

Channel Islands Divers



Photo: Franklin Murphy

NEXT CLUB MEETING:

August 19th, 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!

Last month's speaker brought us a little closer to the realities of diving by sharing actual cases of decompression sickness. One of my biggest takeaways was that DCS can happen to anyone...even when it seems like you did everything right. Some cases simply do not have a clear explanation, and I have to admit, that is a little concerning.

But there are things we CAN control. Stay hydrated, dive responsibly, and if something does not feel right after a dive, do not ignore it. Get on oxygen and seek help. Better to be safe and feel a little silly than to brush something off that turns out to be serious.

This month, we have another banger! **Sean Taylor from The Bay Foundation** will be presenting **"Saving the Forgotten Forests: Palos Verdes Kelp Forest Restoration."** The kelp canopy off the Palos Verdes Peninsula has decreased by approximately 80% over the past 100 years. That is pretty incredible when you think about it. Any effort to bring back our beautiful Southern California kelp forests is something worth hearing about. Let us all come out and give Sean the warm CID welcome he deserves. Another presenter worthy of a cape!

I have only dived Palos Verdes once, and let me tell you...the shore entry can be downright scary. 🧛 Two years ago, during one of our pre-scuba show dives, we discovered that at low tide it was practically impossible to get in. Amazing jagged rock formations covered the entire shoreline... a remarkable work of beautiful nature. However, from a diver's point of view, it looked like walking straight into a meat grinder! No thanks... we packed up and dove Veterans Park instead. 😄😄

We also have a lot coming down the pipeline. Seventeen lucky divers are off on an adventure to Ensenada this Friday... Yay!! Then we have our yearly **BBQ and dive at Refugio** in September. Nothing beats a plate of BBQ surrounded by great people after a morning of diving...a smiling sun, blue skies, meat on the grill, cold drink in hand, perfect tan in process... What else do you need? It is definitely one of the highlights of the year.

It is also one of those events where everybody comes out of the woodwork. All the CID remnants show up! 😄.. family members and friends... We get our active divers in the water and our older and wiser retired divers enjoying the day from shore. Either way, everyone gets to hang out, tell some stories, eat some food, and enjoy the day together. That is what the club is all about.

Unfortunately, I will be away on work business this year, so you all are going to have to post LOTS of pictures for me. I would really appreciate it! I will be there in spirit. 😄

Our Cozumel trip is also coming together nicely. We are collecting final payments, and we have **22 divers and two normies** joining us on this adventure. 😄 It is only a couple of months away!! I am really looking forward to this one.

And stay tuned for details on our **November 21 Santa Cruz Island adventure**. Club members with boats will be sailing out, while another group will make their way over with Island Packers. We will have **10 discounted tickets available** for club members, so keep an eye out. More details and the itinerary are coming soon.

Lots of diving still ahead, my friends!

Okay, my dear friends, I will see you all **Wednesday, August 19 at Black Bear Diner**. Come by at **6:00 PM** for some food and socializing 😄 Our meeting officially kicks off at **6:30 PM**. Until then... **keep on diving!**

Delbert Stewart
President, Channel Islands divers.

AUGUST PRESENTATION

Sean Taylor
The Bay Foundation

Saving the Forgotten Forests: Palos Verdes Kelp Forest Restoration

The Bay Foundation's (TBF) Palos Verdes Kelp Forest Restoration Project works to reestablish kelp forests that have been lost due to local stressors. Healthy kelp forests provide numerous benefits and ecosystem services to coastal populations including protection against coastal erosion, storm energy absorption, supporting local commercial and recreational fisheries, and ecotourism. Kelp forest communities also contribute to significant carbon sequestration, ameliorating the impacts of excess atmospheric CO₂. Kelp canopy coverage off the Palos Verdes Peninsula has decreased by approximately 80% over the past 100 years.

The combined effects of overfishing, pollution, and increasing frequency of warm water events can lead to the destructive grazing of kelp by sea urchins and the formation of "urchin barrens" that can last decades. Subtidal observations based upon mapping efforts conducted in 2010 identified large expanses of nearshore rocky reefs that were dominated by high densities of purple and red sea urchins. In total, 152 acres were described to exist in an urchin barren state. All benefits and ecosystem services associated with kelp forests are lost in the urchin barren state.



