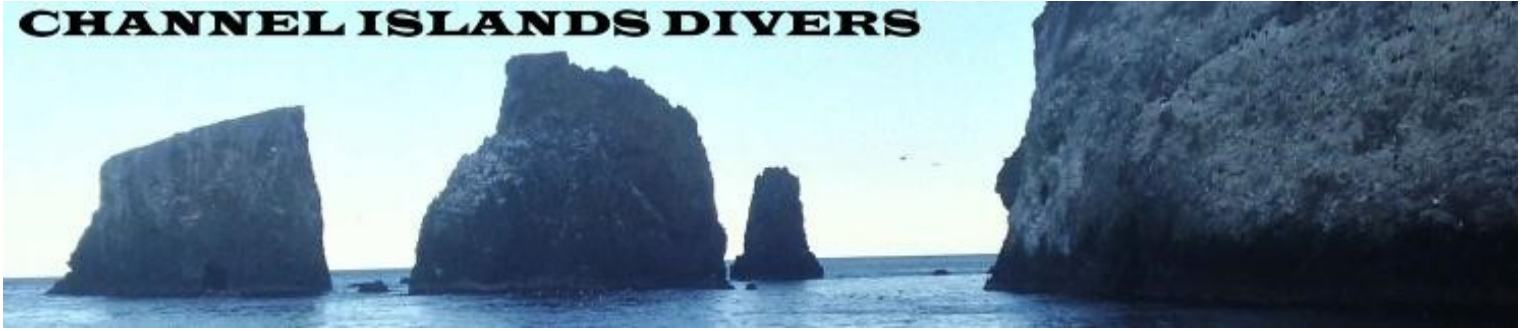


CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS



CELEBRATING OUR 31st YEAR! (established 1992)



BOTTOM TIMES

by club president, Mike Cunningham

Happy February everyone. Now with life in general getting back to normal, you would expect things to start falling into a calmer even flow, an easy day to day or maybe just a boring routine. Not going to happen, not yet at least.

We started the year out with the news of our good friend Karen Duran's passing. She is missed, I miss her, and I don't see that changing any time soon.

Last meeting at Pizza Man Dan's, management was about to give the room to another group that claimed they always have it on the third Wednesday of the month. We could have lost the room. Rob setting up was what saved the night. Later, the management did approach me asking if I could call a few days before to make sure they know we are coming. I will be calling from now on.

The following week, we had our board meeting at Black Bear Diner in Ventura for the first time. You know the place, the old Carrows restaurant. We met Ann in the parking lot on the way in and I had the privilege of asking her directly if she would step in as our Treasurer. I had talked with her about this at the last meeting but never 'offered' her the job. She accepted and is now officially on the Board. Thank you, Ann. Since they opened this place, we've seen it grow. From no meeting room to a smallish but not ready to view to what it is now. By the time we had our Board meeting, they were ready. This place is something else, it's huge, it has 2 great rooms for meetings. For months we have been looking for an alternative meeting place for the membership. A few places looked good but didn't check all the boxes and our search would continue. It's not an easy task. I'll spare you the details and jump right to the final scene. **The Channel Islands Divers March general meeting on the 15th we are set for the first time to have our membership get together at Black Bear Diner located at 2401 Harbor Blvd, Ventura, CA. It's at the corner of Seaward Harbor Blvd in the Vons parking lot right next to the Chevron gas station.**

(continued on page 2)

NEXT CLUB MEETING

February 15, 2023
6:00 PM - Dinner
7:00 PM - Meeting

Pizza Man Dan's
307 Hueneme Road
Port Hueneme, CA 93041

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Many thanks to the sponsors of our club:

Channel Island Dive Adventures 

Mavericks Undersea Divers (MUD)

Island Packers 

Pizza Man Dan's 

PCH Scuba 

BOTTOM TIMES (continued from page 1)

After Pirates demise, Pizza Man Dan's took over their building and offered us a spot for our meetings only to take it back and offer us an even sweeter place down the road. Yep, they took karaoke over divers, go figure. So, after 14 months of no get togethers, we had our first meeting, it was great to have a place and for that I'll always favor Pizza Man Dan's, that and Toppers of course, when it comes to pizza dining out. But as they say, "The Times They Are A-Changin'" and this is our time.

