

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

AUGUST
2023

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

**Christmas in July
Party in August!**

Don't miss the San Jose Flipper Dippers' infamous Holiday General Meeting . . . on **AUGUST 20!** Grab your Festivus poles and your jingle bells. We'll be catching up on our annual big Christmas General Meeting and celebrate our Annual Club Holiday party with a BBQ, potluck, and raffle!

The Club will provide BBQ salmon and chicken, plates and utensils. You can also bring your own items to cook. Please bring a potluck item to share along with your own beverages.

BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE!

You may also go home with extra cash from our "**Money Tree**" raffle – envelopes containing **\$20, \$30 and \$50** will be hanging on the tree! We ask that everyone bring a donation for this special raffle – you know, all those dive-related items you've been holding on to. The more prizes in the raffle, the more chances you have to win.

We'll gather **on Sunday, August 20** from **12pm-4pm** at:
Santa Teresa County Park, in the Pueblo Group Area, 260 Bernal Rd, San Jose, CA. BBQs, shaded outdoor picnic tables are available. See more information and a map on Page 7.

Be sure to sign up at the August General Meeting or with **Abby Golden Wilson**, abbygolden15@gmail.com, so we know how many will be there.

**This is going to be BIG FUN!
See you there!**



Carl, Sim, Tristan and Barbara think this diving stuff is Big Fun!

A July Third Saturday Scuba (TSS) - MacAbee Beach

Barabra Davis

We rescheduled the July 8th Second Saturday Scuba (S3) dive to the following Saturday (July 15th) and Dippers **Tristan Chutka, Barbara Davis, Carl Tuttle, and Sim Upadhyayula**, met up at North Monastery Beach to scope out the conditions. The surf was up, so we relocated to South Monastery Beach. While conditions there did look diveable, we decided we were looking for a more mellow experience and headed over to MacAbee beach instead. Several other dive groups had the same idea and parking was packed! Since it was still early, we elected to park in the lot across the street from El Torito, where the earlybird rate was only \$10 for the day.

would take us at an angle through the kelp forest. There was a murky green layer at the surface, but below that, viz opened up to 20 – 30 feet. And as most Monterey divers know, clear water means COLD water! Our dive computers indicated temps of 48 and 50 degrees. We reached a maximum continued on page 3

We swam out to the edge of the kelp field and picked a compass heading that

What's Inside?



President's Corner 2
Stars on Parade 2
Tahoe Tales 4
More Dives 5
Travel Dont's 6
Labor Day Wknd 6
Activity Calendar 7

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Congratulations to Dipper *Tristan Chutka*, *Andrew Grice*, and *Sim Upadhyayula* for earning their first stars in the Flipper Dipper Star Achievement Program! The Club's Star Achievement Program is designed to provide Club Members the opportunity and encouragement to experience a variety of diving opportunities to become a better diver - and have more fun!

The second star requires current CPR and First Aid certifications and that is something we are looking into scheduling training for all club members! In addition, we also plan to schedule training in O2 Administration. This type of safety training will be covered by the club.

Are you a "Star"? Here's a link to the program requirements on the club website: <http://sjflipperdippers.com/starprogram.html>

We have also noticed that some of the Star Achievement Program requirements could use some updating, and a quick review of the club membership requirements website information and Constitution could also do with some review. So we're looking into the best way to share these documents with club members to solicit input. Stay tuned for more info!

The Dippers enjoyed a lot of activities in July, including daytime beach dives (July 2nd and 15th), night dives (July 28th) – if anyone signs up for it, urchin culling dives at Tankers Reef (July 1st and 5th), and the Lake Tahoe weekend July 21st – 23rd. Check out the newsletter articles and photos for more about these fun events!

We were not able to schedule the popular Christmas in July event last month, so this year we will have a Christmas in August celebration instead! And starting on August 28th, we'll have our annual campout at Van Damme State Park, running through Labor Day, September 4th. We've reserved several campsites and have plenty of room to share!

