

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

JULY
2024

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD
3RD WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH
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It's a Christmas in July Picnic Party!

Don't miss the San Jose Flipper Dippers' infamous Holiday General Meeting . . . **on JULY 28!** Grab your Festivus poles and your jingle bells. We'll be catching up on our annual big Christmas General Meeting and celebrate our Annual Club Holiday party with a BBQ, potluck, and raffle! The Club will provide BBQ salmon and chicken , plates and utensils. You can also bring your own items to cook. Please bring a potluck item to share along with your own beverages.

We'll also be having our Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC) before the picnic so join in on twice the fun!

BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE!

You may also go home with extra cash from our "**Money Tree**" raffle – envelopes containing **\$20, \$30 and \$50** will be hanging on the tree! We ask that everyone bring a donation for this special raffle – you know, all those dive-related items you've been holding on to. The more prizes in the raffle, the more chances you have to win.

We'll gather **on Sunday, JULY 28** from **12pm-4pm** at: Hellyer County Park, in the Sylvandale Picnic Area, 985 Hellyer Ave, San Jose, CA 95111. BBQs, shaded outdoor picnic tables are available. **See more information and a map on Page 7.**

Be sure to sign up at the July General Meeting or with **Abby Golden Wilson**, abbygolden15@gmail.com, so we know how many will be there.

This is going to be BIG FUN!
See you there!



So, what's with the happy face?

Flipper Dippers *Carri 'Happy' Edgar*, above left, and *Barbara Davis* enjoyed a week of diving in Roatan, Honduras, in June on a trip with *Any Water Sports*. We did 18 dives and enjoyed the great viz and warm water (84 – 86 degrees!). On one dive we were joined by about a dozen Caribbean Reef Sharks! We were well taken care of at Anthony's Key Resort, where the great staff made sure our week passed by too quickly. Wonderful food, great buddies, and great diving! See more photos on page 4. 🌟

Let's Go Diving, Dippers!

Flipper Dippers got in the water at South Monastery Beach for the June Second Saturday Scuba (S3) and were watched over by a local resident. See the report and more photos on page 4. 🌟



What's Inside?



President's Corner 2
Scholarship Winners 2
Tahoe Weekend 3
Dive Photos 4
Labor Day Weekend 6
Christmas in July 7
Activity Calendar 7

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings Divers!

Several Dippers dove the warm waters of Roatan in June and had a great time! While we enjoyed the clear tropical waters, there's something to be said for returning to our chilly home waters. Although jumping into 48 degree water after diving in 84 – 86 degree water was a bit of an adjustment!

Coming up in July we have our usual S3 dive on Saturday, July 13th, and I'm really looking forward to our Christmas in July Picnic and Fourth Sunday Cycle at Hellyer County Park on Sunday, July 28th! There will be a big BBQ and our giant Christmas raffle, including the money envelopes on the Christmas tree! Plus, a number of Dippers have promised to make their special holiday goodies! It should be a great event. Be sure to contact **Abby Wilson** to sign up so we know how many will be attending! See the articles on pages 1 and 7 for all the information.

Various Dippers are looking into some fun trips in the near and not-so-near future, so come and dive with us!

Let's go diving! – Barbara

NOTE: Because of the July 4th holiday, the Business meeting has been moved from July 3rd to July 10th.

2024 CenCal Scholarship Winners

The Central California Council of Diving Clubs, Inc. is a recreational diver membership organization and is one of about 15 U.S. dive councils operating under the wing of the USOA. It is a tax exempt, not for profit corporation formed in 1959 and is a charter member of the USOA. The CenCal Scholarship Program has been promoted in the form of a \$1000 annual award to students in marine sciences. For many years CenCal has also been donating \$1000 to UCSC to assist a student of their choice in underwater studies. Donations to the Scholarship Program are 100% tax deductible and can be made via the website: www.cencal.org.



