

NEWSLETTER



# San Jose Flipper Dippers

OCTOBER  
2024

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD  
3RD WEDNESDAY  
OF EACH MONTH  
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An Octopus cyanea hunts with a blacktip grouper on one side and a blue goatfish on the other.

## Octopuses and fish hunt together

Nina Massey, PA Science Correspondent

Octopuses are usually considered to be solitary creatures, but new research suggests they might sometimes socialize with fish in order to share the responsibility of hunting. The findings broaden our understanding of the shared social life of octopuses and fish, scientists say.

In the past, the animals have been seen to hunt together for shared prey such as molluscs and crustaceans. The new study sheds more light on this, revealing that when hunting prey together, some octopus and fish species appear to share leadership. However, it is not always a harmonious group hunt, with the scientists observing aggression among group members, including fish displacing others by darting towards them, and octopuses punching some fish to the outer areas of the group.

After analysing data from 120 hours of dives, the scientists found that leadership is shared for different types of decisions. For example, goatfish specialized in deciding where the hunting pack moves — while the octopus decided whether and when the move would be made. The authors note that although other types of mixed-species hunting is known — such as badger–coyote, mixed birds, and moray eel–grouper groups — they appear to be less flexible in using social information to change strategy compared to octopus–fish hunting groups.

Writing in the *Nature Ecology and Evolution* journal, the authors say: “These findings expand our current understanding of what leadership is and what sociality is.” Eduardo Sampaio, from the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behaviour in Germany, and colleagues tracked octopus–fish hunting packs during scuba diving expeditions in the Red Sea. They saw 13 hunting groups consisting of one day octopus and different species of fish, including gold-saddle goatfish and blacktip groupers. The researchers suggest that this joint effort leads to better success compared to the octopus or fish acting alone. ⬆

## I won't ever get lost again . . . now that I dive with two compasses!

The Flipper Dippers' Cedric Wright went astray during the August S3 dive at MacAbee beach as his compass developed ‘mechanical’ (not operator) error.

He now has two to rely on. We just don't know if they are both correct for underwater navigation. However he did do okay at the September S3 dive at South Monastery beach. (See pg 4 & 5) ⬆



## Divers Looked for Treasure in the Titanic's Wreckage — and Discovered a Stunning Lost Statue

- The RMS Titanic, Inc.'s latest expedition to the Titanic wreck site included over two million photos to capture the changing scope of the shipwreck.
- The team rediscovered the 2-foot-tall bronze statuette of the Roman goddess Diana, spotted in 1986, but lost since.
- Chronicling the changes in the Titanic has shown a 15-foot-long section of the port side of the bow's railing has fallen to the seafloor.

Researchers have uncovered the bronze “Diana of Versailles” statuette, once a centerpiece in the doomed Titanic's first class lounge, and now mired in oceanic muck. It marks the first sighting of the Roman goddess Diana statue since 1986 and highlights the sunken ship's ongoing decay.

The Georgia-based RMS Titanic, Inc. has the only legal salvage claim to the Titanic, the famous British passenger liner that struck an iceberg and tragically sank on April 14, 1912. A 2024 expedition to

## What's Inside?



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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### Greetings Divers!



Everyone had a great time at the club campout over Labor Day. We had a great turnout with 15 divers signed up for our August S3 dive at South Monastery Beach as well.

Fall is here and we often see the best local diving conditions at this time of year! But we can also get storms and rougher conditions. Always check the wave models and consider the skill level of all divers in your group when choosing your dive spots. We need to make sure everybody is diving within their comfort and skill level. There's always something else to do in Monterey if conditions are too rough for diving.

Looking ahead, club dues are due this month. Pay on time and avoid the \$5 late fee! See the article on page 3 for all of the info.

And in November, we'll be looking to nominate some of our fellow Dippers for 2025 Club Officers. Maybe you have been thinking about getting more involved in club activities? Here's your chance! See page 3 for Duties.

Several Dippers will be heading to the Philippines in October. We've got a number of other club trips in the planning stages, both local and international. Stay tuned for more details!

