

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

MAY
2023

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD
3RD WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH
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Australia Dive Trip Report

Barbara Davis

Dippers **Howard Chien**, **Barbara Davis** and **Frances Lee** had a wonderful trip to Australia in March and April, including a week of diving on the Spoil Sport with Mike Ball Dive Expeditions, and two weeks of sight-seeing around the country.

Since Barbara had to postpone her dive trip due to a bout of COVID, we met up in Melbourne to start our sight-seeing. One highlight was the Queen Victoria Market just down the street from our hotel. Founded in 1878, this historic landmark is a vibrant and bustling inner-city market where you can shop at over 600 small businesses for everything from Australian fruit and vegetables, local and imported gourmet foods, clothing and souvenirs. We shared a bowl of steamed mussels and Barbara also enjoyed a sausage sandwich and some gourmet chocolates.

Next, we flew out to Alice Springs to start our whirlwind tour of the Outback. Stops here included Simpson's Gap, Standley Chasm and the Ochre Pits in the Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park; Kings Canyon, where we enjoyed the views on the Rim Walk; and watching the sunrise and the sunset light on Uluru in Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. We had stocked up with a cooler and snacks for the road trip. Barbara and Howard took turns driving, while Frances kept us well fed! We found that driving on the left side of the road wasn't a big deal but we kept turning on the windshield wipers when trying to signal turns!

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U/W Easter Egg Hide & Seek

The 14th Annual Under Water Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, April 22 and the conditions were challenging . . . to say the least. With less than 1-foot of visibility the search for the eggs was the most difficult the divers have experienced over the many years of this event.

Jim Rezowalli paddled out on his kayak and deposited the eggs in a smaller area in order to make the hunt easier. What he, and the hunters, didn't know at the time was the poor visibility under the water. As with last year's contest the plan was for the divers to play a poker hand; finding the eggs to make a winning hand but only having five eggs in position at any time.

Well, the contest was a success for some. Divers hunting the eggs included **Barbara Davis**, **Grace Chi**, **Carl Tuttle**, **Tom Gardner**, **Howard Chien** and **Cedric Wright**. Jim added a wrinkle to this year's hunt: Everyone pitched in \$1.00, including non-divers Jim and **Jackie Gardner**. Then they were divided into a girl's team, Team Mermaids, and a boy's team, Team Lucky 7 (Jim joined the girl's team to make it even). A team captain was chosen for each; Barbara for the girls and Cedric for the boys. In addition to the individual winning poker hand the team leader who had the best poker hand scored the pot of \$8 and split the winnings with their team members. Needless to say Team Lucky 7 won!

Out of 48 eggs tossed into the depths only 21 were found. The individuals winning cash prizes for the best poker hands were Cedric, \$30 and Howard, \$15. Unfortunately previous winners Barbara, Grace and Carl didn't score this year. Of course, there's always next year!

The group was then joined by **Gabi Estill** and everyone went to the London Pub for lunch and celebrated Jim's birthday – with chocolate cake! See more photos on page 6. ★



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Hi All. A big Thank You! to **Jim Rezowalli** for organizing the 14th Annual Underwater Easter Egg Hunt! Jim always comes up with a new twist to keep this event fun and interesting, although the teams were a little uneven this year. Visibility was also an issue, so let's keep our fingers crossed for better conditions soon!

We had quite a few travelling Dippers in April, with trips to Cozumel, Australia, and elsewhere. Check out the newsletter articles and photos for more about these

amazing trips!

For May, I'm looking forward to our S3 dive at Point Lobos on May 13th, and I'm also signed up for the G2KR urchin culling dive on Saturday, May 6th. And don't forget the club camping trip to Henry Cowell State Park Campground for Memorial Day weekend. A good time will be had by all!

I look forward to seeing you all in the water soon.

Let's go diving!

– **Barbara**



San Jose Flipper Dippers

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Sea Turtle Conservancy

Celebrating one year of tracking leatherback turtle Lady Jayne! This turtle is a travelin' gal! Since April 2022, she's racked up more than 8,100 miles. She just passed by Bermuda, where do you think she'll head next?? Lady Jayne is an adult female leatherback sea turtle encountered nesting on April 24, 2022 on Jupiter Beach, FL. She is an interesting turtle that has nested in consecutive years. Florida Leatherbacks, Inc. first flipper tagged her in 2018 and saw her seven times that season. She returned in 2019, 2021, and now in 2022. She is an above average sized girl at 165.0 cm carapace (shell) length and she is taking part in the 2022 Tour de Turtles. She was named by her Sponsor, Turtle & Hughes.

