

Channel Islands Divers



NEXT CLUB MEETING:

October 21st, 2026
Black Bear Diner
2401 East Harbor Blvd.
Ventura 93003

Socializing and Dinner: 6:00 PM
Meeting: 6:30 PM

BOTTOM TIMES

By *Our NEW* Club President Rob Marion



For those of you in the club who don't know me, my name is Rob Marion, pictured here with my family (my daughter Sammy on the left and my wife Lina, holding our dog, Mia). I had no idea when I woke up Wednesday, September 16th, I would leave the club meeting later that evening as your new President. I had settled in as the club's Speaker Seeker and was having fun organizing speakers for our general meetings. All of the Board Members had known for months that we were having trouble finding someone to take the President's position, since Del was stepping down. It didn't look like it was going to happen.

It was hard to think about. The club is roaring now. The Board has been hitting on all cylinders with a multitude of events for every kind of diver. Really, what more could you ask for? Well, we were uncertain how it would work if we couldn't get some leadership. We all knew it.

Then the unexpected happened...I was talking to Mike Cunningham, former President of our club and long-time club member. His plans to leave California have been delayed, and he was considering taking

a position on the Board again. I asked him, “Really?” I told him, “If you are, boy have I got a deal for you!” The deal? If he was willing to take on the job of being Speaker Seeker, I would step up and take on the President’s job. I explained that I had quite a few speakers lined up and it should be pretty easy.

At first, he said he better not. I believe he then consulted with his wife, Teresa. He then came up to me and said he’d take the deal. Wow! If that wasn’t enough, Lauren MacDonald took the open Treasurer position and Fahmy, the vet that takes care of our dog Mia, took the Membership position! We have a full Board!

The future of the club is bright. Without any reservations, I will tell you that the current success of the dive club is a direct result of the hard work of our former president, Del Stewart. He had a vision which at first seemed impossible. Low and behold, it has become a reality. We have it all: beach dives, boat dives, and dive vacations outside of the country. We are already working on next years’ schedule and I look forward to presenting it to you. (If you have any ideas, please talk to or email any board member!)

For those of you going to Cozumel, I wish you a great trip! We still have Catalina and Santa Cruz trips to finish up the year. The Refugio BBQ was a lot of fun. If my count is correct, we had about 12 divers and 45 members in attendance. Our Holiday Party December 5th will finish a fantastic year.

By all measures, 2026 has been a great year for the club. As we begin to see 2027 on the horizon, I’ll do my best as your new President to follow the footsteps of Del in making it an event-filled year!

2026 PHOTO CONTEST

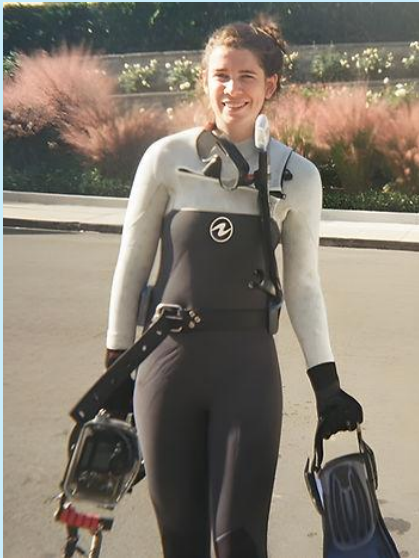
It’s that time of year again, when all you wonderful and creative underwater photographers and videographers are invited to submit your best shots. Anything taken since November of 2025 is eligible for our 2026 photo contest. The contest entry deadline **midnight November 7th**, and winners will be announced at the holiday party December 5th.

Rules and entry form on our website: [2026 Photo Contest](#)

OCTOBER PRESENTATION

Sharing the Waves: Learning to Cohabitat with SoCal's Juvenile White Sharks

Delaney Sauer, CSLB Shark Lab



Southern California is home to some of the world's most popular and recognizable beaches, located alongside highly diverse and nutrient rich marine ecosystems. Millions of people utilize these nearshore environments for recreation, yet may be unaware that they are swimming, surfing, and diving in critical habitat to some of our most charismatic and iconic shark species.

The California State University, Long Beach Shark Lab has been researching sharks and rays since the 1960s, being active through the protection and population recovery of white sharks and their prey species. In recent years, increased numbers of juvenile white shark aggregations have been

observed seasonally across Southern Californian shorelines. These sites provide young sharks with nursery habitats containing warm water, plentiful food sources, and protection from offshore threats, and are the focus of the Shark Lab's research to further understand shark behavior, movement, and interactions with water users.



