

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

JANUARY 2023

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

New Board takes over for 2023

Congratulations to our new 2023 Board! Above from top right:

- Barbara Davis (Pres.), Andrew Grice (Vice Pres.), Tom Gardner (Treas.), Grace Chi (Sec.) and Howard Chien (Sgt.-at-Arms).



We're sure our Club officers will be organizing a great year of diving and other activities that everyone will enjoy. Join in on the virtual Planning Meeting on January 25 or sign up to lead a dive or activity! ☆



Nope, not gonna dive today . . .

The Flipper Dippers' scheduled Pt. Lobos dive for Wednesday, December 28, was canceled due to unsafe conditions. After monitoring the National Weather Service, the Monterey Bay NOAA Buoy and online postings by the Coastal Data Information Program (CDIP) coordinator Carl Tuttle sent out an email to the Club canceling the dive. A large storm was generating 25-foot swells that were headed towards the coast! Unfortunately reservations for diving are non-refundable unless the whole park is closed. But as his wife, Leigh, told him, "It's better to loose the \$25 than loose your life!" As you can see in the photo above, a screen capture on that Wednesday from the park's webcam, it was the right call to make. In the background of the photo you can see the waves breaking on the beach at Carmel River State Beach. Safety First! Another day, another dive. ☆

How about some dive reports?

November Third Saturday Scuba (TSS) - North Monastery Beach

Barbara Davis

We had a pretty good storm come through so we had to reschedule our usual S3 dive to the following Saturday. Conditions had definitely calmed down by then, so Dippers Grace Chi, Barbara Davis, Tom Gardner and Andrew Grice decided to head for North Monastery Beach on Saturday, November 17th. We were joined by a new prospective member, Manuel Jimenez.

We made our entry to the left of the main rocks on the beach. The recent

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



**H**appy New Year! We had a great hybrid General Meeting on December 21st! We had an abundance of yummy goodies, a great raffle, and several new guests who joined in! We also elected our 2023 Club Officers.

As the new board takes over this month, I want to thank outgoing Vice President **Tom Gardner** and outgoing Treasurer **Jackie Gardner** for serving the Dippers so well during their terms. Also happy to welcome Tom back as our Treasurer and say thanks to

returning Secretary **Grace Chi** and returning Sergeant-at-Arms **Howard Chien**. Joining us this year as our new Vice President is **Andrew Grice**. Andrew only joined the Dippers this year, but he's been a very active diver and we're happy to have him planning our club dives this year.

We've often heard that our best local diving is in the fall and winter between storms and recent conditions have certainly reflected that. Check out the articles on our recent dives and you'll see what I mean.

So I'm looking forward to more great diving in 2023! Let's make sure our gear and ourselves stay in great shape and let's continue our club's great safety record. We look after ourselves and our buddies and we take the time to mentor our new and prospective members.

On Wednesday, January 25th, we have our virtual Annual Planning Meeting to plan the Club's calendar for the coming year. Everyone is encouraged to join in and share their ideas for dives and other Club events. All new and continuing officers and committee heads should plan to attend.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming meetings and events in 2023!

Everyone keep safe and let's go diving!

– **Barbara**



## San Jose Flipper Dippers

[www.SJFlipperDippers.com](http://www.SJFlipperDippers.com)

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CLUB OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Barbara Davis 408-656-6390

### VICE PRESIDENT

Tom Gardner 408-274-9447

### SECRETARY

Grace Chi 858-337-2674

### TREASURER

Jackie 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](mailto:tutcomms@sbcglobal.net)

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Mike Chalup 408-744-1868

### RAFFLE

Leigh Hartley Tuttle 408-829-3660

email [tutcomms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tutcomms@sbcglobal.net)

### REFRESHMENTS

o Position Open o

### STAR ACHIEVEMENT

Jackie Gardner 408-274-9447

### TROPHY COMPETITION

John Snyder 408-378-4963

## Annual Club Planning Meeting

**O**ur annual Club Planning Meeting for 2023 has been scheduled for a virtual meeting on **Wednesday, January 25**, at 7:30 PM.

