

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

## CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS



Photo: Franklin Murphy

**NEXT CLUB MEETING: August 20<sup>th</sup> 2025**  
**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, Fellow Divers!

Summer is in full swing, and our club has been making the most of every chance to get into the water. From local dives to faraway wrecks, Channel Island divers are unstoppable and continue to prove there is no such thing as too much fun. And

as we look ahead fall is just around the corner promising better visibility. Not to mention, lobster season is almost here! That means more reasons to grab your gear, find your buddies, and get ready for some exciting dives.

This month we are especially excited to welcome long-time members **Don and Brandee Sisting** as our guest speakers. Earlier this year they traveled to Baja Sur to witness the gray whale migration at Laguna Ojo de Liebre. How exciting is that? Their presentation will be filled with incredible photos and stories you will not want to miss.

Members have also been busy with some incredible diving adventures. Dale Burrows defied the cold waters of Lake Superior to explore the 525-foot *Emperor*, where visibility below the thermocline stretched past 100 feet. Back here in California, the kayak dive at Carpinteria brought encounters with variety of fishes and Nicholas (new member) got himself a refresher course with the four amigos, Rob Marrion, Rob Johnson, Mark Thompson, and Tony Frabasilio. Proof that adventure is never far from shore. In San Diego, our we explored the Yukon and Ruby E wrecks, capping off the trip with a stop at the USS *Midway* Museum.

Looking ahead, be sure to mark your calendars for **September 6**—our annual Refugio BBQ. Morning dives and a feast at the beach. In **October 4**, we will head north to Monterey Bay for dives at Monastery Beach and Point Lobos—a true natural treasure for divers and non-divers alike.

Do not forget, our **photo contest** is underway! Submit your best shots taken since last November. Entries close at the **October 22** meeting, and winners will be announced at the Christmas party. Even better, you can now upload your entries directly to our website—thank you, **Laura Forsyth**, for making that happen! 🙌🙌🙌

We are also excited to welcome a new sponsor—[SC Diving](#)—offering discounts on PADI classes, gear, and more to club members. Simply show your CID membership card on your next visit to enjoy these benefits, and be sure to thank them for supporting our club.

And mark your calendars for **October 25**, Halloween is around the corner and with that SC Diving Pumpkin Carving Contest! 🎃 Location will be chosen based on conditions as the date approaches, either Broad Beach in Malibu or Butterfly Beach in Montecito.

I look forward to seeing you all at our **August 20th meeting at 6 PM**. Come for dinner, kick back, and enjoy an evening of great stories, raffle prizes, and the company of fellow divers.

Until then... dive safe, dive often, and may your buoyancy always be on point!

~Del

# **AUGUST SPEAKER**

## **Don Sisting**



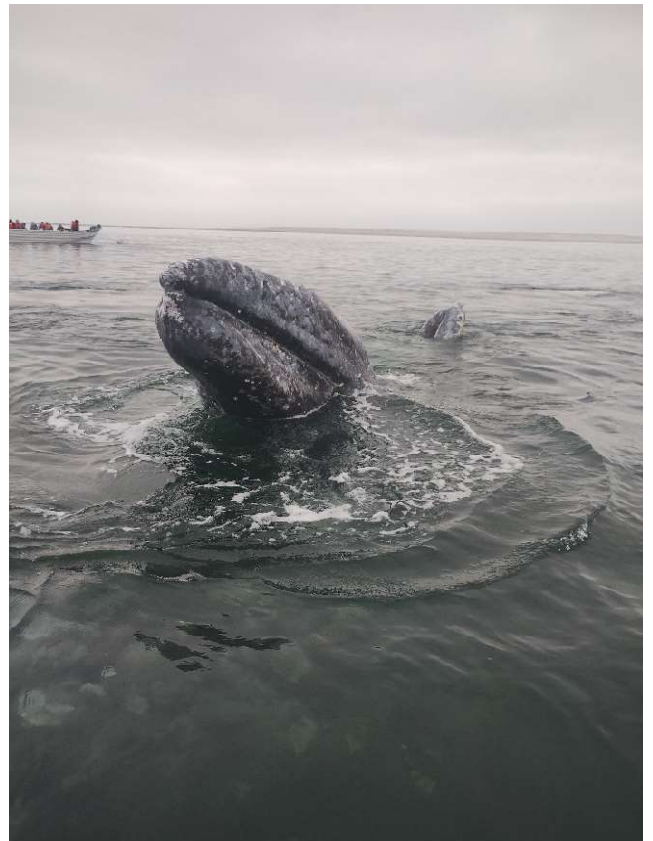
In February of this year, Don and Brandee Sisting took a trip to Baja Sur (south) and specifically to Laguna ojo de liebre to

