

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

NOVEMBER
2023

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD
3RD WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH
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Rare white orca seen hunting with pod in Monterey waters.

Whale watchers off the coast of California were treated to an incredible sight last weekend when a “super rare” white orca made an appearance near their boat.

Boaters on a trip out of Monterey Bay, California, spotted the killer whale, noting its unusual white coloring. While orcas are usually recognized by their signature black-and-white coloring. This specific whale is believed to have an atypical condition causing its pale appearance.

Identified as whale CA216C1 by the California Killer Whale Project, the white orca is also known by its nickname Frosty. It’s unclear whether Frosty is male or female. Frosty, a three to four-year-old white killer whale, was initially sighted as a calf in 2019. Unlike its companions, Frosty’s pure white appearance sets it apart dramatically, almost resembling a white dolphin amidst the group of black and white orcas.



“We had Frosty the super rare white Killer Whale!” Monterey Bay Whale Watch, which captured drone footage of the orca and its family during an hours-long encounter, wrote in a Facebook post. Evan Brodsky of Monterey Bay Whale Watch shared remarkable footage of Frosty swimming in formation with a pod of other orcas, which California Killer Whale Project identified as group CA140Bs, also known as Louise’s group.

“We still can’t stop thinking about the incredible encounter with a rare White Killer Whale named Frosty,” read the post, which had thousands of views. “I have watched this several times. So amazing,” one user wrote. Another said: “That was a SIGHT for sure!”

Frosty was also accompanied by his or her mother (CA216C), and the two have been spotted before swimming with the same group in the bay. Frosty’s journey has taken it from the San Diego area to off the

“That’s OK, I’ll just hover over to the dive site.”



Dipper **Tristan ‘Triscuit’ Chutka** looks to be suspended in air above the water as he was leaping off the rocks at the Oil Slick dive site in Bonaire, when **Ken Agur** took his photo from the surface. Tristan also completed his PADI Advanced Open Water Certification while in Bonaire. Well Done! See more photos on pages 4 & 5. ★

coast of British Columbia, encompassing the northern and southernmost territories of the orcas, reports the Monterey Herald. Contrary to common belief, white orcas like Frosty are not outcasts within their pods. They are fully accepted by their fellow orcas and continue to participate in group activities, including hunting, reports The Guardian.

Why is Frosty the whale white?

Frosty is believed to be white thanks to either leucism or Chediak-Higashi Syndrome, according to Monterey Bay Whale Watch. Leucism occurs when an underlying cause or condition leads to an animal to losing pigmentation in its skin, hair, feathers, scales or cuticles, resulting in white or pale patches and discoloration.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



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 had a great Second Saturday SCUBA (S3) dive at MacAbee Beach. Even after many dives here, we still found something new to see. We always have our S3 dive so it's easy to plan your schedule around this recurring event. But many Dippers are up for diving on other days, so if conditions look good, contact **Carl Tuttle** and he can send out an email blast for your dive!

At the November General Meeting we will be accepting Nominations for our 2024 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 (<http://sjflipperdippers.com/sjfd.assumption.of.risk.pdf>).

Everyone keep safe and let's go diving!

– **Barbara**



A Merry Christmas at Point Lobos!

We're diving at Pt. Lobos on **Wednesday, December 27**. The winter months can provide some of the best diving so if you want to go, you'll need to go online to **make a reservation on November 1st**. The system opens up at 8 AM in the morning.

Andrew Grice (email: agrace07@gmail.com or text/phone: 669-289-5809) is coordinating so be sure to let him know if you make a reservation. We'll send out emails listing who has a reservation and who has space for a buddy.



On **Wednesday, November 1** (check on Tuesday, October 31st as openings sometime show up early), go to the Point Lobos Scuba Site: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28353

Click on the month of December and then scroll down to December 27. Sign up as a buddy team. You'll be asked for the agency that issued your c-card and its number. If you don't have your buddy's c-card number, or a buddy, just write TBD. We can always find somebody who wants to go diving at Pt. Lobos. Do this early as the park reservations fills up fast during holiday dates.

