

CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS

NEXT CLUB MEETING:

MAY 15, 2024

6:00PM Dinner

6:30PM Meeting

Black Bear Diner

2401 E. Harbor Blvd.

Ventura, CA 93001

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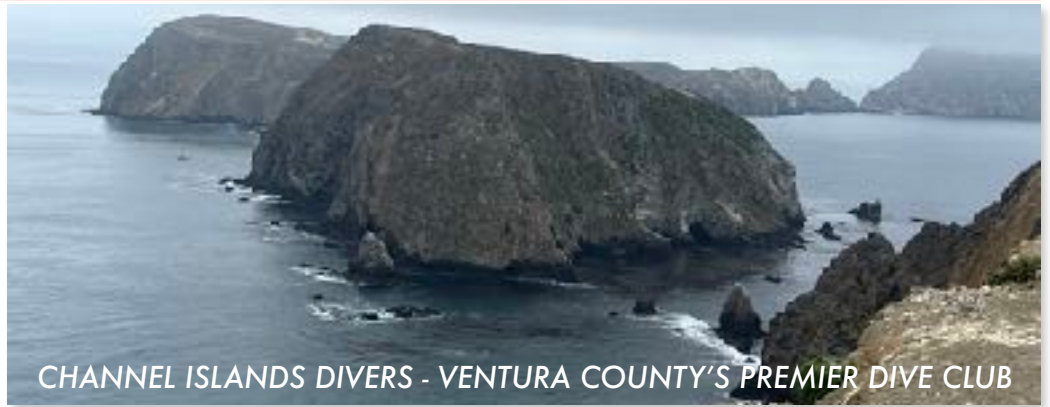
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Many Thanks to our Club Sponsors!

- ♦ **Channel Islands Dive Adventures**
- ♦ **Maverick UnderSea Divers (MUD)**
- ♦ **Island Packers**
- ♦ **Black Bear Diner**
- ♦ **PCH Scuba**



BOTTOM TIMES

By Mike Cunningham

Club President

Welcome to May, Summer is here, almost. It's not raining and it's not in the low 40's so there is that.

And just like that, we are off to a good start with our monthly beach dives, and we just had a fantastic boat dive off the Spectre and I believe there is another boat dive off the Spectre in the works. Speaking of big boats and cold water, if Chuck Norris was on The Titanic the iceberg would have avoided the ship. Just saying. Then in a few short months we have the Refugio BBQ picnic and general good time event. There will be shore diving then as well, along with some great food and libations.

With lots of things to do you have plenty of time to get all those pictures and videos ready and sent in for the 2023 and the 2024 Photo Video contest. Yep, two years' worth, since we missed last year's awards at our annual Christmas party. Any photo or video from the last 2 years can be sent to president@channelislandsdivers.org along with the official entry form and you are in. Who knows, maybe get your own framed picture with 'First Place' in big letters along with your name etched in, suitable for hanging.

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The **2024**
SCUBA SHOW IS HERE!

LOS ANGELES
CONVENTION CENTER
JUNE 1-2, 2024



Over 80,000 square feet of exhibit space, hundreds of exhibitors, seminars, clinics hosted by industry experts, and much more!

- Door Prizes including scuba gear, accessories, and dive trips
- Saturday night party and Scuba Service Award to Bob Hollis
- Try scuba diving!
- For tickets and more information:
- scubashow.com



I know our Christmas party, where you'll get that award on December 7, is a long way off but the way I see it your odds are looking really good as of now if you get an entry in. You'll be up against, let me do a quick check, zero folks to date. Heck, I might even have a chance with those odds.

But before all that and to be honest, making all that possible, we have an election for the Channel Islands Divers Board of Directors. That great collection of 10 volunteers who are needed to get all those pesky little ducks in a row. It's just like trying to herd kittens. Fun and entertaining but you have to pay attention because you have hundreds of little things happening all at once to make that one big thing work. If that doesn't scare you off, you're the one I'm looking for. Before Refugio and before the Christmas party we will have an election. 10 spots up for grabs, some open, some not.



In the following months, this fine Newsletter will be listing the various positions and the responsibilities of each. Easier yet, just watch us as we perform our duties. You've all seen me at meetings, somewhere in the back of your mind you have to be screaming to yourself, geez, even I could do that. Or you could watch as someone on the Board at any of our gatherings gets up and does what she or he does. Ask yourself these two simple questions. Does that really look hard? Doesn't it look like we are having fun doing it? These aren't trick questions. It is easy and it is fun. About as simple as drinking water. We are all volunteers in our own club. Time to step up folks, pay it forward, do your duty, yada yada yada. You get my point.

Join us at a Board meeting and see for yourself just how easy and fun it can be, and no I'm not going to say anything about watching the sausage being made. What you see is what you get. No secret handshake and no decoder ring needed, just a rather simple event leaning towards the dull side. That's the following Monday after our third Wednesday of the month general meeting. Ask anyone on the board where we'll be meeting.

