a number of days before the "Official" Memorial Day Weekend. Others came to camp including **John Snyder**, **Carri Edger** and **Jim Rezowalli**. Jim led a

great bike ride in Santa Cruz along past the Boardwalk and down to the Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor. The riders were met by Barbara, Carri, **Cedric Wright** and **Tomomi Yamamoto**, and **Abby** and **Ben Wilson** for a great lunch at Aldos. After lunch everyone met at Howard and Frances' campsite for a pot-luck dinner and lots of great stories.



A Carri and Abby chat fest



Toasted



Jim brought the dogs too

Actual photo of me at every campfire I've ever been to



Howard catches some shut-eye



Yep, we are a dive club and can't stay to far from the water



John thinks he's at Smokey Joe's Cafe.

## New Red Sea wreck dive near Elba Reef

*Undercurrent*

Yasser Elmoafi, owner of the Egyptian liveaboard MY Royal Evolution, tells us that his crew has located a Grumman Albatross flying boat in the far southern waters of the Egyptian Red Sea. The aircraft lies only 15-45 feet deep north of Elba Reef and reveals minimal damage, indicating it might have sunk while on the water rather than crashing in flight. Albatrosses were used by the U.S. Navy and the Indonesian military until 1991, but its sinking remains a mystery. ★



## Before your next international dive trip

*Undercurrent*

Get your regulator serviced, check that your B.C. inflates and holds the inflation overnight, make sure your computer (and transmitter) has a fresh battery, and verify that your dive light didn't flood the last time you used it. Put spare fins, mask straps, spare computer and flashlight batteries (Zip ties too) in your dive bag and ensure any O-rings subject to movement when tightened down are lightly greased. Getting service or repair can be quite costly. Maybe even treat yourself to a medical check-up. ★

## Living Dangerously

*Undercurrent*

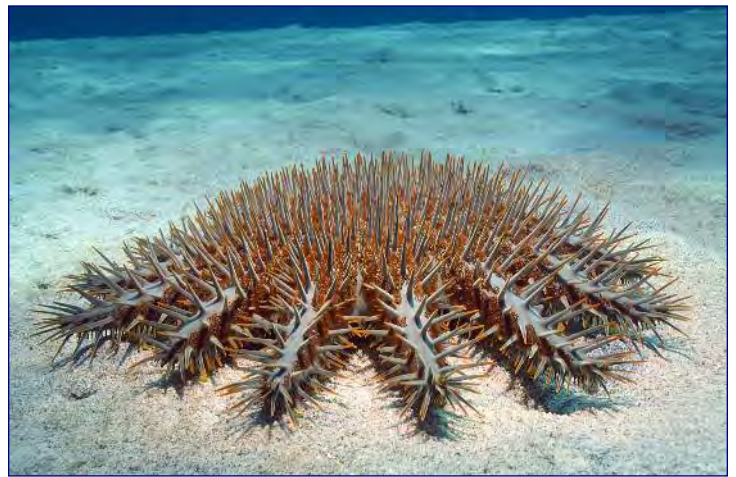
That's what divers do when they dive the site outside Hulhumale Airport in the Maldives. It's where an American woman lost her leg to the propeller of her diving dhoni in January (Undercurrent February), and shortly after, a shark attacked three divers. The area is busy with transfer boats and scavenging sharks. On May 8, divers from MY White Pearl had an unfortunate interaction with a large tiger shark that persisted in attempting to feed off any member of the group. Nobody got hurt but a lot of thoroughly shaken divers hurried back to their boat. Our Recommendation? Don't dive that site even if invited. ★



## Bullets in your Bags? You're in for a long stay in Turks and Caicos

*Undercurrent*

An American woman arriving at Providenciales airport on May 12 was arrested when immigration authorities found two rounds of ammunition in her luggage. In April, two other Americans were jailed for the same offense, joining two others arrested previously. The offense has a penalty of up to 12 years in jail. Arrestees are jailed but may seek bail while awaiting trial, which may take months and must stay on the island at their own expense. A 26-year-old U.S. citizen is serving an eight-month sentence for arriving with ammunition last August. All those arrested claimed they failed to clean out their luggage before leaving home. One has returned to the U.S. after posting bail of \$6,700. The rest are waiting for court hearings. So, check your bags BEFORE you pack! ★



## Crown-of-Thorns Re-Targeted

*Undercurrent*

For three decades, crown-of-thorns starfish that predate on coral have been culled on Australia's Great Barrier Reef, involving a lot of volunteer sport divers. During a major eruption of the starfish between 2012 and 2022, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority carried out a large-scale culling program, increasing coral cover in some parts, so researchers are calling for the program to be dramatically scaled up to conserve more of the reef. (New Scientist). ★



# DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

SIM UPADHYAYULA

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JUNE 2024

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

### 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 JUNE 8

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

Join the Flipper Dippers for this month's S3 dive coordinated by **Sim Upadhyayula**. Text: 669 286 9796 or email: [toytacous@yahoo.com](mailto:toytacous@yahoo.com) if interested and to be notified of developments.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 15

### NO SCHEDULED DIVE

## GENERAL MEETING

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

#### NOTICE:

**The in-person General Meeting will be on hold this month.**

**The virtual meeting will be hosted via Skype.**

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

**Celebrate 60 Years of the San Jose Flipper Dippers!**

Entertainment:

- Dive Reports
- Dive Plans and More



## SATURDAY, JUNE 22

### NO SCHEDULED DIVE

## SUNDAY JUNE 23

### 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](mailto:jimandthebeach@gmail.com), 408-293-7390 to receive final details and any last minute updates!

## SATURDAY, JUNE 29

### NO SCHEDULED DIVE

#### UPCOMING IN JULY

- 3 Business Meeting
- 6 No License Fishing Day
- 13 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 17 General Meeting
- 28 Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)



## PLAN AHEAD

### Labor Day Weekend Camping, Diving & More

Aug 26 - Sept 2

A number of Dippers have campsite reservations for the Labor Day Weekend at Van Damme State Park in Mendocino.

Space is available to share in their sites so contact those folks for information. Sites are limited to 3 vehicles and 8 people. Those Dippers with reservations include (arrival/departure dates):

- **Howard Chien**: #6 (8/26-9/1)
- **Tom and Jackie Gardner**: #7 (8/26-9/2)
- **Barbara Davis**: #10 (8/26-9/2)
- **Carl Tuttle**: #13 (8/28-9/1)

We plan on bringing tanks, kayaks, mountain bikes to do some bike riding, and maybe some hiking.

There is a great bike path along the coast in Ft. Bragg. We'll also kayak up Big River, south of Mendocino. There is a kayak rental place near by.

Saturday, August 31st is a "No License" fishing day. We might look into urchin culling and some spear fishing.

We'll have a big potluck on Saturday night too. It's always a fun time to sit around the camp fire in the evening, telling stories and sharing great food!

So if you're interested in joining us for the holiday weekend be sure to contact **Carl Tuttle**, Phone: 408-829-3660, email: [tutcomms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tutcomms@sbcglobal.net). He'll let you know who has space available. ★



Eating out in a bed of roses . . .



**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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## 2024 COMING EVENTS

June 5	Business Meeting
June 8	Second Saturday SCUBA
June 19	☛ General Meeting - Via Skype ONLY
June 23	Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)
July 03	Business Meeting
July 6	No License Fishing Day
July 13	Second Saturday SCUBA
July 17	☛ General Meeting
July 28	Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)
Aug 07	Business Meeting
Aug 10	Second Saturday SCUBA
Aug 17	Elkhorn Slough Kayak
Aug 21	☛ General Meeting
Aug 26-Sept 02	Labor Day Weekend - Van Damme
Aug 31	No License Fishing Day

*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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