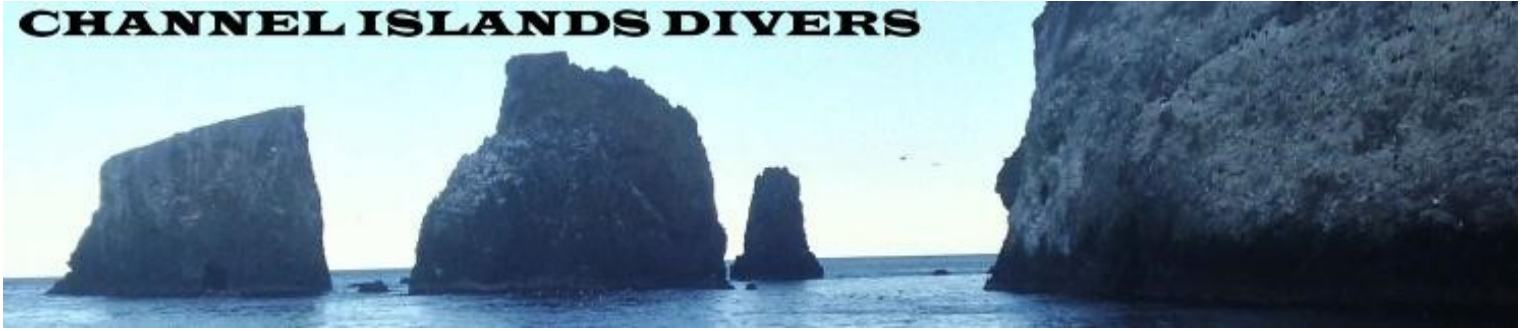


MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS



CELEBRATING OUR 31st YEAR! (established 1992)

NEW MEETING LOCATION and EARLY START TIME!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023

**BLACK BEAR DINER
2401 EAST HARBOR BOULEVARD
VENTURA, CA 93001
(805) 665-9109**

6:00 PM - Dinner

6:45 PM - EARLY START TIME FOR MEETING



The Black Bear Diner manager, Javier Diaz, and his team have rolled out the red carpet for our club. We can order off the entire menu, and separate checks will be issued to each customer.

When you see Javier, be sure to thank him for opening the meeting room to us. Also, be sure to tip your server generously!!!

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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

By club president, Mike Cunningham



Good day Channel Islands Divers. It's a new day, new month and a new meeting place.

A brand new meeting place. You don't get to say that often.

This is going to be the very first of what I hope are many General Meetings at Black Bear Diner. Real convenient and very easy to find, it's right off the 101 in Ventura at the Seaward offramp. If you're coming on the 101 heading north, towards Ventura, exit Seaward Ave., go left and then left again on Harbor Blvd. You'll see it there on your right, in the Vons parking lot next to the Chevron

station. If you're coming on the 101 heading south, towards Ventura, exit Seaward Ave., go left on Harbor Blvd and go up just past Seaward Ave. you'll see it on your right hand side, in the Vons parking lot next to the Chevron station. Getting back on the freeway from there is even faster. Leave the parking lot going left onto Harbor Blvd. and right on Seaward Ave, then right turn for south or left turn for those going north.

Here's an idea, Google 2401 Harbor Blvd, Ventura, CA 93001-3917. I guess I could have led with that, right? While you're online looking, check out their website and glance over their menu.

<https://blackbeardiner.com/location/ventura/>

The board has met there twice now with most of us dining there on our own. Teresa and I have eaten there a dozen times or so and I haven't been disappointed with anything I've ordered. Everyone says the same.

It's a nice big room, more square than a long skinny room like at Pizza Man Dans but only 1 TV. It's up high and the tables will be arranged so nobody has to turn around to see the speaker or TV. If we get lucky and pack the place out our first night, they'll bring in more tables. That would be great for our first night.

There is one important take away from our conversation we had with the manager, he likes to close at 9. So, it was agreed by us, 8:45 will be our end time. Meaning we are done, they are cleaning up and for the most part we are out of the building.

Like they say, 'you don't have to go home but you can't stay here, get out!'