Maya Munstermann Maya came to UC Berkeley from the highly regarded University of Hawaii after completing her masters degree and is now leading work out of Bodega Bay Marine Lab. She has done a masterful job completing 3 sets of experiments focused on both adult and juvenile sea urchin life stages contributing to her thesis: "Conducting scuba based kelp forest monitoring surveys, collections and field experiments." ★



Brayden Wiley Brayden is a student in the Biological Sciences masters program at Cal Poly Humboldt and is now beginning graduate thesis research. He received his bachelors degree in biology from SDSU in 2021 and is currently beginning his graduate thesis. He is interested in the application of phycological research to real world problems specifically a study relevant to managing the loss of kelp forests due to warming ocean and increased grazing pressure by purple sea urchins. He has designed a combination of field and laboratory experiments to examine whether acid weed (*Desmarestia ligulate*) can inhibit purple sea urchin grazing. ★



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

John Snyder 408-378-4963

RAFFLE NEWS

Get your donations together for the upcoming Christmas in July BBQ and picnic with another great Raffle! See pages 1 and 7 for details ☆



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! These Dippers are completing their annual 365-day trip around the Sun this month: **Barbara Davis** and **Carl Tuttle**. ☆



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. ☆

Tahoe Summer Weekend with the Flipper Dippers

Hi Dippers and Friends! How about a biking, hiking, kayaking, swimming and music weekend in Lake Tahoe?

I propose spending a weekend Thursday or Friday to Sunday at the Apres Lodge in Kings Beach.

The Apres lodge is a nice adult hostel style lodge a few blocks from the lake in Kings Beach. The rooms are bunk style with six bunks to a room. There is a large living room and kitchen area (including 2 stoves/ovens and a dishwasher), a hot tub and Wi-Fi access.

The lodge can hold as many as 30+ people but it is mostly used by skiers in the winter and is usually empty in the summertime.

I am scheduling this for **August 15 to the 18th** (Thursday to Sunday):

- **Cost: \$39 per person/per night paid a week before the event**
- **This is nonrefundable!**

- Bring your own food or we can do a potluck, the lodge has a large kitchen: 2 stoves and a dishwasher
- Bring sleeping bags or bedding for a single bunk

Things we can do:

- Biking – Trails around the lake
- Kayaking on Lake Tahoe
- Swimming in the lake
- Hiking
- Gambling
- Small village window shopping
- Friday night FREE music on the beach

Maybe we can do a group float down the Truckee River, a very easy ride.

This is a great opportunity for divers to bring their non-diving partners to a Club event!

If you are interested contact me with the dates you are available.

Jim Rezowalli – jimandthebeach@gmail.com.



Queensland and a Growing Armada of Illegal Fishing Boats

Undercurrent

After invading Australia's waters, including the marine parks, more than 200 Indonesian fishing boats were captured; 48 have been burned and sunk by the Australian Border Force during the last six months.

In just one day in May, 65 were detected. Almost 19,000 tons of sea cucumbers were seized.

The Indonesian navy is now cooperating with the Australian government, and both hope that burning the fishing boats will deter other Indonesian fishermen. ver to the U.S. Border Patrol. (Miami Herald) ☆

These Boots are Made for Walk'n . . . or Swimming?



Roatan was calling and someone responded

Hello? We're in! **Carri Edgar** and **Barbara Davis** answered the call and enjoyed a week of diving in Roatan, Honduras, in June on a trip with *Any Water Sports*. Yep, it's a dirty job but someone has to do it! ★



Clear warm waters beckoned our Dippers.

The group was entertained by reef sharks!



Meanwhile back in the cold Monterey Bay . . .

Dippers went looking for calmer waters for the June Second Saturday Scuba coordinated by **Sim Upadhyayula**. Joining in were **Carl Tuttle**, **Grace 'MBZ' Chi**, **Barbara Davis**, **Eva Alexander** and prospective member **Tom Earl**. The group met at MacAbee beach but there was a large dive class there so the vote was to head to South Monastery beach. Conditions weren't too bad on the surface. Underwater viz was a murky 10-25 feet with a bit of surge. Tom reported it was "Like swimming in kelp vinaigrette!" Viz improved at depth and the water was a tad below 50 degrees. Carl decided to sit out the second dive while the rest of the group jumped in after some snacks