We're not sure if the park will charge the normal \$20 (+ Processing Fee) or a Holiday rate of \$30 (+ Processing Fee).

So work out your buddy teams, set a reminder on your calendar, wake up early on November 1st to make your reservation, and we'll see you in the water. And there might be non-diving hikers joining the day too. ★



San Jose Flipper Dippers

www.SJFlipperDippers.com

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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

CLUB COMMITTEES

AWARDS AND FINES

o Position Open o

MEMBERSHIP

Ken Agur 408-242-3779

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REFRESHMENTS

o Position Open o

STAR ACHIEVEMENT

Jackie Gardner 408-274-9447

TROPHY COMPETITION

John Snyder 408-378-4963

NOMINATIONS FOR 2024 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:

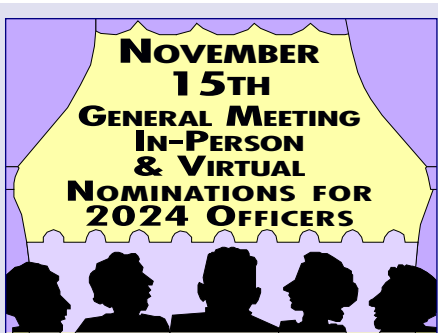
PRESIDENT: Has overall responsibility for the club's success. Presides at all general, business and special meetings and appoints standing committees for the year and special committees as seen fit. Also includes writing a monthly *President's Corner* for the newsletter.

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 2024 Club Officers**. 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. ★

RAFFLE NEWS

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

We're hoping to have our big **Christmas General Meeting in December** and re-start the 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

Now that we're back in the California water, prospective members are looking to dive. Join us on our upcoming dives!

Happy birthday! If we had a regular General Meeting, a FREE raffle ticket would be given to **Tom Gardner, Teresa Hanson, Ken Seaton** 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 THIS MONTH

It is October again and time to pay your **annual dues** at the General Meeting. 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 Jackie 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 download it FREE each month from the Club's Website in full color. Charter and Lifetime Members will continue to receive the Newsletter by U.S. mail.

CenCal (Central California Council of Diving Clubs) dues are **\$15.00** and USofA (Underwater Society of America) dues are **\$30.00**. (Pay online at: www.cencal.org). These optional dues support the many efforts of CenCal and USofA 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.

A summary of annual dues are:

CLUB DUES	\$ 50.00
Newsletter (U.S. Mail)	10.00
Optional: CEN CAL	15.00
Optional: 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.

Dues must be paid by November 30th or you will incur a late fee of \$5.00. SO DON'T DELAY! ★

Dippers dive Bonaire!

Photos by Mike Chalup, Jim Rezowalli and Ken Agur.

Flipper Dippers banded together for ten days of diving in Bonaire in September. Planning began in earnest last February and the group of Dippers wasted no time in making deposits at Buddy Dive Resort and their own airline reservations - as the group was departing for different airports including San Francisco, San Jose, San Diego and Eugene, Oregon.

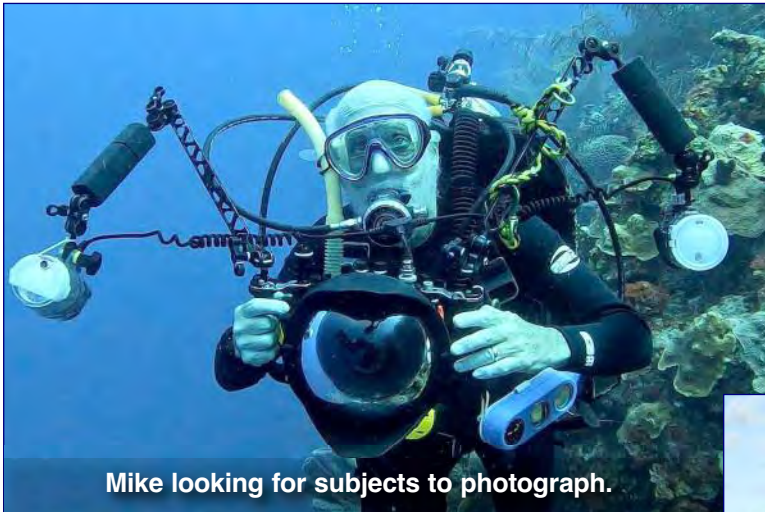
The final group consisted of **Ken 'Iron Diver' Agur**, **Barbara 'Mother Hen' Davis**, **Tristan 'Triscuit' Chutka**, **Teresa Hanson**, **Mike Chalup**, **Andrew Grice**, **Jim Rezowalli**, **Carl Tuttle** and **Cedric Wright**. Unfortunately, Mike's wife, **Strata** had to cancel out as she was exhausted from her exciting adventure at Burning Man in Nevada.