Let's go diving! – Barbara



### A Merry Christmas at Point Lobos!

We're diving at Pt. Lobos on **Friday, December 27**. The winter months can provide some of the best diving so if you want to go, you'll need to go online to **make your reservation on November 1st**. The system opens up at early in the morning. **Carl Tuttle** (tutcomms@sbcglobal.net or text/phone: 408-829-3660) will be coordinating so be sure to let him know if you've made a reservation. We'll send out emails listing who has a reservation and who has space for a buddy.



On **Wednesday, November 1**, go to the Point Lobos Scuba Site: [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=28353](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28353)

Click on the month of December and then scroll down to December 27. 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. Do this early as the park reservations fill up fast during holiday dates.

We're not sure if the park will charge the normal \$20 (+ Processing Fee) or a Holiday rate of \$30 (+ Processing Fee).

So work out your buddy teams, set a reminder on your calendar, wake up early on November 1st to make your reservation, and we'll see you in the water. And there might be non-diving hikers joining the day too. ★



## 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

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Mike Chalup 408-744-1868

### RAFFLE

o Position Open o

### REFRESHMENTS

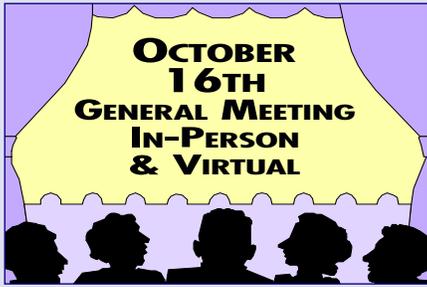
o Position Open o

### 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. 🌟



## MEMBERSHIP

Ken Agur

We're a dive club and we're diving! If you're looking for a dive buddy look no further than the San Jose Flipper Dippers!

See the Club's website for more information on becoming a member: [www.sjflipperdippers.com](http://www.sjflipperdippers.com). (Membership Requirements)

**Happy Birthday to You!** These Dippers are completing their annual trip around the Sun this month: *Kelly Drake* and *Howard Timoney*.

## CLUB DUES DUE in October

It will soon be October again and time to pay your **annual dues**. Dues help cover a portion of the yearly room rental, website hosting, domain name registration, and newsletter printing and distribution. Each member will also be asked to sign an "Assumption of Risk Agreement" when dues are paid (the form is available on the Club's Website). If you can't make the in-person General Meeting please send a signed copy with your dues in the mail to: **Tom Gardner**, 2986 Everdale Court, San Jose, CA 95148. Contact Tom if you want to pay your dues in cash.

**Club Dues this year are \$50.00** and **\$10.00** per year to receive this Newsletter via the U.S. Postal Service. Or you can download it FREE each month from the Club's Website – in full color!

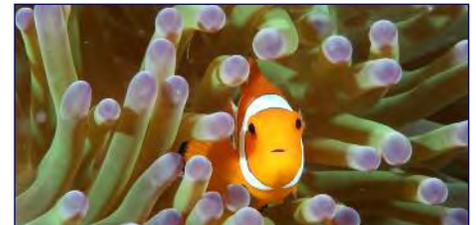
A summary of our annual dues is as follows:

CLUB DUES	\$ 50.00
Newsletter (U.S. Mail)	10.00
Total	\$ 60.00

CenCal (Central California Council of Diving Clubs) dues are **\$15.00** and USofA (Underwater Society of America) dues are **\$30.00**. (Pay online at: [www.cencal.org](http://www.cencal.org)). These optional dues support the many efforts of CenCal and USofA on behalf of all divers in the areas of beach access along with conservation and state and national legislation. These two organizations form an effective method for presenting the divers' interests state-wide and nationally.

