

Channel Islands Divers



Photo: Franklin Murphy

NEXT CLUB MEETING:

April 15th, 2026
Black Bear Diner
2401 East Harbor Blvd.,
Ventura 93003

Socializing and Dinner: 6:00 PM
Meeting: 6:30 PM

BOTTOM TIMES

By Club President Delbert Stewart

Greetings and salutations, amigos!

Spring is here and the club is firing on all cylinders.

Last month was a blast—21 divers hit Carpinteria for the underwater Easter Egg Hunt, and somehow... we still left eggs for the fish. If you missed it, you missed a good one. And yes... we even made the news! Check out the link on Page 4

April is stacked!

Starting off with our April Speaker, **Darvil McBride**. I have been in contact with Darvil for almost two years, and I am genuinely excited that he is finally making it out to our humble corner of the world to share his knowledge. I am even more excited for all of you, because this presentation is going to be a fun one. If you have ever been curious about freediving or spearfishing, this is your opportunity to learn what it is really about.

The last time we had a presentation on this topic was three years ago—**John Barrus, Lee Mackay, and Tom Hodge**. Some of you might remember (I never forgot) ... that was one of those nights no one wanted to end. Wild stories, real experiences, and yes... the blackout topic that makes you pause a bit. Darvil is bringing that same energy—but with a lifetime of global experience, lessons learned, and insights that can make you a smarter, safer diver from day one. Expect great stories, real takeaways, and plenty of photos to go with it.



Rob Johnson, Dan Burrows, Rob Marion, and I met to dial in the Baja trip. The goal is simple...make this expedition epic. We are close to locking in the agenda. So, thank you for your patience. It will be worth it... especially with my new speargun. Oh, yeah.

I can already picture it. Somewhere off a remote stretch of Baja, grilling up the day's hunt, surrounded by Channel Islands Divers and howling at the moon. And the best part? We are working on making it happen.

For our shore dive enthusiasts, we are taking a shot at Point Dume (Divemaster Dan says the ocean owes us one!). Read his article in this issue and I am really looking forward to this dive!

My dear friends, this month is a Progressive Raffle with the **Insta360** on the line, so be sure to bring your old raffle tickets for another shot at winning. You can also buy more tickets at the meeting. Remember, all non-winning tickets roll into the progressive raffle... second chance win!

We are seeing a ton of momentum in the club right now—new members, strong turnout, and more people getting in the water. This is what it is all about. If you have been on the fence... this is your sign. Show up. Get wet. Be part of it.

See you at the meeting.

Del

Fun facts: Sheephead {aka sheepshead}

California sheephead is the largest wrasse found in kelp forests and rocky reefs, ranging from Monterey south to Baja. Documented living 50+ years, these big beauties play an important role in maintaining the health of kelp forests by eating sea urchins. This is why it's best not to hunt them, even though they're delicious (or so I've heard...). Their conservation status is listed as Vulnerable due to hunting pressure and loss of habitat.

All sheephead start out as females, exhibiting a dull reddish-pink tone over most of their bodies, often with a white chin and/or underbelly. As females begin transitioning to male when

between about 7-12 years old, black coloration begins on their heads, tails & dorsal fins. Juveniles look nothing like the adults, sporting distinctive dark & white vertical stripes for about the first two years of their lives.

Like some other wrasses, sheephead tuck into crevices at night and excrete a protective mucus which encases them.



Male sheephead photo by Dan Perdue

APRIL PRESENTATION

Darvil McBride

Tips From a World Champion: Sport Trends and How to Hunt Smart



Darvil will discuss trends in the industry, the rising generation, travel solutions, sustainability. He will discuss recent improvements in spearfishing tech and offer tips on how to quickly improve as a freediver and spearfisher, covering topics such as hunting technique, critical points on buoyancy, safety first, professional training vs self-learning, and practice tips. Darvil will also discuss how fish think vs how you act, calm approach, shot placement, aggressive recovery, tips to prep for a trip, what gear really makes a difference, and what does not really matter, solo diving vs buddy diving, environmental preparedness, dive planning checklist for greater

success.