More information to be found in this fine Newsletter and there will be email blasts, trust me.

I do hope all of us can show up in March for our first ever official general meeting at Black Bear Diner in Ventura. I just know you'll like this new place but, in the meantime, we still have a February meeting at Pizza Man Dan's over in the garden city of Port Hueneme on the 15th, that's the third Wednesday of this month, February.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 15th of both February and again in March but while we wait for those days to get here, get out and go diving.

ABOUT THE BLACK BEAR DINER

Black Bear Diner is a restaurant chain in the Western United States that serves homestyle and "old-fashioned" comfort foods. The first restaurant was opened in Mount Shasta, California in 1995, founded by Bruce Dean and Bob & Laurie Manley. The company is based in Redding, California. As of September 2020, Black Bear Diner has 143 locations in 14 states.

Black Bear decor has a rustic motif with "over-the-top bear paraphernalia." Every restaurant is decorated with a 12-foot-tall (3.7 m) black bear carving by artist Ray Schulz. Additional murals and artwork are created for each restaurant by Steve and Gary Fitzgerald and Colleen Mitchell-Veyna. The menu format mimics an old newspaper titled *The Black Bear Gazette*, with articles on the front page. The children's menu is similarly styled with the title *The Beary Tale Times* and features children's activities. It offers family meals such as breakfast, burgers, salads, and shakes. Baked goods prepared on site are offered, and some locations offer alcohol sales, provided the customer is at least 21 years of age. The Ventura location offers beer and wine for sale.

The Ventura Black Bear Diner opened in January 2022, in the old Carrow's location. Originally, the plan was for the restaurant to occupy one-half of the building space, with medical or business offices occupying the other half of the building. Sometime in mid-2022, the Black Bear Diner corporation decided to expand the Ventura restaurant into the available space by creating two, large meeting rooms. Prior to the expansion, the Black Bear Diner had two small meeting rooms, which did not meet the club's needs. For several months our club's secretary, Rob Marion, had been evaluating new meeting spaces for Channel Islands Divers, and we wished the Black Bear Diner had a room big enough for our club meetings. As luck would have it, our new treasurer, Ann Hoagland, and friends had Thanksgiving Dinner at the Black Bear Diner, and they were seated in the new, larger meeting rooms. The search for a new meeting location was over!



"THE BEARS"
Ventura Black Bear Diner
(photo courtesy of Ann Hoagland)

Sponsor's Corner: Our sponsor, Mavericks UnderSea Divers, is happy to announce the opening of a new store in Florida! We don't have all the details yet, but owner Bret Niedens will be at the Camarillo store for a couple of months beginning in March or April. Be sure to drop by to discuss the operations of the Florida store with Bret. Mavericks UnderSea Divers is located at 425 Constitution Avenue, Suite G, Camarillo, CA 93012. Phone number: (805) 484-0051.

Now why is the opening of a new Mavericks store in Florida important to Channel Islands Divers? Because not only is it an exciting development for one of our longtime sponsors, but your Dive Coordinator has already discussed with Bret the possibility of organizing a dive trip in 2024 to the Florida Keys!

FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 15, 2023 MEETING

SPEAKER'S BIO

Chris Borel - SHARK PRESERVATION & BIG CRITTERS PHOTOGRAPHY!



Christopher Borel is an Underwater Photographer enthusiast with a passion for marine wildlife. He has specialized mostly in photographing big animals, my favorite being sharks.

As a photographer, Chris has traveled to many remote destinations around the world, fulfilling his passion while photographing these apex predators. Most recently, two of his shark photos have been recognized and published by *National Geographic*.

Having had many positive experiences with various species of sharks over the years has fueled Christopher's desire to educate people about sharks and raise public awareness about the importance of shark populations and to help preserve these magnificent creatures. "Seventy percent of our planet is underwater, and for most people what lies below is only a mystery. Photographing its inhabitants, bringing the mysteries of what lies below the surface, is where my passion lies."

