

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

JUNE 2020

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD
3RD WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH
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The Pool's Open! Well, some of it ...

Reports have come in that ocean access for diving is open. One individual reported he went diving at the Breakwater and the parking lots and bathrooms are open. Other reports indicate that



some areas are still closed – specifically California State Parks. It's uncertain if Monastery Beach is closed as this is part of Carmel River State Beach but a check on the State's Website indicates:

- Very limited parking is now available to the public.
- Beaches are open for active recreation with safe social distancing.
- Select toilets will be available.

The launch ramps in Monterey, Moss Landing and Santa Cruz are open for boaters, although social distancing requirements are required.

Dive shops are opening up in the Bay Area and Monterey for curb-side pickups and providing scuba tank fills. Be sure to contact your local shop to confirm which services are available and hours of operation. With most people unable to dive for some time, be sure to give your gear a good inspection before heading out. If your gear needs servicing check with the shop as they most likely will have a long back-up of orders.

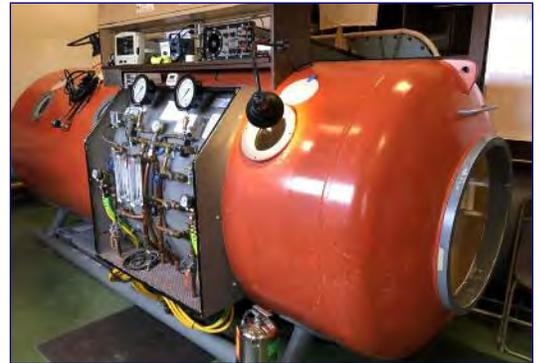
We'll continue to have virtual Business and General Meetings until the gathering restrictions are lifted. Please join in as there is a lot of information that can still be reported on and shared among our great Club members.

Stay tuned, stay healthy and stay safe!



Pacific Grove Advisory Update: COVID-19 Chamber Closure

The Pacific Grove hyperbaric chamber located at the Pacific Grove Fire Department is not taking any diver or CO poison victims during the COVID-19 epidemic. According to a posting on their Website: "While Shelter In Place is in force dive accidents and CO poisonings will be referred to John Muir Medical Center that is able to safely treat in their mono-place chambers. The safety of our volunteer crew is paramount."



The John Muir Medical Center, in Walnut Creek, CA, utilizes mono-place chambers which allow treatment with reduced risk of the spread of the Covid-19 virus.



Remember access to a hyperbaric chamber for any treatment is only by referral from a doctor. If you think you have DCS be sure to contact your doctor first. ★



What's Inside?



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Well this month has been very quiet as far as club activities go. We did have one event that was very enjoyable and that was a dive presentation by **Dennis Nasont** during the General Meeting via Webex in May. It was a slide presentation of the southwest Caribbean waters including Belize and Roatan. One of the more interesting facts that Dennis presented was the variety and abundance of fish and turtles found in these waters. Plus the water seemed incredibly clear. The area looked pristine and obviously we need to plan a trip there once the COVID-19 problem is resolved.

Sad to say, this wasn't a very active month here. Our May Annual S3 Pt. Lobos dive was cancelled. I'm fantasizing that the conditions were excellent. Nice weather, light wind, very little surge and visibility of 25 to 30 ft. Couldn't ask for a better day to dive. We had a good turnout and a very pleasant potluck, just like last year. But then again it didn't happen.

The camping/diving trip to Big Sur was also canceled due to the COVID-19 State Park closures. We'll have to wait and see if our Labor Day Weekend at Van Damme in September happens so stay tuned.

This month the club was scheduled to have our Annual Food Drive at the General Meeting. COVID-19 rules don't allow food drop-offs so consider a financial donation to Second Harvest Food Bank as food is still needed.

Reports are in that access to the ocean for diving is open in some areas - except for State Parks. More to come as additional reports come in.

