

NEWSLETTER



San Jose Flipper Dippers

OCTOBER
2026

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD
3RD WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH
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A great week(end) was had by all!

Labor Day at Van Damme State Park



Everyone met for a picnic lunch during the coast bike ride.

Dippers, family and friends got together at Van Damme State Park for the Club's Annual Labor Day week, and weekend, of camping, hiking, biking, kayaking, potluck, and campfire fun.

A bit of overnight rain, on Wednesday, didn't dampen the spirits of the group of fun-seeking folks. Those joining



in included **Tom and Jackie Gardner, Ginny Matulich, Ken and Jing Agur, Howard Chien, Frances Lee, Tristan Chutka, Makenzy Bergman, and Carl Tuttle.**

On Friday, a number of the campers took kayaks up Big River, south of Mendocino, for a leisurely paddle. Lots of wildlife was seen.

On Saturday Tom, Jackie, Howard, Frances, Ginny and Carl rode their bikes five miles from Ft. Bragg along a great bike and walking path up to MacKerricher State Park. Ken, Jing, Tristan and Makenzy took their 4-wheel vehicles out on an old logging road. Later they joined the bike riders for a picnic lunch at Laguna Point Boardwalk. The weather was mild and warm too!

Saturday night the whole group got together to join in on a potluck of great food and conversations around the campfire.

See more photos on pages 4 and 5. ★



Carl, Cedric, Grace, Troy, Christa, Lucy and George. Photo by Eva.

Flipper Dippers' S3 Dives are all the rage!

The September 12, Second Saturday Scuba (S3) dive was coordinated by **Carl Tuttle** and had a total of eight divers! Divers joining in included **Eva Alexander, Grace Chi, Troy Egar, Christa Kroon, Lucy Yen, George Cutu and Cedric Wright.** The dive was held at MacAbee Beach and there were a lot of scuba classes there, as the Breakwater is closed due to the take-over by a large population of seals.

For the first dive, Carl and Cedric led the way using the prescribed compass bearings in search of the pinnacle. The visibility was spotty in areas and it wasn't long before the others lost sight of the two. They found the pinnacle and had +20-ft visibility with lots of strawberry anemone, a sea hare, lingcod, sheephead, crabs and a school of rockfish.

The others followed Grace and missed the pinnacle. They also reported good visibility. Somehow they found some interesting rock formations where Eva spotted a wolf eel. After some time at 60-foot depth, the group ascended to verify their position and found themselves a bit off shore. There was some concern as a kayaker had fallen off his kayak and was calling out for help. A boat nearby pulled the person and the kayak out of the water. A long surface swim brought the divers safely back safely to the beach.

For the second dive it was suggested that Carl not swim so fast, "I can't help it if you can't keep up with me! OK, I'll try to kick slower." This time everyone made it to the pinnacle. Unfortunately the tide had come in and the current had picked up, thereby reducing the visibility by half. After some time everyone made their way safely back to the beach, although somewhat spread out.

While tanks were being filled the group hit Taquera Zarape for lunch and stories. *p.s. Congratulations to Troy and Christa who announced their upcoming wedding!* ★

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings Divers

Everyone had a great time at the club campout over Labor Day weekend. We had a great turnout for our S3 dive at MacAbee Beach as well. When conditions are looking good and the ocean is calling, why not sign up to coordinate a Club dive to a location of your choice? Just send an email to **Carl Tuttle** (tutcomms@sbcglobal.net) with the your details and he'll send it out to the Club and prospective members on our email list.

It's hard to believe it's October already and we're into the fall season! 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.

In addition to our usual S3 dive this month, we also have our Hood Canal, WA Dive Trip, organized by Dipper **Mike Chalup**, on October 14-18. I am looking forward to the dive reports from this trip!

Club Dues are Due this Month. Pay on time and avoid the \$5 late fee! Each member will also be asked to sign an "Assumption of Risk Agreement" when dues are paid. Your dues go to the rental hall for our general meetings, the Club's domain name and website hosting, and expenses for our Annual Christmas in July BBQ. 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 2027 Club Officers. Maybe you have been thinking about getting more involved in Club activities? Here's your chance! Take a look at the description of Club Officer Duties on page 3.

