

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

FEBRUARY 2026

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

January 10th S3 Dive Report

Sim Upadhyayula

The January S3 dive had lot of divers signed up including three who were diving with the club for the first time. With eleven divers in all, it took more than the usual dallying in rounding up everyone and scouting the North Monastery conditions. Those joining in included, **Troy Egar** and friend, **Jeremiah Horn, Lucy Yen, Cedric Wright, Howard Timoney, Eva Alexander, Grace Chi, Jackie** and **Tom Gardner, Jeff Rowland**, and myself.

Once we did the briefing and everyone was comfortable to dive the site, we were in the water. The viz was close to 30-35 ft and with Howard leading the dive, the majority of the group went with him while Grace and few others were sorting out the buoyancy issues of a dry suit diver. Eventually, we all managed to meet up and after twenty five minutes of exploration, decided to head back.

Not a whole lot of marine encounter other than a lingcod. The landing on the beach was pretty uneventful and for the longest time in memory, it probably was the easiest of the exits for many who were able to just



Gear Up! From left: Eva, Cedric, Jackie, Sim, Jeff, Grace, Ton, Lucy, Troy Friend, and Troy Egar. 🌟

walk back instead of doing the "Monastery Crawl."

The second dive was a repeat of the first, although this time it was only eight of us, while three decided to go and do other things. Leaving us to ponder, what better things could be out there to do than going diving. But again, each to their own, we are not judging. The second dive was the same of the

first with the same lingcod sightings. The return to the beach was challenging to a few as the waves picked up during the latter part of the day.

In all, good viz, comparatively mild waters and no current made it a great day to dive, especially after the weekend storm curse that California has been experiencing the last couple of months. See more photos on page 5 🌟

January 17th TS2* Dive Report

* Third Saturday Scuba

Carl Tuttle

Due to my gear being in the shop for service and tanks in for hydro I was disappointed that I couldn't make the S3 dive on January 10th and reports were looking really good. I continued to monitored the FaceBook dive reports and a number of ocean conditions online.



From left: Carl, Florence, Cédric, Ken, Howard, Eva, Jeremiah, Troy and Tristan

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hi All!



(Ed Note: Barbara is on a month's long trip to Indonesia. Here are some comments and photos she sent via WhatsApp. We should all be so lucky!)

The dives yesterday were nice but didn't exactly knock my socks off. The two morning dives today were absolutely AWESOME!!! So many fish and soft corals and sea fans! Just beautiful!

Howard Timoney, thanks again for loaning me the dive computer! Easy to setup and glad to have the extra backup.

Suunto D6i. It's a wrist computer. I had mentioned that my backup computer is very conservative and went into deco a couple of times in Mozambique and Howard offered it as a backup for this trip.

Shearwater is the main computer. My old Suunto Cobra is backup computer and backup gas display for the transponder. Cobra is very conservative so Howard's computer is backup for the Shearwater in case the Cobra has a hissy fit and goes into deco when the Shearwater doesn't.

[Response from **Carl Tuttle**: So, youz gotz a backup to backup the backup of your old computer. Hope you make it back up to your home!]

Very relaxing first dive this morning. For some reason, at the beginning of the dive, I was wondering if there are fire claims here. Ten minutes later, the divemaster is pointing out a fire clam! Also called an electric clam. Looks like an circuit arcing.

On the third dive today I found a smallish moray eel with a bite taken out of the back of its head. It was still alive. Turns out another group saw a Napoleon wrasse take a bite out of it but spit it out because it was too big to eat.

Did the last two dives this morning ending with a great octopus encounter on the last dive. On the liveboard I did 24 dives, for a total of 26 hours, 41 minutes under water, giving me a lifetime total of just over 1900 hours!