This is where the decisions are made on dates for major Club events and activities, and the master calendar for the year is set. **All new 2023 Club officers AND committee heads should plan to attend.**

Any members interested in being involved in planning Club dives and activities are encouraged to join us. Everyone please enjoy your appetizer-type dish along with something to drink.

The meeting will be held virtually and will begin promptly at 7:30pm. Email Carl Tuttle ([tutcomms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tutcomms@sbcglobal.net)) for the Skype link to the meeting, if you need it, and a copy of the preliminary calendar. The final calendar will be posted on the Club's Website. ★

## A Walk on the Wild Side

**A**fter a hurricane, lobsters in Florida seem to march together on the ocean floor. While nobody knows why, the march has become a problem for the lobsters, when they are walking in the open. Snorkelers who spot them can quickly use a net or snare to capture their daily limit of six bugs. So, when the march is on, Florida's wildlife officers are on the water and on beaches to ensure people are not bringing in bags full of lobster and that they have the required saltwater fishing license and a spiny lobster permit. ★





We'll be having our in-person General Meeting. Be sure to join in to hear the **Presentation on a trip to Cuba** by **Jim Rezowalli**, which was postponed from the December meeting. If you can't make the meeting in-person, we'll attempt to work out the technical challenge to show the presentation virtually as well. ☆

### RAFFLE NEWS

We had a great turnout for the December General Meeting, both

in-person and virtually, meeting, were able to hold our Annual Christmas Raffle and share some wine and goodies. The Christmas tree showed up with the 3 envelopes containing cash! Making it challenging none of the envelopes were marked with how much cash was inside. The \$50 envelope was scored by **Chris Morris**, **Strata Chalup** found the \$30 envelope and **Ophelia Drake** took home the \$20 envelope.

Lots of interesting items were brought to the raffle along with an abundance of snacks, great food and liquid libations. BIG FUN! ☆

### 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). We'd love for you to join us!

**Happy Birthday New Year Babies!** Someone was doing the Hokey Pokey during the month of August so **Manuel Mangrobang** and **Dennis Nasont** are this month's birthday winners. ☆



## STAR ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM AWARD REQUIREMENTS

*Jackie Gardner*

Ever notice some Club members with Gold Stars on the back of their jackets? Here's how to get yours! These achievements may be accomplished and recorded in any order. Stars will be awarded in numerical order upon completion of all previous requirements. It is the Club member's responsibility to make sure these accomplishments are recorded with the Star Achievement Program Chairperson. Chances are, you already qualify for your first or second 'Star' and don't know it. Review the list below – and you're on your way! Then contact **Jackie Gardner**, phone: 408-274-9447, email: [tomandjackieus@yahoo.com](mailto:tomandjackieus@yahoo.com), and start your collection stars.

#### 1st STAR AWARD ☆

1. Show SCUBA certification from a nationally recognized certification agency.
2. Log ten (10) dives with the Club.
3. Dive to 60 feet in the ocean on a Club dive.

#### 2nd STAR AWARD ☆ ☆

1. Log 20 total dives (not necessarily Club dives).
2. Have current CPR AND First Aid certification.
3. Coordinate two (2) scheduled Club dives.
4. Assist at two (2) scheduled Club activities.
5. Prove ability to use a compass by showing proof of: a) Navigation Specialty, OR b) Advanced Diver certification.

#### 3rd STAR AWARD ☆ ☆ ☆

1. Obtain a Scuba Rescue course certification from a nationally recognized certification agency.
2. Complete one (1) year as an active skin and SCUBA diver AND Club member.
3. Complete at least one (1) of the following: a) assist at four (4) club activities, b) coordinate four (4) scheduled Club dives, OR c) dive with four (4) prospective Club members.
4. Have current CPR AND First Aid certification.
5. Show certification of one (1) of the following courses: a) O2 Provider, b) Nitrox, OR c) Advanced Diver.

