VOLUME 61 SKIN DIVING CLUB NUMBER 11
NEWSLETTER
San Jose Flipper Dippers
ESTABLISHED 1964
NOVEMBER 2026
GENERAL MEETINGS HELD 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
WWW.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM

October Dive Report

Rescheduled October 10th S3 Dive

Grace Chi



Barbara, Grace, Sim, Howard, Donovan

Due to a rough forecast, the October S3 dive was pushed to October 17. Dippers ***Howard Timoney***, ***Sim Upadhyayula***, ***Donovan Hill***, ***Barbara Davis***, and **Grace Chi** met at South Monastery. Barbara hung out on land and graciously volunteered to be the keyholder.

For the first dive, we swam out to the kelp bed dropped down then meandered among it. Visibility varied throughout the dive, from average to above average. Hermit crabs and fish fry/hatchlings were abundant. Rockfishes weren't around much but the ones we saw were a decent size, which is the norm for this area.

Temperature was a near tropical 64 degree average for the dive. It was so warm the wetsuit divers had no problems going for a second dive. We dropped near the kelp and went in a somewhat straight line. Conditions and sightings were similar to the first dive. Thanks to Howard spotting a huge moon snail earlier in the month, I had my eyes peeled for another one on the sand. I did see a whelk. It was a gorgeous day overall. After the dives we had a good lunch at Taqueria Zarape. ✪



Grace watches Howard, left, and Donnovan do the 'Monastery Crawl.'



Mike, Jeff, Les and John enjoy diving at Hood Canal

Dippers Dive Flagpole, Hood Canal, WA

After considerable interest expressed by members, the Dippers scheduled a trip to visit the diver retreat and marine preserve at Flagpole, Hood Canal, in Washington State, October 13-18. The trip was organized by ***Mike Chalup***, who has been a enthusiastic frequent visitor to Flagpole since relocating to Eugene, OR in 2023. Mike was joined on the trip by Club members ***Jeffrey Rowland***, ***Les Addison***, and perspective member ***John Wetherell***. ***Ed Capelle***, a Eugene diver who often coordinates trips to Flagpole was also along with the group.

Located along the Olympic Peninsula, Hood Canal is actually a narrow, 68-mile long fiord that branches off Puget Sound. Shielded from ocean swell, Hood Canal provides a protected environment for a wide range of macroalgae, invertebrate, and vertebrate life. When visiting Flagpole, you normally stay in what can be best described as a beautiful diver-theme B & B with a backyard beach at the dive site. Owned by Mark Fischer, his home can host up to nine divers, providing sleeping accommodations. cooking facilities, air fills, and SCUBA gear drying and storage areas.

Diving is as easy as grabbing a full tank at the fill station, putting on your drysuit/wetsuit on the covered patio or drying room, donning your weights and tank on the seawall, and walking into the water. Mark (a former dive shop owner) is a wonderful host, making overnight stays and multiple dives per day at Flagpole both comfortable and convenient.

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President's Corner



Greetings Divers

Once again, the end of the year seems to be approaching with amazing speed! Where has this year gone? Soon we'll be dealing with all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season but let's keep diving too!

In October, the Dippers got in some great local dives, with very calm conditions at South Monastery beach, followed by the usual tasty lunches to swap dive stories. And a big THANK YOU to ***Mike Chalup*** for organizing the Dipper trip to Hood Canal! See the article on the front page for the great dive report!

Looking ahead this month, we'll be making reservations for our annual end-of-the year Point Lobos Dive and for our Memorial Day weekend campout. Stay tuned!

At the November General Meeting we will be accepting Nominations for our 2027 Club Officers so start thinking about who you'd like to nominate. And if YOU get nominated, please run. The Club can always use new officers with new thoughts and ideas on making our Club run better. See page 3 for a description of the duties associated with each position.

If you haven't paid your club dues yet, you have until November 30th to pay without a late fee. And remember to complete and sign the annual Assumption of Risk Agreement form which can be ofund on the Club's website: (sjflipperdippers.com/sjfd.assumption.of.risk.pdf).

