

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

JUNE
2023

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD
3RD WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH
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Taylor, Barbara and Sim

Two Dives at Breakwater / San Carlos Beach

Barbara Davis

Dippers *Tristan Chutka, Barbara Davis, Taylor Sullivan*, and brand-new member *Sim Upadhyayula*, enjoyed a beautiful day and 2 dives at the Breakwater on Saturday, May 20th.

For our first dive, both dive teams headed out together along the big pipe to the Metridium fields. Sometimes it's hard to find the right pipe. We found some other pipes, but after a bit of consideration, we decided they weren't big enough, so we kept looking and finally found the right one! We waved hello to the big lingcod who has taken up residence at the end of the pipe, and a nice rockfish too, and headed over to the metridiums.

Viz was pretty good and most of the metridiums were open! We also saw patches of squid eggs, lots of rainbow nudibranch eggs (and finally, a rainbow nudibranch!) We decided to take a 180 degree heading back from the metridiums, which takes you across middle reef and over to the wall. We saw the pipe on our way and also lots of tube anemones and a nice sand rose anemone.

Tristan had to leave early, but Barbara, Taylor and Sim enjoyed a second dive along the wall where we were entertained by a large group of sea lions.

Sim had to head home after the second dive, but Barbara and Taylor walked over to Sea Harvest restaurant for a nice post dive lunch. Our dives ranged from 52 – 54 minutes with max depths of 42 – 46 feet. ★

Dippers' Memorial Day weekend a bust!

The Dippers' Memorial Day weekend included a bike ride on Saturday led by *Jim Rezowalli*. Jim considered changing the rear worn-out tire on his bike, but instead took a chance. Don't ask him if he buys lottery tickets, as the tire blew out the sidewall on the Santa Cruz Wharf! Luckily a bike shop was near by so *Gabi Estill, Carl Tuttle* and *John Snyder* rode over and picked up a new tire and tube. It was a team effort to replace the tire and tube. Fortunately *Cedric Wright* had his bike tools which made for an easy job.



Cedric and Tomomi work on the tire.

Others who were along for the ride included *Abby Wilson, Tom* and *Jackie Gardner*, Jackie's sister *Ginny Matulich, Frances Lee, Howard Chien*, and *Tomomi Yamamoto*.

While the bike ride was underway, *Barbara Davis, Ben Wilson, Tristan Chutka* and *Carri Edger* went

for a hike in Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park Campground – where a number of Dippers were camping. *Grace Chi* stopped by on Friday afternoon to visit the campers but didn't stay overnight.

The bike ride started at the New Leaf Community Market, in Santa Cruz. Under an overcast sky the riders peddled their way along West Cliff Drive and when they arrived at the Municipal Wharf the sun came out. After the tire repair they continued past the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk and up along the San Lorenzo River. At the three-quarter point of the 14-mile ride the group met up with the day hikers at Shanty Shack Brewery for cool drinks and snacks.

Everyone then headed to the campground for a pot-luck dinner and stories around the campfire. See more photos on page 4. ★

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Hi All.

May was a great month for the Dippers, with our S3 dive at Point Lobos on May 13th, a Breakwater Beach dive on May 20th, and the club camping trip to Henry Cowell State Park for Memorial Day weekend. A good time was had by all! Check out the newsletter articles and photos for more about these fun events!

There are many ways we can get involved in projects to support our ocean and our environment. As I've noted before, a number of Dippers have been participating in the Giant Kelp Restoration Project (G2KR). But there are many other ways we can help our oceans! Look for more suggestions on how to get involved in future newsletters.

On May 6th I was able to participate in Snapshot day which is held annually on the first Saturday in May. Trained volunteers from San Mateo County to San Luis Obispo County participate in this Sanctuary-wide volunteer water quality monitoring event designed to increase information and public awareness about water quality issues affecting watersheds that drain to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). More information at:

<https://montereybay.noaa.gov/getinvolved/volunteer/snapshotday.html>

Thursday, June 8th, is **World Ocean Day** (more info at <https://worldoceanday.org/>) and there are plenty of activities to get involved in to celebrate and support our oceans! The theme for World Ocean Day is Planet Ocean: Tides are Changing. And June 16 is **World Sea Turtle Day**. We need to conserve our wonderful marine resources for future generations.

Locally, I plan to attend the Sunflower Star Laboratory World Ocean Day Celebration on Thursday, June 8th, from 4:00 pm-7:00 pm at the Other Brother Beer Co. at 877 Broadway Ave in Seaside. You will be able to learn about our local marine ecosystem and how they are creating the community and skills to restore an endangered species. There will be a storytelling session themed "The World's your Ocean" and will feature local artists, sunflower star information and merchandise.

