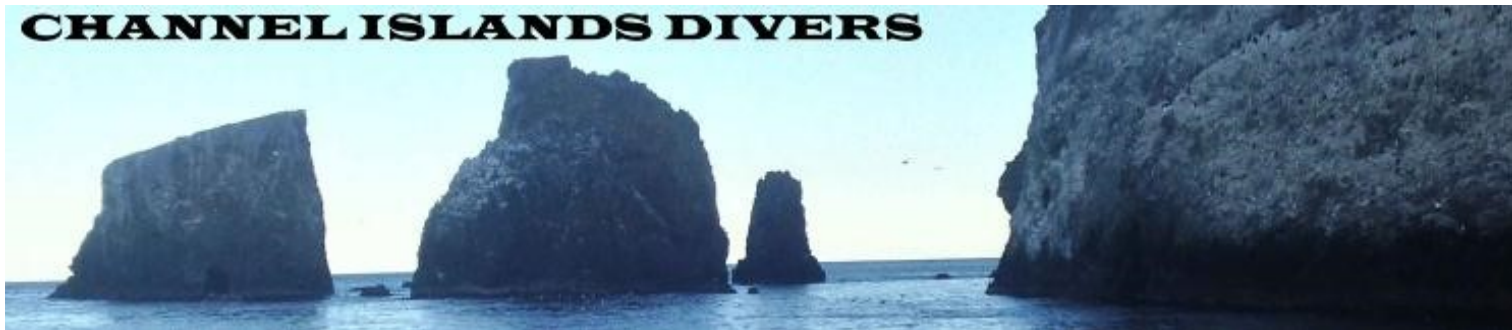
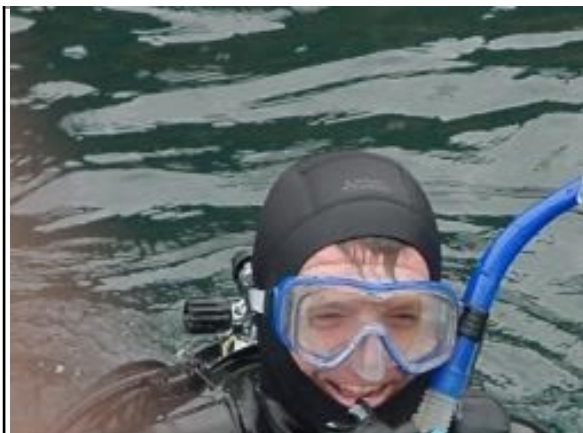


CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS



CELEBRATING OUR 31st YEAR! (established 1992)



**BOTTOM**  
**TIMES**

by club president, Mike Cunningham

Well, it's that glorious time of year again when we make our voices heard and gather to throw the bums out. And by bums, I mean others of course, not your current board!

***NEW MEETING TIME: 6:30pm***

Yes, it's the September elections and we get to choose who runs our club. Show up on the third Wednesday, the 20<sup>th</sup>, have a few drinks, look over the ballot, have a few more drinks and cast your vote. Like they say, vote early and vote often. All this before we move on to the really pressing business known as the general meeting. This is also the time we hopefully get to witness some brave soul that will stand before everyone and announce they would like to put their name in for Vice President/Speaker Seeker. Actually, any of the 10 Board positions, just give it a go, pick one, anyone, but the VP spot really, really needs someone's attention. Steve Peterson has told us he will gladly stand for his seventh year as your VP/Speaker Seeker. You read that right, 7 years now. He's done a fantastic job getting us speakers and really, another year with him is more than welcome but I don't think his retirement plan included 7 years of this. He's more of a do something else kind of guy. Mexico awaits, fish to fry and bugs to catch, you now, traveling and staying busy doing nothing while not being a slave to any schedule.

(continued on page 2)

**NEXT CLUB MEETING:**

**September 20, 2023**  
**6:00 PM-Dinner**  
**6:30 PM-Meeting**

**Black Bear Diner**  
**2401 E. Harbor Blvd.**  
**Ventura, CA 93001**

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**Many thanks to the sponsors of our club:**

***Channel Island Dive Adventures*** 

***Maverick UnderSea Divers (MUD)*** 

***Island Packers*** 

***Black Bear Diner*** 

***PCH Scuba*** 

### BOTTOM TIMES (continued from page 1)

It would be great if someone stepped up and gave Steve a great big thank you and sent him on his merry way. I'm pretty sure everyone in the building would give you their vote along with a big thank you. I know Steve and the board would be grateful. Just give it some thought. Most of us have waited until the last moment to put our name in, happens all the time. That's how I started. In that last minute before we vote, stand and announce your name and the position you'd like to run for. If you would like, let me know and I'll announce it for you since I'll be talking already, starting this month at 6:30. Yep, I'll start talking a full 15 minutes earlier now.