Let's go diving! – Barbara

Sunflower Sea Stars in Monterey Bay

CenCal Newsletter

MONTEREY, Calif., (October 2026) – For the first time in California, lab-reared sunflower stars are temporarily roaming the ocean floor in Monterey Bay as part of a collaborative research project to inform the restoration of this marine predator. Led by conservation nonprofit Sunflower Star Laboratory (SSL), in partnership with Reef Check Foundation, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California State University - Monterey Bay (CSUMB), Phil Sammet's Underwater Company, and marine operations staff at Hopkins Marine Station, this collaborative research marks numerous advancements in the fight to save the IUCN-listed, critically-endangered sunflower star.



The series of caged and uncaged field studies have revealed striking preliminary results regarding the strong kelp restoration potential of sunflower stars that will help guide the future of their recovery in the state. In this research project, 16 sunflower stars were outplanted into enclosed pods in an urchin barren in Monterey Bay for a month-long dual experiment.

In part one of the experiment, the stars were split into two groups, with half given an unlimited supply of starved urchins (simulating urchins found in barrens), and the other provided unlimited well-fed urchins (simulating urchins found in healthy kelp forests). The stars provided an all-you-can buffet of starved

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San Jose Flipper Dippers

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Club Officers

PRESIDENT
Barbara Davis 408-656-6390

VICE PRESIDENT
Sim Upadhyayula 669-286-9796

SECRETARY
Grace Chi 858-337-2674

TREASURER
Tom Gardner 408-274-9447

SERGEANT AT ARMS
Howard Chien 408-410-0325

Club Committees

AWARDS AND FINES
o Position Open o

MEMBERSHIP
Ken Agur 408-242-3779

NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE
Carl Tuttle 408-829-3660
email tutcomms@sbcglobal.net

PHOTOGRAPHY
Mike Chalup 408-744-1868

RAFFLE
o Position Open o

REFRESHMENTS
o Position Open o

STAR ACHIEVEMENT
Jackie Gardner 408-274-9447

TROPHY COMPETITION
o Position Open o

NOMINATIONS FOR 2027 CLUB OFFICERS

HOW ABOUT YOU?



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

Duties of our Club Officers are as follows:

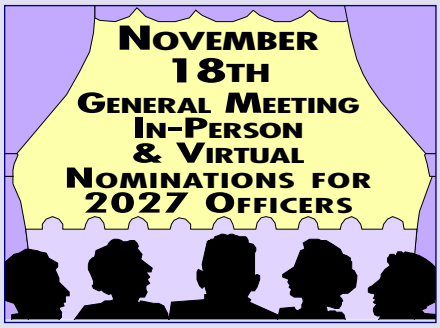
PRESIDENT: Has overall responsibility for the club's success. Presides at all general, business and special meetings and appoints standing committees for the year and special committees as seen fit. Also includes writing a monthly *President's Corner* for the newsletter.

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

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

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

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



We'll be having our in-person General Meeting this month and holding **Nominations for 2027 Club Officers**. If you come, please bring a refreshment to share! We'll have the live Microsoft Teams connection to communicate with those who meet virtually. ✪

Raffle News

We're back again this month for our in-person General Meeting. More folks are showing up and having fun!

We're planning to have our **BIG Christmas General Meeting in December** *including a raffle* –– with all those treasures you've safely stored. So stay tuned for further updates as we get closer to the holidays! ✪

Membership

Ken Agur

We're a dive club and we're diving! If you're looking for a dive buddy look no further than the San Jose Flipper Dippers!

See the Club's website for more information on becoming a member: www.sjflipperdippers.com. (Membership Requirements)

Happy birthday! If we had a regular General Meeting, a FREE raffle ticket would be given to ***Tom Gardner, Cedric Wright,*** and ***John Snyder*** joining a number of Dippers who were lucky to complete a trip around the Sun in only 8,544 hours (More or less). ✪

CLUB DUES DUE in October

It's October again and time to pay your **annual dues**. Dues help cover a portion of the yearly room rental, website hosting, domain name registration, and newsletter printing and distribution. Each member will also be asked to sign an *"Assumption of Risk Agreement"* when dues are paid (the form is available on the Club's Website). If you can't make the in-person General Meeting please send a signed copy with your dues in the mail to: **Tom Gardner**, 2986 Everdale Court, San Jose, CA 95148. Contact Tom if you want to pay your dues in cash.

