

NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

# CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS



**NEXT CLUB MEETING:**

**November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Black Bear Diner  
2401 East Harbor Boulevard  
Ventura, CA 93001**

**Dinner starts at 6:00 PM  
Meeting starts at 6:30 PM**

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## ***BOTTOM TIMES***

**by club president,  
Delbert Stewart**



Hello Channel Islands Divers!

First, I would like to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to all the veterans—both within our membership and those outside our community. Your service and sacrifice are the reasons we can enjoy this beautiful land of ours. The courage, dedication, and sacrifices shown in defending our country and its values are things we can never fully repay. But we are forever grateful. Thank you for everything you have given.

Well, here I am, writing the second edition of my presidency of *Bottoms Times*. I cannot help but think back down memory lane about the first club meeting I ever attended. At the time, I did not know a single soul in the club. No one invited me. I was nervous but I just showed up anyways. Like many of our new members, I was eager to find some dive buddies. I had just gotten certified, with probably only a couple of dives under my fins and I was eager to dive into my new hobby.

Teresa Bertuzzi, the membership coordinator at that time, was the first to greet me as I walked into the old Pirates venue. There was plenty of laughter and camaraderie in the air. I recall Mike Doyon was the president at the time. The room was full of good vibes. It felt just like that old sitcom *Cheers*. You know, "where everybody

knows your name." It was fun. I vividly remember the progressive raffle for a brand-new GoPro—I was flabbergasted.

However, I did not find any dive buddies that night. But I kept coming back. Eventually, I found my niche with a great group of people who loved beach diving, and I had the time of my life. But it did not happen by accident. I had to step out of my comfort zone, smile, 😊 and actually talk to people. You know that thing we are all supposed to do at social events? Not always my favorite thing. But hey, here I am...now I must speak in public as the club president! OMG...Funny how things work out, right?

I am sharing this so our new members can read it. I want to personally welcome you to what will soon become your favorite group of people and dive buddies. When I became president, I promised myself I would push for more beach diving, among other fun events, of course. I have a special place in my heart for new drivers. I used to be one. I am committed to making sure you feel supported, encouraged, and help you get more dives in. I only ask that you please speak up if you feel uncertain about a dive. Never allow anyone to pressure you into diving or feel obligated to dive if you are not feeling it. I was once in your place, and I am still learning.

That being said, you have definitely come to the right place. While the diving pace tends to slow down during the holidays, we are gearing up for an action-packed year ahead. I am excited to explore all the dive spots up and down our coast. This will, of course, be a series of free events that will take place during our club beach dives day, conditions permitting happens the following Saturday after the meeting

Also, just something new that I plan to push. I was just chatting with Rob Johnson, our Membership Coordinator, and he grew up beach diving in San Diego and invited me to go and explore it. I cannot wait to take him up on his offer. I have never dived out there, but the coast is beautiful. Nothing is scheduled but you will be invited when this happens. It may be a club events or we may just go out and explore on the fly. Either way, you are invited. More details on this next year.

For now, I am going to ask everyone for some help. Please take a moment to send me an email with your favorite local and out-of-town dive spots. Your suggestions will help shape our 2025 beach dive agenda. Keep in mind that one of the board's key responsibilities is to plan events that reflect membership interests. Shoot me an email. I want to make sure your voice is heard. With our membership now at 116, I should be receiving 116 emails 😊.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our next general meeting where Los Angeles Fire Captain and Lifeguard Ben Wolf III will share his life stories and tales of Recreational and Commercial Diving.

See you there!

Location: Black Bear Diner, 2401 E. Harbor Blvd, Ventura, CA

Date: November 20th

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:45 PM (6:00 for dinner and socializing, 6:30 for the Club meeting, and 7:00 for our speaker)

# **NOVEMBER'S SPEAKER**

## **Ben Wolfe III**

### **Stories and Life Tales of 56 years of Recreational and Commercial Diving, Los Angeles Fire Captain and Lifeguard**



**Ben Wolfe started diving when he was the age of 16. He has done lots of freediving and spearfishing and has been a member and past president of the Los Angeles Fathomiers free diving and spearfishing club. As a formal commercial abalone diver, he has some incredible stories involving the start and end of the commercial endeavor. Ben was also a Los Angeles County Lifeguard and a Los Angeles County Fire Captain!**



**With all that experience, we will hear the incredible stories from Ben's 56 years of diving including being stranded on the Cortez Bank Bell Buoy for 3 hours! Come see Ben's artifacts that he has found diving. Also, Ben will also be exhibiting some of the diving equipment he has developed over the years.**



# NEW EVENT!



## Divers Alert Network (DAN) Combined First Aid/Oxygen Course or Stand-alone Oxygen Course

**WHEN:** First Aid & Oxygen Course – Sunday & Monday, January 19 & 20, 2025 9am to 6pm  
Stand-alone Oxygen Course – Monday, January 20, 2025 1pm to 6pm

**WHERE:** Channel Islands Scuba, 1348 N. Moorpark Rd, Ste B, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

**MEMBERS' ONLY COST:** Combined Course = \$250 (regular price is \$400)  
Stand-alone Oxygen Course = \$150 (regular price is \$200)



L-R: Rob, Sandy, Eric, Delbert, Laura, and our instructor Larry, owner of CI Scuba.