Some stayed in Miami overnight while others took 'red-eye' flights to Miami where everyone boarded the flight to Bonaire. Although Andrew's flight went through another airport so he had a later flight. Dippers were picked up at the airport and taken to the resort where check-ins were completed along with a quick orientation of the dive operations.

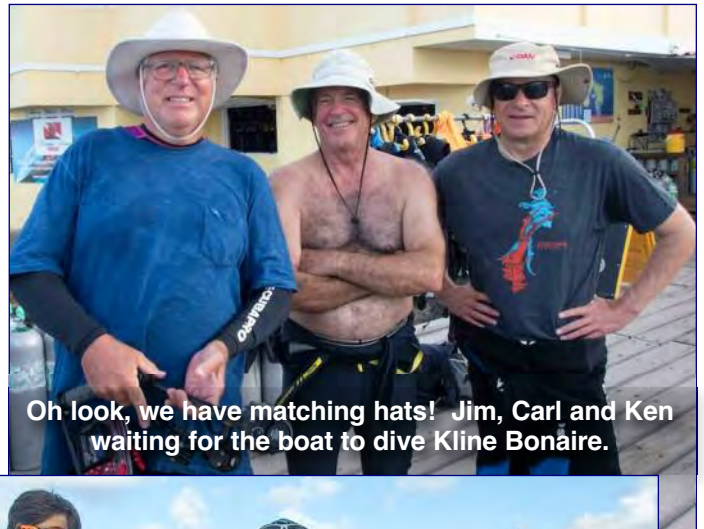
Mike chalup was instrumental in arranging for the group to stay in two condos at Buddy Dive along with one day of diving with East Coast Divers on their ridged inflatable boat (RIB). During the week Ken arranged a private charter for the whole group on the boat *My Buddy* for a 2-tank dive off the small island of Klein Bonaire.

Buddy Dive has a drive-through where divers would pick up tanks and off they went to a number of different dive sites. Most did 2 dives in the morning and one or two in the afternoon and a couple of night dives on Buddy's Reef.

A great time was had by everyone and many discussions were had on a future Club dive trip. Upon departing Bonaire, the flight was delayed and the group missed connecting flights out of Miami. There was a scramble to make alternative flights out of Miami while waiting in the Bonaire airport. When finally arriving in Miami, another rush was on to arrange hotel accommodations for the night. In the morning everyone got to the airport and made their flights back home. Everyone noted that it was a good thing the delays were on the way home and not on the way to Bonaire! 🌟



Mike looking for subjects to photograph.



Oh look, we have matching hats! Jim, Carl and Ken waiting for the boat to dive Kline Bonaire.



Are Tristan, Andrew and Cedric ready to dive?



Carl, Teresa and Ken buddy up on Buddy's Reef.



Andrew and Jim enjoying Bonaire diving.



Tristan practicing his buoyancy control.



Pick-a-tank at the drive thru.



Barbara showing how she uses very little air.



Good time Dippers are good time dive buddies.



Jim and Teresa like boat diving!



Cedric completes his 100th dive!



Cedric, Barbara and Mike made it to Bonaire! YEAH!!