This you can do on Wednesday, May 15, in Ventura over at Black Bear Diner, all starting about 6, the Channel Islands Divers will be having our general meeting, once again we're back in the BIG room. I hope to see you all there. I'll end with this little tidbit; Chuck Norris is the narrator of Morgan Freeman's life.

-Thank you, Mike Cunningham

Welcome May Speaker AUBRIE FOWLER on California's Marine Protected Areas

Join us May 15th to meet Aubrie Fowler, South Coast Specialist on Marine Protected Areas. Aubrie calls Southern California home.

She spends nearly every day exploring nature, especially during her ocean adventures like diving and sea cave kayaking. Aubrie is a recent divemaster (trained in Indonesia in some of the world's strongest currents!) One of her favorite places to explore above and below water is in marine protected areas (MPA's) and her current position as South Coast Specialist at the MPA Collaborative Network allows her to connect with communities who rely on these special places.

She travels to the Channel Islands on weekends to lead guided kayak and snorkel tours with Channel Islands Adventure Company as well!

She has worked with various nonprofit organizations, including Surfrider Foundation, leading and coordinating members and volunteers. She worked as a California Sea Grant Fellow (2017-18) as the Resource Protection Specialist at the NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary where she led programs to reduce the threat of ship



ship strikes to whales and collaborated with lobster fishermen to remove lost gear and other marine debris from the Channel Islands. She is an advocate for engaging youth, and worked as a Naturalist at Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ambassadors of the Environment Program.

She holds a Bachelor and Master of Science degrees from California Polytechnic State University where she majored in Biological Sciences with an emphasis on Marine Biology and Fisheries.

-Welcome, Aubrie, and we can't wait to meet you and hear more about your work! In the meantime, find out more at:

<https://www.mpacollaborative.org/>



[YouTube_California's Marine Protected Areas](#)

Check out and subscribe to the Marine Protected Areas Collaborative Network's YouTube Channel!





THIS SATURDAY JOIN US AT OUR 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 LEADERS: Del Stewart and Mike Frabasilio

*Because this event is free, it is open to non-members!
Non-divers also welcome for land support and going out to lunch after our dive!*

The schedule for our regular monthly beach dives for the remainder of the year is as follows:

- * Saturday, May 18 - Silver Strand Beach / La Jenelle shipwreck
- * Saturday, June 22
- * Saturday, July 20
- * Saturday, August 24
- * No beach dive in September due to the Annual Refugio BBQ & Beach Dive
- * Saturday, October 19
- * No beach dive in November due to the Annual Catalina Trip
- * Saturday, December 21

If you have any questions or suggestions for beach dive locations, please feel free to email Del at webmaster@channelislandsdivers.org or Mike at librarian@channelislandsdivers.org.

A sign-up sheet will be available at all monthly meetings so we can determine the interest in the club's monthly beach dive.

Beach Dive Report

by Del Stewart

We had so much fun at our April dive event!

We had total of 9 participants that attended. The day was a little bit gloomy and we encountered a bit of surf, a bit challenging, but that did not deter this valiant group of divers.

We were all lined up at the shore, counting the waves to find the perfect moment to enter, when Franklin just put his fins on and plunged into the surf, kicking like a mad man nonstop until he passed the waves with no issues. I was very impressed. I have never seen anyone enter this way before, but it worked! Everyone felt encouraged and copied his technique and followed him in, kicking like their life depended on it...Except my dive buddy Andrea and myself; we held back, went at it old school and cleared the waves on the lull with no issues.



Visibility was not the best, as expected with all this terrible weather, but it cleared up a little bit as we kicked out. After the dive, a few of us settled into the sand and enjoyed each other's conversation while we ate our lunch and took in the beautiful morning.

I am so looking forward to our next club dive at Silver Strand Beach where la Jenelle shipwreck sits.



Way to go Channel Islands Divers April Beach Dive Team!



DIRECTIONS TO MAY 18 CLUB BEACH DIVE:

[GoogleMapLinkToLaJenellePark](#)

Note: Google maps will try and lead you thru the naval base which is prohibited. So be sure to enter Channel Islands Harbor thru Victoria off Channel Island Blvd. and make a left on Island View Ave, drive all the way down till the road ends and make a right which will lead you straight to the beach gate. The parking lot is about 50 yards down the road.

Meeting time is 8 am, bring a lunch to enjoy during our debrief at the beach.



OVERVIEW MAP TO MAY 18, 8am CLUB BEACH DIVE:



SILVER STRAND BEACH

NEW CLUB EVENT: WHALE WATCHING WITH ISLAND PACKERS

Sunday, June 23, 2024 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (6 hours)

Price for club members: \$75

Did you know gray whales were once common throughout the Northern Hemisphere, but they are now only regularly found in the North Pacific Ocean, off the coasts of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and eastern Asia? These large mammals can grow to approximately 49 feet long, weigh about 90,000 pounds, and they make a 12,000 mile roundtrip migration through our backyard (the Santa Barbara Channel) twice a year.

