Channel Islands Divers



Photo: Franklin Murphy 2025 BBQ

NEXT CLUB MEETING:
November 18th, 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 Rob Marion



Hello Fellow Club Members,

I wanted to first tell you, in case you haven't heard, I received word from Cindy Doyon that Mike had a bad reaction to a new clinical trial medication. He was in the hospital quite a while but now he's home resting. We are hoping for a quick recovery. For those of you who don't know him, Mike is a past president, and a former dive instructor. He's done a lot for the club and sport diving.

The Catalina trip was a huge success! We had more than 20 members over there the weekend of Nov. 7-8. It was a full boat for the Sunday dive. By now the photos are starting to be posted, and all I can say is that it was warm all the way around; air temperature, water temperature, and club members.

Most of you know this time of the year out there it's usually cold. Four of us dove the wreck right outside of Casino Point in 100 feet of water. The Valiant sunk in December 1930 and there's not a lot left, but it was definitely worth it. It was 73 degrees on the bottom and we could see the surface from the bottom! Not freezing was really good, but all of the kelp is gone…everywhere! Casino Point, which is usually

one of the most scenic dives here on the West Coast, is very different. I really miss the kelp there. Many of us had the same sentiments.

Our next trip is Santa Cruz Island Saturday, November 21, hiking, diving or both!

There's something I feel compelled to mention. Do you know what the purpose of our dive club is? If you don't, you should. Here it is, Article II of our club's bylaws:

> *Purpose - Channel Islands Divers is a diving social club whose membership consists of divers with experience levels ranging from beginner to expert. Our club provides a setting that allows continued growth in an atmosphere in which friendships can develop and flourish.*

I'm going to do a better job of fulfilling the purpose of our club and I hope all of you will do the same. Each of you may have a different reason for being a member. Mine was to get to know diving once again. I had no idea that when I joined it would become the people I've gotten to know that would really be the highlight. Don't be afraid to reach out and say hello; that person might just become your next great dive buddy!



NOVEMBER PRESENTATION

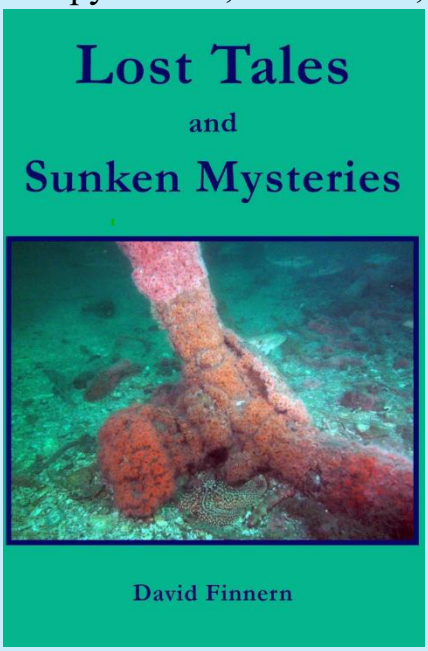
David Finnern

Sunken Mysteries of the West

Literally thousands of shipwrecks and sunken objects lay hidden beneath the waters of the Western States, from treasure-laden steam ships and antiquated submerged trains to forgotten sunken cities and World War II aircraft. In this program David Finnern travels beneath the waves and explores some of the enigmatic and time-obscured relics and historical treasures lost below Western waterways and the Pacific Ocean.



Speaker Bio: Award-winning writer, explorer and investigator David Finnern has published hundreds of stories about his underwater discoveries and explorations which have regaled the pages of books, magazines and newspapers for over 35 years. He has investigated a wide variety of "lost tales and mysteries," including shipwrecks, sunken trains, Nazi spy tunnels, lost aircraft, sabotage, sunken cities, vanished civilizations, and lost landings. While David has written several books, "Lost Tales and Sunken Mysteries" explores hidden maritime disasters, pirate lore, lost aircraft, and historical anomalies across.