The June S3 dive on the 13th was supposed to be a boat dive. I've heard that the Beachhopper II is running and there are still 6 openings. At least that's what the Beachhopper website says. However, many in the Club are concerned about the social distance issue, so we've moved it to a beach dive. Check the calendar for information.

Let's hope the weather stays nice and we have great diving conditions for June.

Everyone keep safe!

- Your president **Tom**



San Jose Flipper Dippers

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TROPHY COMPETITION

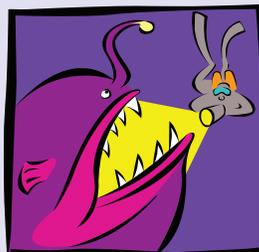
John Snyder 408-378-4963



Join us online at our virtual June General Meeting for a great time to share your dive stories or discuss how you're keeping busy - while unable to go diving. ★

Diver' I.Q. Review Corner

See Page 4



Liveboard Dive Boat Update

Magician, San Pedro – New Rules



In the wake of the Conception tragedy there are now important changes for all the dive boats. The USCG is taking this very seriously requiring every commercial vessel to complete an additional inspection of watch keeping procedures, crew training, firefighting equipment, emergency lighting and bunk-room escape hatch.

The Magician met or exceeded all crew training, fire prevention & fire-fighting requirements for the USCG before any improvements.

In spite of this, they have upgraded their smoke alarms to an interconnected smoke/carbon monoxide tester system and added two more detectors. In addition they have added two night-watch alarms, one in the wheel-house and one in the galley.

They have also had to make other changes on-board that will affect everyone signing up for a trip on the Magician.

1-ALL lithium batteries (most everything has a lithium battery) brought on board will need to be in a fireproof container like the Lipo bags you can find on the Internet. Power strips have never been allowed on the boat and still will not be allowed.

LiPo Battery

A lithium polymer battery, or more correctly lithium-ion polymer battery (abbreviated as LiPo, LIP, Li-poly, lithium-poly and others), is a rechargeable battery of lithium-ion technology using a polymer electrolyte instead of a liquid electrolyte. High conductivity semisolid (gel) polymers form this electrolyte.

2-All lithium batteries will be required to be charged in your fire-proof container or Lipo bag. NO charging of batteries will be allowed between 10 pm-6 am.

3-Large hard dive cases will no longer be allowed on-board. They can block escape routes.

4-According to the USCG to ease passenger egress in case of an emergency they will be lowering the maximum on overnights and people sleeping on the boat at dock to 14 passengers. There can still be more people on the boat for a day trip but people wishing to sleep on the boat the night before will be limited to 14. ★

RAFFLE NEWS

Leigh Hartley Tuttle

I sure miss the Flipper Dippers' meetings and the raffle. Always so nice seeing everyone and selling tickets for wonderful table items that the Dippers donate. I enjoy every aspect and sure miss the camaraderie. The Tuttle Family always played card games for money and the competition was tough. It was fun, especially when you won. Maybe I have the "stay at home blues." I bring this up because I wonder if any Dippers are buying more lottery tickets, playing cards at home or betting on any other games. I hope we can all get together soon. Want to bet on when we meet again? Be safe. ★

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! Prospective **Ken Agur** only needs one more signature. Now all we need is to get back in the water! See the Club's Website (Membership Requirements) for more information. Contact **Teresa** for additional information on any and all Membership Requirements.

If we had a regular General Meeting, a FREE raffle ticket could be given to the following Dippers who have a birthday this month: **Jackie Gardner, Hunter Reid** and **Bill Shipman**. ★

Thousands More Sharks Killed for Fins

Customs officers in Hong Kong, alerted by suspicious labelling in Spanish, seized 26-tons of illegal dried shark fins worth more than \$1 million. The fins came from two species vulnerable to extinction – thresher and silky sharks. An estimated 38,000 sharks would have been killed to provide so many fins. HK Customs officials have already foiled nine other shark fins smuggling cases in the first four months of this year. ★



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

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Iconic Bonaire Dive Leader, Dies

Bruce Bowker, the owner of long-established Carib Inn on Bonaire (www.carib-inn.com), died on May

