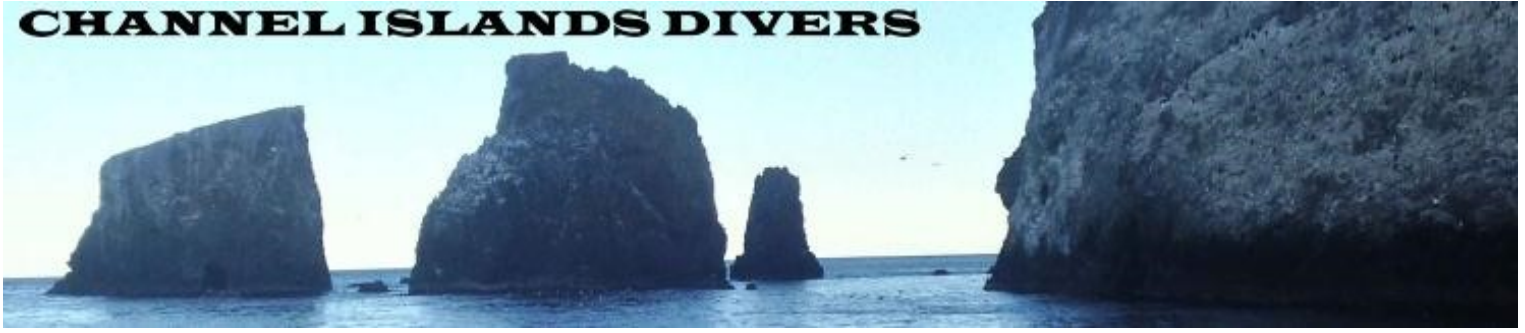


**CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS**



*CELEBRATING OUR 31st YEAR! (established 1992)*



**BOTTOM**  
**TIMES**

*by club president, Mike Cunningham*

Hello Channel Islands Divers,

So, what's everyone think of our brand new meeting place? Sorry, no pizza but you could have meatloaf or a

really good chicken fried steak or any number of other tasty dishes.

Me? I thought the meeting was great. The board as a whole thought it was fantastic. A nice layout with everything and everybody close enough but with just enough room left to walk about. The way the board sets up shop before our general meetings made our whole layout and functions new. We all found our spot and it worked, me personally, I think it's the best layout we've had. And then they have a speaker with a microphone. That's the one we used. It worked good, and it made that setup part of my job easy, real easy. The down side was it had a wired microphone, no wireless mic's that we've grown accustomed to so there was no walking around and handing the mic over to other people to speak. Fixed that, now we're back to wireless so I can visit all corners of the room again. No one is safe now.

We had a lot of little things taking place but, in the end, it all came together nicely. Our first time there combined with them not really 'expecting us yet', we got it done, not perfect yet, but on target. We had a really good turn out with 42 as the official count for the night and with that we got ourselves a little packed in towards the end, but that's a good thing. I don't see being packed in as a problem but a good sign and for that we also have an easy fix.

*(continued on page 2)*

**NEXT CLUB MEETING:**

**April 19, 2023**  
**6:00 PM-Dinner**  
**6:45 PM-Meeting**

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

**CONTENTS:**

**Bottom Times**  
**Pages 1 & 2**

**Sponsors' Corner: CIDA & PCH Scuba 2024 trips**  
**Page 2**

**April Progressive Raffle: SeaLife Underwater Smartphone Housing**  
**Page 3**

**Speakers' Bio: Spearfishing & Free Diving the Channel Islands**  
**Pages 4 & 5**

**Club Patches, Stickers & Other Merchandise**  
**Page 6**

**Scenes from the Club's Spectre Dive Trip**  
**Pages 8 - 10**

**New Event: Peace Dive Trip**  
**Page 11**

**Other Events Updates & Calendar**  
**Pages 12 & 13**

**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)

For those that missed it, here's your chance to make up for that. Where back there at the same place for our April 19th meeting. Well almost same place, we're moving to the big room. That's our fix for a tight fit. At our first meeting we packed the room out so starting in April when you walk in just past the front desk, turn left to our room, not right like in March. About 10 steps shorter is all. That's the change we have. You'll see why they call it the BIG room as soon as you enter. This room is HUGE. A new challenge, let's pack this room out too.