Much of his writing requires an acute understanding of underwater exploration and investigation techniques. He began diving at the age of 12 and built his first underwater camera at age 15. He holds several certification levels, including Advanced Diver, Rescue Diver and Certified Divemaster, and graduated from the N.A.U.I. Professional College "Underwater Equipment Specialist" course and the U.S. Divers Technical School, as well as completed U.S.C.G.A. seamanship, piloting and navigation courses. Finnern also studied investigative journalism via the American Press Institute, Golden West College, Poynter News University, Society of Professional Journalists, and Anderson School of Journalism. He has also completed the Level One Intelligence Analyst course, and graduated from the Investigation Program at California State University, Fullerton.

Dive Report: Cozumel 2026
Great Diving, Great Friends, and a Few Wrong Turns!
By Lauren McDonald

From October 17–24, 2026 members of the Channel Island Divers traded California waters for the warm, beautiful waters of Cozumel, Mexico. Most of our group came from California, but we also had three non-members join us from out of state. We spent the week at Iberostar Waves Cozumel, an all-inclusive resort, with Dressel Divers handling our underwater adventures. Our itinerary included 10 dives over five days, but apparently that wasn't enough underwater time for some of us, so we added two night dives!



Cozumel is famous for its drift diving, but surprisingly, we experienced very little current throughout the week. The visibility was fantastic, and we never had a bad day underwater. There were plenty of beautiful reefs and swim-throughs to explore. As for water temperature, everyone seemed to have a different opinion, but according to my dive computer, temperatures ranged anywhere from 78 to 86 degrees. Regardless of whose computer was right, it certainly beat diving in California!



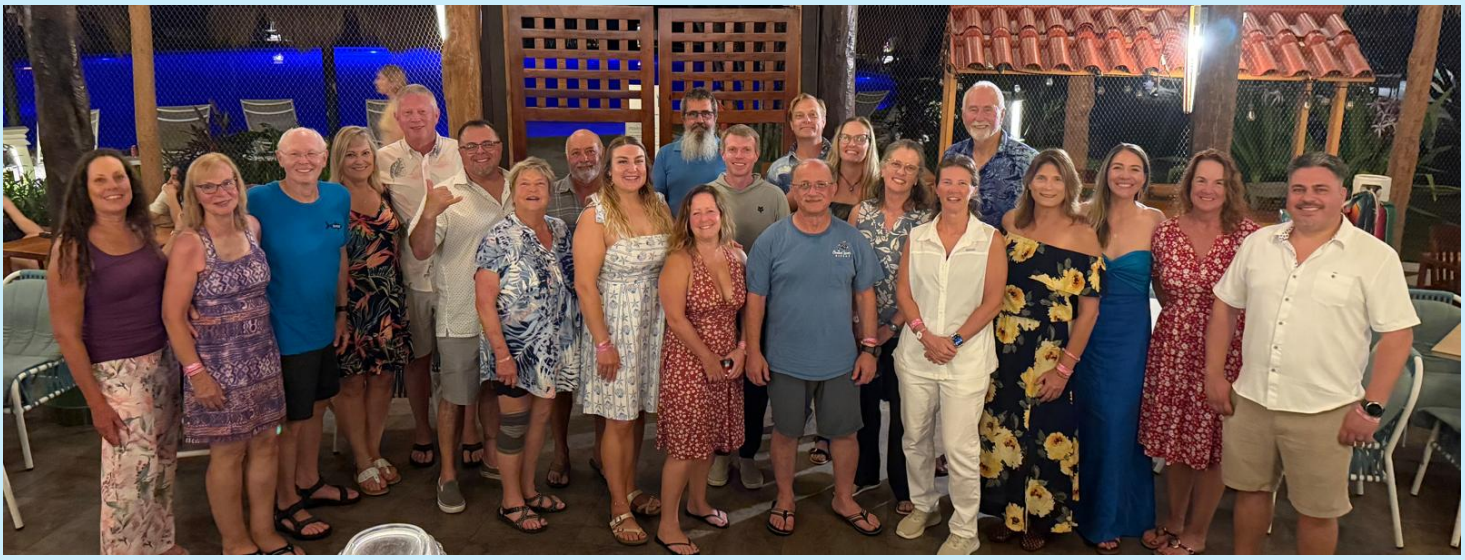
The marine life didn't disappoint. We encountered turtles, an eagle ray, sharks, octopuses, boxfish, pufferfish, and plenty of other colorful reef inhabitants. Of course, there was always the ongoing search for Cozumel's famous splendid toadfish. Fortunately, our efforts paid off, and we spotted these unusual little creatures numerous times throughout the week.