When registration opened for our DAN First Aid and Oxygen Courses back in September, many club members asked if the classes would be offered again. Yes! Another class is open, and it is time to reserve your spot. Once again, you have the option of taking the DAN Combined First Aid & Oxygen Course on January 19 & 20, or the DAN Stand-alone Oxygen Course on January 20.

The Combined First Aid & Oxygen course meets the renewal requirements for Rescue Divers, Master Divers, and Instructors. The DAN Oxygen Course alone is strongly

recommended for club members who attend our monthly beach dives.

We are taking advantage of the holiday in January by offering the course on Sunday & Monday so you won't have to take off work to attend class. We don't know when the classes might be offered again, and the class sizes are kept small, so don't delay in reserving your spot. To book your spot, email our Dive Coordinator at: [dive@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:dive@channelislandsdivers.org), or see Sandy at any meeting.

# MONTHLY BEACH DIVE



**WHEN:** Each Saturday after the club's monthly meeting.

**MEETING TIME:** 8:00 AM

**COST:** Usually free, except for parking in some cases.

**LOCATION(s):** TBD, depending on ocean and weather conditions.

**LUNCH:** Usually following the dive at an agreed-upon restaurant

**DIVE LEADER:** Delbert Stewart, club president

Because this event is free, it is open to non-members!

Once a month, we will meet at the dive location on the Saturday morning immediately following the monthly club meeting. Since the location for a beach dive depends on the weather and ocean conditions, the exact dive spot will be chosen by the Wednesday monthly meeting and announced at the meeting, on the club's Facebook page, and by an email blast to club members. Most of the shore dives will be one tank, unless the group agrees otherwise.

**THE DECEMBER 21 BEACH DIVE WILL BE AT:** TBD. Announced at November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The beach dive schedule for the remainder of the year is:

- \* No beach dive in **November** due to the Annual Catalina Trip
- \* Saturday, December 21: last dive of the year.

If you have any questions or suggestions for beach dive locations, please feel free to email Delbert at [president@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:president@channelislandsdivers.org)

## **OCTOBER 16 SILENT BID WINNERS**

Guy McVicker - \$50 gift certificate from Channel Islands Scuba

Rexy Birchfield – “Landing Pad” beach changing pad

Bill Weinerth – Retractor & Compass

Andrea Dransfield – Atomic spring fin straps

Mike Cunninham - \$100 gift certificate from PCH Scuba

Door Prize: Fahmy Fahmy – Neoprene repair glue & Seagold mask defogger

Progressive Drawing: Lauren McDonald – iPad 9

### **\*\*\*NOVEMBER 20, 2024 IS PARTICIPATION DRAWING\*\*\***

**If you attended any of our events since our August meeting, your name is automatically entered in our Participation Drawing. No need to buy tickets or do anything else... as said, it's automatic!**

**If you wore a club tee shirt, hat, patch or other club merchandise to any of the events, your name is automatically entered a second time into the Participation Drawing.**

**If you posted photos or a video from club events on Facebook, your name is automatically entered for a third time into the Participation Drawing.**

**If you submitted a Dive Log of an event or an dive-related article to the Newsletter, your name is automatically entered for a fourth time into the Participation Drawing.**

**At our November 20 meeting we will draw a member's name, and that member will win a nice prize just for participating in August, September and October club events!**