TBF's project goal is to reduce sea urchin grazing pressure to restore the giant kelp forest ecosystem. Once the kelp and algae are restored, fish, invertebrates, marine mammals, and birds return to the area. TBF's techniques were honed over ten years of development from 2000 to 2010. Since 2013, TBF has implemented their methodology on over 80 acres. The project has produced lasting results benefitting wildlife and involving an expanding community of divers, freedivers, and ocean enthusiasts.



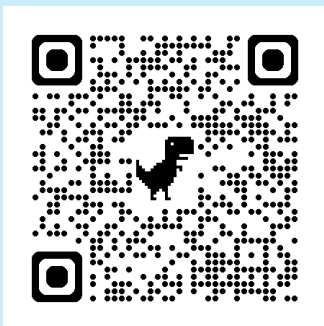
Speaker Bio: Sean is a Program Manager for the Ocean Resilience Program at The Bay Foundation (TBF), where he has worked since 2022. As a Program Manager, he leads dive teams for subtidal scientific diving projects that focus on *Macrocystis pyrifera* (giant kelp) restoration, endangered and threatened *Haliotis* species (abalone) recovery, and *Zostera* species (eelgrass) transplants. Sean also created and manages a volunteer scientific diver program at TBF that currently has over 50 active volunteer divers. He received his B.S. in Environmental Studies with a minor in Marine Biology from USC and is currently working on a M.S. in Biology at Cal Poly Pomona.

Member Dive Report

July 12, 2026 Ocean Defenders Alliance Dive
Melanie Kemmann

I have been volunteering with the **Ocean Defenders Alliance (ODA)**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting our oceans by removing harmful marine debris. Using DPV (diver propulsion vehicle) scooters, our team efficiently searched for abandoned debris. On our recent trip, we located two lost lobster traps, attached lift bags, floated them to the surface, and used the boat's crane to safely recover them. We also removed additional debris from the ocean floor.

It was incredibly rewarding to help make our oceans a little cleaner. As divers, we have a unique opportunity to not only explore the underwater world but also protect it. You can get involved, too - the ODA is looking for crew- deck hands and rescue certified divers. Scan the QR code to see video of my trip:

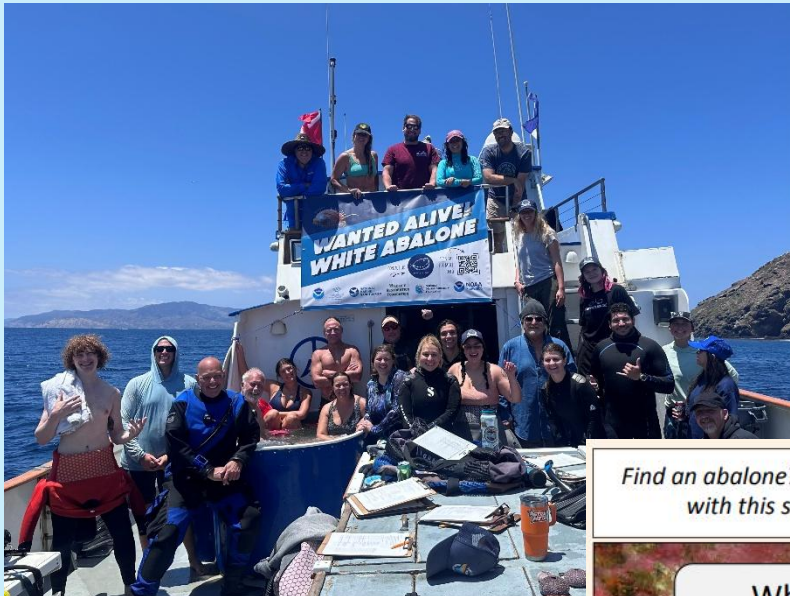


CITIZEN SCIENCE OPPORTUNITY

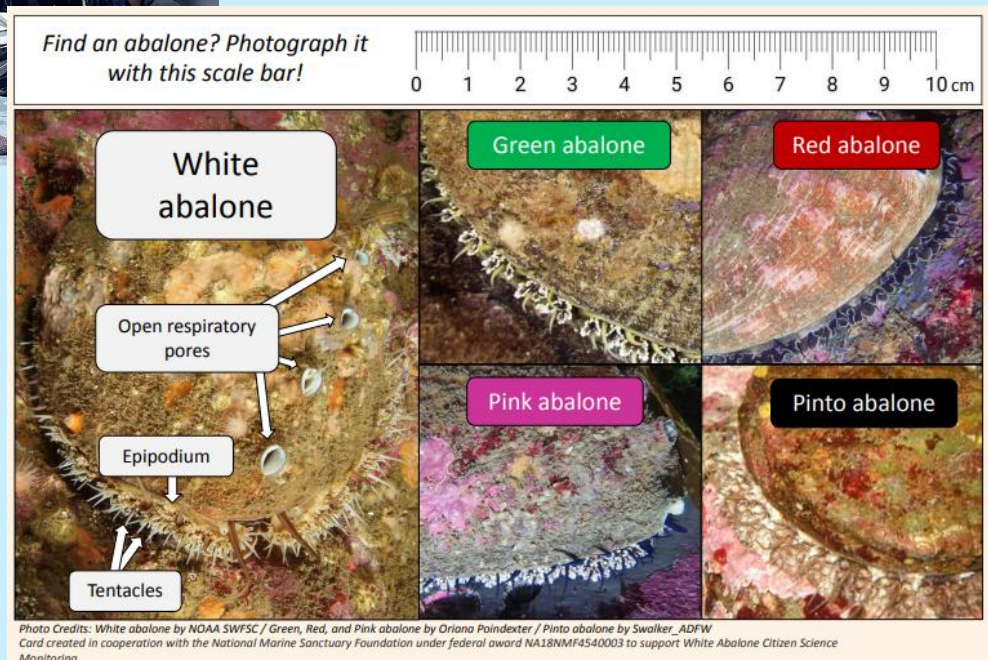
“Finding Hal” August 25th

The Aquarium of the Pacific is hosting an opportunity to search for the critically endangered white abalone (*Haliotis sorenseni*) in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Findings from these dives will contribute to the understanding of population distribution and abundance. Our very own Eric Taylor (pictured below, fourth from left) participated in this a couple years ago. To join this effort, email channel.islands@noaa.gov or fill out the interest form here: [Interest Form](#)

Preference is given to dive clubs, in the hopes that clubs will organize their own. If these dates don't work, each of us is encouraged to report sightings of white abalone on our personal dives.



Note: white abalone ID is *tricky*. Check out the 18-page guide here: [How to Identify Abalone](#)



Images from:
<https://findinghal.org/#dive>

DIVE AGAINST DEBRIS: *More Citizen Science!!*

Date: TBD, later this year

Calling all Channel Island Divers! Our underwater paradise off Santa Cruz Island needs our help, and as divers who love these kelp forests, we are the ultimate guardians of this fragile ecosystem. Come join us at our upcoming PADI Dive Against Debris event, where YOU can transform a routine dive into protecting the ocean we love. Every piece of plastic, trash, abandoned net or trap we pull from the reef directly saves playful sea lions and our delicate marine habitats. PADI will collect data during this event to add to the huge database used to “inform policy, drive scientific research, and protect marine life.” Check out PADI’s website to learn more about the AWARE program (Aquatic World Awareness, Responsibility and Education), which is much more than just the important effort of debris removal:

[PADI AWARE](#)

Let’s dive with a purpose, leave our waters cleaner than we found them, and show the world what true volunteer ocean stewardship looks like.

Thanks to Stormy Thurston-Keller for organizing this event!