Let's go diving!
– **Barbara**



San Jose Flipper Dippers

www.SJFlipperDippers.com

Follow and Like Us on Facebook

CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Barbara Davis 408-656-6390

VICE PRESIDENT

Andrew Grice 669-289-5809

SECRETARY

Grace Chi 858-337-2674

TREASURER

Tom Gardner 408-274-9447

SERGEANT AT ARMS

Howard Chien 408-410-0325

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

Leigh Hartley Tuttle 408-829-3660

email tutcomms@sbcglobal.net

REFRESHMENTS

o Position Open o

STAR ACHIEVEMENT

Jackie Gardner 408-274-9447

TROPHY COMPETITION

John Snyder 408-378-4963

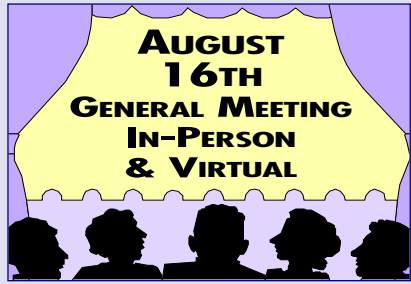
CLUB COMMITTEES

NOTICE: Due to a large number of Dippers diving in Bonaire our September 20th General Meeting will only be held virtually.

Stars on Parade

The Club's Star Achievement chair **Jackie Gardner**, on the left, presented these Dippers with their 1st Star at the July General Meeting. **Tristan Chutka**, **Sim Upadhyayula** and **Andrew Grice** are on their way in the Club's Star program. You can be a star too! Check the Club's website for requirements. ★





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. ★

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! . . . If we had a regular General Meeting, a FREE raffle ticket would be given to **Howard Chien** – if he was born in August. But we're missing that important information from the Club's database! ★

continued from front page
depth of 42 feet during our 48 minute dive.

During the surface interval, Barbara marveled at the drysuit diver parked next to her SUV as he managed to pack his dive gear back into his BMW Z3 convertible!

Carl elected to sit out the second dive, due to an ear equalizing issue on the first dive, but Barbara, Sim and Tristan were up for it. This time, as we reached the edge of the kelp patch, we noticed 2 boats anchored a bit farther out. Maybe they were anchored at MacAbee Pinnacle? We took a compass heading towards one of the boats and found the Pinnacle! It was an amazing dive. We saw some metridium anemones, male and female California sheephead, lots of anemones and nudibranchs and saw a sea otter swim by. On this dive we reached a depth of 60 feet with a dive time of 47 minutes.

At the beginning of the dive, there was another group of divers heading for the kelp just ahead of us. As we waited for them to descend, we noticed they had several cameras. The next day, Barbara found a video posted in one of the Monterey divers Facebook groups that looked just like both our dives! With a few comments, we realized that these were the other divers we saw! Since our group did not have any underwater cameras, it was great that these divers shared their dive video so we could share it with friends as well.

Carl waited for us to finish the dive and after changing out of our gear we all walked up a couple of blocks and enjoyed a great lunch at Hula Grill, where the waitress brought Sim a special hot sauce to enjoy. ★

Photos clockwise from left: Three divers ready to go. Remember you are required to assist any **LORD** (Loyal Order of Retired Dippers) while exiting the beach – Tristan and Sim lend a few hands to LORD Barbara. Another great day of diving at MacAbee.



Tahoe weekend full of fun and adventure

On the weekend of July 21-23, Dipper **Jim Rezowalli** coordinated an exciting time at Kings Beach in Lake Tahoe. Warm weather greeted **Gabi Estell, Carl Tuttle, Mike Chalup, Frances Lee** and **Howard Chien** as they arrived on Friday at the Apres Ski Club Lodge. Mike arrived before the others and baked brownies for everyone to enjoy. A short walk to the lake offered some refreshing swimming and later live music for all to enjoy.

On Saturday, Gabi, Carl, Frances and Howard headed off to Incline Village, NV to pick up a shuttle that took them to the beginning of the famed 14-mile Flume Mountain Bike Trail at Spooner Lake, while Jim and Mike decided to ride their bikes along the paved lake level trail. Jim and Mike also found another easier bike ride at the Incline Village ski area they took.

