

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

APRIL
2026

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD
3RD WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH
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Stunning 'blue dragons' on the Texas coast

Ariana Garcia, Assistant News Editor, CRON

A wave of electric-blue sea creatures is washing ashore along the Texas coast, catching the attention of beachgoers and prompting a warning from researchers. The tiny predators rarely appear onshore but sometimes wash up in spring.

Among the ocean drifters turning up on beaches are Portuguese man-o-war, blue buttons and by-the-wind sailors. But the most eye-catching of the bunch, and the predator of the others, is the rare and striking blue dragon.

Known scientifically as *Glaucus atlanticus*, the tiny sea slug looks more like something out of mythology than the Gulf of Mexico. Ornate in shades of deep blue, pale blue and silver, the nudibranch has three pairs of tendril-tipped appendages that fan outward like wings, growing shorter toward the back of its body and giving it the appearance of a creature in flight.

Despite the dramatic look, blue dragons are small, measuring only about 1 to 3 centimeters long and drifting in the open ocean. They are hermaphrodites, meaning each individual contains both male and female reproductive organs.

The species is commonly found in temperate and tropical waters across the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans. In recent years, however, sightings have expanded to new regions, including the east and south coasts of Australia, waters around South Africa and parts of the Gulf of Mexico.



According to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the expansion is likely tied to warming ocean temperatures and shifting cur-

Continued on page 2



Oh, so you think you're Mr. Big Stuff?

Eva Alexander and *Florence Frans* allow *Cédric Farion* (left) and *Carl Tuttle* to think they're worthy of extra privileges by setting down while everyone was gearing up for the S3 Dive. Sorry, boys, no such luck. Now, get your rears in gear and put on your tanks, so we can all go diving! 🌟

March 14th S3 Dive Report

Eva Alexander

I was thinking it had been a while since we have gone to the Breakwater for our S3 Dives. A lot of us probably thought the same. Twelve Flipper Dippers and friends showed up on March 14th: *Jeremiah Horn, Cedric Wright, Carl Tuttle, Cédric Farion, Florence Frans, Tom Earl, Tom Gardner, Jeff Rowland, Grace Chi*, friends *Ted Judah, Linda Judah*, and myself. A lot of dive shops apparently had classes at the Breakwater that day, so most of us had to park at the highest row in the parking lot, except for Jeremiah, Tom Gardner (who told us he would be solo as he wanted to check out his gear on his own), along with Ted and Linda were all parking somewhere else.

As we geared up and went to wait at the stairs, I realized I forgot to let Ted and Linda know where we would be meeting up. Figuring that they might have gone in by themselves, the rest of us proceeded to swim out to line up with the pump house where we would be de-

Continued on page 4

What's Inside?



- President's Corner 2
- U/W Easter Egg Hunt. . . 3
- Monster Attack 5
- Happy Birthday 5
- Plan Ahead. 6
- Pt. Lobos Hike 7
- Activity Calendar 7

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Hi All!

Happy Birthday San Jose Flipper Dippers! Yes, this month marks 62 years ago that this great dive club was formed - and it remains one of the oldest and continuing dive clubs in the Bay Area. While other clubs have disbanded, the Flipper Dippers continue to keep going and diving. Take a look at page 5 to see how many members have continued to stay with the club over the years.

I continue to be amazed by our local diving community! There are several Facebook groups I follow, and I enjoy reading about recent dive reports, divers seeking buddies, social get-togethers being organized, new divers asking questions and updates being posted about all sorts of upcoming events.

And then there are the groups working to save and restore our oceans, like the Giant Kelp Restoration project (G2KR), the Caspar Cove group helping with urchin removal and kelp restoration in Mendocino, and the Sunflower Star Laboratory. I know a number of local divers who also volunteer at the Monterey Bay Aquarium and the Marine Mammal Center, educating the public about our wonderful local marine environment and conservation efforts!

I feel truly blessed to be part of this community!

The Dippers have a number of great events coming up in April, starting with our Annual Underwater Easter Egg Hunt for our S3 dive on April 11th. And there are plans in the works to hike at Point Lobos on Saturday, April 25th. And we'll be starting up our Fourth Sunday Cycles (FSC) on Sunday, April 26th. too! Yes, we're a dive club, but we organize a variety of outdoor activities for everyone to enjoy.