At this month's meeting, September 20, 2023, and all the general meetings going forward we are set to start at 6:30. The move to Black Bear Diner was great, something we needed and had been looking into for a while and I believe it's done a whole lot of good for the club, but it came with an end time included. Just the one condition, that's all. We agreed to be out by 8:45. Not 8:55 and not 9:10. In the past, if we ran long, no biggie, we just stayed longer. Not so much anymore. So far, we've managed to hold to 8:45 but at a small cost to some of our routine. We cut things short or skipped over them completely. But the worst part was I had to be on the ready to pull the plug on our speaker. Not literally pulling the plug, everything is wireless with battery backup now, but getting them to wrap it up like 'right now'. Not part of any job description I read. In keeping track over the months, I noticed, despite stressing out, we always made it but lost stuff like 'who's been diving lately' and 'open mic' got cut. The speakers knew this too and who knows, maybe they left something out, we'll never know. Then a few times we saw the time get away from us and had to kick it into our speed raffle mode. Our raffle coordinator, Teresa Ray came through every time but is always telling me on the ride home to stop doing that to her. Message received!

This month would have been a good example of the general chit chat that gets cut out. Folks are going to want to talk about the dive at Refugio, and the picnic in general. Hopefully a few people are going to stand to announce a desire to run for the board and then there is the voting itself. Passing out the ballots and then collecting them followed by the counting and the announcement of the results. All this on top of what might be cut but with some luck gets put back in. We think starting at 6:30 should take care of almost all of that. Speakers get to speak, I don't have to worry as much about the timing, raffle is not rushed, open mic and who's been diving lately are restored and our host gets the room back by 8:45.

It's time now to circle back to where I started.

This third Wednesday of the month, September 20, 2023, at 6:00 people start arriving with some get there before, we have the room early so feel free to arrive at 5:30 or so for dinner, drinks and socializing but the meeting does not officially get started until 6:30. I'll still give a 10-minute warning before it starts, this time at 6:20.

Once more for the record:

**THE OFFICAL START TIME FOR THE CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS GENERAL MEETING  
AT BLACK BEAR DINER IS 6:30.**

This is important because the first order of business in September will be the elections.

(continued on page 3)

### BOTTOM TIMES (continued from page 2)

We will pass out the ballots right at the start, so eat, drink, drink some more then vote and listen to me babble on and before the first break we'll get them picked up and start the counting. When we come out of that break we should know who won and we'll make the announcements before the speaker takes the mic.

And this month's speaker is none other than club member Stella Vaccaro, speaking on sharks I'm told. Talking about sharks on election night.... I think I'm reading more into that than I should. She has lots of experience diving all over the world and that has to mean she has lots of stories, good stories, and lots of pictures.

So, the important take away is, I'm Mike Cunningham and I'm running for President.

And yes, I approve this message.

*Mike*

### **SPONSOR'S CORNER:** PCH SCUBA 2024 TRIP TO ST. CROIX, US Virgin Islands

#### ***Exclusive, pre-sale offer for club members from our sponsor, PCH Scuba!!!***

The last two years, club members have joined in PCH Scuba's annual St. Croix dive trip. Talk to Joe & Laurie Hennessy, or to Sandy Bickford, and they will tell you St. Croix is a wonderful dive experience. With that in mind, PCH Scuba is offering club members the first chance to book the trip for July 2024, **before spots go on sale to the general public**. Here are some of the trip details:

- Location: Cane Bay Landing Resort (across from the famous dive spot, The Wall)
- Dates: July 27 - August 3, 2024.(Saturday to Saturday)
- Cost: \$1,399 per person, double occupancy; **\$500 non-refundable deposit** is required at the time of booking.
- Includes: Double-occupancy villa that has a full kitchen, with access to the resort's pool & laundry facilities; tanks & weights for The Wall dive; and at least two boat dive trips. (Not included: food, car rental, airfare, and tips for dive boat crew..)