Let's go diving! – Barbara



January 2026	
06:00	Light Breakfast
07:00	Dive 1 - Whale Rock
08:30	Breakfast
11:00	Dive 2 Tank Rock
12:30	Lunch
15:00	Dive 3 Boo West
16:30	Snacks
18:30	DIVE 4 (Night) Kally Wall
20:00	Dinner



San Jose Flipper Dippers

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AWARDS AND FINES

o Position Open o

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Mike Chalup 408-744-1868

RAFFLE

o Position Open o

REFRESHMENTS

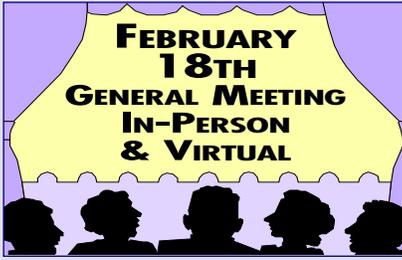
o Position Open o

STAR ACHIEVEMENT

Jackie Gardner 408-274-9447

TROPHY COMPETITION

o Position Open o



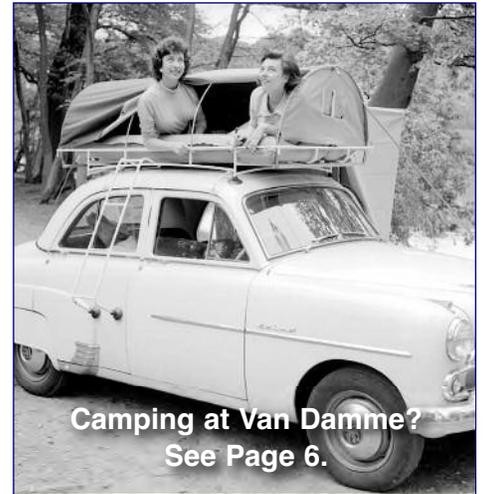
We'll be having our in-person General Meeting this month. If you come please bring a refreshment to share! We'll have a live MS Teams connection for those who still prefer to meet virtually. ★

MEMBERSHIP

Ken Agur

We're a dive club and we're diving! If you're looking for a dive buddy look no further. 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 two Dippers are completing their annual trip around the Sun this month: *Mike Chalup* and *Sim Upadhyayula*. ★



Camping at Van Damme?
See Page 6.

Neurological Decompression Sickness: How to Recognize the Warning Signs

Scuba Diver Magazine

Cases of decompression sickness with neurological symptoms are thankfully rare. Knowing how to respond correctly can make all the difference for an injured diver. While articles are no replacement for training, they're a great starting point. Read on, seek training, and learn what you can do in an emergency because effective treatment of a diver with neurological DCS depends on rapid recognition and response.

In any case involving a suspected dive injury, you should respond as if it were the worst-case scenario — a speedy emergency response can only help an injured diver's condition. If a symptom could potentially be linked to neurological DCS and lacks an obvious exclusionary explanation, assume the symptoms are a result of DCS and proceed accordingly.

At times, it can be very difficult to discern whether a diver is experiencing DCS or an unrelated medical condition, but being familiar with typical symptoms can give you enough direction to respond effectively.

Here's a list of classic DCS symptoms to look out for:

- Confusion
- Paraesthesia (a 'pins and needles' sensation)
- Muscle weakness
- Numbness
- Difficulty walking
- Problems with physical coordination or bladder control
- Dizziness or vertigo
- Nausea or vomiting
- A dry cough or difficulty breathing

Once you have recognized that there is a problem, the next step is to identify the type and severity of symptoms. When responding, your priorities are to quickly determine whether an injury has occurred, activate your emergency-response plan and local emergency services, quickly assess the severity of the injury (and the level of urgency required), and (if appropriate) begin conducting a neurological exam.

It is vital that you, as a diver, can recognize the symptoms of a dive injury and activate an emergency-response plan. Skills beyond that are highly recommended and could very well save a life, but the ability to identify and respond to major emergencies is something that should be



Cédric is back and wants to go diving!

Former, and current, member **Cédric Faison** returned to the US from Belgium recently and replied to the email **Carl Tuttle** sent out for the January 17th scuba dive. Here is his response:

*"Dear Carl,
That's awesome! Count me in ;-)"*

If it is ok for you, I will come with my girlfriend,

Florence Frans, a Belgian CMAS Level 2 Diver with 95 logged dives. She is a prospective SJFD member. I will have her fill out the paperwork before the day.

Last dive was for both of us on December 26 in freezing Belgian conditions. It was cold ... but we warmed up with hot wine, hot dogs and a campfire after the dive ;-)"

Now, that's **COLD** diving!
Anyone want to join in? ★

expected of all divers. Your training may not equip you to do more than call emergency services and comfort an injured diver, but your response could very well improve the outcome for an injured buddy all the same.

