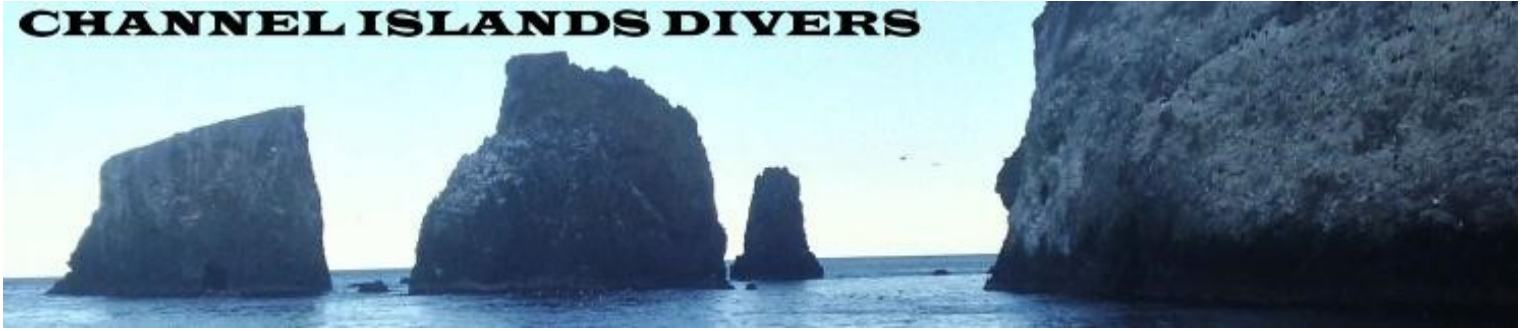


**CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS**



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



**BOTTOM**  
**TIMES**

*by club president, Mike Cunningham*

Welcome to May, Channel Islands Divers!

It's early this morning as I start writing this, and I was going to make

some comment about it finally beginning to warm up when I glanced at my computer screen, and I noticed it's still in the upper 40's right now. Oh well.

How'd you like the BIG room? Pretty nice place to spend the evening. With a few tweaks, we'll get it just right. We have a few changes I think will meet with your approval. But then, you have to be there to approve!

At last month's BIG room general meeting you did show up, in force The official count made it to 53. That's a lot of folks. Thank you to everyone who made it. That's the highest number we've had going back to before the covid shut down. We haven't had that many in a long long time. Where would we have fit all of us at the old pizza joint?

The highest number remembered comes in around 73 but that goes way back and the best I can recall is about 65 folks packing it in over at Pirates. Again, that was years ago. We have an eye on those numbers and I'm going to make it my business to beat them both. We will own the record for attendance, and after the last meeting I have no doubt about it. That room can hold that many, they have more tables and the management said if we get the people, they will bring us what we need.

The enthusiasm was there, and you could see it. The energy was cranked up and we all seemed to be having a great time. We're going to build on that. (continued on page 2)

**NEXT CLUB MEETING:**

**May 17, 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**  
**Page 2**

**Speaker's Bio: Bret Niedens**  
**Diving in Florida**  
**Page 3**

**Participation Drawing & May**  
**Meeting Drawings Recap**  
**Page 4**

**Club Patches, Stickers & Other**  
**Merchandise**  
**Page 5**

**Upcoming Club Events**  
**Page 6**

**Scenes from the Club's Ojai**  
**Raptor Center Tour**  
**Pages 7 - 8**

**Calendar of Events**  
**Page 9**

**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)

But it's not all happening in a vacuum. I don't see this as a one-off kind of event. I don't believe it's the result of a single happening. As I see it, this was going to happen the way we were going. We got a new venue for the meeting, then we upgraded to the BIG room. We have a Board that is excited to present to the membership every month and we got a membership that seems just as excited as we are. But like I said, by itself that would not be enough to carry the moment. That's not why we had the 53 that night. Not all by itself.

The piece missing in all that is we're doing stuff again. Lots of stuff. Sandy Bickford, the club's Dive Coordinator, when she's not putting together the newsletter, keeps adding more and more activities. Sandy finds the energy somewhere and throws together something new all the time. And as a club, we are responding and in big numbers. We got a deal on the Spectre, just did the Raptor Center tour in Ojai, we did the Spectre again and now are taking names for a waiting list for the Peace dive boat. A few days after this May meeting, we'll have the hike at Harmon Canyon Hike followed with lunch. Over 20 folks are going on the hike. Then there is the hike on Anacapa at the Seagull Rookery. And still to come, the Refugio BBQ and Beach Dive and a bit further down the calendar we got the Monterey Weekend and Boat Dive. And it's not summer yet!