9 from the head injuries he sustained in an accident unconnected with scuba diving, on May 5. He was instrumental in 1999, in raising funds with the help of the Dutch Royal family to buy Klein Bonaire,

which was donated to the people of Bonaire under the strict stipulation that it should never be developed. It is now officially designated as a Protected Area and it is part of the Bonaire National Marine Park. To make a donation in his memory, the family has chosen the Bonaire Animal Shelter, an organization close to his heart. ☆



Diver's I.Q. Review Corner

Barbara Davis

Because we're still stuck "Sheltering-in-Place" here's a little fun activity.

There are no correct answers and no chance to win FIVE (5) virtual raffle tickets!

Good Luck!

p.s. Just for more fun, include your middle name with the 1st or 2nd group!



Open and Shut Cases

Filled with optimism, Nautilus Dive Adventures has announced the reinstatement of its Socorro trips in mid-June. With hotels in Cabo San Lucas planning to reopen May 17 and the lockdown in Mexico due to finish at the end of the month, some airlines plan to resume flying from the USA and Canada. Augmenting its fleet, Nautilus is also introducing a new vessel, the MV. Westerly, for operations in the Sea of Cortez, starting September. ☆

Slow Down on Cayman

The Cayman government confirms that the islands will remain closed to visitors until at least the beginning of September. This may also set a precedent for other Caribbean nations as well. ☆

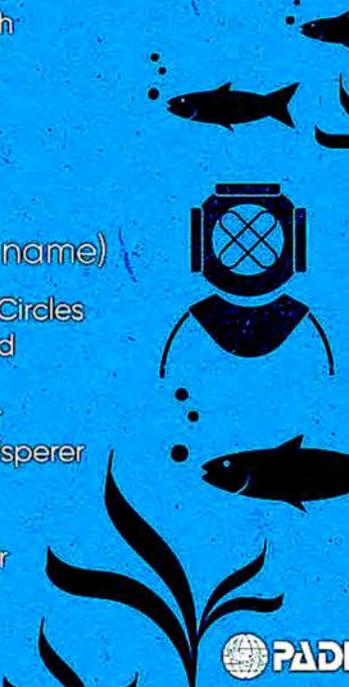
What's your Scuba Diver Name?

FIRST NAME (use the first initial in your first name)

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| A Waterborne | J Boaty | S Zodiac |
| B Weights | K Snorkel | T Nemo |
| C Hover | L Freeflow | U Fins |
| D Lungs | M Flotsom | V Pony Bottle |
| E Captain | N Deco | W Nudibranch |
| F Shorty | O Muck Diver | X Bendy |
| G Backroll | P Octopus | Y Bait Ball |
| H Wrong-Way | Q Bowline | Z Backplate |
| I Neoprene | R Shaka | |

LAST NAME (use the first initial in your last name)

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| A Jersey Reel | J Zissou | S Swims-in-Circles |
| B McBoatface | K Floatsalot | T Whale-Pod |
| C Bailout | L Offgasser | U Wetwillie |
| D O'Ring | M Seadaddy | V Boatfinder |
| E Clovehitch | N Frogfish | W Shark-Whisperer |
| F Bug Hunter | O Fish Hugger | X Jetsum |
| G Nudihugger | P Monkeywrench | Y Abalone |
| H Bubblemaker | Q Bubblehead | Z Blue Water |
| I Tankhauler | R Double Hose | |