CEN CAL	\$15.00
USofA	\$30.00

Remember, associate member (non-diving spouses of Dippers) dues are **\$5.00**. Associate members may attend Dipper functions at member prices, but have no voting privileges. Also, dues must be paid by November 30th or you will incur a late fee of \$5.00. **SO DON'T DELAY!** 🌟 🌟



## NOMINATIONS FOR 2025 CLUB OFFICERS

### HOW ABOUT YOU?



At the **November General Meeting** we will be nominating Club members for the following offices: **President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer** and **Sergeant at Arms**. To be eligible to hold an office, one must be a current member in good standing. Presidential nominees must have been a club member for at least two years. Holding an office is a rewarding experience as well as being of benefit to the club. **This is your chance to get involved** and voice your ideas as to the future of the San Jose Flipper Dippers. **The Election** of our officers will take place at the December General Meeting.

### Duties of our Club Officers are as follows:

**PRESIDENT:** Has overall responsibility for the club's success. Presides at all general, business and special meetings and appoints standing committees for the year and special committees as seen fit. Also includes writing a monthly *President's Corner* for the newsletter.

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Responsible for scheduling of the dive calendar each month, arranging for dive coordinators, and writing the monthly calendar article for the newsletter. Includes presiding at all meetings in the absence of the President.

**SECRETARY:** Includes maintaining the minutes for all general and business meetings and handling club-related correspondence. Responsible for attending all meetings or making arrangements for someone to handle the duties in his/her absence.

**TREASURER:** Receives membership dues and handles all income and expenses, maintains financial records and makes monthly reports to the club. Also makes deposits into the club's accounts and issues checks for authorized expenses. Maintains expense accounts as needed for events such as boat dives, banquets, etc.

**SERGEANT AT ARMS:** Includes making arrangements for all meetings and setting up necessary meeting equipment. Maintains order at the meetings and collects fines levied upon members. 🌟

## August S3 Dive

Photos by Jackie Gardner

We had a great turnout for the Club's August Second Saturday Scuba (S3) dive with 15 divers signed up – although three had to back out at the last moment.

Dippers and friends joining in included **Carl Tuttle, Sim Upadhyayula, Ken Agur, Grace** 'Got to dive in my new drysuit!' **Chi, Howard Timoney, Cedric Wright, Tom Earl, Ayan Balaji Kani, Tom** and **Jackie** (she took photos), **Aidian O'Leaybe** (from Oregon), and **Jeff Rowland**.

The plan was to dive North Monastery but conditions looked a

bit on the rough side with some good size swells coming in so the group moved to South Monastery. The divers looked over the swell sets and decided this was doable and buddies were formed.

Visibility was a murky 8-10 feet for the first dive. Not everyone went on the second dive and the visibility got a bit worse as the tide was going out during the surface intervals and there was a lot of broken up kelp and grasses in the water.

During the first dive Carl's second stage swallowed some of those famous Monsterberries while entering the water and started free-flowing. Tom Earl was nearby and able to turn off his air. Jackie had

some bottled water so they were able to clear the obstruction.

Newer diver Ayan had a good fit for his rental drysuit and made a successful dive although he chose to sit out the second dive.

Aidian came to the area all the way from Oregon and someone directed him to the Flipper Dippers for a group to dive with. He enjoyed his dives on the "Famous Monastery Beach" and was invited to join us again in the future.

After the dives many in the group headed to the Crossroads BBQ, in Carmel, for lunch and sharing observations of the day's diving adventure. ★



Dipper divers diving (from left): Grace, Aidian, Ayan, Ken, Cedric, Sim, Carl, Howard, Jeff, Tom G., and Tom E.

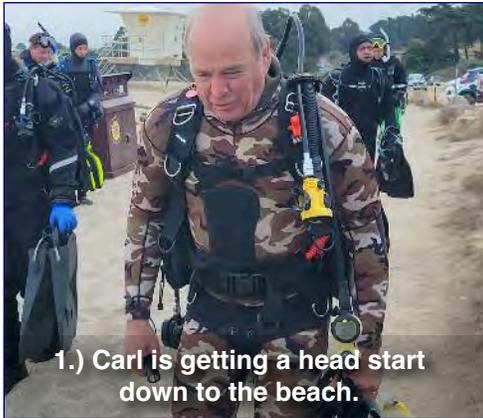


Above and right, Ayan's folks assisted in getting his drysuit and gear on.



Tom Earl is all set to go diving.