Hope to see you all in (or out of) the water soon!

Let's go diving! – Barbara

Continued from Front Page

rents associated with climate change. Blue dragons rarely appear onshore, but spring wind patterns can push floating marine life toward the coast.

"The last time we saw this many wash up at one time along the Texas coast was 2024," Jace Tunnell, director of community engagement at the Harte Research Institute, told Chron. "They tend to wash up between February and May during strong onshore wind events and always in connection with the man o war, blue buttons and by the wind sailors."

Tunnell recently found some in Corpus Christi and said there were also reports Monday of blue dragons washing ashore at Surfside Beach. "Typically, what washes up on the central coast of Texas often is seen in other parts of the Texas coast within a few days," Tunnell said. "It's one of those things where when they are washing up you better go to the beach that day to check them out because they'll be gone the next day."

Because of their small size, blue dragons can easily be overlooked among other washed-up marine life. But researchers say they are not something beachgoers should handle. "They're absolutely stunning – but do NOT touch them," researchers wrote in a Facebook post.

Blue dragons prey on creatures like the Portuguese man-o-war by feeding on their tentacles. Tunnell said the sea slugs store the man-o-war's stinging cells inside their appendages. 🌟



San Jose Flipper Dippers

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AWARDS AND FINES

o Position Open o

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o Position Open o

REFRESHMENTS

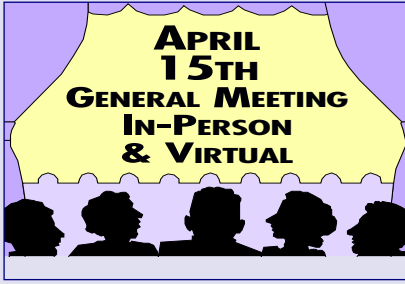
o Position Open o

STAR ACHIEVEMENT

Jackie Gardner 408-274-9447

TROPHY COMPETITION

o Position Open o



We'll be having our in-person General Meeting this month.

Please bring a refreshment to share with your fellow Dippers!

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! This Dipper is completing another trip around the Sun this month and is also sharing a birthday month with the San Jose Flipper Dippers: **Jim Rezowalli**. Wait, how old is he? 🌟



Get your underwater navigation and hunting skills ready!

The Flipper Dippers will be holding our **17th Annual Underwater Easter Egg Hunt**, at Del Monte Beach, on **April 11**. If you look at the chart below you'll see who the winners were over the past sixteen years of competition. In 2020 we had a "Virtual Hunt" due to the COVID restrictions. In 2024 we had a land-based drawing due to poor ocean conditions. Do you think you can beat these past repeat divers? Hunters will line up on the beach behind the starting line and take off in mass. It's **BIG FUN** for everyone. This is the Club's Second Saturday Scuba (S3) dive this month so sign up and get ready for a fun dive! 🌟

Year	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
2010	Tom Gardner	Carl Tuttle	Jani Hail
2011	Barbara Davis	Carl Tuttle	Tim Jagers
2012	Carl Tuttle	Jim Hail	Larry Ankuda
2013	Barbara Davis	Larry Ankuda	Carl Tuttle
2014	Jim Rezowalli	Larry Ankuda	Carl Tuttle
2015	John Snyder	Brian Zaugg	Barbara Davis
2016	Carl Tuttle	Tom Gardner	Anton Dold
2017	<i>A TIE!</i> Carl Tuttle Manuel Mangrobang	None	None
2018	Barbara Davis	Tom Gardner	Donovan Hill
2019	Barbara Davis	Donovan Hill	Carl Tuttle
2020 Virtual	Abby Wilson	Jackie Gardner	John Snyder
2021	Carl Tuttle	Grace Chi	Barbara Davis
2022	Grace Chi	Carl Tuttle	Barbara Davis
2023	Cedric Wright	Howard Chien	Team Lucky 7
2024	Tristan Chutka	Barbara Davis	Carl Tuttle
2025	Tom Gardner	Grace Chi	Alexandria Haraszti
2026	YOU?	YOU?	YOU?