Island Packers reported an exceptional Winter migration of the gray whales. Along with the gray whales, passengers also saw numerous humpback whales, thousands-upon-thousands of common and bottlenose dolphins, and even a basking shark! Now that we are entering the gray whale's and BLUE WHALE'S northern migration season back to the Arctic, the club has booked a non-landing whale watching trip, which will be led by our own Bill Weinerth and Steve Peterson as Park Service Naturalists. Here are the specifics of the trip:

- * Price: \$75 for club members. (Non-member must book directly with Island Packers at the regular price of \$79.)
- * Club spots available: 10
- * Departure: Island Packers, Ventura Harbor, 1691 Spinnaker Drive, #105B, Ventura, CA 93001
- * Time: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (The Summer trips are longer than the Winter trips because Island Packers travels a greater distance to take advantage of the daylight hours and increase the chance for spectacular sightings.)
- * Food: Lunch can be ordered online at islandpackers.com, or we are also allowed to bring lunch with us. Snacks are available for purchase onboard. Bring cash! The credit card scanner doesn't always work.

A SIGNUP SHEET WILL BE AVAILABLE AT OUR MAY 15 CLUB MEETING



or email Sandy, our Dive Coordinator, at
dive@channelislandsdivers.org

channelislandsdivers.org

Channel Islands Divers APRIL MEETING RAFFLE WINNERS!



GENERAL PRIZE DRAWING:

- ◆ Franklin Murphy - Seadoo Scooter
- ◆ Dana Werner - Omaha Steak hamburgers (!)
- ◆ Bill Weinerth - Travel scuba fins
- ◆ Ken Kollwitz - Angle weights
- ◆ **Sammy Marion - Jar of Weinerth's Honey**
- ◆ Rob Schaffer - XS Scuba dive mask
- ◆ Teresa Ray - Wetsuit hoodie
- ◆ Guy McVicker - \$50 gift certificate from PCH Scuba
- ◆ Andrea Dransfield - \$50 gift certificate from PCH Scuba



PROGRESSIVE DRAWING:

- ◆ Andrea Dransfield - Beach/equipment wagon



- ◆ *Welcome to our new members who joined in April:*
- ◆ *Chris O'Neill, Nina Jean "Storm" Thurston-Keller, and Captain and Owner of the Triton Diving Charters, Danny Graham*





Meet one of our newest Channels Islands Divers club members, Danny Graham

Danny owns and captains **Triton Diving Charters**, which specializes in small-group, custom boat dives to the Channel Islands. (Ask our own Ken Kollwitz more about it!) Triton offers single-day charters, overnights, **and** multi-day charters.



Danny is a passionate and knowledgeable captain and technical diver, with decades of experience diving the Channel Islands. With Summer fast approaching, check out Triton Diving Charters for some very special dive adventures, from private access to the Channel Islands, to tech-diving the recently discovered, 250ft-deep dredging barge wreck off of Pt. Mugu. Lots of incredible dive stories and information can be found on their website - definitely worth a visit to: tritondivingcharters.com

Welcome, Danny, we are so happy to have you with us!



C A L E N D A R

<p>MAY 2024</p> <p>11 Ventura Botanical Gardens Hike</p> <p>15 General Meeting Aubrie Fowler Marine Protected Areas</p> <p>18 Club Beach Dive</p> <p>20 Board Meeting</p>	<p>JUNE 2024</p> <p>19 General Meeting Jimmy Harvey Navy Diving</p> <p>22 Club Beach Dive</p> <p>23 Whale Watching with Island Packers</p> <p>24 Board Meeting</p>	<p>JULY 2024</p> <p>17 General Meeting Speaker TBD</p> <p>20 Club Beach Dive</p> <p>22 Board Meeting</p> <p>28 Spectre Boat Trip</p>
<p>AUGUST 2024</p> <p>10 Beach Cleanup @ Hueneme Beach!</p> <p>21 General Meeting Milton Love - Rigs to Reefs</p> <p>24 Club Beach Dive</p> <p>26 Board Meeting</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 2024</p> <p>7 Refugio BBQ & Beach Dive</p> <p>18 General Meeting Speaker Steven Peterson</p> <p>21 Club Beach Dive</p> <p>23 Board Meeting</p>	<p>OCTOBER 2024</p> <p>16 General Meeting Speaker TBD</p> <p>19 Club Beach Dive</p> <p>21 Board Meeting</p>

Board of Directors

Mike Cunningham, President
president@channelislandsdivers.org

Bill Weinerth, VP/Speaker Seeker
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Rob Marion , Secretary
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raffle@channelislandsdivers.org

Laura Forsyth, Membership Coordinator
membership@channelislandsdivers.org

Mike Frabasilio, Club Librarian
library@channelislandsdivers.org

Current Membership: 103

Membership Policy:

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

Renewing Members:

Single - \$30 Family - \$45

New Membership:

Single - \$40 Family - \$55

Welcome new members!

Josh McGowan, Micah Overmon, and Greg Wood

membership@channelislandsdivers.org

Please mail renewals to:

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



Or renew via Zelle from your app/website.
Send payment to: cidtreasurer92@gmail.com
Add message with description, e.g., "shirt", "trip deposit", "membership renewal", etc. *Thanks!*