

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

SEPTEMBER
2026

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

August Dive Reports: Hit or Miss!

August 8th Second Saturday Scuba (S3) Dive



Dippers and a visitor got together at North Monastery Beach. The group of divers included (above from left): **Sienna Pickard** [new/divemaster/marine conservationist] **Eva Alexander**, daughter **Shelby Alexander**, **Sim Upadhyayula** and **Grace Chi**.

Conditions were promising on the surface, but alas, underwater not so good. The group hoped visibility would improve as they worked their way along the reef to deeper water. Things didn't improve with viz only 5-10 ft, so they just did one dive.

August 15th Third Saturday Scuba (TS2) Dive



Carl Tuttle (center in photo) missed the S3 Dive on August 8th and was monitoring the conditions. They looked to be improving so he sent out an email: My gills are dry. My wetsuit is dry. My flippers haven't been flipping. My tanks are full of Nitrox. And I want to Dive! He also noted that San Carlos Beach was still closed as the seals were back in large quantities.



How about some new kicks?

Coral Explorer Platform High Top, from BANGS Shoes, feature a fully embroidered sea-scape of coral, jellyfish, a shark and more. Whether you're walking the shoreline or wandering far from home, tie these up and make waves. Get yours at www.bangshoes.com. (\$115. Not for diving) ★

Jeff Rowland (left in photo) signed up and **Eva Alexander** (right in photo) responded: "I am interested as always. Saturday is fun day. I prioritize diving!" **Grace Chi** responded, "I'll go if someone can write my test report for me . . ." She didn't get any volunteers.

So Jeff, Carl and Eva met at North Monastery beach. They watched the swells and decided to give it a go. And they were glad they did! the viz was anywhere from 10 to 15 ft or more. Not a lot of fish activity but many large sea cumpers and some good size lingcod in the shallow water towards the end of the dive. Carl reported he saw a good size healthy abalone.

Eva was a bit cold after the dive so they decided to go for lunch at the Crossroads BBQ.

Note: There were a lot of fire trucks and equipment from out of the area going north and south on Highway One dealing with the Big Sur fires. ★

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings Divers

August was a fun month for the Dippers, starting off with our usual Second Saturday SCUBA (S3) dive on August 8th, another dive on Saturday, August 15th, and the Elkhorn Slough Kayak on Saturday, August 22nd.

In September, we'll start off with the annual Labor Day weekend campout at Van Damme State Park! Some of the LORDS (Loyal Order of Retired Dippers) and other Dippers are heading up early for a fun week of kayaking,

hiking and biking! All are welcome to join us for whatever days you can. We have several campsites reserved for Aug 31st – Sept 7th. Contact **Carl Tuttle** ASAP if you want to join the fun. (Also note that the September Business meeting has been moved to Wednesday, September 9th.)

Next up will be our Second Saturday SCUBA (S3) dive on September 12th. And Saturday, September 19th, is California and International Coastal Cleanup Day. Check out the website for more information on local events and how to participate (www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/ccd.html).

And we'll have a guest speaker, **Gil Zeimer**, for our General Meeting on Wednesday, September 19th! See the article on page 3 for more information. Don't miss this one!

Club dues will be due in October. Some members also pay dues towards CenCal (Central California Council of Diving Clubs) and USofA (Underwater Society of America) to support their efforts 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.

If you have some free time, get involved!

Let's go diving! – Barbara

Squeezing in dives during Monterey Car Week

Monterey Car Week 2026 ran Friday, August 7 through Sunday, August 16, across Monterey, Pacific Grove, Seaside, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Carmel Valley, Pebble Beach and Salinas, California.

This made it challenging for Flipper Dippers heading to dive sites. Early risers were able to beat most of the weekend traffic. Heading home

our divers witnessed bumper-to-bumper traffic heading into the Monterey area. The week events closed with the 75th Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance on Sunday, August 16.