From left: Lauren McDonald, Kurt Oberst, Franklin Murphy, Del Stewart, Dee Hurtado, Manny Hurtado, Steve Lancaster, Justin Lessel, Bob Staniewiscz, Dale Burrows, Eric Taylor, Deb Zumerling, AJ Hawbaker, Fahmy Fahmy, Laura Forsyth, Melanie Kemmann, Kelly Sherwood, Marci Burrows.

One of the highlights of our trip was our two night dives. If you like octopuses, Cozumel is apparently the place to be! We counted seven octopuses on each night dive**!** That's 14 octopus sightings over two nights. It was incredible watching these fascinating creatures out exploring after dark.

Because our group was so large, we had our own dive boat each day, which was a real treat. The only downside was that meant we were the last boat leaving shore practically every morning! Fortunately, the weather and diving conditions cooperated, so our fashionably late departures never seemed to cost us anything underwater. We also had the pleasure of diving with the same three dive masters throughout the week: Valentin, Martin, and Julia. It was nice having familiar faces guiding us each day, and Dressel Divers did a great job taking care of our group.

Back on land, Iberostar Waves Cozumel offered plenty of opportunities to relax. The all-inclusive package covered our food and drinks, with four different places to eat on the property. The resort grounds were beautiful, although I have to say the winding pathways provided their own form of entertainment. Apparently, walking from one place to another in a straight line was not an option! I lost my way more times than I care to admit, but at least I got a good laugh out of it each time.



From left: Viktoria Burmann, Karen & Bob Staniewiscz, Marcie Burrows, Dale Burrows, Del Stewart, Deb Zumerling, Kurt Oberst, Melanie Kemmann, Steve Lancaster, Lauren McDonald, Justin Lessel, Fahmy Fahmy, Franklin Murphy, Mercedes Carter, Laura Forsyth, AJ Hawbaker, Eric Taylor, Kelly Sherwood, Dee Hurtado, Teresa Silva, Manny Hurtado

When we weren't diving, everyone found their own way to enjoy the island. Personally, I was perfectly happy sitting on the beach or by the pool with a good book. Others ventured into town for shopping and sightseeing. On our final day, most of the group rented vehicles and headed out to explore the island. Even the weather was on our side. We had a little rain during the week, but nothing that interfered with our diving or dampened our spirits. Looking back, it really was a fantastic week. Wonderful visibility, warm water, abundant marine life, great company, and an amazing price for an all-inclusive dive vacation. What more could a scuba diver ask for? If the Channel Island Divers decides to return to Cozumel, my advice to anyone who missed this trip is simple: Don't miss the next one! After all, where else can you spend your days diving beautiful reefs, your nights counting octopuses, and your surface intervals trying to find your way back to your room?



Caribbean sharp-nose puffer (aka sharpnose toby)



Cottonwick grunts

Fun fact about grunts: They're called that because of the audible pig-like sounds they make by grinding their pharyngeal (throat) teeth, with the sound then amplified by their swim bladders.



Ghost fish amongst soft sponge

KING TIDES & WARM WATER

October 27, 2026 Dive Report

By Steve Peterson



Dive Buddy: Don Sisting, aboard his boat
Location: Up the coast from Ventura
Conditions: Downright Fantastic! A day to dream about as the El Nino rains approach. We had 70-degree, clear water (vis 15-20 ft), extra high tide, flat ocean, no wind, warm & sunny.

Nearly everything lined up for this dive trip. We entered the water at high tide on a king tide day, with a south current bringing clear water to one of my favorite lobster spots. As a bonus, that Kelvin wave had added another 1–2 feet of water depth along the California coast. That extra depth makes a big difference at the productive shallow sites I've discovered over the years—some only 5 feet deep at a normal high tide. These spots are diveable only at high tide on calm days. Even then, it's best to carry extra weight and be especially careful when reaching into holes. The surge usually tosses me around and leaves my arms sore from hanging onto rocks, so the extra water provided a welcome cushion and made exploring the shallows safer. I expected lobsters to be crawling over one another in such calm conditions, but apparently nobody told them! A few were around, though fewer than I'd hoped. Still, it was a fun dive, and the clear water offered a rare chance to enjoy all the fish and marine life.