#### 4th STAR AWARD ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

1. Complete two (2) years as an active skin and SCUBA diver AND Club member.
2. Log at least two (2) night dives.
3. Serve as a Club Committee Chair, OR participate in at least two (2) different ocean/dive-related public services.
4. Have current CPR, First Aid AND Scuba Rescue certification.
5. Coordinate the following scheduled Club dives: a) one (1) boat dive, b) ~~one (1) abalone dive~~, AND c) one (1) night dive.
6. Dive with at least six (6) prospective Club members.

#### 5th STAR AWARD ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

1. Successfully complete all previous requirements.
2. Complete three (3) years as an active skin and SCUBA diver AND Club member.
3. Have current CPR, First Aid AND Scuba Rescue certification.
4. Be a nationally certified: a) SCUBA Instructor, b) Assistant Instructor, c) Dive Master, d) Master Scuba Diver, OR e) serve one (1) year as a Club Officer.



Tom, Manuel, Grace, Barbara and Andrew

storm had reduced the kelp canopy so it was a bit easier to swim out towards the wash rock. After we descended, we were amazed at the great visibility! Up to 50 feet in some areas! Other divers had reported seeing a soupfin shark here recently and Grace did catch a glimpse of a shark swimming away at the beginning of the dive. There were schools of blue rockfish hanging out in the kelp and we spotted many different types of nudibranchs. On this dive, we reached a max depth of 73 feet during our 50-minute dive.

Our second dive was very similar to the first. Max depth of 62 feet for 54 minutes.

After our dives we enjoyed a delicious lunch at Sea Harvest restaurant at the Crossroads shopping center. All in all, an excellent day of diving. ★

### More November Diving

The Giant Kelp Restoration Project (G2KR) had also planned two dives on the second weekend in November but they also postponed it for a week. Dipper **Barbara Davis** went out again on Sunday, November 18th with this group. Again, we were amazed at the great visibility when we looked upward to marvel at the kelp forest! We didn't see too many fish on these dives but we were able to cull many urchins among the nudibranchs, snails, crabs and other critters in the area. We are getting better at identifying urchin habitat to focus our culling efforts.

That Sunday evening was also another meetup of the Local Divers Social group, and Barbara was able to attend. After hearing the reports of the great conditions and visibility, some of the other divers were planning to dive North Monastery Beach on Monday, November 19th, so Barbara decided to join them for another day of diving.

We only did one dive, but it was absolutely incredible! It was so calm we were able to float around the wash rock in less than 20 feet of water to observe the remarkable amount of life there. I saw six big lingcod, each one larger than the last one. And near the end of the dive, we saw a leopard shark in the sand.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Club Pt. Lobos dive on December 28th, and we're currently experiencing a second week of rain, but my fingers are crossed for some more great conditions once this storm passes. ★

## Doomed humpback whale with a broken spine travels 3,000 miles

Natalie Neysa Alund – USA TODAY

In "considerable pain," a determined humpback whale tracked by researchers for more than a decade, recently finished swimming more than 3,000 miles from Canada to Hawaii – all with a broken spine. Moon, a lone humpback whale, traveled from British Columbia to Maui with a severe spinal injury from a vessel strike, according to a post the nonprofit research group BC Whales shared on Facebook. The whale was spotted in waters near the Hawaiian island Dec. 1. She was immediately identified because of her contorted body which researchers said is due to it being struck by a vessel.

Every September for the past decade, researchers at Fin Island research station in Gitga'at First Nations territory spotted Moon in the coastal waters to feed on krill. In 2020, researchers said they were elated when she appeared with a calf, passing on the tradition of migrating between feeding and breeding grounds to her offspring. But in September, researchers noticed something different. "The harrowing images of her twisted body stirred us all," BC Whales posted Thursday on Facebook. "She was likely in considerable pain yet she migrated thousands of miles without being able to propel herself with her tail."

The whale's journey left her emaciated and covered in whale lice as a testament to her severely depreciated condition, researchers said. "This is the stark reality of a vessel strike, and it speaks to the extended suffering that whales can endure afterwards," they wrote. "It also speaks to their instinct and culture: the lengths whales will go to follow patterns of behavior."



