

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

JULY
2026

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 18!** 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 a Saturday Cycle 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. (No Ab Irons or gauges!) The more prizes in the raffle, the more chances you have to win.

We'll gather **on Saturday, JULY 18**
from **12pm-4pm** at:

Hellyer County Park, in the Yerba Bena Group 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!



Dippers can be seen in the upper right gathering on the beach in this screen capture from the Fish Hopper Restaurant webcam.

I spy with my little eyes . . . Dippers on MacAbee Beach!

On June 13, Dippers **Tom Earl, Florence Frans, Cédric Farion, Jeff Rowland**, and **Grace Chi** got together at the lake-like MacAbee Beach. The Breakwater had been the first choice, but with sea lions taking over the beach, the Metridium Fields side may have been the only side available. After waving to **Carl Tuttle** who was watching on the Fish Hopper Restaurant webcam, for the first dive, we went in the general direction of the pinnacle. The two buddy teams lost each other almost immediately after starting the dive with the help of single digit visibility and a cloudy sky. We encountered schools of fish, some very nice rocks teeming with life, and a sea lion that did a few laps around us. The sun was out during the surface interval, which was appreciated by all.

For the second dive, the gaggle was able to stay together a bit longer and met up at the pinnacle. Most of the metridiums were closed. The usual suspects – rockfish, lingcod and strawberry anemones were there. The waves had picked up when we exited but it was still manageable. Water temperature was back to normal around 52 degrees. Viz was slightly better for the second dive but it did jump between the single and double digits for both dives. There were a lot of particulates in the water. After dropping off tanks, we refueled at Taqueria Zarape. ★

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings Divers!

There were a lot of Dippers in the water in June! Conditions were great, with calm water and decent to good visibility. In addition to our usual S3 dive (Second Saturday SCUBA) we had the Cayman Islands Aggressor IV trip! See the article and photos on pages 4-6.

Coming up in July we have our usual S3 dive on Saturday, July 11th, and I'm really looking forward to our Christmas in July event on Saturday, July 18th! 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.

I'm always looking out for more ways to learn about our ocean environment and there are many resources out there! I'm signed up for email notices from various organizations and you've all seen emails for events that **Carl Tuttle** has forwarded for me to the club! One that I enjoy is "Dive in with Liz and Sylvia" webinars presented by Ocean Elders – A Voice for the Ocean. Coming up on Wednesday, July 15th, at 3:00 pm Pacific time they will be speaking with Rhett Ayers Butler, who is the founder and CEO of Mongabay, a nonprofit environmental journalism organization (news.mongabay.com). I've never heard of them, but it sounds pretty interesting! Here's the link to register for the webinar if you are interested: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1iiOsh_PQ2WIMN5FKaTnkg#/registration Previous webinars are also available on YouTube.

Let's go diving! – Barbara

DON'T FORGET !

Labor Day Weekend Camping, Diving & More Aug 31 – Sept 7

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

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

- **Jim & Gabi Rezowalli:** #4 (9/2–9/6)
- **Tom & Jackie Gardner:** #5 (8/31–9/7)
- **Howard Chien:** #6 (8/31–9/6)
- **Barbara Davis:** #7 (8/31–9/7)
- **Tristan Chutka:** #12 (9/1–9/6)
- **Carl Tuttle:** #13 (9/2–9/6)

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

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

Saturday, September 5th is a "No License" fishing day. We might look into urchin culling.

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. ★



San Jose Flipper Dippers

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CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

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Howard Chien 408-410-0325

CLUB COMMITTEES

AWARDS AND FINES

o Position Open o

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Mike Chalup 408-744-1868

RAFFLE

o Position Open o

REFRESHMENTS

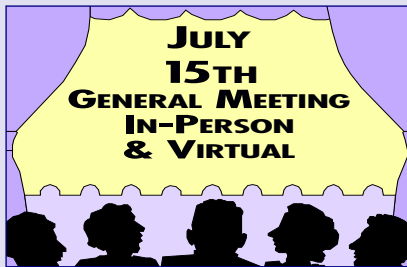
o Position Open o

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 MS Teams connection for those who still prefer to meet virtually. Watch for an email update. ★

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**. ★

It's Time for the Annual 4th of July Flipper Dippers' BBQ & Fireworks Open House!

Come celebrate Independence Day with great food, cool pool vibes, and an evening of fireworks. We'll kick things off with a potluck BBQ by the pool, so bring your swimsuit and arrive early if the weather's nice – we'll be swimming, grilling, and chilling all afternoon.