Monterey Car Week in 2027 will run from Friday, August 6 through Sunday, August 15. ★



San Jose Flipper Dippers

www.SJFlipperDippers.com

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AWARDS AND FINES

o Position Open o

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RAFFLE

o Position Open o

REFRESHMENTS

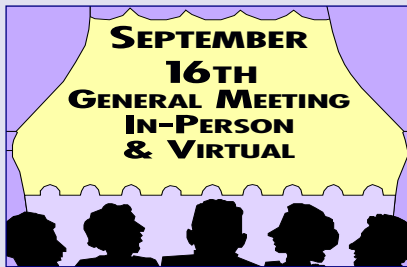
o Position Open o

STAR ACHIEVEMENT

Jackie Gardner 408-274-9447

TROPHY COMPETITION

o Position Open o



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 ... WOW! We have a bunch of September babies! These Dippers are completing their annual 365-day trip around the Sun this month: **Tom Earl, Abby Golden Wilson, Frances 'Flee' Lee, Jeff Rowland, Taylor Sullivan and Lucy Yen** ★



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. Also a presentation by **Gil Zeimer**. Join In! ★

"Scuba Storyteller" Author Gil Zeimer to Present on September 16th

Gil Zeimer is a third-generation San Franciscan. As an advertising writer and journalist for 50 years, he wrote between 8,000 and 10,000 projects, and was decorated with more than 25 major industry awards.

Gil will present: "*How I Turned 40 Years of Dive Logs into a Book*" is based on Gil's "Scuba Storyteller" book. It showcases about 20 of his most humorous story titles with the anecdotes behind each one. Among these are: "Waterlogged Proposals", "Warm Memories of Hypothermia", "Low Anxiety: Getting Narked in Belize's Great Blue Hole", "The Sun Also Burns", "Maui March Madness—Honeymooning With Humpbacks", "Jaws at 50: This Shark Still Has Legs", and "My Dive Buddy Wears Diapers".



Gil jumped fins-first into a resort course on Grand Cayman in 80-degree water in 1981 at age 32, became a PADI-certified Open Water Diver in 1985 in a 60-degree reservoir south of Dallas when he was 36, crafted his first magazine article in 1989 for Adweek ("Diary of an Unemployed Ad Man"), published his first scuba

article in 1994 for Scuba Times ("So, You Can't Make The Reef"), and got NITROX-certified in 2025 before a Palau dive trip.



a 376-page book:

"Scuba Storyteller: Mostly Humorous Diving Tales by an Addicted AquaNut". It's now selling well on Amazon with 38 Five-Star reviews; the paperback is \$20; the eBook is \$9.99: www.amazon.com/Scuba-Storyteller-Humorous-Addicted-AquaNut/dp/0941332055/

The book is a great holiday gift for any diver, non-diver, or ocean lover, and a perfect read for surface intervals during your next dive trip.

PS: With a 4.9 Amazon rating overall, everyone who's reviewed this book has loved it. Plus, the Publisher of Scuba Diving Industry Magazine (William Cline) believed so strongly in this collection of anecdotes that he wrote the Foreword. ★

Australia Dive Adventure

Eva Alexander

In between work a few weeks ago I was able to do some sightseeing in Sydney, scuba diving on Shelly Beach, and admiring street art in Melbourne. It was wonderful. I know it won't be too long when I will come back to this side of the world again.

Took a bunch of pictures during my first dive in Shelly Beach, Cabbage Tree Bay Marine Reserve in Sydney. Saw quite a few Port Jackson Sharks, an Eastern fiddler ray, a few Eastern blue groupers. My camera was out of battery when we did the second dive. How did THAT happen? Saw a puffer, many cardinals and even a giant cuttle fish at the end! ★



Kayak trip on Elkhorn Slough

Dippers got together on Saturday, August 22, for what is now an annual event. Sunny skies and mild temperatures greeted the Dippers as they gathered at Kirby Park. Big thank-you's go out to **Jim Rezowalli** for coordinating the paddle and **Tom Gardner** who brought his extra kayaks to share. Those joining in included Jim, Tom, **Gabi Estill**, **Carl Tuttle**, **Tristan Chueta**, **Makenzy**, **Lucy Yan** and **George Cucu**.