Join the Adventure of a Lifetime – Antarctica 2027

Remember Jeff Bozanic from our July meeting? He talked a bit about this amazing trip to the Antarctic, and now he’s officially inviting us to join! Imagine diving among towering icebergs, sharing Zodiac cruises with whales and penguins, and exploring one of the last great wildernesses on Earth. In December 2027, Jeff will be leading another expedition to Antarctica, combining extraordinary wildlife encounters, world-class diving opportunities, and the chance to participate in meaningful scientific research. Whether you are a diver, underwater photographer, naturalist, or simply an adventurer, this expedition offers experiences found nowhere else on the planet.

His previous Antarctic expedition contributed more than 1,300 biological specimens to museum collections and demonstrated how expedition travelers can make genuine contributions to science through citizen science and research partnerships. The 2027 voyage will build on that success while providing unforgettable opportunities both above and below the water. If Antarctica has ever been on your bucket list, now is the time to start planning. Space is limited, and those interested are encouraged to contact Jeff for additional information and trip details.

For more information, contact Jeff: 714-747-2727

JBozanic@gmail.com



CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS' 2026



DIVE & BBQ



FOOD | FRIENDS | FUN
DIVE | SNORKEL | KAYAK

SATURDAY
SEPT 19 REFUGIO
STATE
BEACH

DIVERS IN THE WATER AT 9AM
LUNCH AT 1PM

CLUB PROVIDES: THE MEATS & WATERS
BRING: A-K APPS & SIDES, L-Z DESSERTS

BYO CHAIRS, COOLERS & POP-UPS PLEASE



Florida Keys Dive Adventure

By Rob Marion

More than a year ago, club members Dale Burrows and Rob Johnson began talking about a trip to the southern tip of Florida to do some serious wreck diving. The talk turned into planning and then, I'm guessing about four months ago, they approached me about joining them. On July 22nd we were flying to Florida.

Dale has a lot of contacts in Key West. We dove out of Lost Reef Adventures. Dale's friend Randy Pekarik was our dive guide. We spent three days diving the USS Vandenberg, a military missile-tracking ship intentionally sunk as an artificial reef in 2009. It's 524-foot long, 71.5 feet wide, and lies on a sandy bottom at a depth of 140-165 feet in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Our max depth was about 120'. Randy was better than good, he was great. He's a no-nonsense guy which was fine by me considering the diving we were about to do; advanced deep-water and inside a wreck. He took the time to show us a diagram of the ship and explained exactly where we would be going.

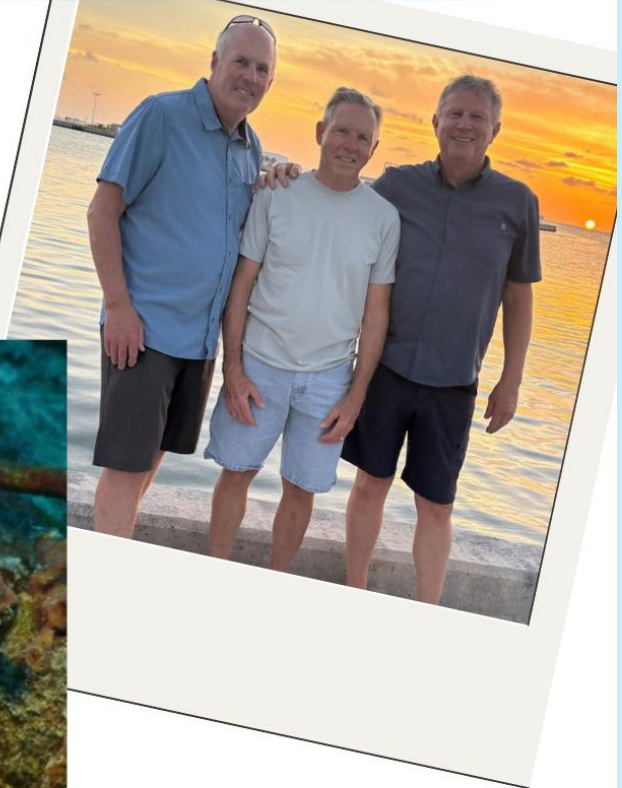
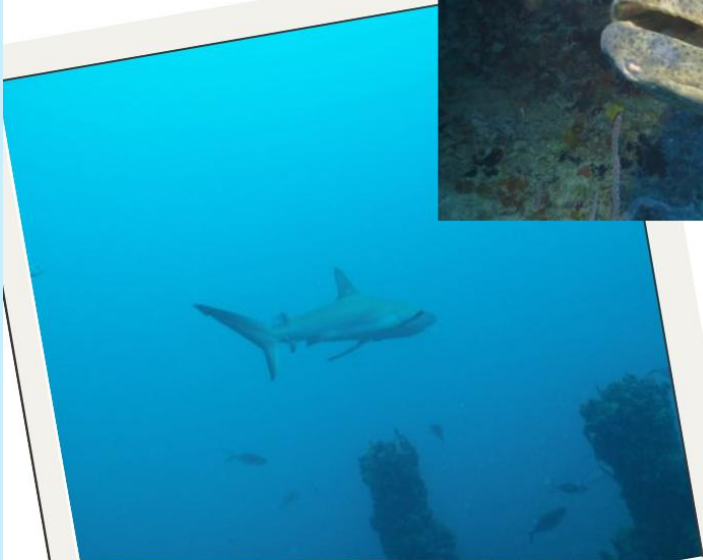
I'll start by saying these are advanced dives. The ship is safe, but the currents can be horrific. From the time you jump off the boat until you reach the wreck, you have to pull yourself along a rope. The first rope is to the downline, then the downline takes you to the wreck. It was obvious that if you let go of the rope when the current was roaring, it was very possible you would get swept away.

