

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

FEBRUARY
2024

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD
3RD WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH
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Dive Report – January 27, 2024

Sim Upadhyayula

Saturday's dive came about as a makeup dive for the monthly S3 club event. The January 13, S3 dive was fantastic as can be gleaned from that dive report: 30-40 ft vis, 54 degrees F water temp, no surge, minimum swell, and seals buzzing and barking (one Dipper was barking back!) at the group including **Barbara Davis, Tom Gardner, Carl Tuttle, Grace Chi, Cedric Wright**, and me. Cedric got some good GoPro video of the seals, divers and a Mola mola swimming away. None of the team members that day had the gumption for the customary second dive because of the extreme "perceived" cold conditions.

In some way, it felt incomplete and we wanted to dive again on the 27th to see if we can be lucky again – minus the cold.

It takes a certain mindset to part the sheets pretty early on a cold and chilly Saturday morning; drag oneself into the freezing vehicle and make the 1-2 hours trek down south without even knowing whether a dive is possible at all because of the winter stormy conditions that we have been experiencing lately.

This was one such weekend where the Windy App predicted 4-5 ft swells although the sun was promised to make a guest appearance with a high of 60 degrees F by the meteorological know-it-alls. **Tom** and **Jackie Gardener, Barbara Davis, Les Addison, Nico** (Les' friend) and yours truly were six such intrepid souls who embraced the challenge. The rendezvous was North Monastery Beach by the preschool. Pretty much everyone showed up at the specified time. Soon after we decided to walk to the beach to inspect the conditions and make a call. The walk to the beach itself proved treacherous to a few, who skid in the slushy muddy path. As is customary for all Flipper Dipper Club dives, Barbara took a vote on whether we should dive that



Carl's gear drip drying as no one took a group photo from the cold January 13, S3 dive.

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First-ever sighting of a live newborn great white

Jules Bernstein, UC Riverside News

Great whites, the largest predatory sharks in the world with the most fatal attacks on humans, are tough to imagine as newborn babies. That is partially because no one has seen one in the wild, it seems, until now.

Wildlife filmmaker Carlos Gauna and UC Riverside biology doctoral student Phillip Sternes were scanning the waters for sharks on July 9, 2023, near Santa Barbara on California's central coast. That day, something exciting appeared on the viewfinder of Gauna's drone camera. It was a shark pup unlike any they'd ever seen.



Front view of the great white shark Sternes and Gauna observed.
(Carlos Gauna/The Malibu Artist)

Great whites, referred to only as white sharks by scientists, are gray on top and white on the bottom. But this roughly 5-foot-long shark was pure white. "We enlarged the images, put them in slow motion, and realized the white layer was being shed from the body as it was swimming," Sternes said. "I believe it was a newborn white shark shedding its embryonic layer." These observations are documented in a new paper in the Environmental Biology of Fishes journal. The paper also details the significance of having seen a live newborn white shark.

Gauna is known online as The Malibu Artist. He has spent thousands of hours filming sharks around the world, and his videos of them swimming close to beach-goers have

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Hi All!

We discussed the Club Calendar of activities at the recent Annual Planning Meeting. The calendar includes the usual monthly activities: business and general meetings, Second Saturday SCUBA (S3) dives and the Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC) trips. And of course we'll have our annual Underwater Easter Egg hunt in April, campouts for Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends, Point Lobos dives, Elkhorn Slough kayak trips, and some

purely social get-togethers. We plan to hold the popular Christmas in July event again this year too, but the date is still to be determined.

I am really looking forward to the return of the Annual Awards Banquet this year on Saturday, February 3rd, at Rosy's at the Beach in Morgan Hill. This event helps us recognize everyone who pitched in and helped at club events in 2023 (and some earlier years too) and it's sure to be a lot of fun! Contact Carl ASAP if you don't have tickets yet.