After about an hour and a half, the group came back to Kirby Park on the incoming tide. They loaded up their kayaks and went to the Beer Mule beer garden, in Watsonville, for food and liquid refreshments. Another great adventure with the Flipper Dippers! 🌟



Tristan, Makenzy, Tom, Jim, Gabi, Lucy and George are ready to yak!



ARKEVs in use to help kelp growth

Ted Judah

Last week myself and a group of divers did a night dive at Stillwater Cove State Park. We descended out to about 55 feet. We were hoping to see Giant Pacific Octopus out and about hunting – but we did not. We did see lots of fish, a HUGE lingcod and Bull Kelp growing on ARAKE units that were installed in the cove. These devices grow kelp up and out of reach of all the hungry urchins below. There are about a currently dozen located in the cove. The hope is; it gives the kelp a chance to grow big and reproduce more baby kelps! ★

+++++

Arrays to Recover Kelp Ecosystem Vegetation (ARKEVs) are temporary floating underwater structures designed to elevate young bull kelp off the seafloor and protect it from hungry grazers like sea urchins.

How ARKEVs Work

Nursery growth: Researchers grow baby bull kelp in a lab on spools of twine before weaving the sprouts into ropes.

Suspension: The ropes are anchored a few feet above the ocean bottom using weights, keeping the juvenile kelp out of reach of roaming purple sea urchins.

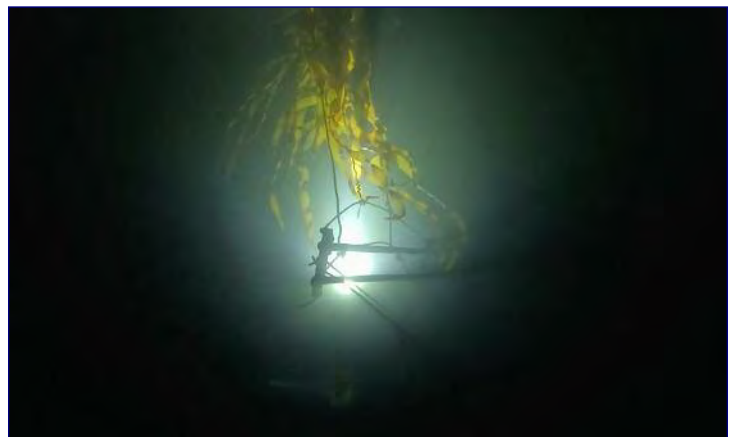
Rapid maturation: Within two months, the kelp grows from tiny sprouts into 10-foot reproductive adults.

Spore release: Mature kelp release trillions of reproductive spores down onto the barren seafloor to naturally re-establish the forest.

Removal: These temporary rigs are pulled up and removed at the end of the field season.

Key Projects and Findings

Big River Project: Developed by Moss Landing Marine Laboratories and partners in California, trials showed massive canopy recovery and rapid reproduction. Read more about this effort in the Big River Kelp Recovery Project case study.



Oregon Coast: The Oregon Kelp Alliance successfully tested ARKEVs in Nellie's Cove, proving the structures withstand powerful coastal wave environments.

Habitat creation: Beyond restoring seaweed, the floating units quickly attract juvenile fish like rockfish, providing crucial supplemental nursery habitat.