We agreed to be out by 8:45 and we were. The only little problems have been addressed. They do know now and will know every month in advance we are coming, and they say they'll be staffed accordingly. At the last meeting we caught them short handed and as a compromise we agreed to choose dinner off the 'little less' portions of the menu. This was to make it easier for the cooks. We tried telling everyone as they came in but we missed a few. They didn't complain about it. They didn't bring it up. I asked later if there were any problems with ordering off the little less menu. I was told a few didn't but that's not a big deal or something to that effect. Now we're back to the full menu if you want. The 'little less' is still an option, your call.

Last month I talked about making a good first impression, I think with everything going on, we still succeeded. I know they made a good impression on me and the board. They stepped up and it showed.

So, let's do this again, show up around 6 and let's see if we can't pack out this new and improved BIG room too. Like last month's meeting we'll start arriving around 6 for socializing and dinner with the official meeting kicking off at 6:45, a full 15 minutes early to help ensure we are done and out by 8:45.

Don't forget. April is the Progressive drawing so bring all those loser tickets and hopefully you'll be holding the lucky one. We have a neat progressive prize this month, look elsewhere in this fine publication for an article describing it in detail.

All of that, toss in a door prize and out by 8:45, like we were never there.

Like a ninja on a rebreather.

Thank you and see you at the Black Bear Diner on the 19th of April.

Here's their web and street address, for those that might want it.

2401 Harbor Blvd, Ventura, CA 93001-3917  
<https://blackbeardiner.com/location/ventura/>

Mike Cunningham

**Sponsor's Corner:** Are you wanting to take an **international dive trip** so badly you can hardly stand it? Well, you are in luck. Two of our sponsors, **PCH Scuba** and **Channel Islands Dive Adventures (CIDA)**, have trips to the Philippines scheduled for 2024. Here is a sneak peek at each trip:

- PCH Scuba - Dumaguete, Philippines; March 19 to 26, 2024; Price per person \$3,100; Trip Highlights = black volcanic beaches, hard coral reefs, and snorkeling with Whale Sharks in Oslob! **More information:** [pchscuba@gmail.com](mailto:pchscuba@gmail.com) or call (818) 991-1800.
- CIDA - Crystal Blue, Anilao, Critterhunt Photo Workshop; May 20 to 30, 2024; Price per person \$2,395; **AND** Crystal Blue, Anilao, Blackwater Photo Workshop; May 30 to June 7, 2024; Price per person \$2,295; Trip Highlights = Renowned photographer Mike Bartick, along with Bruce Shafer, will be on each trip, which includes support from Ultralight Control Systems, Inc. **More information:** [ken@channelislandsdiveadventures.com](mailto:ken@channelislandsdiveadventures.com) or call (805) 469-7288.

## APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER

# OUR APRIL MEETING IS CLUB MEMBERS' **PROGRESSIVE DRAWING!!!** *By Raffle Coordinator, Teresa Ray*

Month-after-month, you look at those ticket numbers that never got called; those are called **loser tickets**. Loser tickets are ALMOST worthless; however, every three months, they are **VERY VALUABLE** due to the Club Members' Progressive Drawing. Bring your tickets from February and March, and then add in any tickets from April 19 that didn't win, and you will have a second chance to win an impressive prize with your Loser Tickets!

And, here is the exiting news: The April Progressive Drawing prize, sponsored by PCH Scuba, is one you don't want to miss! It is a:

### SeaLife SportDiver Underwater Smartphone Housing for iPhone & Android

<https://www.sealife-cameras.com/product/sportdiver-underwater-smartphone-housing/>

My first thought on this was no way, what if it leaks and something happens to my phone? I can't risk losing my business lifeline. Although I will use an older back-up phone if I win this, to me it makes great sense to take on vacation or to use it for learning to take underwater photos on a budget.

