

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

JUNE 2026

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

Are you really a Dive Club? Why, yes we are. And we go diving!

Dippers were online on April 1st to make reservations for the May 9th Pt. Lobos dive. Unbeknownst to many, the reservations open up after 12 am and there was no space available! Oops! **Eva Alexander** happened to be awake at that time and was able to score a reservation with **Ken Agur** as her buddy.

So a number of Dippers opted to make reservations for Sunday, May 3rd, including **Sim**

Continued on page 4



Sim, Tom, Tristan, Cédric and Florence at the May 3rd Pt. Lobos dive.



Eva and Ken at the May 9th Pt. Lobos dive.



Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here!

Dippers and friends gathered at the Whale City Bakery Bar and Grill, in Davenport, on Saturday May 23, during the Memorial Day weekend. Some rode their bikes from Santa Cruz along the Coast Rail Trail. Above, from left: **Jon Alexander, Gabi Estill, Greg and Barbara Davis, Frances Lee, Jackie Gardner, Eva Alexander, Tom Gardner, Carl Tuttle, Jim Rezowalli, Abby Wilson with Baby Wilson and Ben Wilson, and Howard Chien.** Photo taken by Mr. Abby Sr., aka **Alex Golden.** See more photos on page 5.



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings Divers!

May was a great month for the Dippers, with lots of scheduled dives and the club camping trip to Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park for Memorial Day weekend. A good time was had by all! Check out the newsletter articles and photos for more about these fun events!

Coming up in June, in addition to our usual S3 dive on Saturday, June 13th, a group of Dippers will be enjoying a liveaboard trip to the Cayman Islands aboard the Cayman Aggressor June 20 – 27! I can't wait to hear about the trip and see all of the pictures!

As I've mentioned in previous years, June 8th is World Oceans Day (more info at <https://worldoceanday.org/>) and there are plenty of activities to get involved in to celebrate and support our oceans! The 2026 Action Theme "Strong Marine Protected Areas for Our Blue Planet" is very relevant to our local dive community. We need to conserve our wonderful marine resources for future generations.

I also want to remind people of the great work being done locally by the Giant Kelp Restoration Project (<https://g2kr.com/> and www.facebook.com/UrchinsKelpOtters) and the Sunflower Star Laboratory (www.sunflowerstarlab.org/ and www.facebook.com/SunflowerStarLab). Check them out and see how you can help!

Hope to see you all in the water soon!

Let's go diving! – Barbara

PLAN AHEAD

Labor Day Weekend Camping, Diving & More Aug 32 – Sept 7

A number of Dippers have campsite reservations for the Labor Day Weekend at Van Damme State Park in Mendocino.

Space is available to share in their sites so contact those folks for information. Sites are limited to 3 vehicles and 8 people. Those Dippers with reservations include (arrival/departure dates):

- **Jim & Gabi Rezowalli:** #4 (9/2–9/6)
- **Tom & Jackie Gardner:** #5 (8/31–9/7)
- **Howard Chien:** #6 (8/31–9/6)
- **Barbara Davis:** #7 (8/31–9/7)
- **Tristan Chutka:** #12 (9/1–9/6)
- **Carl Tuttle:** #13 (9/2–9/6)

We plan on bringing tanks, kayaks, mountain bikes to do some bike riding, and maybe some hiking.

There is a great bike path along the coast in Ft. Bragg. We'll also kayak up Big River, south of Mendocino. There is a kayak rental place near by.

Saturday, September 5th is a "No License" fishing day. We might look into urchin culling.

We'll have a big potluck on Saturday night too. 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 us for the holiday weekend be sure to contact **Carl Tuttle**, Phone: 408-829-3660, email: tutcomms@sbcglobal.net. He'll let you know who has space available. ★



Join in on the fun. You'll have a great time!



