

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

NOVEMBER
2024

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD
3RD WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH
WWW.SJFLIPPERDIPPERS.COM



HT: High Traffic?

HT: Hot Tamale?

HT: Here Today?

HT: How's Tricks?

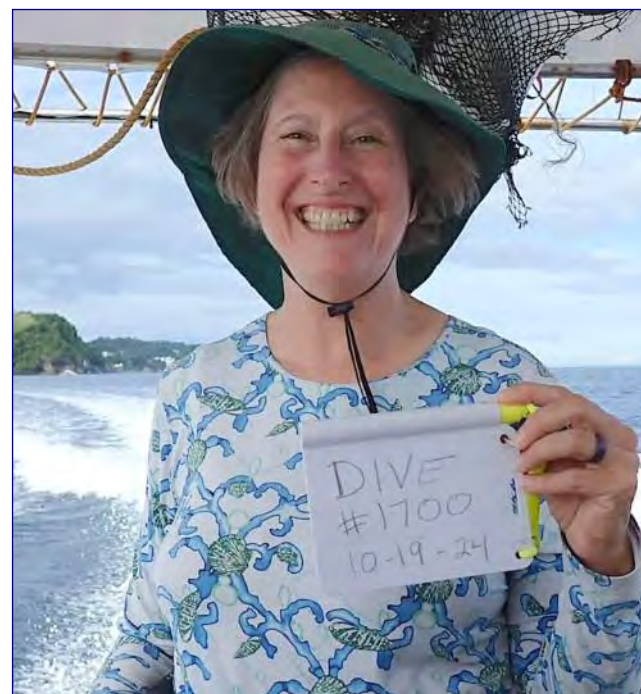
HT: Holy Toledo?

HT: Hot Ticket?

Fins are a big part of the diver's gear and properly marking them makes it easy for your buddy to spot you. Or in this case makes one wonder exactly what these initials mean. Are they some type of secret message to followers or this diver's trick to keep you guessing? Find out the answer on page 5. ★

Postcards from afar . . . and another milestone!

The Flipper Dippers' **Barbara Davis** was diving with Asia Divers in Puerto Galera, in the Philippines, when she made her 1,700th dive. Well done! And how many dives do you have? ★



Lobsters of the poor

During the American colonial period, lobsters were not valued as food and were mainly eaten by the poor, prisoners, and indentured servants. Native tribes near the coasts used lobsters as fertilizer or bait rather than food.

People even hid lobster shells to avoid the stigma of poverty. In Massachusetts, indentured servants sued to limit their lobster meals to three times a week, winning the case. Lobsters were abundant, easy to collect from the shore, and considered bottom feeders.



They were often consumed as a paste or stew. In the early 19th century, lobsters were cheaper than Boston baked beans, sometimes even fed to cats. However, by the late 19th century, as railroads spread and lobsters were served on trains, people who were unfamiliar with them found them delicious.

This led to increased demand and the start of lobster canning. By the 1920s, with lobsters becoming less plentiful but demand growing, lobsters transitioned to a delicacy, popular among celebrities and the wealthy by the 1950s. Got Butter? ★

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings Divers!



Once again, the end of the year seems to be approaching with amazing speed! Where has this year gone? Soon we'll be dealing with all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season but let's keep diving too! Recent dive reports are showing great conditions and visibility in Monterey!

Dippers **Howard Chien, Frances Lee** and I recently returned from a fantastic dive trip to the Philippines. Our return was delayed by a few days due to a nearby typhoon, and that got us talking about trip insurance. In addition to a Diver Alert Network (DAN) membership and dive accident insurance, trip insurance is a good addition to your coverage in case of unexpected non dive-related expenses that can come up. While we were all stranded at the resort, many of the other divers shared details of the insurance policies and coverage they had and also the responses they received from their insurance companies. We were a little surprised at the range of coverage and responses people were getting from "don't worry, you're covered" to "nope, we don't cover that." So make sure you are familiar with the fine print, terminology and coverage in any policy you purchase.

At the November General Meeting we will be accepting **Nominations for our 2025 Club Officers** so start thinking about who you'd like to nominate. And if **YOU** get nominated, please run. The Club can always use new officers with new thoughts and ideas on making our Club run better. See page 3 for a description of the duties associated with each position.

If you haven't paid your club dues yet, you have until November 30th to pay without a \$5 late fee. And remember to complete and sign the annual Assumption of Risk Agreement form (www.sjflipperdippers.com/sjfd.assumption.of.risk.pdf). See more information on page 3.