***Call Brett Bovard at PCH Scuba to reserve your spot: 818-991-1800. Don't delay, because sale to the general public will open soon, and the trip always sells out within two months!***

## ***IT'S ELECTION TIME!***

Every year in September, as required by our by-laws, the **Channel Islands Divers** hold **elections** for the board of directors (BOD). Every position is available, some are open seats, some are not. In addition to written nominations, nominations from the floor are allowed at the June, July, and August meetings for names going on the ballots at the September meeting. Descriptions for each board position are in the next paragraph, and a self-nomination form can be found on the following page and on our Facebook page under the "files" tab. **Write-ins at the September meeting are allowed for that last minute decision.**

## **TERM LIMITS & CURRENT BOD STATUS**

Per the By-Laws of the Channel Islands Dive Club, Inc., Article VII: Election of Board of Directors, Section I:

"No board member may hold a specific board position for more than four (4) consecutive election years. In the event a term limit is reached, and at the time of the election no nominations for that position exist, the existing board member may run for said position for another election year."

To assist club members in deciding to run for the board of directors, or choose a nominee, here is the current status of each of the current board positions.

**PRESIDENT:** Michael Cunningham, elected September 2022. Mike has indicated a willingness to run for a second election year as President.

**VICE PRESIDENT/SPEAKER SEEKER:** ***OPEN.*** Steve Peterson, termed-out as of August 2022, but due to the absence of a nominee for the position, Steve agreed to fill the position for the 2022-23 year.

**TREASURER:** Ann Hoagland, appointed to the position in February 2023 after the death of our beloved Karen Duran. Ann has indicated a willingness to run for the position, which, if elected would be her first election year as Treasurer.

**SECRETARY:** Rob Marion, elected September 2021. Rob has indicated a willingness to run for his third election year as Secretary.

**MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR:** Laura Forsyth, elected September 2022. Laura has indicated a willingness to run for her second election year as Membership Coordinator.

**DIVE COORDINATOR:** Sandy Bickford, appointed to the vacant position in August 2022, and elected as Dive Coordinator in September 2022. Sandy has indicated a willingness to run for her second election year as Dive Coordinator.

**RAFFLE COORDINATOR:** Teresa Ray, elected September 2021. Teresa has indicated a willingness to run for her third election year as Raffle Coordinator.

**WEBMASTER:** Delbert Stewart, elected September 2022. Del has indicated a willingness to run for his second election year as Webmaster.

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** ***OPEN.*** No one ran for Newsletter Editor in September 2022, so our Dive Coordinator, Sandy Bickford, has been temporarily preparing the newsletter. However, Sandy has stated she will not continue to publish the newsletter beginning with the 2023-24 term.

**LIBRARIAN:** Mike Frabasilio has been filling this unofficial, non-voting position, and at the July 19 meeting, the Board voted to amend the by-laws and make the Librarian an official, voting position on the board of directors. Mike has indicated a willingness to run for his first term in the newly created board position.

# SPEAKER'S BIO

## Club Member: *Stella Vaccaro*

### SHARK DIVING & PRESERVATION



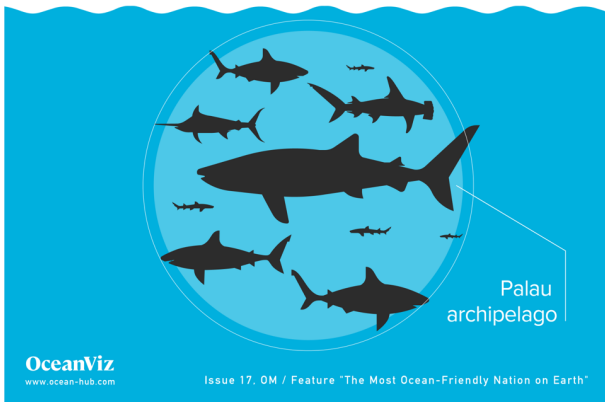
Stella Vaccaro  
PADI OWSI 151842

I started diving in 1989 in Belize, Central America, and over the last 34 years have dived in 12 countries. In 1995, I became a divemaster and co-dive center manager on islands in the Maldives and Zanzibar and later also became an instructor on the island of Maui. I recently moved back to the mainland after 13 years total living in Hawaii, and I have been mostly a sport diver the last 10 years. As my main career was quite busy, I continued to do dive travel, and fun diving right outside my home in Kona, Hawaii. I've always been passionate about diving and sharks from the very beginning and often took large stretches of time off from work as a Hollywood set designer to dive, especially with sharks.

