

CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS

NEXT CLUB MEETING:

JAN 17, 2024

6:00PM Dinner

6:30PM Meeting

Black Bear Diner

2401 E. Harbor Blvd.

Ventura, CA 93001

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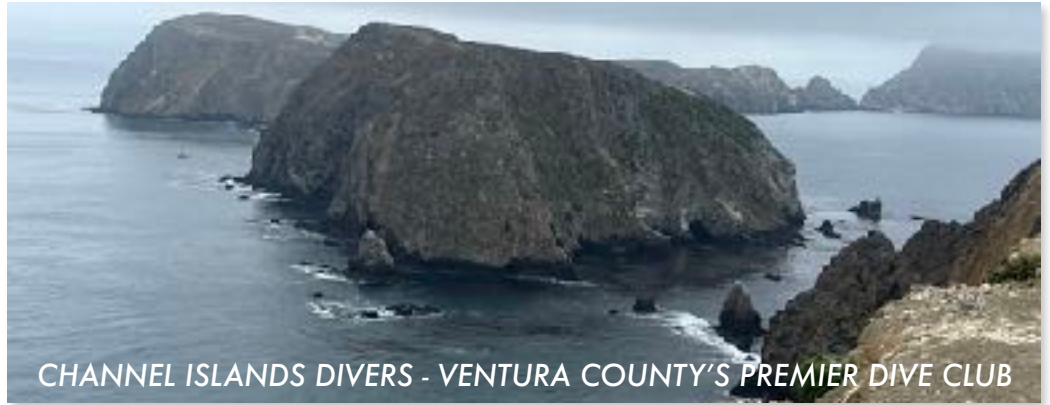
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Many Thanks to our Club Sponsors!

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- ♦ **Island Packers**
- ♦ **Black Bear Diner**
- ♦ **PCH Scuba**



BOTTOM TIMES

By Mike Cunningham

Club President

Welcome to 2024.

And just in time, we finally get to use those new calendars that seem to collect all year. Like a fresh start, all those empty spaces to fill in.

2024 not only ends calendar year 2023 but starts my second full year as your President. And with that, we'll run through the highlight reel. My version of how I've done. Yes, I did have a plan coming in, an agenda of sorts when I started all this. My plan was nothing more than a short and very small list of things I wished to see accomplished. Topping that small list was the biggie, I wanted us to move. To relocate somewhere more convenient, more conducive to the social gathering style we call a general meeting.

Talking about moving locations goes back years before I became your President. I first heard of the idea about moving at the very first Board meeting I attended. Standard stuff really, 'we need to move' followed by 'it's difficult', and 'it has to have this or that'. We quickly shifted focus, we would talk about all the things that needed to be checked off, things that HAD to be included and that quickly turned into the reasons 'NO', we can't move. All true but not enough to warrant a 'NO' every time it came up.

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Covid shut down Pirates and that forced the issue. We scrambled as a board looking quickly for a new place and our President talked with the new owner of what was Pirates and we had us a new spot, same as the old spot, just a different name. We promptly lost that spot to Karaoke night. President Doyon had more talks with the owner, and we were offered his other Pizza Man Dans location down in Port Hueneme. The place we met for some time coming out of Covid. Not a bad place, just not the best place. And that location turned into a hefty drive for many of us.

When I became the President, I too asked the board to start looking just like the previous Presidents had all done. This time with more of a push, wanting more 'YES' than 'NO'. After years of talking about this I already knew the 'NO's', I needed 'YES's'. And as a board we slowly started shifting away from all those "NO's" and found out how to turn them into 'YES's'. And just that easy and like they say, the rest is history. Black Bear Diner fits the bill for what we wanted. In my humble opinion, it is the single biggest, meaningful turn of events for the club since I've been a member.

Another not too small item on that very small list was the ability to convey information reliably and quickly to the membership. Our website had to be the key. Combining that with doing business over the Web was a goal I had going back years when it first became apparent the website was not living up to its potential. As your Newsletter Editor I created a new and improved website and with the help of the then President, Mike Doyon, it went live. Much much better than before but not yet there. It did come up on the board several times about selling membership and merchandise on the site, only to get shot down for a variety of reasons, most of them valid, some we could have overcome but bottom line, we just were not ready for the work needed and involvement required.

But our luck was about to change. In stepped our new Webmaster, Del Stewart, and the job he's done in rebuilding our website, well, it's like comparing those old bi planes of WWI to the F35 jet fighters. It's not just our ability to take revenue over the web, but the whole site in total that I'm referring to. It's a complete rebuild, it's fantastic and it's still in its beginning stages. It has nowhere to go but up and get better.