Club Dues this year are $50.00 and **$10.00** per year to receive this Newsletter via the U.S. Postal Service. Or you can download it FREE each month from the Club's Website – in full color!

A summary of our annual dues is as follows:

CLUB DUES	$ 50.00
Newsletter (U.S. Mail)	10.00
Total	$ 60.00

CenCal (Central California Council of Diving Clubs) dues are **$15.00** and USofA (Underwater Society of America) dues are **$30.00**. These optional dues support the many efforts of CenCal (Pay online at: www.cencal.org) and USofA (Pay online at: www.underwater-society.org) on behalf of all divers in the areas of beach access along with conservation and state and national legislation. These two organizations form an effective method for presenting the divers' interests state-wide and nationally.

CEN CAL	$15.00
USofA	$30.00

Remember, associate member (non-diving spouses of Dippers) dues are **$5.00**. Associate members may attend Dipper functions at member prices, but have no voting privileges. Also, dues must be paid by November 30th or you will incur a late fee of $5.00. **SO DON'T DELAY!** ✪

Hood Canal continued from page 1



The Dippers managed to do up to eight dives each during their visit, timed to coincident with periods of low tidal currents. Water temperature was a surprisingly high 54 degrees F with underwater visibility out to 30 foot plus. The weather was best described as spectacularly good for October, with mostly clear and sunny days.

The nearshore bottom and shallower reefs were covered by large plumose anemone (Metridium) of different colors and hosted a variety of fish and small invertebrates. On dives to the deeper Knuckle bottom structure, Giant Pacific Octopus (GPO) were spotted in their dens. Unfortunately, even with Ed's renowned 'Octopus Whisperer' techniques, the GPOs weren't interested in coming out of the rocks to reveal their full bodies and size. Several large wolf eels were encountered along with many hovering rockfish. The Knuckle is a dramatic and beautiful spot and well worth repeat visits.


The GPO didn't want to come out and play.

Between dives and at the end of each day the Dippers prepared food to eat, relaxed, and like all divers swapped many stories about diving. On Saturday night the group cooked a shared meal. We even managed to have dinner one night at a Mexican restaurant in nearby Hoodsport.



Although every trip has some hiccups with equipment or logistics, overall everyone got plenty of opportunities to experience one of the finest spots for Pacific Northwest diving. We started to talk about a second trip for the Flipper Dippers up to Flagpole next year. Stayed tuned for further developments! ✪

Sunflower Sea Star continued from page 1

urchins consumed significantly more prey as stars feeding on healthy urchins, while still gaining over 50% body mass on average during the thirty day study.

Coupled with previous research showing sunflower stars don't differentiate between healthy and starved urchins when feeding, these results highlight the powerful potential of reintroduced sunflower stars to convert barren environments back into kelp forests through predation.

Concurrently, in part two of the experiment, the researchers conducted surveys of the communities of marine organisms surrounding the star-filled cages to investigate the 'landscape of fear' sunflower stars create as their scent wafts along the ocean floor. Within three feet of the cages, 99% of the adult urchins crawled away in fear after smelling the stars, with the impact extending several meters away. This fear halo persisted for weeks after the removal of the caged stars, demonstrating that reintroduced stars can also intensely suppress urchins in California through their presence alone. Together, the dual components of this experiment offer the clearest evidence yet of the transformational power of sunflower stars to effectuate kelp forest recovery.

Following the caged component of the project, SSL and collaborators conducted 18 temporary uncaged releases of 2.5 year old sunflower stars on the ocean floor to test release and monitoring methods, diver coordination, and behavioral survey protocols. This landmark study represents the first known instance of sunflower stars roaming free in Monterey Bay since 2018, and the first time lab-reared stars have been temporarily released into California nearshore ecosystems. Divers chaperoned each sunflower star during their uncaged 'walkabouts' in camp ocean, swapping out every thirty minutes to ensure continuous supervision of the wild excursions, which lasted up to two hours in duration.

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Where are we diving on the next trip?