see the migration of the gray whales. It was a two-day trip traveling from Camarillo to Guerrero Negro. We camped along the way in San Felipe and then spent 4 days in Guerrero Negro. The scenery along the way was very interesting, but the highlight of the trip was the two days we went out on a panga with Shari Bondy, a marine biologist for 30 years and owner of Whale Magic tours to see the gray whales.

We were able to take lots of pictures, touch the gray whales (actually they would touch us as we hung over the side of the boat), and some of the people on the panga even kissed the gray whales. The whales were very friendly. They are beautiful intelligent curious mammals. Don took lots of pictures on the panga.

We invite you to attend our presentation on Wednesday, 8.20.2025 to hear more about our “Gray Whale Encounters”. We will show our pictures and cover the history of migration and information about the gray whales. Maybe even put together another trip this February!

Hope you can join us.



# Lake Superior the Emperor

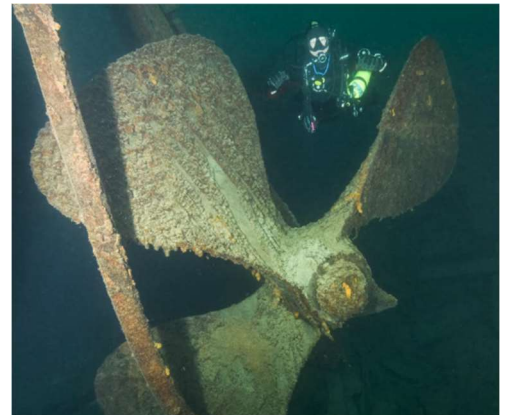
By: Dale Burrows



Emperor 525 ft long steel bulk freighter sank in 1947 it has a narrow swim thru under the keel at 160'

July 12-17 diving wrecks around Isle Royale in Lake Superior. The wrecks varied in depth from 40ft to 165ft. Surface

temperatures were in the high 40's and at depths of 38 feet. These wrecks have been down in many cases over 100 years; with the cold fresh water they are very well preserved. Below the thermocline at about 70ft the visibility is amazing 100+ feet. The wrecks we dove hit either one of the many rocky shoals or in the case of the America run into the island and sank with the bow in 4ft and the stern at 85ft.



# PHOTO CONTEST

**Calling all underwater photographers and videographers! Submit your best stuff taken since last November to our 2025 photo contest. The rules and our NEW online entry form are at [channelislandsdivers.org](https://channelislandsdivers.org). The contest closes at the October meeting, 10/22, and winners will be announced at the Christmas party.**



## 2025 Rules for Entry

The 2025 Photo & Video Contest is open to all **CID members in good standing**. i.e., your membership is paid and current when you enter and when awards are given. Anonymous entries will be evaluated by an independent, non-club member judge appointed by the CID Board.

### ***Photos and videos will be evaluated on the following criteria:***

THEME – How well the photo/video relates to scuba diving

TECHNICAL MERIT – Quality of composition, lighting, contrast, focus, etc.

ARTISTIC MERIT – Visual interest, emotional connection, etc.

Prizes for First and Second place will be awarded for each category. Each member may submit only TWO entries per category. However, each member will be limited to one prize per category. In the event the judge selects two entries by the same person as the winners for a category, a runner-up will be chosen by the judge for the second-place prize.

### **CATEGORIES**

*Underwater Macro Photo* – Macro shots are more than a close-up (often cropped from a wide-angle shot) – in true macro, the magnification ratio is 1:1 or higher, and the size of the subject on the image sensor is life-size or greater.

*Underwater Wide-Angle Photo* - (includes close focus wide-angle and wide-angle pictures) Close focus wide-angle combines a foreground macro subject with wide-angle background showing the subject's surroundings. Wide angle is with a lens that has a focal length of less than 35mm.

*Topside Photo* – The subject of the photo must be related to diving (not just the beach).

*Underwater Video* – The total length of each submission must not exceed 60 seconds and must be a single, unedited clip. No special effects or titles may be added.