On your mark! . . . Get set! . . . GO!

Continued from Front Page
 ascending to start our first dive to the Metridium field.

While the ocean was rather calm, the visibility was suboptimal, at best 5 to 10 feet. We found the pipe alright and followed it to the Metridium field. All the Metridium were full blooming that day. Must have been something in the water they were enjoying. After swimming around the field a couple times, the whole time I could see my buddy Grace at a close distance away . . . then all of a sudden, she disappeared! (Later when I asked her what happened, she would say the same about me, that all of a sudden I disappeared.) Jeff and I looked around a little bit and decided to surface. We surface swam towards the direction of the pipe, and then decided that Grace had probably gone back with others, so we set the com-

pass and descended back down and headed back to the beach.

Carl and Cedric found the Metridiums and also found Grace – all alone. Together the three headed back to the pipe and followed it to the beach. On the way Carl was nearly run into by a hungry cormorant, which surprised

the three divers.

Jeff and I were the last to get back to shore. Everyone was safe and sound. Regardless of the little incident of losing my buddy, I considered the first dive a success.

Although visibility was bad, seven of us (Cedric, Carl, Cédric, Florence, Jeff, Grace and I) went for our second dive at the Wall. Visibility opened up a bit in deeper water while the temperature at the Wall dropped down 4 degrees! Diving at the Wall always gives me some comfort feeling because of my familiarity of the site. It's always enjoyable in my opinion. We saw cormorants diving in the water, many scallops and mussels, some huge crabs and more sea stars than usual.

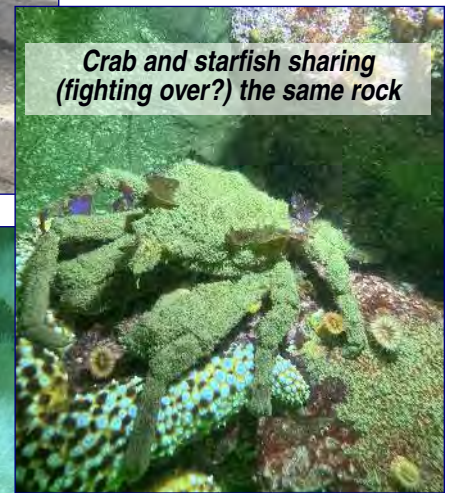
After the second dive we headed over to Piccolo Panini Grill, at the pier for paninis and pizza for lunch. All-in-all, it was a great day! 🌟



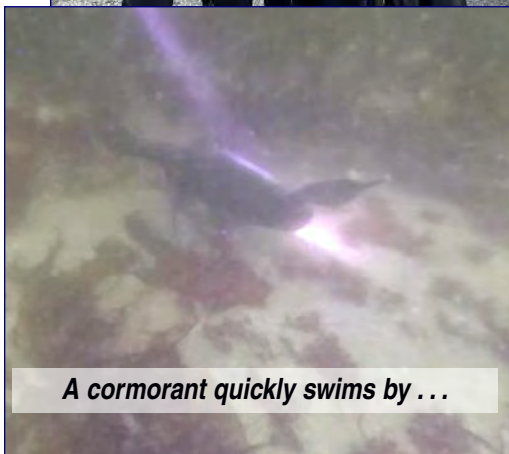
Front from left: **Florence, Cedric and Cédric**
 Back: **Grace, Carl, Jeff and Eva**



Tom and Cedric are ready



Crab and starfish sharing (fighting over?) the same rock



A cormorant quickly swims by . . .



The Metridiums were all open wide



Hermit crabs in a tussle

Monster Attack!

On March 5th the following email was sent out: "The weekend will be warm and sunny and the conditions seem to improve day by day at the end of the week, so Florence and I plan to go diving on Sunday, March 8th. I know it's only the first weekend of the Month, so it's only a "S2" (Sunday Scuba) ;-)

A warmup for the true S3. We plan to be on site at 9AM (hey, it's Sunday ;-). Location will be confirmed later this week (depending on the evolution of the conditions). If some Flipper Dippers want to join, they are more than welcome ;-)

p.s. We loose an hour of sleep Saturday night as we switch to Daylight Savings Time so get to bed early!"