For our next dive, we moved out into about 30 ft of water. Conditions on the bottom were calm with no surge. No kelp either! Just foot long bare stalks sticking up from the rocks. There were lots of fish though. One large sheepshead followed me around a while, and at one point that pesky fish actually latched onto the tail of a lobster I had grabbed. I had hold of the bug through the front of a hole & the sheepshead had it by the tail through a rear entrance to the same hole. The bug looked small, so I let the sheepshead win. That was a first for me.

The bugs turned out to be scattered in all different depths. The conditions were so nice that we almost made a 3rd dive. If we had done so, I'm sure we would have limited out. However, we decided to quit while we still had energy left. We returned to Ventura Harbor running downhill at 30 knots. At the launch ramp, we were checked by 2 CDFW wardens. They were very polite, business like, and thorough. Thankfully we had filled out our cards correctly and played by all the rules. I was able to clean my equipment in warm sunshine & still make it to the CID board meeting. I love diving those warm October days before the Fall time change. On such days, our coastal diving is truly fantastic.



Final Score for the day: Steve 6; Don 4, plus an anchor.

Scuba Halloween

October 31, 2026
By Rob Johnson

SC Diving's 2026 Underwater Pumpkin Carving event is in the books. So much fun! We braved the weather; we braved the ocean; we braved those damn floating pumpkins! We had a blast. Butterfly Beach in Montecito gave us cloudy skies but no rain. The surf and wind picked up during the dive but all the divers did well. We piled the empty pumpkins onto the surface float and towed it out about 100 yards, got ready to descend, grabbed our pumpkins and hugged the bottom as we tried to carve without absolutely destroying our gourds. Visibility was a meager 5 to 8 feet but a balmy 70 degrees. Robert Inglis of SC Diving and his crew had four open water students so they were busy doing drills. The rest of us whittled away and looked for lobsters to come home with us.

SC Diving is a major sponsor of our club and always makes us welcome on all their dives! *Thank you, Robert!!*



Left to right: Rob Johnson, Melanie Kemmann, Jerid Dosaj, Erica Quintanilla, Dan Perdue, Nicholas Lee and Zach Staples.

CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS 2026

Holiday Party

Potluck & Gift Exchange

BOARD BRINGS MAINS: TURKEY, HAM, STUFFING, POTATOES, ROLLS & BUTTER, WATERS

MEMBERS A-K: BRING DESSERTS

MEMBERS L-Z: BRING APPETIZERS & SIDES

EVERYBODY: BEVERAGES TO SHARE

White Elephant Exchange: Bring an ocean/diving/water themed gift ($25-$35 value) and a piratical attitude!

Photo Contest: 2026 UW Photo/Video Contest winners will be announced!

RSVP: Sign up at the Nov meeting or email Rob Marion at president@channelislandsdivers.org. All are welcome!

Saturday Dec 5th 6pm

Pepper Farms Club House
2281 Calle Bellota, Camarillo
Hosts: Dave & Jennifer Morrison

Get ready to steal!

November 21, 2026 Santa Cruz Island Dive and Hike

By Dan Perdue, Club Divemaster

Greetings Divers and Explorers! Our club is always on the move, and with well over 100 members keeping the calendar buzzing, we wouldn't want it any other way. Get ready for our next island trek: a full day of kelp, trails, and exploration at **Scorpion Anchorage on Santa Cruz Island!** Whether you want to gear up for a shore dive, hit the coastal bluffs for a hike, or both, there is something for everyone.

★ Island Packers needs emergency contact phone #s for all going on their boat. Send that info to Ann Hoagland: treasurer@channelislandsdivers.org ★ **Click here to sign up!!**

Quick Details

- **Date:** Saturday November 21st
- **Island Packers** (1691 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura Harbor); **Check-In:** 7:15 AM (Departs 8:00 AM sharp). **Return Departure:** Leaves at 4:00, arrives back around 5:15 PM – 5:30 PM
- **Club Tickets are SOLD OUT;** public tickets on Island Packers are nearly sold out

A Quick Note on Private Boats: We originally looked into running this as a club-coordinated "Boat 'n Dive" on private boats. After thinking through logistics, the club will not be organizing or coordinating travel aboard privately owned vessels. If you have your own boat or independently arrange a ride with friends, you are 100% welcome to rendezvous with us at Scorpion and jump in on the fun!