*They say diving Monastery Beach is as simple as 1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 5 . . . 6 . . .*



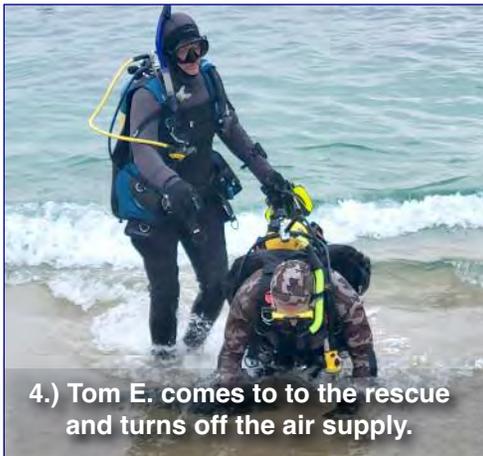
1.) Carl is getting a head start down to the beach.



2.) Carl enters the surf to join the divers.



3.) Oops! Carl is down and his 2nd stage is free flowing!



4.) Tom E. comes to to the rescue and turns off the air supply.



5.) This is where the 'Monastery Beach Crawl' comes in handy.



6.) With regulator cleared Tom and Carl head back in to join the group.



Sim and Tom G. head to the water.



The divers survey the entrance point.

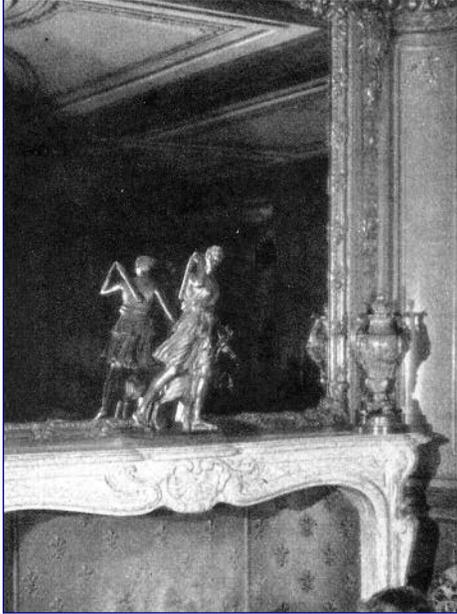


Howard thinks diving is so easy he can do it with his eyes closed!

continued from front page

the North Atlantic Ocean wreck site was the ninth by the company, and the first since 2010. In the latest expedition, the crew spent 20 days taking over two million photos of the site, fully mapping the wreck and debris field.

The researchers hoped to uncover Diana, the 2-foot-tall statue that once signified luxury and design in the most expensive passenger area of the ocean



liner, they wrote in a statement. When the wreck occurred 112 years ago, the lounge couldn't withstand destruction. Diana once appeared in a photograph in 1986, but it hasn't been seen since — until now.

The team had an idea of where the statue sat, away from the ship, but with only a few hours left on the final day of the 2024 expedition and with time waning, the researchers were losing hope of locating Diana. But fortune favored the search, and the team found and photographed the statue in the nick of time.

While the debris field continues to contain pieces of the lost ship, the latest expedition also shows how the Titanic is altered while sitting in the cold and dark of the ocean floor.

The researchers discovered how the iconic bow of the ship had fallen away. "The once miraculously intact railing surrounding the bow's forecastle deck was missing a 15-foot-long section on the port side," according to the statement. A review of images from the seafloor taken earlier confirmed that the railing fell in a single piece and is now on the seafloor. The team believes the railing broke off at some point since 2022.