The invitation was from **Cédric Farion**. Those signing up included **Florence Frans**, **Alexandria Haraszti** and **Carl Tuttle**. The group met at North Monastery and scoped out the conditions. Looked OK as the tide was out, the sun was shining and the swell, as predicted was running 5-ft at about 10 seconds.

They suited up and made their way to the beach kicking out beyond the kelp and made their decent. Visibility was about 15-feet. Lots of lingcod in holes and some swimming about. A fair abundant of the typical marine life for the North Shore.

Coming back in the swell had picked up a bit. Cédric, Florence and Alexandria headed in with Carl following. There was a group from San Jose State in the water and on the beach working on their skills – but without tanks. Cédric, Florence and Alexandria made their way onto the beach and some of the others provided assistance. Carl was trailing behind but figured things looked OK as he saw the divers on the beach. Making his way in a big swell picked him up and drove him into the sand. Then pulling him back out and proceeding to pound him again. Holding onto his regulator and his mask he realized his mask was full of water and the natorious Monsterberries. After clearing his mask

a couple of the divers in the water kept telling him to move down the beach where the surf was a bit smaller. It was quite a workout as he finally made his way onto the beach.

As everyone was discussing what had transpired a lifeguard came up **Sand, Sand Everywhere** asking if everyone was alright. Carl asked, "What took you so long?" After about 10-15 minuits the ocean was almost flat! Carl commented he should have stayed out in deeper water for a bit.

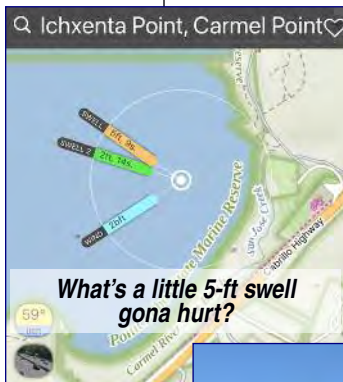
The group headed back to the cars and decided the Breakwater was a better option for the second dive. Carl figured his body needed a rest so he opted out of the second dive.

Cédric, Florence and Alexandria went out to the Metridium field had similar visibility as that of Monastery. After the dive the group had lunch at Taueria Zarape.

The following Saturday was the S3 dive (see report starting on page 1). After that dive Carl stopped by Any Water



Sand, Sand Everywhere



Florence, Cédric and Alexandria



Florence and Alexandria visit the Metridiums

Dive Center, in San Jose, to drop off the Club's newsletters and get his tanks filled. There he commented about his adventure at North Monastery. The staff commented, "So that was you! We had a report from the San Jose State divers of some scuba diver got a pile driving into the sand!"

Boy, oh, boy . . . what some people will go through to become famous. ★

Dippers Celebrate 62 Years!

The **San Jose Flipper Dippers**, one of the oldest and most active dive clubs in Northern California, began its odyssey back in 1964 with a small group of SCUBA instructors and other devoted divers dedicated to the promotion of safety and diver training. By 1965 the Club had a "Charter Member" list of 46 divers strong. The first edition of this newsletter was published in April 1965 and consisted of two pages! Happy Birthday Flipper Dippers!



This year's anniversary salutes those who have been Club members for:

30 or more consecutive years

Carl Tuttle '72

Mike Chalup '88

Kelly Drake '88

Barbara Davis '93

20 or more consecutive years

Dennis Nasont '98

Jim Rezowalli '05

10 or more consecutive years

John Snyder '07

Howard Timoney '07

Tom Gardner '09

Jackie Gardner '11

Cédric Fairon '11 (He's Back!)

Grace Chi '16



Time to plan ahead

May 18-25 Memorial Day Camping at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park

The Flipper Dippers will be camping at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park Campground (2591 Gram Hill Rd., Santa Cruz). Dippers have 4 sites for the week and are open to sharing camping space. The Dippers are planning on hiking, mountain biking, and sharing food, drink, and stories around the campfire.