San Jose Flipper Dippers

www.SJFlipperDippers.com

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CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

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Howard Chien 408-410-0325

CLUB COMMITTEES

AWARDS AND FINES

o Position Open o

MEMBERSHIP

Ken Agur 408-242-3779

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RAFFLE

o Position Open o

REFRESHMENTS

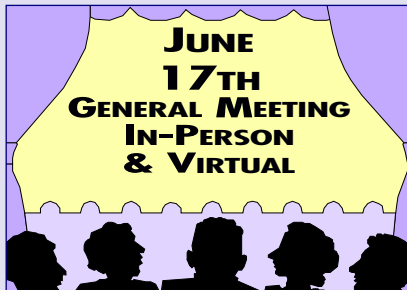
o Position Open o

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 MS Teams connection for those who still prefer to meet virtually. Watch for an email update. ★

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 to You! Dipper **Jackie Gardner** will be completing another annual trip around the Sun this month! ★



San Jose Flipper Dippers

DIVE COORDINATORS WANTED

We're looking for some. How About You?



To be a Club dive coordinator you need only be a certified diver with some diving experience. It is important to remember that you are coordinating other certified divers who are diving within their training and experience limits. You should take care to not exceed that role. You should not act as a divemaster or an instructor (even if you are so qualified).

Safety should be the concern of all divers. Information such as who has a cell phone and whether oxygen is available should be shared with all the participants. Remember the 9-1-1 emergency number is a free call.

It should be assumed that a certified diver is qualified to dive in a situation that is within the limits of his/her training with a diver of equal qualifications. If you suspect that a dive situation exceeds the qualifications of a diver, you should explain to them the potential difficulties they may encounter. However, remember that it is ultimately the diver himself/herself who must make the decision as whether to dive, and he/she is ultimately responsible for their decision. Safe diving is a must!

Follow the Club constitution: *"Encourage the conservation of all marine life by obeying all Federal and State game laws and urging others to do likewise."*

Simple Ten Point Guidelines

1. Choose a site/situation that you are familiar with and will be enjoyed by all divers.
2. Schedule your dive in time to be in the newsletter and announced at the Club meeting. Include the best method of contact so interested divers can contact you if they aren't at the meeting: Phone and/or email.
3. Collect the sign-up sheet after the Club meeting. If you can't attend, ask another member to get it for you.
4. If the dive will not occur as planned, make your best effort to contact all that expressed interest. Otherwise divers will assume the dive will occur as planned and show up at the site.
5. Make sure non-members are appropriately certified and have signed the Club's Assumption of Risk disclaimer (Available on the Club's Website).
6. Coordinate buddy teams to make sure that all divers who need a buddy, have one.
7. Tell all divers who are not familiar with the site/situation what they can expect entering/exiting the water and things to be on the lookout for.
8. Ask any divers who may want to leave early to let someone know so all divers can be accounted for after the dive.
9. Try to make the dive an enjoyable and safe experience for everyone, including yourself.
10. Plan to give a report on the dive at the next Club meeting. You can also submit a written report for the next Club newsletter so others can read about the dive. Take some photos of the divers too! ★

If you're up for your next adventure in diving, contact the Club's vice president: **Sim Upadhyayula**. Text: 669-286-9796 or email: toytaeous@yahoo.com.



Continued from Front Page

Upadhyayula, Tom Earl, Carl Tuttle, Tristan Chutka, Cédric Fairon and Florance Frans. One reservation needed to be canceled, so word went out and Florance was able to jump online and grab it!

May 3rd Dive Report

Carl Tuttle

After the search for a missing dive light, on April 19th (see the May newsletter), Carl couldn't get his tanks filled at Aquarius Dive Shop as the Nitrox system was down. So he scored a hotel room for Saturday May 8, and stopped by the shop for tank fills.

On the morning of May 9th the fog was in and there was a slight drizzle but the group was eager to dive. Cars lined up along highway 1 waiting for the gate to open. Text messages were flying as to who was in line and was it moving? When the cars are lined up on the highway, Park folks sometimes open the gate early.

Reports of poor viz in the cove with improvement outside the cove were spot on with good vis from 35-45 feet! Not much of a swell or surge under water.

The divers saw the "Hole in the Wall" and the "Lone Metridium" during the first dive. Temperature wasn't bad either and all were eager to make a second dive after a surface interval of snacks and comparing notes.

During this time a group of folks stopped by and asked about the diving there and other places in Monterey. Turns out they were pilots, from Florida, who had flown in on two airplanes with their customers, to play golf at Pebble Beach for the weekend (Must be nice!). Most of the group were experienced divers who were



Happy divers enjoy great conditions: **Carl, Sim, Tom, Tristan, Cédric and Florence** at the May 3rd Pt. Lobos dive.

scouting out the area. Suggesting they need 7-10-mil wetsuits they explained they always dive in 7-mil wetsuits in Florida. Yep, you're going to be cold diving here.