Presenter Bio

Darvil is a seasoned freediver, spearfisherman, educator, and industry leader with global experience across nearly every style of underwater hunting. Each summer, Darvil runs a major watersports program on Fishers Island, NY, where he teaches diving, freediving, and ocean safety. He is the Director of Sales at American Dive Co., former National & World Champion in freshwater spearfishing, and a global hunter: Hawaii (Ulua, aka giant trevally), California (tuna), Norway (halibut in icy waters). Did we mention marlin?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIEUBBbNjHc&t=202s>

Fun Facts: Never hold your breath!

Unless you're freediving, that is. Did you know the average freediver can hold their breath for about 3-5 minutes (with training), while the average for a fit, healthy person is about 2 minutes. Elite freedivers might hold their breath for over 10 minutes, after extensive training. The current world record for the longest *static** breath-hold of **29 minutes 3 seconds** was set in June of 2025. {*Static = holding one's breath while not moving, typically in a pool – which is where this record was set.}

MARCH 18TH EGGSTRAVAGANZA

And Underwater Easter Egg Hunt

In case you missed it, your club made the local news! Check out the video below:

▶ [An Egg Hunt to Dive For – A Local Scuba Club’s Underwater EGGstravganza 1.mp4](#)



Rob J. arrives with the eggs.

March 28th was a beautiful day (ok, it started out overcast & then got beautiful) at Carpinteria State Beach Park as our 21 divers suited up to hunt for Easter eggs on the ocean floor. Rob Johnson paddled out in his kayak to “hide” 44 festively colored Easter eggs. Real hard-boiled eggs, expertly decorated by our very own members. Four of these were specially designated; whoever found them would win a wonderful surprise. Although the sandy bottom and surge rubbed off most of the color, the decorations remained thanks to the beeswax crayons we used.

The special prize included a \$50.00 gift card donated by SC Diving (*thank you, Robert!!*), along with holiday-appropriate candies. We only had two winners (hopefully the fish are enjoying all the undiscovered eggs!).



CID’s illustrious president and grill master Del Stewart



Gift basket with \$50 gift card from SC Diving



Tony Frabasilio (this guy's always winning stuff!)



Manny Hurtado won one of the \$50 gift certs (an exuberant Dan Perdue in the background)



Isaac Delgado won a raffle prize, including an excellent gear hanger and yummy candy!



Sammy Marion won a basket full of goodies.

Member Dive Report: Butterfly Beach Dive

Hosted By SC Diving

By Rob Johnson

I joined the SC diving crew in Montecito on April 11th for a beach dive that our dive coordinator Dan Perdue put together. The club dived this spot last year and had fun. I was pleased to learn there is so much more reef to explore than I knew about.

Robert, owner of SC Diving in Camarillo and generous sponsor of CID, runs an efficient program. He gave a well-informed dive briefing, with Divemaster Gabriela and Assistant Instructor Zach of SC Diving adding important information to make this a safe and easy dive.

Beach diving doesn't get much easier than this. Free parking is available on Channel Drive. Two sets of stairs access the beach. We chose to enter at the stairs near Butterfly Lane. A short walk across the sand puts you in small surf. The trickiest part of the dive is to navigate the boulders in the shallow water as you enter and exit the water. A short swim gets you into about 20 feet of water. The reef runs parallel to the shoreline back toward the Coral Casino and Biltmore Hotel. Even with poor visibility, I could tell there was great potential for this dive. We saw a number of lobsters, Logan chased a halibut, Dan found a purple globe crab, and I found a small box of fishing tackle.



Thanks to all who attended: Robert, Zak, Gabriela, Dan and his son Logan, Derek, and open water student Forest from SC Diving. Nick Lee and myself from Channel Islands Divers.



Future Local Dives

By Divemaster Dan Perdue

This is our club and I am open to any suggestions as I want it to be fun for everyone!

