

Channel Islands Divers



NEXT CLUB MEETING:

May 20th, 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!

May is shaping up to be one heck of a month for the club! You all are an incredibly active group. It is nice to see how much you all like having fun. This is spectacular and we are not even half way into the year.

The good news is that **Cozumel** is officially sold out!! New member (April) Tad Dawson snagged the last spot, bringing us to **20 divers and 2 non-divers** joining us on this EPIC adventure. Huge win!! Brining the cost down to the lowest possible rate.

Then... **Ensenada** trip sold out too!! These spots went quick. We have **17 divers** heading down to dive near Punta Banda, Baja California Norte for an epic weekend of diving, fishing, exploring, practicing Spanish, and of course a gastronomical treat!! Oh yeah. Read all about the trip on Page 10!

And **Catalina**? We sold out the original 11 rooms we reserved!! We could not have done that without your prompt commitment. THANK YOU!

So, because we fulfilled our commitment with the Pavilion Hotel, they graciously agreed to continue honoring our group rate while rooms are still available. Huge shoutout to Ann Hoagland for reaching

back out to them after Melanie Kemmann was bummed that she had missed the original booking window. 😊 {Your board's got your back!} This courtesy has now been extended to the rest of the club as well. Contact Divemaster Dan Perdue ASAP and get your room booked before the remaining rooms disappear! At this point we have **25 members** going to the Catalina Veterans Day trip!

And if traveling is not your thing, no worries because the club has been VERY active locally too. Last month we dove Deer Creek and Point Dume, and you can read more about those spectacular dives in this newsletter. Big shout out to all those who attended!

Last but not least we have **12 members** that will be diving on the **Specter** May 23rd. We have **one open slot**; contact Dive Master Dan and snag it for the win.

More on club business

We also have a NEW sponsor joining the Channel Islands Divers family — [American Dive Co.](#) Many of you got to meet Darvil McBride during last month's presentation where he shared some wild stories involving sharks, freediving, and his passion for spearfishing. Some of our members took advantage of the one-time 30% discount and even 50% off select items that he extended exclusively to the club. And the good news keeps coming... all CID members can now receive 10% off gear through American Dive Co. moving forward. You will simply need the discount code. Contact our membership coordinator Rob Johnson and he will give it to you. You have to be a member to use it.

On top of that, Darvil has agreed to support the raffle with donations and by selling items for the raffle at cost. Apparently, they get a lot of promotional goodies over there... so some of that swag may be heading your way too.

Darvil wanted me to pass along a heartfelt *thank you* to all of you for welcoming him so warmly. He mentioned that he had never seen such a large and active dive club filled with so many wonderful people. He was feeling our dive-tribe-vibe!! You all left quite the impression on him.

Honestly, it is pretty amazing watching everything happening within the club right now. The energy, participation, traveling, beach dives, boat dives..... it feels like the club is blooming right in front of us, with our membership numbers and meeting participation rising monthly.

It has been genuinely inspiring seeing how active and engaged everyone is, and I just wanted to say thank you to all of you for supporting this club. I am truly grateful to be part of such an awesome group of people.

Join us this Wednesday, May 20th, as we welcome our guest speaker/sponsor Josh Dykman from [Scuba Solutions](#). Josh will be sharing the dos and don'ts of scuba gear care, maintenance tips, and how to keep your equipment running smoothly and dive ready. This should be a really informative presentation and a great opportunity to learn from one of our club sponsors and an experienced dive technician.

See you all at the meeting!

MAY PRESENTATION

Josh Dykman, Scuba Solutions Gear Check & Maintenance Tips



Josh's presentation will go through how we should check our gear before a dive, what we should be doing to maintain our equipment after a dive, and when we should bring it to him for service.

Speaker Bio: Scuba Solutions, specializing in scuba diving gear repair, was founded by Josh Dykman. He is a technician with over 15 years in the dive industry. Josh's training spans intensive technician study in Thailand, scientific diving in Maryland, and high-volume repairs in California and Maui. He is an experienced volunteer caring for aquatic and terrestrial animals.