*Novice* – If you have not previously won in our photo contest, you may enter two photos or videos in this category, as well as in the other categories.

### **DEADLINE:**

Go to the [Photo Contest page](#) and follow the step-by-step instructions there to submit your entry.

Or, submit all photo and video entries along with an entry form to the Club President by the club's General Meeting, **October 15, 2025**. Bring your form and a drive/SD card (marked with your name) to the meeting.

   **FORMAT: submit Photos as JPEGs & Videos in MP4**   

**2025 Contest Entry & Consent**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, confirm that I alone created the submitted materials and that these materials do not infringe on anyone else's rights. I give the Channel Islands Dive Club, Inc. my permission and a perpetual copyright license to use and reproduce my submitted work on the CID website, in newsletters, and in other promotional materials, without any royalties or other compensation to me. I also agree to protect the Club, its Board and its members from any liability or other legal issues related to my submission.

\_\_\_\_\_  
ENTRANT SIGNATURE DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME (PRINT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE EMAIL

***Entry Category & Description***

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1) _____<br>_____ | 2) _____<br>_____  |
| 3) _____<br>_____ | 4) _____<br>_____  |
| 5) _____<br>_____ | 6) _____<br>_____  |
| 7) _____<br>_____ | 8) _____<br>_____  |
| 9) _____<br>_____ | 10) _____<br>_____ |



# JOIN US AT OUR MONTHLY BEACH DIVES

**When:** The first Saturday of every month, as well as the Saturday following our monthly club meeting (which takes place on the 3rd Wednesday of each month), are the beach dive dates

Since this event is free, it's open to both members and non-members.  
Non-divers are also welcome—whether you want to snorkel, swim, or just offer land support!  
Check Facebook for updates and or club calender at [www.ChannellIslandsDivers.org](http://www.ChannellIslandsDivers.org)

## UPCOMING BEACH DIVES

**24-May** *Nicholas Canyon*  
**1-Jun** *Palos Verdes*  
**7-Jun** *Picnic beach laguna*  
**22-Jun** *Intro to Kayak Diving. Kiddie beach.*  
**5-Jul** *Leo Carrillo*  
**19-Jul** *Kayak Dive, TBD*  
**2-Aug** *Yukon wreck, San Diego*  
**23-Aug** *Big rock beach*  
**6-Sep** *Refugio yearly club BBQ and dive.*  
**20-Sep** *County line*  
**4-Oct** *Point lobos*  
**18-Oct** *Bonaire trip*  
**1-Nov** *Lechuza beach*  
**22-Nov** *Point Dume*  
**6-Dec** *Christmas party*  
**20-Dec** *Last Dive 2025*

## UPCOMING BOAT DIVES

**12-Sep** *Spectre-Gull Island, Santa Cruz*  
**Oct/Nov** *TBD*



# New Sponsor!



<https://www.scdiving.com/>

## **SC Diving**

Robert Ingles – 805-233-3227

575 Dawson Drive Suite 9 Camarillo, CA

## **Discounts:**

10% off PADI Classes and retail items

1/2 off VIS inspections -\$10 VIS (includes air fill normally \$20)

1/2 off PADI Club Membership 1<sup>st</sup> year (normally \$50)

# Monterey Bay Weekend

Join the Channel Islands Divers as we explore this great marine treasure. Our plan is to shore dive Monastery Beach and Point Lobos State Natural Reserve the weekend of **October 4<sup>th</sup>**.

**Day 1:** Leave from Black Bear Diner in Ventura at 7AM and arrive at Monastery Beach in Carmel about 1PM. Conditions permitting, dive 1 or 2 dives.

This dive is amongst beautiful kelp, lots of boulders, steep drop offs, and full of life. Parking is on the coast highway and free.

Dinner: Let's all get together and share stories about the day. Location TBD

**Day 2:** Dive Point Lobos State Park 8AM

Point Lobos State Park Rules and Reservations:

- Only 10 dive teams of 2 are allowed to dive per day.
- The lottery for September 21st opens on August 1st at midnight.
- Each dive team, on their own, must enter the lottery separately.
- All divers must provide proof of certification.
- No solo divers.

## Fees:

- \$30/dive team plus reservation fee.
- \$10/ paddle board or kayak
- \$25/hand launched small boat
- \$10/vehicle entrance fee
- For complete information follow this website and find the reservation link at the bottom of the dive info.