Gabi had ridden the Flume Trail many years ago, although she didn't remember the 4-mile uphill climb! Both Frances and Howard rode their e-bikes and waited for Gabi and Carl to make their way to the top of the hill. Carl met up with them but there was a long delay in Gabi's arrival. Carl and Howard walked down the hill a bit and found Gabi trying to get the bike chain dislodged from the real wheel hub. After some assistance from fellow bikers and hikers the chain was dislodged and the group was on their way riding another 10-miles of scenic views of Marlette Lake and Lake Tahoe – still with snow-capped peaks!

As our intrepid mountain bikers made their way down a rugged part of the trail, Howard took a spill. Carl decided to walk his bike down the area and soon found himself falling with his bike too. Both Howard and Carl didn't suffer any damage other than their pride.



Jim and Mike road their bikes on a paved path at lake level.



Mike, Jim and Gabi taking a dip in Lake Tahoe.



Carl before flying through the air with the greatest of ease .

Everyone enjoyed the views stopping may times to take photos and have something to drink and snacks to eat.

Towards the end of the route Carl found himself dropping over a large rock in the trail and going ass-over-teakettle, landing on his back and a watter bottle in the back pocket of his shirt resulting in a couple of rib fractures. His

Apple watch detected



the fall sounded an alarm and displayed an SOS alert to contact emergency services which he dismissed. Frances was right behind him to witness the flying artist!

A bit later Gabi was taking a side-route and found deep sand tossing her off her bike, landing in the soft sand and a



Gabi and Howard working on the chain . . . gang.



Frances, Howard, Carl and Gabi.

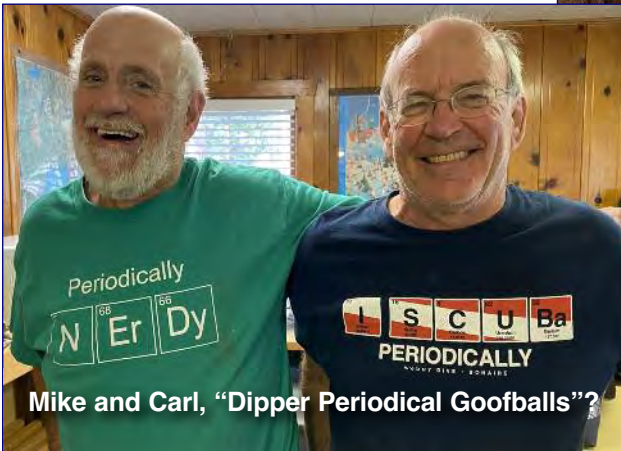
group of bushes – and laughing about it!

Everyone finely made it back to their cars and headed to the lodge for a dip in the lake, hot showers, cold beer, wine, more live music, great food and lots of stories and much needed pain medications.

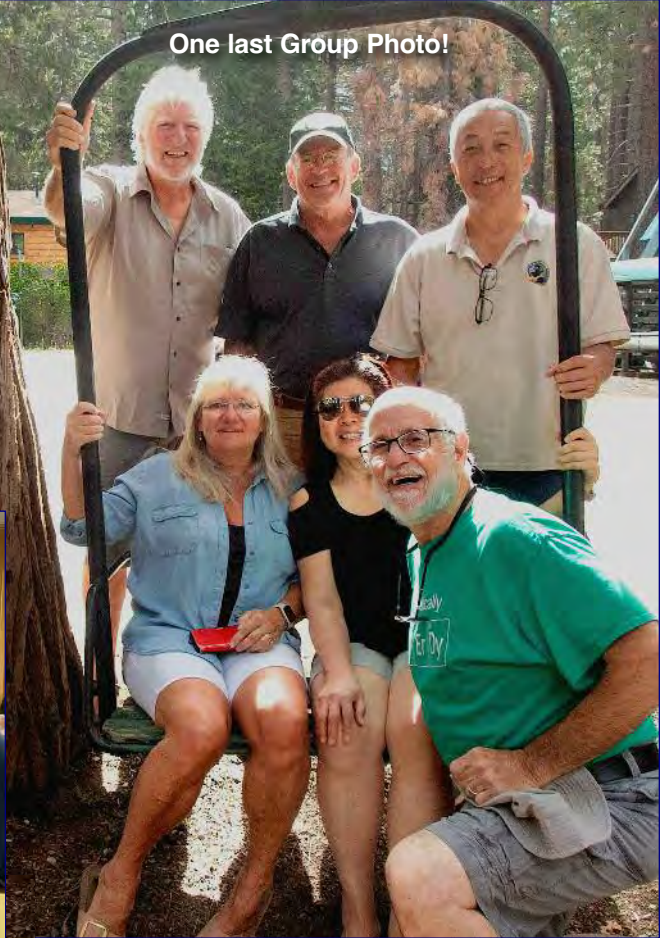
On Sunday the group decided to take an early start to head home. As Carl was about to leave, Mike flagged him down. The battery on Mikes car didn't have enough power to start his car. After a jump start from Carl, Mike headed stright to a Costco in Reno where he acquired a new battery and headed off to his home in Eugene, OR.