Scuba Solutions is a much-appreciated club sponsor. Check 'em out here:

<https://scubasolutionsca.com/>

Member Dive Report: Point Dume April 18th

Hosted By SC Diving

By Rob Johnson

Point Dume was designated a Marine Protected Area (MPA) in 2012 to protect a highly diverse ecosystem along the Malibu coast, including kelp forests, rocky reefs, and deep submarine canyons. The nutrient-rich, cold water supports a vast array of marine life, including lobster, white seabass, and various shark species. It is also part of a crucial ecological corridor for migrating gray whales and humpback whales. It is my understanding that marine life that surf the water-wide-web find this area a wonderful place to retire.

Seven of us met at the far end of the Westward Beach parking lot to dive Dume rocks or the pinnacles about a quarter of a mile swim from our entry point. Conditions were good with small waves and just a bit of a green tint to the water. Sunshine and a cool breeze made it easy to don our gear. Our plan was to swim on the surface out to the exposed rocks offshore, drop down to 35 to 45 feet of water, check out all

the fat and happy critters, and navigate back on the sandy bottom to our exit point. Visibility was about 20 feet (not outstanding for this spot), but we all seemed to stay together throughout the dive. The marine life was outstanding! Check out this underwater video on our CID Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/356988854392520>

After posing for newsletter photos, we headed to Vintage Market on the corner of Trancas Canyon Road and PCH for lunch. Thanks to all who joined us: future member Andrew Burt, new member Justin Lessel, new member Alex Burum, Melanie Kemmann, Tony Frabasilio, Divemaster Dan Perdue and Rob Johnson.



L-R: Andrew Burt, Justin Lessel, Rob Johnson, Dan Perdue, Melanie Kemmann, Alex Burum & Tony Frabasilio.



Post-dive lunch, L-R: Andrew, Justin, Melanie, Alex, Tony, Rob & Dan.

May 9th Dive Report from Divemaster Dan The Deer Creek "Volcano" Expedition

What a fantastic day at **Deer Creek**! We had a great turnout with **Rob Johnson, Tony Frabasilio, and Dale Burrows** representing the Club, and were happy to welcome three guest divers from **SC Diving** who joined the crew.

The conditions definitely cooperated for a memorable morning:

- **Visibility:** A solid 15 feet.
- **Temperature:** A crisp 58°F.
- **Surge:** 2-foot waves with the occasional 3-footer just to keep our shore entries "sporty" and fun!



Divemaster Dan



One of the best things about diving with this group is that you never stop learning. Even if you've dived these waters a hundred times, there is always someone to point out a detail you've overlooked. Tony drew our attention to some stunning patches of bright orange. He called them "**Volcano Sponges**" and they were scattered all over the reef like little bursts of fire (pix by Dan except as noted). We put out the call to **Jackie Worden** for the official ID! {See photos next page for her thoughts.} Usually found covering rocks, shells and pilings in low inner tidal and subtidal zones forming a thin, bright orange or red velvety mat.

Beyond the sponges, the reef felt alive and vibrant. We spotted several very healthy-looking **abalone** tucked into the crevices, which is always a heartening sight for our local ecosystem.

It was a stellar day on the water with even better company. If you missed this one, don't worry—we'd love to see you out there on the next one!

