

## JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

## CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS



Photo: Franklin Murphy

**NEXT CLUB MEETING: January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
BLACK BEAR DINER  
2401 EAST HARBOR**

**VENTURA CA 93003  
Social and Dinner: 6:00 PM  
Meeting: 6:30 PM**

## BOTTOM TIMES

By Club President Delbert Stewart



### Greetings and salutations, amigos!

Welcome to 2026. This unusually warm January has definitely thrown my winter groove off, but I'm not complaining—warmer weather means more chances to get outside and enjoy everything we love to do.

It's time to shake off the holiday dust and jump back into club business. I'm happy to share that our plan for the year is officially in the works! We've got several new ideas brewing for 2026, along with the return of some favorites from last year and of course, the classics...with a little twist 😊.

I sent out an invite to our last dive of the year to kick around new event ideas and thank you to everyone who was able to make it. I picked up some great feedback, and a few additional ideas surfaced during a post-dive beer (sometimes the best planning happens there). We'll be ironing out the final details at the January board meeting, so if you've got a fun, creative, or slightly wild idea you'd like us to consider, now's the time to share it. I'm always listening—and I'll do my best to deliver. [Here's a sneak peek of what's coming!](#)

Two shore dives every month are back—just like last year! Both dives will be led by our dive coordinator and Divemaster, Dan. Dive one happens on the second Saturday of the month with SC Diving, and dive

two follows on the Saturday after our monthly meeting, hosted by the club. Locations, sign-ups, and all that jazz will be shared soon—keep an eye out!

I really like the idea of sponsor-hosted events, and as chief club liaison, I'll be reaching out to our sponsors to explore ways they can get more involved—or even host an event. This is one aspect of the club I'd really like to grow this year: bringing sponsors and members together to enjoy our shared passion—diving and everything fun.

In terms of events:

We're kicking things off with a [Carpinteria Easter Dive and BBQ](#), complete with an optional camping weekend. Spring brings a [Spectre boat dive](#) (reach out to our dive coordinator if you'd like to see more boat dives) and a [Scuba Show weekend in Long Beach](#), with morning shore dives at [Veterans Park](#). Last year, Laura Forsyth did an incredible job organizing this trip—attendance was great, everyone had a blast, and that morning dive at Veterans Park was especially memorable. It all went by so fast that I'm planning to stay for the full weekend this year.

Moving into summer, adventures include a trip to [Ensenada](#), featuring boat diving near [La bufadora](#) (not in it), great food, and optional camping. Next up will be a behind-the-scenes tour of the [USC Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber](#). Ever been down to 165 feet? If not, this is a unique opportunity to experience it in a safe. We'll also enjoy the classic [Refugio Beach dive and BBQ](#) on September 12<sup>th</sup>. I'll be proposing to the board that we reserve a group [camping spot](#) for Refugio (members have been asking for this 😊). From what I hear, that's how it used to be done—and I see no reason not to bring it back. I can already picture the crackling campfire, the smell of carne asada, and everyone relaxing and having a great time.

Fall is packed with big trips, including [Cozumel](#), a [Playa del Carmen](#) option that's still in the works, a [Point Lobos weekend trip](#), and of course the [underwater pumpkin carving dive](#)—let's all jump in on the carving fun this year! We'll wrap things up with a [Santa Cruz Island dive](#) and hike at [Scorpion Cove](#), where we'll try to get as many members with boats involved as possible, followed by a [Laguna Beach Road trip](#) for our final dive of the year. Fall conditions are typically great there, and I really enjoyed the dives we did last year.

These events aren't cemented just yet and more events may be added... but you get the picture and you'll see the final schedule in **February**—so start getting that camping gear ready and dust off those fins, because **2026 is coming in hot**.