We've already started taking money over the web, slowly at first but it's not going to be long before we start taking money for anything and everything we have a need for. All it took, after first ignoring all the 'NO's', was a drive for something better with a spelled-out mission that we stuck to. Add to that the right people at the right time with the right

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BOTTOM TIMES continued from Page 2

attitude and the results speak for themselves. We kept our eyes on the prize. We started with the end in sight and built it from there. And equally as important, somewhere along the way we stopped listening to all the 'NO's' and did what we knew we had to do to make it work, and as a result, it is working and working great. In other words, we started listening for the 'YES's'.

This year's Christmas party had 'NO' Photo/Video contest. Somewhere along the year it got lost, was hijacked, or just buried under a pile of papers never to be brought up or something else. It just never got the attention from the board it deserved. I should have caught it sooner. It fits into my job description. It's easy to run and we have a volunteer who said she'd do it. We just ran the clock out on us this year, we had no time when it was finally brought up at a board meeting. I feel bad and I feel responsible. I know, woe is me, but that didn't stop it from turning into a big 'NO' this year. That's in part why I promised to bring it up at EVERY general meeting until the next Christmas party. 'YES', I will remember. 'YES', there will be a Photo/Video contest in 2024. I promise you there will be, I give you my word and I'll make it happen. The timing on this one had the effect of making it onto that short list of mine a little late, wasn't there at the start, but it's there now, and it's being acted upon. By my count that puts me at 3 out of the 4 items on my small short list in the first 16 months that I've checked off. Not bad at all, but I'm not done either. You know, it's always that last one that will get you. But 'YES', I am working on it.

So, this January 17, 2023, the third Wednesday of the month join us at
BLACK BEAR DINER, 2401 East Harbor Boulevard, Ventura.
Start arriving at 6 or before for some lite socializing and dinner (we have the room then)
with the meeting starting officially at 6:30pm.



READY FOR A NEW YEAR AND DIVE TRAVEL?

MEET JANUARY SPEAKER *KEN KOLLWITZ*

TO LEARN SOME GREAT DIVE TRAVEL TIPS!



- Ken Kollwitz is a long-time club member, joining the club around 1992. He held two club board positions, the Dive Coordinator for about 15 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.



- Ken is also owner of Ultralight Camera Solutions (ULCS) which makes underwater cinematography camera accessories.
- Through his travels with both CIDA and ULCS he has learned a lot and still learning to this day. Most of his best tips are from personal travel experiences and tips he has received from others. Some things have remained the same since before Covid and some have changed or are new. Either way, the more information and tools we have in our tool bag the better we are and the less hassles you will have while traveling. Ken is no expert on any of this and he figures, if everyone goes home learning one thing that helps them, he has done his job. Ken says, "Bring your questions and lets have fun at the meeting together."

Check out January speaker Ken Kollwitz's company at channelislandsdiveadventures.com

"Scuba trips to the Channel Islands for the experienced diver are our specialty"



Oil Rig diving

Local trips

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NEW UPCOMING EVENT:

IMAX AT THE CALIFORNIA SCIENCE CENTER

**RSVP's closed, coordinated by Sandy Bickford. However, this is a great idea for any Winter day out! californiasciencecenter.org*

DATE: Saturday, January 13, 2024

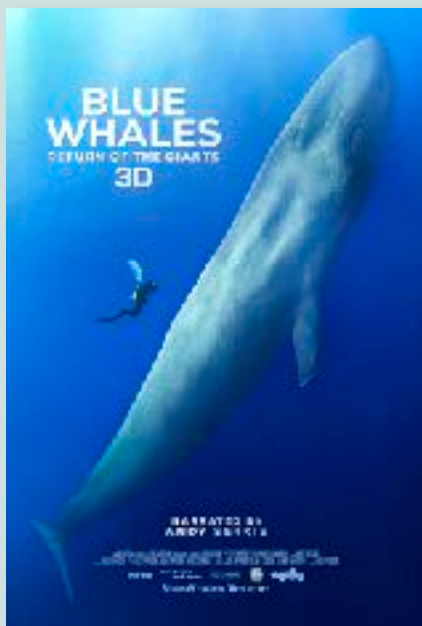
MEETING TIME: no later than 11:15 AM at the theatre