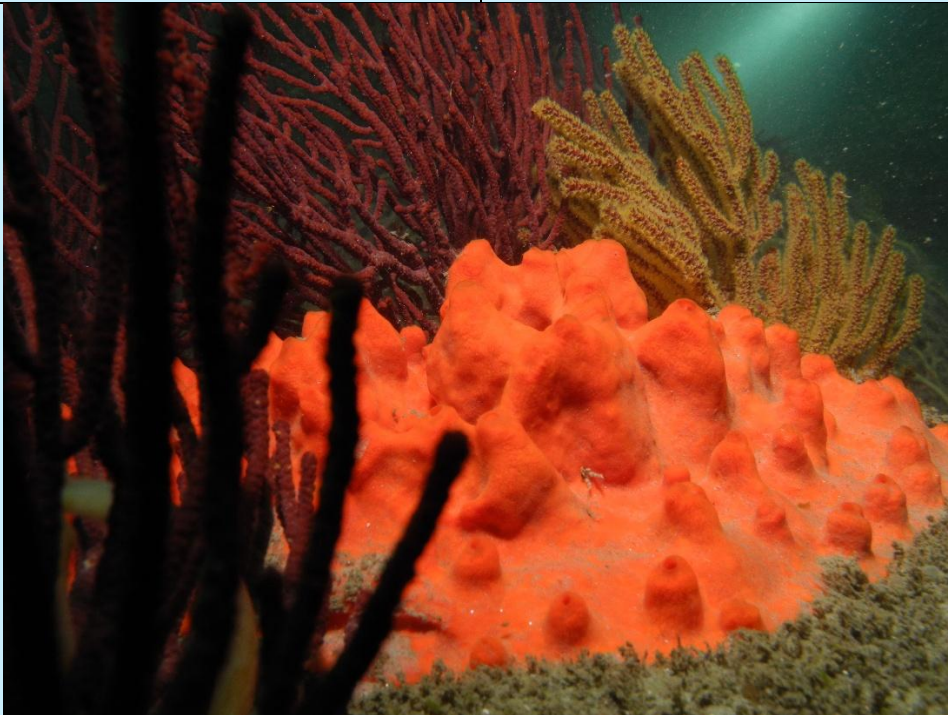
Hope to see you top-side (or bottom-side) soon!



This is either a red volcano encrusting sponge (*Acarnus erithacus*, which is what Tony thinks and he knows stuff) or an orange sieve encrusting sponge (*Diplastrella sp.*).



Orange encrusting sponge (*Crambe crambe*).



Definitely a red volcano encrusting sponge! Photo by Tony.

Future Local Dives

By Divemaster Dan Perdue

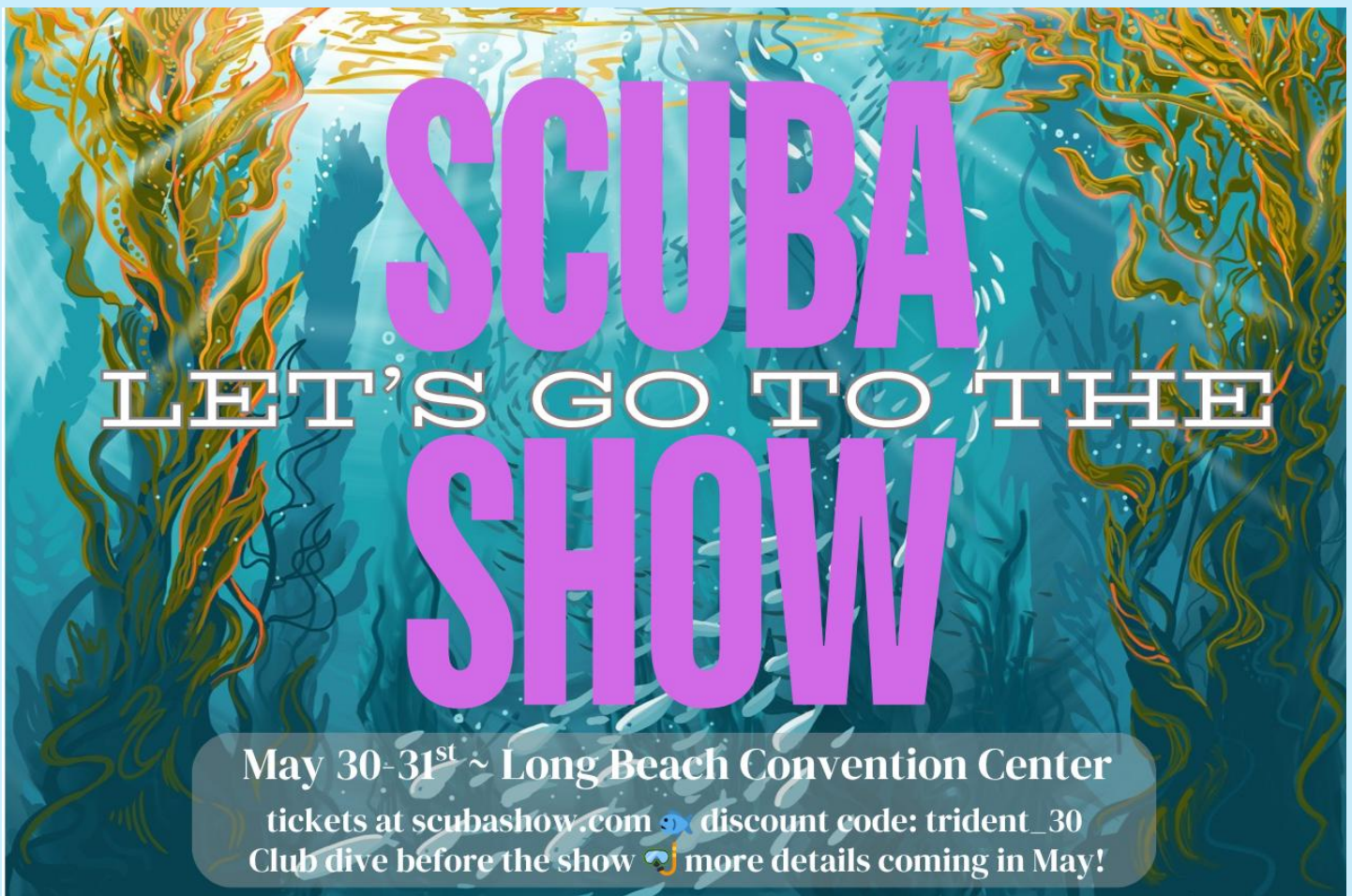
This is our club and I am open to any suggestions as I want it to be fun for everyone!