Janie Wray, the CEO and lead researcher for BC Whales, told The Guardian that Moon's injury meant the whale had to swim differently to finish her journey. "Without the use of her tail, she was literally doing the breaststroke to make that migration. It's absolutely amazing," she told the outlet. "But it also just breaks your heart." Attempts to euthanize Moon, Wray said, would require "a cocktail of toxic substances" and risk poisoning the marine life that would feed off her remains. "If she was on land, we could intervene," Wray told the outlet. "But because she's in the ocean, and because of her size, there is nothing that we can do. And that just breaks your heart even further into pieces."

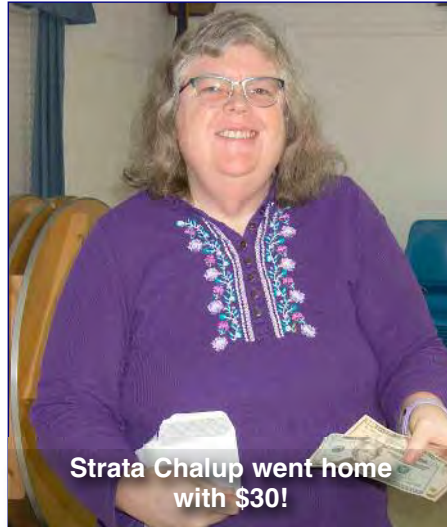
According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, marine animals can be difficult for a vessel operator to see because they are not always visible from the surface. Even if the operator sees the animal clearly, there may be no time for either of them to avoid a collision. Endangered North Atlantic right whales are especially vulnerable to vessel strikes because their habitat and migration routes are close to major ports and often overlap with shipping lanes, the administration said.

Researchers said that Moon's current condition will not allow her to survive the return to Canada. "Tenacity & Tragedy. Moon ... will not make it back," they said. "We will never truly understand the strength it took for Moon to take on what is regrettably her last journey, but it is on us to respect such tenacity within another species and recognize that vessel strikes lead to a devastating end." ★

**Big Christmas General Meeting Raffle - What a Bunch of Winners!** Photos by Mike Chalup



**Chris Morris score the \$50 Cash!**



**Strata Chalup went home with \$30!**



**Ophelia Drake is \$20 richer!**



# These 3 Bizarre Sea Creatures Have Scientists Stumped

Amanda Kooser – CNET

I love a good ocean mystery, from a bizarre “yellow brick road” in the Pacific to “blue goo” in the Atlantic. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s ocean specialists are revisiting some of the strangest things they’ve seen under the waves. They’re still puzzling over three mysterious sightings.

NOAA Ocean Exploration delivered a bouquet of three sea enigmas in a tweet. “Our ocean covers 70% of Earth’s surface – yet we’ve explored just a small fraction of what lies beneath,” the organization wrote. “So no shock that we often encounter things that stump even the most seasoned scientists.”

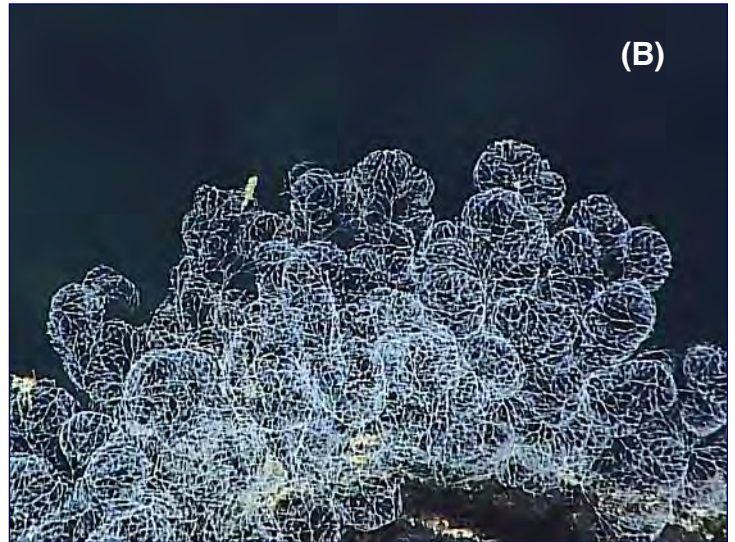
The images come from past expeditions. NOAA operates the Okeanos Explorer, a research vessel equipped to survey the ocean deep with a remote-operated vehicle.