Peter Radsliff

I'm a new member of the San Jose Flipper Dippers having most recently been diving with some of the Dippers in Cayman this past June. I had such a great time, naturally I asked, "When is the next tropical Dippers trip?" I was told there wasn't a plan as of yet, so I asked the board members whether I could poll the membership (and prospective members) with a survey to find out who is interested, and where they might want to go.

THE SURVEY

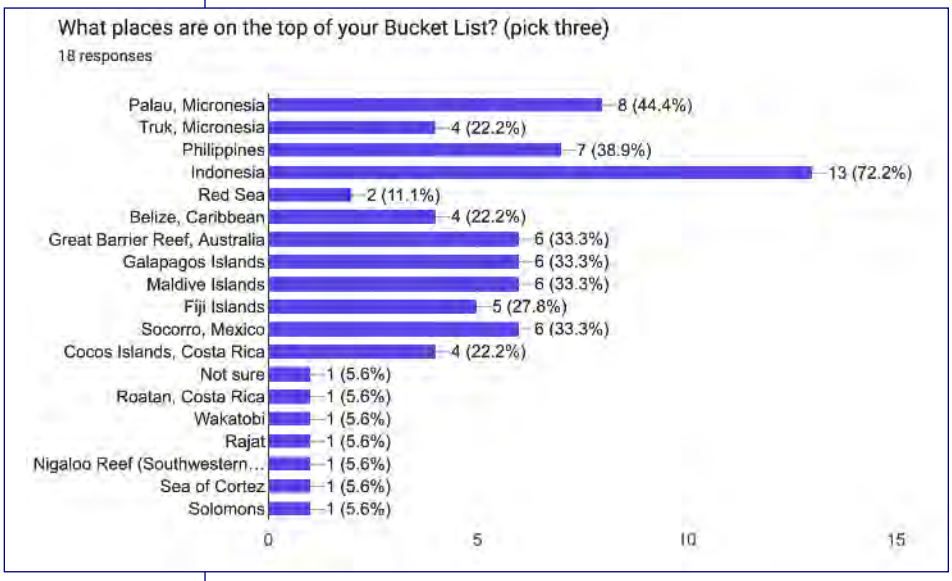
The goal of this 14 question survey was to determine the preferences for International Dive Trips of San Jose Flipper Dippers members. I sent individual invitations via email to the 53 email addresses. By the deadline September 30th, there were 19 responses which represents a 36% response rate (the benchmark response rate for consumer surveys across all industries is 10 to 20 percent). Here are the results.

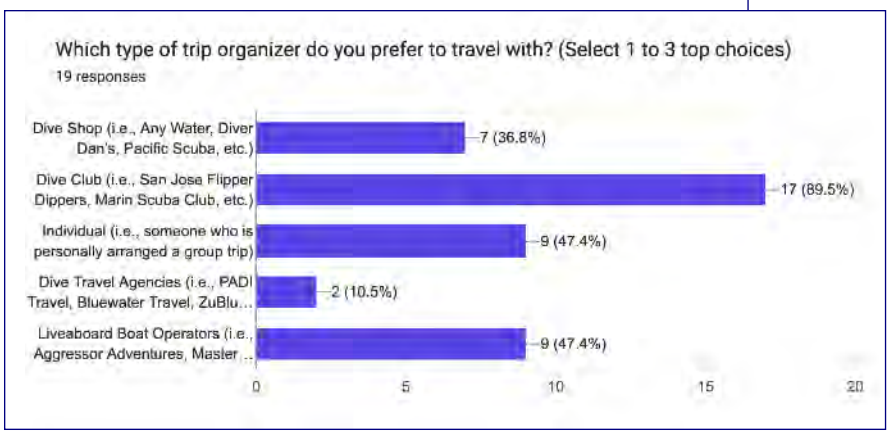
- Importance of Wrecks = 63% don't care
- Importance of Walls = 74% care
- Want 4-5 dives per day = 63%
- Preference for Liveaboard vs. Shore-Based = 63% say it depends on the trip
- Liveaboard type = 90% say "no preference" or "it depends on the trip" (0% prefer diving from smaller tender boats)
- Time of year preference = evenly split between "best conditions" "available vacation" "no preference" or "depends on trip" (only 5% chose "best pricing")
- Nitrox availability = 90% say "extremely important" or "preferred"
- Desire for "true abundance" of reef creatures = 95% say "extremely important" or "preferred"
- Desire for "exotic sea creatures" = 84% say "extremely important" or "preferred"
- Desire for "Luxury accommodations" = evenly split between "important" "preferred" "ambivalent" & "not important" (only 5% say "extremely important")
- Top three "Bucket List" destinations = 72% Indonesia, 44% Palau, 40% Philippines
- All inclusive "rough budget" including airfare = Big fall off over $5,500 — 68% okay with $3,500-$4,500 & 58% okay with $5,500
- Top three preferred trip organizers = 1) 90% Dive Club, 2) 47% Individual, & 3) Liveaboard Operator