Dive the Pinnacles: April Club Dive at Point Dume

When: Saturday, April 18th @ 9:00 am

Where: Point Dume Beach Parking Lot

Level: Advanced

The ocean owes us one! After being skunked by the conditions last month, we're heading back to one of my absolute favorite mainland spots.

Because this area is a **Marine Protected Area (MPA)**, the underwater life is nothing short of spectacular. We're expecting to see massive, healthy Sheephead, thick schools of Calico Bass, and some truly giant lobsters (no touching, just looking!).

The Dive Details

- **Conditions:** Visibility has been fantastic so far this year, and we're crossing our fingers the "ocean mood" stays in our favor.
- **Depth:** We'll average around **40 feet**, though it can drop off significantly if you venture to the outside of the pinnacles.
- **Skill Level:** This is an **Advanced Dive**. Strong currents can push divers around the point, which might require a long hike back to the parking lot in full gear under the sun—definitely not fun! Please consider your physical fitness and comfort with surge before signing up.

Post-Dive Refuel

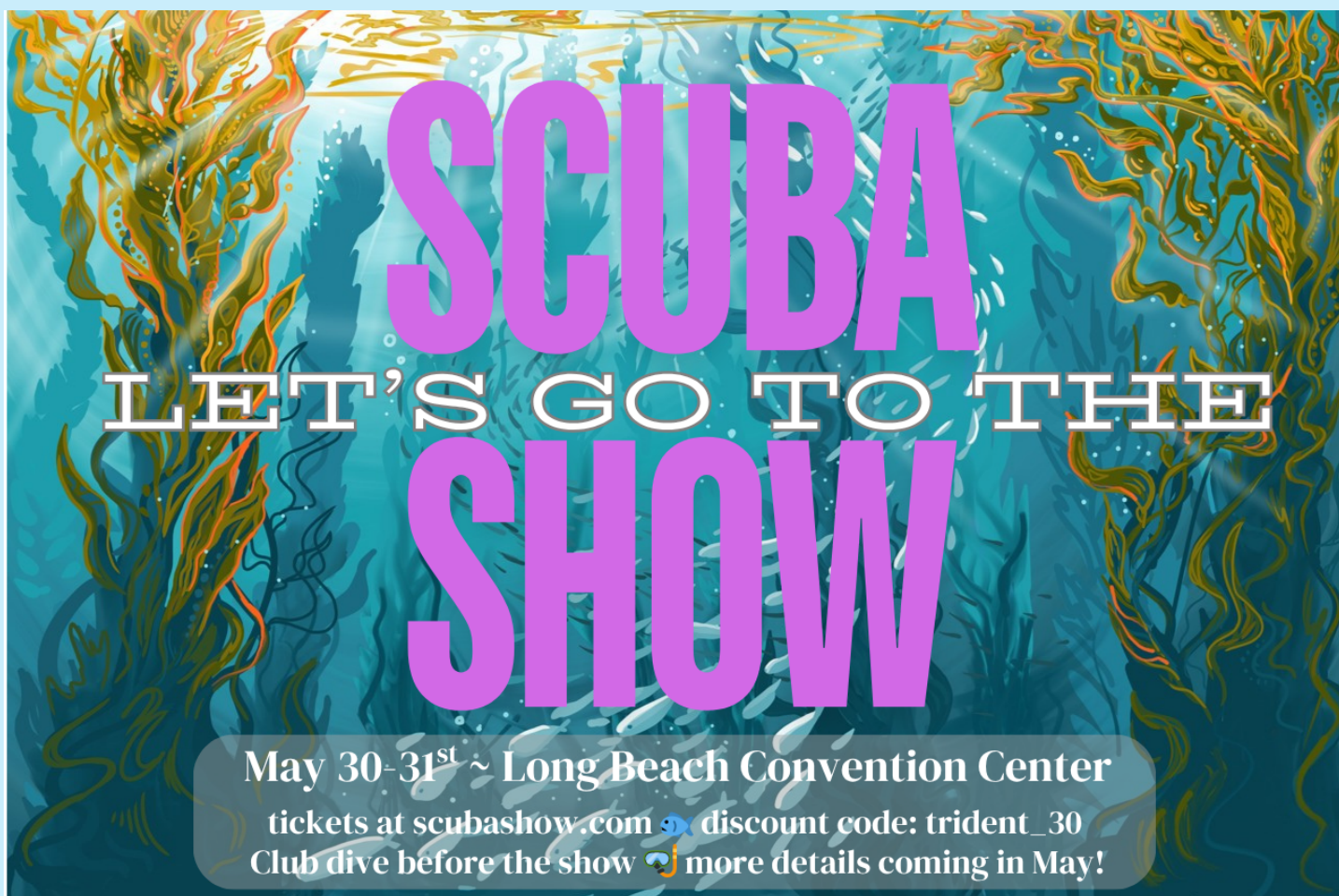
After we dry off, we'll grab a local bite or caravan up the coast to **Neptune's Net** for some well-deserved seafood and dive stories.