Also in November we'll be making reservations for our annual end-of-the-year Point Lobos Dive and for our Memorial Day weekend campout. Stay tuned!

Let's go diving! – Barbara



San Jose Flipper Dippers

www.SJFlipperDippers.com

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CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Barbara Davis 408-656-6390

VICE PRESIDENT

Sim Upadhyayula 408-608-5009

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

o Position Open o

September's General Meeting Presentation

Thanks to **Gil Zeimer** for his insightful presentation on humorous observations on scuba diving: "How I Turned 40 Years of Dive Logs into a Book" based on his "Scuba Storyteller" book. He went over about 20 of his most humorous story titles with the anecdotes behind each one.

"Scuba Storyteller: Mostly Humorous Diving Tales by an Addicted AquaNut" is now selling well on Amazon with 38 Five-Star reviews; the paperback is \$20; the eBook is \$9.99: www.amazon.com/Scuba-Storyteller-Humorous-Addicted-AquaNut/dp/0941332055/

The book is a great holiday gift for any diver, non-diver, or ocean lover, and a perfect read for surface intervals during your next dive trip. ★



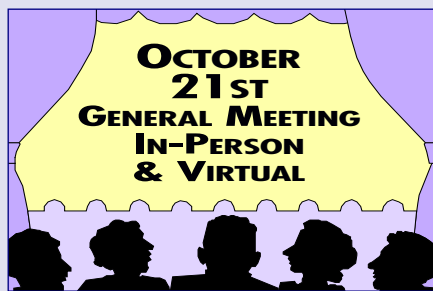
Not So Shy Swine

Undercurrent

Divers often stop off at Stirrup Cay in the Grand Bahama-Exuma Islands to dive with feral pigs – yes, the pigs like to play in the water with people. New Yorker Jason Gordon visited from the Bahamas' Exuma Island chain on a cruise ship and took a dip with the swine, but one clamped down on his



you plan to take a break from diving in the Bahamas to snorkel with them, be aware they, just like sharks, have teeth. ★



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. ★



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. (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's 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

GenCal (Central California Council of Diving Clubs) dues are **\$15.00** and USofA (Underwater Society of America) dues are **\$30.00**. These optional dues support the many efforts of GenCal (Pay online at: www.cencal.org) and USofA (Pay online at: www.underwater-society.org) 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 2027 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.

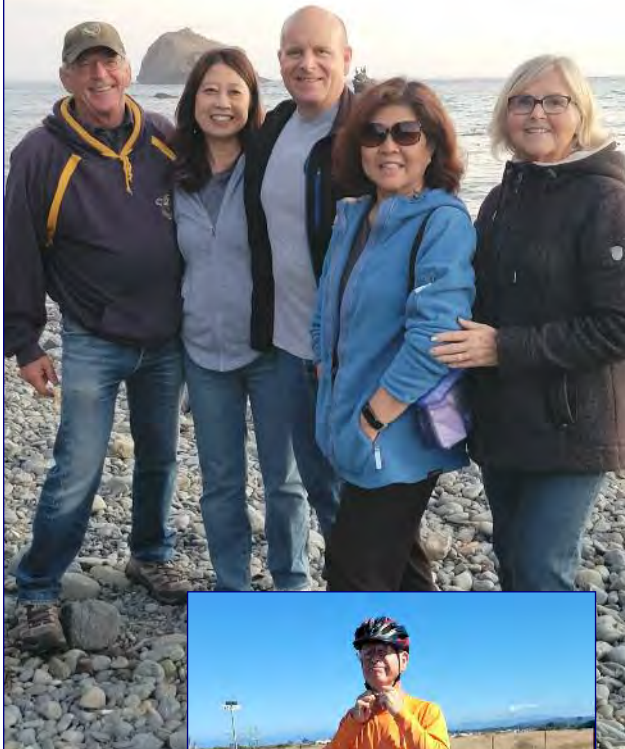
SERGEANT AT ARMS: Includes making arrangements for all meetings and setting up necessary meeting equipment. Maintains order at the meetings and collects fines levied upon members. ★

Dippers camp, kayak, hike and bike ride in Mendocino

Dippers enjoyed a great week(end) camping at Van Damme State Park, kayaking up Big River, just south of the town of Mendocino, a bike ride along the coast at Ft. Bragg, and a great potluck dinner on Saturday night.