May Trips:

May 23rd Spectre Dive: **ONE SPOT LEFT!** Contact Divemaster Dan (dive@channelislandsdivers.org)

May 30th Veterans Park Dive: Details Page 8.

May 30-31st Long Beach Scuba Show: We'll be raffling two full-access passes (one for each day) at our May 20th general meeting!



All tickets will allow access to both the exhibit hall and the seminars. For a discount, try: trident_30. {Shout out to the folks at Trident Adventures!}

Veterans Park Dive Details

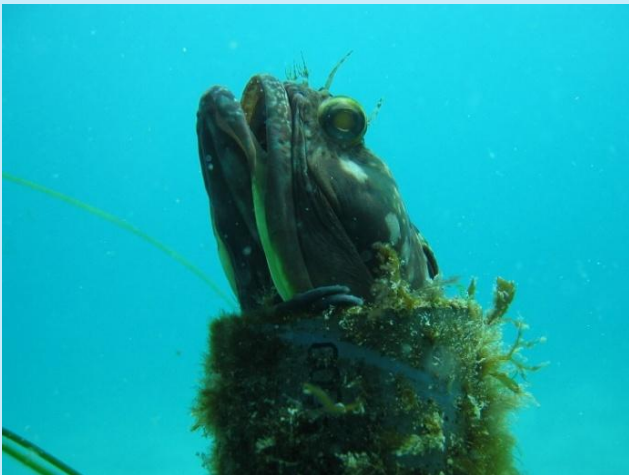
May 30th 8:00 – 10:00 am

Veterans Park, 309 Esplanade Redondo Beach
Public parking area \$2.00/hour (cash or credit card)

Hey divers, it's time to get wet again. We will meet at Veterans Park and explore the marine canyon offshore. A long set of stairs leads us to a short beach walk into generally small surf. After a short swim, we will descend to about 20 feet and begin looking for the strange denizens that call this sandy bottom home. For those interested, an escorted dive will be available to 100 feet where we will take a narcosis challenge! This is a perfect dive to practice air management, buoyancy control, and compass navigation. The marine canyon drops rapidly to over 100 feet. The area is great for macro enthusiasts (nudis!!!).

Keep an eye out for the sarcastic fringehead in the sandy intertidal zone, backed into crevices or objects, like shells & debris. Known for their huge gape when defending their turf (gotta love the name!). (*Photos from Wikipedia.*)

These two are locked in a territorial battle,
displaying their distended mouths.