Explore global statistics on [hosts://seaters.org/](https://seaters.org/) ★

Disappearing Cuttlefish

Undercurrent

A cuttlefish is a diver favorite, but in South Australia they have disappeared almost overnight. Each year, up to hundreds of thousands of giant Australian cuttlefish assemble off the coast of Whyalla to breed, the only place globally where cuttlefish gather en masse. In surveys dating back to 1998, populations ranged from a low of 13,500 in 2013 to a high of 247,000 in 2020, with 63,000 just last year. This year, scientists counted just 43. Numbers this



year were widely expected to be the lowest on record, after the devastating effects of the toxic *Karenia* algal bloom. The divers who surveyed the coastline in July counted only 440 eggs where there would normally be millions. On July 1, the state government introduced restrictions on snorkeling to minimize disturbance to breeding cuttlefish and help protect their eggs and hatchlings. Cuttlefish live short lives and adults usually die after breeding, making the population heavily dependent on the success of each breeding season. ★

Huish Recalls 7,200 Regulators

Undercurrent

If the Hollis 200LX regulator second stage is dropped or struck near the inhalation-control knob, the inlet tube can crack or break, and may cut off air underwater -- obviously a dangerous problem. Huish Outdoors, the parent company, has received 17 reports of the inlet tubes breaking. If you have a Hollis 200LX regulator, don't use it again and return it to an authorized Hollis dealer for free rectification. You can also contact Huish Outdoors (www.hollis.com) to obtain a prepaid shipping label to return the product by mail for a free repair. Otherwise, email recalls@hollis.com. ★

Shocking Misconceptions About AEDs

DAN Alert Diver Magazine – 3rd Quarter 2025

The automated external defibrillator (AED) was developed as a portable medical device and released for public use in the 1960s. The operation of AEDs has gotten simpler over the years, and the devices are now widely available for use by lay providers with basic training.

The benefits of quick application of an AED are undeniable. In many reviews of cases involving a lay provider, we see a survival rate of around 5% to 9% of cases involving CPR without an AED. With the timely application of an AED, the survival rates leap to 30% to 40%.

The use of an AED is invaluable in cases of sudden cardiac issues. Some common misconceptions, however, make many laypeople hesitant to use one. We hope discussing these fallacies will help lay providers be more confident using an AED.

Misconception: An AED restarts a flatlined heart. An AED will recommend a shock only when it detects certain (shockable) dangerous heart rhythms that cannot effectively pump the blood. An AED will not deliver a shock to a fully stopped heart with no detectable electrical activity.

Misconception: I cannot use an AED on a wet floor or in the rain. Studies show that being in a wet environment is not a concern if the pads are well-adhered to the chest. Drying the chest before applying the pads results in better adhesion.

Misconception: Do not use an AED if the injured person is on snow or ice. Snow and ice are not good conductors, so you can use an AED on someone lying on snow or ice.

Misconception: I cannot use an AED on a metal dock or boat. You can use an AED when the injured person is on a dock or boat if you make sure the pads are not touching the metal when delivering a shock. The electrical shock can move further across the body rather than just across the chest, so be especially careful that no one is touching the injured person. The current travels between the pads along the path of least resistance, however, not to the ground.

Misconception: Do not use an AED on a pregnant person. You should still use an AED. It will not recommend a shock unless the heart is in a shockable rhythm that needs to be addressed for the potential survival of the person and the baby.

Misconception: An AED will fry a pacemaker. If the pacemaker is not maintaining an appropriate rhythm in the heart, you should still use an AED. Avoid placing the pads within 1 inch (2.5 centimeters) of the pacemaker, which you can identify by a small scar and slight bump.

Misconception: I can put the pads on top of any medication patches on the chest. Never place the AED pads directly on top of a medication patch. Avoid or remove such patches, and wear gloves to avoid dosing yourself.

Misconception: I cannot use an AED on a child or infant. Some AEDs have a button or special pads on the unit to set the shock level for a child or infant. If pads for a child are unavailable, you could still use the adult pads and settings on a child. Ensure the pads are not touching. Place the pads on the front and back of an infant if needed.