Spaces are limited to 2 vehicles, but additional parking is available. Plan is for a bike ride and lunch on Saturday in Santa Cruz. More info next month. ♣

Rare shell discovered

Magic Resorts Philippines

How well do we know the cowrie? You're probably familiar with their smooth and shiny shells, often used for necklaces and jewelry. But what does the animal actually look like? Our guest Lutz chanced upon a beautiful cowrie with its mantle completely covering its shell. Not only did he find it perfectly exposed, but it turns out to be a rare mole cowrie!



This fancy bubble-wrap pyjama helps camouflage the cowrie during its nightly quest for food. It doesn't have proper eyes and can only detect light, so it almost exclusively relies on chemical sensors to taste and smell its surroundings — a very elaborate way to compensate for its lack of vision and to navigate the reef in search of a yummy sponge to feed on, a possible partner, and potential predators.

Fantastic night dive shot, Lutz. Thanks for bringing this elusive night crawler to light! ♣

Some Full-face Snorkeling Masks Prove Dangerous

Undercurrent

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has warned people to stop using OUSPT full-face snorkeling masks, made by Field Life of China, of which 84,000 units have been sold through Amazon. The full story will be in the April issue of Undercurrent. ♣



Good News for Cozumel

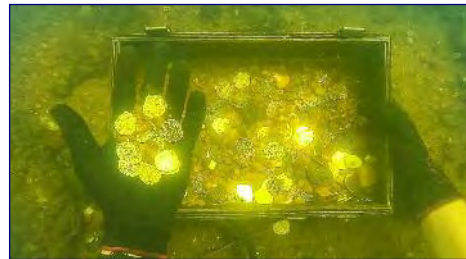
Undercurrent

The Mexican government has canceled the Fourth Cruise Pier project following a re-evaluation of the Environmental Impact statement submitted by the developers. The decision reaffirms the obligation to protect Cozumel's reefs and maintain marine biodiversity. Local communities played a significant role in pressuring authorities to correct previous decisions, arguing that there are already enough cruise ships visiting the island. The busiest days in 2026 schedules are projected to bring as many as 35,000 cruise passengers to Cozumel in a single day, about one-third of the population. (Riviera Maya News) ♣

Leaving Jail, Wreck Hunter Stays Quiet

Undercurrent

In December 2015, American shipwreck-salvager Tommy Thompson was imprisoned for civil contempt by an Ohio District Court. He had refused to comply with orders to disclose the location of 500 gold coins taken from a historic shipwreck. Their whereabouts continue to remain unknown, since the 73-year-old Thompson refused to say a word about them and was released from prison this March, after serving more than a decade behind bars. In 1988, Thompson led an expedition that located the Atlantic wreck of the passenger and mail steamship Central America. Carrying a cargo of California Gold Rush bullion, it sank in 1857 during a hurricane. ♣



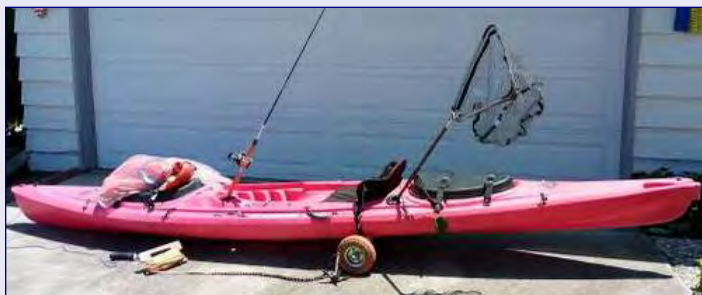
Dive kayak for sale: \$375

This double hatch Ocean Kayak, model Scupper Pro, is rigged for game or just fun. It comes with a seat, paddles, bowline, and required PFD (personal flotation device). It also has a folding anchor on a reel



and easy slip-on/off pneumatic tires for transport. The hull has a lot of added handles, attached lines, and clip attachments for ease of use and security.

If you SCUBA dive the aft compartment can hold 2 tanks, with-



out a BCD attached. A Diver Down flag is also included.

If you surface fish in the ocean, this 'yak' has rod holders molded into it (fishing pole and net not included). Lastly, the included redwood cradle holds the unit on its side for storage.

