

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

APRIL
2025

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD
3RD WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH
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Windsor Deputy Apprehends Abalone Poacher

February 26th at approximately 10:30pm, a Windsor, CA Police Department Deputy contacted the subjects of an occupied vehicle on the 700 block of Shiloh Rd. The deputy learned the male driver identified as Jason Ramos (46) from Santa Rosa was on active Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) and misdemeanor probation. Ramos was detained without incident to complete a compliance check pursuant to his PRCS terms. It was also learned Ramos had two outstanding misdemeanor warrants issued from Lake and Mendocino Counties.

The passenger of the vehicle was contacted and identified as Nichole Lee (35) from Santa Rosa. As she was being escorted the deputy inquired if she was in possession of anything illegal and she divulged she had methamphetamine and associated drug paraphernalia. The deputy detained Lee to continue his investigation.

During the search of the vehicle, methamphetamine, numerous hypodermic needles, and other associated paraphernalia were located. A continued search of the vehicle located approximately 35 live abalone, a northwestern pond turtle, wet clothing, and tools used to remove the abalone from rocks. The deputy contacted Fish and Wildlife Officers, and they assisted with the investigation. Ramos admitted to poaching the abalone near the town of Elk in Mendocino County. Ramos stated he picked the abalone for personal consumption.

Red abalone is a large, edible sea snail native to California. The harvesting of abalone has been a long-standing tradition for indigenous communities and recreational harvesters. Abalone are considered a delicacy and has long been a target of poachers. There is an extensive black market which pays poachers a premium for illegally taking the abalone. The recreational harvesting of

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Marching in some weekday dives in March

One former Dipper, two current Dippers and one "I wish I were a Dipper" finally got in the water during three days in March. The first was on Tuesday the 11th, then Monday the 24th and again on Wednesday, the 26th. Above, from left, **Anton Dold**, **Barbara Davis**, **Howard Timoney** and **Liz Birdwell** (why is she staring into space?) at the Breakwater on March 26th. So here's a report so you can be jealous that you have to work!

By **Barbara Davis**

March 11

Dippers Barbara Davis and Howard Timoney got in a nice dive along the pipe out to the metridiums on Tuesday, March 11th. After a few months out of the water, Howard was eager to get some dives in before the Dippers' Bonaire trip.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Hi All!

Conditions have continued to be challenging so far this year but some Dippers managed to get in the water. I am looking forward to some good dives in April, including the 16th Annual Underwater Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12th! We'll also be making reservations for the Dippers' May 17th Point Lobos dive on April 1st.

After the Underwater Easter Egg Hunt, consider checking out Whalefest Monterey 2025. This free event takes place at Custom House Plaza and Old Fisherman's Wharf on April 12th and 13th. Whalefest Monterey is a free, family-friendly festival that combines science, the arts and history. More info here: <https://whalefest.org>.

Twelve Dippers and friends will be heading to Bonaire April 25 – May 7. This will be our third club trip to Bonaire and it's always a great time.

We've been using Skype for those who attend our business and General meetings remotely, but Microsoft will be discontinuing Skype in May. We're looking into other options so our members can continue to stay in touch. Look for email announcements and the May newsletter for more information.

Stay safe and Let's go diving! – Barbara

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abalone was closed permanently in 2017 due to catastrophic environmental stressors. This decimated the abalone population which have an extremely slow reproductive rate. Any illegal taking of abalone harms the population and the return of recreational harvest.

Ramos and Lee were both transported and booked at the Sonoma County Jail. Ramos was booked for his outstanding warrants, 3455(a) PC -Felony PRCS Violation 1203.2 PC -Violation of probation, and 2002 FG-Possess creature unlawfully taken.

Due to the condition of the abalone and location, unfortunately they could not be returned to their natural habitat and were disposed of. The pond turtle was turned over to animal control and returned to the wild.

Lee was booked 11377(a) HS- Possession of controlled substance. Windsor Case Number: WI250226-009

Prepared by:

Sgt. Jason Little

Town of Windsor Police Department ★



San Jose Flipper Dippers

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o Position Open o

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Mike Chalup 408-744-1868

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o Position Open o

REFRESHMENTS

o Position Open o

STAR ACHIEVEMENT

Jackie Gardner 408-274-9447

TROPHY COMPETITION

o Position Open o



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. We offer all certified divers great dives, great fun and great friends! See the Club's website for more information on becoming a member (Membership Requirements). We'd love for you to join us!

