



# San Jose Flipper Dippers

MARCH  
2024

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD  
3RD WEDNESDAY  
OF EACH MONTH  
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## Awards Banquet returns after 4-year hiatus

The Flipper Dippers finally got together on February 3rd at Rosy's at the Beach, in Morgan Hill, for a long delayed Awards Banquet. Due to past Covid restrictions the much delayed annual event was pulled together to recognize the outstanding efforts of Club members during the four years including Club Officers, Committee Heads, and others who put forth much effort to make Club dives and events. Eighteen Dippers, friends and family members enjoyed excellent food and socializing to share stories, and discuss upcoming activities.

After dinner, the evening included a "Truth or Dare" round-robin of Dippers to fess up to some of the more outrageous things they did to deserve the award of the "Golden Dippy." **Carl Tuttle** started off by including the fact that he forgot to bring the Golden Dippy that night! Lots of laughs as folks passed around a Starbucks paper bowl (in place of the Golden Dippy) and confessed to some big goofs they made over the years. Door prizes included a couple of gift certificates to Any Water Dive Center and one trip to enjoy crystal clear water from Costco!

The evening continued with honoring the many past presidents in attendance – including **Rachel McMillan** – followed by Awards handed out to officers from the last four years including:

President:

**Tom Gardner** ('20)  
**Manuel Mangrobang** ('21),  
**Barbara Davis** ('22 & '23)

Vice President:

**Abby Golden Wilson** ('20 & '21)  
**Tom Gardner** ('22)  
**Andrew Grice** ('23)



It was a great turnout for the Flipper Dippers' Annual Awards Banquet in February.

Secretary:

**Larry Ankuda** and **Teresa Hanson** ('20)  
**Barbara Davis** ('21)  
**Grace Chi** ('22 & '23)

Treasurer:

**Jackie Gardner** ('20, '21, & '22),  
**Tom Gardner** ('23);

Sergeant-at-Arms:

**Dennis Nasont** ('20)  
**Howard Chien** ('21, '22 & '23)

Officer awards included wood fish sculptures and solar-powered fish garden lights. Everyone in attendance also received note pads with the Dippers' logo. At the end of the evening **John Snyder** made a "special" presentation of a framed underwater painting – which resulted in lots of laughs – to Carl Tuttle for his long time support to the club and producing the monthly newsletter. See photos from the Awards Banquet on pages 4 & 5. 🌟

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## February Dive Reports

February 10, Second Saturday Scuba (S3): Sim Upadhyayula

The weather in February continued to be worse especially on the weekends with the pineapple express. This second Saturday was no different with the surge conditions. Windy indicated 6-ft swells with the high tide right around the time we were supposed to get into the water for our first dive. **Barbara Davis**, **Grace Chi** and myself signed up to do the dives at McAbee Beach.

Upon reaching the dive location, sure enough the swells were high as the Windy App predicted but the wave interval was around 15 seconds which encouraged us to make the dives there as

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



**Hi All!**

Conditions have been variable so far this year, but we've had some good dives so far! Let's keep it up! We have a number of prospective members who will be looking to dive with us in the coming months. Come and dive with the club on our regularly scheduled S3 dives and makeup dives and consider signing up to coordinate a dive yourself!

I wanted to give a shout-out and a big thank you to **Keith Roostaert** and the Giant Kelp Restoration project (G2KR.com). Keith has been tireless in his efforts to help cull the purple sea urchins that have decimated our local kelp. As those who attended the February General meeting know, in a unanimous decision on Valentine's Day, the California Fish and Game Commission voted to terminate the Giant Kelp Restoration Project (G2KR) at Tanker's Reef in Monterey, despite its proven success. This was a very disappointing development and we look forward to finding other ways we can help protect and restore our kelp forests going forward. You can read Keith's statement and keep up on ongoing efforts on the G2KR Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/UrchinsKelpOtters](http://www.facebook.com/UrchinsKelpOtters)) or visit the website at G2KR.com

We had some great activities in February, including the return of the Annual Awards Banquet this year on Saturday, February 3rd, at Rosy's at the Beach in Morgan Hill. See the front page for a synopsis of this great event and check out the pictures on pages 4 and 5! We also got some nice dives in and made reservations for our annual campout at Van Damme State Park for Labor Day weekend.

Safety is important to the Flipper Dippers and we have arranged for club members to obtain CPR and First Aid certifications in March. We got a great response to our outreach and we have 21 people signed up for these classes. As they say, a good diver is always learning!