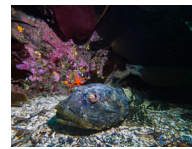
Not long ago I bought a great start-up system from club sponsor, Ken Kollwitz/CIDA/Ultralight Control Systems and was thinking of taking it with me to the Bahamas next month but I'm afraid it will get damaged. Way too much system, too soon for traveling. This would fill that need nicely.

To learn more about the great features it has and to give yourself a chance of winning it, you'll have to show up Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. Or you can stay home and read about it online while the rest of have a great time at our new Black Bear Diner meeting spot.

I hope to see you all there!

**You don't necessarily have to be at our April 19 meeting, but your Loser, now WINNING TICKET, must be there!**

*(Published photos taken with SeaLife Smartphone Housing are courtesy of Bluewater Photo.)*



## **MARCH 15, 2023, CLUB MEMBERS' DRAWING(S) WINNERS**

### General Drawing:

**Teresa Ray - Lycra dive socks (PCH Scuba)**

**Mike Cunningham - Retractor (PCH Scuba)**

**Mike Laban - Dive booties (PCH Scuba)**

**Ann Hoagland - \$60 air fill card (Maverick UnderSea Divers)**

**Jimmy Harvey - Dive vest (PCH Scuba)**

**Ron Brunski - 2 Island Packers gift certificates (Island Packers)**

**Alex Wied - Diving hood (PCH Scuba)**

**Jessica Hodge - Dive light (PCH Scuba)**

**Pat Kelly - Dive gloves (PCH Scuba)**

**Diane Stevenson - Tusa Paragon S dive mask (PCH Scuba)**

### Membership Appreciation:

**Sheri Green - Club Tshirt**

### Door Prize:

**Fahmy Fahmy - Club hat**

### PCH Scuba Special Drawing:

**Mike Laban - \$100 PCH Scuba gift certificate**

### Progressive Drawing Months:

*January, April, July, October*

### Participation Drawing Months:

*February, May, August, November*

### Membership Appreciation Months:

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

Prices for Tickets: \$20 = 35 tickets

\$10 = 15 tickets

\$5 = 6 tickets

\$1 = 1 ticket

**SPEAKERS' BIO**

**APRIL 19, 2023 MEETING**

**John Barrus, Lee Mackay, and Tom Hodge**

**Freediving and Spearfishing The Channel Islands**

Lee and John have been friends since elementary school. Almost 20 years ago, a mutual friend suggested we all go camp on Catalina Island. He brought a small speargun with him, and we all spent the weekend snorkeling and trying our best to catch fish. We were hooked. Over the years spearfishing has become a passion, progressively moving from beach diving in Malibu, to kayak diving, to buying boats and running out to the Channel Islands, including San Clemente and Santa Barbara island, in pursuit of large pelagic game fish and giant lobster. While heavily involved in the Boy Scouts of America, Tom was looking for help taking some scouts on a scuba adventure to Santa Cruz. He caught wind of what Lee and John were doing and asked for some help with the trip. After getting a little exposure to spearfishing and free diving on that trip, Tom was hooked instantly. He went through the progression of scuba diving, gathering lobsters, shooting reef fish, and then making the jump into free diving and hunting pelagic fish. Together we have expanded our range, taking many trips down to Mexico, and later this year we are scheduled on another adventure to spearfish for large halibut in Alaska. We are excited to share our knowledge of the sport and talk about our many adventures.

**See the next page for examples of the game John and Lee have caught at our Channel Islands.**

**AND SPEAKING OF OUR CHANNEL ISLANDS...  
ANACAPA UNDERWATER WEBCAM**

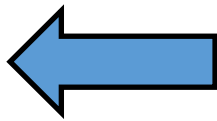
Our immediate past-president, Mike Doyon, asked the question, "Did you know the Park Service has an underwater webcam at Anacapa Island?" If your answer to this questions is, "No," check out the link to the underwater webcam supplied by Mr. Doyon:

<https://www.nps.gov/chis/learn/photosmultimedia/ocean-webcam.htm>

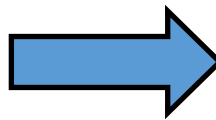
And while you are there, check out the other webcams offered by the National Park Service, such as the Ranger Station on San Miguel, the bald eagle camera on Santa Cruz, and the Mt. Diablo camera on Santa Cruz.