While in Hawaii, I worked on two Jurassic Park movies (Jurassic World and Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom), Godzilla, Kong, Godzilla vs. Kong, and I was the art director on the final season of Hawaii 5-0. Most recently, I worked on two projects coming out in 2024: *Chief of War*, starring Jason Momoa (a historical drama series for Apple TV about the unification of the Hawaiian islands and its fight over colonization), and *Godzilla v Kong 2: The New Empire*, which will be in theatres in March.

I love sharing dive experiences, both as a listener and as storyteller. Sharks especially need a voice because they have been unfairly portrayed in entertainment and the news media, and, instead of being vicious killers, they are actually the victims of being slaughtered by humans. **Why does this happen? Because most consumers just don't know any better. So let's get smarter about sharks!**

## The world's first shark sanctuary opened in 2009





## NEW EVENT: *Spectre Boat Dive*

**WHEN: Saturday, November 18, 2023, 6:00am-4:00pm**

**WHERE: Dock D, Ventura Harbor**

**COST (members only): \$153 (regular price is \$185,  
plus credit card fees)**

**CLUB SPOTS AVAILABLE: 10**

We've had several diving opportunities in recent months, and it is now time for our final boat dive of the calendar year aboard the *Spectre*. Once again, the *Spectre* is offering a great discount to club members. However, you may notice that the club price is \$10 more than our previous trips. Well, yes, the general public price has gone up from \$175 to \$185 plus credit card fees, which brings the final price to around \$192 for the general public. Along with the general public price increase, the price charged to the club has also gone up. However, In the club's case, the *Spectre* does not pass along any credit card fees to us, so the overall saving per each club member is approximately \$39. That savings more than covers your club membership fee for the year!

Our Spectre spots usually sell out quickly, so don't miss your opportunity to go on our last dive trip of the year!

**A signup sheet will be available at our club meetings of September 20 & October 18.**

**\*\*\*Payment to "Channel Islands Divers," and Dive Trip Liability Releases are due no later than the club meeting of October 18\*\*\***

**NOTE: Cancellations are not eligible for refund unless CID or the Spectre is able to sell your dive spot (which we are usually able to do!).**

## **UPDATE ON OTHER TRIPS & EVENTS**

**SANTA ROSA ISLAND HIKE, September 23:** All 10 of the club discounts spots have been filled, and the Island Packers **boat is sold out for this trip**. You may still add your name to our waiting list in the event of cancellations.

### **MONTEREY WEEKEND & BOAT DIVE, October 20 - 22:**

- There is still time to sign up for the Asilomar Nature Walk with Ann Hoagland and the Wine Tasting Tour with the Morrisons. **See page 7 for details.**
- **BIG CHANGES FOR THE MONTEREY AQUARIUM, ON OCTOBER 22:**
  - ⇒ The Aquarium discontinued group discounts and special tours for large groups such as ours; therefore, all participants must buy their tickets directly from the Aquarium.
  - ⇒ In addition, the Aquarium no longer sells tickets at the facility. Tickets **must** be purchased online at: [montereybayaquarium.org](http://montereybayaquarium.org)
  - ⇒ Our sponsor, Channel Islands Dive Adventures, has a special Aquarium surprise for 6 lucky members who are going to Monterey. You must be present at our September 20 meeting to be eligible for the gift from CIDA.

### ***A Couple of Things to do While the Divers are Diving in Monterey: How about a stroll along the beach, with lunch afterward?*** ***by Ann Hoagland, CID Treasurer***

I love the Monterey area and have been visiting there since I was a kid.

While the divers are out on the boat on Saturday, October 21, I have a couple of things I plan to do.