I look forward to seeing you all in the water soon. Let's go diving!

– Barbara

Creature 'impersonating a shark' off California coast

A creature spotted lurking in the waters off the California coast had wildlife officials doing a double take. In a photo posted on Facebook, the animal can be seen with its head and backfin poking out of the water, "impersonating a shark in Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary," according to the post by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

"Duunnn dun... duunnn dun... wait a second, that's no shark – it's a mola mola," the agency said in the May 16 Facebook post. The massive fish is more commonly referred to as the ocean sunfish, according to NOAA. "These odd creatures get their name from their habit of laying their bodies on the surface of the water to warm themselves by the sun," NOAA said. The species is the heaviest bony fish in the world with some reaching up to 5,000 pounds, according to the Monterey Bay Aquarium. With a huge and flat body, truncated tail, tiny mouth and big eyes, "the ocean sunfish (Mola mola) looks like the invention of a mad scientist," the aquarium said.

They can be found throughout the ocean in "tropical and temperate seas," according to the Australian Museum. "These ocean giants roam the seas in search of their favorite food, jellyfish," according to NOAA. The Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary spans 3,295 square miles from the northern and central California coast, protecting wildlife, habitats and cultural resources, according to NOAA. ★



San Jose Flipper Dippers

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Ken Agur

Congratulations to **Sim Upadhyayula**, left in photo, who completed his membership requirements and was voted into the Club during the May general meeting. A club patch will be mailed to him.

Happy Birthday! . . . Oops! Last month we listed **Barbara Davis** for a birthday in error. She's not that old, yet. May was the birthday month for **Barbara Zwieg**. Now for June, these Dippers are completing their annual trip around the Sun this month: **Jackie Gardner** and **Hunter Reid**. 🌟



We'll be having our in-person General Meeting this month. If you come please bring a refreshment to share – safely! We'll again have a live Skype connection to communicate with those who still prefer to meet virtually. 🌟

Two Dives at North Monastery Beach

Visibility reports had been improving so **Barbara Davis** sent out an email to round up some buddies for a last-minute dive at Carmel River State Beach. Prospective member **Sim Upadhyayula** was up for a dive so we met at Carmel River State Beach on Saturday, April 29th.



We were surprised to see that the topography of the beach had changed quite a bit, no doubt due to recent storms and increased water flow from the Carmel River. Entering the water would require a long hike across to the far end of the beach. Monastery Beach looked flat, so we headed over to South Monastery Beach instead. It was indeed flat, but North Monastery looked really good too, so we parked near the school and headed to the beach to scope out the conditions.

Again, we found that recent storms had an impact on North Monastery as well. The wooden stairs down to the beach were closed off so we had to scramble down a dirt slope and make our way across some rocks to access the beach and walk around a giant tree that had fallen across the beach.

The water looked great and it was very calm, so we returned to our cars to suit up for the first dive. Visibility was not as good as expected, but good enough to have an enjoyable dive to a max depth of 55 feet for 31 minutes. We spotted quite a few nudibranchs on this dive. And it was so calm we were able to remove our fins in the water and walk out. Barbara's dive computer reported a chilly 48 degrees.

In spite of the 5 – 10 foot viz, we decided to do a second dive as well. This time we stayed to the left of the wash rock and did an out-and-back navigation where we just ascended about 10 feet when we turned around. Max depth was 66 feet with a dive time of 36 minutes. The rocks here are covered with anemones, cup corals, hydro coral in various colors and other life. We saw many orange sea cucumbers too.

After dropping our tanks off at Aquarius dive shop, we asked for some nearby restaurant recommendations. We ended up going to Taqueria Zarape and enjoyed some great burritos! 🌟

Groundbreaking Titanic scan may unlock the secrets of her sinking

For 100 years, the Titanic has lain frozen in time on the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, its wreckage cloaked in pitch black water clouded with mud that has obscured much of its detail. But no longer, as the largest underwater three-dimensional scan in history may be about to unlock the secrets of how the Titanic sank, including the exact point where it struck an iceberg. The rusted wreck's secrets have been revealed in detail like never before as it lies 3,800m (12,500ft) beneath the Atlantic Ocean's surface, 400 miles from south of Newfoundland, Canada.

Experts will be able to see the ship unobscured by water and zoom into different parts, raising hopes that many unanswered questions will now be addressed as to why the ship hit an iceberg between Southampton and New York, killing 1,500 people in April 1912. Divers and research teams have explored the Titanic on numerous occasions since it was discovered in 1985, but a lack of visibility has meant cameras have only shown small parts of it.