Life in a plastic tube. Lovely of some human to drop that in the water for them.

(*Photos from Wikipedia*)

After our dive, we can get cleaned up at the public showers and changing rooms. Bathrooms are also available.

The Long Beach Convention Center is about 20 miles from Veterans Park. {I'm bringing a sack lunch as my wallet is still stinging from last year at the show.} I hope you will join us. Let me know if you will be joining us so I can start up a carpool list.

Questions, please ask: Rob Johnson, Membership@channelislandsdivers.org

USC Hyperbaric Chamber

Catalina Island at the Isthmus

July 18th

We have an amazing opportunity to experience diving to 165 feet inside the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber Facility at the USC Wrigley Marine Science Center. Karl Higgins, Director of the Chamber, will give a presentation at our July 15 club meeting.

Trip details will follow, but there are a few key items to know now:

- **REQUIRED:** Each participant **must bring a MEDICAL CLEARANCE** or a **CLEARANCE FOR HYPERBARIC EXPOSURE**. Each person will be required to read, complete and sign a **Waiver, Release and Indemnity Agreement**. Refer to the Chamber's website (below) for more info and to review these forms.
- The cost is \$20 per person (space is limited to 8 divers)
 - ❑ Make the check out to the USC Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber
- The chamber is at the isthmus, not Avalon. Catalina Express offers two trips per day to the isthmus leaving from San Pedro. **We must be on the 7:30am boat**. From the isthmus, we will take another small boat to the chamber facility.
- Sign-up deadline = June 17th

It's highly recommended that all participants review the important information on the Chamber's website: <https://dornsife.usc.edu/hyperbaric/chamber-dives/>



ENSENADA DIVE TRIP – AUGUST 22

Simple plan. Big dives. Epic weekend.

SOLD OUT



We are heading down to Ensenada and the mission is simple—get some great diving in, eat well and come back with some great stories. People travel from all over to dive there and it is right in our backyard... so why not take advantage of it? This trip will be open to all certification levels. Win! Win!

TRIP PLAN

- **Aug. 21st-Friday:** Drive down- we will be organizing a carpool based on our group. We are also looking into van rentals. Of course, this is all contingent on who signs up and personal choice.
Flight options: currently LAX to Ensenada \$331 round trip.
- **Aug-22nd - Saturday:** Full day of diving (dives listed below in detail), explore Ensenada and have a group dinner. (Maybe visit La Bufadora marine geyser, a giant blowhole that shoots water 60-100 feet into the air. It's about a 35–45-minute drive south of Ensenada Marina.)
- **Aug-23rd - Sunday:** Drive back home or you can extend your trip as long as you choose

COST

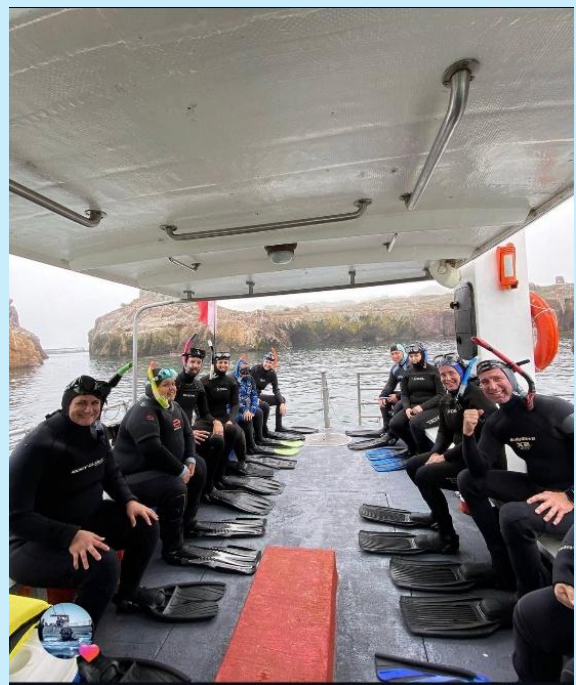
- Three dives – \$165. Includes tanks, weights, snacks, and non-alcoholic drinks. Fishing between dives available!