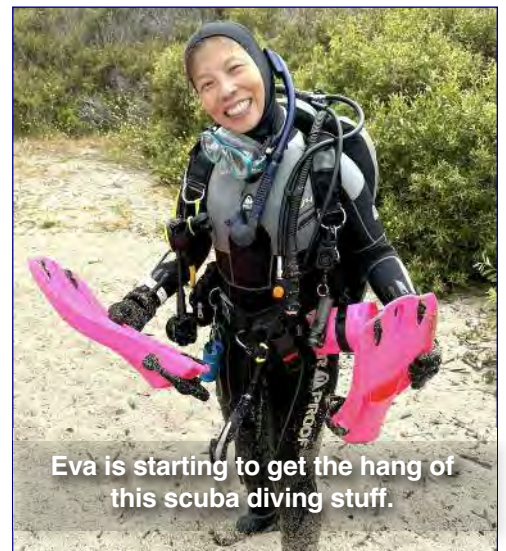
and drinks. Oh, and there was a wedding on the beach too – but the Dippers weren't invited! After everyone changed Carl, Barbara, Eva and Grace had lunch at *R.G. Burgers* at the Carmel Crossroads center. ★



Barbara and Sim are ready to warm up.



Tom is excited to get back into diving.



Eva is starting to get the hang of this scuba diving stuff.



Grace can't wait to get her new drysuit.

Treasure hunters pull hundreds of silver coins from iconic shipwrecks

Stephen Smith – CBS News

More than 300 years ago, fleets of Spanish galleons set sail from the waters off the Americas to bring back vast amounts of treasure from the New World, including gold, silver and gemstones. On July 31, 1715, a powerful hurricane devastated 11 of those ships, sending the vessels and their precious cargo to the ocean floor. The so-called 1715 Treasure Fleet lay untouched for more than two centuries off the coast of Florida until the sunken ships were finally discovered — and now a group of treasure hunters says they have recovered more than 200 silver coins from the iconic wrecks. “It was kind of numbing in a way, you know,” boat captain Grant Gitschlag told WOFL-TV on Friday. “You don’t expect that. You always hope for it, but you never expect it.”

The group, exploring the shipwrecks from their boat called the Lilly May, recently retrieved a total of 214 coins and other artifacts from the 1715 Treasure Fleet — a remarkable discovery considering the wrecks have been surveyed countless times before. “I wasn’t expecting it at all, which is how the greatest finds come about,” fellow treasure hunter Corinne Lea told WOFL-TV.

1715 Fleet Queen’s Jewels, a company that owns exclusive salvage rights to the 1715 Treasure Fleet, posted a message on social media, touting the Lilly May’s find as the “first treasure of the season.” The company released a photo of the treasure hunters holding coins as well as an image showing some of the other artifacts that were pulled from the historic shipwrecks. “Just a few days into the 2024 season the crew of the M/V Lilly May (C-69) located a hot spot on one of our sites. So far, they have recovered over 200 silver cobs!” the operation wrote in a statement. “Well done to the Lilly May crew!”

This team told WOFL-TV they have been looking for treasure for years together off the coast of Indian River County, which notes that some of the artifacts and coins still wash up on Florida beaches today. Indeed, in 2020, a treasure hunter using a metal detector on a beach located 22 silver coins from the legendary shipwrecks.

“It’s all about the find,” Lea told the station. “I love the history, being the first person up in 309 years to find what was once lost in a tragedy.”

According to the National Park Service, pirates and vessels from other European countries would sometimes try to seize the expensive cargo from Spanish fleets during throughout 18th century, jeopardizing Spain’s dominance



over the Americas. But the biggest threat came not from treasure-seeking rivals but from unexpected hurricanes. The wrecks of two of the ships sunk by powerful storms — the Urca de Lima from the 1715 fleet and the San Pedro from the 1733 fleet — are protected as Florida Underwater Archaeological Preserves.



The divers said they recovered more than 200 silver coins and artifacts from the shipwrecks. Image Credit: 1715 Fleet Queens Jewels/Facebook

“These ships are time capsules from a bygone era and can reveal much about the history of the mighty maritime system that helped shape the Americas,” the park service said.

1715 Fleet Queens Jewels, which bills itself as “the largest permitted historic shipwreck salvage operation in Florida waters,” says that by law, the state receives up to 20% of artifacts found on each site to display in museums. In 2015, the salvage operation announced it had found 350 gold coins worth an estimated \$4.5 million from the sunken shipwrecks. Earlier that same year, the Schmitt family, a subcontractor of 1715 Fleet Queens Jewels, discovered \$1 million worth of artifacts. 🌟

Just Do It!