During the Club's weekend at Van Damme State Park a vessel was spotted in the cove. Smaller boats were transporting divers to various locations. Turns out this was the 74-ft x 27.5-ft aluminum hydrofoil catamaran, the *Barracuda*. CDFW divers were doing research on the abalone at Van Damme. The same activity was observed last year too. 🌟

From left: Carl, Jing, Ken, Frances and Jackie enjoy a walk on the beach.



Howard, Jackie, Carl, Frances, Ginny and Tom ready to ride in Van Damme State Park.



Howard, Ginny and Jackie finished the jigsaw puzzle!



Tristan and Mackenzy enjoy the kayak trip on Big River.



Above, Tom gets ready to ride the coast trail.

Left, Frances is all set too!



Jing, Ken, Jackie, Ginny, Mackenzy, Tristan, Frances, Carl, Howard and Tom all gather for lunch in MacKerricher State Park on a beautiful day.



The Barracuda, above, is a 74-ft x 27.5-ft aluminum hydrofoil catamaran obtained by CDFW in 2024.



Great end to a bike ride: Ice cream at Cowlick's in Mendocino!



Sisters in Action: Jackie Gardner and sister Ginny Matulich enjoy the kayak on Big River.

Back in the saddle . . . Or is it in the water?

Howard Timoney

My 8-month, surgically mandated, diving sabbatical ended Friday, October 2. My dried-up gills couldn't wait another week for the October 10, S3 dive, so I rounded up a few of the usual suspects including **Grace Chi**, **Eva Alexander**, and **Sim Upadhyayula** to join me for a Saturday, October 3 dive. The wave models promised 4-foot swells and 3-foot waves, but when we arrived at South Monastery Beach we were pleasantly surprised to find that the wave models lied. Calm flat ocean with 6 to 8-inch ankle biter waves.



Howard is Happy!
(Photo not from this dive)

We suited up and hit the water. Good kelp coverage except in the shallows by the beach where we saw the usual urchin barrens. Some fish, lots of fry, a moon snail, many hermit crabs.

After a short break we changed tanks and made a second dive.

Score Card:

- 4 went into the water.
- 4 came out of the water. Twice!
- Two 50-minute dives.
- 1 drysuit back from the repair shop = 1 happy Eva.
- Sunny day, mid 70s.
- 6 to 8-inch waves.
- Clear warm water, 60 degrees, 30-foot visibility.
- 1 large Ling Cod.
- 1 large Cabazon.
- Several fish, lots of young fry.
- 2 moon snails moving briskly.
- Many hermit crabs.
- 1 beach wedding (we did not attend).

• 2 lifeguards doing calisthenics on the beach.
We all agreed they should have saved up some energy in case somebody needed saving.

• 1 Yummy delicious, highly nutritious lunch at Crossroads BBQ.

And the moral of the story: You should have gone diving, but you can make the October 10 dive. 🌟

Post-dive cell phone chats from the divers*

* Key

CT: Carl Tuttle (who couldn't make the dive)

HT: Howard Timoney

EA: Eva Alexander

SU: Sim Upadhyayula

GC: Grace Chi

CT: Anyone take photos of the dive today with Howard T.? Finishing up the October newsletter.

HT: You have to take our word that we were there

EA: We saw moon snails, many hermit crabs. I saw a brittle star

EA: Grace saw a huge fish.

SU: And I saw a guy violently smacking a fish!

HT: And we had deep philosophical conversations about ice cream

EA: The same guy fed urchins to anemones

HT: 1. I didn't smack a fish

2. It was an accident

GC: Tons of fish fry. Most were translucent but one area had older ones that formed a solid wall

GC: We also all stayed together

EA: Grace this is so good

EA: Ice cream tacos

GC: Glad you're enjoying them

GC: What did you guys get?

EA: I got strawberry ice cream with chocolate dip and coconut toppings; Jon got the vegan chocolate chips.