Choose Your Adventure

- **Shore Diving:** Scorpion's marine reserve offers towering kelp beds, curious sea lions, sheephead, garibaldi, and plenty of critters right off the beach. We're aiming for a solid one-tank morning dive near the west end of the pier. **Note:** I will be attending this event and am excited to help plan and lead a morning dive.
- **Island Hiking:** If you prefer staying topside (or want to hike post-dive after lunch), trails like Cavern Point and Potato Harbor offer epic coastal views and ranch history. We'll look to club favorite Steve Peterson (and volunteer with Channel Islands National Park) to head up the trail crew.

Important Prep & Gear Tips

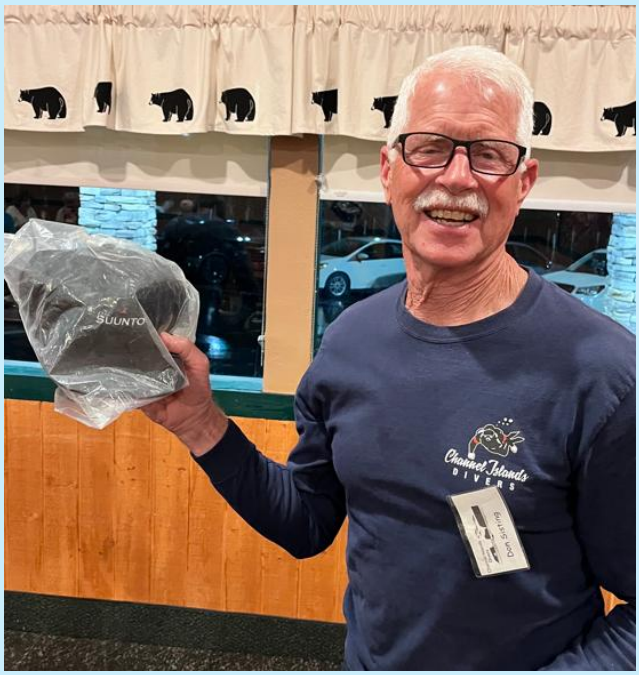
- **Scuba Gear on Island Packers:** Island Packers **DOES NOT ALLOW COLLAPSIBLE WAGONS.** Standard gear bags are OK, and they have carts – at least on the mainland side.
- **Pack Everything In & Out:** There are no food concessions on the island. Bring your lunch, plenty of snacks, and extra drinking water.
    - Island Packers offers snacks, burritos, & beverages (both with & without alcohol) on the boat. You can also pre-order a sack lunch from the Honey Cup Coffeehouse and they'll have it waiting for you at Island Packers reception to pick up before you board: Honey Cup Order
- **Layers & Conditions:** Island weather shifts quickly—pack a windbreaker, hat, sunscreen, warm dry clothes for the boat ride back, and sturdy footwear for the trails.
- **No Service:** Expect zero cell reception once we pull away from the harbor. Plan accordingly and soak in the disconnect!

OCTOBER RAFFLE WINNERS

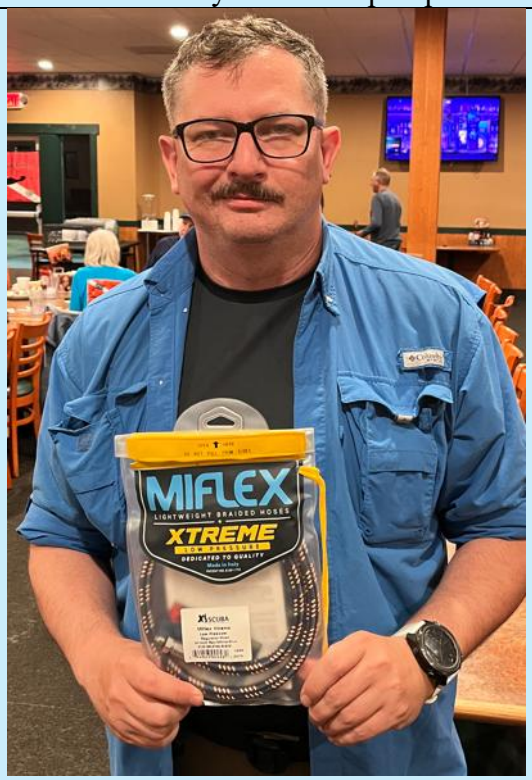
Prizes sponsored by SC Diving (unless otherwise noted)