After dinner, we'll head to the nearby Morgan Hill soccer fields to watch the fireworks together. (Bring a camp chair if you wish.)

The Details

- **Location:** 17040 Oak Leaf Drive, Morgan Hill
- **When:** Saturday, July 4
- **Time:** Arrive anytime after 3 PM – and stay after the fireworks

What to Bring?

- A dish to share (but please – only one Costco Mediterranean salad. We had four at the last campout!)
- Your enthusiasm and festive spirit
- BBQ chicken will be provided

Please Let me know if you're coming so I can plan accordingly.

Looking forward to a fun-filled day with good friends, food, and fireworks!

Jim Rezowalli

jimandthebeach@gmail.com
408-293-7390



Ah yes, the Golden Dippy strikes again!

During the June General meeting the Club's Vice President, **Sim Upadhyayula**, was the recipient of the Golden Dippy. He thought he was ahead of the pack by sending out the email for the June General Meeting announcing the date of July 17th. For past emails, he kept sending out the MS Teams link for the Business Meeting instead of the General Meeting. And we keep reminding him that he's a heart-beat away from the presidency! ★



Bon Voyage Cédrick and Florence!

Our members who live the farthest away, **Cédrick Farion** and **Florence Frans**, are heading back to their home in Belgium. Cédrick's work here has ended so they must depart. This photo is from their last dive at Monastery Beach. "Today, we said goodbye to Monastery Beach . . . we did the south end that Florence didn't know yet. Last week we did the junction Ribera to Monastery twice and Lover's Point the next day. So we managed to do 5 more since the June General Meeting :-). Nothing like an Iron Diver feat of course :-). Just a Flipper Dipper enthusiast level 1 :-)." We hope to see you two on a future dive trip – somewhere in the water. ★



Dippers dive the Cayman Islands!

Ten Flipper Dippers spent a week onboard the Cayman Aggressor IV, in June, enjoying clear waters, warm weather and exceptional diving. The trip was put together last year and included **Ken Agur, Eva Alexander, Tristan Chutka, Carri Edgar, Jackie** and **Tom Gardner, Andrew Grice, John Snyder, Carl Tuttle**, and **Sim Upadhyayula**. They were joined by **Lucy Yen** and her son **George Cutu, Peter Radsliff** and **Jackqueline Amrikhas**. Other divers on the boat included **Doug** and **Andrea** (non-diver) **Berry** and their daughter **Brooke**.

Divers descended upon Grand Cayman on different flights. Some arriving a number of days ahead of the departure on the boat. It was a close call as Eva's bags were delayed and Andrew and Sim's flights leaving the US were canceled. They hustled and were able to arrange different flights into Grand Cayman. It was a close call as Sim's

luggage, including his dive gear, was also delayed by a day but arrived before the boat left the dock.

The crew on the boat was top-notch and the food was exceptional. Lots of life underwater was seen including reef sharks, turtles, octopus, rays, squid, eels and a wide assortment of colorful fish. A number of divers had underwater cameras and captured some great pictures and videos. Many of the divers completed the week of 25 dives, including night dives, and were awarded the Aggressor's *Iron Diver* award; a official certificate, a metal, and a tag to attach to their BC. We were fortunate to be able to dive Grand Cayman, Little Cayman and Cayman Brach as Mother Nature was kicking up a fuss. It was rock-n-roll getting between the islands but the boat made it!

At the end of the week, many were asking, "Where to next year?" Instead of a full detailed report on all the diving, Dippers were asked to submit a short description of their experience for this issue of the newsletter. ★



★ The Cayman Aggressor IV was extremely organized. After one day, you could tell that this group knew exactly what they were doing. The division of work was split up amongst the crew and they were all very efficient in what they did. Safety was paramount and they were always sensitive about the needs of their guests. And yes, we were treated like royal guests; fed well, respected by all. They also insisted on our attention and to be respected, which we complied without reservation.

The water was always clear and warm with a large variety of dive locations and dive wrecks to dive on.

I would definitely take another Aggressor trip again; however I think I would go to Palau instead of back to Grand Cayman.

I was just disheartened by the health and condition of the reefs and the fact that they were very few fish and probably less than five lobsters spotted the entire week.

The food was great with not one meal being repeated. Snacks and drinks were prevalent as well as beer and wine for the non-divers.