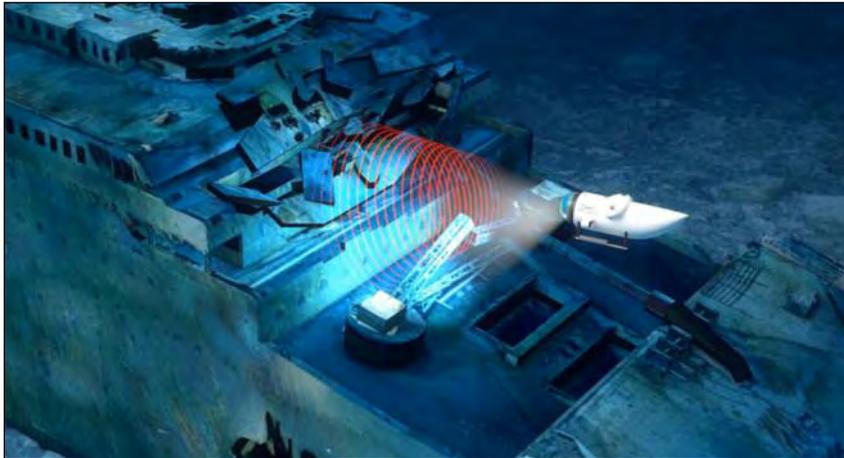
Titanic Salvage Operation Continues

Judge clears the way for salvagers to open up the Titanic and retrieve Marconi radio

A federal judge says RMS Titanic Inc. can go forward with its plan to cut into the Titanic shipwreck and try retrieving the Marconi wireless telegraph machine that sent out distress calls 108 years ago.

In an order issued in Norfolk, Va., District Judge Rebecca Beach Smith said RMS Titanic, the court-designated salvage firm for the Titanic, made its case that the radio had enough historic value to justify sending a specially equipped robot into the wreck. The remotely operated submersible would be equipped with tools to cut through the deckhouse if necessary.

The Titanic is arguably the world's most famous shipwreck — and a monument to the more than 1,500 people who died when the luxury liner struck an iceberg and sank in the North Atlantic, during its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York in 1912.



Researchers rediscovered the wreck in 1985, and since then, hundreds of artifacts have been recovered from the bottom of the ocean and put on exhibit. That's what RMS Titanic is planning to do with the radio.

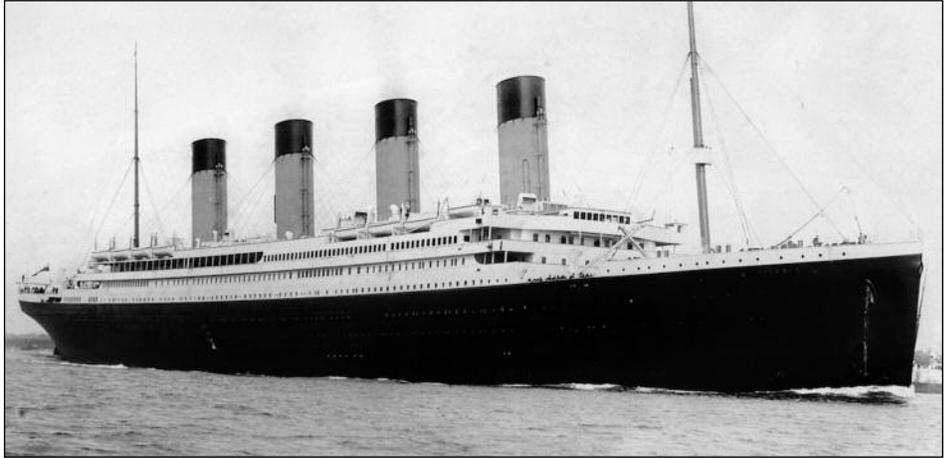
In her ruling, Smith wrote that retrieving the radio "will contribute to the legacy left by the indelible loss of the Titanic, those who survived, and those who gave their lives in the sinking."

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration had argued that the expedition was prohibited under federal law and an international agreement, but the judge said a salvage agreement dating back to 2000 took precedence.

RMS Titanic is planning to conduct its expedition in August. During a video session presented last month by Everett, WA-based OceanGate, Bretton Hunchak, president of RMS Titanic, said the expedition would focus on the Marconi radio for a number of reasons.

"Many people have called it the voice of Titanic, and I don't necessarily think that's wrong," Hunchak said. "What

I do think is wrong is that some people think it's just a radio. ... The story of Titanic is really one about overcoming adversity, and I think in today's environment, that rings truer than ever, right? We're afraid to go outside, we're afraid about what to do with our families."