**Dive Point  
Lobos**

[https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=28353](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28353)

Those who are not diving can hike, take photos, look for otters, or cheer on fellow divers.

The beauty of this adventure is that everyone can come. There is so much to do that if you choose not to dive you can still be a part of this amazing group.

Things to do-17 mile drive:

- Monterey Bay Aquarium
- Cannery Row
- Jack's Peak County Park for views of the Bay
- Colton Hall Museum
- Visit Santa Cruz
- Bixby Bridge 35 minutes south of Monterey
- Have a cup of coffee in Carmel.
- Laguna Seca race track.
- Moss Landing

**Sign up at  
meeting**

There are plenty of places to stay in Monterey and in Seaside, just to the north. Camping at Monterey Veterans Memorial Park (first come, first served) is also an option.

I encourage everyone to do a bit of research to see just how fun this weekend can be. There will be a sign up sheet at the club meeting in August. Bring your questions and I hope I can give you answers.

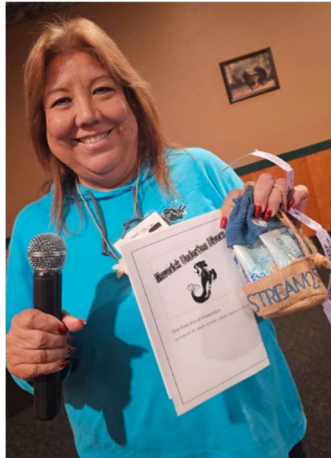
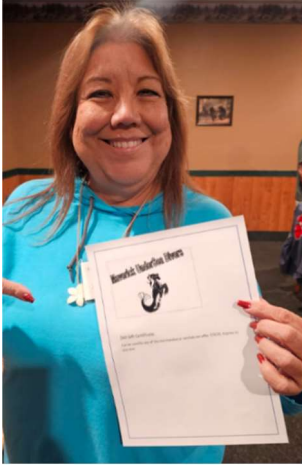
Rob Johnson

**Membership Coordinator**



# Channel Island Dive Club Raffle Prizes

Last month's raffle winners



Thank you!

Maverick Undersea Divers



# Beach Dive Reports

## Dive Report - Channel Islands Divers

**Date and Time:** June 22, 2025, 8:00 AM

**Location:** Kayak Dive

**Weather Conditions:** Sunny

**Surf Conditions:** 1-foot waves, Water Temp: 65°F

On Saturday, July 19th, 5 club members were treated to the calm waters of Carpinteria Reef. Mark Thompson, Rob Marion, and Rob Johnson dove off kayaks and Tony Frabasillio and Nicholas Lee shore dove.

The kelp in this area is so thick that a kayak is the perfect platform to dive from. Paddling over the thick surface mat of kelp makes it easy to get to where you want to dive. Shore diving requires more work, but the rewards are still the same. All divers reported seeing a lot of lobster, a leopard shark, swell sharks, horn sharks, and many varieties of fish. Visibility was quite good considering how shallow our dives were.



# Dive Report - Channel Islands Divers

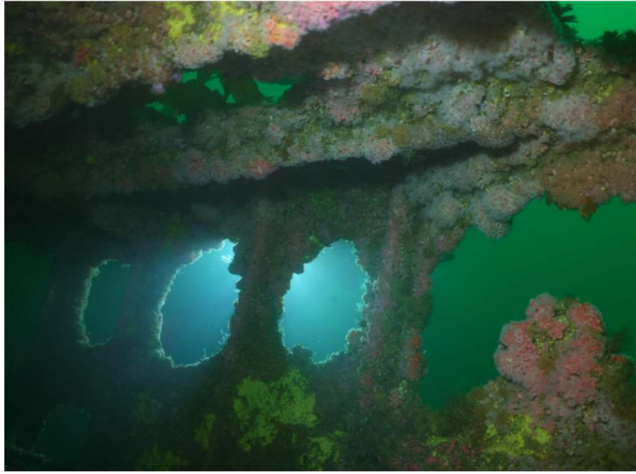
**Date and Time:** Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 8:00 AM