Also in February, the next meeting of the Fish and Game Commission to discuss the continuation of the G2KR Kelp Restoration efforts at Tankers Reef will be held in Sacramento on Thursday, February 15th, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. There will be an option to present your comments via Zoom (details to follow) and letters of support are always welcome. This may be our final chance to make sure our voices are heard! You can learn more about the event here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/361785999788174/?ref=newsfeed> and the agenda for the meeting is available here: <https://fgc.ca.gov/Meetings/2024>

Stay safe and I hope to see everyone in the water soon!

– Barbara



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o Position Open o

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A Hammerhead Nursery

Undercurrent

Scientists may have found the nursery of tropical Atlantic great hammerhead sharks where they give birth to their young. It's Biscayne Bay, which stretches south from Miami to the Keys. Remarkably, it's one of Florida's busiest spots for boating and fishing. Despite being large marine creatures (the largest great hammerhead ever caught was as long as the largest confirmed great white shark), little is known about their natural history, but the nursery discovery is a good start. ★





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

RAFFLE NEWS

Stay tuned for an upcoming Christmas in July BBQ and picnic with another great Raffle! ☆

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: *Mike Chalup* and *Sim Upadhyayula*. ☆



Get your underwater navigation and hunting skills ready!

The Flipper Dippers will be holding our 15th Annual Underwater Easter Egg Hunt, at Del Monte Beach, on April 6. If you look at the chart below you'll see who the winners were over the past fourteen years of competition. In 2020 we had a "Virtual Hunt" due to the COVID restrictions. Do you think you can beat the competition? Watch for more information in the coming months and get ready for a fun dive! ☆



Year	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
2010	Tom Gardner	Carl Tuttle	Jani Hail
2011	Barbara Davis	Carl Tuttle	Tim Jagers
2012	Carl Tuttle	Jim Hail	Larry Ankuda
2013	Barbara Davis	Larry Ankuda	Carl Tuttle
2014	Jim Rezowalli	Larry Ankuda	Carl Tuttle
2015	John Snyder	Brian Zaugg	Barbara Davis
2016	Carl Tuttle	Tom Gardner	Anton Dold
2017	A TIE! Carl Tuttle Manuel Mangrobang	None	None
2018	Barbara Davis	Tom Gardner	Donovan Hill
2019	Barbara Davis	Donovan Hill	Carl Tuttle
2020 Virtual	Abby Wilson	Jackie Gardner	John Snyder
2021	Carl Tuttle	Grace Chi	Barbara Davis
2022	Grace Chi	Carl Tuttle	Barbara Davis
2023	Cedric Wright	Howard Chien	Team Lucky 7
2024	???	???	???



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site. There were quite a few swells climbing up to 4-5 ft levels and the consensus was to move further south. Surprisingly the parking at the South Monastery Beach was empty. Upon reviewing the ocean conditions and deciding to proceed with this dive location, we promptly started setting up the equipment.

The changes in the dive location cost us some good chunk of time and we did not get into water until 10:30 AM. One advantage of high surf conditions is that your reporter did not have to fight the kelp and there was no rescue to be initiated by Barbara. That at least did make up for some slack. After the descent, we were greeted with 20-30 ft visibility and the water was 54 degrees F. In the hour long dive, there were sightings of a very large cabezon and a smaller one, schools of blue rockfish up in the kelp canopy, several other large rockfish (not sure of specific species), a school of young senhoritas and clouds of tiny fish fry. Barbara also spotted a male sheepshead but it was swimming away and no one else looked up in time. Back to the shore included the customary crawling on the sand until we cleared the water.

Entry and exit at South Monastery beach on the best of days itself is a challenge; and given that this was not one of those, we all managed to be back on two legs with help from each other in true Flipper Dipper fashion.

