

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

FEBRUARY
2012

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

Off to a great start!

Dennis Nasont

It would have been easy to stay cozy at home on the last day of vacation after a week-long of feasting and enjoying family and football, but there were no excuses. The day was perfect. Winter storms are still off in distant forecast and the New Year called us to get out and enjoy this wonderful opportunity.

Adam arrived a comfortable 8:00AM to transfer his gear into my truck, already packed the eve before. We needed new fishing licenses, and Walmart was just 5 minutes away and on route to 101S. It was a relatively quick trip to Garrapata as weather was perfect and we still enjoyed light holiday traffic.

It had been years since either of us had dived Garrapata, so we were uncertain of the best path and entry points. We investigated several before deciding on a fairly safe one furthest south from mile marker 67 access point. But the hike down and back up the granite cliffs already promised a rather strenuous day. The ocean was flat with occasional 2 foot swells from the northwest that warned us we had to be cautious and prepared for an advanced exit. The absence of recent storms left a wide patch of kelp intact just off shore and in between us and our destination. Two more trips up and down with gear and we were ready to hunt for the allusive Lingcod.

Adam was first in and waited for me to secure light and speargun and then leap forward into the swell. As I cleared my mask and viewed the bottom through crystal clear water, there was an 8 pound Cab swimming away from my entry point. Of course he was long gone by the time I loaded my speargun.

We enjoyed the view during our brief surface swim to the kelp and descended to 25 feet. Hunting side by side until we reached the reef wash rock base, we spotted various rockfish and perch tempting us with their 2-4 pound size, but the search for ling continued. I started lighting up dark recesses to find very healthy populations of Abalone, Rose Anemone, China Rockfish and the occasional Greenling. As we worked our way around the mount and deeper to 45 feet, the thermocline dropped the temp and the bottom changed to large boulders and sparse palm fronds exposing many nooks and crannies for ocean dwellers. At 10 minutes into the dive, I flashed under a large flat roof over a hole to briefly see a pair of very large protruding lips of its inhabitant. I moved clos-

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Zschaler Wins Golden Flipper
Bill Zschaler (right) receives the "Golden Flipper" award from Lew Chick at the Annual Awards Banquet.

Awards Banquet Review

January's Annual Awards Banquet was an entertaining and enjoyable evening for the 48 Flipper Dippers, family and friends who attended. The Sonoma Chicken Coop in Campbell provided an open bar and tasty hors d'oeuvres. Several members brought wine which they shared with others. Dessert was a beautiful cake complete with our Club logo.

Following dinner, outgoing President **John Snyder** welcomed everyone and thanked the outgoing 2011 Board members for their hard work on behalf of the Club. He also introduced the 2012 Board who received a big round of applause. **Larry Ankuda** presented each of the 2011 Trophy Award Winners with a stained glass diver. **Larry Ankuda** for a skin diving 0.875 lb. cabezon, and a scuba 8.0 lb. lingcod. **Dennis Nasont** for a 9.0 in. abalone, **Jim Rezowalli** with a 33.5 lb. halibut, **John Snyder** with a 3.0 lb. cabezon, **Carl Tuttle** for an 8 lb. lobster, **Lance Williams** for an 1.5 lb. lobster (free diving).

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Another wonderful Annual Awards Banquet was enjoyed by the members and guests at the Sonoma Chicken Coop, a new venue for the Club. With the MC duties being handled so capably by "Oil Slick" (aka **Carl Tuttle**) we never lacked for sharp wit and entertaining commentary. A fantastic job as always Carl! A special thanks to **Jim Rezowalli** for making all the arrangements for this year's event and the great decorations.

As we move onto a new year I'll be looking forward to your support, suggestions and active participation in this year's Club activities. We have Club committees with openings that need to be filled, and I encourage members to step up and fill these positions. All of us are busy in our daily lives; however, this should not be a barrier that keeps members from joining in to keep the Club vibrant and fun. I also encourage all members to promote and expand our Club membership. Let's get the word out whenever the opportunity presents itself.

I look forward to leading the Club and wish everyone a fun-filled and safe year of diving – Let's all "Dive In"

Bob

Diver's I.Q. Review Corner

Last Month's Question: As you ascend to the surface, you should look? I am going to get a lot of flack from the old timers but the correct answer was: C) up and around (360 degrees). Although in the past we were taught to watch the smallest bubbles to judge ascent rates, now it is recommended that we use our computers to govern ascent rates. **John Snyder** won the raffle tickets for sending in the correct answer.

This Month's Question: Coming into Monterey Harbor I saw the following red buoy. Its purpose is to:

- A) Mark the right side of the channel
- B) Mark one corner of the new MPLA marine protection zone
- C) Warn of an underwater obstruction
- D) Provide Sea Lions a sunning platform.



Contact **Jim Rezowalli** with your answer by email at wingrez@comcast.net. All correct answers will be included in a drawing. The winner will receive 10 free raffle tickets providing you are in attendance at the General Meeting. Good Luck!



Congratulations to the 2011 Flipper Dippers Photo Contest Winners

Underwater	1st Place: Jim Rezowalli, Grey Angel Fish 2nd Place: Mike Chalup, Lingcod
New Member	1st Place: Tim Jagers, Red Anemone 2nd Place: Tim Jagers, Jelly Fish
Spirit of the Club	1st Place: Greg Davis, Campout 2nd Place: Jim Rezowalli, SUDS
Video	1st Place: Greg Davis: Hunting Octopus 2nd Place: Tim Jagers: Monastery



San Jose Flipper Dippers

P.O. Box 7421, San Jose, CA 95150

WWW.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM

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★ -> **OPEN** <- ★

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SAFETY

★ -> **OPEN** <- ★

TROPHY COMPETITION

Larry Ankuda 408-378-4963

CLUB COMMITTEES



Refreshments Are Being Served

The following Dippers are asked to bring a goodie to the next General Meeting: **Lew Chick, Ramona Chick, Frank Cooke, Barbara Davis, Greg Davis, and Anton Dold.** You will receive a FREE raffle ticket for your efforts! ★

RAFFLE NEWS

Jackie Gardner

The following members and prospective members brought donations to the January raffle: **Albert Sieber** brought a red winter jacket, won by **Bob Prinz.** **Jackie Gardner** brought a bottle of Merlot wine, won by **Mike Chalup, Carl Tuttle** contributed 2 dry boxes, the first box was chosen by **Bill Shipman** and the second by **Carl, Mike Chalup** donated a New York puzzle, chosen by **Bill Shipman** for **Helen Conway.** **Howard Timoney** donated Kobel Champagne, **Jerry Richards** donated a jar of Frances' homemade blackberry jam, which was snatched quickly by **Tom Gardner.** **Larry Ankuda** donated a metal fish decorated water bottle, chosen as **Tom Gardner's** 2nd win. **John Snyder** won 2012 Easter Seals calendar. The Grand prize won by **Howard Timoney** was a \$50.00 Elephant Bar gift card. Two keepers from the 2nd mystery gift were won by **Bill Zschaler.** **NOTE:** The February raffle Grand Prize will be a free dive trip on the *Beachhopper II.* Be sure to attend and buy lots of raffle tickets!

DOOR PRIZE: The \$10.00 door prize was won by **Howard Timoney.** The door prize amount for next month will be \$10.00.

THIS MONTH'S RAFFLE: Would the following Dippers please bring a raffle donation this month: **Bill Zschaler, Barbara Zwiig, Tedd Adshade, Tony Alarcon, Debby Alarcon, Larry Ankuda, and Mike Chalup.** If you live out of the area or can't attend the General Meeting, please contact our raffle Chair, **Jackie Gardner** (408-274-9447) tomandjackieus@yahoo.com to send her a check. She will pick up a raffle donation in your name. The raffle has always been an important part of our General

Meetings. Please do **your** part as a Club member and provide a raffle donation when your name comes up. Thank you! ★

MEMBERSHIP

Jim Rezowalli

There was one new member voted at the January General Meeting: Let's give a big Flipper Dipper welcome to **David Murata** (photo, left). Welcome David, we hope to see you on our Club dives and at our many Club events. We are glad to have you join us.



Club Jackets: Prospectives must have a Club jacket either in possession or on order to be voted into the Club. Our supplier for Club jackets is SVSE Merchandise, located in the HP Pavilion (San Jose Arena). You'll need to contact Kurt Lohmiller at 408-999-5754 or e-mail: klohmiller@svse.net to order a jacket. Sorry, no drop-ins at the arena. The brand is Tri-Mountain, Volunteer style, #8000. The price is \$50 for all sizes, which includes tax and shipping. Delivery will be about 3-5 business days after placing your order. The Club has a jacket that can be tried on for a sizing guide. Other blue nylon jackets can be used; contact **Jim Rezowalli** for specifics. He also has a supply of Club logo patches for the back of your jacket.

A FREE raffle ticket will be given to the following Dippers who have a birthday this month: **Anton Dold, Mike Chalup** and **Jan Robinson** ★



Thanks to new Club Member, Anton Dold, you can now follow the San Jose Flipper Dippers on Facebook.

2012 TROPHY STANDINGS

Each month the person whose name appears in the newsletter will receive **3 FREE RAFFLE TICKETS** at the General Meeting — if in attendance. If you hold a trophy several months in succession, you will receive **3 FREE** tickets each month until someone beats your catch.

Contact **Larry Ankuda** at 408-378-4963, e-mail: lankuda@comcast.net, **WITHIN 1 WEEK** and give him all the proper info (include the name of one Club-member witness). ★

SKIN DIVING

- Open LINGCOD
- Open ABALONE
- Open CABEZON
- Open SHEEPHEAD
- Open LOBSTER
- Open HALIBUT
- Open WHITE SEA BASS

SCUBA

- Open LINGCOD
- Dennis Nasont** 26 lbs.
Garrapata State Park 01/02
- Open CABEZON
- Open SHEEPHEAD
- Open LOBSTER
- Open HALIBUT

Our guest MC was introduced by long-time – and past banquet presenter – Dipper **Jill Kirk** as follows: “For those of you who are joining us for the first time at our Annual Awards Banquet – and there are many – this evening’s awards ceremony is typically full of surprises. As mentioned at the January General Meeting, our scheduled MC cancelled at the last minute. But not to worry! Our Awards Banquet Committee searched worldwide to find a suitable replacement to present this evening’s awards. As many of you know, past MC’s have included such notable celebrities as **Morey Eel, Abby Looney, Sting Ray** and **Dave E. Jones**, just to name a few. We can assure you that this evening’s guest MC is of the highest caliber — we can only hope!

A little bit about tonight’s guest: He has covered the world with frequent displays of power and wealth from the Gulf of Mexico to the Persian Gulf. Many times he is found in the deepest parts of the ocean – well out of reach by many of you divers. He is known to be part of world-wide exploration by many renowned companies including Shell, Exxon, Mobile, Chevron, and Conoco, just to name a few. Whenever disaster strikes the high seas, or the coastal waters, there he is – like a sheen on top of the water. He’s known by many nicknames including: sweet crude; heavy; processed; refined; bunker; and Liquid Gold. So, without further ado, let’s all give a warm Flipper Dippers welcome to **OIL SLICK!**”

In keeping with the Club’s Awards Banquet tradition, Oil Slick had developed his very own list of **Top Ten Slick Flipper Dippers**.

10. Go ahead and go to Texas, You’ll still be listed as leading the Clam Dig – **Larry Ankuda**
9. Loyal Order of Retired Dippers – aka: LORD – the City of San Jose doesn’t recognize this for early retirement – **Greg Davis**.
8. “My motorcycle has a flat tire” is not an excuse for missing the Seafood Dinner/Dance – **John Schwartz**.
7. We know you can post your underwater videos on YouTube – How about one on dry suit zipper testing? – **Timothy Jagers**.
6. You think anyone will sign-up for a Club seminar on how to replace your lost fishing license and ab card? – **Bob Prinz**.
5. Your wife had knee surgery so you

made her crawl up the boat ramp at Point Lobos! – **Lew Chick**.

4. Boat trailers need preventative maintenance so they don’t break down on the freeway – **Steve Lodoen**.
3. You moved to Lincoln Hills to get out of paying fines for newsletter typos – **Jan Robinson**
2. Bending your ab iron trying to pry off a rock voids the warranty – **Carl Tuttle**.
1. When you take your dog for a walk you must use a fish stringer – **John Snyder**.

Door Prize drawings were held and the winners included **Larry Ankuda, Tim Jagers** (who received a can of oil courtesy of our guest MC!) **Rob Wolf, Ramona Chick** and **Lance Williams**.



Oil Slick then recognized the efforts of the many Dippers who gave so much of their time and effort to benefit our Club during 2011. Each was rewarded with a shopping bag complete with the Flipper Dipper logo!

For the monthly Diver’s IQ review in the newsletter and hosting the Business Meetings: Jim Rezowalli.

For coordination of Beach Clean-Ups and Ski Trips: Bill Zschaler and Helen Conway.

For hosting the Annual Planning Meetings: Steve Lodoen

For efforts at the Halibut Dive and Family Picnic: John Snyder and Jani Hail

For local dive boat Coordination: Lew Chick, Ramona Chick, Mike Chalup.

For special efforts at the Seafood Dinner Dance: John Schwartz, Jan Robinson, Kelly & Ophelia Drake, Barbara & Greg Davis, Mark & Trish Pryor, Steve Lodoen, Lance & Kathy Williams, Steve Richards, Dave Rodarte, Dennis Nasont, Jim, Jani & Alex Hail, Bill Zschaler & Helen Conway, and anyone else we missed!

For contributing entertaining articles to the newsletter: John McDonald.

For supplying the Club’s embroidery needs: Kathy Williams

For having their picture in the newsletter most often: Jim Rezowalli (19), John Snyder (17), Carl Tuttle (13), Larry Ankuda (14), Tom Gardner (14).

For leading the most scheduled Club dives and activities: Bill Zschaler (6), Howard Timoney (5), Larry Ankuda (4), Jim Rezowalli (4), John Snyder (4).

For coordinating North Coast ab dives and camping activities: Jerry Richards, Jani Hail, Dennis Nasont, Steve Lodoen, Carl Tuttle.

For Atta-Boys above & beyond the call of duty—storing, sorting, counting & boxing dive gear for SUDS (Soldiers

U n d e r t a k i n g Disabled Scuba): Jim Rezowalli, Jerry Richards, Bob Prinz, Hunter Reid, Tom & Jackie Gardner, Lew & Ramona Chick, Carl Tuttle, John Snyder, Rob Wolf.

For the biggest bone-headed goof-ups of the year:

Lance Williams and Jani Hail shared the

honor for dive irregularities and CA F&G Faux Pas.

In recognition for their dedication to the Club this past year, 2011 Club officers **John Snyder, Tom Gardner, Bob Prinz II, Steve Lodoen** and **Howard Timoney** were presented with a changing robe with Flipper Dipper patch and diver’s down flag pocket. These great awards were handmade by Dipper **Greg Davis**. Thanks, Greg!

Jan Robinson then presented a 20 year pin to **John McDonald**, who joined the club in 1991 and **Hunter Reid**, who would have received his 20 year pin in 2009 but was not at the Banquet, received it this year!

The final and most coveted presentation of the evening was our very special Golden Flipper Award. This award, initiated in 2009 by **Lew** and **Ramona Chick** is presented annually to a Club member “who has gone above and beyond to assist others in the sport of skin and scuba diving.” This year’s well deserving recipient was Charter member **Bill Zschaler!** ★

Oil Slick Covers Annual Awards Dinner!

Event Review – John McDonald

A solid turnout of Flipper Dippers, friends and family filtered up to the second story of Campbell's Sonoma Chicken Coop restaurant on Saturday January 21st and reserved a place at one of two long tables set up for dinner. Hors d' Oeuvres service began at 6:00 PM with an array of stuffed mushrooms, fruit and a regal cake adorned with our signature club logo. Arranged on a storyboard above the table were contest submissions of Club photographers' best efforts in a variety of categories both above and below the waterline. Tabulation of subsequent votes was delayed due to time constraints with

winners to be announced in this February Newsletter.

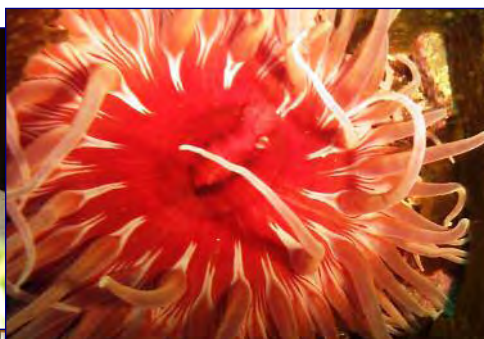
Greg Davis served as Official Event Photographer as **Jackie Gardner**, camera in hand, covered the room from all angles. **Tom Gardner**, framed shots of the award recipients from his vantage point up front.

John Snyder commandeered the podium to acknowledge the service of the 2011 board with kudos and awards for positions well served. Our current democratically elected Club President, **Bob Prinz**, was humorously presented with a personal copy of *Roberts Rules of Order* so he might navigate through the procedural maze our business and membership meetings. Needless to say, you're all aware what sticklers for procedure we are. Acknowledgements

and awards were given for packing and shipping 2011 donations of cash and serviceable scuba gear to Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba, Bob's pet project.

After a buffet style dinner of grilled salmon pieces, beef, tender chicken on the bone, rice, Caesars salad and vegetable medley followed by coffee and cake we circled containment booms around the M/C Mystery Guest who oozed up to the podium. An outspoken opponent of alternative energy technology, nemesis of both the Sierra club and Audubon Society, friend of worldwide industries of all stripes and hailing from deep beneath the earth's crust as a rule, **Oil Slick** was introduced to our collective delight. ★

Awards Banquet Photos Greg Davis (More next month)

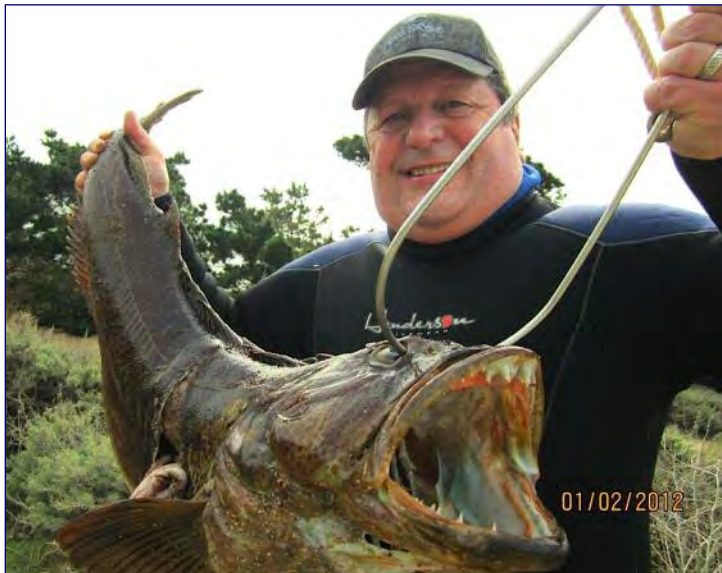


**Photo Contest Winner
New Member - 1st Place:
Tim Jagers, Red Anemone**



er and better aligned my position to see deeper into the hole. The large Ling had retreated into the dark of the hole just 2 feet away from the opening and filled my view. I readied my gun but she offered no shot for several anxious seconds, just standing ground and staring back at me. She finally got nervous and turned her head to the left revealing her massive body only briefly and then back to the stare down. I inched even closer to encourage movement and she responded again to her left and I shot just behind the gills at mid-body. It was a good solid hit but the explosion was fast and strong and she was gone and so was my spear. A few seconds after the silt cleared I was able to shine my light deeper into the hole. There she was curled into a semi-circle behind secure rocks at the back of the hole about 6-7 feet away and too far to reach. I tugged on the line to the spear but feared tearing the flesh and losing my prize. She held fast. Adam joined the attempt to retrieve the fish and we both found small openings above and opposite the original hole where we could see the spear and the huge body of the ling. As we both prodded the fish from the back opening, she was suddenly gone and Adam quickly swam over the hideout to see the ling attempting to swim away with speargun in tow. I joined the pursuit to secure the fish and spear and quickly got her on the stringer.

Time flies (and air disappears) when the adrenaline gets you going. I had consumed 2300 pounds of air and needed to return immediately. Adam and I retraced only about 1/2 the distance back when I needed to surface. Adam had plenty of air left. I and knew I had the surface swim through the kelp bed. He took my gear and the fish and swam under and back to the exit while I got a big dose of aerobic exercise crawling across the kelp. The exit was pretty hard on the knees as we had to crawl out onto the exposed reef, but all in all a great 1st dive.



We hiked up and down the cliff with a fresh tank and got in a second terrific dive but without another ling encounter. We did see more rockfish, some juvenile lings and a spotted bass. This time I returned with sufficient air to make the entire trip sub-marine.

Sounds like a perfect day of diving, Safe, Sound and Successful. ★

Diving the Silver Prince “European Liaison”

Barbara Davis

Flipper Dipper **Cédric Fairo** had to return to Belgium last year, but his enthusiasm for diving is still strong, even though he describes a typical dive there as: “10 - 120 feet, 40 minutes, in a quarry, with cold water, bad viz, no current, few living things to look at (except your buddy in the best case scenario)”.

Fortunately, Cédric was able to schedule a work-related visit to California for one week in January and he emailed his Flipper Dipper buddies to plan some diving: “I come for work and I will be very busy during the week, but I will spend two weekends in Monterey: 21/22 and 28/29. So, if you feel like diving during that period, please, fire me an email! I am very open: day or night dive, boat, beach, kayak, whatever, I am ready! If we are a group, we could even sign together on a boat. I am ready to take in charge the organization, if you feel like it.”

Howard Timoney rose to the occasion and they set up a dive on the Silver Prince for Saturday, January 21st. It was acknowledged that this was the same day as the Awards Banquet, but we divers have our priorities . . . Dippers **Barbara Davis** and **Anton Dold** also signed up. (Cédric planned another boat dive and a beach [night] dive for Saturday, January 28th.)

Forecasts for January 21st included some rain and 18-foot swells in Monterey Bay by 4:00 pm. Howard, Barbara, and Anton were standing in the parking lot near K dock by 8:30 am, in the rain. No dive boats were seen. But by the time Cédric showed up, the rain had stopped and the Silver Prince arrived on schedule around 9:00 am. Due to the ocean conditions, Captain Mike said there would be NO attempt to get around the point, but they would try to find us a good dive site.

After one of the roughest boat trips we’ve had in a while, our first dive was at Aumentos. It was a beautiful dive! Wonderful conditions, with at least 40-foot viz and no brown jellies! (Well, there was at least one, because another diver on the boat did get stung.) Lots of living things to look at. We saw many fish and invertebrates and Barbara and Anton found an octopus. Getting back on the rocking boat was a bit challenging, but everyone managed, assisted by deckhand Alicia, and deckhand trainee Alex. Our second dive was at Hopkins. The viz was “only” about 20 – 30 feet here and the usual cast of undersea characters were in evidence. Proof again that you always have to show up and check the conditions in spite of the weather reports!

We returned to the dock around 2:00 pm and had lunch at the London Bridge pub. Cédric was all smiles as he dug into his double cheeseburger with bacon. With some hot peppers on the side. (Evidently there are things in Europe that are called cheeseburgers, but they just don’t measure up to the ones we get here.) Cédric had brought some souvenirs to share: hats, patches and pins from his local dive club: Wolu Plongee Club.

Cédric thinks he will be able to schedule a work-related week in California about every 6 months so we look forward to diving with him again in July.

P. S. Howard and Barbara did make it to the Awards Banquet that night, although Howard showed up a bit late due to his power nap running a little long. Quite understandable since he did all of the driving for Anton and Barbara down to Monterey and back. Thanks, Howard! ★

DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

TOM GARDNER

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FEBRUARY 2012

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

BUSINESS MEETING. Meeting will be held at Jim Rezowalli's home, 408-202-3132 at 7:30PM. All members are invited to attend with your fearless leaders as we discuss the next month's business and dives. This is a good time to share your new ideas for dives and entertainment. Refreshments are welcome but not necessary.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4 NO SCHEDULED DIVE.

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11
SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3) BEACH HOPPER BOAT DIVE.** Coordinator: Barbara Davis: 408-656-6390; email: Barbara.J.Davis@ul.com. This 32' boat holds 10 divers. This will be a two-tank dive. Boarding is at K-Dock next to the Monterey Harbor Master's Office. Boarding is 8:00 AM; departure is

GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, February 15th

7:30 PM at the Knights of Columbus Santa Maria Hall
2211 Shamrock Dr., Campbell.
Entertainment: Presentation by **Olivia Rhoades**, CenCal's 2011 scholarship winner.
THE DOOR PRIZE IS \$10!

8:30 AM. Dive location always depends on the conditions. The cost is \$70. Bring your own tanks or get tanks onboard (these can be requested when you make your reservation). Air is normally \$10 and Nitrox is \$15. Print and fill out the waiver on the Website: beachhopper2.com (For the "TRIP DATE", put in 2/11/12 or if you put in "ALL OF 2012" you will be set for the entire year! Snacks, soft drinks, and coffee included. Do a partial suit-up before boarding. We rec-

ommend that you purchase an ALL DAY parking permit. The cost is \$10 from the Parking ticket Machines or \$8 from the Harbormasters Office. If for some reason you sign up but can't make the dive, please call me and let me know so that we don't wonder where you are.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18 NO SCHEDULED DIVE.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 NO SCHEDULED DIVE.

UPCOMING IN MARCH

- 07 Business meeting
- 10 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 11 Panther Beach clean up/mussels
- 16-18 Tahoe Ski trip
- 21 **General meeting**



DIVE COORDINATORS: Don't forget to pick up a SJFD Diver Down flag for your car antenna so that your group can be easily found at the designated dive sites.

CenCal's 2011 Scholarship Winner

Larry Ankuda

Join us at the February 15 General Meeting for a presentation by **Olivia Rhoads**, the 2011 recipient of a CenCal Scholarship. Olivia sent in some background information:

Growing up in waterless Tucson, Arizona, I had virtually no exposure as a kid to SCUBA diving. However, this all changed when I went off to college in the Northeast. In the first semester at Brown University, I saw an announcement posted at the Recreation Center offering open water SCUBA certification lessons. Little did I know that my decision to take this SCUBA class would heavily influence the course of my career.



The SCUBA certification course was a blast. The other members of the class were mainly policemen, who were taking the class for underwater recovery of bodies. Courtesy of the Providence PD, we traveled in a Crime Scene Unit vehicle to our open water dive site, an ugly little cove called Fort Wetherill, Rhode Island. At the time, it was mid November ... and it was snowing outside. The visibility was so poor that the entire class formed a line and held hands during the dives. We mainly saw

tires, trash, and (big whoop!) a single lobster. But I was thrilled. I loved the experience, I loved the feeling, and I loved seeing life under the sea.

After completing the open water dives, I decided to obtain my AAUS research diver certification. Within a few years, I had explored and conducted underwater research in marine systems ranging from the sandy harbors and algal beds of the Gulf of Maine, to the estuarine mussel farms of Prince Edward

Island, to the rocky reefs of the Galápagos Archipelago. Surprisingly, I have never dived purely for pleasure - I have always conducted surveys, collected animals, implemented underwater cages, or deployed underwater devices. And I have enjoyed every minute of it!

My current PhD research has recently introduced me to the complex and dynamic California kelp forests. I am currently studying red abalone population dynamics for my dissertation, with a focus on the ecological consequences of red abalone behavioral variation.

To hear more about my research and my crazy experiences as a research diver, come see my presentation at the meeting on February 15th. ★

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.

2012 COMING EVENTS

Feb 1	Business Meeting
Feb 11	Second Saturday Scuba (S3)
Feb 15	• General Meeting
March 7	Business Meeting
March 10	Second Saturday Scuba (S3)
March 16-18	Ski Weekend
March 21	• General Meeting
April 1	1-Day Ab Grab - Location TBD
April 4	Business Meeting
April 7	Second Saturday Scuba (S3)
April 18	• General Meeting
April 27-29	Van Damme Ab Weekend

Much More To Come!
Watch the Club's Website for the full
2012 Calendar

October 7-9 Lobster Trip

This is an all-inclusive mini-vacation to the famed Cortez Banks, south of California's Channel Islands, for some exceptional "Bug" diving! Last year's trip was fantastic and many Dippers have already signed up.



Flipper Dippers' Coordinator: *Carl Tuttle*

Liveboard Boat: *The Conception*
(www.truthaquatics.com)

Host: Any Water Sports, San Jose

Dates: Oct 7 - 9, 2012
(Sun, Mon, Tues - Board Sat Night)

Cost: \$595 (All inclusive)

Deposit: \$250 (To Any Water Sports to reserve your spot.) ★



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San Jose Flipper Dippers

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