- Cumulative distance traveled: 13,203 km (8,204 miles)
- Distance covered since last location: 39.98 km (24.84 miles)
- Average speed since release: 1.52 kph (0.94 mph)
- Average speed since last location: 1.22 kph (0.76 mph)
- Time since last location update: 12 hours
- Time tracked: 362 days



In 2020 the Sea Turtle Conservancy worked with Florida Leatherbacks, Inc. to study the migration patterns of critically endangered leatherback sea turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) nesting along the Atlantic coast of Florida. The study will reveal important information about the turtle's migratory behavior, which will help both conservationists and natural resource managers to improve protection efforts for this endangered species.

The satellite transmitter attached to each leatherback sends signals to orbiting satellites each time the turtles surface to breath. The data will be collected and downloaded to STC researchers. Educational migration maps will show the best location points of the turtle's movements and locations. This will allow interested persons all over the world to watch along as researchers discover where the giant leatherback turtles travel after nesting. Through STC's Sea Turtle Migration-Tracking Education Program, the public is invited to watch along on the Internet as we learn more about these amazing animals.

Thanks to our partners Turtle & Hughes for sponsoring and naming Lady Jayne and Florida Leatherbacks Inc. for applying the transmitter. On average, transmitters will send signals for around 1 year. Sometimes it can be 2 years, and sometimes it can be less than a year. The turtle icon location point represents the most recent location received for this turtle. It is not uncommon for a transmitter to skip a day or two due to the turtle's behavior or biofouling on the transmitter or antenna. If the most recent point is more than two months old, then the transmitter is most likely no longer working.

Follow Lady Jayne on the STC Turtle Tracker App or our website here:

<https://conserveturtles.org/stctrackingmap/?id=308> ★

CLUB OFFICERS

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CLUB COMMITTEES

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o Position Open o

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RAFFLE NEWS

On hold until reinstated at our in-person general meetings. ★

MEMBERSHIP

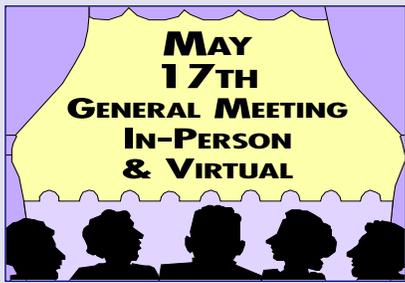
Ken Agur

We're a dive club and we're diving! If you're looking for a dive buddy look no further. See the Club's website for more information on becoming a member. (Membership Requirements).

Happy Birthday! These Dippers are completing their annual trip around the Sun this month: *Ken Agur, Andrew Grice* and *Barbara Zwiig*. ★

More Than Sargassum Washing Up in Cozumel

The influx of unsightly sargassum seaweed polluting Caribbean beaches is doing more than upsetting the tourist industry. It's upsetting the drug cartels too. At the beginning of April, military personnel patrolling the east side of Cozumel found 40 kilos (88lbs.) of illegal drugs in black bags tangled in the seaweed. Two weeks previously, officers found 65kg (143 lbs.) of cocaine bricks in the sargassum weed (Riviera Maya News). ★



We'll be having our in-person General Meeting this month. If you come please bring a refreshment to share – safely! We'll again have a live Skype connection to communicate with those who still prefer to meet virtually. ★

Australia continued from front page

After we returned to Sydney, Howard and Frances headed home while Barbara spent a few days in Sydney (the Opera House, Royal Botanic Gardens, Maritime Museum, Tower Eye, Aquarium, Zoo, and a side trip to the beautiful Blue Mountains National Park) and Townsville (hiking on Magnetic Island and Castle Hill, seeing wild koalas and wallabies) before boarding the dive boat.

Barbara was able to reschedule her missed week of diving to follow the sight-seeing. We had much calmer conditions than the Any Water Sports group did. We spent two days diving the amazing Yongala shipwreck and then headed out to Flinders Reef in the Coral Sea. We saw sharks, rays, turtles and big schools of fish. The corals were indeed amazing, with a variety of hard and soft corals, plate corals and branching corals. Most of the divers on this trip were Australian, and we had a great time. (And Barbara finally got the hang of converting bars to psi and meters to feet in her head!)