#### **Schedule of special prize drawings:**

**PROGRESSIVE DRAWING MONTHS:** *January, April, July, October*

**PARTICIPATION DRAWING MONTHS:** *February, May, August, November*

**MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION MONTHS:** *March, June, September, December (dark)*

## Book of the Month

# *Jade Beneath The Sea*

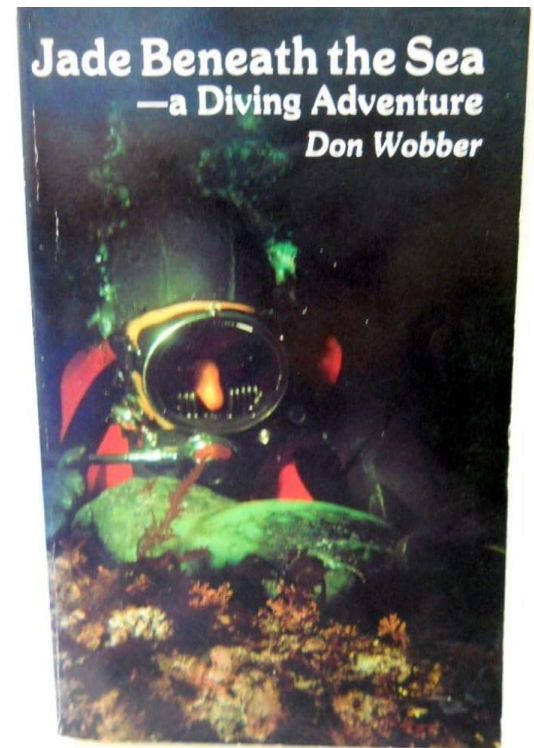
By Dan Wobber

*Jade Beneath the Sea* tells the fascinating story of a group of divers who found and removed a 9,000 lb. jade boulder from Jade Cove along the Big Sur Coast. This group also recovered other large jade pieces, but the book centers on their recovery of *Nephripod* (the name they gave their big rock). Following their struggles to remove the boulder, they then had a prolonged battle with the State trying to tax them for the value of it.

Club members who have dove Jade Cove or camped at Willow Creek Campground will find this book bringing back memories. Several years ago, on a club trip to Jade Cove, we met one of those divers from this rock recovery group. If I

remember correctly, he came to our campfire that night and then dropped by our camp the next day.

(This book donated to our library by Ann Hoagland. It is out of print, but somehow, she found a new one)



# Catalina Trip 2024



As the club meeting returns from the Annual Catalina Dive Trip, we have some pictures to add to this month's newsletter. It sure looks like the people involved had a good time and I'm sure they are looking forward to next year. Here are some pictures and quick article for this month.

Out of all the pictures and stories that I can see through social media and the emails sent, I think the two stories that really stood out was that **John and Melissa Wolfe celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** so congratulations to them! Cheers to many more! -Newsletter editor







## **12 Reasons to Love the Club Trip to Catalina – by Laura Forsyth**

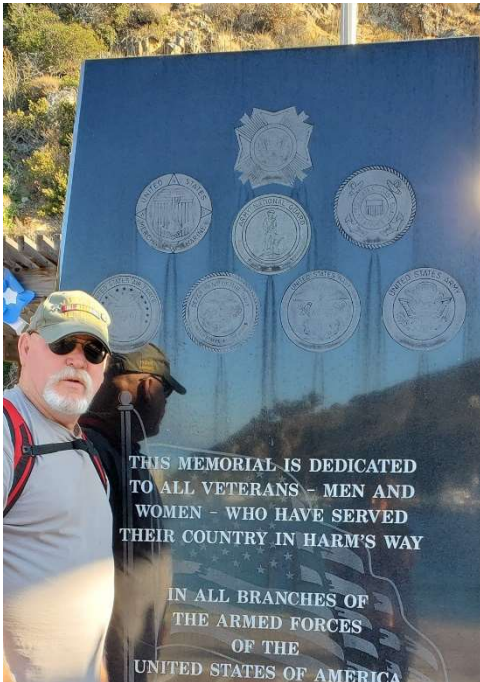
1. It's close, but far, far away!
2. The weather is great.
3. The good times start on the ferry and roll through the whole weekend.
4. We get to hang out with each other, have quality time, and get to be better friends.
5. We eat REALLY well. Some of us drink well.
6. Casino Point isn't crowded.
7. The Scuba Cat is always fun - this year, we fed abalone, had a leisurely visit with a horn shark, examined a pure white jellyfish up close and at length, and found lobsters in every nook and cranny at Italian Gardens. So many lobsters!
8. It's possible to run into some very interesting people there. This year, one of our dive masters was Suzy Degazon, AKA, UltraSuzy, an endurance athlete and SCUBA instructor with an incredible energy level, a great sense of humor and an astonishing athletic resume.
9. You can be busy every minute or just hang out and chill at the Pavilion.
10. You get to laugh a lot. A lot. Especially when John and Melissa throw a fabulous 10th anniversary cocktail party at the Topside!
11. Cutthroat Mini-Golf Tournament
12. The diving conditions are prime



## Saying goodbye to the Pavilion

As we said goodbye to Catalina this year, our departure was bittersweet. The club has been going to Catalina most years since 1996. During those years, the Pavilion Hotel became our home base, and we have such great memories of our times in the beautiful garden and around the fire pit. Unfortunately, it is an end of an era as we learned the Pavilion is closing on December 1<sup>st</sup>, and the building is scheduled to be torn down. We are told that the new hotel will be built on the spot and it is scheduled to open in 2026. Happily, the plans for the rebuild include saving the current beautiful center garden. We don't know what this means for the Channel Islands Divers annual trip. But for now let's take a look at the pavilion and remember the great times we had there over almost three decades. -Sandy Bickford

# Veterans Day at Catalina



**God Bless our Troops and God Bless the United States of America!**

# **CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY** **& PHOTO CONTEST!!!**



Yes, it's that time again.  
 He knows when you've been bad or good!  
 So be there for goodness sakes!