I want to take a walk at Asilomar State Beach, in Pacific Grove, which is less than a 10 minute drive from where most of us are staying in Monterey. There's a nice trail with boardwalks in some areas and some beaches from which to just watch the ocean. The coast there is beautiful, rugged, and very different from our coast. Lots of tide pools. There are rough waves more often than not, though for the sake of the divers, we hope the ocean is fairly quiet. **So, I'm taking a leisurely walk along Asilomar State Beach on Saturday the 21st at about 10am. If anyone wants to join me, you are welcome to do so!**



### **ASILOMAR STATE BEACH**

When I've finished walking, I plan to go the **Carmel** and hunt for a place to park (never an easy task) so I can have **lunch at Flaherty's Seafood** on 6th Street between San Carlos and Dolores. I love their clam chowder and fresh salads. I first started eating there in 1977. (They opened in 1976. They were closed for one year in the 1980s when the owners settled a divorce, and I was so afraid they'd never open again, but, whew, they did!) By-the-way, there are no cheap restaurants in Carmel. After lunch, I plan to stroll the streets of Carmel and look at the expensive shops. I'll also stop in at **Carmel Bakery and pick up some elephant ears**. They make THE best elephant ears! This place has been around since **1899**, and anyone who wants to join me is invited.

**AND THE DIVERS THINK THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE ALL THE FUN!**

**\*\*\*8 PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY SIGNED UP! A signup sheet for Asilomar State Beach and/or Wine Tasting Tour with the Morrissons will be available at our September 20, & October 18 meetings.\*\*\***

## DIVE LOG

by new club member, Rob Johnson

**WHERE: Leo Carrillo State Beach, North Parking Lot**

**WHEN: August 18, 2023**

I attended my first CID meeting last Wednesday, August 16th. I met a few of the members, enjoyed Holly's presentation, and found out about the upcoming beach dive at Leo Carrillo state beach. Who would know that hurricane Hilary would threaten that same weekend? I was pleasantly surprised that Sandy called me the night before the outing and said everything was still a go and made sure that I knew where to meet everyone.

On Saturday morning, I checked the NOAA weather report, and it looked like the surf had increased from the previous day, but that there was a window of opportunity before the storm was to hit on Sunday. Driving down the coast, the water conditions didn't look great. At County Line, the surf was big and filled with surfers. Not a good sign. At 8:00 AM, there was Del waiting for all the divers to arrive. A few surfers on the small reef just to the north, but a decent entry point with smaller waves right off the end of the parking lot.

Del said the dive was on, Sandy checked everyone in, we got our gear ready, and quickly donned wetsuits to avoid more mosquito bites! After a group photo, we made our way to the water with the support of the land crew.

Surprisingly, visibility was better than I expected, a little surgy, but not too bad. We saw quite a few critters, lots of fish, and we even found a small pink abalone. Always good to see on any dive.

The best part of my experience was feeling accepted. It's tough being a newcomer, but everyone was helpful and made me feel welcome. A sign of a well-organized group. Thank you! I look forward to many more adventures.

*Rob*

### THE CID LEO CARRILLO DIVERS

**L-R:** Rob Johnson, Rob Marion,  
Andrea Dransfield, Bilel Trabels,  
Delbert Stewart, Ron Sisting,  
Brandee Sisting, Laurie Hennessy,  
Mike Frabasilio, Franklin Murphy,  
Carrie Eller

(Not shown: Joe Hennessy &  
Sandy Bickford)





**OUR SEPTEMBER 20 MEETING IS CLUB  
MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION DRAWING!!!**

In case you have forgotten, here is a reminder of what is meant by 'Membership Appreciation Drawing':

“As a member of this fine dive club who showed up to tonight’s meeting, you are in a drawing. No need to wear one of our pretty hats, shirts, or jackets; you don’t have to send anything to use in the newsletter or post our the club’s Facebook page; and, you don’t have to be in possession of those old, loser tickets from previous drawings. This is the easiest thing you’ll ever do. We’ll do all the heavy lifting. Just show up at our club meeting, and you automatically are in the running for a nice prize as part of the Membership Appreciation Drawing. No purchase is required, but, of course, you must be present at the meeting in order to win.” (Write-up courtesy of our club president, Mike Cunningham.)

So, come on out to the Black Bear Diner for our September 20 meeting, and let us thank you for being a member of Channel Islands Divers!