For an extensive range of diving health and safety information and downloadable resources, research studies, incident summaries, and free e-Learning courses, take the time to explore the DAN website. ★

January 17th TS2 Dive

Photos by Cédric Farion

Continued from Front Page

Bingo! Things were holding so I sent out an email, "Conditions are looking great. So why not join in?" The site location was again at North Monastery as the S3 dive had good reports.

Eight Dippers and friends responded including, **Cédric Farion** and his girlfriend **Florence Frans**, **Ken Ager**, **Howard Timoney**, **Eva Alexander**, **Jeremiah Horn**, **Troy Egar** and **Tristan Chutka** accompanied by girlfriend **Makanzy**.

We looked at the conditions and it was high tide. A number of access points were considered as the waves were crashing right where the large tree is on the beach. Otherwise the swell wasn't too bad and predictions called for flattening out throughout the day.

Everyone was suiting up as Eva kept asking herself, "Am I diving wet or dry?" She had bought both her wetsuit and drysuit and finally decided she was diving wet. The divers made their way to the water climbing over the rocks behind the tree on the beach.

Divers paired up and Howard and Eva lead the way as the others followed. Cédric slowly approached a

sea otter, that was enjoying the sunshine and the small kelp bed, to take some video and still photos at which the little critter obliged.

Visibility was about 34-45 feet, a bit better than the S3 dive the prior Saturday. Lots of large lingcod were out and about and in some holes, in addition to a few schools of blue rockfish. A sea lion buzzed the group - swimming right above Howard who didn't see it! Don't you just hate that? As the divers ended the dive the tide had gone out and the swells had subsided, so getting out of the water and around the tree on the beach was much easier.

The group took an hour or so between dives sharing what critters they'd seen and other observations. Ken and Eva decided to sit out the second dive as the rest changed out their tanks and grabbed a bite to eat and hydrate.

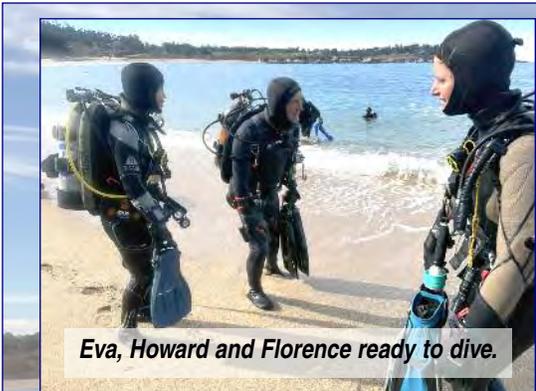
The tide had continue to get lower for the second dive and the visibility also went down a bit. Again lots of lingcod out and about. After all, this is the time of the year for the females to lay their eggs and the males protecting

them after fertilization. Crabs and cabazon were also seen during both dives. On the way back Cédric and Florence saw a thornback ray lying in the sand. All of this was quite a treat for Florence who had never been diving in California.

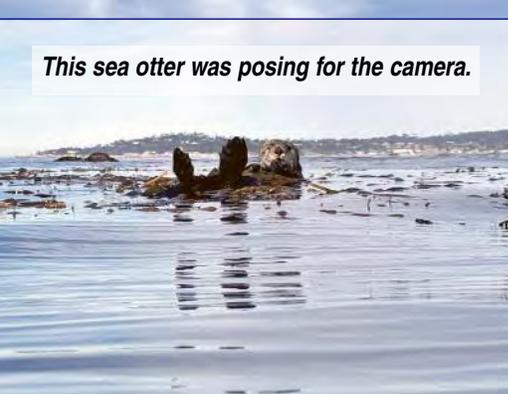
After changing the group headed to the Crossroads BBQ for lunch, then over to Aquarius Dive Center for tank fills. When completed, folks headed home.

It took a bit for my tanks to get filled and as I was ready to leave another diver and one of the staff were discussing a missing tank. Apparently someone took the wrong tank. The staff member figured out who that person was and was able to make a phone call. The individual was contacted and returned to the shop to exchange tanks.

It was discovered during the January General Meeting that our own **Eva Alexander** was the responsible individual who had grabbed the wrong tank! "It looked just like mine . . . with the big sticker on it!" Ah, yes - **It's Golden Dippy Time!** 🌟



Eva, Howard and Florence ready to dive.



This sea otter was posing for the camera.



Cédric and Florence came across this ray.