Final Question — "*requests for consideration*":

- Level of difficulty
- Land-based activities (i.e. see the Pyramids)
- No bunk beds
- For divers who are not very active
- Personal safety (especially for LGBTQ+)
- Food
- Trouble with liveaboards for health reasons
- Channel island/Catalina trips
- Boat safety (i.e. MV Conception)
- Camera gear

✪ ✪ ✪ ✪ ✪





Ed Note: So, where does the Club go from here? Pulling together any dive trip is a bit of a challenge. But if you look at the survey results there are a number of options available. In the past some Dippers signed up thru local shops and the trip was announced in the Club's Newsletter and via email: "Who want's to join in?"

Other Dippers took the lead in organizing the trip – not for the faint of heart! But with determination it can be done. And over the past number of years these trips turn out to be big fun!

So, how about you? What's on your bucket list? Check out options and discuss with your fellow divers. You might find a number of them would jump at the chance to join in including those who have been to the location and are willing for a repeat dive adventure. The trip can be promoted in this Newsletter to get more divers interested in joining in! ✪

If you would like to see a copy of the survey results contact Peter Radsliff: email: pradsliff@mac.com

What happens when a ray can generate up to 220 volts and 30 amps of electricity?

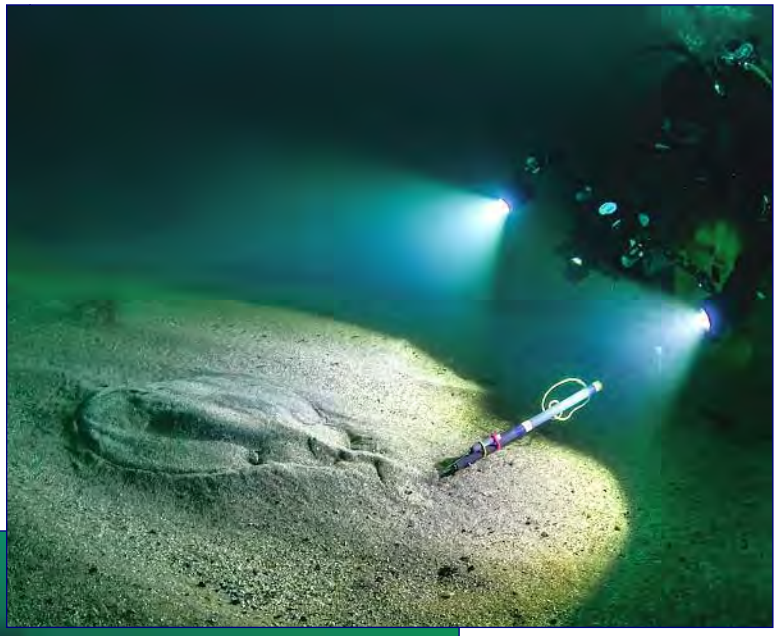
Divers Alert Network

Found in temperate and tropical waters around the world (and increasingly in inshore areas of the North Atlantic), torpedo rays are among the ocean's most enigmatic predators. These heavily camouflaged bottom dwellers use electrogenic organs to hunt prey and defend themselves.