He said the 700 passengers who survived the Titanic's sinking faced similar adversity, and argued that the tabletop radio was emblematic of their survival.

"The only reason there were survivors, and the only reason that we're sitting here today discussing the wreck, and are able to do this research, is because of that radio," Hunchak said.

Putting the radio on exhibit will help the world "re-engage with Titanic," he said. During the expedition, RMS Titanic would conduct a video survey of the wreck, which is reportedly decomposing rapidly. Smith directed the company to make any recordings available to the court as well as to NOAA.

OceanGate is working with RMS Titanic because it's planning its own Titanic expedition next year, using a five-person submersible that's currently under construction. The company is leaving some spots open on its dives for mission specialists who are paying more than \$100,000 each to be in on the expedition. ★



FOOD BANK DRIVE AT JUNE GENERAL MEETING

The FOOD DRIVE at the General Meeting for the Second Harvest Food Bank won't take place due to the COVID-19 rules. Second Harvest is also abiding by social distancing requirements and can not accept drop-off donations at this time. They still need your support so consider a **financial donation**. Second Harvest feeds an average of 116,000 people per month, more than half of whom are children. And due to the coronavirus this number has seen a substantial increase. Donations can be made online at: www.shfb.org ★

Navy detonates World War II-era bombs found in Hawaiian waters

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — A Navy team blew up two World War II-era ordnance found in shallow water just off a popular Oahu beach. A snorkeler apparently found the munitions and contacted the Coast Guard, who in turn got in touch with the Navy.

Sailors with an explosive ordnance disposal team used C-4 munitions to blow up the 100-pound barnacle-encrusted bombs, which appeared to have intact fuses, according to a news release by the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The pair of bombs, a type that would have been deployed from aircraft, were under about 12 feet of water roughly 400 yards out from Lanikai Beach on the windward side of Oahu. The blast blew water high into the air.

Hawaii's beaches have been largely deserted the past month, the



result of a stay-at-home order issued by the governor in response to the coronavirus threat.

Using an inflatable raft, the Navy team recovered another eight encrusted metal cylinders believed to be some type of munitions left in the water either during World War II, which ran from 1941-45 or shortly after it ended.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources was involved in the disposal because it controls and manages public lands, water resources, ocean waters, navigable

streams, coastal areas and minerals in the state.

The sailors, with Mobile Diving Salvage Unit 1 Detachment from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, transported the eight unexploded ordnance to a secure location for destruction.

Chuck Anthony, a spokesman for the joint base



who witnessed the detonation and retrieval, said that the unexploded ordnance moved were so encrusted after more than seven decades in the sea that the team was unable to positively identify what they were. ★

The wrecks and disaster of Honda Point

On the morning of 8 September 1923, thirteen destroyers of Destroyer Squadron (DesRon) 11 departed San Francisco for a two-day cruise to San Diego. They were returning home after escorting Battle Division 4 from Puget Sound to San Francisco.

The DesRon comprised the five ships of Destroyer Division (DesDiv) 33, with Delphy out front, followed by S.P. Lee, Young, Woodbury and Nicholas; six ships from DesDiv 31, with Farragut followed by Fuller, Percival, Somers, Chauncey and Kennedy; and three ships from DesDiv 32, Paul Hamilton, Stoddert and Thompson.

The warships conducted tactical and gunnery exercises en route, including a competitive speed run of 20 knots. Later in the day, as weather worsened, the ships formed a column

on the squadron leader Delphy.

That evening, around 2000 hours (8 p.m.), the flagship broadcast an erroneous report – based on an improperly interpreted radio compass bearing –



showing the squadrons position about nine miles off Point Arguello. An hour later, the destroyers turned east to enter what was thought to be the Santa Barbara Channel, though it could not be seen owing to thick fog.