Happy Birthday! This Dipper is completing another trip around the Sun this month and is also sharing a birthday month with the San Jose Flipper Dippers! Wait, how old is he?: *Jim Rezowalli.* ★



Get your underwater navigation and hunting skills ready!

The Flipper Dippers will be holding our 16th Annual Underwater Easter Egg Hunt, at Del Monte Beach, on **April 12**. If you look at the chart below you'll see who the winners were over the past fifteen years of competition. In 2020 we had a "Virtual Hunt" due to the COVID restrictions. In 2024 we had a land-based drawing due to poor ocean conditions. Everyone was a winner! See the May 2024 newsletter for a report on the dive and the winners (it's on the Club's website). Do you think you can beat these past repeat divers? This is the Club's Second Saturday Scuba (S3) dive this month so sign up 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	Tristan Chutka	Barbara Davis	Carl Tuttle
2025	YOU?	YOU?	YOU?



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Viz was about 10 feet, but we easily navigated our way along the big pipe out to the metridiums. Howard was trying out a new set of white fins. While you would expect that to make him more visible underwater, he did blend in rather well with the metridiums. We reached a max depth of 50 feet during our 48 minute dive. The metridiums were all open and we also saw a lot of orange sea cucumbers and got buzzed by a sea lion. There was a giant rockfish hanging out at the deep end of the pipe.



Barbara and Howard on the March 11th dive.

The water was about 52 degrees and the day was overcast, so we decided on just one dive and wrapped up the day with a yummy lunch at Taqueria Zarape in Seaside.

March 24

Weekend conditions were still not looking good, but we were able to dive Point Lobos on Monday, March 24th. Joining us was **Liz Birdwell**, who came to the February Dippers' General Meeting while visiting our area from her home base in Oregon.

Liz was eager to dive Point Lobos and we finally got a day we thought conditions were looking up. Viz was not great inside Whaler's Cove, but opened up to at least 30 feet farther out.



Barbara, Howard and Liz at Whaler's Cove. Wait! Is Howard diving with his reading glasses?

We saw a huge school of blue rockfish in the kelp canopy and many nudibranchs. On the way back, we saw a very large sea hare. In spite of the 48 degree water temp, it was a beautiful sunny day, and we managed to do two dives. A warming lunch at Crossroads BBQ ended the day on a high note.

March 26

The ocean was still calling, and Barbara, Howard and Liz were joined by former Dipper **Anton Dold** at the Breakwater on Wednesday, March 26th. Anton had been out of the water for about a year, and was very much looking forward to diving again.

We did one dive along the pipe to the metridiums (this time a huge lingcod was in residence at the end of the pipe) and one along the Breakwater wall to see the sea lions.



Pt. Lobos was calling. Might as well go diving!

The water here was about 50 degrees, although it felt colder at the metridiums. Barbara and Anton did a very long swim at the Breakwater and were rewarded with a large group of acrobatic sea lions.

Howard and Liz didn't swim quite as far out, but still got a visit from a few sea lions. The day was overcast and we were all thankful for Howard's big jug of hot water to keep us warm between dives. Once again, we had lunch at Taqueria Zarape.

As Howard would say here's "The Scorecard"

- 1 excited visiting diver
- 1 excited to be back in the water Dipper
- 1 excited to be back in the water former Dipper
- 1 always happy to be diving Dipper
- When 2 divers went in, 2 divers came out
- When 3 divers went in, 3 divers came out
- When 4 divers went in, 4 divers came out
- 2 large fish in the big pipe
- 1 large sea hare
- 1 big school of rockfish in the kelp canopy
- Lots of nudibranchs
- Lots and lots of playful sea lions
- 10 - 30' visibility.
- 49 - 52 degree water
- 3 yummy delicious and highly nutritious lunches
- 1 sea otter caught on video by Liz doing what an otter otter do
- And 1 cormorant on the pipe videoed by Liz on the way back from the Metridium fields

And the moral of this story: You should have gone diving! ★



The Breakwater beckons the Dippers. Gee, it's . . . not crowded at all!

the FROGMEN We supplied most of the diving gear used in the exciting movie, "The Frogmen"—the story of Uncle Sam's UNDERWATER COMMANDOS. This same equipment is now available for civilian use in limited quantities.