**December 7, 2024 - 6:00 PM until around 10:00 PM**

We are back to our traditional meeting place of Jennifer and David Morrison's clubhouse in Camarillo for a lot of food and libations, having a fun time with your friends, and sharing your diving stories! Your club provides the ham, the turkey and gravy, hot spiced cider, coffee, paper plates, utensils, napkins, condiments, cups, bottled water, and soft drinks and the ice to keep it cold.

### **What club members bring:**

A side dish to share, appetizers, grandma's Christmas special, desserts, breads, etc.

Your favorite adult-beverage for your enjoyment.

In honor of the season please bring a canned food product for the collection box to help those not as fortunate this holiday season.

Once again, we'll have the hilarious **White Elephant gift exchange** where guests bring a dive/ocean-related, wrapped gifts in the \$20 to \$30 range. When you see someone open a gift and you like it, wait for your turn, and **TAKE IT!!!**

### **The Photo Contest Winners will be announced!!**

We have some fantastic, quality photographers who submit outstanding photos every year in the categories of **Underwater Macro, Underwater Wide Angle, and Topside Photo**. There is also the first time ("**Novice**"), non-winner in the past, contest entry for those that are just figuring out how to take photos in the water. A truly amateur category, so even folks like me have a chance at winning! Let's not forget our **Underwater Video category**. The best of these categories will be acknowledged, and the winners will receive a framed print of their winning photos.

All of this and maybe more, in the same location, in the same evening?  
 You can ask the Elves for directions, but Google will probably get you there quicker.

**Pepper Farms Clubhouse**  
**2281 Calle Bellota**  
**Camarillo, CA 93010**

# CALENDAR

<p><b>NOVEMBER</b>            9 – 11 Catalina Dive Trip!            20 General Meeting            Speaker TBD  <b>PARTICIPATION DRAWING!!!</b>            25 Board Meeting</p> <p>No Beach Dive this month.</p>	<p><b>DECEMBER</b>            7 Annual Holiday Party &amp;            Photo Contest            21 Club Beach Dive</p> <p>No Club or Board Meetings in            December.</p>	<p><b>JANUARY</b>            15 General Meeting            Speaker TBD  <b>PROGRESSIVE DRAWING!!!</b>            18 Club Beach Dive            19 &amp; 20 First Aid &amp; Oxygen            Courses at CI Scuba            20 Board Meeting</p>
<p><b>FEBRUARY</b>            19 General Meeting            Speaker TBD  <b>PARTICIPATION DRAWING!!!</b>            22 Club Beach Dive            24 Board Meeting</p>	<p><b>MARCH</b>            19 General Meeting            Speaker TBD  <b>MEMBER APPRECIATION            DRAWING!!!</b>            22 Club Beach Dive            24 Board Meeting</p>	<p><b>APRIL</b>            16 General Meeting            Speaker TBD  <b>PROGRESSIVE DRAWING!!!</b>            19 Club Beach Dive            21 Board Meeting</p>

## Board of Directors

**Delbert Stewart, president**  
[president@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:president@channelislandsdivers.org)

**Bill Weinerth, VP/speaker seeker**  
[vicepresident@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:vicepresident@channelislandsdivers.org)

**Rob Mariton, secretary**  
[secretary@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:secretary@channelislandsdivers.org)

**Ann Hoagland, treasurer**  
[treasurer@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:treasurer@channelislandsdivers.org)

**Sandy Bickford, dive coordinator**  
[dive@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:dive@channelislandsdivers.org)

**Laura Forsyth, webmaster**  
[webmaster@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:webmaster@channelislandsdivers.org)

**Laurie Hennessy, raffle coordinator**  
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**Rob Johnson, membership coordinator**  
[membership@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:membership@channelislandsdivers.org)

**Franklin Murphy, newsletter editor**  
[editor@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:editor@channelislandsdivers.org)

**Steve Peterson, librarian**  
[library@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:library@channelislandsdivers.org)

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP: 116**

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:** Julia Beuning, Rebecca Birchfield,  
 Dale & Marci Burrows, Isaac Degado, Manuel Hurtado, Justin Shepard, Deidre Silva, Bilel Trabelsi

**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

Or, renew by Zelle: [cidtreasurer92@gmail.com](mailto:cidtreasurer92@gmail.com)