**Stay safe and let's go diving!**

– Barbara

## Get your easter egg hunting skills ready

The Flipper Dippers will be holding our 15th Annual Underwater Easter Egg Hunt at Del Monte Beach, on April 6. Do you think you can beat last year's winners? Look for more information in next month's newsletter. ★



# San Jose Flipper Dippers

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CLUB OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Barbara Davis 408-656-6390

### VICE PRESIDENT

Sim Upadhyayula 669-286-9796

### SECRETARY

Grace Chi 858-337-2674

### TREASURER

Tom Gardner 408-274-9447

### SERGEANT AT ARMS

Howard Chien 408-410-0325

CLUB COMMITTEES

### AWARDS AND FINES

o Position Open o

### MEMBERSHIP

Ken Agur 408-242-3779

### NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE

Carl Tuttle 408-829-3660  
email [tutcomms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tutcomms@sbcglobal.net)

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Mike Chalup 408-744-1868

### RAFFLE

o Position Open o

### REFRESHMENTS

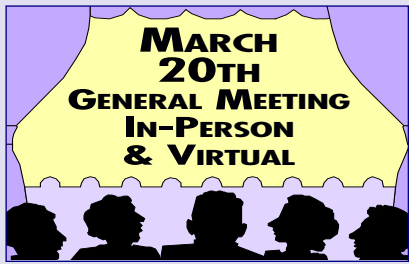
o Position Open o

### STAR ACHIEVEMENT

Jackie Gardner 408-274-9447

### TROPHY COMPETITION

John Snyder 408-378-4963



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: *Howard Chien, Carri Edgar* and *Don Mercado*. ★



continued from front page

entry/exit could be alright if properly timed. The air temp was around 49 degrees F while the water temp was 56 degrees F. As we got further from the shore, the visibility underneath got better and at times it was +20ft. We explored the pinnacle (or what we think it was) for a good measure and had the pleasure of a sea otter join us down there at 57ft depth, which is surprisingly unusual. The first dive lasted for a good 55 minutes and our exit out of the water was a little challenging as expected but we managed it alright.

There was a rescue class in session at the same location that day and we chatted up with a few folks while we caught our breath before getting back to our vehicles for the cylinder swap. On the second dive, we kept similar coordinates and explored another section of the pinnacle where Grace saw the sea otter again (not sure if it is the same one). Viz was down by a few feet



on the second dive but still surprisingly good considering how choppy the surface was. The second dive went down up to 64ft deep and lasted 45 minutes. The return to shore proved a little more challenging than the first given that we popped up a little further away from the shore and had to fight the waves to make our way back in.

All in all, two wonderful dives with good dive buddies on a day when weather reports appeared to indicate dismal conditions.

### February 24, 4th Saturday Scuba (FSS) – Metridium Field and the Breakwater Wall: Barbara Davis

**Sim Upadhyayula** had scheduled a second Saturday for diving in February, and Dippers **Barbara Davis** and **Tom Gardner** planned to meet up at North Monastery Beach to scope out the conditions. Barbara and Sim checked out the conditions, and decided that, while probably diveable, it didn't look like a lot of fun. We had a bunny hop by as we walked back to the cars and we let Tom know we were relocating back to the Breakwater for some more relaxing dives. Dipper **Jackie Gardner**, still recovering from an injury, came along to enjoy the beautiful weather in Monterey.

Our first dive was along the pipe to the Metridiums. Viz ranged from 10 – 20 feet and we saw a new-to-us nudibranch on the pipe. We also noticed bunches of nudibranch eggs on the

tube anemones and observed several large *Dendronotus Iris nudibranchs* busily make more. The metridium anemones



were all open and we saw lots of other critters on the rocks with them, including sea stars, scallops, and crabs. On the swim back along the pipe, Barbara found a nice-sized sea hare. We haven't seen that many of them lately. We reached a maximum depth of 49 feet during our 50 minute dive. Water temp was 54 degrees.

Tom elected to skip a second dive so Barbara and Sim headed over to the wall. Since we had parked at the metridium end of the upper parking lot, we decided to figure out a compass heading from the wall that would take us back to the far end of the beach for a shorter walk back to the cars.

The wall never disappoints! We found a Hopkins' Rose nudibranch and so many *Dendronotus* that I lost count! Most of these had darker colors than the ones we saw along the pipe. After hanging out with the playful sea lions along the wall, we took a compass heading of 270 degrees and cruised across the sand. Upon surfacing, we were happy to see that we were dead on target for the far end of the beach. Along the way, we found another sea hare, a sand rose anemone (one of Barbara's favorites), many other anemones and more crabs. The sea hare was moving at a pretty good pace, and appeared to have accidentally cornered a crab against a tube anemone. The crab seemed a little confused by this larger creature in its path. Viz was not quite as good as at the metridiums, but it was still a great dive! We reached a maximum depth of 48 feet during this 60 minute dive.