BOAT: The “Adventure” Ensenada Marina

- 38' PADI-certified dive boat
- Capacity: 17 divers
- Showers + restrooms
- Recently refurbished
- Solid, comfortable ride with plenty of room

GEAR:

- Travel light and rent it.
- Full gear for \$65



LODGING PLAN

Rob Marion our fearless VP has been making runs down to Ensenada for years and regularly stays at [Las Rosas Hotel & Spa](#) —a solid spot and highly recommended, and only about 10 minutes from the marina. Approximately \$175-200/night. Current exchange rate is 17.19 Mexican peso to 1.00 US dollar (keep in mind the rate fluctuates).

Two other hotels in Ensenada, recommended by the dive shop near the marina. Ideally, we stay together, but these offer solid, more budget-friendly options (\$100-150/night), all within a short distance of the marina:

- [Casa del Sol](#)
- [Hotel Corona](#)

DIVE OPTIONS

Let's talk about the spectacular dive options!!!

Arco (the arch)

Dive site near Punta Banda refers to the marine environment around **Arbolitos Cove**

We will start the dive over a sandy bottom at around 50 ft.

- It takes about 65 ft of kicking to reach and pass through the arch
 - The arch is not a cave or enclosed. Light from above is visible at all times.
 - After passing through, we ascend to 40 ft zone that is full of marine life.
 - If conditions allow, we can continue deeper to around 100 ft then come back up to the 40 ft zone.
- Dive profile depends on certification level!

Aquario (aquarium)

- Dive site near **Punta Banda** known for its kelp forest
- Our dive takes us down to 45ft rock formation loaded with marine life

Hydrothermal vents.

- Discovered in the 1960s, these vents associated with the Agua Blanca fault release water reaching temperatures of over 100⁰ C (212⁰ F).
- We will descend along the anchor line and explore the warm-water seep and unique vent formations along the fault line. This is the one dive that I really want to enjoy.
- Advanced open water divers only!

The Wall

- Diving around the La Bufadora area offers dramatic vertical terrain, high-nutrient cold water upwellings and visibility ranging from 60 to 120 ft.
- The location reaches a depth of 125ft.
- The walls are characterized by steep, deep, vertical rock formations that are often covered with invertebrates
- Seasonal pelagics are sometimes seen (dorado, yellowtail, tuna, bonito, white sea bass all possible)

DIVE OPERATOR AND GUIDE

We'll be diving with Master Instructor Jose Fiero, Course Director and manager at Mares Dive Center in Ensenada—a 20-year diving veteran and local expert. He has also agreed to provide a second guide, if needed, to accommodate different certification levels.

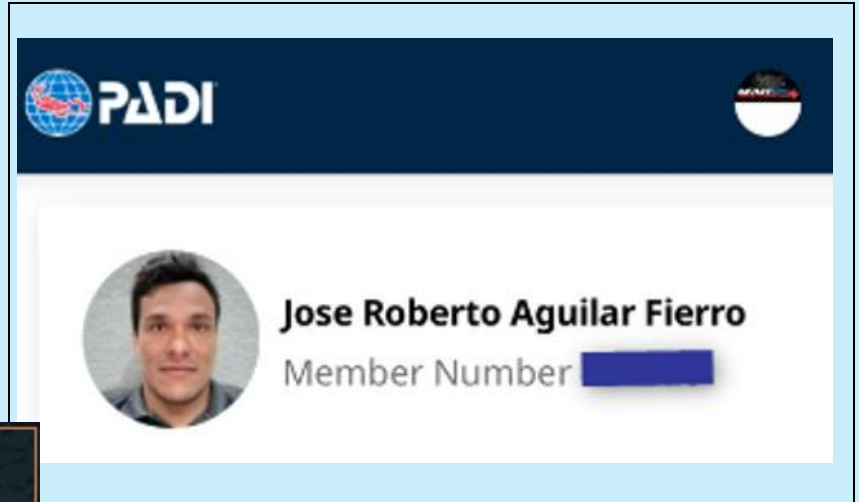
If you have any questions, please reach out. He speaks English.