Thank you, Mike, for passing along this information!

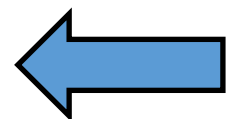
**APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER**



**John Barrus with 60 lb white sea bass.**



**Lee Mackay with halibut.**



**John Barrus with 14 lb bug caught freediving at Santa Cruz Island.**

**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.)**

**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.**

## SCENES FROM THE SPECTRE DIVE TRIP

MARCH 18, 2023

### A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR SPECTRE DIVE TRIP FROM THE CLUB'S YOUNGEST MEMBER

### SAMANTHA MARION



"I had so much fun on the Channel Islands dive trip. I saw lots of sea lions, a few garibaldi, and opaleye. The boat was great; the chicken was so good, and so was the dessert. The ride to Anacapa was very smooth. I'm grateful for Sandy taking care of me on the first dive. Thank you Sandy for setting up this trip!"

—SAMMY—

(Awww! You're welcome, Sammy.)

Sammy and her Dad, club secretary Rob Marion, getting ready for their nearly 45 minute snorkel with about 40 female sea lions.

## DIVE LOG BY TONY FRABASILIO

**Dive Sites:** Anacapa Island on the *Spectre*  
(Cat Rock/Pyramid Point; The Lighthouse; *Winfield Scott* Wreck)

**Average Depth:** 40 to 60 feet

**Visibility:** 20 to 40 feet

**Temperature:** 53 degrees (Brrrrrrr!!!)

We started off at Santa Cruz Island, but the conditions were bad, so we took a short boat ride over to Anacapa. Our first dive spot at Cat Rock/Pyramid Point was a rather easy dive, with lots of dry suits due to the cold water. There was some current, but the highlight was hunters had good luck finding scallops at this site.

Our next dive site was The Lighthouse, where we were met with a huge raft of female sea lions. It was hard to tell who was having more fun, the divers and snorkelers who were watching the sea lions, or the sea lions who were having a great time darting around the people in the water.

Out of the three dives, the *Winfield Scott* wreck was the best! Monster lobsters, four large horn sharks, one horn shark egg, and schools of fish. Of course, the *Spectre* ship crew were very helpful on all the dives, and the food was excellent.. We had an added bonus on our way back when we were able to see the Pt. Mugu Air Show from the ocean, which was delightful,



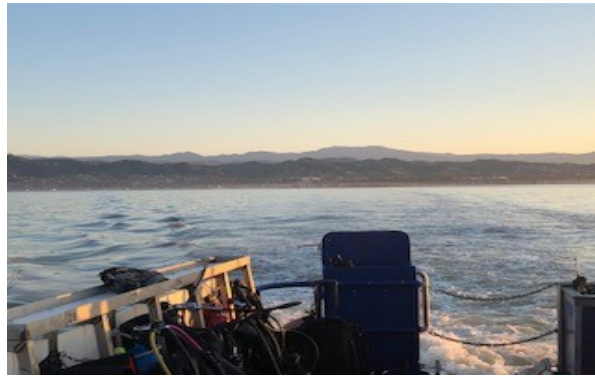
The sun isn't up yet, and we haven't left the dock, but Tony is already attending to the first task of the day - Prepare the camera!

**SCENES FROM THE SPECTRE DIVE TRIP (continued)**

**MARCH 18, 2023**



**How can Eric be so happy at 6:00 in the morning? (I guess the answer is, "Because he's going diving!")**



**7:00 AM, we are on our way, as a sleepy Ventura is beginning to wake up.**



**Quick trip over to Anacapa, and it is time to suit up for the first dive of the day.**



**The Marion Family, all suited up and waiting to drop anchor for our first dive of the day. (Sammy, Rob, and Lina)**



**Captain Nathan maneuvering us to just the right spot for a perfect dive. And, yes, the waters at Anacapa were very calm.**



**First dive at Cat Rock/Pyramid Point.**



**Look at the happy faces of Tony, Teresa, Patrick, and Fahmy as they wait their turn to take a giant stride into their first dive of the day!**