May Trips:

May 9th: The results of our Facebook poll about where to dive will be announced at April's club meeting.

May 23rd Spectre Dive: Officially **SOLD OUT!** Email your Divemaster Dan to add your name to the wait list (dive@channelislandsdivers.org)

May 30-31st Long Beach Scuba Show: We'll be heading to the Scuba Show next month, with a warm-up dive at Veterans Park beforehand. Details will be in the May newsletter and Facebook.



10 reasons why it's totally *worth it to go*:

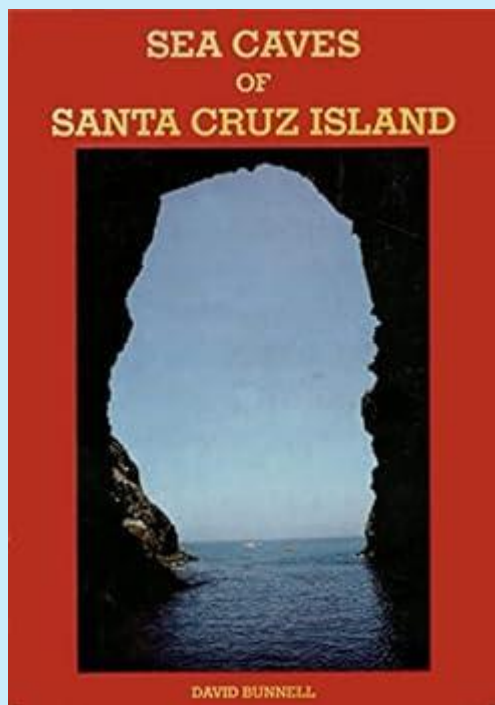
1. It's **fun** – and even more with your buddies!
2. It's a *scene* and the **vibe is great**
3. **Connect** with what's happening **here in SoCal**
4. Great deals on dive **travel** to anywhere
5. Incredible **shopping**
6. Talk with **experts** in all aspects of diving
7. The **seminars!**
8. So. Much. **GEAR.**
9. *Fabulous* **door prizes** (\$\$-\$\$\$\$)
10. Club meet-ups, especially at the **Photo Booth**

This year, all tickets will allow access to both the exhibit hall and the seminars. There're a few discounts floating around – try: trident_30. {Shout out to the folks at Trident Adventures!}

Book of the Month

Sea Caves of Santa Cruz Island

Written by David Bunnell



Sea Caves of Santa Cruz Island is a detailed survey of over 100 sea caves on Santa Cruz Island. It represents more than six years of field work by the National Speleological Society. Each of these caves has been mapped, showing location, length, conditions of accessibility, and description. This book is a “must have” for any boat owner who would like to explore these caves.

Included in the book are several disclaimers and warnings to those considering exploring these caves. The author strongly states that no one should attempt diving those entirely submerged caves without specific cave diving training and equipment. Also emphasized is how dangerous these caves can be if there is any swell action. Additionally, Mr. Bunnell highly recommends doing your exploration early in the morning before the wind picks up.