There's plenty of days in between all that to sneak in a few shore or kayak dives, and who knows, maybe more hikes or take in a show or presentation at some venue near us somewhere. If we keep responding like we have, no doubt she'll keep adding events.

You see where I'm going with this? Tie it all together, connect the dots or pick your own catch phase, we're back. We are active, very active and we are excited about doing things as a club. Add it all together and 53 members showing up is more like the opening act for a 75 or more gathering in the BIG room. And the warm summer months are still ahead of us.

Let's keep this thing going. On May 17<sup>th</sup> we're back over in the BIG room again at Black Bear Diner, starting around 6:00pm with dinner and some socializing. Officially, the meeting starts at 6:45 with me and a few others talking while you finish up eating. Then, speaking about diving, we have club member, club sponsor and owner of the dive shop Maverick UnderSea Divers (MUD) in Camarillo, Brett Niedens as our guest speaker with his topic, diving Florida's much warmer waters, where he also has a dive shop.

As to attendance, let's start by aiming low. Let's just beat 53 first then work our way to 65. I'm guessing 73 will fall when it warms up.

Hope to see everyone there,

Mike Cunningham

**Sponsor's Corner:** In preparation for our June 18 trip to Anacapa with Island Packers, and looking forward to owner/manager Cheryl Connally's presentation at our club meeting of June 21, here is a look at the wildlife sightings passengers with Island Packers enjoyed during the month of April 2023:

- 37,122 common dolphins (You read that correctly... **Thirty-seven thousand, one hundred twenty-two** common dolphin)
- 923 bottlenose dolphins
- 336 humpback whales
- 42 gray whales
- And... sightings of more elusive wildlife: 8 orcas, 2 minke whales, 1 sunfish, and 1 blue whale

Let's hope we have such luck on our June 18 trip!

## SPEAKERS BIO

### **BRET NIEDENS, MAVERICK UNDERSEA DIVERS DIVING IN FLORIDA**



Bret is the owner of the club's long-time sponsor, Maverick UnderSea Divers. In addition to being a valuable club sponsor, Bret has been a member of Channel Islands Divers since March 2014, and he served on the Board of Directors as Dive Coordinator. Bret has been diving for 43 years and currently resides in Key Largo, Florida, but he visits the shop in Camarillo four-to-five times per year. His daughter Jennifer Moraga runs daily operations for the Camarillo shop, which allows Bret to enjoy his Florida home. But, instead of retiring to Florida, Bret has opened a new diving service shop in Key Largo, and he is helping the club's current Dive Coordinator plan a March 2024 dive trip to Florida.

At our May 17 meeting, Bret's presentation will be about Florida diving, with a focus on the various activities and dive spots available in the Keys. The Florida Keys offer colorful corals, beautiful fish, and occasional deep water pelagic fish, sharks and rays. From Key Largo, with its dive spots of reefs and deeper wrecks, to Key West, where there exists America's only Caribbean reef, the Florida Keys has diving opportunities to fit almost every diver... It is also warm-water diving!



Photos courtesy of Bret Niedens

**\*\*\*Preliminary information about the club's March 2024 dive trip to Florida will be available at our May 17 meeting\*\*\***

## MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

# OUR MAY 17 MEETING IS CLUB MEMBERS' **PARTICIPATION DRAWING!!!**

Thanks to our Raffle Coordinator, Teresa Ray, we had a wonderful Progressive Drawing, where member Laurie Hennessy won the SeaLife SmartPhone Camera Housing from our sponsor, PCH Scuba. This month, at our **May 17 meeting**, we have another nice prize as part of our *Participation Drawing*.

Our treasurer, Ann Hoagland, has gifted an **original artwork beach towel**, all the way from the Long Beach Grand Prix, for this month's Participation Drawing. The towel is from Future Generation Artistry in Redondo Beach, and it is the perfect gift to bring with you on any of our club outings!



In case you have forgotten, here is a reminder of what is meant by '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 purchase anything or be present at the club meeting to win this drawing; you already did your part by participating in one of our club events over the last two or three months.*

At our May 17 meeting, club members are automatically included in the Participation Drawing if they went on our March 18 *Spectre* dive trip, attended our April 29 Ojai Raptor Center Tour, wore the "club's colors" (t-shirt, hat, patch, etc.) on the *Spectre* or at the Raptor Center, contributed an article or photos for our March or April newsletter, or posted photos and/or comments about club events on our Facebook page. Altogether, we have 27 members eligible for this month's Participation Drawing, which is our way of thanking you for your support of club events!