Contact: **Larry Ankuda**, lankuda@comcast.net, (408) 378-4963 ♣

DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

SIM UPADHYAYULA

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APRIL 2026

WEDNESDAY APRIL 1 POINT LOBOS RESERVATIONS

On April 1st reservations become available for diving at Point Lobos in May. **Make your online reservation for Saturday, May 9** if you plan to dive. Contact **Carl Tuttle**, who is coordinating. email: tutcomms@sbcglobal.net or text/phone: 408-829-3660 and let him know if you made a reservation.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 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 APRIL 4 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11
17th ANNUAL U/W EASTER EGG HUNT** Coordinator: **Tom Gardner**, tomandjackieus@yahoo.com, 408-274-9447. **Meet at 8:00 AM** at Del Monte Beach and dive for Easter Eggs! Eggs will be dropped in depths of 25 to 40 feet. Contestants will line up on the beach and when the whistle blows, the race is on! The divers that

GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

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 62 Years of the San Jose Flipper Dippers!

Entertainment:

- **Social Hour**
- **Sign-ups for Monthly Dives**



return with the highest totals win great prizes. Wharf parking is available or park in the parking lot. Meet on the wharf next to the beach for a pre-hunt briefing. Bring 2 tanks and plan on making a 2nd dive under the wharf. Please RSVP!

SATURDAY APRIL 18 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 PT. LOBOS HIKE

Coordinator: **John Snyder**, email: john.fishhunter@gmail.com, Phone: 408-202-5196. Join the Flipper Dippers' on a hike at Pt. Lobos State Park led by George St. Clair. **Meet at 10 AM** near the Starbucks in the Crossroads Center to carpool. RSVP to John to join in. See separate article for more information.

SUNDAY APRIL 26 FOURTH SUNDAY CYCLE (FSC)

It's Back! Join us for our monthly Fourth Sunday Cycle led by **Jim Rezowalli**. Location TBD so please RSVP email: jimandthebeach@gmail.com, 408-293-7390 to receive final details and any last minute updates!

UPCOMING IN MAY

- 06 Business Meeting
- 09 Second Saturday SCUBA (S3) Dive at Pt. Lobos
- 18-25 Memorial Day Wknd - Henry Cowell
- 20 **General Meeting**
- 30-31 SCUBA Show (Long Beach)



Hike in Pt. Lobos State Park with the Flipper Dippers

We're going hiking at Pt. Lobos on April 25. This will be led by George St. Clair, who has a wealth of knowledge about the area. Plan on a hike of about 5 miles and learn interesting facts, history and more. Wear good hiking shoes. Be sure to bring a jacket and hat in case the weather is cold as you never know what Mother Nature will provide. Also bring some snacks and water to refresh during the hike. We'll meet near the Starbucks in the Crossroads Center to carpool as the parking at Pt. Lobos is limited (we may need to park along Highway 1 and walk into the park).

- o Date: **April 25th**
- o Time: **10 AM**
- o Meet at the Starbucks in the Crossroads Center, Rio Road & Highway 1, to carpool (Pt. Lobos State Park parking might be full)
- o Bring snacks, water, good hiking shoes, extra clothing for warmth
- o Hike could be @ 5-1/2 miles
- o George will provide information on the area during the hike
- o After the hike the group will go to the Crossroads BBQ for a late lunch/early dinner

John Snyder, is coordinating so **be sure to sign up!**
email: john.fishhunter@gmail.com, Phone: 408-202-5196. ★



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

- | | |
|------------|---|
| April 1 | Pt. Lobos Reservations for May 9 |
| April 1 | Business Meeting |
| April 11 | Second Saturday SCUBA (S3)
U/W Easter Egg Hunt |
| April 15 | 🔵 General Meeting |
| April 25 | Pt. Lobos Hike |
| April 26 | Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC) |
| May 06 | Business Meeting |
| May 09 | Second Saturday SCUBA (S3) Dive Pt. Lobos |
| May 18-25 | Memorial Day Weekend - Henry Cowell |
| May 20 | 🔵 General Meeting |
| May 30-31 | SCUBA Show - Long Beach, CA |
| June 3 | Business Meeting |
| June 13 | Second Saturday SCUBA |
| June 17 | 🔵 General Meeting |
| June 20-27 | Cayman Islands Aggressor Trip |

*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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