The Dippers did a second dive and conditions were the same as the first dive. After changing into dry cloths they headed to the Crossroads BBQ for lunch.

May 9th Dive Report

Eva Alexander

While some of the club members dove Point Lobos on the 1st Sunday of May, no one was available to coordinate a true S3 dive (S3 = Second Saturday SCUBA). Ken and I had been diving for a couple of months and were itching to go. We arrived bright and early at 7:30 am at the gate at Point Lobos and were pleasantly surprised that not only the park ranger let us in early, he also put out cones at Whalers Cove to reserve parking for divers only! What a nice guy!

We were in the water by 8:42 am. Ken realized he had a leak in the dry suit through his glove. He decided he would tough it out regardless. We descended, swam around for 46 minutes. We saw some big yellow fish, some grey fish, tons of little fish fry. Visibility was decent at about 20 feet.

Temperature was 51°F.

On hindsight, at the beginning of the dive, I could have signaled to Ken to go more 'left' so that we could follow our dive plan to go north, but I thought Ken was so confident

that 'right' was the right direction, so I just followed him. We were a little lost, but all in all, we ended up back in the cove. There was tremendous amount of kelp in the cove so it took tremendous efforts to surface crawl back to the ramp. We were cold and decided that one dive was just perfect for us. We called it a day and headed home, early enough to get back to the Bay Area for lunch. ★



Ken's new vehicle was christened and has lots of room for dive gear at Pt. Lobos!

Christmas in July Family Picnic and 3rd Sunday Cycle

Ho-Ho-Ho and Merry Heatwave! Please join the San Jose Flipper Dippers again this year to celebrate Christmas in July! Dust off your jingle bells, fetch your Festivus pole from the attic, and run to the storage unit to grab whatever makes your holidays jolly and bright to celebrate.

This year's summer holiday potluck will be on **Saturday, July 18** from 12pm-4pm at: **Hellyer County Park** (\$6 entrance fee) **at the Yerba Buena Picnic Area**, 985 Hellyer Ave, San Jose.

Some Dippers and friends will arrive early and be bike riding on the Guadalupe River Trail and meet everyone directly after.

BBQs, shaded outdoor picnic tables, and much much more will be available.

And don't forget your raffle donation for our Big Raffle!

We look forward to seeing you there, and peace, love, and laughter to all! ★

More information coming in the July Newsletter



Mr. Abby (Ben) and Abby will be in the Christmas spirit!

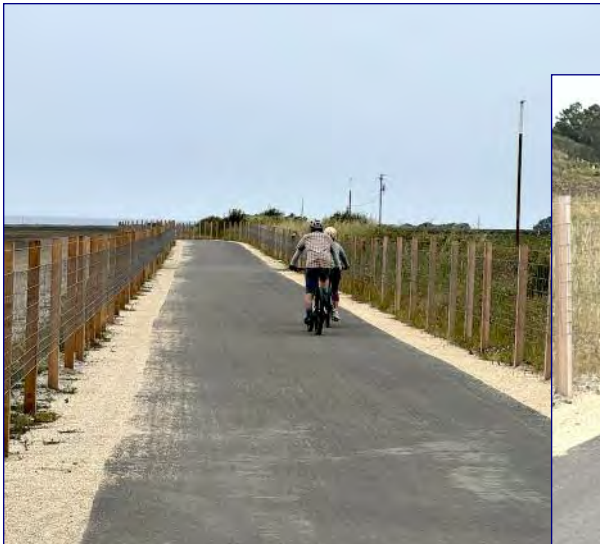
Memorial Day Camping, Bike Riding and Fun!



Above: **Jackie, Howard, Frances** and **Tom** discuss the rules for playing the Mexican Train Dominoes game.



Right: **Gabi** took a slow fall on the bike trail as **Frances** follows up after her. The trail wasn't made for bikes, as the group found out.



Far left: **Jon** and **Eva** make their way to Davenport.