AQUA-LUNG, self-contained diving unit, allows free swimming down to 300 ft., up to one hour. **99.95**

ARBALETE, powerful, economical, accurate and silent spear gun which has won all internatl. competitions during the last 3 yrs. Free spear range: 35 ft. **24.95**

FRENCH DIVE MASK, Navy type, shatter-proof glass, 100% water-tight seal on any shape of face **5.95**

SCHNORKEL, tube allowing breathing with face underwater without disturbing vision..... **2.95**

FLOATING KNIFE, cork handle, stainless blade..... **4.95**

FROGMAN SUIT, keeps diver warm and dry, for year-round use regardless of temperature..... **37.50**

All equipment sold on a 10 day money back guarantee. C.O.D.'s acceptable. In Calif. add sales tax.

U. S. DIVERS CO., Dept. PM-10
1045 Broxton Avenue Los Angeles 24, Calif.

POPULAR MECHANICS

While we're talking birthdays

This is an advertisement from the publication Popular Mechanics from out of the past. Don't know what year it is from but judging by the items and prices, it's OLD! Now where can I get a AQUA-LUNG that enables one to free swim down to 300 feet? Not sure, but as the saying goes, "They don't make them like they used to!" ★

Happy Birthday Bruce!*

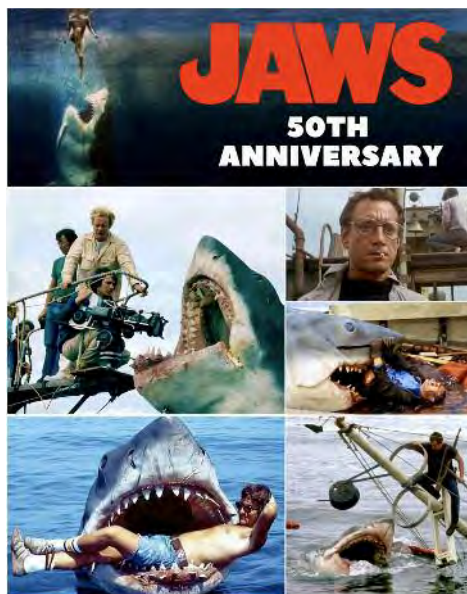
Jaws will be re-released in theaters on August 29th to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

The boat that became the Orca started as The Warlock, a lobster boat purchased by the production from Marblehead, MA, before being converted into the Orca for the film. After filming wrapped, Universal Studios shipped the boat back to Hollywood along with the bulk of the movie's equipment.

For unknown reasons, Universal sold Orca I shortly afterward for \$13,000 to a special effects technician in Los Angeles, who intended to use it for sword fishing. A year later, when Jaws became a massive hit grossing over \$100 million at the box office, Universal scrambled to buy the boat back to capitalize on its fame—allegedly paying ten times what they had sold it for.

Orca I was later featured at Universal Studios Hollywood as part of the original JAWS ride from 1976 until 1991. Eventually abandoned, she deteriorated, slowly sinking and taking on

water. Universal ultimately dismantled her for lumber—a decision that reportedly left Spielberg furious. ★



* Bruce was the name given to the mechanical shark used in the movie.

Dippers Celebrate 61 Years!

The San Jose Flipper Dippers, one of the oldest and most active dive clubs in Northern California, began its odyssey back in 1964 with a small group of SCUBA instructors and other devoted divers dedicated to the promotion of safety and diver training. By 1965 the Club had a "Charter Member" list of 46 divers strong. The first edition of this newsletter was published in April 1965 and consisted of two pages! Happy Birthday Flipper Dippers!



This year's anniversary salutes those who have been Club members for:

30 or more consecutive years

Carl Tuttle '72
Barbara Zwiig '85
Mike Chalup '88
Kelly Drake '88
Don Mercado '88
Barbara Davis '93

20 or more consecutive years

Dennis Nasont '98

10 or more consecutive years

Jim Rezowalli '05
John Snyder '07
Howard Timoney '07
Tom Gardner '09
Jackie Gardner '11



A Jetfin compendium

A short history of the legendary fin in the USA

Scotty Napierkowski (Scott Stevens)

Retro Diving FaceBook Group

1. The original open-heel Beuchat Jet Fin, imported from France in 1964 by Gustav Dalla Valle, co-founder of Scubapro and Beuchat's representative in the U.S. It is the same fin

(albeit without the silver paint) used by Cousteau's team in "World Without Sun."