New member Don Beck won the coffee table book and a festively decorated pumpkin



Don Sisting won the door prize, a Suunto hat



Nicholas Lee won a low-pressure air hose



Rob Marion won assorted PADI merch

RAFFLE DETAILS

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 (going on club events, posting to our Facebook page, and contributing to the newsletter).

RAFFLE SCHEDULE

January	*Progressive*
February	Participation
March	Regular
April	*Progressive*
May	Participation
June	Regular
July	*Progressive*
August	Participation
September	Regular
October	Regular
November	***Progressive***
December	No drawing in December

NOVEMBER PROGRESSIVE PRIZE: BEACH BUGGY {$250.00 Value!!}



Upcoming Dives

Date	Location	Description
21-Nov	Santa Cruz Island trip	Meet at Scorpion Cove for a group day of diving and hiking. Island Packers (from Ventura).
12-Dec	No shore dive	
19-Dec	Laguna Beach	Leave Ventura early for the 2-hour dive to Heisler Park, Diver's Cove, Fisherman's Cove, or Shaw's Cove. Bring cash or CC for parking meters. Lunch after TBD or BYO. ****Sign up at November meeting****
9-Jan-27	TBD	SC Diving will lead a shore dive, TBD
23-Jan-27	Deer Creek	Shore dive at Deer Creek, Malibu.
13-Feb-27	TBD	SC Diving will lead a shore dive, TBD
20-Feb-27	County Line, Malibu	Shore dive at county line, conditions permitting
20-Mar-27	Carpinteria State Beach	Underwater Egg hunt & BBQ

Upcoming Events:

December 5th: Scuba Santa! Every year at the Pleasant Valley Aquatic Center Pool 1030 Temple Ave Camarillo. This year it will take place on Dec 6th at 9 to 1130 am, same day as our CID holiday party. We will have Scuba Gear on site avail to use or Divers are welcome to bring their own gear. There is a 5.00 pool use fee. Tips are appreciated!

December 5th: CID Holiday Party!! See details on Page 9.

Grand Cayman GoPro Workshop

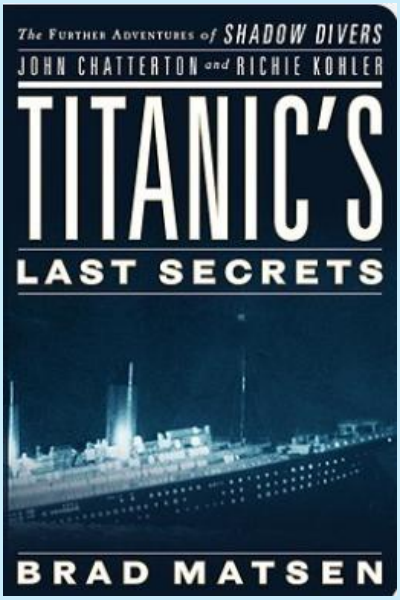
A note from Jackie Worden

Ocean Frontiers Diving Adventures is offering a one-week GoPro workshop at their shop in Grand Cayman this April 2027 (two sessions available). We dove with these guys in March of 2025 and it was fantastic; roll out of bed and onto the dive boat. More details here: Master Your GoPro

"The sea, once it casts its spell, holds one in its net of wonder forever."
Jacques Yves Cousteau

Titanic's Last Secrets: The Further Adventures of Shadow Divers John Chatterton and Richie Kohler

by Brad Matsen



In this book, Chatterton and Kohler team up once again. Perhaps you might remember them from the *Shadow Divers* or *Pirate Hunters* (both books are in our club library). In the *Titanic's Last Secrets*, you will learn more than you ever wanted to know about the *Titanic* and her sister ships, the *Olympic* and the *Britannic*. One puzzle they were trying to solve was "why did the *Titanic* sink so quickly?". Had the ship remained afloat for just two hours longer, it is estimated that more than two thousand people would have lived. The book goes into detail of the shipyard construction, the vessel's engineering, and workers building these monstrous ships.