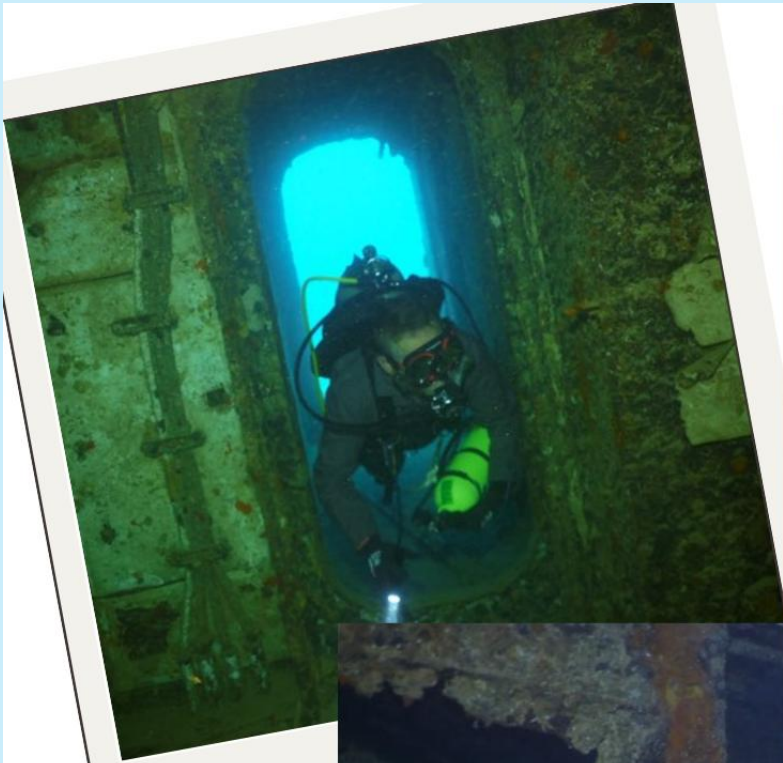
We then drove up to Key Largo and dove with Horizon Divers for three days. These dives were on the USS Spiegel Grove, another ship deliberately sunk to create an artificial reef and also in the marine sanctuary. She's 510' long and lies at about 130-134' of water on sand, with the superstructure at around 60-65 feet deep. Our max depth there was probably close to 120'.

The water at both locations was warm, 84 degrees and clear. Both wrecks had an abundance of life, from schools of smaller fish, to some pretty good size sharks and groupers.