Jose Fiero Instagram : [@tec_deepfiero](#)

Instagram: [@mares_divecenter](#)

Website: [Mares dive center](#)

WhatsApp: +52 (646) 1392078



WHY THIS TRIP?

Why not! This is an adventure for us to take on—another feather in the hat and a chance to open the door to more travel opportunities. Who knows... this might turn out to be more than epic and have us coming back for more diving—or even some hunting. There are campgrounds, tons to explore and it is the perfect opportunity to do some recon for our next adventure to Ensenada.

We are looking forward to diving with you!

Catalina Veterans Day Club Trip

November 7-9, 2026

The club discounts at the Pavilion Hotel are **SOLD OUT**...but the hotel is allowing us to continue booking rooms at the discounted rate while availability lasts. Of course, there are lots of other lodging options.

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). Last names A-M please bring dessert; N-Z a side dish.

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?



STILL A FEW SPACES LEFT ON THE SCUBA CAT– SEE DAN



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.

APRIL RAFFLE WINNERS

Prizes sponsored by SC Diving
(Unless otherwise noted)



Ann Hoagland was shocked to win the grand Progressive prize, the Insta360 X3 Camera Dive Kit, sponsored by Ken Kollwitz and UltraLight Camera Solutions/Channel Islands Dive Adventures



Manny Hurtado with his certificate for a hydro test & air fill from club sponsor Maverick Undersea Divers {with raffle queen Laurie Hennessy}.



New member Chuck Torres won the assort-o-prize of a gear hangers, ear plugs, & fish scaler.



Alex Wied with his new foldable snorkel (who knew?)



Fahmy Fahmy won the wrist compass.

MAY 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 (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

Just two of the wonderful raffle prizes:



Book of the Month

DIRTBAG BILLIONAIRE

By David Gelles

The *Dirtbag Billionaire* is a fascinating book about Yvon Chouinard and Patagonia, the extremely successful company he developed and then gave away. Starting with his hand-crafted climbing pitons, Yvon had the concept of making the best products possible. He believed that if you produce a great product, your customers will pay a premium for it. This is evidently true because people are eagerly buying expensive Patagonia clothing and the company has thrived despite its internal organizational chaos. Yvon never wanted to be a businessman, yet over the years Patagonia developed into over a billion-dollar/year business. Somehow, throughout it all, Yvon was still able to escape for months on end for various expeditions and never owned a computer or cell phone.

Some interesting topics covered in Dirtbag Billionaire are:

- Yvon's background in climbing and his outdoor trips with friends.
- Yvon interviewing job applicants by taking them freediving off Hollister Ranch and rock climbing in the Sespe.
- Yvon's wife Malinda Pennoyer's development of the Patagonia employee childcare program
- Patagonia's commitment to social responsibility and environmental sustainability, demonstrated by its comprehensive initiatives to improve its supply chain.
- "Let my people go surfing" philosophy & taking care of their employees.
- Quiet donations to environmental causes & land protection without publicity.
- Donating the company to a trust and nonprofit organization to provide funding to fight climate change and protect undeveloped land for many future years.

Book review by club librarian, Steve Peterson. This book is available in our club library; just ask Steve

Upcoming Dives

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

Date	Location	Description
23-May	Spectre boat dive	ONE SPOT LEFT! Contact Divemaster Dan to sign up.
30-May	Veterans Park/Scuba Show	Morning dive at Veterans Park – details on Page 8
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	SOLD OUT.
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	SOLD OUT.
31-Oct	Underwater Pumpkin carving	Sponsored by SC diving, location TBD
8 Nov	Avalon, Catalina Island	Scuba Cat; Casino Point. A few spots left on the boat.
14-Nov	Check Facebook	Club sponsor SC Diving will guide this beach dive.
21-Nov	Santa Cruz Island 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