USS Kittiwake, a Cayman Island wreck dive, recovered Space Shuttle Challenger's black box

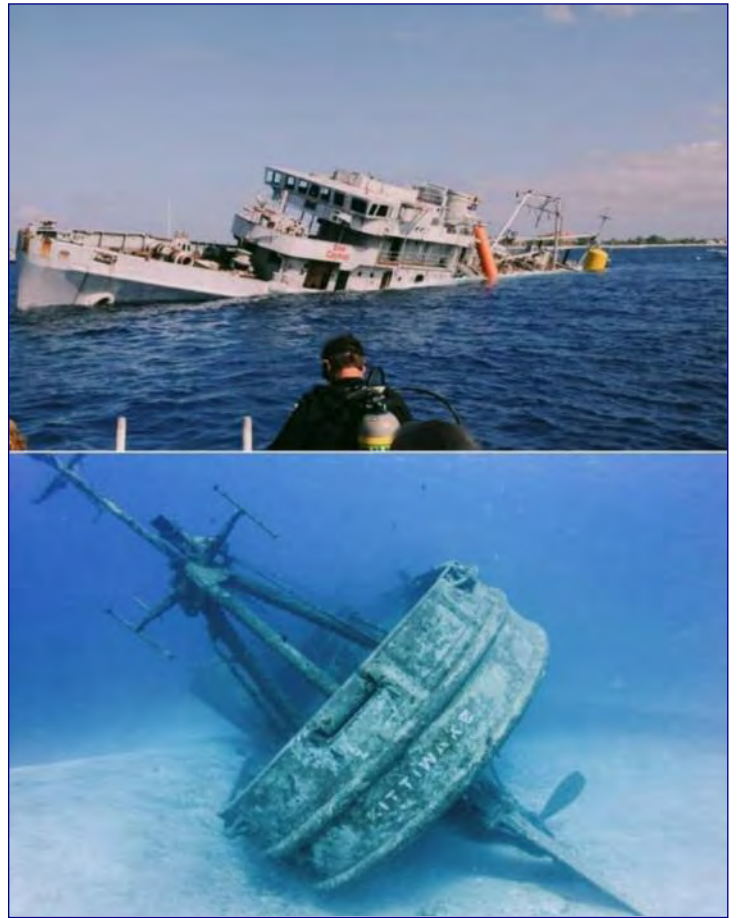
Dippers dove on the Kittiwake during their trip in June

The USS Kittiwake (ASR-13) may have the most beautiful final resting place of any warship. The former Navy submarine rescue vessel now lies in the clear turquoise water off Seven Mile Beach on Grand Cayman, one of the most popular wreck dives in the Caribbean.

After nearly five decades of service she was decommissioned in 1994 and later acquired by the Cayman Islands, which wanted a signature shipwreck to draw divers and ease pressure on the natural reefs. On January 5, 2011, after months of stripping out anything hazardous, the 251-foot ship was deliberately sunk in a protected Marine Park, settling on the sand in about twenty minutes. Her five decks sit between roughly 15 and 64 feet down, and in October 2017 Tropical Storm Nate rolled her onto her port side, where she rests today, coated in coral and home to turtles, groupers, and barracuda.

Her working life was anything but quiet. A Chanticleer-class submarine rescue ship commissioned in 1946 and named for an ocean-going gull, Kittiwake spent her career supporting submarines and standing ready to rescue their crews. In 1959 she set a world record for the deepest submarine-rescue exercise, lowering five men to 705 feet, and in 1960 she assisted the first successful Polaris missile launch from a submerged submarine. She helped search for the lost submarine Scorpion in 1968 and once rescued a dozen Cuban refugees off Key West.

One of Kittiwake's best-known stories came after the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster on January 28, 1986. The Department of Defense and the United States Coast Guard undertook a massive search for the space shuttle's black box. It was the Kittiwake and her crew who eventually recovered



the Challenger's black box from the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. A plaque aboard the wreck still marks that role, so divers gliding through her today pass a piece of both naval and space history. ★

And the winners are ...

Below, **Jim** and **Gabi Rezowalli** had to back out of the Van Damme Labor Day camping trip to take up a friend's offer to spend the week in Kauai, Hawaii. Bummer.