Speaker Bio: Delaney is a marine biologist, scientific diver, photographer, and environmental communicator. She works as a research associate for the CSULB Shark Lab, studying juvenile white shark behavior and movement across Southern California. At the Shark Lab, she carries out field operations related to shark tagging, active tracking, underwater acoustic receiver deployment and maintenance. A recent project involved setting up acoustic tracking of previously tagged sharks and rays moving through the area between CI Harbor and Anacapa Island.

Delaney also collaborates with the Ocean Lab to provide live interactive ocean education to students. She completed her Master's research at Scripps Institution of Oceanography focused on reef restoration and modeling of the San Juan Barrier Reef in Puerto Rico.

Dive Report: Bug Hunting and Island Adventures: Channel Islands Divers Tackle Anacapa

Contributed by Dan Perdue, Club Divemaster

There is nothing quite like a dedicated day on the water with good company, great surface conditions, and lobster season in full swing. On October 10th, our club group set out aboard the *Triton* for a run out to Anacapa Island. The crossing had a bit of that classic Channel bump, but blue skies and calm winds set us up for an outstanding day of diving.



From left to right, our crew included me, Dale Burrows, my son Logan (with a nice bug!), Captain Danny, new club members Erica Quintanilla & Jerrid Dosaj, and Rob Marion.

Diving the Backside

We ran around to the far side of Anacapa to work three distinct sites along the backside reefs. Conditions held up nicely underwater:



- **Water Temp:** A balmy 71°F throughout the day.
- **Visibility:** Varied from a clean 50 feet down to around 10 feet depending on the structure, surge, and depth.
- **Marine Life:** Active, curious sea lions made regular passes to check out our bubbles, alongside the usual vibrant island residents—sheephead, garibaldi, kelp bass, and plenty of reef activity tucked in the structure.

Dinner in the Bag

For those with game gauges in hand, the hunting did not disappoint. Logan and I had an incredible run across the structure, managing to limit out on California spiny lobster by the final dive. Between dodging sea lion fly-bys and working the cracks, it was some of the most rewarding bug hunting we've had this season.

Topside Hospitality

A huge shoutout goes to Danny, the captain of the *Triton*. Between dives and during the run back, Danny kept the deck entertained with stories about the Channel Islands' history and his diving adventures across the globe. Smooth boat operations, great surface support, and plenty of laughs made surface intervals fly by.

More Charters Ahead

Given the success of this run, I'm putting together a few more club boat charters for the coming year. Keep an eye on your email, the club calendar, and upcoming meetings for dates and sign-up details—these spots fill fast!



DIVE AGAINST DEBRIS: *More Citizen Science!!*

Date: TBD, possibly early 2027

Calling all Channel Island Divers! Our underwater paradise off Santa Cruz Island needs our help, and as divers who love these kelp forests, we are the ultimate guardians of this fragile ecosystem. Come join us at our upcoming PADI Dive Against Debris event, where YOU can transform a routine dive into protecting the ocean we love. Every piece of plastic, trash, abandoned net or trap we pull from the reef directly saves playful sea lions and our delicate marine habitats. PADI will collect data during this event to add to the huge database used to “inform policy, drive scientific research, and protect marine life”. Check out PADI’s website to learn more about the AWARE program (Aquatic World Awareness, Responsibility and Education), which is much more than just the important effort of debris removal: [PADI AWARE](#) Let’s dive with a purpose, leave our waters cleaner than we found them, and show the world what true volunteer ocean stewardship looks like.

Thanks to Stormy Thurston-Keller for organizing this event!

SC Diving

UNDERWATER PUMPKIN CARVING DIVE

CARVE PUMPKINS UNDERWATER FOR HALLOWEEN!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

MEET AT THE SC DIVING DIVE SHOP
7:00 A.M.

WE'LL DE-SEED THE PUMPKINS BEFORE HEADING TO THE BEACH.

DIVE LOCATION: TBD

SC Diving | 575 Dawson Drive, Suite 9
Camarillo, CA 93012 | 805-233-3227 | scdiving.com

GOOD
DIVERS
BRIETER
DAYS
♡

Why don't crabs ever volunteer? Because they're shell-fish.

November 21, 2026 Santa Cruz Island Dive and Hike

By Dan Perdue, Club Divemaster

Greetings Divers and Explorers! Our club is always on the move, and with well over 100 members keeping the calendar buzzing, we wouldn't want it any other way. Get ready for our next island trek: a full day of kelp, trails, and exploration at **Scorpion Anchorage on Santa Cruz Island!** Whether you want to gear up for a shore dive, hit the coastal bluffs for a hike, or both, there is something for everyone.