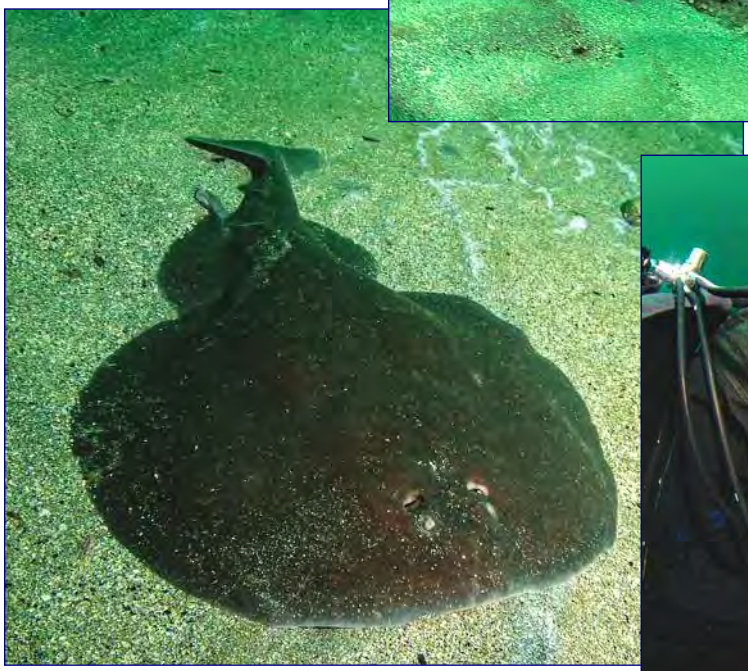
Often buried in sand or resting on the seafloor, they can react quickly when disturbed, delivering powerful shocks capable of incapacitating fish and, in rare cases, injuring divers.

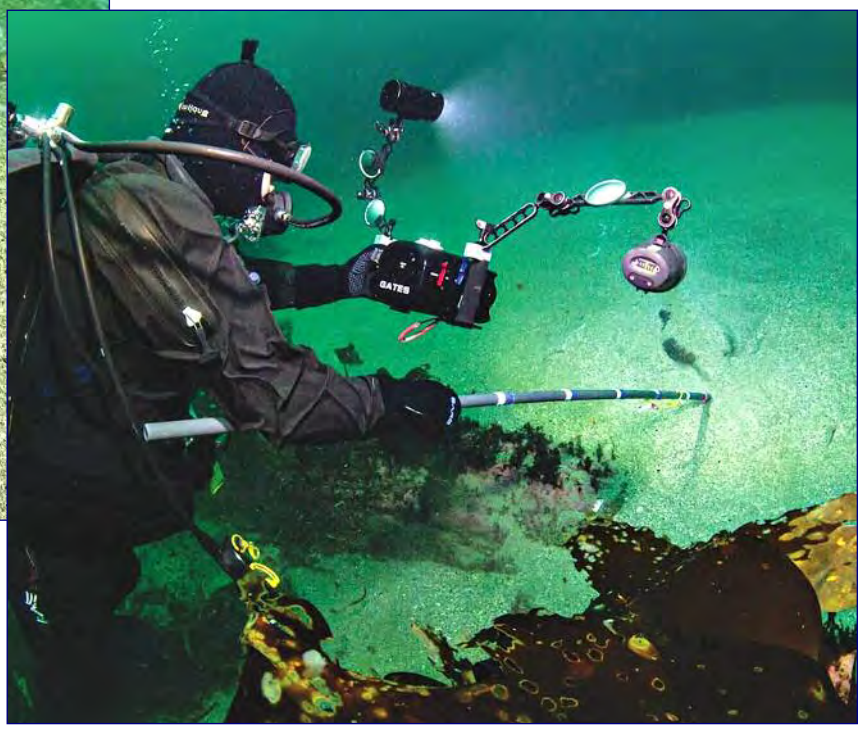
Because they can be difficult to spot, accidental contact is one of the biggest risks. Good buoyancy control, situational awareness, avoiding unnecessary interaction, and maintaining a respectful distance can help prevent dangerous encounters.