Magellan Ltd, a deep-sea mapping company, produced the scan with Atlantic Productions who are making a 4k-quality documentary. 🌟



Above: The bow section is still unmistakably recognizable in the scan.

Below: The image shows how the bow was driven into the seabed.



It's a Flipper Dippers' weekend adventure!

Nothing says good times than Dippers camping, biking, eating, camp fires and laughing. And that's what a bunch of Dippers and friends for the Memorial Day Week/End. If you missed it, you missed a typical Dippers' fun time – although we weren't diving. And we'll be at it again – including diving – at Van Damme State Park for the Labor Day Week/End in August. Stay tuned for more information in upcoming newsletters. Until then, enjoy looking at these happy campers, hikers and bikers! 🌟

p.s. Someone bought a picture frame as fire wood and we couldn't resist a good Photo Op!



When your socks get wet, put them on the camp fire!



John says, "I was framed!"



From Left: Ben, Abby, Herold the Bike, Carl, Tom, Ginny, Jim, Jackie, Gabi, Frances, Howard, Tomommi, Cedric



Abby & Mr. Abby (AKA Ben)



Carri



Tom, Jackie & Ginny



Howard & Frances



Barbara & Her Brownies



Carl saw Bigfoot!



Jim & Gabi

Pt. Lobos Dive - AKA You should'a been there

The May 13 Pt. Lobos dive was well attended by Dippers and friends. Joining in were **Barbara Davis, Carl Tuttle, Andrew Grice, Grace Chi, Tristan Chuka, Cedric Wright, Sim Upadhyayula, Ken Agur, David Sheh** and his friend **Christina** from the Aqua Tutus dive club in Castro Valley.

The weather was a bit overcast throughout the day and underwater vis was anywhere from 10 to 30 feet. Everyone did the two dives as planned. Barbara and Carl took their kayaks out on the first dive and were entertaining some of the park visitors observing them from atop the cliffs. They elected to join the group swimming out from shore for the second dive.

Not a lot of fish were seen but there were reports of a growing population of the purple sea urchin. Some of the divers were entertained by a harbor seal on the second dive.



Most of the group stayed for a picnic after the dives. **Taylor Sullivan** showed up hoping others were there to hike the park, but she had to go solo. She ended up hiking all the way to Monastery Beach and reported a large number of people on the beach. 🌟

Left, Iron Diver Ken

Deepest fish ever seen

Scientists have filmed a species of snailfish swimming at the extraordinary depth of 27,349 feet, breaking the record for the deepest fish ever caught on camera. An autonomous lander submersible filmed it in the Izu-Ogasawara Trench, south of Japan. The lead expedition scientist said the snailfish could be at, or very close to, the maximum depth any fish can survive. 🌟



Want to Dive with Sudafed in Mexico?

It is illegal in Mexico to possess over-the-counter drugs that contain pseudoephedrine (such as Actifed, Sudafed, and Vicks inhalers). If you're caught entering with them, they will be confiscated, and you may be arrested (pseudoephedrine is meth's key ingredient). However, if you have a medical prescription, you may carry prescribed drugs; the prescription requires the name of the doctor, his/her signature, contact details, and professional registration, all translated into Spanish. You may carry only the amount you need during your stay. You should also inform your airline before traveling. 🌟

Scientists ID Caribbean sea urchin killer

Last year, sea urchins in the Caribbean started getting sick — shedding their spines, dying off and throwing reef ecosystems into chaos. Now, scientists think they've caught the killer in this marine murder mystery. A tiny single-celled parasite is to blame for the massive die-off, researchers reported in the journal *Science Advances*.

"The case is closed," said study author Mya Breitbart, a marine microbiologist at the University of South Florida. These long-spined sea urchins, or *Diadema antillarum*, are prickly black creatures that hide out in reefs across the Caribbean. They play a key role as "lawnmowers" of the reef, Breitbart said, eating up the algae that grows on corals. But in January 2022,

these animals started showing strange symptoms — their sharp spines drooping and falling off, their suction-cup feet losing their grip — before dying off in droves, from the Virgin Islands to Puerto Rico to Florida.

For marine scientists, it was *deja vu*: Another die-off swept through the region in the 1980s and slashed sea urchin populations by around 98%. That case was never solved. But this time, an international team of researchers jumped into action, taking samples from sick urchins and healthy ones across the Caribbean to look for genetic clues. They didn't see signs of viruses or bacteria, said study author Ian Hewson, who researches marine diseases at Cornell University. But they did spot traces of tiny single-celled organisms called ciliates, which only showed up in the sick urchins.