The first image (A) shows red bubblegum coral with a “strange green filamentous organism” attached to it. The organism looks like spaghetti and was found at 1,706 feet



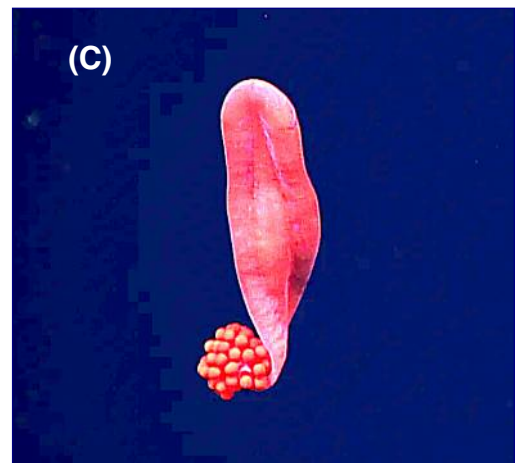
(520 meters) down in the Pacific. Plants aren’t usually found at that depth thanks to a lack of light. The science team speculated it might be a type of sponge or possibly algae that got snagged on the coral.

Next up (B) is a group of spherical “strange feathery, wispy things” that look like they’re all in a pile. The odd sighting came at a depth of 9,022 feet (2,750 meters) along



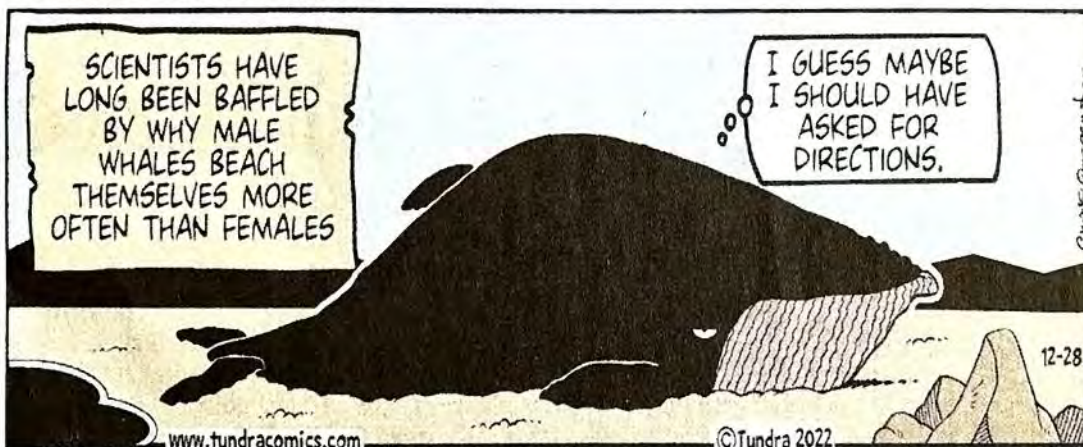
the Fina Nagu volcanic chain in the Pacific. Like with the sea spaghetti, researchers speculated on what it might be. Perhaps it was colonies of hydroids or bryozoans -- both are types of marine invertebrates.

The last mystery critter is a real looker (C). It’s a bright red worm-like thing with a bundle of red spheres attached to it. It was also spotted in the Pacific, not far from Johnston Atoll southwest of Hawaii. NOAA described it as a USO (unidentified swimming organism).