Misconception: It is easy for me or another rescuer to receive a deadly shock. The electrical shock is designed to go from one pad to the other, so proper pad placement is essential. A rescuer touching the person may experience a tingling sensation. The rescuer may have an undiagnosed heart issue, so they should avoid any provocation. Touching the patient may also reduce the AED's ability to correctly analyze the patient's heart rhythm. Using surgical gloves will reduce the chance of shock to the rescuer.

Misconception: I must remove any jewelry on the chest before using an AED. Jewelry will not interfere with the AED, but a rescuer should not place the pad directly over any jewelry.

Using an AED can dramatically improve the likelihood of survival for someone suffering from certain dangerous heart rhythms. Lay providers should have the confidence to use this basic device without fear of harming the victim or themselves. Everyone should obtain this relatively easy training that can save a life.

Time is always critical; the faster you can respond, the greater the chance of recovery. Using an AED is only one step in the chain of survival, so don't delay the call to emergency services for professional care. 🌟



At the height of Gilligan's Island's popularity in 1966, the U.S Coast Guard received 2,500 letters a week asking why the castaways hadn't been rescued yet!



DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

SIM UPADHYAYULA

www.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM

SEPTEMBER 2026

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5
NO LICENSE FISHING DAY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
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 SEPTEMBER 12
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, SEPT 16**

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.

Presentation by Gil Zeimer

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, SEPTEMBER 19
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, SEPTEMBER 19
CALIFORNIA & INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
NO SCHEDULED DIVE

UPCOMING IN OCTOBER

- 7 Business Meeting
- 10 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 14-18 Hood Canal, WA Dive Trip
- 21 General Meeting



California Department of Fish and Wildlife

July 14, 2026

Although the spiny lobster season closed on March 18, that has not deterred those who choose to violate the law. Recently, CD wildlife officers from across Southern California came together to apprehend lobster poachers at the Santa Monica Pier in Los Angeles County. The suspects involved took sophisticated measures to conceal their activities but despite their best efforts, wildlife officers identified and apprehended those involved.

During this enforcement operation, wildlife officers and their specially trained canines located lobsters hidden in duffel bags, backpacks, vehicles and a baby stroller. Officers seized

34 lobsters as evidence, which included several egg-bearing females, and returned the lobsters back to the ocean alive.

Each female produces one brood of between 50,000 to 800,000 eggs per year, which it carries for approximately 10 weeks. The loss of an egg-bearing female lobster can have a substantial impact on the health of the lobster fishery and directly impacts legal anglers.

During this operation, a total of six suspects were arrested for violations that included take of lobster out of season, exceeding the daily bag limits of lobster, take of undersized lobster, take of lobster by hook and line and possession of more than triple the daily bag limit of lobster. The penalties for such

crimes are severe – up to \$1,000 per violation or up to one year in jail.

To report a wildlife crime in progress, call CATLIN 24/7 at 888-334-CALTIP (888-334-2258) or submit a tip through the free “tip411” phone app.

More information can be found online here: [hosts://wildlife.ca.gov/Enforcement/CATLIN](https://wildlife.ca.gov/Enforcement/CATLIN).

All reports can be made anonymously, and you may be eligible for a cash reward depending on the circumstances of the case. ★



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
Río Vista, CA 94571-5148



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

2026 COMING EVENTS

Aug 31-Sept 07	Labor Day Weekend - Van Damme
Sept 05	No License Fishing Day
Sept 09	Business Meeting
Sept 12	Second Saturday SCUBA
Sept 16	🐡 General Meeting
Sept 19	Calif & Intl Coastal Cleanup Day
Oct 07	Business Meeting
Oct 10	Second Saturday SCUBA
Oct 14-18	Hood Canal, WA Dive Trip
Oct 21	🐡 General Meeting
Nov 01	Pt. Lobos Reservations for Dec 28
Nov 01	Memorial Day Weekend Reservations - (May 24-31, 2027) TBD
Nov 04	Business Meeting
Nov 14	Second Saturday SCUBA
Nov 18	🐡 General Meeting - Nominations for Office
Nov 28	After Thanksgiving 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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