**August 16, 2023, CLUB MEMBERS' DRAWING(S) WINNERS**

**General Drawing:**

Lauren McDonald - Freshly caught Yellow Fin Tuna (gifted by member Eric Taylor)  
Jennifer Morrison - Original artwork plate  
David Cohen - Fresh Honey (gifted by member Bill Weinerth)  
Patrick Kelly - 2 Island Packers tickets to Santa Rosa Island  
Don Sisting - Angel Fish sculpture  
Franklin Murphy - Dive Parka  
Mike Frabasilio - Dive Vest

**Door Prize:**

Cindy Doyon - Night Diving Tank Light

**Participation Drawing:**

Rob Marion - \$25 gift card to Black Bear Diner

**Progressive Drawing Months:**

*January, April, July, October*

**Participation Drawing Months:**

*February, May, August, November*

**Membership Appreciation Months:**

*March, June, September, ~~December~~ (Dark)*

## DON'T FORGET TO GET YOUR CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS' PATCHES AND WINDOW STICKERS

Show your support for our club by placing a sticker on your car window and your dive tank. The club patches are perfect for dive parkas. (The patches are iron-on, and most dry cleaners will also sew the patch onto a parka.) Don't forget, displaying a patch or sticker at a club event enters your name into our Participation Drawing.

### Patches

One for \$3 or two for \$5



### Stickers

One for \$2 or three for \$5



See our club secretary, Rob Marion, to purchase patches and stickers.

### CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS' MERCHANDISE

**Our new club merchandise has arrived!**

#### New Inventory

- T-Shirts - \$20
- Ladies' V-Neck - \$15
- Zipper Sweatshirts - \$25
- Patches - \$3 each or 2 for \$5
- Stickers - \$2 each or 3 for \$5

#### Remaining Old Inventory

- New Condition - \$20
- Faded - \$10
- Hats - \$20

See our club secretary, Rob Marion, to purchase merchandise.

# THE CLUB, THE BOARD, MEMBERSHIP

## Channel Islands Divers - Ventura County's Premier Dive Club

3rd Wednesday of the month (*except December*); dinner at 6pm; **meeting starts at 6:30pm**  
**BLACK BEAR DINER, 2401 East Harbor Boulevard, Ventura, CA 93001**

### CALENDAR

<u>September 2023</u>	<u>October 2023</u>	<u>November 2023</u>
9 Refugio BBQ & Beach Dive 20 General Meeting-Stella Vaccaro (Shark Diving & Preservation) <i>Membership Appreciation Drawing</i> ELECTION OF 2023-24 Board 23 Santa Rosa Island hike 25 Board Meeting	18 General Meeting-Topic TBD <i>Progressive Drawing</i> 20-22 Monterey Weekend & <i>Beachhopper II</i> boat dive 23 Board Meeting	15 General Meeting-Topic TBD <i>Participation Drawing</i> 18 <i>Spectre</i> dive trip 20 Board Meeting
<u>December 2023</u>	<u>January 2024</u>	<u>February 2024</u>
2 ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!  <i>No Club or Board meetings in                      December.</i>	17 General Meeting - Topic TBD <i>Progressive Drawing</i> 22 Board Meeting	4-11 Key Largo dive trip 21 General Meeting-Topic TBD <i>Participation Drawing</i> 26 Board Meeting

### Board of Directors

Mike Cunningham, President  
[president@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:president@channelislandsdivers.org)

Steve Peterson, VP/Speaker Seeker  
[vicepresident@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:vicepresident@channelislandsdivers.org)

Rob Marion, 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)

Sandy Bickford, TEMPORARY Newsletter Editor  
[editor@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:editor@channelislandsdivers.org)

Del Stewart  
[webmaster@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:webmaster@channelislandsdivers.org)

Teresa Ray, Raffle Coordinator  
[raffle@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:raffle@channelislandsdivers.org)

Laura Forsyth, Membership Coordinator  
[membership@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:membership@channelislandsdivers.org)

Mike Frabasilio, Club Librarian  
[library@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:library@channelislandsdivers.org)

### Current Membership:

**85**

Welcoming new members to the club...  
 Many renewals, but no new members in August.

### Membership Policy:

Club policy is to drop members from the roster **THREE MONTHS AFTER MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION.**

#### New Membership:

Single - \$40  
 Family - \$55

#### Renewing Members:

Single - \$30  
 Family - \$45

**Please make all checks payable to:  
 CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS**

Please mail renewals to:

CID Membership  
 P.O. Box 5801  
 Ventura, CA 93005