## **APRIL 19, 2023, CLUB MEMBERS' DRAWING(S) WINNERS**

### General Drawing

**Bill Weinerth - Trident Scuba Gear Paint**  
**Patrick Kelly - Channel Islands Coffee Mug**  
**Alex Wied - \$25 Gift Certificate (*Dive & Sport*)**  
**Ron Brunski - Seashell Serving Plates**  
**Del Stewart - Ceramic Decorative Crab**  
**Mike Laban - Sunscreen Kit**  
**Connie Young - Beach Towel Clips**

### Door Prize:

**Mike Bushell - Beach Towel Clips**

### Progressive Drawing:

**Laurie Hennessy—SeaLife SmartPhone Camera Housing (*PCH Scuba*)**

### 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.**

## UPDATE: OTHER CID EVENTS



**May 20 - Harmon Canyon Hike and Lunch:** Free. Open to non-members. Currently, 22 members and guests have signed up for the hike, and 13 participants plan to join us for lunch at Sushi Fresh in Ventura after the hike. **NOTE:** The parking lot at the trail head isn't very large, so overflow parking is available on the West-side of Kimball Road. Despite what Harmon Canyon's webpage says, overflow parking is **NOT** allowed on Foothill Road. **Liability Waivers are due no later than the club meeting of May 17.**



**June 18 - Anacapa Seagull Rookery Trip on Island Packers:**

**Members only price = \$59. Club member discount spots remaining: 6 (Payment and Liability Waivers are due no later than the club meeting of May 17.)** 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. Currently, 16 members and guests have signed up for the trip, and the boat is filling quickly, so if you are booking directly with Island Packers, don't wait too long to make your reservations.



**July 2 - Peace Dive Trip -** All 8 spots have been spoken for, but we have a **waiting list.**

Cancellations always happen, so if you want to go on the club's *Peace* dive trip, add your name to the list at our May or June meetings. **Payment and Dive Trip Waivers are due no later than June 10.**



**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](http://reservecalifornia.com)



**October 19 to 23 - Monterey Weekend and Boat Dive:** 30 members and guests have 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](http://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](http://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. **Payment to CIDA is due no later than the club meeting of June 21.**
- \* **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. 24 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)**

# SCENES FROM THE RAPTOR CENTER TOUR

## April 29, 2023



Channel Islands Divers at the entrance to the Ojai Raptor Center.

L - R: Rob Marion, Sammy Marion, Fahmy Fahmy, Ann Hoagland, Laurie Hennessy, Kerry Richardson, Sandy Bickford, Carrie Eller  
(Not shown: Steve Peterson)



The obligatory sign-in before the tour.



Carrie, Steve and Ann listen to our guides Natasha and Kim talk about the work the ORC does to rehabilitate raptors and other birds.



Kim and Natasha take us to the education table where we learned about the different hawks that are in our area.

A talon from a redtail hawk. I had no idea their talons were so large.

Did you know the digits of a hawk lock in place when they capture prey, and they must land to unlock the digits?



# SCENES FROM THE RAPTOR CENTER TOUR (continued)

April 29, 2023



Kerry and Steve experience how air travels over a raptor's wing, which allows for a tremendous amount of lift. They tried, but Kerry and Steve weren't quite able to leave the ground!



### The Ambassadors of ORC (L - R):

- Topper, Burrowing Owl
- Willow, Barn Owl
- Handsome, Turkey Vulture
- Wonder, Albino Turkey Vulture
- Topa, American Kestrel



For the biographies of each of the ORC Feathered Ambassadors, please see our Channel Islands Divers' Facebook page.

For information about the work the ORC does to rehabilitate and release wild birds, visit their website at [www.ojairaptorcenter.org](http://www.ojairaptorcenter.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>MAY 2023</u>	<u>JUNE 2023</u>	<u>JULY 2023</u>
17 General Meeting-Bret Niedens (Diving in Florida) <i>Participation Drawing</i>	3&4 Long Beach Scuba Show	2 Peace Dive Trip
20 Harmon Canyon Hike	18 Anacapa Seagull Rookery trip	19 General Meeting-Ken Kollwitz (Diving the Philippines) <i>Progressive Drawing</i>
22 Board Meeting	21 General Meeting-Cherryl Connally (Island Packers) <i>Membership Appreciation Drawing</i>	24 Board Meeting
	26 Board Meeting	
<u>August 2023</u>	<u>September 2023</u>	<u>October 2023</u>
16 General Meeting-Topic TBD <i>Participation Drawing</i>	9 Refugio BBQ & Beach Dive	18 General Meeting-Topic TBD <i>Progressive Drawing</i>
19 Local Beach Dive (tentative)	2 General Meeting-Topic TBD <i>Membership Appreciation Drawing</i>	19-23 Monterey Weekend & <i>Beachhopper II</i> boat dive
21 Board Meeting	25 Board Meeting	23 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: 77

Welcome new members!  
Guy McVicker  
Stella Vaccaro

### 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