ANNOUNCING EXCITING, NEW MERCHANDISE 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. (Most dry cleaners will 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.**

FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

ANNOUNCING A NEW CLUB EVENT: **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 available: 10 (members only)

Hotel: Lone Oak Lodge

2221 Fremont St., Monterey, CA 93940

(831) 372-4924

www.loneoaklodge.com

Cost: \$189 to \$206 per night

Last August, Ken Kollwitz from the club's sponsor Channel Islands Dive Adventures (CIDA) gave a very informative presentation about visiting and diving in Monterey, California. After Ken's presentation, many members expressed an interest in planning a club dive trip to Monterey. We are happy to announce the club has partnered with CIDA to schedule a Monterey weekend and boat dive trip for Thursday, October 19 to Monday, October 23, 2023.

CIDA has chartered the *Beachhopper II* exclusively for our club. We have 10 spots reserved at a cost of \$125 per member for a two-tank dive trip. To lock in your spot on the *Beachhopper II*, a check made payable to "**CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVE ADVENTURES**," must be submitted to the club's Dive Coordinator no later than our general meeting on **July 19, 2023**. After July 19, all empty spots will revert back to CIDA for sale to the general public.

For the hotel, Lone Oak Lodge, we do not have a specific group discount because the prices have already been lowered to off-season prices. This means it is possible for participants to stay elsewhere, but the Lone Oak Lodge will act as our group meeting place during the weekend. If you wish to stay at the Lone Oak Lodge with many of us from the club and CIDA, please directly call the hotel at the number listed above. Please mention that you are with the CIDA/CID group, but as stated, no additional discount is offered for this trip.

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, or a group hike with CID led by a Park Ranger. Group potluck at the Lone Oak Lodge around 6:00 PM.
- Saturday, 10/21 - Two tank dive aboard the *Beachhopper II* (members only)
- Sunday, 10/22 - Group tour of the Monterey Aquarium (open to non-members)
- Monday, 10/23 - Depart, have a safe trip home!

For the Monterey Aquarium tour, we are trying to obtain a group discount. For the whale watching tour, members will sign up on their own. Information about the specific whale watching boat will be published once it becomes available.

A signup sheet will be available at all club meetings until July 18, 2023. The signup sheet will include spaces for members to indicate their intention to participate in the group dinner, boat dive, Monterey Aquarium tour, whale watching, or Park Ranger 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 July 19.**



DIVE TRIP

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023 6:15 AM

BOAT: SPECTRE

COST FOR MEMBERS: \$143

(Non-members must sign up directly with the Spectre for the regular price of \$175)

Our first local boat dive trip in October was such a success, we thought we should try it again! **It appears our second boat trip will also be a success, because all 10 spots have been filled! Don't despair! You have an opportunity to add yourself to the Waiting List as described in the last paragraph of this article.**

As mentioned at our November meeting, the regular price for the *Spectre* has increased to \$175, but boat management has continued to offer a wonderful group discount to Channel Islands Divers. We have taken advantage of this discount and have booked 10 spots on the *Spectre* for Saturday, March 18, 2023, at a price of \$143 for club members. **The discount on this trip is only available to club members.**

The details for this dive trip were announced at our January 18, 2023, General Meeting, and **we have already filled all 10 spots!** However, cancellations always happen, so we also have a waiting list for members who would like to book a spot in the case of cancellation. A signup sheet for the Waiting List will be available at our February 15 meeting. Dive club members may also add their name to the Waiting List by emailing the Dive Coordinator at:

dive@channelislandsdivers.org

RESCHEDULED TOUR OF THE OJAI RAPTOR CENTER

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023 11:30 AM

(all spots currently filled)

Dear Channel Islands Divers:

In this issue of the Newsletter, I had hoped to share stories and photos from the club's Private Presentation and Tour of the Ojai Raptor Center, which was scheduled for Saturday, January 14, 2023. Unfortunately, our tour was canceled due to something we haven't seen in awhile: A LOT OF RAIN!!!

Our tour of the Raptor Center has now been rescheduled for Saturday, April 29, 2023, at 11:30 AM. As with before, our guide will give a short talk before we tour the facilities and meet some of the **feathered ambassadors** who live at the facility. This event is still **free** club members.