(continued on page 3)

Looking Ahead - Annual Refugio BBQ & Beach Dive, September 9

MAKE YOUR CAMPING RESERVATIONS NOW! It is already time to look ahead to the club's annual Refugio BBQ & Beach Dive, which is scheduled for September 9 this year. If you are planning to camp at Refugio around the date of the BBQ, remember, reservations open 6 months from the date you plan to start camping.... that means if you haven't already done so, you should make your camping reservations as soon as possible! To reserve a camping spot, see the State's website at:

RESERVECALIFORNIA.COM. Don't delay if you are planning to camp at Refugio because the campground fills up quickly.

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BOTTOM TIMES (continued from page 2)

But worry not. Having our meetings end around 8:30 to 8:45 is not a hard task to accomplish. If you think about it, that's how most of our meetings go. Out between 8:30 and 9:00. We just have to make sure it's 8:45 not 9:00. But still, all of that falls to me and the running of the meeting along with help from the whole board. We're going to do what it takes to get us out on time. First impressions do count, and I believe it's important that we make a good first impression.

The last meeting at Pizza Man Dans ran way over and for that I apologize. I won't let that happen again, especially for our first night in our new room. First impressions do count!

So, show up around 6 and let's pack out our new room, sit back and enjoy good food and great company, watch and listen to this month's guest speaker's presentation on Maldives by club members Donnie Lockwood and Heather Moine followed by the club raffle and ending the evening with our Membership Appreciation drawing and out by 8:45, like we were never there.

The way I see it, if we can spend 45 minutes getting lost in kelp and surface right at the swim step with air left...this should be easy, we can make it happen.

So make plans on being there if you can, if not, well, still make plans on being there. You never know.

Thank you and see you at the Black Bear Diner on the 15th of March.



Join the club's group on Facebook: Channel Islands Divers
Also, don't forget to visit our website at www.channelislandsdivers.org
for copies of Newsletters and useful information about our club.

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER



MARCH 15, 2023 MEETING SPEAKERS' BIO

Club members Heather Moine & Donald Lockwood present: **THE MALDIVES**

Heather Moine and Donald Lockwood are excited to share their Maldives SCUBA diving experience with CID through the lens of their underwater cameras.

In early 2019, Heather and Donald met and quickly realized each had experience diving. As their relationship continued, they also became dive buddies and started regularly diving the Santa Barbara Channel, mostly the mainland, on the hunt for nudibranchs. After keeping a regular pattern of diving in our rocky-reef kelp forests, they fantasized about diving in warm water together. Jump to Maldives, July 2022. Heather captures her experiences with a point-and-shoot/happy-snappy Olympus TG-6 with housing and video lights, and Donald captures mostly marine life with a Sony A7 III with a Sigma 105 macro lens. Their photos will highlight the beauty of the Maldives and the diversity of marine life it has to offer.

SPONSORS' CORNER: This month the club presents an extended version of our Sponsors' Corner so we may review some of the benefits received for being members of Channel Islands Divers (CID). Our sponsors are very generous to the club, so please show your appreciation by visiting their shops and participating in their trips and activities!

Island Packers: Island Packers is the club's oldest sponsor. Almost since our founding in 1992, we have taken at least one trip per year on Island Packers where we receive a **nice group discount** for the trip. In addition, every year Island Packers' owner/operator, Cheryl Connally, gives **numerous gift certificates** to the club for our Raffles. Be sure to stop by the main office of Island Packers in the Ventura Harbor and thank them for supporting the club all these years. Also, don't forget to browse their gift shop. There are several wonderful items that every diver, camper and hiker can use for outings. Visit Island Packers' website at www.islandpackers.com to see about upcoming trips.

Channel Islands Dive Adventures (CIDA): Channel Islands Dive Adventures has also been supporting our club for a very long time. Not only do club members receive a **5% discount** on almost all CIDA trips, including international trips, CIDA and its sister company, Ultralight, have been very generous with **gift certificates** for all our Raffles. Of course, CIDA's owner, Ken Kollwitz, has also been a speaker several times at club meetings, and he has facilitated trips for the club, including our upcoming Monterey Weekend, at terrific group rates for club members. See our club's Dive Coordinator, Sandy Bickford, or email Ken at ken@channelislandsdiveadventures.com to receive the club's discount code..