After the dives we dropped our tanks off for refills and had a tasty lunch at Taqueria Zarape in Seaside. Join us next time! ★



# Annual Awards Banquet

Photos: Greg Davis & Jackie Gardner





Above, Carl receives a "Special Gift" from John at the Awards Banquet.

Right, Carl is having a hard time finding the perfect location to display the painting.

## Successful Spawning and Cross-Fertilization Bring Hope for the Critically Endangered Sunflower Sea Star

*We plan to grow sunflower stars to aid in the management and recovery of this keystone species*

In 2013, sea star wasting syndrome (SSWS) began devastating sea star populations along the west coast of North America, with sunflower stars (*Pycnopodia Helianthoides*) becoming locally extinct in the shallow coastal waters where they served as a keystone predator, protecting kelp forests from overgrazing by urchins. Since then, many complex kelp forest ecosystems have become low-biodiversity urchin barrens. In collaboration with universities, aquariums, and research laboratories, Sunflower Star Laboratory aims to develop methods and mobilize resources to grow sunflower stars at the scale needed for recovery.

Thanks in part to Sunflower Star Laboratory, sunflower star larvae are now being raised across California, including in the Monterey Bay Area. One step closer to us all seeing sunflower stars in the wild again!

Love is in the water for the critically endangered Sunflower Sea Star as a team in California successfully spawned and cross-fertilized gametes from a male and a female, resulting in fertile eggs. This success marks another incredible step forward in an ongoing collaborative effort to save the species from extinction.

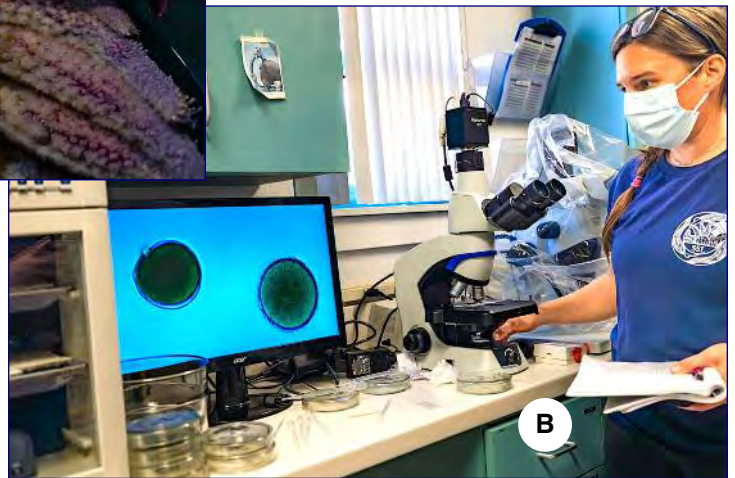
This advancement took place at Birch Aquarium at Scripps where their experts were joined by partners from Aquarium of the Pacific California Academy of Sciences, San Diego Zoo Safari Park and Sunflower Star Laboratory.

The team used three different sperm samples from the same male to fertilize the eggs. Through this approach, the team can identify optimal sperm storage techniques to enhance the chances of successful egg fertilization in future attempts.

Some fertilized eggs remained at Birch Aquarium, while the rest were transported to partners throughout California. Each partner will leverage their expertise towards the goal of culturing these fertilized eggs to larvae and then adulthood.

This collaboration is part of The Association of Zoos and Aquariums SAFE Sunflower Sea Star Program, co-led by Aquarium of the Pacific and Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium. It also contributes to a comprehensive multi-faceted, multi-partner "Roadmap to Recovery" facilitated by The Nature Conservancy to help accelerate the recovery of this species along the West Coast.

For more information visit: [www.sunflowerstarlab.org/](http://www.sunflowerstarlab.org/)



**Images:** **A:** Team collects eggs from a female Sunflower Star at Birch Aquarium; Melissa Torres from Birch Aquarium and Riah Evin from California Academy of Sciences administer a spawn-inducing hormone to a female Sunflower Star; **B:** Ashley Kidd from Sunflower Star Laboratory examines the eggs to see if they are fertilized; **C:** (left to right) Melissa Torres (Birch Aquarium), Michael McGhee (Aquarium of the Pacific), Riah Evin (California Academy of Sciences), Jenifer Burney (Aquarium of the Pacific), Nicole Ravida (San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance), Ashley Kidd (Sunflower Star Laboratory), Mark Yun (Birch Aquarium) and Julian Plamann (California Academy of Sciences).



# DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

SIM UPADHYAYULA

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MARCH 2024

**SATURDAY, MARCH 2**  
**NO SCHEDULED DIVE**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6**  
**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, MARCH 9**  
**SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3)**  
**BEACH DIVE: LOCATION TBD**

Join the Flipper Dippers for this month's S3 dive coordinated by **Sim Upadhyayula**. Text: 669 286 9796 or email: [toytacous@yahoo.com](mailto:toytacous@yahoo.com) if interested and to be notified of developments.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 16**  
**NO SCHEDULED DIVE**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 23**  
**BEACH DIVE: LOCATION TBD**  
Shore dive likely to be scheduled for

## **GENERAL MEETING** **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20**

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**



those who want more and who missed the S3. Contact **Sim Upadhyayula**. Text: 669 286 9796 or email: [toytacous@yahoo.com](mailto:toytacous@yahoo.com) if interested and to be notified of developments.

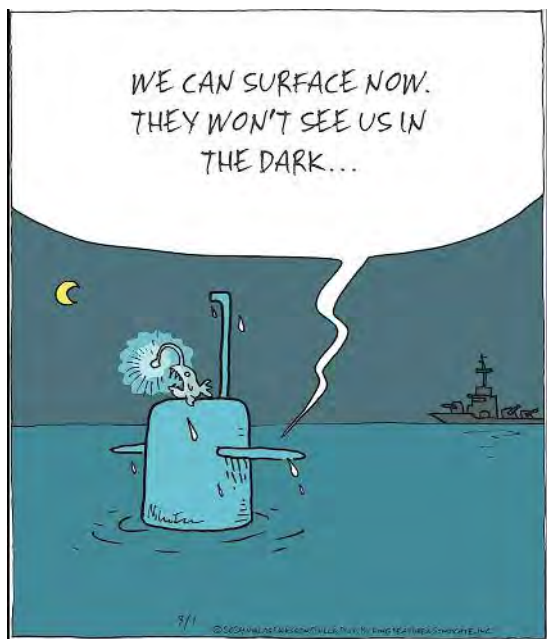
**SUNDAY MARCH 24**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY CYCLE (FSC)**

Join us for our monthly Fourth Sunday Cycle led by **Jim Rezowalli**. Meet in the Campbell Prunyard Center to ride the Los Gatos Creek Trail. Lunch at Rock Bottom Brewery after the ride. Remember to bring a helmet, some water, and a snack. Please RSVP at [jimandthebeach@gmail.com](mailto:jimandthebeach@gmail.com), 408-293-7390 to receive final details and any last minute updates!



### UPCOMING IN APRIL

01 Pt. Lobos Reservations for May 11  
03 Business Meeting  
06 U/W Easter Egg Hunt  
13 Second Saturday SCUBA  
17 **General Meeting**  
- **SJFD 60 Years Old**  
28 Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)



## **Pt. Lobos Dive Reservations on April 1st for May 11 - No Fool'n**

If you want to go, you'll need to get online to make a reservation on Monday, April 1st. The system opens up at 8 AM in the morning – but check on Tuesday as sometimes they open early. We'll send out emails listing who has a reservation and who has space for a buddy.

**So here's the drill:**

- On Monday, April 1st, go to the Point Lobos Scuba Site: [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=28353](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28353)
- Click on the month of May and then scroll down to May 11th.
- Sign up as a buddy team.

You'll be asked for the agency that issued your c-card and its number. If you don't have your buddy's c-card number, or a buddy, just write TBD. We can always find somebody who wants to go diving at Pt Lobos.

Be sure to do this early as the weekend park reservations fills up fast. The charge for diving is \$30 (+ Processing Fee). So work out your buddy teams, set a reminder on your calendar, wake up early on April 1st to make your reservation, and we'll see you in the water.

**Carl Tuttle**, (408-829-3660, email: [tutcomms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tutcomms@sbcglobal.net)) is coordinating so be sure to let him know if you make a reservation. We'll make up a list of those with a reservation and those who want to dive to create teams of 2 divers. Kayaks optional (and additional kayak reservations not required)! ★

**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

March 6	Business Meeting
March 9	Second Saturday SCUBA
March 20	📍 General Meeting
March 24	Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)
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)
May 1	Business Meeting
May 11	Second Saturday SCUBA Pt. Lobos
May 15	📍 General Meeting
May 20-27	Memorial Day Wknd - H. Cowell SP
May 26	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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