The book illustrates the treacherousness of these caves by ending with an incredible story “*Through the Time Tunnel*” by Robert Henderson. Robert tells of his near-death-experience as an experienced research diver in the cave around the corner of Diablo Anchorage. He had already decided conditions that afternoon were simply too rough to safely enter the cave...but got swept through by the surge anyway. It is a great story and should be read by all budding cave explorers. It is guaranteed to make cave visitors more cautious and wary of the conditions.

*Book Review by Steve Peterson, club librarian. He would like to encourage CID members to use this book's information to **safely explore** those caves. Please use your common sense and stay out unless conditions are calm. If you plan to dive the caves, ensure you have appropriate cave diving training and equipment. When kayaking inside, please wear a helmet & life jacket.*

Fun fact: Painted Cave is the 12th largest sea cave in the world. Island Packers (CID sponsor) regularly drives their boat right into it! It's 1,215 feet long and about 130 feet high (depending on tidal stage).

Catalina Veterans Day Club Trip

November 7-9, 2026

Our club has a tradition of spending the weekend around the Veterans Day holiday on Catalina Island, staying at the **Pavilion Hotel** in Avalon right along the waterfront. It's an amazing venue, with a fire pit for cozy socializing, continental breaky, evening wine & cheese social hour, and a community room for our Saturday potluck dinner. They even offer luggage service from the ferry terminal! We had to skip last year because the Pavilion Hotel was being renovated, but it is now open again! So... who wants to head back to our little island paradise this year?



UPDATED CATALINA TRIP INFO

We have a block of rooms reserved at the Pavilion Hotel. These are available on a first-come, first-served basis. **Note:** We need to sell a minimum of 10 rooms for this club trip to take place.

Room Type	Remaining	Room Rate Per Night	Nightly Total (incl. mandatory 12% tax)	Room Total (2 Nights)
Standard King Room	10	\$355.00	\$397.60	**\$795.20**
Standard Double Queen Room	12	\$355.00	\$397.60	**\$795.20**

Rooms are double-occupancy. The rates above are the prices per room. Additionally, rates reflect a base price of \$355.00 plus the mandatory 12% nightly tax (\$42.60).

Deposit deadline April 15th (hotel and Scuba Cat): To secure your spot: Payment can be made by Zelle to cidtreasurer92@gmail.com or by check at the April Meeting

Use this cool link to complete the registration form: <https://forms.gle/xd13mL4AoSahy8VY7>

Hotel Details

- Check-in: 4:00 PM – 10:00 PM (we will ask about early check-in)
- Check-out: 11:00 AM

Block-buster Agenda

Saturday

Early morning: Catalina Express from Long Beach to Avalon Harbor

Late morning/early afternoon: Explore the island or **dive with club members at Casino Point**

6:30 PM: Potluck Dinner at the Pavilion Hotel (bring a dish to share or buy something on the island)