Everyone stay safe and let's go diving! – Barbara

A Merry Christmas Dive 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 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.

If you haven't done so and want to make a reservation, go to the Point Lobos Scuba Site: 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 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
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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

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:

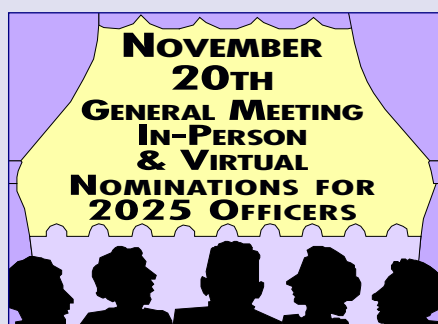
PRESIDENT: Has overall responsibility for the club's success. Presides at all general, business and special meetings and appoints standing committees for the year and special committees as seen fit. Also includes writing a monthly *President's Corner* for the newsletter.

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. ★



We'll be having our in-person General Meeting this month and holding **Nominations for 2025 Club Officers**. 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. ★

RAFFLE NEWS

We're back again this month for our in-person General Meeting. More folks are showing up and having fun!

We're planning to have our **BIG Christmas General Meeting in December** including a raffle — with all those treasures you've safely stored. So stay tuned for further updates as we get closer to the holidays! ★

MEMBERSHIP

Ken Agur

Lots of Dippers are diving and new prospective members are joining in on dives. If you're looking to dive you're welcome to join us on our upcoming dives!

Happy birthday! If we had a regular General Meeting, a FREE raffle ticket would be given to **Tom Gardner, Cedric Wright, and John Snyder** joining a number of Dippers who were lucky to complete a trip around the Sun in only 8,544 hours (More or less). ★

CLUB DUES DUE THIS MONTH

It is October again and time to pay your **annual dues** at the General Meeting. 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 Jackie 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 download it FREE each month from the Club's Website in full color. Charter and Lifetime Members will continue to receive the Newsletter by U.S. mail.

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). 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.

A summary of annual dues are:

CLUB DUES	\$ 50.00
Newsletter (U.S. Mail)	10.00
Optional: CEN CAL	15.00
Optional: 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.

Dues must be paid by November 30th or you will incur a late fee of \$5.00. SO DON'T DELAY! ★

October S3 Dive – Wait, you're not on the list!

The emails went flying out to members and prospective members for the Club's October 12th Second Saturday Scuba (S3) dive and 7 divers signed up.

After monitoring the various conditions, coordinator **Grace Chi** settled on South Monastery Beach for the dive. The list of divers included **Howard Timoney, Cedric Wright, Eva Alexander, Tristan Chutka,**

Donovan Hill, Carl Tuttle and **Jim Milner** – and **Ken Agur** who wasn't on the list!

Divers suited up and buddies were established. The entry was easy-as-pie and there was little swell – and the sun was shining brightly too! The divers descended at the edge of the kelp bed and found a rewarding 45-foot of visibility! It was a great first dive.

After a surface interval, the group went back in for a second dive. During the surface time the swell picked up, as predicted, and the vis went down a bit but everyone enjoyed the conditions.

During the first dive the group was treated to the antics of a very friendly harbor seal. This little individual looked as if he was hunting for a meal while buzzing around the sand at the base of the kelp stalks. However, when Grace came swimming by, Cupid's Arrow hit the mark and he kept swimming around her legs and pulling on her fins. Love at First Sight! After some time Grace had to move along as her air supply was getting low leaving the poor little guy broken hearted.

After the dive the group went to the Crossroads BBQ for good food and lots of stories to share. ★



Dippers had a great day of diving (from left): Jim, Howard, Grace, and Cedric.



Grace had a surprise attraction from a local resident. Must have been her new drysuit that sparked his interest.



Tristan, looking a bit tired, makes his way back to the cars after the second dive.



Stand up straight for the group photo! From left, Cedric, Ken, Eva, Howard, Grace, Donovan, Tristan and Carl. Jim left early and missed the photo op. Thanks to **Ted Judah** for taking the photo!

Who wants to go diving?

Reports of good conditions in Monterey and Carmel prompted **Carl Tuttle** to send out an email to the club members and others for a Fourth Saturday Scuba (FSS) dive on October 26th and the divers signed up.