★ **Island Packers needs emergency contact phone #s for all going on their boat. Send that info to Ann Hoagland:** treasurer@channelislandsdivers.org ★ **Click here to sign up!!**

Quick Details

- **Date:** Saturday November 21st
- **Island Packers** (1691 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura Harbor); **Check-In:** 7:15 AM (Departs 8:00 AM sharp). **Return Departure:** Leaves at 4:00, arrives back around 5:15 PM – 5:30 PM
- **Club Tickets are SOLD OUT;** public tickets on Island Packers are nearly sold out

A Quick Note on Private Boats: We originally looked into running this as a club-coordinated “Boat ’n Dive” on private boats. After thinking through logistics, the club will not be organizing or coordinating travel aboard privately owned vessels. If you have your own boat or independently arrange a ride with friends, you are 100% welcome to rendezvous with us at Scorpion and jump in on the fun!

Choose Your Adventure

- **Shore Diving:** Scorpion’s marine reserve offers towering kelp beds, curious sea lions, sheephead, garibaldi, and plenty of critters right off the beach. We’re aiming for a solid one-tank morning dive near the west end of the pier. **Note:** I will be attending this event and am excited to help plan and lead a morning dive.
- **Island Hiking:** If you prefer staying topside (or want to hike post-dive after lunch), trails like Cavern Point and Potato Harbor offer epic coastal views and ranch history. We’ll look to club favorite Steve Peterson (and volunteer with Channel Islands National Park) to head up the trail crew.

Important Prep & Gear Tips

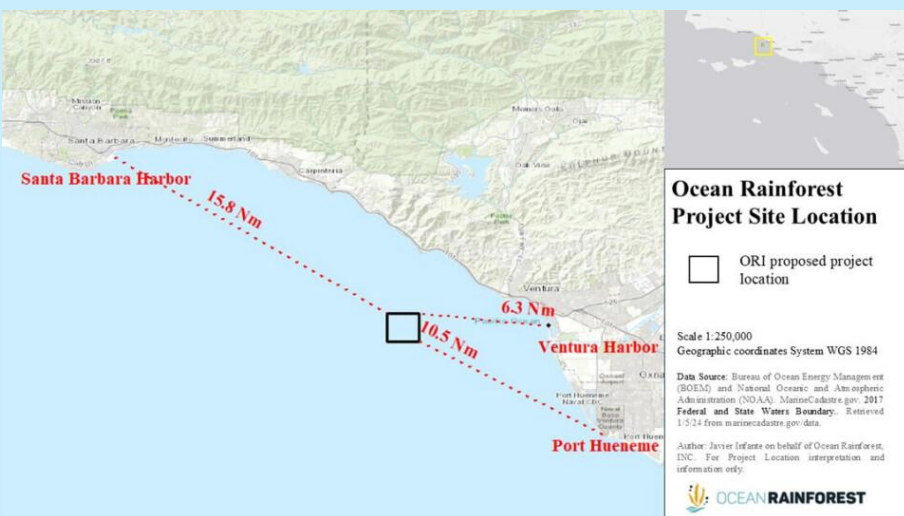
- **Scuba Gear on Island Packers:** Island Packers *does* allow dive gear, but space and staging can be tight. A collapsible wagon is an absolute game-changer for rolling your kit from the pier to the beach.
- **Pack Everything In & Out:** There are no food concessions on the island. Bring your lunch, plenty of snacks, and extra drinking water.
 - Island Packers offers snacks, burritos, & beverages (both with & without alcohol) on the boat. You can also pre-order a sack lunch from the Honey Cup Coffeehouse and they’ll have it waiting for you at Island Packers reception to pick up before you board: [Honey Cup Order](#)
- **Layers & Conditions:** Island weather shifts quickly—pack a windbreaker, hat, sunscreen, warm dry clothes for the boat ride back, and sturdy footwear for the trails.
- **No Service:** Expect zero cell reception once we pull away from the harbor. Plan accordingly and soak in the disconnect!

Nation's Largest Marine Aquaculture Site Proposed off the Ventura County Coast

Cindy Doyon brought this project to the editor's attention.

A seaweed farming company has proposed construction of a 2,000-acre kelp farm to be located in federal waters of the Santa Barbara Channel, 4-6 miles offshore from Ventura Harbor. Giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) would be grown on submerged cultivation lines at a depth of about 115 feet over mud flats. The project is explicitly prohibited from anchoring near or displacing sensitive habitats such as kelp forests, reefs or shipwrecks (per Google Search).