Left: **Tom** "Rides the Rails"

Below: **Carl** and **Howard** smile for **Jim**, taking the photo, while **Gabi** thinks she sees something up in the tree. **SQUIRREL!**



Above: **Carl**, with his "New Hair Doo," **Jackie, Jon, Frances Howard, Tom** and **Eva** pose for the required "Selfie" photo.



Sea snake slowly swallows moray eel head-last in unsettling video

Jennifer Green - TCD (the cool down)

A video of a sea snake slowly swallowing an entire moray eel seems to have left some viewers both fascinated and horrified. The unsettling clip, shared on the Reddit forum Nature Is Metal, shows the snake swallowing a moray eel head last, making for a startling bit of ocean drama.

Beyond being quite alarming, the video offers a reminder that marine ecosystems are full of predator-prey interactions that most people rarely get to witness. It is a startling example of the wild richness of the planet's oceans.

Sea snakes and eels are both formidable marine predators, so seeing one consume the other highlights the complexity of the food web beneath the surface — and how important it is that this biodiversity be protected.

Human impacts on oceans matter quite notably on this point. Warming waters, reef stress, pollution, and habitat disruption are changing where marine animals hunt, hide, and interact. Wildlife photography can help in this area, becoming more than just shocking entertainment: It can also spark curiosity about the health of the ecosystems these animals depend on.

When people do share wildlife clips online, context can help. A strange moment can travel far, but pairing it with curiosity and care is better than treating wild animals as monsters or jokes. Some commenters on the video appeared to be equal parts terrified and intrigued. "I'm shocked the eel wasn't powerful enough to get away," one commenter said. Another replied, "Sea snake venom is a hell of a drug." 🌟

'Never seen anything like it'

Heather Wake - UpWorthy

Scientists discover brand new species of octopus

Imagine being a scientist scanning the ocean floor when suddenly a powder blue, golf ball-sized, eight-legged critter that looked like it's been put through a kawaii filter shows up. Obviously, all professionalism goes out the proverbial window.

That is exactly what happened for the Charles Darwin Foundation when they unexpectedly discovered a brand new species of (very cute) octopus deep below the water's surface near the Galapagos Islands.

A tiny scene-stealer enters the underwater chat "He's tiny!" "It's blue!" These are the remarks that can be heard over the audio of footage captured by a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) camera as the cerulean cephalopod made its grand entrance. Unsure which species this mysterious and

adorable creature belonged to, the team sent octopus expert Janet Voight, who immediately knew "it was something really special."



"I'd never seen anything like it," noted Voight, who used X-Ray images from CT scans to make a 3D model of the octopus, revealing its insides, rather than cutting open the one specimen she had.

A built-in survival superpower that feels like a fashion statement While its top side features blue, nature's rarest hue, the new species, dubbed *Microeledone galapagensis*, has a "very deep purple" underside, which researchers believe is to camouflage itself while eating.

"We think this color pattern helps keep it safe. If the octopus grabs a prey item that emits light, that light may attract predators that might then eat the octopus. So the octopus puts its dark-colored web over the prey item, keeping itself safe," explained Voight. This little guy showed up where nobody expected it

But unusual coloring aside, what's also remarkable about this newly discovered octopus is that no other similar species lives anywhere near it. Members of the *Megaleledonidae* family, distinguished by their single row of suckers, are normally much larger and inhabit cold Antarctic waters...a little ways away from the Galapagos.

The *Microeledone galapagensis* joins the four new species of octopus that were discovered in Costa Rica in 2024, all of which are part of a 300-ish species of octopus family living throughout all of the world's oceans.

The ocean still has plenty of surprises left

The wild thing about ocean exploration is how much remains hidden from us. Scientists estimate that huge portions of the deep sea are still largely unexplored. Entire landscapes, unusual animals, and species no one has documented yet may still be waiting below.

Octopuses themselves already seem almost custom-built to inspire fascination. They can solve puzzles, squeeze through openings that appear impossible, and use specialized pigment cells called chromatophores to change their appearance in astonishing ways. And still, with each new species that's discovered, we never seem to lose our sense of wonder for these creatures.

Even Voight, who has spent four decades studying octopuses, notes what a miracle it is to witness them, especially those that live in deep waters.

"Hardly anybody on Earth has ever gotten to see them. I just feel lucky that I got to work with them," she said.