Dale took numerous photos both inside and outside the wrecks. He got close enough to an Atlantic goliath grouper to nearly pet it (center photo, below). I could spend hours more writing about the trip, but I'll let the photos tell you the rest of the story!

Top left pic: Dale, Rob M. guide, guest, Rob J.





COZUMEL T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST: *TIME TO VOTE!!*

The submissions are officially in, and our Channel Islands Divers artists have outdone themselves! Check out our incredible lineup of custom t-shirt concepts for our upcoming Cozumel 2026 trip, below. The choice is in your hands. It's time to crown a winner who will score ultimate island bragging rights and a FREE trip shirt!

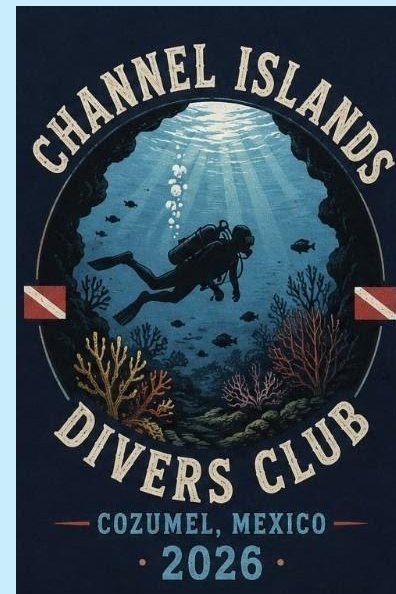
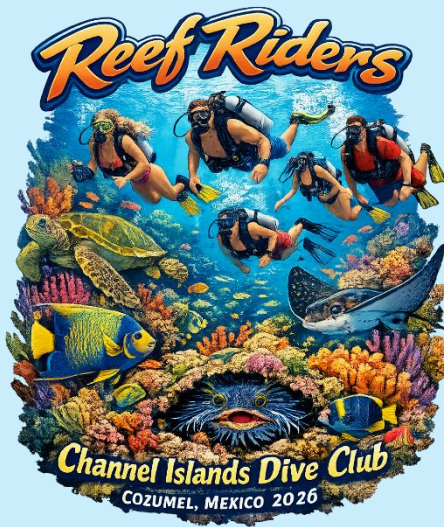
How to Vote:

1. Click on our official voting page: [Cast Your Cozumel T-Shirt Vote Here.](#)
2. Review the unique design submissions.
3. Pick your favorite design and submit your vote!

Don't wait—get your vote in today so we can get production rolling and have these ready to rock before we hit the water in Mexico!