2. The second version of the fin was made by Beuchat in Italy and featured the now familiar "scalloped" vents. It also featured a stiffer, more robust blade.

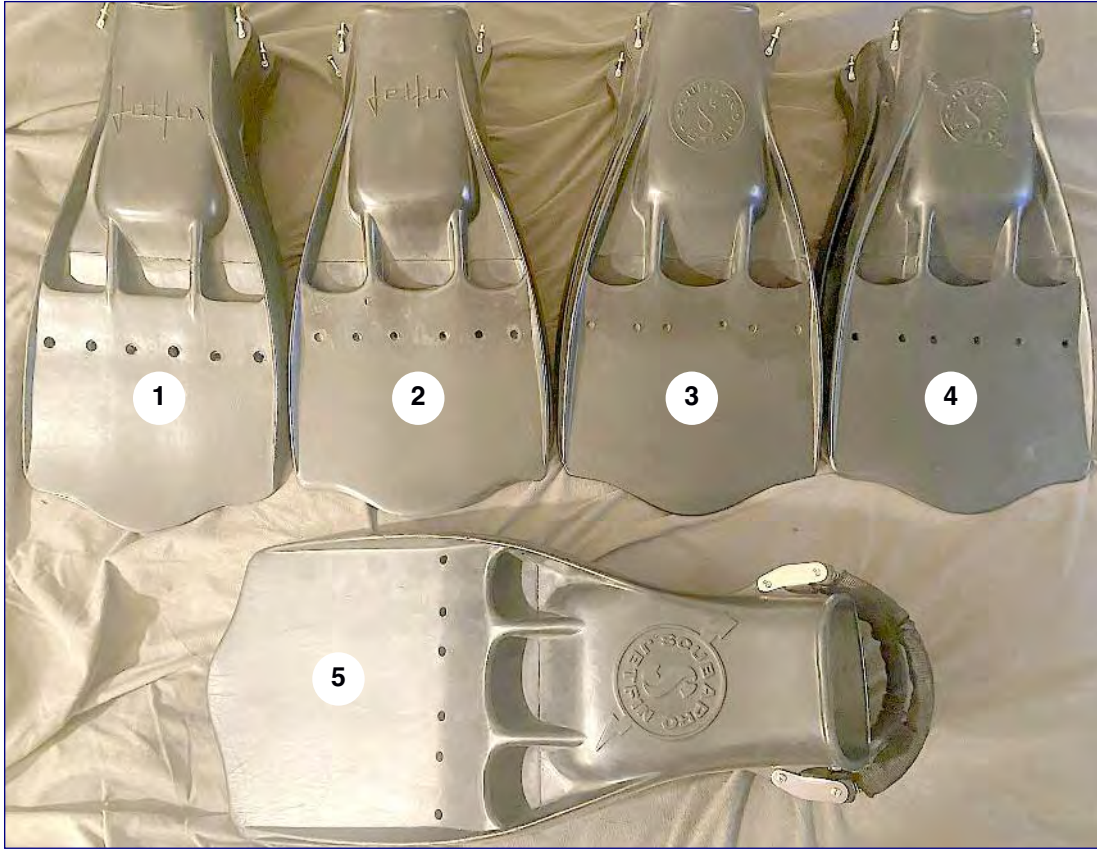
3. By 1970, Scubapro had secured the rights to manufacture the Jet Fin in the U.S. with its own badge on the foot pocket. The name was also changed from Jet Fin to simply "Jetfin." This version would last until about 1982.

4. 1983 saw the introduction of the "Lightning" Jetfin, a slightly lighter, more flexible model with a lightning bolt added to the foot pocket badge. It continued to be made in the USA until recent years.

5. The technical diver's standard - the 352 extra large Jetfin with spring heel straps. If you know, you know.

For regular recreational diving, my personal favorite is still the pre-Lightning Jetfins with their stiffer blades and increased propulsion. The big 352 Jets I've not had occasion to use since I moved away from Great Lakes, dry suits and twinsets. They were my only choice for years of cold water wreck diving. ★

Ed Note: Which of these did/do you dive with?