Everywhere we went we met so many friendly and helpful people and we hope to be able to plan a return visit soon! ★



Simon Collins

Caroline Langley



Simon Collins



Von Sexton

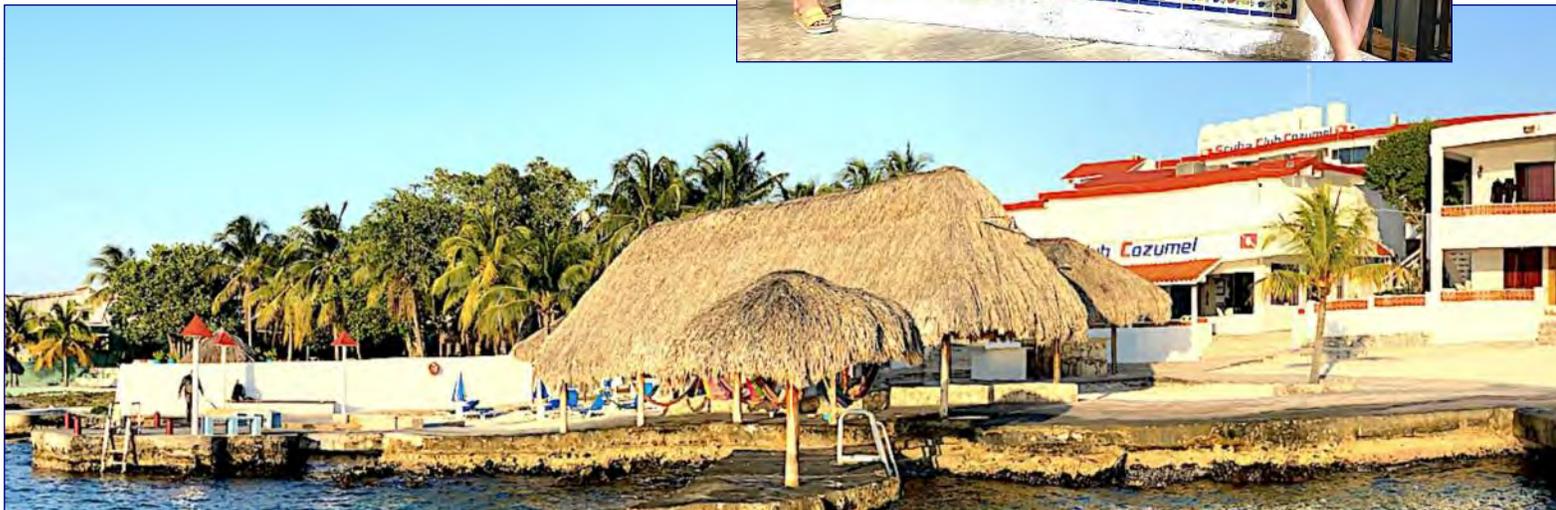
Dippers Dive the reefs of Cozumel

Photos: Carl Tuttle and Teresa Hanson (Underwater)

Nothing says good times than Dippers diving in warm, clear, waters. Dippers **Jim Rezowalli** and **Gabi Estill**, **Teresa Hanson**, **John Snyder**, **Carl Tuttle** and **Andrew** and **Amelia Grice** joined **Frank** and **Ginny Barry** from Any Water Dive Center, in San Jose, for a Spring Dive Trip to Cozumel, April 8-15. The group did drift dives, night dives and a wreck dive along many of the reefs and were treated to a wide variety of marine life including sharks, turtles, seahorses, eels and many exotic fish. On one day Andrew went to Cancun to dive the fresh water cenotes while Jim, Gabi, John and Carl toured some Mayan ruins. Amanda did a "Intro to Scuba diving" class and now wants to get certified! Gabi was able to take advantage of the "Where's my iPhone" App when she lost her phone, credit card and cash. She was lucky as it was found and returned all intact. 🌟



Above: Gabi, Jim, Teresa, Carl, John, Amanda and Andrew
Right: Gabi and Jim





U/W Easter Egg Hunt was a challenge, to say the least

The 14th Annual Under Water Easter Egg Hunt was a real test of diver's skills and dumb luck! But everyone had a great time. Photos by Jim and Jackie. 🌟

Eggs Found

• Cedric	5
• Tom	5
• Howard	4
• Barbara	4
• Carl	2
• Grace	1
Total	21



On your mark, get set, GO!

From left, Barbara, Carl, Cedric, Tom, Grace and Howard are ready to go.

See the Dippers' Facebook page for Jim's video of the start.



Team Mermaids go up against Team Lucky 7.



Left, Carl, Howard, Jim and Cedric: How many eggs did you EVEN SEE?