Unfortunately, a combination of abnormally strong currents (caused by the extremely severe earthquake in Japan on 2 September which

destroyed much of Tokyo and Yokohama) and navigational complacency led the squadron onto the rocks off Pedernales Point, near Honda, just north of Point Arguello.

Just after turning, Delphy struck the rocks at 2105, plowing ashore at 20 knots. She was followed by S.P. Lee, which hit and swung broadside against the bluffs. Young piled up adjacent to Delphy and capsized, trapping many of her fire and engine room crew below. While Woodbury, Nicholas and Fuller struck reefs and ran aground offshore, Chauncey ran in close aboard Young. Alarm sirens slowed Somers and Farragut enough so they just touched ground before backing off while the five other destroyers steered completely clear.

Although seven destroyers were eventually wrecked by the pounding surf, the slow, cumulative damage gave the crewmen time to escape. Rescue

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DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

ABBY GOLDEN WILSON



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JUNE 2020

★ NOTICE ★

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, both the June Business and General Meetings will be “virtual” meetings. All previously scheduled activities are to be determined (TBD).

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3
BUSINESS MEETING 7:30 PM**
NO BBQ - The meeting **virtually**. All members are invited to attend, please email **Carl Tuttle** or **Abby Golden Wilson** if you need the link to join. Bring your own food, drinks, and internet connection and let's discuss ideas for how we can stay connected while apart!

**SATURDAY, JUNE 6
NO SCHEDULED DIVE**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 13
SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA
(S3) - BEACH DIVE**
Coordinator: **Carl Tuttle** (408-829-3660, tutcomms @sbcglobal.net). This month's scheduled S3 dive is

currently a go! Let's get our gills wet - and our gear wet too. As everything is subject to change we'll pick a location as the date gets closer, so send Carl an email to get on the list. And due to the COVID-19 social distancing requirement, there won't be the option of carpooling. Also a mask (no, not your dive mask) will be needed while suiting up.

GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

7:30 PM

Celebrating 56 Years

Join us online for our Virtual General Meeting. Virtual meeting invites will be sent to all members, but everyone is welcome to join in the fun!

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



**SATURDAY, JUNE 20
NO SCHEDULED DIVE**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 27
NO SCHEDULED DIVE**



UPCOMING IN JULY - TBD

- 1 Business Meeting**
- 4 No License Fishing Day
- 11 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 12 Panther Beach Clean Up
- 15 General Meeting**
- 25 Halibut Dive



continued from page 6

parties were organized, small boats and local fishing boats picked up swimmers, and life lines strung to shore allowed the rest to wade to safety. Despite delays – the last sailors were not rescued until the afternoon of 9 September – only 23 men were lost, 20 in Young and 3 in Delphy.

The ships were total losses. They were stricken from the Register, stripped of usable equipment and sold to a scrapper for \$1,035. No sal-

vage work was done, and the ships remain where they were wrecked. Chauncey's remains are still visible in the area which is now part of Vandenberg AFB.



Locally known as Honda, the site of the tragedy was called “Devil's Jaw” by Spanish sailors who feared the rocks, winds, waves and currents there. The area off Honda and nearby Arguello,

Conception and Rocky Point is part of the “Graveyard of the Pacific.” Dozens of other wrecks lie in the Santa Barbara Channel and along the offshore islands. For the Honda wrecks in front Vandenberg they were closed to the public indefinitely just after Sept. 11, 2001. ★

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

June 3	Business Meeting - Virtual
June 13	Second Saturday SCUBA - Beach Dive
June 17	🐡 General Meeting - Virtual
July 1	Business Meeting
July 4	No License Fishing Day
July 11	Second Saturday SCUBA
July 12	Panther Beach Clean Up
July 15	🐡 General Meeting
July 25	Halibut Dive
Aug 5	Business Meeting - TBD
Aug 8	Second Saturday SCUBA - Boat Dive - TBD
Aug 15	Elkhorn Slough Cleanup
Aug 19	🐡 General Meeting - Food Drive - TBD

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Watch This Space – Much More To Come!
See the Club’s Website for the full Calendar



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