LOCATION: California Science Center, 700 Exposition Park Drive, L.A., CA 90037

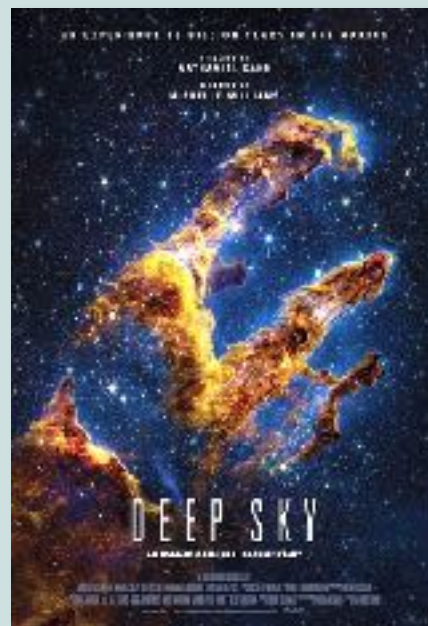
PARKING COST: \$15*

SINCE WE ARE NOT RECEIVING A SPECIAL CLUB DISCOUNT, THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO NON-MEMBERS :) Please see website for general admission prices. californiasciencecenter.org/imax

The IMAX Theater at the California Science Center is presenting two films that should be of great interest to Channel Islands Divers! Take a look at the description of these two films on the next page, then sign up at our November 15 meeting to join us on what promises to be a very enjoyable outing.



BLUE WHALES 3D
12:00 PM



DEEP SKY
1:00 PM

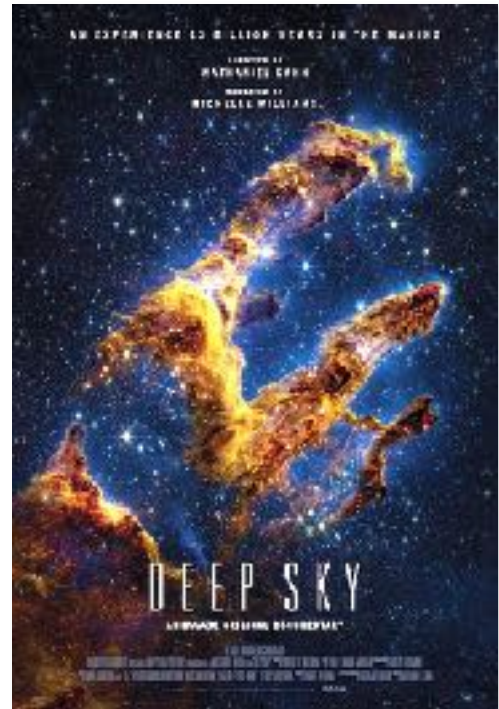


WORLD PREMIERE AT THE CALIFORNIA SCIENCE CENTER IMAX THEATER

Blue Whales 3D takes viewers on a journey of a lifetime to explore the world of the magnificent blue whale, a species rebounding from the brink of extinction.

Following two scientific expeditions—one to find a missing population of blues off the exotic Seychelles Islands, the other to chronicle whale families in Mexico's stunning Gulf of California—the film transforms our understanding of the largest animal ever to have lived. From its almost incomprehensible size to its spectacular feeding habits; from the surprising role it plays in the health of our oceans to its awesome long-distance communications, the film provides an unforgettable window into the lives these animals live—and the extremes scientists must endure to study them.

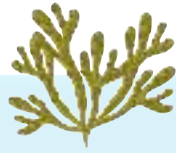
Narrated by award-winning actor Andy Serkis (*Lord of the Rings*, *Star Wars*) with a powerful score by Academy-Award winner Steven Price (*Gravity*), experience **Blue Whales 3D** for the first time, life-size on the Giant Screen. Runtime: 45 mins.



A journey 13 billion years in the making—told through the lens of NASA's James Webb Space Telescope.

Deep Sky brings the awe-inspiring images captured by NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) to IMAX® – taking audiences on a journey to the beginning of time and space, to never-before-seen cosmic landscapes and to recently discovered exoplanets, planets around other stars.

Directed by Oscar®-nominated filmmaker Nathaniel Kahn and narrated by Oscar®-nominated actress Michelle Williams, **Deep Sky** follows the high-stakes global mission to build JWST and to launch it into orbit one million miles from Earth, in an attempt to answer questions that have haunted us since the beginning of time. **Deep Sky** reveals the universe as we have never seen it before; immersing audiences in the stunning pictures beamed back to earth by NASA's new telescope. Runtime: 40 mins.



MORE GREAT MEMORIES FROM MONTEREY

October Monterey Weekend Club Event

Article and photos by Ken Kollwitz

"A success and failure all at the same time..."

Because I was the one that set the trip up, I figured it was my responsibility to let everyone know how I thought the trip turned out.

You see, I was a bit selfish in introducing something to possibly replace the Catalina trip but I now see why the Catalina trip works out so well and probably the biggest reason is everyone is a captured audience. My wife and I haven't attended the Catalina trip in many years. I was the person who started them over 20 years ago and I sort of got tired of the same thing plus the dates no longer work for me because of DEMA. I will say it took many trips to different hotels and even a couple of trips to Two Harbors before finding the Pavilion Lodge. Of course, back then, it wasn't the same place you see now.

Why a success and failure all at the same time? I'll be happy to explain.

The successes were many and I do believe more club members now realize there is much to do in the Monterey area so they can go back on their own. My wife and I love Monterey and because the area offers so much, we can never run out of things to do there.

So, what all did we do to make it a success?

It all started with our drive North. We left on time on Thursday at 1:30 pm and always stop in King City for dinner at a Mexican restaurant. This time we tried a new one out and it was the BEST. I am already looking forward to going back to try some other specialties out. Friday morning was our whale watching trip. It was foggy out all day but the whales, dolphins and Risso dolphins made for an excellent trip, especially the show we got at the end of the trip. It was probably the second-best whale watching trip Tessie and I have done.

After whale watching... I took care of some business at Light & Motion in Marina and at 6 pm it was time for our potluck which is always fun. The plan was to have it at our room but that changed when we realized it was much smaller than expected, then it was going to be in the meeting room at the hotel but same thing so we moved it outside to an area with a propane firepit. Even though it was outside I think that area worked out better than expected. Big thank you to Fahmy and Jimmy for getting the propane firepit working and Jimmy for bringing the game Farkle for us to play.

Saturday turned out to be beautiful and sunny which was perfect for our boat dives. Due to several factors, the brave 10 CIDA divers that had planned on diving was reduced to 4 brave divers which was Eric, Pat, Rob and Lina not including myself. I was able to find replacements for 3 of those not going. The seas were actually better than expected but vis wasn't. Our first dive at Mr. Eds, we had at most 10ft of visibility and it was dark at 70ft. The cool thing was the rocky terrain with ling cod, large scallops and all the metridiums. As long as you moved slow and didn't stray too far from the anchor you were good. The second dive was at Otter Cove. It was a shallower dive between 25-35ft deep but the visibility was much better and close to 25ft. It was nice and relaxing with an average water temp of 60 degrees which is warm for Monterey. After diving Eric and I made a sidetrip to Backscatter. *(continued on next page)*

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For those not diving, one small group went wine tasting.

I was told this was a different type of wine tasting experience. One group followed Ann to some of her favorite places in Carmel and the other group went hiking around Asilomar Beach. Later in the early evening we had another get-together at the firepit with some snacks and leftovers from the potluck the previous night. We also had some excitement with some small animals rustling through the bushes behind us. They were the type that had tails, whiskers and were something most females don't like.

Sunday was Aquarium Day for most of us and a good day for it because it was a rainy day.

We had two groups going on tours. The first was a small group of six of us arriving before the aquarium opened so we would be in time for our 11 am free 2-hour private tour I put together with my friend Christy who works in the fish husbandry area of the aquarium. She was sent out to Catalina for some fish collecting at the last minute so she set us up with a friend of hers, Dave Smith who was an awesome tour guide.

The other group did a paid 1-hour tour that I heard was very interesting as well. One thing for sure, if you ever do a behind the scenes tour you will learn that there is so many moving parts and people that are needed to run something like the Monterey Bay Aquarium you will quickly realize why the ticket cost is what it is.



The Fish House Restaurant

Tessie and I hung out with Pat & Sherry in the middle of our aquarium visit we left for lunch going to The Fish House along Cannery Row which I highly recommend. After our wonderful lunch we went back to the aquarium staying till about 4:30 pm. Back at the hotel a little later we had some of the group join Tessie and me in our room for some snacks and socializing. It was a perfect time while it rained outside.

Monday morning was sad as it was time to pack, check out and drive home.

On our way out of town we tried a new breakfast place, The Butter House in Seaside. Needless to say, we will be back for our next visit.

Now it's time for the failures which were many and became comical.

The cost of hotels is comparable especially if you stay in one as nice as the Pavilion. We didn't because there is so much to see and do in the area staying 4 days at a place like the Pavilion would bankrupt everyone. Instead, we stayed at the Lone Oak Lodge which didn't turn out as expected especially for the queen suite Tessie and I had. Some of the rooms that were newly remodeled were nice but ours was stuck in time and it showed. I have had many friends stay at the Lone Oak but unbeknownst to me it was sold a couple years back and nothing now is like they mark it out to be which is why it became comical.

The location and diver wash station were great and that's the only reason I gave it two stars on my review. Some stayed at other hotels but this only separated the group even more. The Pavilion is the BEST, well run, clean and modern, great staff and they have a lot to offer plus they offer breakfast and wine tasting for later in the day.

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I feel the biggest failure for the group was the main reason for going to Monterey. There is so much to see and do it is extremely hard to keep the group even somewhat together. In Avalon, you are a captured audience and everyone can do different things. Because Avalon is a SMALL town you still see each other during the day which gives you a sense of togetherness. That is hard to do in Monterey.

The diving is another factor and one I did think about before. Normally Monterey is colder and the visibility can vary but what you see under the surface is totally different than Catalina. Variety is nice and the only way someone will find out is to experience it first-hand. Maybe had we been in Catalina there wouldn't have been as many divers canceling out on the boat trip.

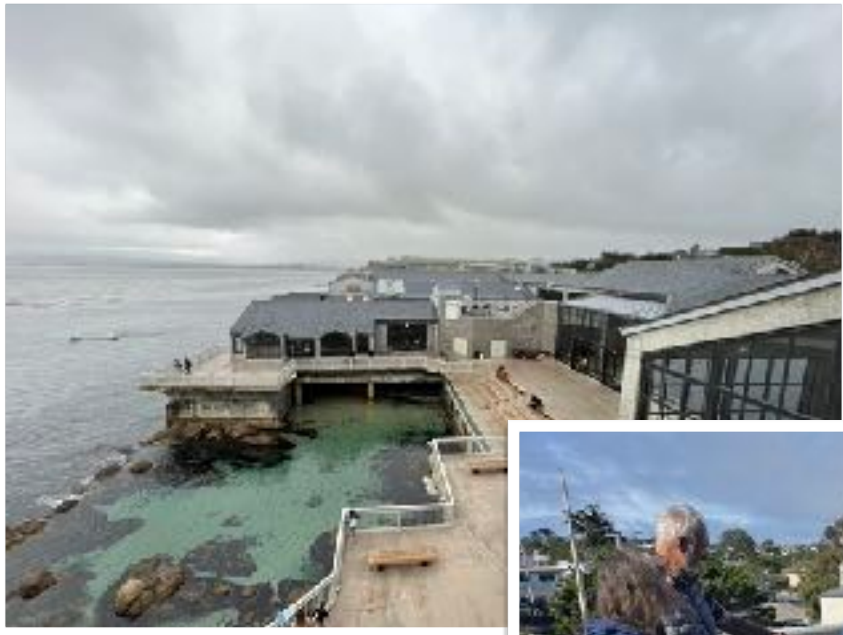
The last thing is the drive. For Catalina, most everyone is together for the ride over and back. Not so for Monterey and because it's further, and extra time off of work is needed which isn't that easy for everyone.

For me, the biggest plus of the trip was the potluck. Why, because out of the entire trip this was the only time, we all were able to get together including those that stayed at other places. Food always wins!



Thank you Ken for the detailed trip report and letting us enjoy the trip through your stories !!

Monterey photo gallery
by Ken Kollowitz



A reminder that as a club we do a raffle every month and have great giveaways! January is a “Progressive Drawing” month which means your non-winning tickets from the last 3 months’ meetings will be added to the pot in January!



All tickets since the last Progressive Drawing are placed back into the bin, and one ticket is drawn, with the winner receiving an extremely valuable prize. Past winning Progressive Drawing prizes have included tanks, computers, GoPros, etc.

You do not have to be at the meeting or purchase anything new, but your previously LOSING TICKET must be present to win!

NEXT PROGRESSIVE DRAWING WILL BE AT JANUARY’S MEETING!



C A L E N D A R

<p>JANUARY 2024 13 IMAX at CA Science Center - Blue Whales! 17 General Meeting Speaker: Ken Kollwitz Dive Travel Tips 22 Board Meeting</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 2024 21 General Meeting Speaker: Chuck Graham Expert Kayaker and Author 26 Board Meeting</p>	<p>MARCH 2024 20 General Meeting Speaker TBD 23 Board Meeting</p>
<p>APRIL 2024 17 General Meeting Speaker TBD 22 Board Meeting</p>	<p>MAY 2024 15 General Meeting Speaker TBD 20 Board Meeting</p>	<p>JUNE 2024 19 General Meeting Speaker TBD 24 Board Meeting</p>

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Current Membership: 93

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

Renewing Members:
 Single - \$30 Family - \$45

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membership@channelislandsdivers.org

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