Frances questions Howard's cooking skills while Jim creates his special dinner.



Mike and Carl, "Dipper Periodical Goofballs"?



One last Group Photo!

Ah, yes . . . the Dippers are always up for exciting, rough and tumble adventures. See what you missed?! ☆

Two Dives: Breakwater & San Carlos Beach

Ken Agur

On Sunday, July 2nd, **Barbara Davis, Grace Chi, Taylor Sullivan, Sim Upadhyayula** and **Ken Agur** got together for a couple of dives. The first dive was out to the Metridium field via 'The Pipe' a very traditional dive at the Breakwater. This was a good dive, as we found the pipe quickly with the visibility about 20 feet, the water temperature was about 51°F, and the maximum depth at about 50 feet. Lots of the usual suspects for this dive. The traditional second dive at the Breakwater is usually out along 'The Wall' but the Dippers decided there were a lot of students over there and perhaps we'd try something different. So for the second dive we went back to the pipe and headed north(ish) towards MacAbee Beach for a bit then we did a u-turn back over the pipe and over to the middle reef. This was an excellent choice and everyone really enjoyed it. Visibility was about 25 feet, and the maximum depth was about 45 feet. After everyone got out of their gear and into dry cloths, we walked over to the pier, picked up some sandwiches and had a picnic under a tree near the marina with our two non-divers, **Emily Agur** and **Jing Ye**. It was a beautiful day in the sun and another really good couple of dives with a great group of divers. ☆



Ken, Sim & Barbara ready to get wet.



My dad's an Iron Diver!



Jing, Emily, Sim, Grace, Ken, Barbara, Taylor

Traveling to international dive sites?

Undercurrent

Want to Dive with Sudafed in Mexico? Be Careful. 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. See here for details.

Don't Overdo the Antibiotics. Otorhinolaryngologist Paul Neis, MD (Mountain Home, AR), wrote in response to a subscriber comment about treating a swimmer's ear

with antibiotic ear drops (Undercurrent March), "It is always possible for a bacterium to have resistance to whatever antibiotic you choose. It would be better to apply an over-the-counter ear-drying drop with alcohol and acetic acid or mix your own with rubbing alcohol and vinegar. The alcohol will kill any bacteria, and the acidification deters the bacteria and fungi."

Don't Check Your Lithium Battery for a Flight. It's safer to carry lithium batteries in a carry-on rather than in the hold of an aircraft because, if a fire started, passengers would be alert to the burning smell in the passenger compartment. This is what happened on March 1: the cabin of a Spirit Airlines flight from Texas filled with smoke and diverted safely to Jacksonville, FL, proving the good sense of airline regulations. When you fly, you cannot check spare batteries. You must carry them with you, but consider carrying all items with batteries. ✪

Rare deep sea creature

Contentedly full from its last meal, a mysterious sea creature swam through the royal blue depths off the coast of Costa Rica. Twirling and spiraling, the misshapen animal moved in a mesmerizing way. Perhaps the sea creature noticed the metallic submersible that stopped nearby, or perhaps not. The scientists on the other side of the submersibles' cameras definitely noticed — and dropped everything to watch the "extremely rare" moment.

Researchers with the Schmidt Ocean Institute piloted a remotely operated vehicle to explore



octopuses along the Dorado Outcrop near Costa Rica, the institute said in a news release. While surfacing from their last dive, they spotted an unexpected animal: a gulper eel.