A couple of us were tired from the tossing and turning of the waves and wanted to savor the scenery from their beach chairs, while the remaining four of us went in for a second dive. The conditions got a little worse on the second dive and Nico and Les took the lead. The viz was similarly good and your reporter saw a school of fish. Albeit it was a small school of about 25 but still it was some treat for the waters here. The second dive was also for one hour at a leisurely pace. On the return landing approach after completing our safety stop, we surfaced some distance away from the shore. Instead of ducking under again and reaching for the shore, we decided to feel the washing machine gyrations. That surface swim took some time and finally we were greeted on the shore by Tom and Jackie. Tom provided excellent fin service to us all while we were still on all fours. Thank You Tom!

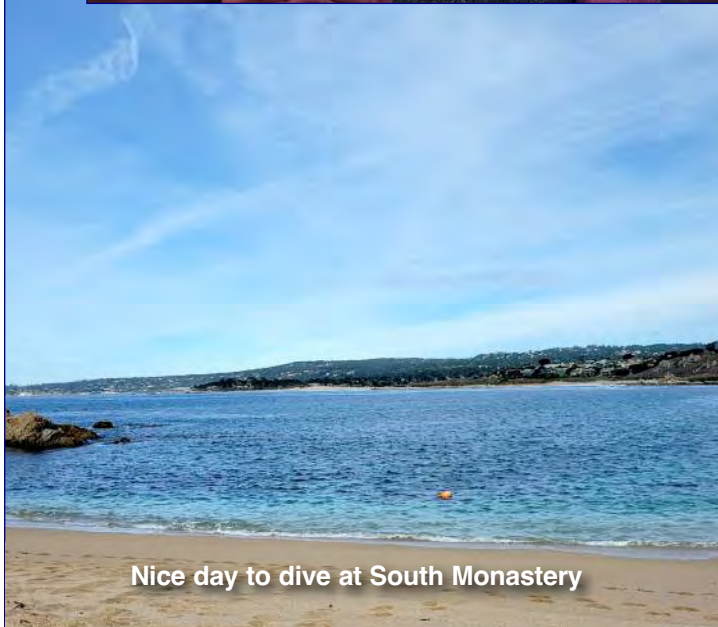
All in all, it was a wonderful diving weekend with some good friends. For all others, we really missed you. Next time, when faced with the choice of pulling the sheets over or away, toss them away. Mother nature likely will and can surprise you. Until next time . . . ☆



From left: Tom, Sim, Jackie, Les, Barbara and Nico take the Selfie photo at the dive.



Tom and Jackie having a good time



Nice day to dive at South Monastery



Jackie says, "Results of crawling out of the beach when you still have a wrist fracture that did not heal." YIKES!!! ☆

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millions of views. What he and Sternes observed could help solve the longstanding mystery of great white birthing habits. “Where white sharks give birth is one of the holy grails of shark science. No one has ever been able to pinpoint where they are born, nor has anyone seen a newborn baby shark alive,” Gauna said. “There have been dead white sharks found inside deceased pregnant mothers. But nothing like this.”

Though the paper authors acknowledge it is possible the white film the shark shed could have been a skin condition, the duo do not believe this to be the case. “If that is what we saw, then that too is monumental because no such condition has ever been reported for these sharks,” Gauna said. For many reasons, the duo believes what they saw was in fact a newborn great white.

First, great white females give birth to live pups. While in utero, the embryonic sharks might feed on unfertilized eggs for protein. The mothers offer additional nourishment to the growing shark pups with a ‘milk’ secreted in the uterus. “I believe what we saw was the baby shedding the intrauterine milk,” Sternes said.

A second reason is the presence of large, likely pregnant great whites in this location. Gauna had observed them here in previous years, and in the weeks leading up to the obser-

vation. “I filmed three very large sharks that appeared pregnant at this specific location in the days prior. On this day, one of them dove down, and not long afterwards, this fully white shark appears,” Gauna said. “It’s not a stretch to deduce where the baby came from.”

Thirdly, the shark’s size and shape are also indicative of a newborn. What the two observed was thin, short, and rounded. “In my opinion, this one was likely hours, maybe one day old at most,” Sternes said.