Santa Barbara to Unveil Deepwater Diving Monument

The Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (SBMM) is proud to announce the unveiling of the Deepwater Diving Monument, a long-overdue tribute to Santa Barbara's rich heritage as the birthplace of deepwater diving. The monument will be revealed in a special ceremony on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at 4:30 p.m., next to the Santa Barbara Harbor and SBMM.

The monument will depict a professional diver from 1982, wearing a Kirby Morgan® Superlite® 17 Diving Helmet, a revolutionary design that set the world standard for commercial divers. This iconic figure will stand as a symbol of Santa Barbara's pioneering role in shaping the global diving industry.

In the 1960s, local abalone divers transitioned to deepwater oxy-helium

diving, revolutionizing commercial and military diving by enabling safe exploration of much deeper waters. This transformation was ignited by Hugh "Dan" Wilson's historic 400-foot dive off Santa Cruz Island on November 3, 1962. Conducted in secrecy, Wilson's groundbreaking achievement, using mixed gas instead of air, launched what became known as the "Santa Barbara Helium Rush."

Santa Barbara quickly became a hub for innovation in diving technology. Companies like DIVCON, California Divers (Cal Dive), and Oceaneering International emerged, with Santa Barbara Harbor serving as their operational base. These pioneers, along with Santa Barbara-based Kirby Morgan Dive Systems®, whose helmets have become the international standard, cemented the city's global impact on the diving industry. ★

DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

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APRIL 2025

TUESDAY APRIL 1

POINT LOBOS RESERVATIONS

On April 1st reservations become available for diving at Point Lobos in May. Make your online reservation for Saturday, May 17 if you plan to dive. Contact **Carl Tuttle**, who is coordinating. Email: tut-comms@sbcglobal.net or text/phone: 408-829-3660 and let him know if you made a reservation.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

BUSINESS MEETING: 7:30pm

The meeting will be held **virtually via Skype**. Watch for an email with details. 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, APRIL 5

NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

16th ANNUAL U/W EASTER EGG HUNT

Coordinator: **Tom Gardner**, tomandjackieus@yahoo.com, 408-274-9447. Meet at 8:00 AM at Del Monte Beach and dive for Easter Eggs! Eggs will be

dropped in depths of 25 to 40 feet. Contestants will line up on the beach and when the whistle blows, the race is on! The divers that return with the highest totals win great prizes. Wharf parking is

GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 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 61 Years of the San Jose Flipper Dippers!

Entertainment:

- Social Hour
- Sign Up for Dives



available or park in the parking lot. Meet on the wharf next to the beach for a pre-hunt briefing. Bring 2 tanks and plan on making a 2nd dive under the wharf. Please RSVP!

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

NO SCHEDULED DIVE

UPCOMING IN MAY

- 07 Business Meeting
- 10 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 17 Pt. Lobos Dive
- 21 General Meeting
- 22 – 26 Memorial Day Weekend – Brannan Island SRA



Keep your powder dry and your car keys too

Undercurrent

Jaan and Nathalie (Miami, FL) are avid divers who needed a solution to keep their car keys safe while shore-diving. They saw many people using buoyant plastic containers or flimsy bags or pouches, hiding keys in the bushes, or attaching them to their floats – all tricks everyone's had problems with.

So, they invented Dryfob, a neutrally buoyant watertight aluminum case so you can carry your electronic car keys on a dive. Just the thing for Bonaire shore divers, where theft is common.

<https://dryfob.com/> ★



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
Río Vista, CA 94571-5148



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

2025 COMING EVENTS

April 1	Pt. Lobos Reservations for May 17
April 2	Business Meeting
April 12	Second Saturday SCUBA - U/W Easter Egg Hunt
April 16	🐡 General Meeting - SJFD 61 Years Old
Apr 25-May 7	Bonaire Dive Trip - Sold Out
May 7	Business Meeting
May 10	Second Saturday SCUBA
May 17	Pt. Lobos Dive
May 21	🐡 General Meeting
June 4	Business Meeting
June 14	Second Saturday SCUBA
June 18	🐡 General 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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