Titanic's Last Secrets documents an expedition by Chatterton & Kohler which used a submersible to dive on and study the wreckage of the *Titanic*. They also dove the wreck of the *Britannic* with rebreathers in 400 ft of water. The *Britannic* was built following the *Titanic* in the same shipyard using many of the same construction techniques. She was sunk in WWI by a German mine near Kea Island in the Aegean Sea. Chatterton & Kohler were examining the *Britannic's* construction to see if the builders had reinforced some weak areas of the hull. According to them, the *Titanic* was not as strong structurally as the public has been led to believe and her builders covered up her flaws when disaster struck. Their theory is that the Titanic sank so quickly due to structural failure of the hull, not flooding.

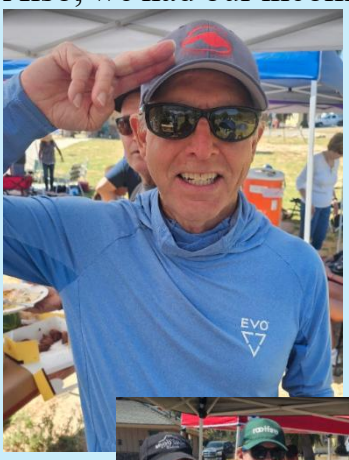
Book review by Steve Peterson, Club Librarian

CID Refugio BBQ & Dive 2026

Great Food, Great Friends, and Another Wonderful Tradition!

Contributed by Del Stewart

Well, Channel Islands Divers, we did it again! We continued one of our club's most cherished traditions, our annual Refugio Beach BBQ & Dive. And what a beautiful day it was!! We had the sunshine smiling down on us, great food, and the pleasure of enjoying each other's company. It does not get much better than that. In fact, I cannot recall a bad day at the beach when there is a BBQ involved. Can you? 😁 Also, we had our incoming president Rob Marion looking pretty presidential and cracking the whip…lol.



Let me tell you, the food was outstanding! Laurie Hennessy outdid herself with the tri-tip. OMG; honestly, some of the best I've ever had! We also enjoyed them hot link sausages. The best!! *And* an incredible spread of homemade dishes complements of all of you. There were homemade stuffed jalapeño poppers with bacon, all kinds of fancy salads and pasta, guacamole, salsa, chips, dips, cookies, pastries from Porto's and some unforgettable homemade lemon bars. What a feast! And of course, no CID barbecue would be complete without Steve Peterson's traditional ice cream. Some traditions are just too good to change!



Jessica Hodge, Amy Greaves & Laurie Hennessy



Jasmine Mogadam (new member) & John Biondi

Now, let's talk about the diving! We split into three groups. Some explored the north end, others headed south, and a few of us went straight out. The water was pleasantly warm with visibility around 10–20 ft (depending who you ask) A beautiful day to be underwater!

What made this year especially memorable was seeing so many new faces through Facebook, and new members came out to join the fun. One of our newest members, **Donald Martin Beck**, recently arrived from the East Coast and enjoyed his very first West Coast dive with us! He's already signed up for our Catalina trip and will be my roommate. He's excited, I'm excited, and I can't wait to share our Catalina Gem with him. And that, my friends, is what Channel Islands Divers is all about!
We are community of approximately 110 members with divers ranging from age 10 well into their 80's. Different generations and backgrounds brought together by our love of the ocean and for each other. I really enjoy seeing everyone coming together to enjoy life.



A heartfelt thank you everyone that made this year's BBQ possible. You made this another wonderful day to remember! I'm truly grateful to be part of this amazing community. Until next year, my friends, keep diving and enjoying life!