Andrew, AKA Mr. Cool.

continued from front page

Chediak-Higashi Syndrome, on the other hand, is a rare recessive disorder arising from a gene mutation, which also impacts melanin production. Symptoms include albinism, recurring infections and nerve damage and the condition is known to affect humans, mink, cattle, mice, killer whales, cats, and blue and silver foxes.



It appears Frosty's fellow orcas are unperturbed by the different coloring, as the juvenile was sighted traveling and hunting alongside the pod as any average, healthy young orca would.

According to the post shared by Monterey Bay Whale Watch, the group had a successful trip, hunting an elephant seal and a California sea lion, and engaging in prey sharing, an act in which whales of the same kin or pod share killed prey, allowing even the very young and very old or injured to sustain life even when unable to hunt for themselves. ♣

Filmmakers expecting to see "pile of rocks" in Lake Huron find 1895 shipwreck

Kerry Breen

Documentary filmmakers using a remotely operated vehicle to search the lakebed of Lake Huron said they found the wreck of a ship that disappeared 128 years ago, losing its entire crew.

The ship has been identified as the *Africa*, which was built in 1874 and sank two decades later while traveling from Ashtabula, Ohio to Owen Sound, Ontario, according to a news release announcing the find. The *Africa* was towing a barge, named the *Severn*, and both vessels were carrying coal during the fateful trip in 1895. The towline connecting the vessels was cut by a powerful snowstorm, and the *Severn* ran aground. Its crew was rescued. However, the *Africa* was never seen again, and its 11 crewmembers were never found.

The documentary filmmakers, Yvonne Drebert and Zach Melnick, started investigating the lakebed when scientists doing an offshore fish survey in the area noticed an "anomaly on their sonar readout," according to the news release. The husband-and-wife team specialize in underwater videography using remotely operated vehicles, according to the release. The vehicle they use is "one of only a handful like it in the world," with an ultra-low-light high resolution camera system.

Drebert said that she and her husband "expected to find a pile of rocks," but when they sent their remotely operated vehicle nearly 280 feet underwater, they quickly saw a "huge structure" that "loomed up from the depths." Melnick had been piloting the vehicle from a control station in the boat's cabin, so he, Drebert and others on the boat saw what the robot was seeing in real-time.

"We couldn't believe it," Melnick said. The ship was encrusted in invasive quagga mussels, which carpet the lakes and have damaged wrecks in the



Did you miss this S3 dive? Bummer ...

Grace Chi

For October's S3 dive (Second Saturday Scuba), Dippers **Barbara Davis** and I went down to Monterey and checked out the conditions at McAbee. It was on the calmer side so we geared up with the goal of trying to find the pinnacle. The visibility wasn't great in the shallows but got better, maybe 20ish feet, as we went out further. There was life everywhere! Schools of rockfish, a giant sheephead, and so much more, but no pinnacle.

The highlight was a **very friendly** harbor seal that kept rubbing itself on my fins on our way back to shore (not the one in the photo). It felt like it was with us for half the dive back and even followed us into the shallows. It also liked Barbara's fins and she even got a face-to-face encounter! We were under for 58 minutes, max depth 48 ft at a warm 55 degrees.



During the surface interval, I spoke with the person who parked behind us and got some tips for locating the pinnacle. For the second dive, we followed the tips and actually got to the pinnacle. It turns out we were not far from it during our first dive, we just didn't know it was there with the low visibility. This time we were entertained by a sea lion that twirled around briefly as we explored the pinnacle before heading back. Visibility was worse than the first dive near the shoreline. Max depth was 56 ft, dive time 56 minutes in 55 degree water. After dropping off tanks we grabbed lunch at a Mexican place nearby. What a day! You never know what's going to happen. And congrats to Barbara on her 1600th dive. And what a dive it was! ♣

area. The couple's documentary, "All Too Clear" studies the impact these mussels have on the area. While the quaggas are a risk to the wrecks, they do make such underwater explorations possible, Drebert said. "There are so many quaggas filtering the Great Lakes, that the lakes are up to three times as clear as they were before the mussels," Drebert explained. "The quaggas are the reason we're able to see the shipwreck in almost 300 feet of water without any additional lights. But they're also responsible for making wreck identification in the Great Lakes incredibly difficult."

Working with a local historian and a marine archaeologist, the team was able to identify the ship. The remotely operated vehicle made another dive to measure the vessel and look for identifying clues. The second dive found that the wreck matched the length, width and height of the *Africa*, and around the vessel was coal, just like the *Africa* had been carrying when it sank.

The footage from the discovery will be featured in the couple's documentary. "Before discovering the *Africa*, our work focused on the ecological impacts of the mussels – which have devastated fisheries around the lakes. We hadn't considered the effect they could have on our cultural heritage," said Melnick, "but the mussels have truly changed everything in the deep waters of the Great Lakes." ♣

DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

ANDREW GRICE

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NOVEMBER 2023

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 1 POINT LOBOS RESERVATIONS

On November 1st reservations become available for Diving at Point Lobos in December. **Make your online reservation for Wednesday, December 27** if you plan to dive. Contact **Andrew Grice**, who is coordinating, at agrice07@gmail.com or text/phone: 669-289-5809 and let him know if you made a reservation. See article on page 2.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1 BUSINESS MEETING: 7:30pm

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 NOVEMBER 4 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11 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

GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, NOV 15

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:
Nominations for 2024 Officers
• Dive Plans and More



update on a location and coordinator. Contact Andrew Grice at agrice07@gmail.com or text/phone: 669-289-5809 if you're willing to coordinate.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 RESERVATIONS FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND -

May 20-27, 2024 The Club is considering places to camp, with or without diving. Discussions will be held during the General Meeting on November 15.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 23 THANKSGIVING DAY

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26 FOURTH SUNDAY CYCLE

Join us for our monthly Fourth Sunday Cycle led by **Jim Rezowalli**. Remember to bring your bike and 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 DECEMBER

- 06 Business Meeting
- 09 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 20 **General Meeting**
- Elections for 2024 Officers
- Big Christmas Raffle
- 27 Pt. Lobos Scuba Dive - See Article



Update: Sea Otter Translocation

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced southern sea otters will continue as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Following an in-depth review of the species' status, including information provided by species experts, the Service has announced a not-warranted 12-month finding on a petition to remove ESA protection for the southern sea otter.

In 2021, directed by Congress, the Service assessed the feasibility of reintroducing sea otters to portions of the coast in Northern California and Oregon where they once thrived. The assessment concluded reintroduction was biologically feasible and may have significant benefits for sea otters and nearshore marine ecosystems. But, additional information about how reintroduction would affect stakeholders and local communities is needed before considering next steps. There is no active proposal to reintroduce sea otters at this time. ★

You ought to be in pictures!

During the Club's dive trip to Bonaire, **Carl Tuttle** had **Ken Agur** take a photo of him

Beacon Goes on Scuba Diving Trip



Carl Tuttle took a trip to Bonaire with his scuba diving club: the San Jose Flipper Dippers. The Beacon was happy to go on the adventure.

holding the Rio Vista Beacon newspaper. Local readers take a copy of the paper with them on trips then submit the photo to the editor hoping it is used in an upcoming edition. It looks like Carl made the news! ★

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

Nov 1	Pt. Lobos Reservations for Dec 27
Nov 1	Business Meeting
Nov 11	Second Saturday SCUBA
Nov 15	🐡 General Meeting - Nominations for 2024 Office
Nov 19	Memorial Day Weekend Reservations (May 20-27, 2024) Location TBD
Nov 26	Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)
Dec 6	Business Meeting
Dec 9	Second Saturday SCUBA
Dec 20	🐡 General Meeting - Election of Officers & Christmas Raffle
Dec 27	SCUBA Dive Pt. Lobos
Jan 3, 2024	Business Meeting
Jan 13	Second Saturday SCUBA
Jan 17	🐡 General Meeting
Jan 24	Annual Planning Meeting

*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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