

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

OCTOBER
2025

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

Dippers are Diving! Where were you?

We are a dive club and we love to dive! In addition to the dives scheduled on the Club calendar, Dippers took advantage of the calm conditions we've been having and went Diving!

Dippers **Barbara Davis, Howard Timoney** and friend **Dono Hill**, headed to North Monastery on Thursday, Sept 4th. We enjoyed 10 – 20 foot viz, and saw many large lingcod, schools of rockfish, a great assortment of nudibranchs and sea cucumbers during our 41 minute dive with a max depth of 80 feet. While we were swimming along the rocks, we could see the nearby sand channel sloping down at a very steep angle. One dive was enough for us that day, and we enjoyed a tasty lunch at Crossroads BBQ.

Barbara then set up a dive on Sunday, Sept 7th, also at North Monastery. Barbara was joined by Dippers **Howard Timoney, Carl Tuttle, Grace Chi, Eva Alexander, Tristan Chutka, and Sim Upadhyalula**. We managed to do 2 dives this time, and had a great time in the calm waters with up to 30-ft of viz. Barbara reported being able to see 3 divers stretched out in line behind her. (How many feet long is the average diver with fins??) Again, there were lots of big lingcod and rockfish. Barbara found a very new-looking snorkel in the sand. After dumping out all of the sand, the snorkel was tucked into her drysuit pocket for the duration of the dive. Post dive we were very surprised to find a small octopus on the tailgate of Howard's truck! Evidently there was more than sand in that snorkel! Howard was able to coax the octopus onto his hand and it was safely returned to the ocean. Just a reminder that "trash" underwater may have been co-opted into someone's home, so be careful what you remove from the ocean. The group again enjoyed a very tasty lunch at Crossroads BBQ. See photos on page 5.

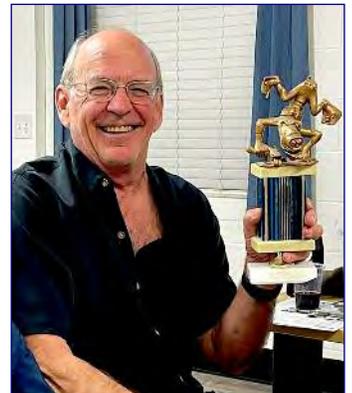
The Sept 13th S3 (Second Saturday Scuba) at MacAbee was coordinated by **Grace Chi**. Other Dippers included **Carl Tuttle, Eva 'Pink Fins' Alexander** and **Barbara Davis** and were joined by **Les Addison**. Vis was spotty at best but we did 2 dives. A number of large lingcod were seen and some divers did find the pinnacle as vis improved further away from the beach and depths from 40-50 ft. There were some forgotten basic rules during the second dive resulting in Carl and Eva getting separated. Oops! But they did go in and come out of the water together.

Conditions were still looking good, so Barbara scheduled another dive on Sunday, Sept 21st, this time at South Monastery. Dippers **Howard Timoney, Carl Tuttle, and Sim Upadhyalula** again joined in. On the first dive, Barbara noticed that she seemed to be going through her air faster than usual. A short time into the dive, her buddy Howard noticed lots of tiny bubbles coming out of her high pressure hose! We turned the dive early, but still managed a 38 minute dive with a max depth of 49 feet. Barbara and Howard stayed very close together during the remainder of

And this month's Golden Dippy award goes to . . .

Flipper Dippers' member **Carl Tuttle** joined the elite group of distinguished individuals being awarded the Golden Dippy at the September General Meeting.

During the September 13th, S3 dive at MacAbee, he lost sight of his dive buddy **Eva Alexander** and continued on a solo dive. Carl fessed up, "OK, so I failed my dive buddy on the 2nd dive by not surfacing when we got separated. My Bad! Back to Dive Training 101 for me." This wasn't the first time these two got separated while diving. Eva sent him a text message: "I failed you last time, you failed me this time. Both times at McAbee. Either we are just not meant to be buddies at McAbee or third time is the charm. We need to buddy up at least one more time at McAbee." Carl's response: "Two hands for beginners!" and included a photo of two divers holding hands underwater. **Good Luck You Two!** 🌟



the dive, and the group all returned safely to the beach. During the dives we saw a harbor seal, and the usual rockfish, anemones, crabs, and nudibranchs. After a quick gear repair, Barbara, Carl and Sim did a second dive. Viz was pretty good overall, but we did have to swim through some "kelp vinaigrette" at the beginning of the dive. This time the group decided on RG Burgers for lunch. A great time was had by all!