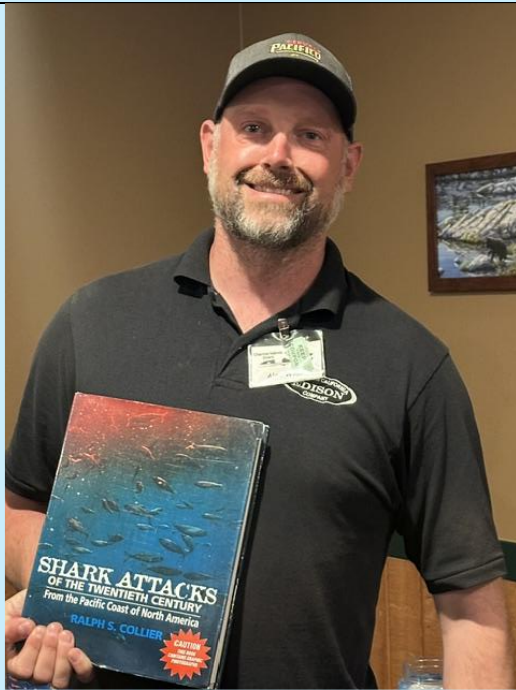


Dive safe,
Divemaster Dan

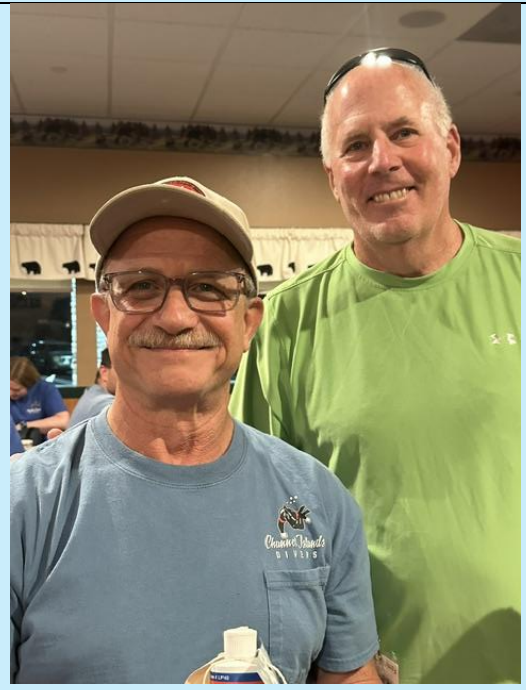


JULY RAFFLE WINNERS

Prizes sponsored by SC Diving (unless otherwise noted)



Alex Wied won a book about Shark Attacks (donated by your club)



Fahmy Fahmy (left) was our door prize winner



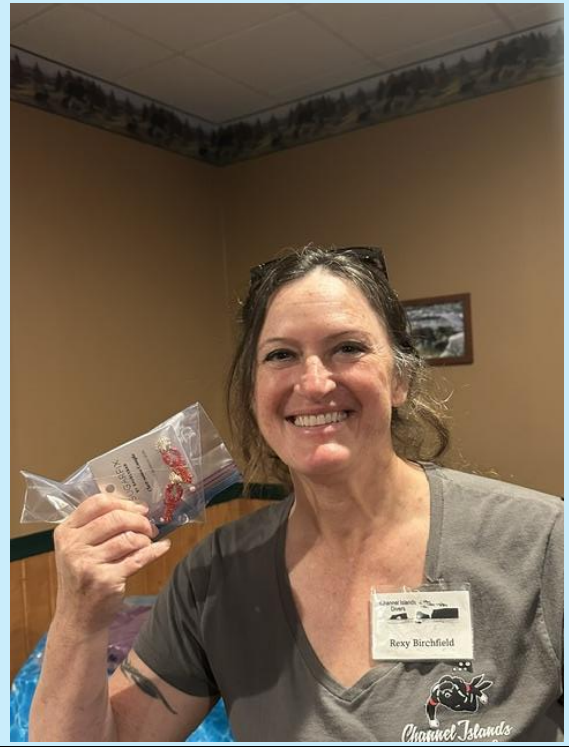
Laura Forsyth won the progressive prize



Laurie Hennessy won bungee fin straps



Rexy Birchfield won tank holders....



...and fun lobster earrings



Dean Knapton won dive gloves



Viktoria Burmann won a dry box, air card & fish ID card

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	<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

OCTOBER PROGRESSIVE PRIZE: BEACH BUGGY



Upcoming Dives

Date	Location	Description
22-Aug	Ensenada/La Bufadora	SOLD OUT
12-Sep	Check Facebook	Club sponsor SC Diving will guide this beach dive.
29-Aug	TBD	SC Diving morning dive & tacos after (flyer below)
19-Sep	Refugio State Beach Park	Yearly club BBQ, dive 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	Casino Pt & Scuba Cat (boat is SOLD OUT).
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

Meet at 7:00
am at SC
Diving, 575
Dawson
Drive, Suite 9,
Camarillo

SC Diving

DIVE IN THE MORNING, TACOS AFTER!

DIVE. EAT. CONNECT.

DIVERS, FRIENDS & FAMILY ALL WELCOME!

MORNING DIVE AT 7:00 AM
Let's explore the underwater world together!

TACOS AFTER THE DIVE! AUGUST 29TH AT 12:30 PM
Great food, cold drinks, and even better company!

GOOD FOOD. GOOD VIBES. GREAT PEOPLE.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SUBMERGE AUDIO and DESCEND TOGETHER

GOOD COMPANY | DELICIOUS TACOS | COLD DRINKS | BRING A CHAIR & RELAX! | MAKE MEMORIES!