The harvested kelp would be processed in Ventura Harbor to create agricultural biostimulants (natural substances or microorganisms applied to plants or soil to improve nutrient uptake, stress tolerance, and crop quality without directly providing primary nutrients, per Google Search). The product would be used locally on crops such as strawberries and avocados.



Source: [Fishfarmingexpert website](https://www.fishfarmingexpert.com/)



The California Coastal Commission (CCC) approved the project, after review of potential ecological impacts on the benthic environment (by the US Army Corps of Engineers [COE]), fisheries issues (reviewed by NOAA), and wildlife issues assessed by the COE. Environmental review focused on the potential for entanglement of whales and sea turtles as well as impacts from increased boat traffic during kelp harvesting. The operators are required to actively monitor whales and sea turtles, and maintain defined vessel speed limits along with wildlife lookouts to avoid collisions.

The project would be developed in phases over 10 years with the initial phase encompassing about 53 acres of cultivated area within a 190-acre footprint. The phased build-out is designed to allow for periodic reviews by the COE and CCC before expanding to full capacity.

Image source: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DdRawzqICSi/>

SEPTEMBER RAFFLE WINNERS

Prizes sponsored by SC Diving (unless otherwise noted)



Nicolas Lee (right, with Joe Hennessy) won a dive parka & a lobster gauge



Del Stewart won the door prize



Patrick Haskins won fin straps



Viktoria Burmann (right, with Laura Forsyth) won a coffee table book



Pat Kelly won cleansers for BCDs and wetsuits



Jamie Carlton won a turtle photograph

RAFFLE DETAILS

1. **Regular:** Buy tickets at the meeting and those are the tickets we draw.
2. **Progressive:** This drawing is pulled from all the raffle tickets you've bought over the Quarter.
3. **Participation:** Points are given for your participation in our club activities (going on club events, posting to our Facebook page, and contributing to the newsletter).

RAFFLE SCHEDULE

January	<i>Progressive</i>
February	Participation
March	Regular
April	<i>Progressive</i>
May	Participation
June	Regular
July	<i>Progressive</i>
August	Participation
September	Regular
October	<i>Progressive</i>
November	Participation
December	No drawing in December

**OCTOBER
PROGRESSIVE PRIZE:
BEACH BUGGY
{\$250.00 Value!!}**



Upcoming Dives

Date	Location	Description
24-Oct	Underwater Pumpkin carving	Sponsored by SC diving, location TBD. Meet at SC Diving at 7:00 am (575 Dawson Drive, Suite 9, Camarillo, CA)
7-9 Nov	Avalon, Catalina Island	Casino Pt & Scuba Cat
14-Nov	Check Facebook	Club sponsor SC Diving will guide this beach dive.
21-Nov	Santa Cruz Island trip	Meet at Scorpion Cove for a group day of diving and hiking. Island Packers (from Ventura) still has a few spots.
12-Dec	Check Facebook	Club sponsor SC Diving will guide this beach dive.
19-Dec	Laguna Beach	Road trip for the last dive of the year
9-Jan-27	TBD	Shore dive
23-Jan 27	TBD	Shore dive

California Marine News Update: In mid-October, the California Fish and Game Commission voted to approve two new State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCAs): Point Sal (northwestern Santa Barbara County, west of Guadalupe) and Mishopshno (Carpinteria coast). These new areas protect kelp forests, rocky reefs, and habitat for special status species, including known aggregation areas for juvenile white sharks (the latter in the shallow, nearshore waters centered around Santa Claus Beach and Padaro Beach within the Mishopshno SMCA and at Point Sal). They also voted to expand the Point Dume MPA near Malibu to protect kelp forests.

Mexico Marine News: To protect the sensitive ecosystem in Loreto Bay National Park, cruise ships will not be allowed in Loreto through 2030. The bay is a critical feeding and breeding area for the endangered blue whale (as well as other marine mammals, numerous species of fish and marine organisms). According to the Oceanic Society (an NGO working to improve ocean health), “large cruise ships generate intense underwater noise that disrupts whale communication, increases stress, and interferes with essential behaviors like feeding, resting and migration.” More information here: [Oceanic Society](https://oceansociety.org/)

CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
10: Shore dive, TBA 21: Club meeting, progressive raffle drawing. Speaker: Delaney Sauer, CSLB Shark Lab 17-24: Cozumel 24: SC Diving Pumpkin Carving Dive; meet at SC Diving (location TBD) – see notice this issue 27: Board meeting	7: Deadline for Photo Contest submittals 14: Shore dive, TBA 18: Club meeting, participation drawing. Speaker: Dave Finnern, California Wreck Divers Club 21: Shore dive, TBA 24: Board meeting	5: <i>Holiday Party</i> 12: No shore dive 16: No Club meeting 19: Last shore dive of 2026: Laguna Beach
JANUARY 2027	FEBRUARY 2027	MARCH 2027
9: Shore dive, TBA 20: Club meeting; raffle progressive drawing Speaker: Jeremy Jodoin, Video Maker, Artist, Photographer, Diver, Youtuber 23: Shore dive, TBA 26: Board meeting	13: Shore dive, TBA 17: Club meeting; raffle participation drawing Speaker: TBA 20: Shore dive, TBA 23: Board meeting	13: Shore dive, TBA 17: Club meeting; raffle regular drawing Speaker: TBA 20: Shore dive, TBA 23: Board meeting

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP: 111

Thank you to all renewing members!!

Welcome to our newest members!!

	
Ericka Quintanilla & Jerrid Dosaj	John Montemayor

	We need a photo!!
Jasmine Mogadam	Donald Martin Beck

Please see our website for member benefits

[Link to Membership Page](#)

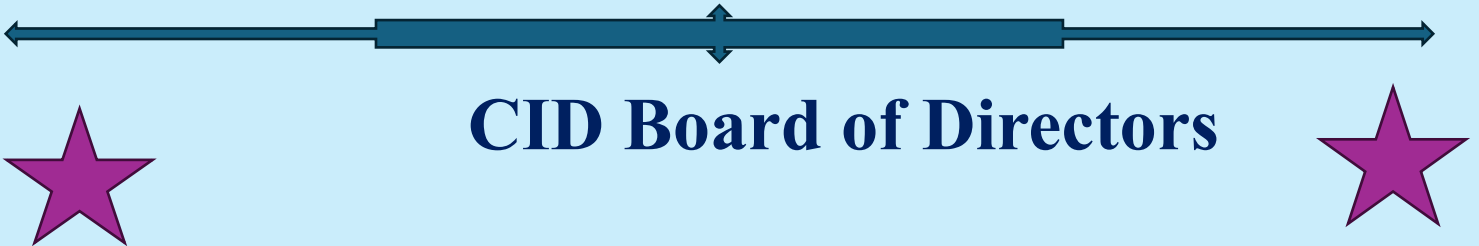
Membership Policy: Club policy is to drop members from the roster
THREE MONTHS AFTER MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION

Membership Prices: Renewing Membership: Single = \$30; Family = \$45

New Membership: Single = \$40; Family = \$55

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

Renew by Zelle: cidtreasurer92@gmail.com



CID Board of Directors

***Welcome new board members,
and thank you to outgoing members!!***

Rob Marion: President

president@channelislandsdivers.org

Mike Cunningham: VP

vicepresident@channelislandsdivers.org

Ann Hoagland: Secretary

secretary@channelislandsdivers.org

Lauren McDonald: Treasurer

treasurer@channelislandsdivers.org

Dan Perdue: Dive Coordinator:

dive@channelislandsdivers.org

Laura Forsyth: Webmaster

webmaster@channelislandsdivers.org

Laurie Hennessy: Raffle Coordinator

raffle@channelislandsdivers.org

Fahmy Fahmy: Membership Coordinator

membership@channelislandsdivers.org

Jackie Worden: Newsletter Editor

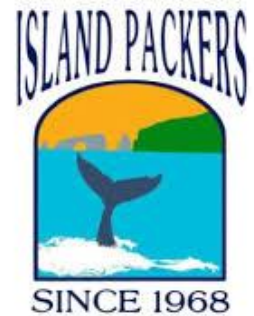
editor@channelislandsdivers.org

Steve Peterson: Librarian

library@channelislandsdivers.org

SPONSORS CORNER

Our sponsors generously offer discounts to our members! You *must* show your membership card to reap this benefit. See our Membership Coordinator Fahmy Fahmy to get your card.



Websites:

- <https://www.rec2tecscuba.com/>
- <https://www.scdiving.com/>
- <https://islandpackers.com/>
- <https://scubasolutionsca.com/>
- <https://channelislandsdiveadventures.com/>
- <http://ulcs.com>
- <https://maverickunderseadivers.com/>
- <https://americandiveco.com/>