Our tour will start promptly at 11:30 AM, so participants are asked to meet at the entrance to the Ojai Raptor Center by 11:15 AM. After our tour, we will meet at a nearby restaurant for lunch. Participants are responsible for the cost of their own lunches.

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.

Members who originally signed up for the Raptor Center Tour will be given first choice to sign up for the rescheduled tour. A signup sheet for open spots or to add your name to the Waiting List will be available at our February and March meetings.



HARMON CANYON HIKE SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Free to members and non-members

(Lunch at a local restaurant after the hike)



Harmon Canyon was purchased by the Ventura Land Trust and was established as the Harmon Canyon Preserve in 2020. 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.

A fire road forges the main path through Harmon Canyon, the Overlook Bench Trail, which is approximately 3 miles from the Preserve entrance. While this main trail is broad and offers little shade, the view once reaching the Overlook Bench is worth the effort to get there. On this trail, dogs on leashes are allowed, as are non-motorized bicycles. Since the absence of trees can make this part of the Preserve very warm, we may decide to take one of the off-shoot trails that wind through groves of oak trees and offer views of California's beautiful wild flowers. If we continued to receive rain, maybe we will even see some California poppies!

Other things to know about hiking the Harmon Canyon Preserve:

- Location: 7511 Foothill Road, Ventura (Approach from Kimball Road, and from Foothill turn right onto McVittie 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 beginning at our February 15 meeting. 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.

FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

January 18, 2023, Raffle Winners:

Fahmy Fahmy - Dive light
Mike Frabasilio - Sun protection hat
Lauren McDonald - Towel
Ann Hoagland - Dive accessory
Don Sisting - Retractor
Pat Kelly - Wetsuit shampoo
Alex Wied - Dive socks
Diane Stevenson - O-ring kit

Progressive Raffle:

Alex Wied - Stahl Sac bag

Door Prize:

Ken Kollwitz - Club baseball cap

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 FEBRUARY 15, 2023, MEETING IS THE PARTICIPATION RAFFLE. DURING THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER, JANUARY, AND FEBRUARY, IF YOU HAVE ATTEND A CLUB EVENT, WORE CLUB MERCHANDISE, OR CONTRIBUTED TO THE NEWSLETTER OR FACEBOOK PAGE, YOUR NAME AUTOMATICALLY GOES INTO THE DRAWING*****

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

Remaining Old Inventory

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

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

FEBRUARY 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 7pm

Pizza Man Dan's

307 Port Hueneme Rd, Port Hueneme, CA 93041

CALENDAR

| <u>FEBRUARY 2023</u> | <u>MARCH 2023</u> | <u>APRIL 2023</u> |
|---|--|--|
| 11 Whale Watching with Island Packers | 15 General Meeting: Heather Moine & Donnie Lockwood (Maldives Trip Highlights) <i>Membership Appreciation Raffle</i> | 19 General Meeting: Jaclyn DeSantis (Ojai Raptor Center) <i>Progressive Raffle</i> |
| 15 General Meeting: Chris Borel (Big Critters) <i>Participation Raffle</i> | 18 Spectre Dive Trip | 24 Board Meeting |
| 20 Board Meeting | 20 Board Meeting | 29 Rescheduled Ojai Raptor Center Tour |
| <u>MAY 2023</u> | <u>JUNE 2023</u> | <u>JULY 2023</u> |
| 17 General Meeting: Cherryl Connally (Island Packers) <i>Participation Raffle</i> | 3&4 Long Beach Scuba Show | 19 General Meeting: Topic TBD <i>Progressive Raffle</i> |
| 20 Hamon Canyon Hike | 17 Anacapa Seagull Rookery hike | 22 Local Beach Dive (tentative) |
| 22 Board Meeting | 21 General Meeting: Topic TBD <i>Membership Appreciation Raffle</i> | 24 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
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Teresa Ray, Raffle Coordinator
raffle@channelislandsdivers.org

Laura Forsyth, Membership Coordinator
membership@channelislandsdivers.org

Mike Frabasilio, Club Librarian
library@channelislandsdivers.org

Current Membership: 69

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