Gulper eels, also known as pelican eels, are known for their "large, scoop-like jaw" which they can expand to swallow prey, according to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. This particular gulper eel "had very recently eaten," the institute said. Its "balloon-like" stomach was still inflated with undigested prey, potentially a "squid or swarm of shrimp."

Surreal video footage shows the gulper eel

swimming. Its meal hangs in a triangular bulge near its head, the rest of its long, skinny body extending behind. The eel almost looks like a cross between a ribbon and a torpedo as it moves and turns.

Eventually, the shape-shifting eel vanishes into the shadowy distance, the video shows. "We all stopped our conversation to gather around the monitor together to watch this amazing animal," Beth Orcutt, the vice president of research at the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, an organization involved in the research project, told McClatchy News. "Getting to glimpse this extremely rare animal behavior in the final moments of our last dive was an affirmation of the amazing deep-sea biodiversity in Costa Rica's waters," Orcutt said. ✪

Labor Day Weekend: Camping, Diving & More Aug 28 - Sept 4

A number of Dippers have campsite reservations for the Labor Day Weekend at Van Damme State Park in Mendocino. Space is available to share in their sites so contact those folks for information. Sites are limited to 3 vehicles and 8 people. Those Dippers with reservations include [arrival/departure dates]:

- **Barbara Davis:** #2 [8/28-9/4]
- **Carl Tuttle:** #13 [8/28-9/3] (subject to change)
- **Tom and Jackie Gardner:** #14 [8/28-9/4]
- **Howard Chien & Frances Lee:** #15 [8/28-9/4]

We plan on bringing tanks, kayaks, mountain bikes to do some bike riding, and maybe some hiking. There is a great bike path along the coast in Ft. Bragg. The dive shop in Ft. Bragg closed a number of years ago so there's no place for air fills or gear rentals. Saturday, September 2nd is a "No License" fishing day. We might look into urchin culling and some spear fishing. It's always a fun time to sit around the camp fire in the evening, telling stories and sharing great food! We'll have a big potluck on Saturday night too. So if you're interested in joining in for the holiday weekend be sure to contact **Carl Tuttle**, Phone: 408-829-3660, email: tut-comms@sbcglobal.net. He'll let you know who has space available. ✪



Carl Tuttle, Andrew and Amelia Grice enjoyed the pre-potluck dinner fire.



Howard and Frances can't find the sign regarding ebikes.

DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

ANDREW GRICE

WWW.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM

AUGUST 2023

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2 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, AUGUST 5 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10-13 TOMALES BAY BIOLUMINES- CENCE KAYAK TRIP

We have a group campsite at Samuel P. Taylor State Park. Contact **Abby Golden Wilson**, abbygolden15@gmail.com for more information.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12 SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3) BEACH DIVE: LOCATION TBD

- We're looking for a coordinator! Join the Flipper Dippers for this month's Second Saturday Scuba! Be sure to watch your email for an update on a location and coordinator. Contact Andrew Grice at agrice07@gmail.com or text/phone:

GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

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



669-289-5809 if you're willing to coordinate.

SUNDAY AUGUST 20 CHRISTMAS IN JULY PICNIC

All Dippers and prospective members are invited to join us in celebrating

our Annual Club Holiday Party, BBQ, potluck and Raffle! 12 noon to 4 PM at the Santa Teresa County Park in the Pueblo Group Area, 260 Bernal Rd, San Jose, CA. Contact **Abby Golden Wilson**, abbygolden15@gmail.com. See article on the front page and below for more information.

AUG 28 - SEPT 4 LABOR DAY WEEKEND AT VAN DAMME

Dippers have campsite reservations at Van Damme State Park from Monday, Aug 28, through Sunday, Sept 4. Space is available to share. Contact **Carl Tuttle** (tutcomms@sbcglobal.net) if you would like to join in. See article on page 6 for info.