I regret not taking one of the dives which disallowed me from being an iron diver, but there's always next time!

– **John Snyder**



★ From daydreaming about this trip during my senior year, to writing this at home, afterwards, I can't help but to think... what a beautiful experience! It was my first liveaboard, and it was a truly different experience — I didn't have to lug around tanks, put on my own fins, or even feed myself, how cool!

On the diving side, the deep, beautiful blue color of the ocean as I looked to my right during a dive on the many walls off of Little Cayman was something I simply couldn't get out of my mind. Unfortunately, there weren't many sharks, but oh well! There's always the next dive.

– **George Cutu**

★ First time on a liveaboard and Cayman Islands for me and my son, George. This trip was planned as a celebration of George's academic milestone in graduating from high school this year, 2026. It was certainly also a milestone for our first scuba diving achievement earning our first Iron Divers medals. And that secret sauce was none other than our insatiable quest to learn about marine life around the world at lightning speed!

Here at the Caribbean Sea on a liveaboard, I get to see with my own eyes what a book can never do justice: Angel

fish, butterfly fish, conchs, crabs, doctor fish (Tangs like Dory in Finding Nemo), drums, eels, flounders, gobbies, groupers, jacks, jellies, lion fish, lobsters, nudibranchs, octopus, parrot fish, porcupine fish, rays, sharks, squids, trumpet fish, trunk fish, sea stars, sharks, urchins, wrasse plus all the more gorgeous gorgonians and sponges that accompany them.

Liveaboard definitely expedite my learning journey when more times are spent at sea than on land. Will do it again and again especially with the best team on earth!

– **Lucy Yen**



★ Walls, walls, and more walls! What stood out to me on this dive trip was the dramatic drop offs into the deep blue. I spent hours swimming along these walls, scanning the depths for any flicker of movement below. That led to a very close encounter with a juvenile Caribbean reef shark, gliding past close enough to see its eye track me as it went. Definitely the highlight of my trip!

– **Andrew Grice**



wall. I fully understand the crew's need to assess our capabilities, and that nitrogen loading is not our friend. I will end with one question, "Where are we going next?"

– Peter Radsloff



★ This was my first time diving in Cayman but for context I've done about 70 other Caribbean dives between multiple trips each to Cozumel and Belize. What struck me as different with this trip were the warm water, the wrecks, and the accommodations. And the Flipper Dippers were tremendous; welcoming, expert divers, easy going, and fun! Other trips I've taken also had great folks to be with. I think it's the breed we call "diver" — outgoing, personable, and adventurous.

This trip was outstanding to me mostly because of the Cayman Aggressor IV and her crew. I mean really: having your fin straps pulled over your heel by the boat Captain?! The crew and boat amenities were thought out to the last detail, making this trip the laziest, easiest, best eating, and most spectacular diving I've done.

The only critique I would give is that I would have liked to have skipped that whole 'check-out dive' day and have spent every dive on a 90 foot vertical

★ BIG FUN! The Cayman Islands have been on my "Bucket List" ever since I joined the Flipper Dippers and saw slide shows on diving there. It was everything I expected. I've been on a number of liveaboards and the Cayman Aggressor IV is run as smooth an operation as all the others — with an outstanding crew and great meals.

We were lucky to reach the various islands for great wall diving, swim-thrus and lots of marine life. And now I can say I'm an official Iron Diver too!

We had a great group of divers on this trip with lots of camaraderie and lots of laughs. After waiting almost a year for this trip, it went by in a flash! Now it's back to diving in the cool waters of Northern California!

– Carl Tuttle

★ What I found helpful was Captain Josh showing me some tricks with my backplate BC to improve my buoyancy and trim for a better dive experience. Jackie felt the organization and forward notice of the upcoming dives made it relaxing because she knew what to expect.

– Tom Gardner



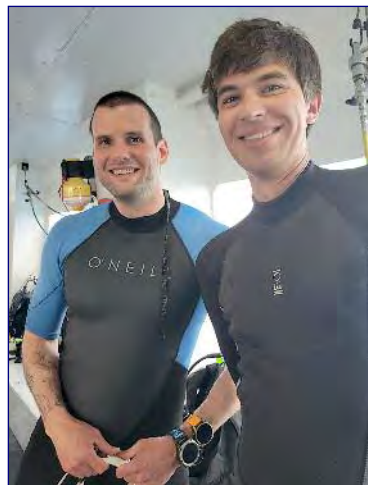
Photos by Jackie Gardner, Petre Radsloff, George Cutu, Carri Edgar. See more photos on page 6



Above: A very happy bunch of Cayman divers! Right: Sim does his yoga under water!