Hope to see more Dippers and friends join us on future dives! 🌟

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings Divers!

Everyone had a great time at the Club campout over Labor Day weekend. We had a dive on September 4th at North Monastery, on Sept. 7th at North Monastery, the S3 dive on the 13th at MacAbee, and then another dive on the 21st, at South Monastery. Conditions were great for most dives. Let's do it again!

When conditions are looking good and the ocean is calling, why not schedule a Club dive? Just send an email to **Carl Tuttle** with the details and he'll send it out to the Club members and prospective members on our email list.

I was able to participate in a beach cleanup on Saturday, September 20th, which was also International Coastal Cleanup Day. Save Our Shores, along with the Giant Kelp Restoration Project (G2KR), and other groups organized the cleanup at Casa Verde Way in Monterey. It's a great way to help the environment, eat some goodies and meet some nice people! (Check out the pictures on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=giant%20giant%20kelp%20restoration%20project>).

Fall is here and we often see the best local diving conditions at this time of year! But we can also get storms and rougher conditions. Always check the wave models and consider the skill level of all divers in your group when choosing your dive spots. We need to make sure everybody is diving within their comfort and skill level. There's always something else to do in Monterey if you find conditions are too rough for diving that day.

Looking ahead, Club dues are due this month. Pay on time and avoid the \$5 late fee! See the article on page 3 for all of the info.

And in November, we'll be looking to nominate some of our fellow Dippers for 2026 Club Officers. Maybe you have been thinking about getting more involved in club activities? Here's your chance! See page 3 for a description of duties for each officer.

We've got a number of club dive trips in the planning stages, both local and international. Stay tuned for more details!

Take care everyone.

– **Barbara**



I also wanted to let everyone know that a Celebration of Life for James Vincent, has been scheduled for Sunday, October 5th, from 2–6 pm at the Moose Lodge in Del Ray Oaks. James was the owner of Aquarius Dive Shop, in Monterey, and co-owner of Any Water Dive Center, in San Jose, with his brother-in-law, Jamie Tabscott.

See the link below to the Facebook post and also the link to RSVP to attend the October 5th service.

Facebook link:

www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=10162600216837508&set=a.10151836436317508R

SVP link: tinyurl.com/JamesVincentJr

Another community gathering will be held October 18th, 3–6 pm, at Asilomar Conference Grounds, Grace Dodge Chapel, in Pacific Grove, to honor James Vincent, his brother-in-law, Jamie Tabscott, and dear friend, Steve Clatterbuck. All three lost their lives in a plane crash on July 26.

The gatherings are open to anyone who wishes to honor them: friends, family, coworkers, neighbors, dive buddies, or those who crossed paths with James, Jamie and Steve along the way.

Both dive shops have information on the October 18th memorial on their websites. The shops will also be closed September 27th, October 5th and 18th. 🌟



San Jose Flipper Dippers

www.SJFlipperDippers.com

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CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Barbara Davis 408-656-6390

VICE PRESIDENT

Sim Upadhyayula 408-608-5009

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

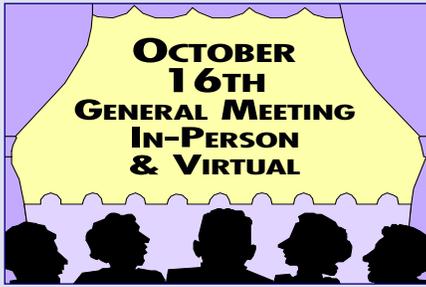
o Position Open o

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 than the San Jose Flipper Dippers!

See the Club's website for more information on becoming a member: www.sjflipperdippers.com. (Membership Requirements)
Happy Birthday to You! These Dippers are completing their annual trip around the Sun this month: *Kelly Drake* and *Howard Timoney*.

CLUB DUES DUE in October

It's October again and time to pay your **annual dues**. 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 you can download it FREE each month from the Club's Website – in full color!

A summary of our annual dues is as follows:

CLUB DUES	\$ 50.00
Newsletter (U.S. Mail)	<u>10.00</u>
Total	\$ 60.00

GenCal (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. These two organizations form an effective method for presenting the divers' interests state-wide and nationally.

CEN CAL	\$15.00
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. Also, dues must be paid by November 30th or you will incur a late fee of \$5.00. **SO DON'T DELAY!** ★ ★



NOMINATIONS FOR 2026 CLUB OFFICERS

HOW ABOUT YOU?



At the **November General Meeting** we will be nominating Club members for the following offices: **President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer** and **Sergeant at Arms**. To be eligible to hold an office, one must be a current member in good standing. Presidential nominees must have been a club member for at least two years. Holding an office is a rewarding experience as well as being of benefit to the club. **This is your chance to get involved** and voice your ideas as to the future of the San Jose Flipper Dippers. **The Election** of our officers will take place at the December General Meeting.

Duties of our Club Officers are as follows:

PRESIDENT: Has overall responsibility for the club's success. Presides at all general, business and special meetings and appoints standing committees for the year and special committees as seen fit. Also includes writing a monthly *President's Corner* for the newsletter.

VICE PRESIDENT: Responsible for scheduling of the dive calendar each month, arranging for dive coordinators, and writing the monthly calendar article for the newsletter. Includes presiding at all meetings in the absence of the President.

SECRETARY: Includes maintaining the minutes for all general and business meetings and handling club-related correspondence. Responsible for attending all meetings or making arrangements for someone to handle the duties in his/her absence.

TREASURER: Receives membership dues and handles all income and expenses, maintains financial records and makes monthly reports to the club. Also makes deposits into the club's accounts and issues checks for authorized expenses. Maintains expense accounts as needed for events such as boat dives, banquets, etc.

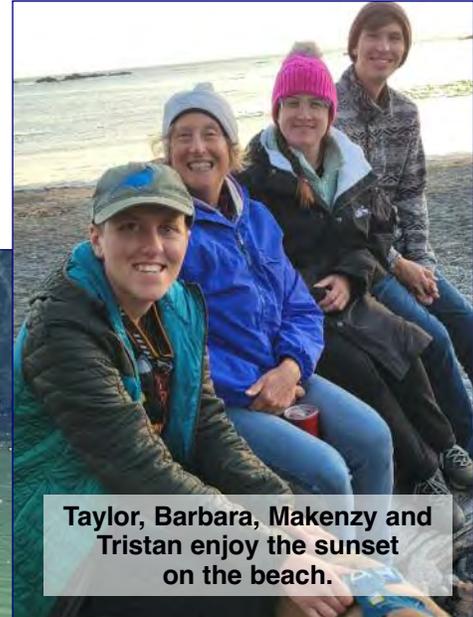
SERGEANT AT ARMS: Includes making arrangements for all meetings and setting up necessary meeting equipment. Maintains order at the meetings and collects fines levied upon members. ★

Dippers' Van Damme Weekend

Great time was had by all who attended. Kayaking up Big River below Mendocino, bike riding along the coast at Ft. Bragg, great food to share, stories around the campfires and a birthday cake for Birthday Girl **Abby Golden Wilson**. Those camping at Van Damme included **Barbara Davis, Tom and Jackie Gardner, Jim and Gabi Rezowalli, Howard Chien, Carl Tuttle, Tristan Chutka** and his girlfriend **Makenzy, Tom Earl, Jorge De Luna, and Taylor Sullivan** 🌟



Makenzy and Tristan, Tom and Jackie, and Carl kayaking on Big River.



Taylor, Barbara, Makenzy and Tristan enjoy the sunset on the beach.



Tom, Jackie, Howard and Carl on the coast bike ride.



Can you see me now? Tom Earl used his new camera for a 360° photo during the Saturday potluck.



Tristan cooking dinner over hot coals.



Clockwise from lower left: Gabi, Jim, Makenzy, Tristan, Carl, Howard and Tom meet for a picnic lunch at MacKerricher Beach.



Missy and Murphy love camping too!

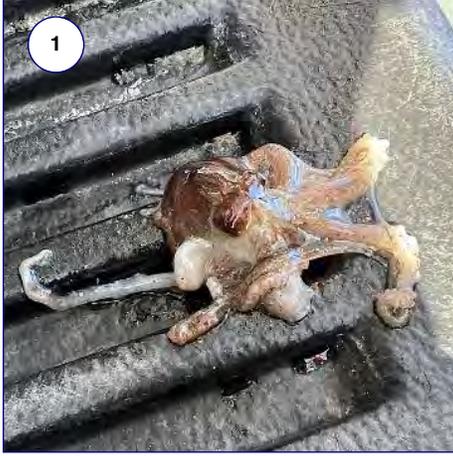


Carl found a bat in his tent trailer when closing it up! It's now the 'Batmobile.'



Hey! Where's my ADU?*

During the September 7th Club dive at, North Monastery beach, **Barbara Davis** found a snorkel in the water (see the report on page 1). When she put it on the tailgate of **Howard Timoney's** truck this little octopus



came out to the surprise of everyone [Photo 1]. Howard attempted to coax it onto his hand, but the little guy, or gal, wasn't going for it. Then Barbara and Howard tried to see if it would go back into the snorkel. Nope, wasn't having any of that. [Photo 2] Howard finally got the octopus on his hand [Photo 3] and



carried it back to the beach and released it into the water. The little octopus was happy to get back in its natural environment, after giving Howard a what-for by releasing ink at him. Now it's on the hunt for a new home! 🌟

*Accessory Dwelling Unit



It's a great day to dive! The group checked out conditions before getting their gear on. From left: Sim, Carl, Howard, Grace, Eva, Barbara and Tristan.



Grace, Barbara and Eva were diving dry that day. No runs, no drips, no errors. 🌟



Look at that! During the 2nd dive, on the way back to the beach, Carl and Sim were together when they saw what turned out to be a Shovelnose Guitarfish lying in the sand. It looked to be about 4 feet in length.

They range from Northern California to the Gulf of California. Males mature at 8 years old and females mature at 7 years old. Shovelnose guitarfish bear live young, with as many as 28 from a single female. Mating takes place during the summer months and the young, apparently born during the following spring and summer, are (5.9-inch) miniatures of the adults. Adults live about 11 to 16 years, can grow to just over 5-feet and weigh as much as 40 pounds.

A 'sit and wait' predator during the day, the guitarfish hunts by staying hidden in the sand until it sees prey. At night, the guitarfish actively hunts prey near the seafloor. 🌟

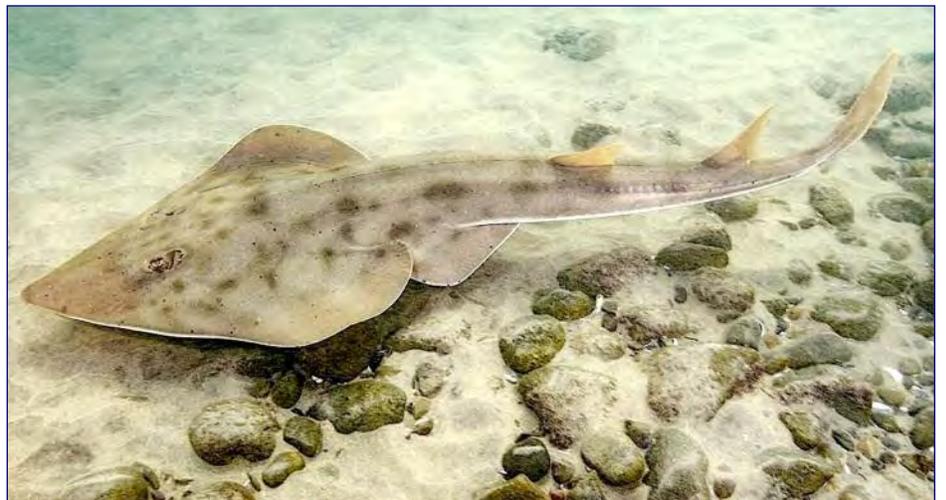


Photo by Andy Murch, sharksandrays.com

Annual Coastal Cleanup Day

The Annual Coastal Cleanup Day was hosted by Save Our Shores, The California Coastal Commission, Oceana, Monterey Bay Charter School, Ocean Guardians, and Giant Kelp Restoration Project. The 464.5 pounds of trash collected by more than 80 volunteers on

the morning of September 20th was the biggest turnout yet! Volunteers actually ate 7 dozen donuts and a dozen bagels. Oliver found the “Trashure” in some kelp rack and won prizes for himself and his parents from the Coastal Commission. 🌟

That's the Dippers' Barbara Davis!