UPCOMING IN SEPTEMBER

- 02 No License Fishing Day
- 06 Business Meeting
- 09 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 16 International Coastal Cleanup Day
- 17-27 Bonaire Dive Trip
- 20 General Meeting -
-- VIRTUAL ONLY --

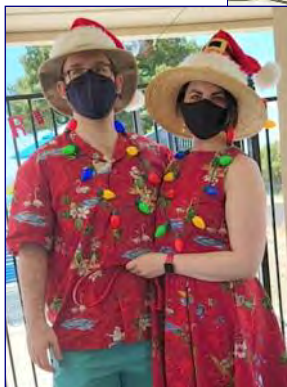


Christmas in July ... August Family Picnic

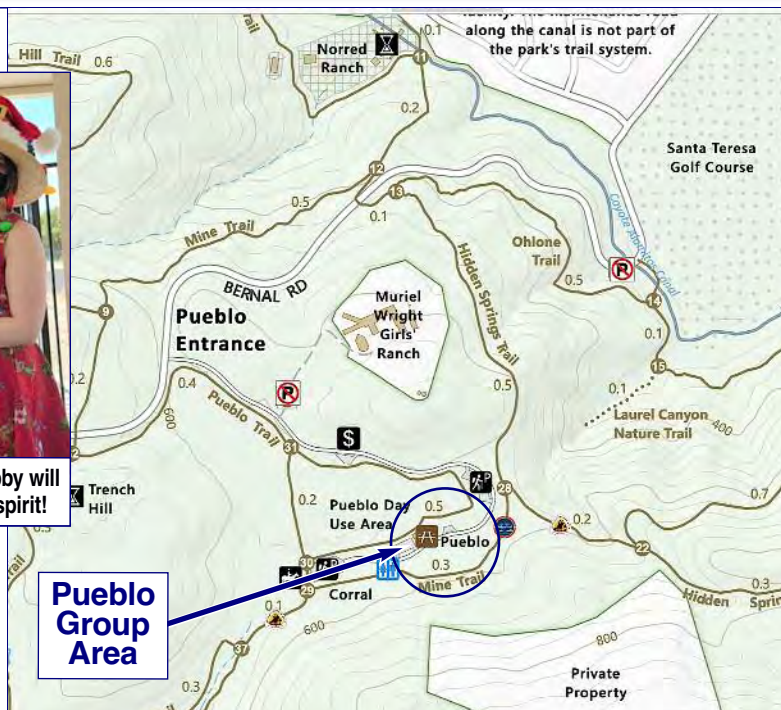
Join the San Jose Flipper Dippers again this year to celebrate Christmas in July ... in AUGUST! Whether or not you bring your jingle bells, Festus poles, or whatever makes your holiday season a celebration is not required, although it is strongly encouraged.

This year's summer holiday potluck will be on **Sunday, August 20** from 12pm-4pm at: **Santa Teresa County Park (\$6 entrance fee) in the Pueblo Group Area**, 260 Bernal Rd, San Jose, CA. BBQs, shaded outdoor picnic tables, and much much more will be available so make sure to sign up during our August General Meeting or by emailing Abby Golden Wilson at abbygolden15@gmail.com to receive updates and additional information! **And don't forget your raffle donation.**

We look forward to seeing you there, and peace, love, and laughter to all! ☆



Mr. Abby (Ben) and Abby will be in the Christmas spirit!



NOTE: All certified divers are encouraged to attend San Jose Flipper Dippers' dives.

Non-Club members will be required to show proof of certification to the dive coordinator prior to entering the water with our group. Please sign up for dives at the General Meeting or call the coordinator. This is needed in case of cancellation or changes.



San Jose Flipper Dippers

c/o 1108 Sunset Landing
Rio Vista, CA 94571-5148



Follow and Like Us
on Facebook!



FIRST CLASS MAIL

2023 COMING EVENTS

Aug 02	Business Meeting
Aug 12	Second Saturday SCUBA
Aug 16	🐡 General Meeting
Aug 20	Christmas in July (August)
Aug 28-Sept 4	Labor Day Weekend - Van Damme
Sept 02	No License Fishing Day
Sept 06	Business Meeting
Sept 09	Second Saturday SCUBA
Sept 16	International Coastal Cleanup Day
Sept 17-27	Bonaire Dive Trip
Sept 20	🐡 General Meeting - VIRTUAL ONLY
Sept 24	Fourth Cycle Sunday (FSC)
Oct 4	Business Meeting
Oct 14	Second Saturday SCUBA
Oct 18	🐡 General Meeting
Oct 22	Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)

*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



WWW.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM