

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

APRIL
2020

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

We'll all get back in the pool soon

With the “stay-at-home,” 10-person social gathering and 6-foot social distance order in place around the state, to deal with the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, trying to figure out the end of the order shows a lot of uncertainty and that these requirements could be extended through the month of April and longer.

From the Santa Clara County Website Q&A page: **When does the Order go into effect?** The Order went into effect at 12:01 am on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

How long does the Order last? The Order is currently set to last for three weeks – until 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, 2020. The County Health Officer may choose to shorten or extend the time period. How long the restrictions take place will depend on what the County Health Officer decides is necessary to protect public health.

After a number of email discussions by the Club Officers, Committee members and others, it was determined that it was necessary to cancel the April 11th under water Easter Egg Hunt. In addition, both the April Business and General Meetings will be “virtual” meetings due to the probability the stay-at-home order will be extended through the month. Dive shops are closed so getting your tanks filled or equipment serviced is also out of the question.

As this newsletter was going to print, the Pt. Lobos dive on May 9th is still scheduled. Many State Parks are closing parking to visitors. Pt. Lobos is allowing divers in the park but is reducing other automobile traffic entering the park by 50 percent.

So, stay tuned, stay healthy and stay safe. We'll all get back in the pool soon!



Be sure to protect yourself from the nasty things we have to deal with these days

Avid scuba diver and short on groceries, **Nicholas Anthony** heads out shopping but avoids the toxic air. Deprived of the ability to enjoy his scuba hobby, and afraid of breathing toxic surface air, Nicholas safely faces the crowds to get groceries! (From Nicholas's Facebook page.) ★



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



“May you live in interesting times.” We are certainly doing that. With the Coronavirus sweeping throughout the world it is difficult to make plans that may or may not happen. Due to the ‘cower in place’ order given by the government, in March we had a “virtual” General Meeting through Webex which was setup and run by our Vice President **Abby Wilson**. It went quite smoothly for most depending on the equipment and internet connection the participants had available. Thank you Abby!

Due to the uncertainty of the virus we’ve had to cancel, or curtail, our activities. Both this month’s Business and General Meetings will be virtual meetings. We’re hoping that at the virtual General Meeting, on April 15, **Keith Rootsart** will be able to join in and give a talk on the Purple Urchin. See page 5 for information on his presentation. We’ll send out an email to the members with instructions on how to participate. I hope everyone shows up to give Keith a big show of support.

Looking ahead we’re hopeful our S3 dive at Point Lobos, on May 9th, and the annual club dive and campout Memorial Day weekend will take place as planned - So stay tuned!

Everyone keep safe and let’s go diving!

– Your president **Tom**



San Jose Flipper Dippers

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TROPHY COMPETITION

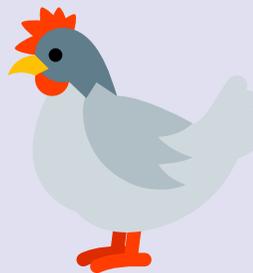
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Diver's I.Q. Review Corner

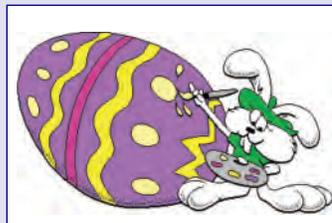
Jim Rezowalli

Because the UW Easter Egg Hunt was canceled, here are some “Dad Jokes” for this month’s Diver’s I.Q. review. Each correct answer is worth a chance to win FIVE (5) virtual raffle tickets!

- 1.) What day do eggs hate most?
- 2.) What did Snow White call her chicken?
- 3.) How do eggs leave the highway?
- 4.) How do comedians like their eggs?
- 5.) How do monsters like their eggs?
- 6.) What do chickens call a school test?
- 7.) What's the difference between you and eggs?
- 8.) What did the eggs do when the light turned green?
- 9.) Did you hear about McDonalds?
- 10.) How did the egg get up the mountain?
- 11.) What do you call an egg taking a snooze on the job?
- 12.) Who wrote the book, Great Eggspectations?



To see how you did with your answers, check page 7 for the correct answers. **Good Luck!**



Dippers Celebrate 56 Years!

The San Jose Flipper Dippers, one of the oldest and most active dive clubs in Northern California, began its odyssey back in 1964 with a small group of SCUBA instructors and other devoted divers dedicated to the promotion of safety and diver training. By 1965 the Club had a "Charter Member" list of 46 divers strong. The first edition of this newsletter was published in April 1965 and consisted of two pages! Three Charter Members (now Lifetime) are still in the Club including **Jan Robinson** and **Ken Seaton**. Happy Birthday!



Jan Robinson



Ken Seaton



This year's anniversary salutes those who have been Club members for:

20 or more consecutive years

- Carl Tuttle '72**
- Jerry Richards '82**
- Steve Richards '84**
- Barbara Zwiieg '85**
- Bill Shipman '86**
- Debby Alarcon '87**
- Tony Alarcon '87**
- Mike Chalup '88**
- Kelly Drake '88**
- Hunter Reid '88**
- Barbara Davis '93**
- Larry Ankuda '94**
- Greg Davis '94**
- Dennis Nasont '98**

10 or more consecutive years

- Adam Nasont '14**
- Jim Rezowalli '14**
- John Snyder '12**
- Howard Timoney '12**
- Tom Gardner '10**



RAFFLE NEWS

Leigh Hartley Tuttle

The March General Meeting was a virtual meeting and there was no raffle! What's up with that? Looks like no face-to-face meeting of the Flipper Dippers in April either. So if the Dippers can go online for the April virtual General Meeting, I think the raffle can too!

Carl and I looked around the house and scored what seem to be popular items that you all would like including:

- Two rolls of Kirkland toilet paper
- One roll of Kirkland paper towels
- Four packets of Purcell hand wipes
- A spray bottle of Mrs. Meyer's hand soap
- A large bottle of Mrs. Meyer's spray kitchen surface cleaner
- Two double pack Snickers bars (that Carl couldn't use because all the ski resorts closed for the season.)

During the meeting you can make a virtual bid of raffle tickets for the items you would like and the highest bid gets the item. It's that simple. Just like the auction galleries if you want to up your bid, you can! So be sure to purchase as many raffle tickets you think you'll need to win any of these fabulous high-demand items!

The fine print:

Void where prohibited by law. You must be present to win. Batteries not included. Highest bidder pays all handling and shipping costs. Minimum bid 1,000 tickets. Prizes have a cash value of \$20,000.00. This joke is subject to change at any time.

Stay safe and I look forward to seeing everyone when this Coronavirus is over! Enjoy your staycations! ★

MEMBERSHIP

Teresa Hanson

There are prospective members looking to dive and once we get back into the water we look forward to diving with you! See the Club's Website (Membership Requirements) for more information. Contact **Teresa** for additional information on any and all Membership Requirements. ★



Win these Great Prizes at April's Virtual General Meeting

2020 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 **John Snyder** at +1-408-202-5196, e-mail: john.fishhunter@gmail.com, **WITHIN 1 WEEK** and give him all the proper info (include the name of one Club-member witness). ★

SKIN DIVING

OPEN CATEGORIES

Lingcod, Cabezon, Sheephead, Lobster, Halibut, White Sea Bass, Striped Bass

SCUBA

OPEN CATEGORIES

Cabazon, Lingcod, Halibut, Sheephead, Lobster

Good luck to all!



'Who's on this dive charter?'

Mike Chalup

The March S3 dive was scheduled for a two tank trip on the Beach Hopper II. At one point there were 5 Dippers (plus a friend) who had signed up, with a total of 7 diver spots taken on the boat. That meant that the Dippers pretty much had the charter to themselves – sweet!

But then the cancelations started. The one Dipper plus friend had a possible contact with someone with COVID-19 and self-isolated; an admirable decision. The wave model was looking so-so in the days preceding the dive and another Dipper said they didn't want to go out in less than 'Pristine Conditions'. So the Dippers' group was now down to 3.

Before we leave the dock – We got down to Monterey and the divers start to load and set up gear on the Beach Hopper. While putting on their drysuit, another Dipper ripped their neck seal apart. Non-replaceable, they decide to stay onshore.

Not that many of the non-Dippers for the charter were doing much better. One diver came down to speak to Captain **MaryJo Nelson** to say he had pulled his back and decided not to dive. Another diver found that the transmitter for their hoseless tank pressure gauge was dead. At least that diver had their trip saved by the spare regulator and gauge set **Mike Chalup** always keeps in his well-traveled blue cooler.

But then the boat picked up someone not expected. This diver walked onto the dock, and MaryJo, with a puzzled look said "You're on tomorrow's charter, not today." However, given all the other cancelations, the person was accommodated.

After the dizzying changes of the passenger manifest, the Beach Hopper cast off with Dippers **Barbara Davis** and Mike and three other divers onboard. **Brian Nelson** was our divemaster, an unusual role for MaryJo's husband. Although it was a bit of a bumpy ride, we actually got around Pt. Pinos and checked out the conditions at Pt. Joe. The decision was that even at the site's depth (75 feet), the surge would have been too heavy, so we returned to do our first dive at Aumentos Reef.

Following the anchor line down through rather blue water, visibility at Aumentos was between 40-50 feet. It was still winter in Monterey, and with purples urchins present, there was little to no kelp. However, large clusters of metridium and a very docile juvenile lingcod who liked to repeatedly have their picture taken provided much interest.

The second dive was at the Monterey Aquarium, which was closed at the time to prevent the COVID-19 spread. Barbara found a reef with much kelp during her navigations and was swooped by a friendly sea lion. Mike was approached several times by a very curious large male sheephead who apparently has been frequently spotted at this site.

Finally returning to the Harbor, Barbara and Mike were joined by **Grace Chi** for lunch at the still open London Bridge Pub next to the Wharf II. Overall, a somewhat chaotic but good day of diving in Monterey. ★





Reef Check California and the “Urchin Experiment”

Join us online at our virtual April General Meeting for this informative presentation with **Keith Rootsart**.

Keith Rootsart has been a SCUBA diver in Monterey since 1984 and is very active in the local diving community. Rootsart is a past president and dive coordinator of the Monterey Bay Sea Otters Dive Club, holds a diving seat on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, is a volunteer at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, works as a Dive Master

for local dive boats and shops, is an instructor for Reef Environmental Education Foundation, and is a contract trainer for Reef Check California.

He has enjoyed over 1000 dives in his 35 years of diving in places such as Mexico, Bonaire, the Cayman Islands, Florida, Hawaii, and Washington state, but most of his diving is logged in the cold waters along the California coast.

Rootsart will speak about his extensive experience with Reef Check California and the “Urchin Experiment” in the Pacific Grove Gardens Marine Conservation Area. The experiment is attempting to determine the threshold density when an urchin barren will return to a kelp forest state. He will discuss the origins of the urchin barrens and

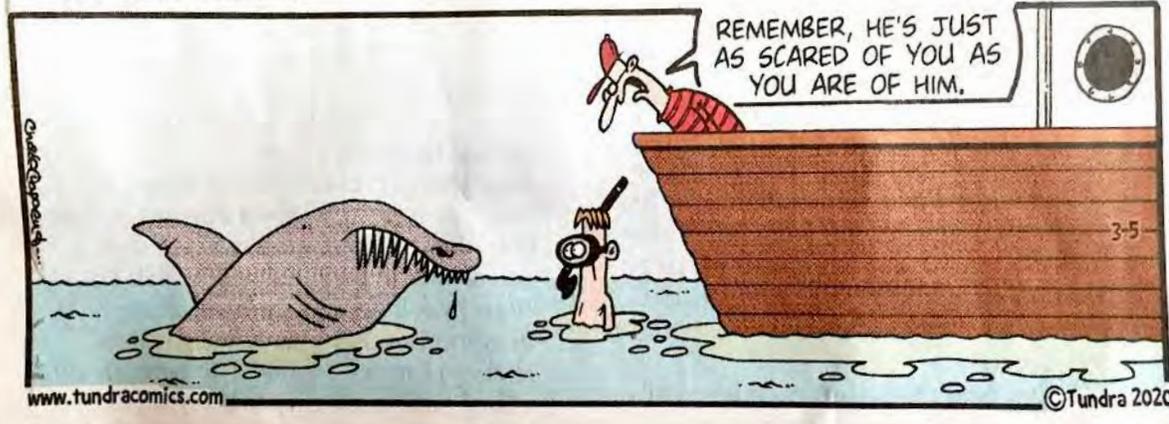
the scientific efforts to determine kelp restoration strategies. The first



year of the urchin project has answered some questions but raised some more along the way.

The presentation will be of interest to divers who have witnessed the transformation of the Monterey and Carmel Bay kelp forests and provides an avenue to participate in group efforts to remove large urchin barrens and restore the kelp forest ecosystem they enjoy. ★

Tundra Chad Carpenter



Meet the only female diver in the Army

Senior Airman Derek Seifert

At 28 years old, Stephanie Johnson, a mother of two, decided to join the U.S. Army and pursue a better life for her children. She dreamt of providing them opportunities and benefits that she never experienced growing up, she had no idea that she would be the only enlisted female diver in the Army.

Sgt. Johnson is the lead salvage diver for the 569th Engineer Dive Detachment, 53rd Engineer Battalion, 7th Transportation Brigade (Expeditionary), at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.

Johnson has always been interested in physical fitness and playing sports. Despite being fit, she found pull-ups to be challenging during Advanced Individual Training.

"I had always worked out and I never really struggled, but building the initial upper body [strength], for me that was a huge challenge," said Johnson. "I wasn't prepared for the level of physical training that dive school was going to take me to. Sometimes we were working out two or three times a day. I was just so tired all the time, but I adapted."

She credits her family with giving her the motivation to continue and graduate from dive school.

"Thinking about my kids and my dad while I was in AIT gave me the motivation to keep pushing through," Johnson said. "If something was super hard and I was struggling, I would think, maybe I don't need to do this. I could go do anything else in the Army, and it would probably be easier. But then I would think, could I go home at the end of the day and tell my dad or my kids that I quit? And the answer was always 'No, absolutely not.' That's what pushed me through on my worst days."

According to Johnson, her father and children attended her graduation ceremony, and her father pinned her dive pin on her uniform; giving her a sense of pride she had never felt before.

Although Johnson is the only current female enlisted Army diver, she credits the female diver who graduated before her with providing her this opportunity.

"She paved the way for me because she was the one who showed the male Soldiers that just because we're females, that doesn't mean we have to be treated any differently," Johnson said. "We know we joined an all-male

field and we kind of go in expecting that it's going to be a little bit different."

Johnson started her journey in the Army to provide a better life for her children, but has realized she has the ability to motivate and encourage young woman to pursue their dreams.

"I hope I can show young girls that they are perfectly capable," Johnson said. "You have to put your mind to it, don't quit, try your hardest and keep a positive attitude. I hope I always demonstrate a positive attitude to my fellow Soldiers and inspire them to do the same. I really do



think that can get you through any of your trials, personal or work-related; it's all about attitude."

When Johnson decided to join the Army, she wanted to find some-

thing she could be proud of. "I wanted to do something that had meaning and was not only physical, but where I could go home at the end of the day and feel as if I actually did something productive that day," Johnson said. "That I had benefitted someone."

Thinking back to what her mother used to tell her, "This too shall pass," has helped Johnson push herself through tough parts in her life, and has motivated her to keep going.

"Things may be hard at work or at home, so I try to focus on what I can do to make it better and accept that it's not going to last forever," Johnson said. "I just keep pushing through knowing that I'm going to be stronger on the other side. I try to think of problems as temporary obstacles.

Everyone has setbacks, everybody makes bad choices, and everybody faces things that are completely out of their control, that go wrong. You just have to know that things will eventually get better; there's a light at the end of the tunnel." ✪



DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

ABBY WILSON

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APRIL 2020

★ NOTICE ★

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1 BUSINESS MEETING 7:30 PM

The meeting will be virtual and all members are invited to attend. Please email **Abby Golden Wilson** (abbygolden15@gmail.com) or **Carl Tuttle** (tutcomms@sbcglobal.net) if you need the link to join. This is a good time to share your new ideas for dives and entertainment. Have your own refreshments ready to consume.

GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY,

April 15

7:30 PM

Celebrate 55 Years of the San Jose Flipper Dippers.

Join us online to celebrate SJFD's 55th Birthday!

Virtual meeting invites will be sent to all members, but everyone is welcome to join in the fun!

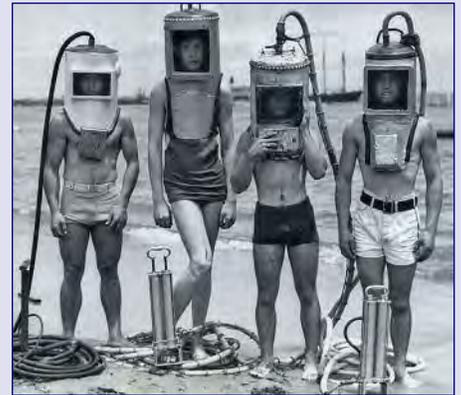
We hope **Keith Rootsart** will be able to join in and give a talk on the **Purple Urchin situation**.

Please contact us on our website, or email the club VP, Abby Golden Wilson (abbygolden15@gmail.com), if you would like to attend.



UPCOMING IN MAY

- 6 Business Meeting
- 9 Second Saturday SCUBA Pt. Lobos
- 20 General Meeting
Spring Fling Raffle
- 22-25 Memorial Day Weekend
Big Sur



Diver's I.Q. Review Answers

- 1.) Fry-day!
- 2.) Egg white.
- 3.) By going through the eggs-it.
- 4.) Funny side up!
- 5.) Terri-fried!
- 6.) Eggs-amination!
- 7.) Eggs get laid and you don't
- 8.) They egg-celerated!
- 9.) They eggspanded the breakfast menu.
- 10.) It scrambled up!
- 11.) Egg-zosted!
- 12.) Charles Chickens!

 **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

2020 COMING EVENTS

April 1	Business Meeting
April 15	🐡 General Meeting - SJFD 56 Years Old
May 6	Business Meeting
May 9	Second Saturday SCUBA Pt. Lobos
May 20	🐡 General Meeting - Spring Fling Raffle
May 22-25	Memorial Day Weekend - Big Sur
June 3	Business Meeting
June 9	Second Saturday SCUBA - Boat Dive
June 17	🐡 General Meeting - Food Drive

**Watch This Space - Much More To Come!
See the Club's Website for the full Calendar**

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