Finally, this location off the coast of central California has long been proposed as a birthing location for great whites. “There are a lot of hypothetical areas, but despite intense interest in these sharks, no one’s seen a birth or a newborn pup in the wild,” Sternes said. “This may well be the first evidence we have of a pup in the wild, making this a definitive birthing location.”

Many scholars believe great whites are born farther out at sea. That this pup was filmed so close to shore — roughly 1,000

feet from the beach — is significant because its age means it was likely born in shallow waters. Great whites are listed as an international endangered species. “Further research is needed to confirm these waters are indeed a great white breeding ground. But if it does, we would want lawmakers to step in and protect these waters to help white sharks keep thriving,” Sternes said. ★



Side view of the newborn great white shark. (Carlos Gauna/The Malibu Artist)

Blue Sea Dragons Washed Ashore

Undercurrent

A deep water nudibranch, distinguished by a vivid blue top side and feathery gills resembling wings, is rarely seen by divers because it inhabits water too deep. However, after floods and an industrial oil spill, hundreds washed up on a beach near Chennai, India. While the blue sea dragon is a rare sight, its captivating appearance, with dual camouflage capabilities – using the blue side against the ocean’s hue and the silver side against the water’s bright surface – adds to its mystique. Blue sea dragons are venomous. ★



Egypt's Red Sea is Safe for Diving?

We have noted in previous emails, the Egyptian dive industry is alive and well during the Israeli war, and it still is, regardless of the Houthis’ attacks on ships. The Egyptian Red Sea is more than a thousand miles from Bab el Mendab, where the Yemeni Houthis are causing trouble, and war-torn Gaza is a long way away across the Sinai desert. Port Ghalib is 400 miles from Gaza, Hurghada 296 miles away, and Sharm el Sheikh is 240 miles away. The Egyptian diving industry is booming but not with bombs, and European divers remain plentiful, drawn to clear water and great wrecks. ★



Black-eyed squid dragging thousands of eggs like a cape captured in video off Costa Rica

Sascha Pare

Scientists have filmed one of the only squids known to brood their eggs — the black-eyed squid — swimming with thousands of unhatched offspring suspended from hooks on its arms. A deep-sea squid has been filmed gliding through inky waters with thousands of eggs suspended from its arms.

Researchers spotted the black-eyed squid (*Gonatus onyx*) — one of the few squids known to brood their eggs — off the coast of Costa Rica in December. Mesmerizing footage shows the squid trailing its cargo of eggs like a long gown and flapping the fins protruding from its head to move through the water. “The large egg mass is suspended from hooks on the squid’s arms, and while carrying it for several months, the cephalopod will go without feeding,” representatives of the Schmidt Ocean Institute, which organized the expedition, wrote in a post on Instagram.

Marine biologists had long assumed that black-eyed squid and other squids lay their eggs in clusters on the seafloor, leaving them to develop and hatch independently. However, in 2001, Brad Seibel, a postdoctoral fellow at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI), turned this assumption on its head. Seibel observed a black-eyed squid brooding an egg sack in Monterey Canyon, off the coast of California, through the lens of a remotely operated submersible. “I just remember jumping out of my seat,” Seibel, now a professor of biological oceanography at the University of South Florida, told Science Friday in 2016.



I’m a seafloor kind of girl, but the water column is pretty fab too. Check out this *Gonatus onyx* squid we saw - those are eggs in its arms! They will carry those (thousands?) of eggs for a few months. Amazing footage via @SchmidtOcean and our teams excellent timing. #octoodyyssey pic.twitter.com/M7xPmEajCN December 13, 2023

In a 2005 study, Seibel and colleagues described the brooding behavior of *G. onyx* females, which carry up to 3,000 eggs through open water until the young hatch and swim away. The squid use their arms to pump fresh water through the egg mass, which may help keep them supplied with oxygen.