Sunday

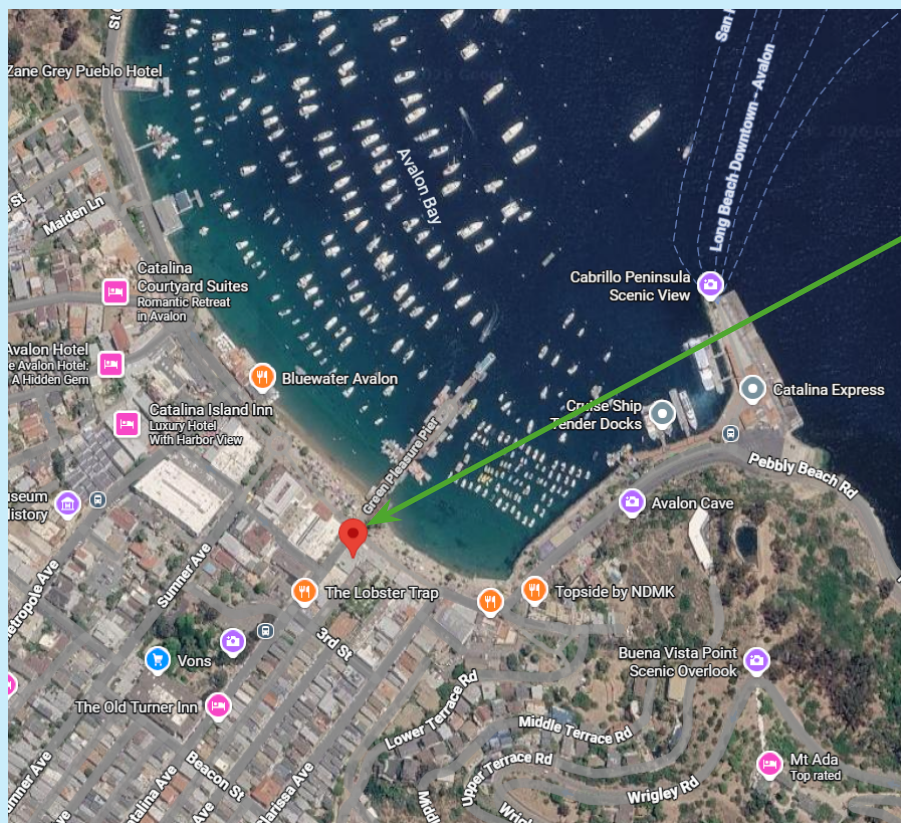
8:00 AM – 2:00 PM: Boat dive aboard the Scuba Cat (two-tank dive – \$185)

or enjoy island activities such as guided tours, submarine rides, kayaking, hiking the botanical gardens, or zip lining. Cut-throat miniature golf, anyone?

Monday

7:00 AM: More diving at Casino Point

11:00 AM: Check out of the hotel and enjoy the island on your own. Catalina Express back to Long Beach at the time of your choosing.



Pavilion Hotel

<https://www.visitcatalinaisland.com/pavilion-hotel>

MARCH RAFFLE WINNERS

Prizes sponsored by SC Diving
(Unless otherwise noted)



Viktoria Burmann won a cool flashlight



Viktoria won {yet again} a Relaxgiant Scuba Tank Holder.



Dan Blankenship with his new XS Scuba Deluxe Zipper Boots



Fahmy Fahmy with his new CID t-shirt (to be exchanged for something that'll fit!). Donated by CID.



Norm Jordanhazy wins the Dive Knife

Ann Hoagland won a free pass to the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (donated by Jackie Worden).



Joe Hennessy won the drawing for the Easter egg decorating contest.

APRIL RAFFLE

1. **Regular:** Buy tickets at the meeting and those are the tickets we draw.
2. **Progressive:** This drawing is pulled from all the raffle tickets you've bought over the Quarter.
3. **Participation:** Points are given for your participation in our club activities (attending meetings, going on club events, posting to our Facebook page, and contributing to the newsletter).

RAFFLE SCHEDULE

January	<i>Progressive</i>
February	Participation
March	Regular
April	<i>Progressive</i>
May	Participation
June	Regular
July	<i>Progressive</i>
August	Participation
September	Regular
October	<i>Progressive</i>
November	Participation
December	No drawing in December

The April Progressive Raffle prize will be an Insta360 X3 Camera Dive Kit, sponsored by UltraLight Camera Solutions/Channel Islands Dive Adventures (thank you, Ken Kollwitz!!)



Upcoming Dives

Check Facebook for the most up-to-date dive info (meet time, locations)