PCH Scuba: PCH Scuba gives **huge discounts** to the club, up to 30%, for the raffle prizes offered at each of our club meetings. Brett works closely with our Raffle Coordinator, Teresa Ray, to choose items that are useful and desirable to divers and non-divers alike. The discounts don't end with just our raffle prizes, because **ALL Members** are eligible to receive discounts on purchases made at the shop. Just be sure to say you are a member of Channel Islands Divers and be prepared to show your membership card to take advantage of the sizable discounts on store merchandise. Of course, PCH Scuba also has nearly monthly dive trips to Catalina Island at an excellent price, as well as many international trips that are available during the year. To check out available trips and other stove events go to www.pchscuba.com

Maverick UnderSea Divers: Our sponsor for many years, Maverick has been generous to the club by providing "buy 3, get 1 free" **air cards** to the club for our new members. It is a great benefit to club members to be able to receive any type of discount for air fills, as well all know. In addition to air cards, Maverick provides prizes for our Raffles, and gives the club priority notice about special events or sales at the store. Club members may also receive discounts on stores items and equipment maintenance. See Maverick's website at www.maverickunderseardivers.com

NEW CLUB EVENT: ANACAPA SEAGULL ROOKERY TRIP

Saturday, June 17, 2023 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Group Rate: \$59 per person (club members only)

**Led by club members, and Channel Islands Naturalists,
STEVE PETERSON & BILL WEINERTH**



NOTE: If you have any expired gift certificates from Island Packers, manager Cheryl Connally said the certificates will be honored for club members. So, take advantage of this trip, and use your old Island Packers' gift certificates!

Anacapa is the smallest of the Northern Channel Islands. It is actually three islands, and it is also the only one of the islands off our coast that does not have fresh water. However, the lack of fresh water does not mean that Anacapa is still not a spectacular place to visit. The 1.5-mile, round trip hike from the 1932 Anacapa Island Lighthouse and the National Park visitor center, reveals one of the best views in the park; inspirational even on a foggy day.

Western gulls almost exclusively breed on islands off the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington, and Anacapa Island is one of the largest breeding centers for western gulls in the U.S. Anacapa's isolation and freedom from predators, such as foxes and nonnative rats, are crucial for these seabirds to successfully breed and rear their young. The breeding/nesting period is May through July, and approximately 5,500 nests are observed each year. A western gull's nest starts as a scrape or depression in the ground, with twigs and grasses added to form a nest bowl in which the eggs are laid. Some gulls prefer to build their nests in small cliffside caves. They usually lay 2-3 eggs, which are incubated for 4 weeks. We are scheduling our trip during the month of June in order to have the best opportunity to observe the small chicks and their downy feathers, which they have during the first month of life.

Other things to know about the Anacapa Seagull Rookery Trip:

- We are booking **8 spots** at the group rate for club members. More spots can be added, if needed.
- The \$59 group rate is only available to club members. Non-members must book directly with Island Packers at the regular rate of \$63 per person.
- Bring a jacket, hat, sunscreen, and wear sturdy shoes. The island can often become very windy as sea conditions change during the day.
- This is an all day trip, so bring plenty of water and a picnic lunch. Leave **NO TRASH** behind!
- The 1.5 mile hike through the nesting grounds is an easy one, but we have to climb 157 stairs from the landing to reach the lookout at 200 feet above sea level.



A signup sheet will be available at our March 15th meeting.

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RESCHEDULED TOUR OF THE OJAI RAPTOR CENTER

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023 11:30 AM

(all spots currently filled - waiting list available)



Our long-awaited tour of the Ojai Raptor Center is coming up on Saturday, April 29, 2023, at 11:30 AM. Due to the date change of the tour, we have also had several changes in club members attending the tour. All 10 spots have been filled by members who were on the waiting list. Things may continue to change during the month we have left before the tour, **so you may still add your name to the waiting list.**

If you wish to add your name to the waiting list, please see your Dive Coordinator at either the March 15 or April 19 meetings. If you prefer, you may email me at dive@channelislandsdivers.org, and I will add your name to the waiting list.

Two things to note before signing up for this event:

- * Children must be **over the age of six (6)** to attend the presentation and tour the facilities.
- * Masks are required to be worn while at the Ojai Raptor Center.

At approximately 12:45 PM, our group will be meeting in Oak View for lunch at:

Ojai Pizza Company, 880 Ventura Avenue, Oak View, CA 93022. 805-646-7878

Even if you don't attend the tour, come on out and join us for lunch!

(Club members pay for their own lunches.)