**SCENES FROM THE SPECTRE DIVE TRIP (continued)**

**MARCH 18, 2023**



**The Lighthouse: Second dive of the day. . .**



**. . . where the lovely ladies of the ocean (sea lions) greeted us!**



**Sammy and her Dad, Rob, snorkeling out to meet the ladies!**



**In honor of St. Patrick's Day, David leads the galley in singing an Irish Sea Shanty, complete with barking sea lions. (That would be us!)**



**And, after a fun day on the *Spectre*, what could be better than a nap, as demonstrated by Sammy, or a soak in the hot tub and visiting with friends, as demonstrated by Fahmy and Sandy?**



***SCENES FROM THE SPECTRE DIVE TRIP (continued)***

***MARCH 18, 2023***



***THE CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS!***

**L - R: Patrick Haskins, Eric Taylor, Teresa Ray, Fahmy Fahmy, Sandy Bickford, Lina Marion, Sammy Marion, Rob Marion, Tony Frabasilio (Not shown: Steve Lancaster and David Guth)**

**YOU ASKED FOR IT, YOU GOT IT!**

**NEW CLUB EVENT: DIVE TRIP ON THE PEACE DIVE BOAT**

**July 2, 2023 6:00 AM**

**Cost per diver: \$169 (members only)**

**Spots available: 7**



Now that you've looked at the fun we had on our March 19 *Spectre* trip and are wishing you had been there, it is time to start thinking about the club's next dive trip!

Several club members have asked me about the possibility of diving off the *Peace*, and now we are going to do it! But before I get into the details of the trip, here is a little information about the *Peace*:

The *Peace* is a 62 foot, wooden hulled boat that was built in 1972 specifically for diving. It can accommodate a maximum of 30 divers, and has game tanks and freshwater tanks for cameras, as well as four compressors that can fill tanks to 3,500 PSI. There is a comfortable galley and bunk room (bedding **is not** provided), and let's not forget a hot tub for a nice soak after a day of diving!

Here are the details of our trip:

- When - Sunday, July 2, 2023. Boarding at begins 6:00 AM, with **MANDATORY** security briefing at 6:45 AM
- Where - The *Peace* is located in the Ventura Harbor, Dock E (below the grassy area at the end of shops)
- Cost - \$169 per diver (available to members only)
- Number of club spots available - 7
- What to bring - All dive equipment, including weights and tank (equipment may be rented at Dive & Sport)
- What's included in the price - Three dives, air fills, lunch, snacks, and non-alcoholic drinks (32% Nitrox is available for a charge of \$10 per fill; passengers may bring their own alcoholic drinks, stored in a cooler)

We received a **nice discount** from *Peace* management, with the normal price for spots on an open boat being \$185. Bookings through a store or another dive club usually range between \$200 to \$225, so you can see our club members are receiving a significant discount for this trip.

**Club members attending our April 19 meeting will have the first opportunity to sign up for the dive trip on the *Peace*. (A waiting list will be available in case all spots are filled at our meeting.)**

\*\*\*Checks made payable to "Channel Islands Divers," and the club's completed Dive Trip Liability Release are due no later than **Saturday, June 10, 2024.**\*\*\*

Refunds for cancellations are available until June 17. After June 17, refunds will not be issued by either the club or *Peace* dive boat, unless we are able to fill the vacancy from the club's waiting list.

**SEE THE SIGNUP SHEET AT OUR APRIL 19 MEETING!**



## UPDATE: OTHER CID EVENTS



**April 29 - Ojai Raptor Center Tour and Lunch:** **Members only.** All 10 spots full.



**May 20 - Harmon Canyon Hike and Lunch:** Free. Open to non-members. Currently, 18 members and guests have signed up for the hike. Harmon Canyon re-opened on April 7.



**June 18 - Anacapa Seagull Rookery Trip on Island Packers:** **Members only price = \$59.** Club member discount spots remaining: 3 (We may be able to book additional member spots, if needed.) Non-members may book directly with Island Packers at the regular price of \$63. Members may also use gift certificates from club raffles by booking directly with Island Packers. The boat is filling quickly, so if you are booking directly with Island Packers, don't wait too long to make your reservations.