Read the full story in Alert Diver: dan.org/torpedo-rays/ ✪









SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1
PT. LOBOS RESERVATIONS FOR DECEMBER 28 DIVE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 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 NOVEMBER 14
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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21
NO SCHEDULED DIVE

GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOV 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 62 Years of the San Jose Flipper Dippers!
Entertainment:
- **Social Hour**
- **Sign-ups for Monthly Dives**

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24
RESERVATIONS FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND – May 24-31, 2027 The Club is planning on camping at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. Get online at ReserveCalifornia.net and make your reservation.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26
THANKSGIVING DAY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28
AFTER THANKSGIVING SCUBA BEACH DIVE LOCATION TBD
Join the Flipper Dippers for this after Thanksgiving beach dive. ***We're looking for a coordinator.*** Contact ***Sim Upadhyayula*** if you'd like to lead this dive. 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.

UPCOMING IN DECEMBER
02 Business Meeting
12 Second Saturday SCUBA
16 General Meeting
- **o Election for 2027 Officers**
- **o Big Christmas Raffle**

28 Pt. Lobos Dive

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Don't Waste Your Money
Undercurrent

The government of Turkiye announced that it wants to turn sunken WWI ships into a diver's mecca, but the question is, "What Ships?" Our senior editor, John Bantin, says, "I went to dive the wrecks of Gallipoli and wrote an article for Diver Magazine entitled The Second Gallipoli Disaster when the divers in the group mutinied. It was because the wrecks were all salvaged long ago, and they dived what was merely indentations in the seabed where the wrecks had been -- and a landing craft that turned out to be nothing more than a large rowing boat! ✪

Rumble in The Underwater Jungle
Undercurrent

A confrontation between two groups of divers 100 feet deep at a dive site of Koror, Palau, on October 9 resulted in a popular Taiwanese musician, Song Jianzhang, and his guide being assaulted by another guide, identified only as Romeo. The musician said the guide struck him and tried to remove his mask. His own dive guide intervened, but Romeo turned on him, pulling at his mask and fins and interfering with his regulator, and he lost his computer. But Romeo said the group approached his divers who had secured with reef hooks and ignored signals to move away. He says Patwary pushed and head-butted him first. Jianzhang subsequently shared footage of the encounter on social media and reported the incident to police. ✪

A Tale of a Tail
Undercurrent


Photographer: Ken Kurtis

Tails come in pretty handy. So much so that many vertebrates, the thresher shark included, use them rather like an extra hand: they can be held out for balance, thrust side to side to swim, wagged or waved to send messages, or deployed as fly whisks, rudders, drumsticks, or whips. The thresher, with the longest tail of any animal, up to ten feet long, has another use, often tail-slapping their prey. One of the best places to dive with them is Malapascua in the Philippines. ✪

☛ **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
Rio Vista, CA 94571-5148

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62 Years 1964 - 2026

FIRST CLASS MAIL

2026 Coming Events

Nov 01	**Pt. Lobos Reservations for Dec 28**
Nov 04	**Business Meeting**
Nov 14	**Second Saturday SCUBA**
Nov 18	**☛ General Meeting – Nominations for 2027 Club Office**
Nov 24	**Memorial Day Weekend Reservations – (May 24-31, 2027) Henry Cowell**
Nov 28	**After Thanksgiving SCUBA Dive**
Dec 02	**Business Meeting**
Dec 12	**Second Saturday SCUBA**
Dec 16	**☛ General Meeting: Election of 2027 Club Officers & Christmas Raffle**
Dec 28	**SCUBA Dive Pt. Lobos**

2027

Jan 06	**Business Meeting**
Jan 09	**Second Saturday SCUBA**
Jan 20	**☛ General Meeting**
Jan 27	**Annual Planning Meeting**

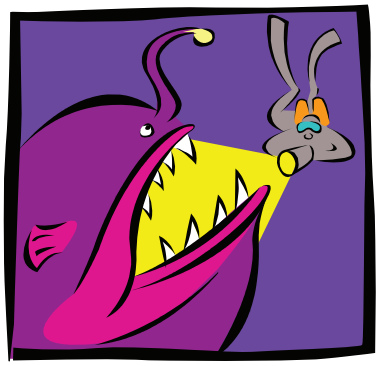
Watch This Space – Much More To Come!

See the Club's Website for the full Calendar

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!**

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