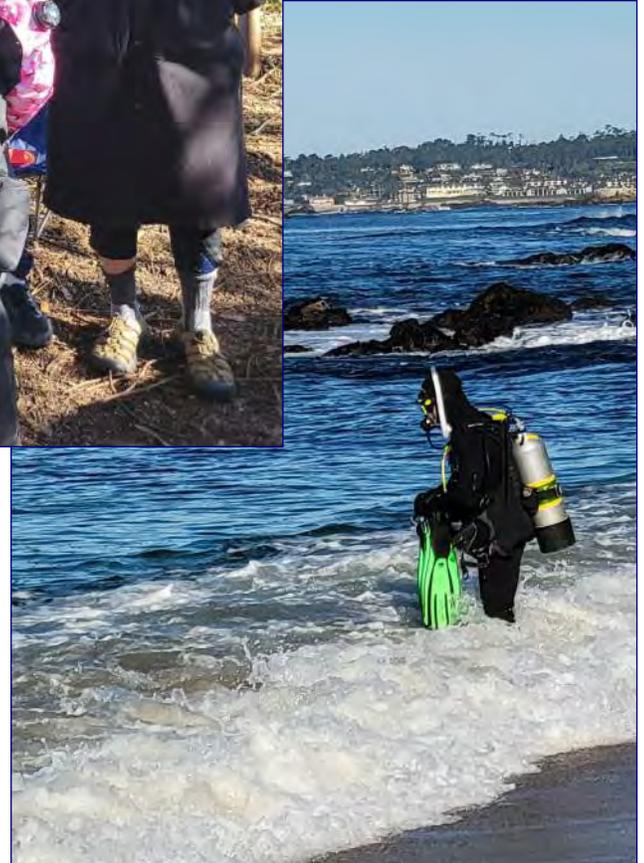
Tristan Jeremiah Troy Ken Eva Howard Carl Florence Cédric

January 10th S3 Dive Photos by Jackie Gardner

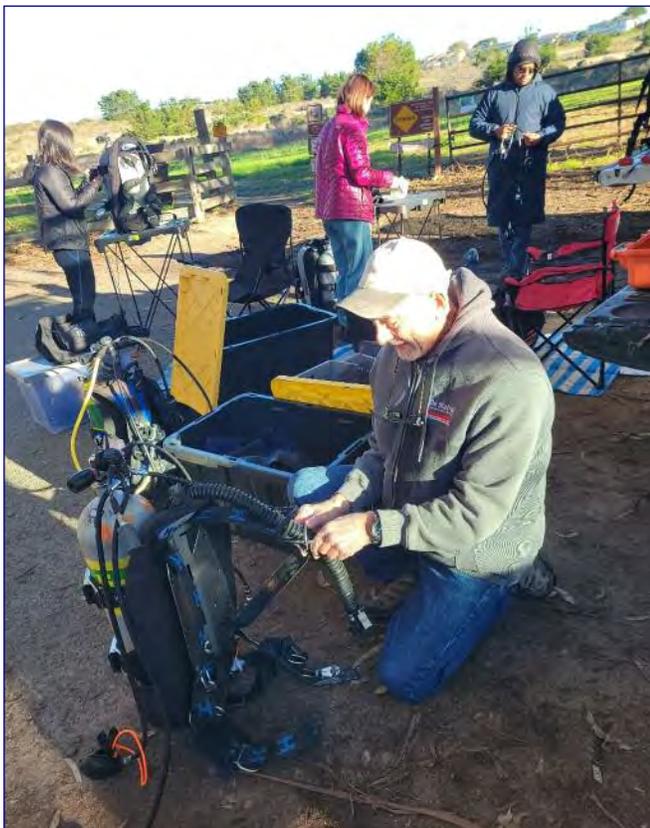


Warming up a bit between dives

Boys in the Back: **Jeff, Sim, Jeremiah, Howard, Tom,** and **Cedric.**
Girls in the Front: **Grace, Eva** and **Lucy.**



Tom contemplates the surf while getting in.



Howard in front, **Grace, Eva** and **Sim,** in back, getting their gear set up.



Tom wonders what happened to the rest of this abalone shell.

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.