Above, Jim distributed 48 hard-boiled eggs into the murky depths by kayak.

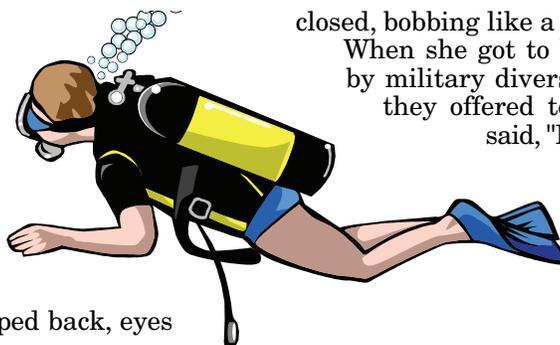
Right, Barbara thinks this is some kind of fun!



What's That? A Drowning Diver?

A South Carolina jogger thought she saw a man drowning in Lake Jocassee at the "crack ass of dawn" (her words), so she stripped to her underwear and swam out to save him.

"This dude looked dead," she posted on TikTok. "His head was tipped back, eyes



closed, bobbing like a fishing lure."

When she got to him, she found herself surrounded by military divers on a training exercise. Laughing, they offered to help her back to shore, but she said, "Even if I had to dog paddle, I wouldn't accept that defeat At the shore, I threw my shoulders back and shame-marched out of the water in my sports bra and undies in front of some pretty badass men." (The Mirror) 🌟

DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

ANDREW GRICE

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MAY 2023

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3 BUSINESS MEETING

The meeting will be held **virtually via Skype**. All members are invited to attend. Please email **Carl Tuttle** if you need the link to join. Bring your own food, drinks, and internet connection and we'll discuss ideas for upcoming dives and events.

SATURDAY MAY 13 SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3) PT. LOBOS SCUBA DIVE

Coordinator: **Carl Tuttle**, (408-829-3660, tutcomms@sbcglobal.net). We have 5 Teams with space available. Meet at the entrance before 8AM. Be sure to bring your reservation confirmation and **YOUR "C" Card!** Let Carl know if you are looking to join in, or if you've signed up and are not going to make it as we may have some folks who want to dive.



SATURDAY, MAY 20 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

The **in-person General Meeting** will be held at **7:30 PM** at the Knights of Columbus Santa Maria Hall 2211 Shamrock Dr., Campbell.

The **virtual meeting** will continue to be hosted via Skype.

Please contact **Carl Tuttle** for more details on the in-person meeting or a link to the virtual Skype meeting.

Celebrate 59 Years of the San Jose Flipper Dippers!

Entertainment:

- Social Hour
- Dive Plans and More



MON-SUN, MAY 22-29 MEMORIAL DAY WEEK AT HENRY COWELL REDWOODS STATE PARK CAMPGROUND

Coordinator: Join **Barbara Davis**, (408-656-6390, email: bjdscu-

ba123@gmail.com) and the rest of the Flipper Dippers for camping at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park Campground (2591 Gram Hill Rd., Santa Cruz). Dippers have 4 sites for the week and are open to sharing camping space. The Dippers are planning on hiking, mountain biking, and sharing food, drink, and stories around the campfire. Contact Barbara regarding



ing sharing space or if you just want to join in on the fun for a day. Spaces are limited to 2 vehicles, but additional parking is available.

MONDAY, MAY 30 MEMORIAL DAY



UPCOMING IN JUNE

- 01 Business Meeting
- 10 Second Saturday Scuba – Boat Dive
- 21 General Meeting
- 25 4th Sunday Cycle is Back!



Deepest Fish Ever Seen

Scientists have filmed a species of snailfish swimming at the extraordinary depth of 27,349 feet, breaking the record for the deepest fish ever caught on camera. An autonomous lander submersible filmed it in the Izu-Ogasawara Trench, south of Japan. The lead expedition scientist said the snailfish could be at, or very close to, the maximum depth any fish can survive. ☆



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

May 03	Business Meeting
May 13	Second Saturday SCUBA Pt. Lobos
May 17	🐡 General Meeting
May 22-29	Memorial Day Weekend - Henry Cowell SP
June 01	Business Meeting
June 10	Second Saturday SCUBA - Boat Dive
June 21	🐡 General Meeting
June 25	Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)
July 01	No License Fishing Day
July 05	Business Meeting
July 08	Second Saturday SCUBA
July 19	🐡 General Meeting
July 23	Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)

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

*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!** 🌟



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