"We are saddened by this loss and the inevitable decay of the ship and the debris," the team wrote. "This evidence strengthens our mission to preserve and document what we can before it is too late." ❄️



### Planned Resting Place for the SS United States

*Undercurrent*

That once-glorious trans-Atlantic ocean liner, the SS United States, which held the Blue Riband for the fastest crossing between London and New York, will be getting a new life as an artificial reef. Florida's Okaloosa County has bought the hulk, which was once capable of transporting 14,000 troops for 10,000 miles without refueling, and plans to sink it upright off the Florida panhandle as an artificial reef that will help reduce coastal erosion, provide a habitat for marine life, and make a spectacular dive site, rivaling that of the USS Oriskany, off the west panhandle. ❄️

### New Species Discovered Off Chile

*Undercurrent*

Oceanographers led by the Palo Alto-based Schmidt Ocean Institute has discovered 100 new species across 10 seamounts during an expedition to the Nazca Ridge, 900 miles off the coast of Chile. One seamount, over two miles tall, supports a thriving ecosystem and features a coral garden the size of three tennis courts with rockfish, brittle stars, and king crabs. ❄️



# DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

SIM UPADHYAYULA

www.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM

OCTOBER 2024

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

**BUSINESS MEETING: 7:30 pm**  
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, OCTOBER 5 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 12  
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: [toytaous@yahoo.com](mailto:toytaous@yahoo.com) if interested and to be notified of developments.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

## GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

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 60 Years of the San Jose Flipper Dippers!

Entertainment:

- Social Hour
- Dive Plans and More



## SUNDAY OCTOBER 27 FOURTH SUNDAY CYCLE

Join us for our monthly Fourth Sunday Cycle led by **Jim Rezowalli**. Remember to bring your bike and 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 NOVEMBER

- 01 Pt. Lobos Reservations for Dec 27
- 06 Business Meeting
- 09 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 19 Memorial Day Weekend Reservations (May 19-26, 2025) Location TBD
- 20 **General Meeting - Nominations for Office**
- 24 Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)



## A spooky discovery deep in the Pacific: A new species of ghost shark

Peter Guo, NBC News

It may be early to get the Halloween decorations out for most, but in the deep waters of the Pacific Ocean spooky season is well underway.

Scientists said Tuesday they had discovered a new species of ghost shark that lives exclusively in the waters off Australia and New Zealand. The Australasian Narrow-nosed Spookfish was found during research surveys in the Chatham Rise, an area of ocean floor to the east of New Zealand, according to the National

Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) based in Auckland.

Ghost sharks, also known as chimaeras, are a group of cartilaginous fish closely related to sharks and rays.

The newly discovered species has several distinctive features, including a long and narrow snout, broad pectoral fins, scale-free skin, and beak-like teeth. They are largely confined to the ocean floor up to 2,600 meters (8,530 feet) deep, feeding off crustaceans such as shrimp and molluscs.

It was given the scientific name of *Harriotta avia* by NIWA Fisheries scientist Brit Finucci, in memory of her



grandmother. Previously, it was considered to be part of a single globally distributed species. But research later showed that it is genetically and morphologically different to its cousins.

"Ghost sharks always surprise me!" Finucci told NBC News on Tuesday. "It just goes to show how little we know about our oceans, particularly the deep sea." Ghost sharks are "poorly studied" because of their remote living environment and cryptic nature, she said. This long-nosed spookfish was better researched among its kind as it is often observed on research surveys and is caught incidentally in commercial fisheries, Finucci said.

However, we still don't know their lifespan, population size or role in the ecosystem, Finucci noted. "There's still a lot to learn about ghost sharks!"

It had been suspected that this species may be different to those in other regions, but it took time to collect enough information to confirm that, Finucci said.

"We are still describing new species on a regular basis, and sometimes these discoveries have been right under our noses the whole time," she said. ★

**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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## 2024 COMING EVENTS

- Oct 02 Business Meeting
- Oct 12 Second Saturday SCUBA
- Oct 16 🏊 General Meeting
- Oct 27 Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)
- Nov 1 Pt. Lobos Reservations for Friday, Dec 27
- Nov 6 Business Meeting
- Nov 9 Second Saturday SCUBA
- Nov 19 Memorial Day Weekend Reservations TBD  
(May 19-26, 2025)
- Nov 20 🏊 General Meeting  
Nominations for 2025 Officers
- Nov 24 Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)
- Dec 4 Business Meeting
- Dec 14 Second Saturday SCUBA
- Dec 18 🏊 General Meeting -  
Election of Officers & Christmas Raffle
- Dec 27 SCUBA Dive Pt. Lobos

*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!



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