California Dept of F&W research at Van Damme

During the Club's weekend at Van Damme State Park a vessel was spotted in the cove. Smaller boats were transporting divers to various locations. Turns out this was the 74-ft x 27.5-ft aluminum hydrofoil catamaran, the *Barracuda*. CDFW divers were doing research on the abalone at Van Damme.

The CDFW received the *Barracuda* in 2024 and was designed and built to enhance CDFW's capabilities in coastal and marine enforcement, playing a crucial role in safeguarding California's marine resources for its Law Enforcement Division.

Abalone and Urchin Recruitment Modules

An important facet of the Kelp Forest Monitoring project is sampling recruitment of juvenile abalone and sea urchins. Specially designed recruitment modules (RMs) made of stainless steel and filled with 1/2 concrete cinder blocks as habitat were bolted to the rocky subtidal reef at Van Damme.

Twelve RMs were deployed at 10 to 12m (32-40 ft) depth in three groups of four in August of 2000. They were allowed to season for a year before surveys began in Aug. 2001. Each August, SCUBA dive teams collected and measured the organisms inside the modules.



The data collected includes the number and sizes of red abalone (*Haliotis rufescens*), pinto abalone (*H. kamtschatkana*), flat abalone (*H. walallensis*), red sea urchins (*Mesocentrotus franciscanus*), and purple sea urchins (*Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*). Data are presented in tabular format with a row for each RM each year. 🌟



Small boats were observed transporting divers to various locations within the cove at Van Damme.



The Barracuda is a 74-ft x 27.5-ft aluminum hydrofoil catamaran obtained by CDFW in 2024.

DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

SIM UPADHYAYULA

www.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM

OCTOBER 2025

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

BUSINESS MEETING: 7:30pm

The meeting will be held **virtually via Microsoft Teams**. 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, OCTOBER 4 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 11 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. Bring 2 tanks and plan on going for lunch after the dive. Location TBD based on conditions. Be sure to contact Sim if you want to join in.

GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCT 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** via Microsoft Teams. Watch your email for info.

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

Celebrate 61 Years of the San Jose Flipper Dippers!

- Entertainment:
- Social Hour
 - Sign Up for Dives
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

How about YOU leading a dive? Contact **Sim Upadhyayula**. Text: 669-286-9796 or email: toytacous@yahoo.com so he can get the word out.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

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UPCOMING IN NOVEMBER

- 01 Pt. Lobos Reservations for Dec 29
- 05 Business Meeting
- 08 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 18 Memorial Day Weekend Reservations (May 18-25, 2026)
- 19 **General Meeting - Nominations for Office**
- 29 After Thanksgiving SCUBA



A Merry Christmas at Point Lobos!

We're diving at Pt. Lobos on **Monday, December 29th**. The winter months can provide some of the best diving so if you want to go, you'll need to go online to **make your reservation on November 1st**. The system opens up at early in the morning.

Carl Tuttle (tutcomms@sbcglobal.net or text/phone: 408-829-3660) will be coordinating so be sure to let him know if you've made a reservation. We'll send out emails listing who has a reservation and who has space for a buddy.

On **Saturday, November 1**, go to the Point Lobos Scuba Site: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28353

Click on the month of December and then scroll down

to December 29. Sign up as a buddy team. You'll be asked for the agency that issued your c-card and its number. If you don't have your buddy's c-card number, or a buddy, just put TBD. We can always find somebody who wants to go diving at Pt. Lobos. Do this early as the park reservations fill up fast during holiday dates.

We're not sure if the park will charge the normal \$20 (+ Processing Fee) or a Holiday rate of \$30 (+ Processing Fee).

So work out your buddy teams, set a reminder on your calendar, wake up early on November 1st to make your reservation, and we'll see you in the water. And there might be non-diving hikers joining the day too. ★



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

Oct 1	Business Meeting
Oct 11	Second Saturday SCUBA
Oct 15	🐡 General Meeting
Nov 1	Pt. Lobos Reservations for Dec 29
Nov 5	Business Meeting
Nov 8	Second Saturday SCUBA
Nov 18	Memorial Day Weekend Reservations (May 18-25, 2026)
Nov 19	🐡 General Meeting - Nominations for 2026 Office
Nov 29	After Thanksgiving SCUBA
Dec 3	Business Meeting
Dec 13	Second Saturday SCUBA
Dec 17	🐡 General Meeting - Elections for 2026 Office
Dec 29	Pt. Lobos SCUBA Dive

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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