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WE KEEP YOU DIVING™

August 29th

CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
8: Shore dive, TBA 19: Club meeting, participation raffle drawing. Speaker: Sean Taylor, 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
NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY 2027
7: Deadline for Photo Contest submittals 14: Shore dive, TBA 18: Club meeting, participation drawing. Speaker: Melanie Kemmann, Cozumel trip 21: Shore dive, TBA 24: Board meeting	5: <i>Holiday Party</i> 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: TA 23: Shore dive, TBS 26: Board meeting

Capture the Moment—Enter the 2026 Dive Club Photo Contest! Notes from a 2025 contest winner (Melanie Kemmann)

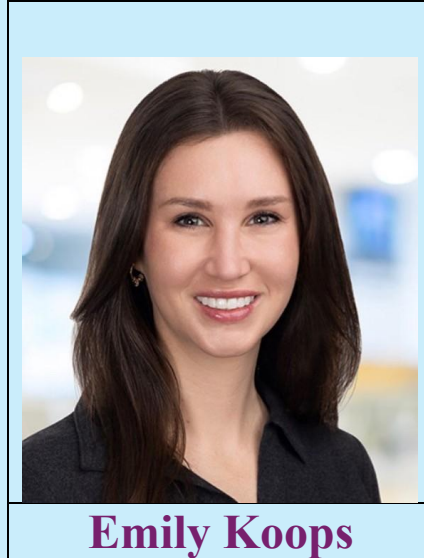
As one of last year's winners, I encourage everyone to enter the Dive Club Photo Contest! You don't need a fancy camera—just a great photo that captures the beauty, adventure, or fun of diving. Whether it's vibrant marine life, your favorite dive buddy, or an unforgettable underwater moment, we'd love to see it. Submit your favorite photos—you might be this year's winner! Good luck, and I can't wait to see everyone's amazing entries!

Photo Contest submissions due November 17th! See website for details: [2026 Photo Contest](#)

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP: 118

Thank you to all renewing members!!

Welcome to our newest member!!



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

BOARD ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER

There's still time to enter your name or other nominations for the September election! Both will be accepted at the August general meetings, with election at the **September 16th meeting**. We'll even allow write-ins at the September meeting!!

The two open positions are for President and Membership. Descriptions of each board position are summarized on the next page. And if you really want the inside dirt, talk to any board member!

CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS BOARD AVAILABLE POSITIONS DESCRIPTIONS & DUTIES

For the full description of all positions, refer to the [CID website](#)

PRESIDENT: Develops agendas and conducts the general and board meetings. Aids board members unable to fulfill their positions, and acts as liaison between the club and its sponsors. Writes the monthly "Bottom Times" column for the newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR: Greets and introduces guests, informing them of membership benefits and announces new members at club general meetings. Maintains current membership list, sends monthly updates to the board. Sends list and photos of new members to newsletter editor for publication.

HERE'S HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR NAME:

Provide your name, the position you're interested in, and your signature to any board member, in person or via email.

Name: _____ Board Position: _____

Signature: _____



CID Board of Directors

Delbert Stewart: President
president@channelislandsdivers.org

Rob Marion: VP
vicepresident@channelislandsdivers.org

Ann Hoagland: Secretary
secretary@channelislandsdivers.org

Storm Thurston-Keller: Treasurer
treasurer@channelislandsdivers.org

Dan Perdue: Dive Coordinator:
dive@channelislandsdivers.org

Laura Forsyth: Webmaster
webmaster@channelislandsdivers.org

Laurie Hennessy: Raffle Coordinator
raffle@channelislandsdivers.org

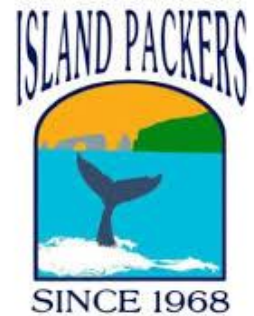
Rob Johnson: Membership Coordinator
membership@channelislandsdivers.org

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 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/>