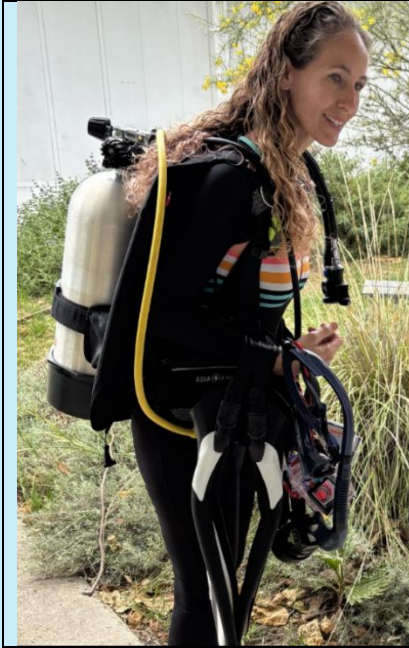
CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

MAY	JUNE	JULY
20: Club Meeting, participation raffle drawing. Speaker: Josh Dykman: Gear check & maintenance tips 23: Spectre boat dive; no beach dive 26: Board Meeting 30-31: Long Beach Scuba Show; beach dive at Veterans Park May 30th	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	11: Shore dive, TBA 15: Club Meeting, progressive raffle drawing. Speaker: Karl Huggins: Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber 18: Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber at the isthmus (<i>not Avalon</i>) 21: Board Meeting
AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
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 Board Election!! 19: Club BBQ at Refugio State Beach Park 22: Board Meeting	10: Shore dive, TBA 21: Club Meeting, progressive raffle drawing. Speaker: Delaney Sauer, CSLB Shark Lab 17-24: Cozumel 24: Shore dive, TBA 27: Board Meeting

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP: 110

Thank you to all renewing members!!

Welcome to our four newest members!!



Monica Knapton



Alex Burum



Lief Jordan and Oceana Collins

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

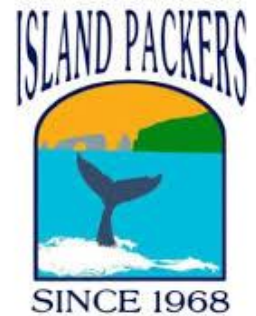
New Membership: Single = \$40; Family = \$55

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 our Membership Coordinator Rob Johnson 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/>



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Rob Johnson: Membership Coordinator

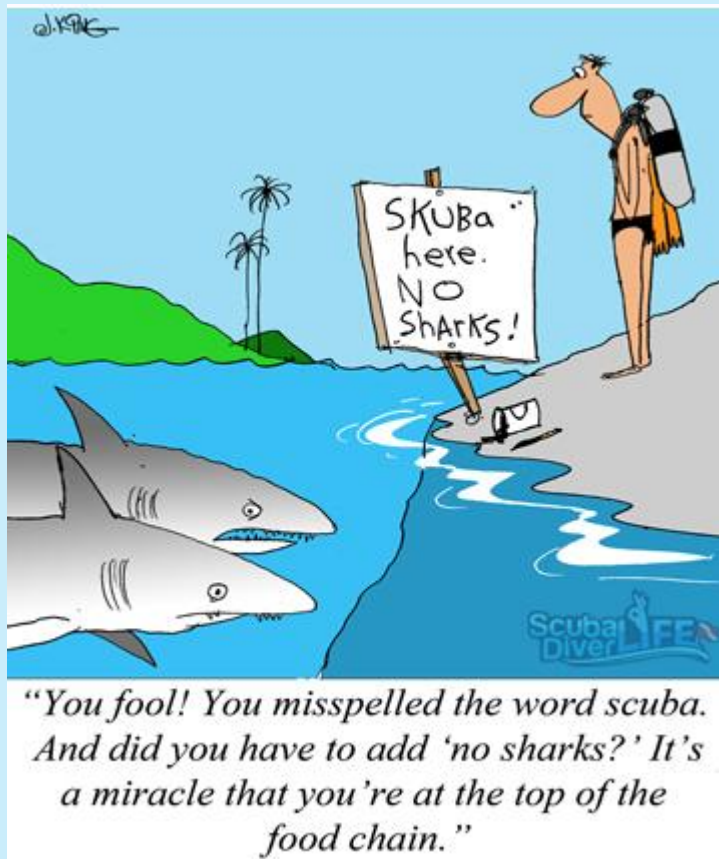
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Source: Jerry King