HARMON CANYON HIKE SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023 9:00am-Noon

**Free to members and non-members
(Lunch at Sushi Fresh, Ventura, after the hike)**



The Harmon Canyon Preserve is Ventura's first large-scale nature preserve, and, at 2,100 acres, visitors enjoy hills and canyons that feature oak groves, stream crossings, and breathtaking views of the Southern California mountain ranges, coastline, and the Channel Islands National Park islands.

The response to the announcement of our first club hike of 2023 has been outstanding!

Since the hike was announced at our February meeting and in our newsletter, **12 club members have already signed up** for this club event. By May, our much needed rain should have passed us by, so don't miss the opportunity to take advantage of this beautiful hike, literally in our own backyards!

Things to know about hiking the Harmon Canyon Preserve:

- Location: 7511 Foothill Road, Ventura (Approach from Kimball Road, and from Foothill turn right onto Mittie Place to reach trailhead parking. **NO LEFT TURN IS ALLOWED FROM FOOTHILL ONTO MCVITTIE.**)
- The hike is of MODERATE difficulty.
- Elevation from the Preserve entrance to the Overlook Bench is 1,007 feet.
- The main Overlook Bench Trail can become very warm due to absence of shade, **so please be sure to bring plenty of water with you.** May is Springtime, so also bring plenty of mosquito spray with you.

After our hike, we will gather at Sushi Fresh on the corner of Victoria Avenue and Telegraph Road for a well-deserved lunch. Club members and guests pay for their own lunches.

A signup sheet will be available at our March 15 and April 19 meetings. Please indicate if you will be bringing guests with you, including dogs! Also, please let us know if you plan to join the group for lunch after the hike.

MONTEREY WEEKEND AND BOAT DIVE October 19 to October 23, 2023



Boat: *Beachhopper II* (beachhopper2.com)
Cost: \$125 (payable to "Channel Islands Dive Adventures")
Number of dive spots remaining: 0
(members only for the boat dive; waiting list is available)

Hotel: Lone Oak Lodge
2221 Fremont St., Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 372-4924 www.loneoaklodge.com
Cost: \$189 to \$206 per night+12.80% tax & \$64 fee

The response to our announcement at the last club meeting about our partnership with Channel Islands Dive Adventures (CIDA) for a Monterey Weekend and Boat Dive has been very positive. Seventeen club members have already signed up for the trip, and **we have filled all 10 spots** for the Saturday, October 21 dive trip aboard the *Beachhopper II*. If you wish to go on the boat dive, remember, cancellations always happen, so a waiting list will be available at our March 15 meeting or you can get your name on the waiting list by email the Dive Coordinator at dive@channelislandsdivers.org.

For those going on the *Beachhopper II*, **tanks are not provided**, so bring two (2) of your own tanks. You may also rent tanks at www.beachhopper2.com. If you are going to rent tanks, do so well in advance of our trip.

NOTE: USE THE HOTEL'S WEBSITE TO MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATIONS. When booking my own room at the Lone Oak Lodge, I discovered the reservation desk didn't yet have the off-season prices in their system. The price quoted to me was almost \$300 more than our off-season prices should have been. I went to the website at www.loneoaklodge.com and found the nightly prices were what we had originally expected. In addition to the high quote for the room, I also discovered Monterey has a very high sales tax rate of 12.80%, and the city tacks on a \$64 tourism fee for all transactions.

We are still finalizing the schedule for the weekend, but this is what we have planned so far:

- Thursday, 10/19 - Arrive late in the day.
- Friday, 10/20 - Morning whale watching trip with CIDA. Make your reservation directly with the charter operator at: <https://gowhales.com>. At around 6:00 PM, we will have a group potluck at the Lone Oak Lodge.
- Saturday, 10/21 - Two tank dive aboard the *Beachhopper II* (members only). Possibility of Ranger-led hike or other activity for non-divers.
- Sunday, 10/22 - Group tour of the Monterey Aquarium (open to non-members)
- Monday, 10/23 - Depart, have a safe trip home!

A signup sheet will be available at all club meetings until June 21, 2023, which is when payment for the *Beachhopper II* boat dive is due. The signup sheet will include spaces for members to indicate their intension to participate in the potluck dinner, whale watching, boat dive, or Monterey Aquarium tour.