Though most ciliates don't cause disease, this kind has been linked with other aquatic outbreaks, making it a prime suspect, Hewson said. To confirm they'd caught the killer, scientists placed the parasites in tanks with healthy urchins grown in captivity to see how they'd react. Out of 10 urchins who were pitted against the tiny creatures, 60% of them died — after showing the same symptoms researchers were seeing in the wild.

It's possible that this same parasite also caused the die-off in the 1980s, but scientists can't be sure, Breitbart said. And they haven't figured out a way to treat the diseased urchins. But they're hopeful that knowing the source of the die-offs will help conserve the reefs, especially once they learn more about how the parasites spread, Breitbart said.

These urchin deaths and other stresses have already transformed the reefs, added Don Levitan, a marine scientist at Florida State University who was not involved with the study. Back before the first sea urchin die-off, Levitan recalled seeing reefs in the U.S. Virgin Islands blanketed in the spiny creatures. Now, those reefs look much different — choked by algae, struck by coral disease and stressed out from rising temperatures.

"Coral reefs in the Caribbean are in trouble," Levitan said. "We're at a different place than we were 30, 40 years ago." 🌟



Before Infection

After Infection

DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

ANDREW GRICE

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JUNE 2023

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7 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, JUNE 10 SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3) BOAT DIVE / BEACH DIVE

We'll have potentially two groups diving in the upcoming S3 dive weekend! **Grace Chi** has organized a boat dive on the Double Down with a capacity of 6 dippers. At present, those signed up are **Grace Chi, Andrew Grice, Barbara Davis, Taylor Sullivan, Carl Tuttle** and **Sim Upadhyayula**. If you're interested in joining a wait list in case of cancellation, please contact Grace at chi.gracechi@gmail.com.

Because of the limited boat capacity, we are encouraging other members to organize a separate beach dive. If you're interested in coordinating a dive from shore on June 10th please

GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21

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 59 Years of the San Jose Flipper Dippers!

Entertainment:

- Social Hour
- Dive Plans and More



reach out to **Andrew Grice** at agrice07@gmail.com for help with organizing it. Let's Go Diving!

SATURDAY, JUNE 17 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SATURDAY, JUNE 24 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SUNDAY, JUNE 24 FOURTH SUNDAY CYCLE

Join us for our monthly Fourth Sunday Cycle led by **Jim Rezowalli**. Remember to bring a helmet, some water, and a snack. Please RSVP at jimandthebeach@gmail.com, 408-293-7390 to receive final details and any last minute updates!



UPCOMING IN JULY

- 01 No License Fishing Day
- 05 Business Meeting
- 08 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 19 General Meeting**
- 21-23 Tahoe Weekend



Tahoe Summer Weekend with the Flipper Dippers

Come join us for a **July 21-23** three-day weekend at the Apres Lodge in Kings Beach on the North Shore of Lake Tahoe. Activities include biking, hiking, swimming, Saturday night music and small town window shopping. The lodge is a short walk from the public beach. **Carl Tuttle** and **Gabi Estill** are planning on biking the Flume Trail along the rim of the Tahoe basin. The lodge offers a large kitchen, eating area and dining room. There is also a hot tub for sore muscles. Sleeping is hostel style in rooms with 4 to 6 bunk beds. We will have Pot Luck Dinners on Friday and Saturday nights. A shared Google doc will be available where people can put down what favorite dish they are bringing to share.

- Cost: \$78 per person for the two nights (\$39/night) paid a week before the event
- VAX card must also be sent to me the week before
- Bring your own food for breakfast and lunches
- Bring sleeping bags or bedding for a single bunk

Things we can do:

- Biking – Lake Tahoe Flume Trail, Incline Village
- Kayaking on Lake Tahoe • Swimming in the lake
- Hiking • Gambling • Small village window shopping
- Friday night music on the beach in Tahoe City

This is a great opportunity for divers to bring their non-diving partners to a Club event!

If you are interested contact me to sign up!

Jim Rezowalli – jimandthebeach@gmail.com. ★



Winter time snow!

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

June 07	Business Meeting
June 10	Second Saturday SCUBA - Boat Dive
June 21	🐡 General Meeting
June 25	Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)
July 01	No License Fishing Day
July 05	Business Meeting
July 08	Second Saturday SCUBA
July 19	🐡 General Meeting
July 21-23	Lake Tahoe Weekend
Aug 02	Business Meeting
Aug 12	Second Saturday SCUBA
Aug 16	🐡 General Meeting
Aug 19	Elkhorn Slough Kayak
Aug 28-Sept 4	Labor Day Weekend - Van Damme

*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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