Black-eyed squid are among the most abundant cephalopods in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, according to the study. In the North Pacific Ocean, the species is typically found at depths above 6,200 feet (1,900 meters). These squid are neutrally buoyant, meaning they don't require any effort to float or swim, but "brooding squid cannot swim very quickly, and may be easy prey for deep-diving marine mammals," according to the Instagram post. 🌟

It's Not Just Florida and the Caribbean

Undercurrent

Invasive lionfish have migrated through the Suez Canal from the Red Sea and are causing that familiar problem of breeding profusely and eating all the other fry of endemic species in the Eastern Mediterranean. Fishermen and scuba divers off the southern coast of Turkey, an area forever popular with European tourists, report sighting growing numbers of these unwelcome intruders with waters warming thanks to the climate crisis. 🌟



The Good Old Fashioned Compass – Forgotten in the Digital Age.



“The wrecks over there.” While you probably have compass software on your dive computer, don’t forget a simple wrist magnetic compass is still helpful if you want to swim to a reef or wreck and return on a 180-degree course. It’s easy to use, and while following it, you won’t lose your computer display. If you have forgotten how to use it, it takes a little practice (even on land) to become proficient again. An inexpensive device, it can save you a ton of embarrassment when you must surface several times to locate your boat. 🌟

DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

SIM UPADHYAYULA

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FEBRUARY 2024

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 AWARDS BANQUET

Please make sure you have RSVP'ed to Carl Tuttle so that the restaurant can accommodate your meal preference. Also for dress and event agenda please refer to the January Newsletter.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7 BUSINESS MEETING: 7:30pm

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3) BEACH DIVE: LOCATION TBD

Join the Flipper Dippers for this month's Second Saturday Scuba! Be sure to watch your email for an update on location and coordinator.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, FEB 21

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**



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 BEACH DIVE: LOCATION TBD

Shore dive likely to be scheduled for those who want more and who missed the S3. Please be on the lookout for email.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26 LABOR DAY RESERVATIONS

Labor Day Weekend Reservations for Van Damme (Aug 26 – Sep 2, 2024) can be made today for the annual summer camping event at Van Damme State Park. See more info below.

UPCOMING IN MARCH

- 06 Business Meeting
- 09 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 20 General Meeting



Labor Day Weekend Aug 26 - Sept 2

Come join your fellow Flipper Dippers for a fun-filled weekend at Van Damme State Park. The opening for camping reservations in California State Parks

(www.reservecalifornia.com) for the month of August will open soon. Site reservations are available 6 months in advance for a specific start date. Labor Day is on Monday, September 2nd.

Some Dippers will be online at **8AM sharp, on February 26th**, to make site-specific reservations for nights starting Monday, August 26th through Saturday, September 3rd (Lower Loop sites #1 – #13).

Plan on bringing tanks, kayaks, mountain bikes to do some bike riding along the coast and park trails and maybe some hiking. Remember, the dive shop in Ft. Bragg closed years ago so there's no place for air fills.

It's always a fun time to sit around the camp fire in the evening, telling stories and sharing great food!

So if you're interested in joining in for the holiday week(end), get online early as sites go fast. Contact **Carl Tuttle**: 408-829-3660, tutcomms@sbc-global.net for more information ★

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

2024 COMING EVENTS

Feb 3	Awards Banquet
Feb 7	Business Meeting
Feb 10	Second Saturday SCUBA
Feb 21	🐡 General Meeting
Feb 26	Labor Day Weekend Reservations (Aug 26-Sept 2, 2024) Van Damme
March 6	Business Meeting
March 9	Second Saturday SCUBA
March 20	🐡 General Meeting
April 1	Pt. Lobos Reservations for May 11
Apr 3	Business Meeting
Apr 6	U/W Easter Egg Hunt
Apr 13	Second Saturday SCUBA
Apr 17	🐡 General Meeting - SJFD 60 Years Old
Apr 28	Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)

*Are you looking for someone
to dive with?*

The San Jose Flipper Dippers Dive Club is a great way to meet divers who are always having fun times. Come join us!



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



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