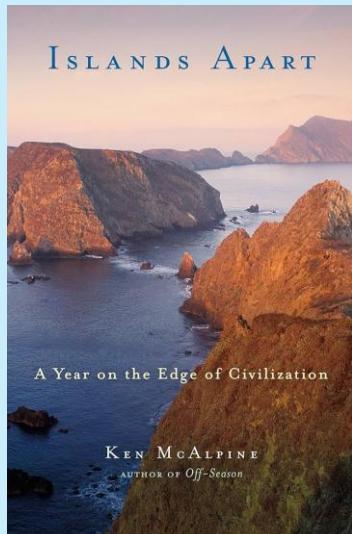
It's time for me to wrap this up, and I'm looking forward to all the good times this year will bring to the club. I look forward to seeing you all this Wednesday, January 21st, at Black Bear Diner as we kick off another great year together.

# JANUARY PRESENTATION - Ken McAlpine

## How We Spend Our Time Here: The Joy of Solitude, the Importance of Moments, and the Wisdom of Strangers.



I will be discussing my book “Islands Apart: A Year on the Edge of Civilization”. The idea behind the book was simple. It’s a fast-paced world we live in, and I felt that I was missing something in all the rush, something that mattered. So I spent a week camping on each of the five islands of Channel Islands National Park, in an attempt to better understand our world and how we spend our precious time here (I did things on the mainland too; hence “A Year on the Edge of Civilization”). Simply put, I hoped I might learn something valuable by being alone and quiet in a beautiful place. A reviewer called the book “a rumination on what it means to be human.” I suppose that’s apt, but it’s a funny book too, and a fun look at the very special gift we call life.



Ken is the author of ten books: fiction, non-fiction and selected essays. Over the course of a thirty-five-year magazine career, he wrote for magazines ranging from Sports Illustrated, to National Geographic Traveler, to Sunset, to, yes, Sport Diver. His magazine articles have earned three Lowell Thomas awards, travel writing's top award. His non-fiction book “Islands Apart: A Year on the Edge of Civilization” uses Nature’s beauty to reflect (often humorously) on the moments we have been given in this precious life. Ken lives in Ventura, California with his lovely wife Kathy, who is far and away his better half.

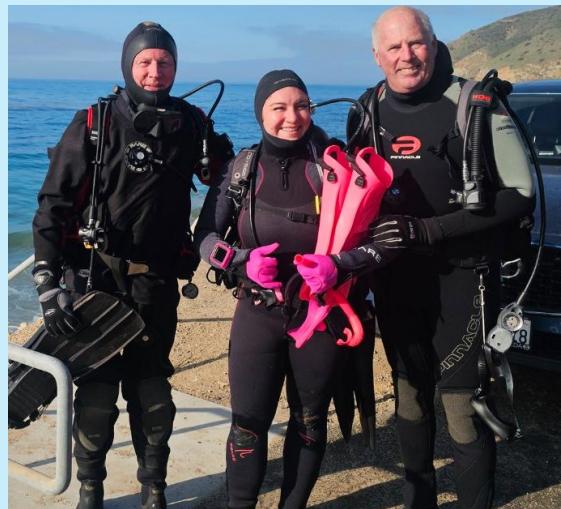
# Member Reports, Local Dives, Special Events

## Last dive of the year 2025

In hindsight, I'm so glad the club decided to make one last beach dive before the year's end. Little did I know that we would get 10 inches of rain, mud slides, and tons of silt washing down our rivers to change the outlook of any kind of beach dive for the next month.

As I write, we have had some wonderful weather, calm seas, and relatively small surf recently and the silt line into the ocean has made me hopeful.

Dale Burrows, Melanie Kemmann, and Rob Johnson went diving at Deer Creek. Del Stewart, Jamie Carlton, and Alex Wied did a beach clean-up and provided dive support. We had 15–20-foot visibility. The water was 63 degrees, and the sea life was very cooperative. Octopus, legal lobsters, and 6 pink abalone were just the highlights. Surf entries and exits were pretty easy and a big shout out to Alex Wied for helping all the divers up a soft sand pile that had built up at the bottom of the new stairs. Looking forward to more diving adventures this year- Rob Jonson



## HOLIDAY PARTY

We had a wonderful turnout for our annual holiday party at the Pepper Farms Clubhouse! If you missed it, pencil it in for next year (first Saturday in December) – it's lots of fun with great food and infectious laughter. Zoom in on the couple in the front row on the left; our hosts (Jenifer & David Morisson – *thank you!!*)



## PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Winning photos will be posted on our website

### WIDE-ANGLE

1st WA-3 Clown Fish Borneo - Connie Young

2nd WA-9 Yellow to Green - Tony Fabasilio

### Video

1st V-1 Shallow reef scene Volivoli Resort, Fiji - Ken Kollwitz

2nd V-5 Turtle, Bonaire - Melanie Kemmann

### Novice

1st N-1 Beach Dive Buddies, VC - Rob Johnson

2nd N-2 Octopus at Night, Bonaire - Melanie Kemmann

### Macro

1st M-1 Angelfish, Bonaire - Melanie Kemmann

2nd M-3 Half and Half's - Tony Fabasilio

### Topside

1st T-5 Me with Crab, VC - Melanie Kemmann

2nd T-8 Casino Jackpot - Tony Frabasilio

## NOVEMBER RAFFLE WINNERS



Jamie Carlton won a hydro test, courtesy Channel Islands Scuba



Jamie Carlton also won a mouthpiece kit & spare blade, from CID



Sammy Marion {again? Are you kidding me??}  
Diver down blanket door prize, from CID



Eric Taylor wins again – two day trip passes to Santa Cruz,  
courtesy of Island Packers



Dale Burrows with his new carry-on bag, donated by Channel Islands Scuba



Del Stewart wins the Kevlar gloves, donated by Channel Islands Scuba

## JANUARY RAFFLE PRIZES

*Thank you for finding such fun goodies, Laurie!*



Cozumel Travel Kit



Cozumel Fish Identifier & XS Safety Sausage



\$50 Air Fill Card



XS Landing Pad

**All goodies donated by SC Divers – much appreciated!!**

# RAFFLE

Our fun raffle with great prizes is held at each meeting...with a twist! There are three types of raffle:

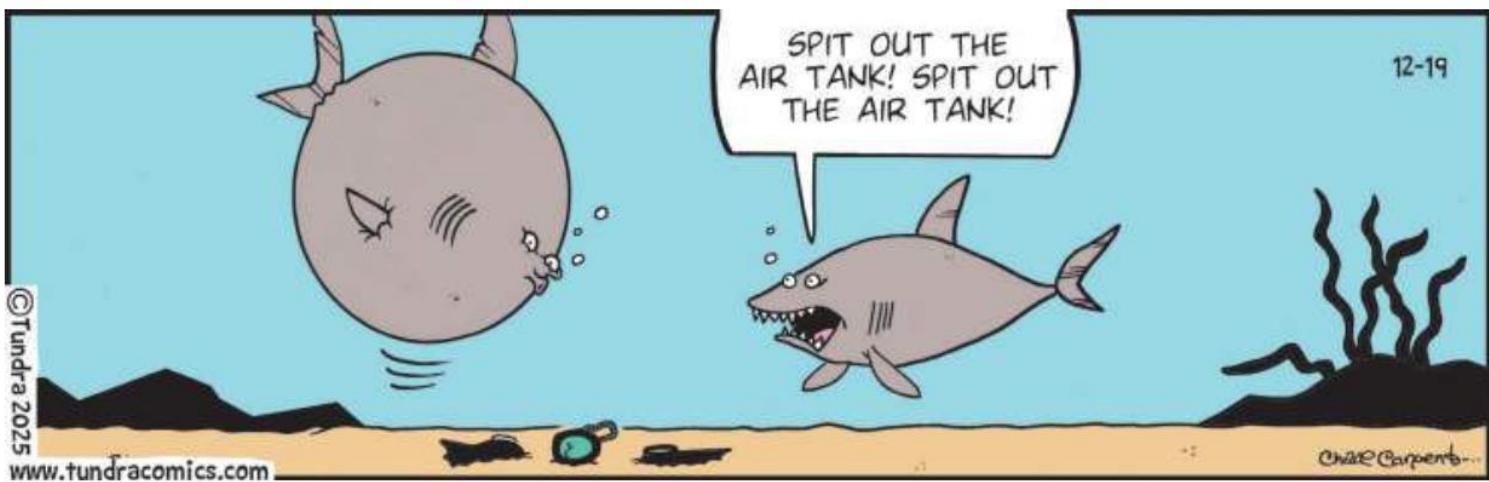
1. **Regular:** You buy tickets at the meeting and those are the tickets we draw.
2. **Progressive:** This drawing is pulled from all the raffle tickets you've bought (and saved!) over the Quarter.
3. **Participation:** Points are given for your participation in our club activities. Participation includes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

## RAFFLE SCHEDULE

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

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### TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter



Brought to us by Steve Peterson...thanks, Steve!