**September 9 - Refugio BBQ and Beach Dive:** Free; open to non-members for a \$5 CID fee. State Park entry fee \$10. Many members tried to get campground reservations, and after researching with the State Parks' Office, members were told the public tends to book extra days on their reservation so they can beat the 6 months' opening-of-reservations restriction. The State representative said cancellations often occur, so CID members should check back frequently for open campground spots. Reservations website: [reservecalifornia.com](https://reservecalifornia.com)



**October 19 to 23 - Monterey Weekend and Boat Dive:** So far, we have 27 members and guests signed up for our Monterey Weekend. Here is the status of things to know:

- \* **Hotel:** Open to non-members (no group rate). The Lone Oak Lodge is filling up, so room rates are also going up. To book your room: [loneoaklodge.com](https://loneoaklodge.com)  
Our Dive Coordinator has a list of more affordable lodging options on Fremont Street, near the Lone Oak.
- \* **10/20, 9:00 AM, Whale Watching** - Open to non-members. 21 members and guests have indicated an interest in whale watching. To book your reservation, go online with Monterey Bay Whale Watch at [montereybaywhalewatch.com](https://montereybaywhalewatch.com) The club and our sponsor CIDA are going on the 9:00 AM, 3.5 to 4 hour cruise. Lower deck price: \$81; Upper deck price: \$92
- \* **10/20, 6:00 PM, Pot Luck** - Open to non-members. Our entire group is welcome to gather at the Lone Oak Lodge for our traditional pot luck dinner. Bring an item from home, get takeout from a local restaurant, or buy something at the grocery store to share with others in our group. The club will provide paper products and bottled water.
- \* **10/21, Beachhopper II boat dive** - **Members only.** All 10 spots are filled, but a waiting list is available for club members.
- \* **10/21, Pacific Grove beach hike and lunch** - Open to non-members.  
Details of this activity will be provided in a future newsletter.
- \* **10/22, Group Tour of the Monterey Bay Aquarium** - Open to non-members. 19 members and guests have expressed an interest in a group tour of the aquarium. Tour prices are expected to be around \$75 per person. More details will be provided in a future newsletter.

**For questions, or to sign up for these or other CID trips/events, please see our Dive Coordinator at any club meeting. You may also email the Dive Coordinator at [dive@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:dive@channelislandsdivers.org)**

# 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 6:45pm**

**BLACK BEAR DINER**

**2401 East Harbor Boulevard, Ventura, CA 93001**

### CALENDAR

<u>APRIL 2023</u>	<u>MAY 2023</u>	<u>JUNE 2023</u>
19 General Meeting-John Barrus Lee Mackay, Tom Hodge (Free Diving & Spearfishing) <i>Progressive Drawing</i> 24 Board Meeting 29 Rescheduled Ojai Raptor Center Tour	17 General Meeting-Bret Niedens (Diving in Florida) <i>Participation Drawing</i> 20 Hamon Canyon Hike 22 Board Meeting	3&4 Long Beach Scuba Show 18 Anacapa Seagull Rookery trip 21 General Meeting-Cherryl Connally (Island Packers) <i>Membership Appreciation Drawing</i> 26 Board Meeting
<u>JULY 2023</u>	<u>August 2023</u>	<u>September 2023</u>
2 Peace Dive Trip 19 General Meeting-Ken Kollwitz (Diving the Philippines) <i>Progressive Drawing</i> 24 Board Meeting	16 General Meeting-Topic TBD <i>Participation Drawing</i> 19 Local Beach Dive (tentative) 21 Board Meeting	9 Refugio BBQ & Beach Dive 20 General Meeting-Topic TBD <i>Membership Appreciation</i> 25 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: 75**

**Welcome new members!**  
Michael & Betsy Laban  
Lana Shirotov

### Membership Policy:

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

<b>New Membership:</b>	<b>Renewing Members:</b>
Single - \$40	Single - \$30
Family - \$55	Family - \$45

[membership@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:membership@channelislandsdivers.org)

Please mail renewals to:  
CID Membership  
P.O. Box 5801  
Ventura, CA 93005