Date	Location	Description
18-Apr	Point Dume	Club beach dive
9-May	Check Facebook	Club sponsor SC Diving will guide this dive.
23-May	Spectre boat dive	Sold out; contact Divemaster Dan to get on the wait list.
30-May	Veterans Park/Scuba Show	Morning dive at Veterans Park
31-May	Veterans Park/Scuba Show	Morning dive at Veterans Park
13-Jun	Check Facebook	Club sponsor SC Diving will guide this dive.
20-Jun	Deer Creek	Club beach dive with beach clean-up
11-Jul	Check Facebook	Club sponsor SC Diving will guide this dive.
18-Jul	Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber	Dive to 165 feet; tour the USC Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber
8-Aug	Check Facebook	Club sponsor SC Diving will guide this beach dive.
22-Aug	Ensenada/La Bufadora	Small boats take divers to drop off near the blow hole. Super sleepy little village. Great food. Camping nearby.
12-Sep	Check Facebook	Club sponsor SC Diving will guide this beach dive.
19-Sep	Refugio State Beach Park	Yearly club BBQ, dive (and potentially camping) weekend. Gates open at 8:00 am.
10-Oct	Check Facebook	Club sponsor SC Diving will guide this beach dive.
17-Oct	Cozumel	Trip abroad; Still room for more!
31-Oct	Underwater Pumpkin carving	Sponsored by SC diving, location TBD
14-Nov	Check Facebook	Club sponsor SC Diving will guide this beach dive.
21-Nov	Santa Cruz trip	Club boat owners meet at Scorpion Cove for a group day of diving and hiking. Members who cannot fit on boats will travel via Island Packers.
12-Dec	Check Facebook	Club sponsor SC Diving will guide this beach dive.
19-Dec	Laguna Beach	Road trip for the last dive of the year

CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

APRIL	MAY	JUNE
11: Shore dive TBA 15: Club Meeting, progressive raffle drawing. Speaker: Darvil McBride; “Tips from a World Champion; Sport Trends & How to Hunt Smart” 18: Beach dive, Point Dume 21: Board Meeting	9: Shore dive Point Dume, Malibu 20: Club Meeting, participation raffle drawing. Speaker: David Finnern; “Wreck Divers” 23: Spectre boat dive; no beach dive 26: Board Meeting 30-31: Long Beach Scuba Show; beach diving at Veterans Park.	13: Shore dive, TBA 17: Club Meeting, regular raffle drawing. Speaker: Jaclyn Mann from the Reef Check Foundation 20: Beach dive, Deer Creek followed by beach clean-up 23: Board Meeting
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
11: Shore dive, TBA 15: Club Meeting, progressive raffle drawing. Speaker: Karl Huggins: Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber 18: Avalon, Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber 21: Board Meeting	8: Shore dive, TBA 19: Club Meeting, participation raffle drawing. Speaker: Cora Sverdrup The Bay Foundation 22-24: La Bufadora, Ensenada Baja 25: Board Meeting	12: Shore dive, TBA 16: Club Meeting, regular raffle drawing. Speaker: Scott Gabara, National Park Service Marine Ecologist 19: Club BBQ at Refugio State Beach Park 22: Board Meeting

Aquatic Peer

Long-time member Cindy Doyon shared this link, describing how some clownfish can change their stripes to better fit into the community’s ‘pecking order’. These highly territorial fish live among sea anemones in a tightly organized hierarchy.

<https://globalpost.com/stories/clownfish-change-stripes-to-adapt-to-strict-hierarchy-study-finds/?bhlid=788301079a1d333832ae99e87d57e466c2f42ea7>

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP: 107

Thank you to all renewing members!!

Welcome to our newest member!!



Tad Dawson

Please see our website for member benefits

<https://www.channelislandsdivers.org/membership>

Membership Policy: Club policy is to drop members from the roster
THREE MONTHS AFTER MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION

Membership Prices: Renewing Membership: Single = \$30; Family = \$45

New Membership: Single = \$40; Family = \$55

Please mail renewals to: CID Membership, P.O Box 5801, Ventura, CA 93005

Renew by Zelle: cidtreasurer92@gmail.com

SPONSORS CORNER

Our sponsors generously offer discounts to our members! You *must* show your membership card to reap this benefit. See Rob Johnson, our Membership Coordinator, to receive your very own card.



Websites:

- <https://www.rec2tecscuba.com/>
- <https://www.scdiving.com/>
- <https://islandpackers.com/>
- <https://scubasolutionsca.com/>
- <https://channelislandsdiveadventures.com/>
- <http://ulcs.com>
- <https://maverickunderseadivers.com/>
- <https://americandiveco.com/>



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Fun Photos by Divemaster Dan:

