

JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS



NEXT CLUB MEETING: January 15th, 2025

Black Bear Diner

2401 East Harbor Boulevard

Ventura, CA 93001

Social starts at 6:00 PM

Meeting starts at 6:30 PM

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BOTTOM TIMES

by club president,

Delbert Stewart



Welcome to 2025!

And just like that, another fabulous year for the club.

We had some great times in 2024, and I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the speakers who volunteered their time and honored us with their presence in 2024. Preparing for a presentation takes time and effort, and speaking in front of peers requires both courage and dedication. It's not always easy, as it involves planning, rehearsing, and sometimes stepping out

of your comfort zone. So, I just want to take a moment to recognize these individuals for their hard work and commitment.

- Ken Kollwitz: who shared his pro tips for dive travel
- Eric Taylor and Laura Forsyth: who took us on a journey through the Sea of Cortez, top to bottom
- Joe Razo and Teri Scarpino: shared their adventures wandering through Baja
- Steve Peterson: shared the history of dive gear.

In addition, for our new members here is some club trivia. 90% of our Christmas party has taken place at Jeniffer & Daves Morison's club house. Wow, we are very fortunate. It has the full kitchen and plenty of party space. So, don't forget to give them some LOVE the next time you see them. We really appreciate their ongoing support.

Photo contest

Congratulations to the photo contest winners! For this year we plan to open submissions in April. We are aiming to have the video workshop in March goes as planned. The contest judge, Todd Kortte is scheduled to come out, but of course, things can change. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that we'll be able to offer something to help us improve our editing, video, and photo skills. 🏆 📷

Shore diving plans

This year we started planning more beach dives in 2024 and it started to pick up momentum. Our goal for 2025 is to dive twice as much and add some fun and adventure while we do it. The first dive of each month will take place on the first Saturday and the second dive will be on the Saturday that follows the general meeting. The schedule will include local dives plus a few day and overnight trips. I touched on this in the October newsletter. We plan to dive in San Diego during leopard shark season, Veterans Park submarine canyon in Redondo, Scorpion Anchorage at Santa Cruz islands, Shaws Cove in Laguna Beach, and Point Lobos, to name a few. Of course, in between these little trips we will also continue to enjoy our local favorite dive spots and traditional events. What we will not have this year is a Catalina trip, but we might replace it with a vacation.



Scorpion cove

I have never dived in La Jolla, but we have Rob Johnson, who is familiar with the dives in that area and will be our guide. Veterans Park comes up a lot on Facebook, so we are going to reach out to a local club to see if we can join them for a joint club dive—kind of cool! Scorpion is a fun day trip; Mike and Tony took me out to this island. We took off with Island Packers and planned a one-dive/hike excursion. You are going to love it! Plus, we have Bill Weinerth, who has already signed up to be our hiking guide.



La Jolla SD- leopard sharks

Vacation

A trip abroad is on our 2025 agenda, and we should have some options for you by February. We are aiming to travel in the fall, which will give you plenty of time to plan and pay if you choose to go. So far, members have expressed interest in destinations with warmer waters. More on this in our next newsletter.

See you all on January 15th at BLACK BEAR DINER, 2401 East Harbor Boulevard, Ventura. Socializing and dinner at 6:00, Meeting at 6:30.

Delbert Stewart

President

Channel Islands Divers



January Speaker

Ken Kollwitz

[Channel Islands Dive Adventures](#)

[local SoCal Trips & Dive Vacations.](#)

Bonaire - World-Class Warm Water Diving

Ken Kollwitz is a long-time club member, joining the club around 1992. He held two club board positions, the Dive Coordinator for about fifteen years and the President for four years. Ken owns and runs Channel Islands Dive Adventures (CIDA) doing local dive trips and domestic and international vacation trips. He also is owner of Ultralight Camera Solutions (ULCS), making underwater and cinematography camera accessories.

Ken's presentation will be on Bonaire and Buddy Dive where he has organized group trips many times. Whether you dive or not, you will find plenty of fun things to do on the island of Bonaire. The diving at Bonaire is world class and excellent for any level diver and when it's time to dry your gills out, there's more than enough adventure on the island to keep you busy for weeks. Bonaire is the perfect choice for a new island adventure.



Divers Alert Combined



Network (DAN) First

Aid/Oxygen Course or Stand-alone Oxygen Course

WHEN: First Aid & Oxygen Course – Sunday & Monday, January 19 & 20, 2025 9am to 6pm
Stand-alone Oxygen Course – Monday, January 20, 2025 1pm to 6pm

WHERE: Channel Islands Scuba, 1348 N. Moorpark Rd, Ste B, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

MEMBERS' ONLY COST: Combined Course = \$250 (regular price is \$400)
Stand-alone Oxygen Course = \$150 (regular price is \$200)



L-R: Rob, Sandy, Eric, Delbert, Laura, and
our instructor Larry, owner of CI Scuba.

When registration opened for our DAN First Aid and Oxygen Courses back in September, many club members asked if the classes would be offered again. Yes! Another class is open, and it is time to reserve your spot. Once again, you have the option of taking the DAN Combined First Aid & Oxygen Course on January 19 & 20, or the DAN Stand-alone Oxygen Course on January 20.

The Combined First Aid & Oxygen course meets the renewal requirements for Rescue Divers, Master Divers, and Instructors. The DAN Oxygen Course alone is strongly

recommended for club members who attend our monthly beach dives.

We are taking advantage of the holiday in January by offering the course on Sunday & Monday, so you won't have to take off work to attend class. We don't know when the classes might be offered again, and the class sizes are kept small, so don't delay in reserving your spot.

UPCOMING BEACH DIVES



WHEN: January 18th, 2025

WHERE: Butterfly Beach, Santa Barbara

TIME: 8:00 AM



WHEN: February 1st, 2025

WHERE: La Jenelle Park, Oxnard

TIME: 8:00 AM



OVERVIEW:

Twice a month, we will meet at the dive location. Dives are scheduled for the first Saturday of very month and on the Saturday morning immediately following the monthly club meeting. **Beach dive depends on the weather and ocean conditions.** Check the Facebook page and look for an email to club members. Shore Dives will be one tank, unless the group agrees otherwise. If you have any questions or suggestions for beach dive locations, please feel free to email Delbert at president@channelislandsdivers.org

Beach Dive Reports

Dive Report - Channel Islands Divers

Date and Time: December 21, 2024, 9:00 AM

Location: Broad Beach, Malibu

Weather Conditions: Sunny, 67°F

Surf Conditions: 1-3 ft waves, Water Temp: 54°F at surface, Vis 10ft. Waves were about 1 ft at 8:30 AM with a 12-second period. Surf picked up as the day progressed.

Summary:

- Parking was free but patrolled. A ticket was issued for a missing license plate.
- We walked 1,231 ft (¼ mi) from the car to the dive entry point.
- The entry was very easy with no surf.
- Highlights of the dive included sightings of garibaldi, nudibranchs, monster lobsters, angel rays, and sea pansies.
- Next planned dive: Butterfly Beach, Santa Barbara—a popular spot for certifying new divers.

Report by: Del Stewart



Dive Report - Channel Islands Divers

Date and Time: January 4, 2025 9:00 AM

Location: Point Dume State Marine Reserve/State Marine Conservation Area. Ca.

Weather Conditions: Sunny, 67°F, Wind started to pick up 11am

Surf Conditions: 0-3 ft waves. Water Temp: 58°F at surface, vis 5ft. The cold but it was a refreshing treat to the soul. Washing off 2024 and welcoming 2025. Regarding the waves there were long lulls with the occasional 3-footer. Visibility was impacted by the sand brought in by recent storms.

Marine Life reported:

Despite the poor visibility, we still managed to spot some marine life. There were lobsters in the reefs, dolphins were seen in tandem on the surface at a distance, I had a sheephead close encounter, schools of Surfperch were near the surface and within 5 ft.



Activity:

The area was quite active with people—lots of swimmers, surfers, and snorkelers in the water, and many more on the shore, up in the preserve trails, all taking photos and simply enjoying the day.

Summary:

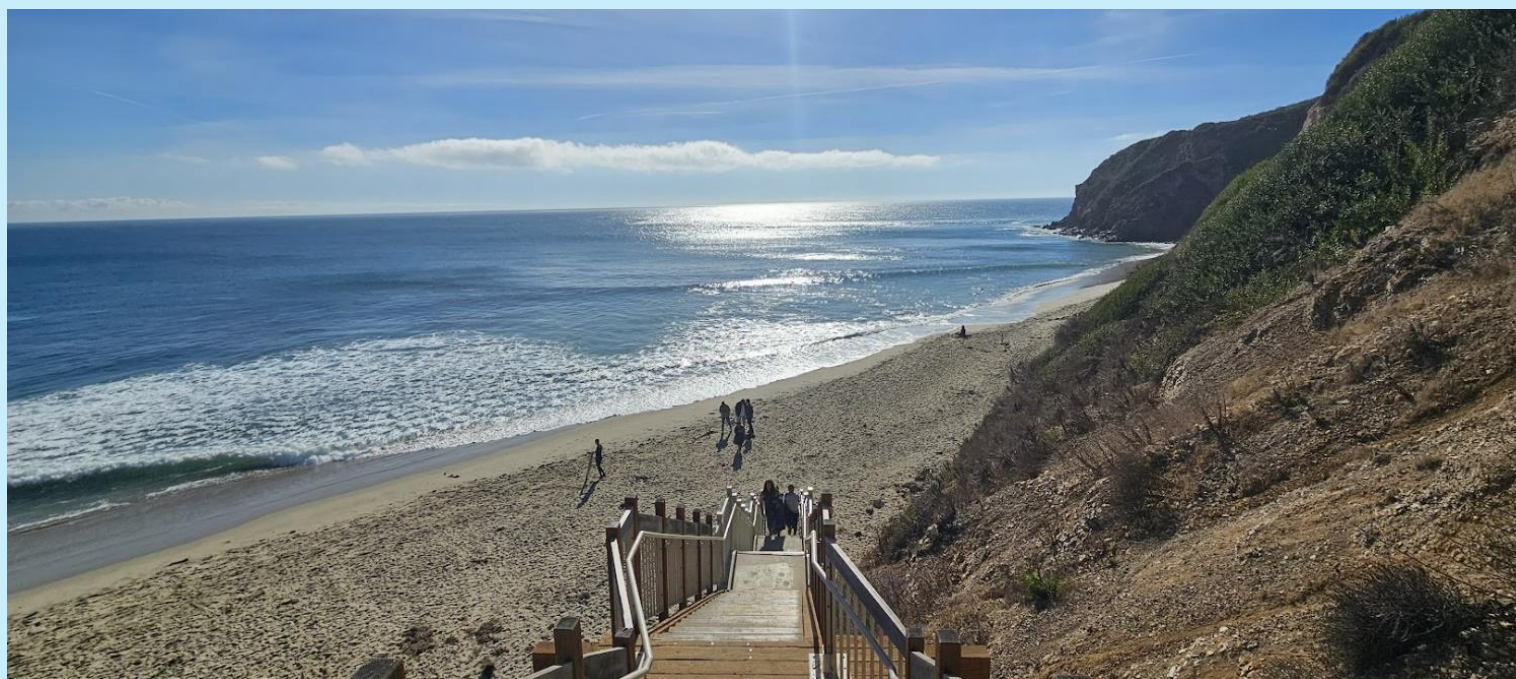
It was a wonderful day at the cove. The walk from where we parked on Grasswood to the preserve was enjoyable, and I couldn't help but admire the multimillion-dollar homes along the way. Interestingly, Anthony Hopkins' home borders the preserve, so of course, we peeked through the backyard—no sighting of him, though! We knocked on the door, but no one answered. Just kidding—we knocked and ran away like any respectable 50-year-old would do. 😊

Soon we arrived at the preserve entrance and followed the dirt trail that led us to the steep cliffs. The view of the coast from the 100-ft cliffs was breathtaking. Offering a full 180 deg view of the cove, from Little Dume (on the left) to Big Dume (on the right), with Anacapa and Santa Cruz visible in the distance. The shoreline which is normally rocky was buried with sand. Not a rock in sight. The shoreline, which is usually rocky, was completely buried in sand, a rare treat for visitors who just wanted to stroll along the beach.

The staircase down to the beach is relatively new. The old one is gone and old trail to get down is pretty much cut off. The staircase has a few landings along the way down which make it a great place to pause for a breather. Lots of activity on the staircase but it is wide enough to handle it and it looks structurally sound.

After suiting up near Big Dume, we headed to the water. I did not use any special free-diving gear, just my regular scuba gear, and it worked out fine. It was great exercise, and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We met a couple visiting from Cabo San Lucas. They were cold. (sorry no warm water here 😊). After the swim we make it back to shore sat in the sun while I enjoyed my lunch.

Report by: Del Stewart



NEW CLUB EVENT!

Scorpion Anchorage Dive and Hike

Saturday April 5th 2025 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Cost: \$70 person

Hiking led by: Channel Islands Naturalist Bill Weinerth

Diving led by: Club President Delbert Stewart



Overview:

After boarding and taking **Island Packers** to Scorpion Anchorage –

- Hikers have two options to either be led by expert guide Bill Weinerth or explore the island on your own.
- Divers will start the day diving and then have lunch and if time permits do a hike.

Scorpion Anchorage is a peaceful anchorage located on Santa Cruz Island, part of Channel Islands National Park. It features calm, sheltered waters and is surrounded by rugged cliffs and natural scenery. The area is popular with boaters, kayakers, and divers, offering clear waters for swimming and snorkeling.

Scorpion Ranch provides hiking trails like potato harbor and cavern point with unparalleled vistas of the Santa Cruz, Anacapa, Ventura, Oxnard and Santa Barbara. It also offers the chance to explore historical sites from when it was a cattle ranch. The anchorage is a quiet and scenic spot, making it a perfect place to relax or launch an exploration of the island.

Visit the National Parks Service website for hiking trails:

<https://www.nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/upload/sci-hiking-2022-ADA.pdf>

Scorpion Anchorage Dive and Hike

Important Information:

- **Divers: *No Gear Rentals:*** Be sure to bring your own scuba or snorkeling equipment. 2 tanks max per person.
- **Hikers:** Know Your Hiking Trails. Research your hike ahead of time, as some trails can be challenging. (Please see link above if exploring on your own)
- **Prepare for Changing Weather:** Bring layers, as wind and wave conditions can change quickly.



CHRISTMAS PARTY PHOTO WINNERS

2024 contest winners	
MACRO <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heather Moine - Lettuce Nudibranch 2. Donald Lockwood - Aliens 3. Heather Moine - Pederson Shrimp 	TOPSIDE <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Donald Lockwood - Stairway to Paradise 2. Heather Moine - Diving at the end of the rainbow 3. Donald Lockwood - Boaters Paradise
VIDEO <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Andrea Dransfield - Bull sharks 2. Heather Monie - Sharp tail Eel 3. Laura Forsyth - Sea Lion by la Reina 	WIDE ANGLE <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Donald Lockwood - Big Bite 2. Dana Werner - Diver Descent 3. Donald Lockwood - Spirit Light

Contest Judge-Todd Kortte: Underwater Video and Video Editing Instructor

Experience: Worked with Walt Disney Imagineering, Universal Studios, and over 300 Hollywood production sets.

Underwater Video Achievements: 8 Film Festival Awards, 4th place in the World Shootout (Germany), 5-time SoCal Shootout video winner.

Notable Recognition: Only American to make the top 5 finalists in the World Shootout.

Viral Impact: Over 10 million minutes of online streaming and viral videos licensed to companies.

Pro Team & Advocacy: Pro Team Member for Kraken Sports, active with Oceans Defenders Alliance to remove lost fishing nets.

Creator & Host: Host and creator of Oceans Unknown YouTube channel.



Reminder: Todd Kortte is the March Guest Speaker.



1st Macro: Heather Moine - Lettuce Nutibranch



1st Topside: Donald Lockwood - Stairway to Paradise



1st Wide Angle: Donald Lockwood - Big Bite



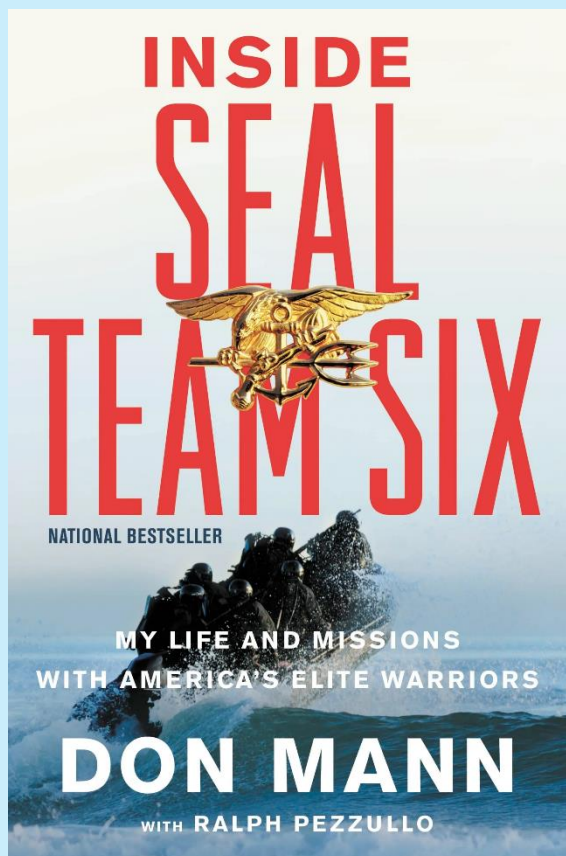
1st Video: Andrea Dransfield - Bull sharks



MERRY CHRISTMAS 2024



Book of the Month



Inside Seal Team Six

By Don Mann

I found Inside Seal Team Six to so captivating that it was hard to put the book down.

The book gives the reader an inside view to the life of a 17-year member of this ultra selective fraternity. It describes much of the training involved as well as the team members' physical and social problems related to this service. Inside Seal Team Six is chalked full of fascinating stories of Don Mann's youthful escapades, military deployments, and endurance races.

Unfortunately, some names and sentences are "blacked out". I assume this is due to censorship related to classified military information.

However, I can't help to wonder what interesting stuff I'm missing. It's a great book and I'm sure you will like it.

(Reviewed by

Steve Peterson, your friendly librarian)



Editors Note: Remember you can check out books during the club and have a good read every month. Please look at the books in the library every meeting for new and exciting adventures.

C A L E N D A R

JANUARY 15 - Club Meeting Speaker: Ken Kollwitz <i>PROGRESSIVE DRAWING!</i> 18 - Butterfly Beach, Santa Barbara Beach Dive 19 & 20 - First Aid & Oxygen Courses at CI Scuba 20 - Board Meeting	FEBRUARY 1 - La Jenelle Beach Dive (if no NW swell Plan B TBD) 19 - Club Meeting Speaker: Robert Weinerth <i>PARTICIPATION DRAWING!</i> 22 - Avalon Harbor, Catalina Island Beach Cleanup and Dive 24 - Board Meeting	MARCH 1 - Veterans Park Submarine Canyon Beach Dive - Redondo Beach 19 - Club Meeting - Lobster Season ENDS 11:59 PM Speaker: Todd Kortte <i>MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION DRAWING!</i> 22 - Avalon Harbor, Catalina Beach Cleanup and Dive 24 - Board Meeting
APRIL 5 - Scorpion Anchorage - Hike and Dive - Island Packers 16 - Club Meeting Speaker: Mark Strickland - Blue Water Photo 19 - Refugio Beach, Santa Barbara Beach Dive, Easter Egg Hunt 24 - Board Meeting	MAY 1 - Malibu Road Beach Dive 21 - Club Meeting Speaker: Channel Islands Naturalist Corps 24 - Nicholas Canyon, Malibu Beach Dive 26 - Board Meeting	JUNE 7 - Laguna Beach 18 - Club Meeting Speaker: UPDATE with White Abalone Moss Landing Marine Labs 21 - Kayak Dive TBD with Mark Thompson 23 - Board Meeting

Board of Directors

Delbert Stewart: President

president@channelislandsdivers.org

Bill Weinerth: VP/speaker seeker

vicepresident@channelislandsdivers.org

Rob Marion: Secretary

secretary@channelislandsdivers.org

Ann Hoagland: Treasurer

treasurer@channelislandsdivers.org

Dive coordinator email:

dive@channelislandsdivers.org

Laura Forsyth: Webmaster

webmaster@channelislandsdivers.org

Laurie Hennessy: Raffle coordinator

raffle@channelislandsdivers.org

Rob Johnson: Membership coordinator

membership@channelislandsdivers.org

Franklin Murphy: Newsletter editor

editor@channelislandsdivers.org

Steve Peterson: Librarian

library@channelislandsdivers.org

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP: 117

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Melanie Kemmann

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