Humpback Whale Killed by Australian Ghost Fishing Gear

Undercurrent

It's not unusual for whales to get hung up in fishing gear and subsequently drown, but when the remains are captured with a photograph, people take notice. On October 15, 2025, Ollie Clarke, an award-winning underwater photographer and marine biologist, discovered and photographed a humpback's skeleton off the coast of Western Australia. "It's hard to put into words what it was like diving on this skeleton, surrounded by the echoing calls of singing whales," he wrote on Instagram. "Harrowing, yet strangely beautiful." The whale had become entangled in discarded fishing gear. (BBC Wildlife Magazine) ★



DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

SIM UPADHYAYULA

www.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM

FEBRUARY 2026

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

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 FEBRUARY 7

NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3) 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 will be determined (TBD) based on conditions. Be sure to contact Sim if you want to join in.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21

NO SCHEDULED DIVE

GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEB 18

The **in-person General Meeting** held at 7:30 PM at the Knights of Columbus Santa Maria Hall 2211 Shamrock Dr., Campbell.

The **virtual meeting** held 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-ups for Monthly Dives**



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

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.

SUNDAY MARCH 1

LABOR DAY RESERVATIONS

Labor Day Weekend Reservations for Van Damme (Aug 31 – Sep 6, 2026) can be made today for the annual summer camping event at Van Damme State Park. See more info below.

UPCOMING IN MARCH

- 01 Labor Day Weekend Reservations (Aug 31-Sept 6) Van Damme
- 04 Business Meeting
- 14 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 18 **General Meeting**



Labor Day Weekend: Aug 31-Sept 6 — Plan Now

Come join your fellow Flipper Dippers for a fun-filled weekend at Van Damme State Park. The opening for camping reservations in California State Parks (www.reservecalifornia.com) for the month of August will open soon. Site

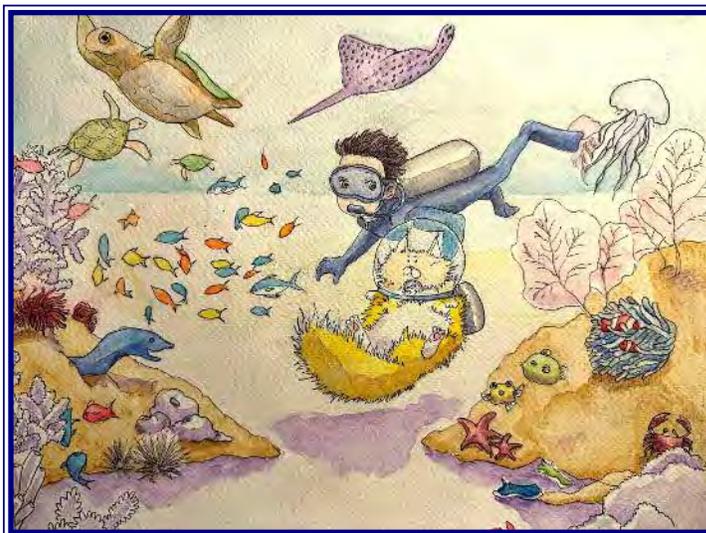


reservations are available 6 months in advance for a specific start date. Labor Day is on Monday, September 7th.

Some Dippers will be online at **8AM sharp, on Sunday, March 1st**, to make site-specific reservations for nights starting Monday, August 31st through Sunday, September 6th (Lower Loop sites #1 – #13). There will be room to share if you want to join in just for the weekend.

Plan on bringing tanks, kayaks, mountain bikes to do some bike riding along the coast and park trails and maybe some hiking. (Remember, unfortunately there's no place for air fills.)

It's always a fun time to sit around the campfire in the evening, telling stories and sharing great food!



Cedric Wright takes Lucky 7 diving! Watercolor by Tomomi Yamamoto

So if you're interested in joining in for the holiday week(end), get online early as sites go fast. Contact **Carl Tuttle**: 408-829-3660, tutcomms@sbc-global.net for more information

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

2026 COMING EVENTS

Feb 4	Business Meeting
Feb 14	Second Saturday SCUBA
Feb 18	👁️ General Meeting
Mar 1	Labor Day Weekend Reservations (Aug 31-Sept 6, 2026) Van Damme
Mar 4	Business Meeting
Mar 14	Second Saturday SCUBA
Mar 18	👁️ General Meeting
April 1	Business Meeting
April 11	Second Saturday SCUBA
April 15	👁️ General Meeting

*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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