This gallery of ocean oddballs is a reminder of how much we still have to learn about our watery world. It’s a frontier every bit as exciting as space exploration. Plus, we know there’s life down there, we just don’t always know what it is.. 🌟

## TUNDRA Chad Carpenter



# DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

TOM GARDNER

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JANUARY 2023

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1  
HAPPY NEW DIVE YEAR!**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4  
BUSINESS MEETING**

The meeting will be held **virtually via Skype**. All members are invited to attend. Please email **Carl Tuttle** if you need the link to join. Bring your own food, drinks, and internet connection and we'll discuss ideas for upcoming dives and events.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 7  
NO SCHEDULED DIVE**

**SATURDAY JANUARY 14  
SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3)  
BEACH DIVE: LOCATION TBD**

Join **Barbara Davis**, (408-656-6390, email: bjdscuba123@gmail.com) and the rest of the Flipper Dippers for a beach dive. The plan is for a 2-tank dive. The dive site will be chosen based on surface conditions and the comfort and skill level of the attending divers. Meet at the dive site at 8:00 AM. Please be sure to RSVP with Barbara to receive final details and any last minute updates.

## **GENERAL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JAN 18**

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

The **virtual meeting** will continue to be hosted via Skype.

Please contact **Carl Tuttle** for more details on the in-person meeting or a link to the virtual Skype meeting.

**Celebrate 58 Years of the San Jose Flipper Dippers!**

Entertainment:

- **Social Hour**
- **Presentation on Cuba**



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 21  
NO SCHEDULED DIVE**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25  
ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING**

Annual meeting to plan the Club's calendar for the coming year. Meeting will be held **virtually** via the Skype link used for business and general meetings. You are encouraged to join in and share your ideas for dives and other Club events. All new and continuing officers and committee heads should plan to attend. The meeting will be held virtually and will begin promptly at 7:30pm. Please contact **Carl Tuttle** if you need the link and a copy of the 2023 preliminary calendar

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28  
NO SCHEDULED DIVE**



### **UPCOMING IN FEBRUARY**

- 01 Business Meeting
- 11 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 16 General Meeting



## **Mixed Protocols Are a Recipe for Disaster**

**R**ebreathers are getting more popular daily, but what if you're buddied up with a diver using a closed-circuit rebreather? The protocols for closed-circuit (CCR) and traditional scuba are very different. For example, a CCR diver cannot safely make a fast emergency ascent without causing a potentially fatal drop in the pressure of oxygen he is breathing. So if you need to make an emergency ascent with traditional scuba, you might be on your own. (*Undercurrent*)

**Editor's Note:** When the Dippers were diving in Bonaire last April, **Brian Zaugg** his son **Rolan**, **Teresa Hanson** and **Carl Tuttle** went to the *Invisibles* dive site. When they arrived, there was a commotion on the shore-

line. A family consisting of a father, mother and their son had been diving in the area and the father was missing. The father was diving with a rebreather and the son and his mom were on SCUBA with Nitrox. Towards the end of their dive the mother and son realized the father was not



with them. They went back in the direction they came but were unable to locate him.

People were scanning the surface looking for the father who had now been missing for 35-40 minutes. Brian and Carl were gearing up ready to get in the water to aid in the search when the police arrived on scene. As everyone continued to scan the surface someone shouted, "There he is!" A sigh of relief as the mother ran down to the water . . . to give him a talk-

ing to. So if you're going to dive together, rebreather or scuba, be sure everyone is accounted for, all the way through to end the of the dive. ★

**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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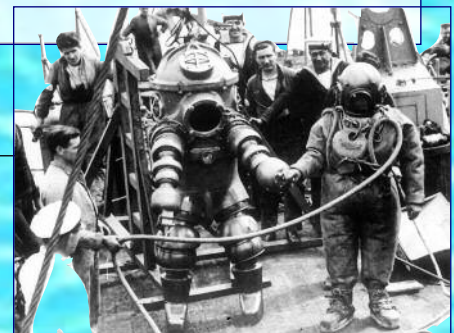
**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

## 2023 COMING EVENTS

Jan 01	Happy New Year!
Jan 04	Business Meeting
Jan 14	Second Saturday SCUBA
Jan 18	🐡 General Meeting
Jan 25	Annual Planning Meeting
Feb 01	Business Meeting
Feb 11	Second Saturday SCUBA
Feb 16	🐡 General Meeting
Mar 01	Business Meeting
Mar 11	Second Saturday SCUBA
Mar 15	🐡 General Meeting

*Are you looking for someone  
to dive with?*

**T**he 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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