Eva gets up close to a grouper during a Cayman dive.



Andrew completed his 100th dive and Tristan completed his 200th dive. Well Done!



Carl thinks he's a ballerina in a tutu during a dive.



Cédrick, Florence, Tom, Grace and Jeff at the June 13, MacAbee S3 dive.

Dive Roatan September 19-26

Former Flipper Dipper **Brian Zaugg** is putting together a dive trip to Roatan in September. He'd love it if some Flipper Dippers wanted to join in. The group will be staying at Turquoise Bay Resort, an all-inclusive property with a top-rated dive operation on site. The package costs \$1,999 plus airfare (double occupancy), which is strong value for a week of Caribbean diving. You probably know that Roatan boasts the world's second-largest coral reef, shipwrecks, an underwater aircraft, whale sharks, sea turtles and more!

Brian is offering a discount for Flipper Dippers members: any group of 3+ rooms (6+ people) who book together get 5% off. The booking deadline is July 16, so sooner would be better — but he's flexible and happy to work around whatever works for the club. If you're interested contact:

Brian Zaugg, Cold Water Dive LLC
 brian@coldwaterdive.com, +1 (408) 218-9712
<https://coldwaterdive.com> 🌟

DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

SIM UPADHYAYULA

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JULY 2026

WEDNESDAY, JULY 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 JULY 4

NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SATURDAY, JULY 11

SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3) DIVE: LOCATION TBD

Join the Flipper Dippers for this month's S3 dive. **We're looking for a coordinator**. Location will be determined (TBD) based on conditions. Be sure to contact Sim if you want to coordinate this dive: **Sim Upadhyayula**. Text: 669-286-9796 or email: toytacous@yahoo.com.

GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 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



SATURDAY JULY 18

CHRISTMAS IN JULY PICNIC & CYCLE

Join us for our Christmas in July picnic, coordinated by **Abby Wilson**, and a Saturday Cycle. Bike riders will meet up at the Yerba Buena Group Picnic Area and ride along the Coyote Creek Trail. See articles on front page and page 7.

SATURDAY JULY 25

NO SCHEDULED DIVE



UPCOMING IN AUGUST

- 05 Business Meeting
- 08 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 19 **General Meeting**
- 22 Elkhorn Slough Kayak
- 31-Sept 07 Labor Day Weekend - Van Damme



Christmas in July Family Picnic and Saturday Cycle

Ho-Ho-Ho and Merry Heatwave! Please join the San Jose Flipper Dippers again this year to celebrate Christmas in July! 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 **Saturday, July 18** from 12pm-4pm at: **Hellyer County Park (\$6 entrance fee) at the Yerba Buena Group Area**, 985 Hellyer Ave, San Jose, CA 95111.

Some Dippers and friends will arrive early and be riding in a Third Sunday Cycle (TSC) 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 Abby Golden Wilson at 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
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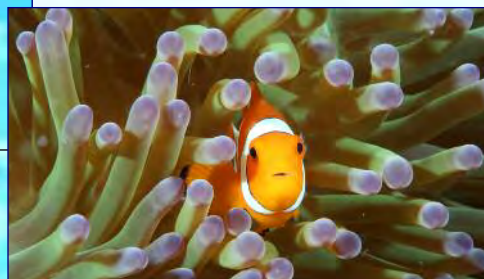
FIRST CLASS MAIL

2026 COMING EVENTS

July 01	Business Meeting
July 04	No License Fishing Day
July 11	Second Saturday SCUBA
July 15	General Meeting
July 18	Christmas in July: Hellyer County Park
Aug 05	Business Meeting
Aug 08	Second Saturday SCUBA
Aug 19	General Meeting
Aug 22	Elkhorn Slough Kayak
Aug 31-Sept 07	Labor Day Weekend - Van Damme
Sept 02	Business Meeting
Sept 05	No License Fishing Day
Sept 12	Second Saturday SCUBA
Sept 16	General Meeting
Sept 19	Calif & Intl Coastal Cleanup Day

*Are you looking for someone
to dive with?*

The San Jose Flipper Dippers Dive Club is a great way to meet divers who are always having fun times. Come join us!



Watch This Space – Much More To Come!
See the Club's Website for the full Calendar



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