# Upcoming Events:

**February 2026 – Baja Bound!** The October newsletter described a trip to Baja planned for this February with Don & Brandee Sisting, Steve Peterson, (and Ranger, naturally!). If you're interested in joining or would like more info, please feel free to contact Steve at (805) 643-5834 or [Library@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:Library@channelislandsdivers.org).

## CLUB CALENDAR

JANUARY 2026	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<b>21:</b> Club Meeting, progressive raffle drawing <b>Speaker:</b> Ken McAlpine <b>24:</b> Beach dive County Line <b>27:</b> Board Meeting	<b>14:</b> Shore dive TBA <b>18:</b> Club Meeting, participation raffle drawing <b>Speaker:</b> TBA <b>21:</b> Shore dive, La Janelle <b>24:</b> Board Meeting	<b>14:</b> Shore dive TBA <b>18:</b> Club Meeting, regular raffle drawing <b>Speaker:</b> TBA <b>21:</b> Shore dive, TBA <b>24:</b> Board Meeting <b>31:</b> Underwater Easter egg hunt, Carpinteria State Beach Park
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<b>11:</b> Shore dive TBA <b>15:</b> Club Meeting, progressive raffle drawing <b>TBA, Speaker:</b> TBA <b>18:</b> Beach dive, Point Dume <b>21:</b> Board Meeting	<b>9:</b> Shore dive TBA <b>20:</b> Club Meeting, participation raffle drawing <b>Speaker:</b> TBA <b>23:</b> Spectre boat dive; no beach dive <b>26:</b> Board Meeting <b>30-31:</b> Long Beach Scuba Show; <b>May 30<sup>th</sup></b> beach dive at Veterans Park.	<b>13:</b> Shore dive, TBA <b>17:</b> Club Meeting, regular raffle drawing, <b>Speaker:</b> TBA <b>20:</b> Beach dive, TBA <b>23:</b> Board Meeting

*\*Save the date:* Refugio State Beach Club BBQ (and possible campout) September 12<sup>th</sup>\*

# Book of the Month

## ***SUBMERGED***

**Written by Daniel Lenihan**

Review by Steve Peterson

For 25 years, Daniel Lenihan led a group of National Park Service divers with a unique mission. His dive team of archeologists and technicians were charged with finding and preserving historic shipwrecks and other sites important to American heritage in U.S parks and territorial waters. These park ranger archeologists encountered many extreme diving conditions as they tackled astonishing and often harrowing assignments, including:

- Surveying the Isle Royal shipwrecks in the frigid depths of Lake Superior.
- Leading the first expedition to explore and video the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor.
- Investigating the HI Hunley, the first submarine in history to sink an enemy ship, in Charleston Harbor during the Civil War.
- Resurveying the ships sunk by atomic bombs at Bikini Atoll

*Submerged* is a recollection of Daniel Lenihan's adventures, triumphs, failures, and close calls. (Your club librarian found *Submerged* to be fascinating reading and a hard book to put down. He highly recommends reading it.)

# *Please see our website for member benefits*

<https://www.channelislandsdivers.org/membership>

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP: 105**  
**Big shout-out to all renewing members!!**

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: [ciddtreasurer92@gmail.com](mailto:ciddtreasurer92@gmail.com)**

## Board of Directors

Delbert Stewart: President

[president@channelislandsdivers.org](mailto:president@channelislandsdivers.org)

Rob Marion: VP

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Storm Thurston-Keller: Treasurer

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## Sponsors Corner



### Websites:

- <https://www.rec2tecsuba.com/>
- <https://www.scdiving.com/>
- <https://islandpackers.com/>
- <https://scubasolutionsca.com/>
- <https://channelislandsdiveadventures.com/>
- <https://maverickunderseadivers.com/>