Scientists...they're just like us. 🌟

DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

SIM UPADHYAYULA

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JUNE 2026

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

BUSINESS MEETING: 7:30pm
The meeting will be held **virtually via Microsoft Teams**. Watch for an email with details. Bring your own food, drinks, and internet connection and we'll discuss ideas for upcoming dives and events.

SATURDAY JUNE 6
NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3) DIVE: LOCATION TBD

Join the Flipper Dippers for this month's S3 dive. **We're looking for a coordinator**. Location will be determined (TBD) based on conditions. Be sure to contact Sim if you want to coordinate this dive: **Sim Upadhyayula**. Text: 669-286-9796 or email: toytacous@yahoo.com.

GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

The **in-person General Meeting** held at **7:30 PM** at the Knights of Columbus Santa Maria Hall 2211 Shamrock Dr., Campbell.
The **virtual meeting** held via Microsoft Teams. Watch your email for info.

Please contact **Carl Tuttle** for more details on the in-person meeting or a link to the virtual MS Teams meeting.

Celebrate 62 Years of the San Jose Flipper Dippers!

Entertainment:

• **Social Hour**

• **Sign-ups for Monthly Dives**



SATURDAY JUNE 20
NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SATURDAY- SATURDAY 20-27
CAYMAN AGGRESSOR IV TRIP
A number of Dippers are onboard.

SATURDAY JUNE 27
NO SCHEDULED DIVE



UPCOMING IN JULY

- 01 Business Meeting
- 04 No License Fishing Day
- 11 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 15 **General Meeting**
- 19 Christmas in July:
Hellyer County Park
- 24-26 Lake Tahoe Weekend (TBD)



Netflix's 'Remarkably Bright Creatures': A heartwarming adaptation of a best-selling novel

Kendra Syrdal - Parade

What do an octopus, an Oscar winner, and a blockbuster star have in common? Look no further than Olivia

Newman's adaptation of Remarkably Bright Creatures, the debut novel by Shelby Van Pelt that spent more than 64 weeks on the New York Times hardcover fiction bestseller list, and more than 30 weeks and counting on the trade paperback fiction bestseller list. Newman's widely anticipated film, starring Sally Field and Lewis Pullman, is now streaming.

Sometimes adaptations of beloved novels are a bit of a miss. But Netflix's version of Remarkably Bright Creatures is lovely, sweet, and a hit amongst viewers. Since its release on May 8th, 2026, the film has been a top movie on the streamer, and as of this week is still sitting in the number two spot.

Remarkably Bright Creatures is based on the best-selling, debut novel by Shelby Van Pelt. The book was a huge

success, selling over two million copies and landing on several "Best of" lists, including a "Best Books of the 2020s" from Goodreads. It has also landed on the New York Times best-seller list multiple times since its publication in 2022.

Remarkably Bright Creatures follows a grieving widow named Tova Sullivan, who works as a night cleaner at an aquarium in the fictional Sowell Bay, Washington. Tova forms a curious and unlikely bond with a curmudgeonly, but highly-intuitive and smart giant Pacific octopus named Marcellus.

Following her son Erik's death, Tova has become socially withdrawn and distant, but when she meets drifter Cameron Cassmore, she starts to bond with him as well as Marcellus, who has decided (through his internal monologue only the viewer is privy to) that he is going to help Tova.

Rotten Tomatoes said upon release the film was, "Grounded by a characteristically wonderful Sally Field, Remarkably Bright Creatures' is a sweet melodrama that tugs the heartstrings with

admirable restraint." It's clear from the response and its popularity, this film is one we could all use and the message of hope and connection is completely universal. ★



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

2026 COMING EVENTS

June 3	Business Meeting
June 13	Second Saturday SCUBA
June 17	📍 General Meeting
June 20-27	Cayman Islands Aggressor Trip
July 01	Business Meeting
July 04	No License Fishing Day
July 11	Second Saturday SCUBA
July 15	📍 General Meeting
July 19	Christmas in July: Hellyer County Park
July 24-26	Lake Tahoe Weekend (TBD)
Aug 05	Business Meeting
Aug 08	Second Saturday SCUBA
Aug 15	Elkhorn Slough Kayak
Aug 19	General Meeting
Aug 31-Sept 07	Labor Day Weekend - Van Damme

*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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