Right: **Howard Chien** was the recipient of the Golden Dippy for letting **Frances Lee** do all the paddling during the Big River kayak trip. ★



DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

SIM UPADHYAYULA

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OCTOBER 2026

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3
NO SCHEDULED DIVE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

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, OCTOBER 10

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. Bring 2 tanks and plan on going for lunch after the dive. Location TBD based on conditions. Be sure to contact Sim if you want to join in

WED-SUN, OCTOBER 14-18
HOOD CANAL, WA

Contact **Mike Chalup** for more information: Phone 408-744-1868, mchalup@virtual.net

GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCT 21

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, OCTOBER 17
NO SCHEDULED DIVE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
NO SCHEDULED DIVE

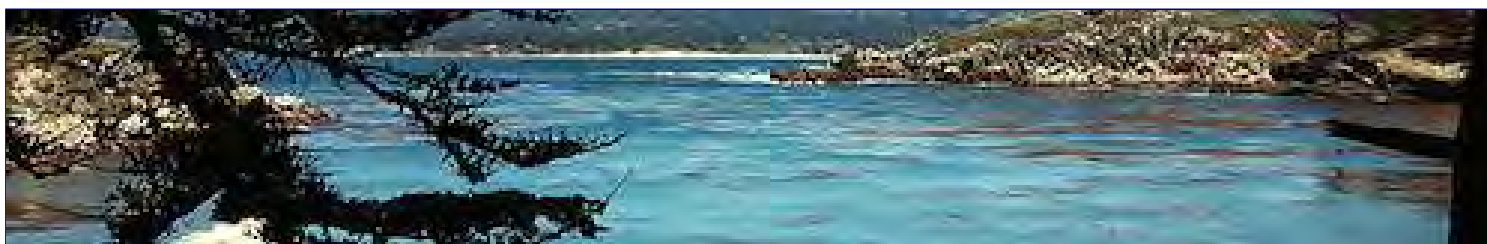
How about YOU leading a dive?

Contact **Sim Upadhyayula**. Text: 669 286 9796 or email: toytacous@yahoo.com so he can get the word out.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31
NO SCHEDULED DIVE

UPCOMING IN NOVEMBER

- 01 Pt. Lobos Reservations for Dec 28 (Opens at midnight)
- 04 Business Meeting
- 14 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 18 • **General Meeting**
– **Nominations for 2027 Office**
- 24 Memorial Day Weekend Reservations – (May 24-31, 2027) TBD
- 28 After Thanksgiving SCUBA Dive



A Merry Christmas at Point Lobos!

We're diving at Pt. Lobos on **Monday, December 28th**. 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 Sunday, November 1st**. The reservation system opens up at midnight!

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 **Sunday, November 1**, 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 28. 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 put 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. ★



☛ **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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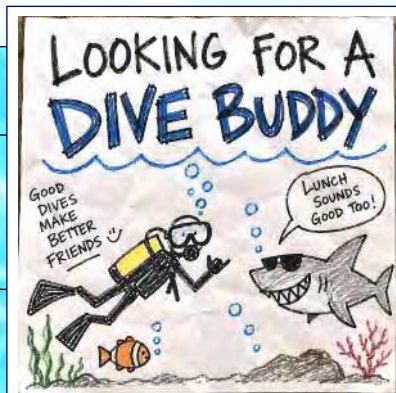
2026 COMING EVENTS

Oct 07	Business Meeting
Oct 10	Second Saturday SCUBA
Oct 14-18	Hood Canal, WA Dive Trip
Oct 21	🐡 General Meeting
Nov 01	Pt. Lobos Reservations for Dec 28
Nov 04	Business Meeting
Nov 14	Second Saturday SCUBA
Nov 18	🐡 General Meeting - Nominations for 2027 Club Office
Nov 24	Memorial Day Weekend Reservations - (May 24-31, 2027) TBD
Nov 28	After Thanksgiving SCUBA Dive
Dec 02	Business Meeting
Dec 12	Second Saturday SCUBA
Dec 16	🐡 General Meeting: Election of 2027 Club Officers & Christmas Raffle
Dec 28	SCUBA Dive Pt. Lobos

Watch This Space - Much More To Come!
See the Club's Website for the full Calendar

*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!**



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