Remember: Checks for the *Beachhopper II* boat dive are payable to "CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVE ADVENTURES," and must be submitted to the club's Dive Coordinator no later than our meeting on **June 21, 2023.**

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February 15, 2023, Raffle Winners:

John Piatt - Lycra socks (*PCH Scuba*)
Teresa Ray - Fleece poncho (*PCH Scuba*)
Mike Cunningham - Club tee shirt
Ann Hoagland - Club patch and stickers
Eric Taylor - Rescue mask (*PCH Scuba*)
Bill Weinerth - Wrist slate (*PCH Scuba*)
Lennie Weinerth - Noise maker for tank
Karina East - Hat
Pat Kelly - Scuba signal tube (*PCH Scuba*)
Ken Kollwitz - Channel Islands mug

Participation Raffle:
Laura Forsyth - Dive weights bag

Door Prize:
Brandee Sisting - Club hat

Progressive Raffle Months: *January, April, July, October*

Participation Drawing Months: *February, May, August, November*

Membership Appreciation Months: *March, June, September, December (Dark)*

*****DON'T FORGET - Our March 15 meeting is MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION RAFFLE month. Just by being a member of Channel Islands Divers and attending tonight's meeting, you are eligible to receive a prize as a sign of appreciation for your support of the club*****

What is *Progressive Raffle*? Do you have losing raffle tickets? **DON'T THROW THEM AWAY!** Every three months, you have a chance to turn those losing tickets into a winning ticket. All tickets since the last Progressive Raffle are placed back into the bin, and one ticket is drawn, with the winner receiving an extremely valuable prize. Past winning Progressive Raffle prizes have included tanks, computers, GoPros, etc. As I said, very valuable prizes, indeed! ***You do not have to be at the meeting, but your previously LOSING TICKET must be present to win!!!***

What is *Participation Drawing*? When you attend a club-sponsored event, in addition to having a wonderful day of diving, enjoying a beautiful day of hiking, or chowing down on great food, your name automatically goes into a drawing we call Participation Drawing. ***You do not have to be present to win.***

What is *Membership Appreciation*? As a member of this fine dive club who showed up tonight, you are in the 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; and, you don't have to be in possession of those old loser tickets. This is the easiest thing you'll ever do. We'll do all the heavy lifting! Just sit back and wait. ***Obviously, you must be present to win.***

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.**

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

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>MARCH 2023</u>	<u>APRIL 2023</u>	<u>MAY 2023</u>
15 General Meeting: Heather Moine & Donald Lockwood (Maldives Trip High-lights) Membership Appreciation Raffle	19 General Meeting: John Maris (Free Diving) Progressive Raffle	17 General Meeting: Bret Niedens (Diving in Florida) Participation Raffle
18 Spectre Dive Trip	24 Board Meeting	20 Hamon Canyon Hike
20 Board Meeting	29 Rescheduled Ojai Raptor Center Tour	22 Board Meeting
<u>JUNE 2023</u>	<u>JULY 2023</u>	<u>August 2023</u>
3&4 Long Beach Scuba Show	2 Peace Dive Trip (tentative)	16 General Meeting: Topic TBD Participation Raffle
17 Anacapa Seagull Rookery trip	19 General Meeting: Ken Kollwitz (Diving the Philippines) Progressive Raffle	19 Local Beach Dive (tentative)
21 General Meeting: Cheryl Connally (Island Packers) Membership Appreciation Raffle	24 Board Meeting	21 Board Meeting
26 Board Meeting		

Board of Directors

Mike Cunningham, President
president@channelislandsdivers.org

Steve Peterson, VP/Speaker Seeker
vicepresident@channelislandsdivers.org

Rob Marion, Secretary
secretary@channelislandsdivers.org

Ann Hoagland, Treasurer
treasurer@channelislandsdivers.org

Sandy Bickford, Dive Coordinator
dive@channelislandsdivers.org

Sandy Bickford, TEMPORARY Newsletter Editor
editor@channelislandsdivers.org

Del Stewart
webmaster@channelislandsdivers.org

Teresa Ray, Raffle Coordinator
raffle@channelislandsdivers.org

Laura Forsyth, Membership Coordinator
membership@channelislandsdivers.org

Mike Frabasilio, Club Librarian
library@channelislandsdivers.org

Current Membership: 91

Welcome new members!
RON BRUNSKI & KARINA EAST

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

membership@channelislandsdivers.org

Please mail renewals to:

CID Membership

P.O. Box 5801

Ventura, CA 93005

For your convenience,
we now accept renewal payments through

PayPal