Everyone met at the school at North Monastery and conditions were looking pretty good – from the surface. The divers joining in included **Howard Timoney, Sim Upadhyula, Les Addison, Ted Judah** and new prospective **Sepehr Raissian**.

After looking over the conditions the group suited up and made their way down to the water. Mother nature brought out the sunshine and offered a flat ocean. The divers made a surface swim out around the kelp bed and descended. Visibility was less than ideal with about 10 to 15 foot of haze and little surge. We went along the sand for a bit – who's leading? – and eventually found the reef. After a turnaround point, the group made their way back to the entry point.

A few in the group deposited their fins, masks and BDCs on a large rock and carried their tanks back to the cars for the surface break.

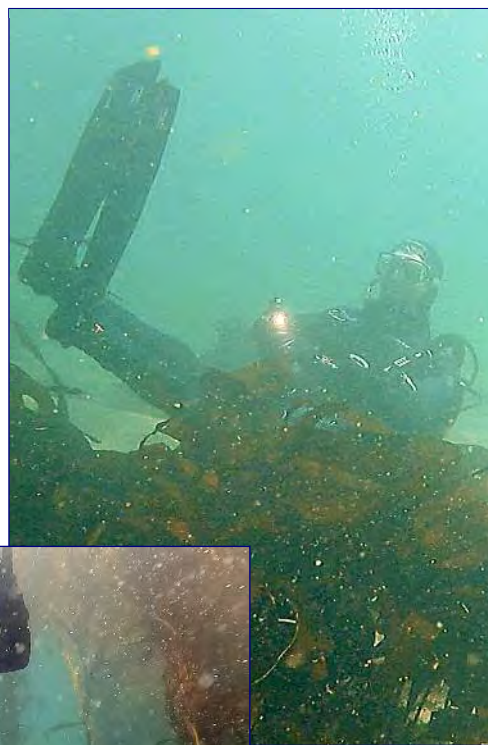
Even though the viz wasn't the best, the whole group opted for a second dive, "Why Not?" The divers found the reef a bit earlier this time and there were a lot of critters to see including a very large lingcod who just sat in his position for everyone to look at. The second dive felt a bit cooler than the first so everyone was happy to get dressed into warm, dry cloths.

The group then picked the Crossroads BBQ for lunch and stories to share. After lunch some stopped by Aquarius Dive shop to get their tanks filled before heading home. 🌟

Underwater photos by Ted Judah.



The indispensable group selfie! From left, Sim, Carl, Howard, Sepehr and Ted. Where's Les? "I'm right here!"

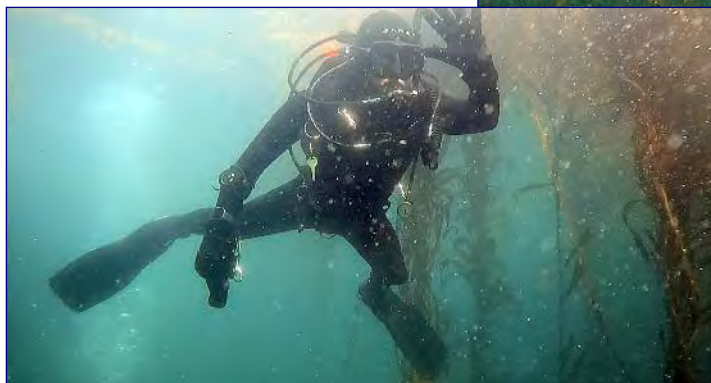


Above Howard the "H.T." finman.

Left Sim enjoying the dive.



Howard and his nice hot shower set-up.



Ted found and photographed a Pinto Abalone about 3-1/2" (above). And "A new fish sighting for me! A Mosshead Warbonnet." (right)



So, you want to be a Navy diver?

Undersea Naval Museum

Radioman Seaman Karen Turner applied to attend second class diving school in late 1974 — a time when women were barred from becoming deep-sea divers. Denied after a major equipment failure backlogged school spots, Turner reapplied in October 1975.

To complete her application, Turner had to take a diving test from submarine tender USS Simon Lake (AS 33). The evaluation, which involved tests of her strength, swimming skills, and ability to withstand deep-sea pressure, culminated in a hard-hat dive to check for

claustrophobia. Wearing a 200-pound MK V hard-hat rig, Turner successfully completed the test dive. "I thought Karen did a really good dive under the pressure," diving supervisor S.J. Welch commented afterward. "With the men watching her, she had not only physical pressures, but also mental pressures."