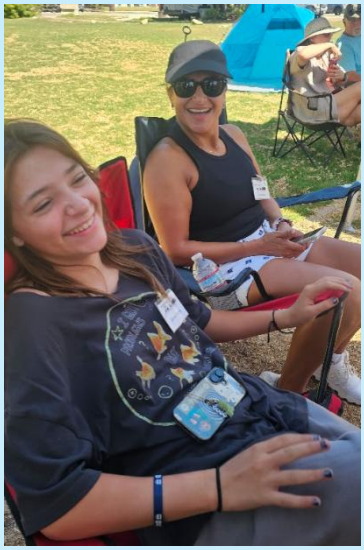
Raffle winners-Viktoria Burmann, Shawn Richardson, Leif Jordan, Laurie Hennessy, Melissa Wolfe, Lynn Bushell



Steve Peterson



Rob Johnson



Sammy & Lina Marion



Mike Frabasilio



Teressa & Mike Cunningham



John and Melisa Wolfe

CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

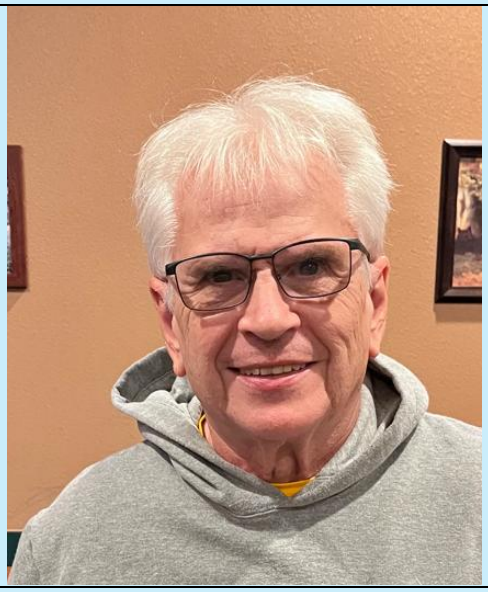
NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY 2027
7: Deadline for Photo Contest submittals **14:** Shore dive, TBA **18:** Club meeting, progressive drawing. **Speaker:** Dave Finnern, California Wreck Divers Club **21:** Shore dive, TBA **24:** Board meeting	*5: Holiday Party* **12** No shore dive **16:** No Club meeting **19:** Last shore dive of 2026: Laguna Beach	**9:** Shore dive, TBA **20:** Club meeting; raffle progressive drawing **Speaker:** Jeremy Jodoin, Veterans Park **23:** Shore dive, Deer Creek, Malibu **26:** Board meeting
FEBRUARY 2027	**MARCH 2027**	**APRIL 2027**
13: Shore dive, TBA **17:** Club meeting; raffle participation drawing **Speaker:** TBA **20:** Shore dive, County Line, Malibu **23:** Board meeting	**13:** Shore dive, TBA **17:** Club meeting; raffle regular drawing **Speaker:** TBA **20:** Underwater Easter Egg Hunt/ BBQ, Carpinteria State Beach Park **23:** Board meeting	**10:** Shore dive, TBA **21:** Club meeting; raffle regular drawing **Speaker:** TBA **24:** Shore dive, Point Dume **27:** Board meeting

Always check the CID Facebook page for the latest info on dives. Because conditions/weather may change, our dive coordinators monitor the proposed dive sites and update dive locations as needed.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP: 113

Thank you **to all renewing members!!**

Welcome to our newest members!!

	*Wish we had a picture!*
Don Beck	Alex, Dale, Tajo & Rio Gomez

Please see our website for member benefits

Link to Membership Page

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

Pick up your *Official Membership Card* from Fahmy Fahmy, your membership coordinator. Show these cards when visiting our sponsors to get your discount!



CID Board of Directors

Welcome new board members,
and thank you to outgoing members!!

Rob Marion: President
president@channelislandsdivers.org

Mike Cunningham: VP
vicepresident@channelislandsdivers.org

Ann Hoagland: Secretary
secretary@channelislandsdivers.org

Lauren McDonald: Treasurer
treasurer@channelislandsdivers.org

Dan Perdue: Dive Coordinator:
dive@channelislandsdivers.org

Laura Forsyth: Webmaster
webmaster@channelislandsdivers.org

Laurie Hennessy: Raffle Coordinator
raffle@channelislandsdivers.org

Fahmy Fahmy: Membership Coordinator
membership@channelislandsdivers.org

Jackie Worden: Newsletter Editor
editor@channelislandsdivers.org

Steve Peterson: Librarian
library@channelislandsdivers.org

SPONSORS CORNER

Our sponsors generously offer discounts to our members! You *must* show your membership card to reap this benefit. See our Membership Coordinator Fahmy Fahmy to get your 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/