Undercurrent

Divers with Rainbow Reef Dive Center in Key Largo, FL, were diving in 100 feet of water on June 5 when they spotted trash bags they figured should be removed. On further observation, they discovered a gigantic haul of individually wrapped parcels of cocaine marked with a Nike sneaker logo. They pulled up 25 kilos with a street value of around \$3 million and turned it over to the U.S. Border Patrol. (Miami Herald) ★



Think Twice

Undercurrent

Recently, a Cozumel cab driver posted a message on a Cozumel diving Facebook page that a tourist had left a cell phone in his cab, and half a dozen well-meaning American tourists offered to take it to the States and mail it. There's a reason that you hear regular announcements at U.S. airports asking if you are carrying anything you received from a stranger. An empty phone case could hold as much as \$10,000 worth of fentanyl. In the U.S., plenty of

unsuspecting mules are behind bars. (Ed Note: Gabi Estill Rezowalli left her phone in a resort bar in Cozumel during the Flipper Dippers trip in 2023 – on the other side of the island from Scuba Club Cozumel where we were staying. Retracing her steps she found the bar closed. Luckily, she was able to leave a message with the security people and the phone was returned the next day!) ★

Tuna Crabs are Everywhere

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. ★



Labor Day Weekend Camping, Diving & More

PLAN AHEAD 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 in the "Lower Loop" 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 nearby.

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. He'll let you know who has space available. ★



DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

SIM UPADHYAYULA

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JULY 2024

SATURDAY, JULY 6
NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SATURDAY, JULY 6
NO LICENS FISHING DAY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10
BUSINESS MEETING: 7:30 pm
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 JULY 13
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: toytaous@yahoo.com if interested and to be notified of developments.

GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

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**
- **Dive Plans and More**



SATURDAY, JULY 20
NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SUNDAY JULY 28 CHRISTMAS IN JULY PICNIC & FOURTH SUNDAY CYCLE

Join us for our Christmas in July picnic, coordinated by **Abby Wilson** (see information below), and our monthly Fourth Sunday Cycle led by **Jim Rezowalli**. Bike riders will meet up at the Sylvandale Group Picnic Area and ride along the Coyote Creek Trail. Please RSVP at jimandthebeach@gmail.com, 408-293-7390, to receive details.

UPCOMING IN AUGUST

- 7 Business Meeting
- 10 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 15-18 Lake Tahoe Weekend
- 21 General Meeting**
- 26-Sept 2 Labor Day at Van Damme
- 31 No License Fishing Day



Christmas in July Family Picnic and 4th Sunday Cycle

Ho Ho Ho and Merry Heatwave! Please join the San Jose Flipper Dippers again this year to celebrate Christmas in July's! Dust off your jingle bells, fetch your Festivus pole from the attic, and run to the storage unit to grab whatever makes your holidays jolly and bright to celebrate.

This year's summer holiday potluck will be on **Sunday, July 28** from 12pm-4pm at: **Hellyer County Park** (\$6 entrance fee) at the **Sylvandale Picnic Area**, 985 Hellyer Ave, San Jose, CA 95111.

Some Dippers and friends will arrive early and be riding in our Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC) and meet everyone directly after.

BBQs, shaded outdoor picnic tables, and much much more will be available so make sure to sign up during our July General Meeting or by emailing abbygolden15@gmail.com to receive updates and additional information!

And don't forget your raffle donation for our Big Raffle!

We look forward to seeing you there, and peace, love, and laughter to all! ★



Mr. Abby (Ben) and Abby will be in the Christmas spirit!



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
Rio Vista, CA 94571-5148



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

2024 COMING EVENTS

July 6	No License Fishing Day
July 10	Business Meeting
July 13	Second Saturday SCUBA
July 17	🔵 General Meeting
July 28	Christmas in July & 4th Sunday Cycle (FSC)
Aug 07	Business Meeting
Aug 10	Second Saturday SCUBA
Aug 15-18	Lake Tahoe Weekend
Aug 21	🔵 General Meeting
Aug 26-Sept 02	Labor Day Weekend - Van Damme
Aug 31	No License Fishing Day
Sept 04	Business Meeting
Sept 14	Second Saturday SCUBA
Sept 18	🔵 General Meeting
Sept 21	Calif & Intl Coastal Cleanup Day
Sept 29	Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)

*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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