Although Turner passed the test, her second application was also refused due to a shortage of Sailors in her rating of radioman. Turner is believed to be the second woman to take the Navy second class diving test. ★



Looks like those Navy boys enjoyed helping Karen Turner after all.



Daddy Long-Legs

The "Daddy Long-Legs," officially known as the Brighton and Rottingdean Seashore Electric Railway, was a unique coastal railway designed by Magnus Volk. It ran through the shallow waters of the English Channel from 1896 to 1901. The railway's vehicle, named Pioneer, resembled a tram but was elevated on tall metal stilts, giving it the appearance of a giant "spider" walking through the sea. The car had two decks: an open-air seating area on top and a luxu-

rious lower saloon featuring stained glass windows and Ottoman-style seating.

The railway was initially a success, providing passengers a "sea voyage on wheels," but it faced numerous challenges. Storms frequently damaged the infrastructure, and changes in sea defense works eventually forced its closure. Despite its brief operational period, the "Daddy Long-Legs" is remembered as a fascinating and imaginative piece of engineering that remains part of Brighton's quirky history. ★

Schooners were the work-horses of the West Coast lumber trade

Quoting from John Haskell Kemble's 1957 book, *San Francisco Bay — a Pictorial Maritime History*, "A trio of topmast three-masted schooners, one bald-headed three masted schooner, and two two-masted schooners standing in at the entrance to the Golden Gate Strait. Some idea of the prevalence of the schooner type working on the coast is

continued on page 7

DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

SIM UPADHYAYULA

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NOVEMBER 2024

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6 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, NOVEMBER 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 if interested and to be notified of developments.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 RESERVATIONS FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND – May 19-26, 2025 The Club is con-

sidering places to camp, with or without diving. Watch for more info.

GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 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 60 Years of the San Jose Flipper Dippers!

Entertainment:
Nominations for 2025 Officers
• Dive Plans and More



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 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, 408-293-7390 to receive final details and any last minute updates!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28 THANKSGIVING DAY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

UPCOMING IN DECEMBER

- 04 Business Meeting
- 14 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 18 General Meeting
 - Elections for 2025 Officers
 - Big Christmas Raffle
- 27 Pt. Lobos Scuba Dive - See Article



continued from page 6

given by these figures: Between 1850 and 1905, 182 two-masted schooners, 112 three-masted schooners, and 130 four-masted schooners (of over a 100 tons) were built on the Pacific Coast."

The C.A. Thayer saved by Karl Kortum after her careers as a coastal lumber transport and Alaskan fishing saga is among the ship collection preserved at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. Currently the Thayer is at Bay Ship & Yacht in Alameda for repairs before going to Mare Island as a temporary home along with the fleet of other historic vessels as the Hyde Street Pier is being rebuilt.

The image from which this is enlarged often is simply captioned 'Sail Boats Entering the Golden Gate' leaving the viewer no idea that these are important coastal com-

mercial vessels that loaded their lumber in dangerously exposed dog-hole anchorages up and down the Pacific Coast. The loss of sail and steam schooners wrecked along the hazardous coast was constant among this trade. This enlargement allows a rare view of both the original and subsequently relocated Point Bonita Lighthouse and nearby Life Boat Saving Station on the then quite remote outer Marin Headlands. Viewed in the image is the original tower constructed 306 feet above sea level to house the 2nd order Fresnel Lens first lit in 1855. At that height the light beacon was often obscured from view at sea level due to the frequency and density of fog occurring onsite. Thus, the lamp was relocated in 1877 to the present site at the tip of Point Bonita. The USCG VTS Radar tower occupies the approximate site of the original lighthouse tower. ★



This enlarged portion from a c.1896 glass negative print clearly shows the deck-load of stacked lumber on five of these six fore-and-aft sail coastal lumber schooners.

quency and density of fog occurring onsite. Thus, the lamp was relocated in 1877 to the present site at the tip of Point Bonita. The USCG VTS Radar tower occupies the approximate site of the original lighthouse tower. ★

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 cancelation or changes.



San Jose Flipper Dippers

c/o 1108 Sunset Landing
Río Vista, CA 94571-5148



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

2024 COMING EVENTS

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 2025 Officers & Christmas Raffle
Dec 27	SCUBA Dive Pt. Lobos
Jan 8, 2025	Business Meeting
Jan 11	Second Saturday SCUBA
Jan 15	👉 General Meeting
Jan 22	Annual Planning Meeting

*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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