**Location:** Yukon Wreck San Diego

**Weather Conditions:** Sunny

**Surf Conditions:** Boat Dive

We headed to Sandiego to dive the Yukon, the Rubie E, la Jolla



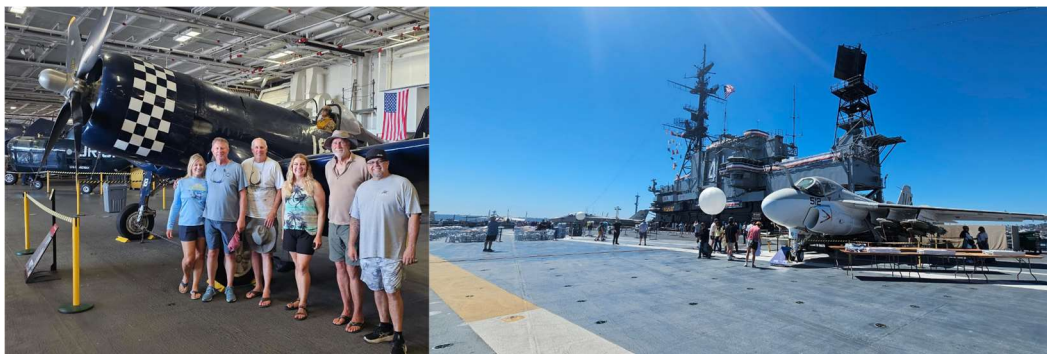
shores and also ventured to the USS midway.



Channel Island divers at Watercourse charters gearing to head out to dive the Yukon and Rubie E. in San Diego. From left to right-Rob Marion, Ron Johnson, Melenie Kemmann, Dale Burrows, Del Stewart, Eric Tyler, and Marcia Burrows



## Below the deck of the USS Midway Museum



## La Jolla shores



# Book of the Month

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## KAYAK DIVING



*The complete guide to outfitting and  
using your dive kayak*

**By Mark Theobald**

“If you are a beach diver, this is the book you have been waiting for. If you are not a kayak diver, it will open up a whole new world of diving for you! The sport of kayak diving is so

easily available to free divers and scuba divers of all levels, ages and abilities, and **KAYAK DIVING** is the first book ever to fully cover this newest and most exciting mode of offshore diving. Don’t re-suffer all the mistakes like I (and many others) did. **KAYAK DIVING** will provide all the information you need to get into this great sport and make it through your first dive without worry of injury or lost gear.” You just might never walk in off the beach again. (copied from book’s back cover)

This book written by former CID member, Mark Theobald, covers just about everything you need to know to safely dive from your kayak. It is fully loaded with priceless information such as choosing, outfitting, accessories, maintenance, storing, and even repairing your kayak. I really wish Mark had written this book before I started kayak diving. His tips and information would have made my first several kayak dives much more enjoyable. **This book is a “MUST READ” for beginning kayak divers** and highly recommended for those with experience.

For those members who do not know Mark Theobald, he was a highly active CID member for a number of years. At the time of his book’s writing, in 1996, Mark was club secretary. In his book, Mark also puts in a good word for our club. If you are in search of a kayak, consider contacting Mark at [Kayakdiving.com](http://Kayakdiving.com) and see if he has any for sale. I have bought 2 kayaks from him over the years. (Steve Peterson, club librarian)

# Sponsors Corner



**Please see our membership page**  
**for member benefits**

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

# CALENDAR

|                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>AUGUST</b><br>2 - Beach Dive - Yukon Wreck Dive<br>20 - Club Meeting<br><b>Speaker:</b> Don and Brandi Sisting<br>23 - Beach Dive - Big Rock Beach<br>25 - Board Meeting | <b>SEPTEMBER</b><br>6 - Refugio yearly BBQ and dive<br>12 - Spectre Boat club dive - Gull Island Santa Cruz Island<br>17 - Club Meeting<br><b>Speaker:</b> TBA<br>22 - Board Meeting | <b>OCTOBER</b><br>4 - Monterey Pt. Lobos each Dive<br>15 - Club Meeting<br><b>Speaker:</b> TBA<br>18 - BONAIRE!<br>20 - Board Meeting |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b><br>1 - Lechuza beach dive<br>19 - Club Meeting<br><b>Speaker:</b> TBA<br>22- Point Dume<br>24 - Board Meeting                                               | <b>DECEMBER</b><br>6 -Christmas Party<br>17- No meeting<br>20 - Last Beach Dive 2025<br>22- no board meeting<br>25 - Christmas!                                                      | <b>JANUARY</b><br>3 - Beach Dive<br>21 - Club Meeting<br>24- Beach Dive                                                               |

## Board of Directors

**Delbert Stewart: President**

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

**Bill Weinerth: 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)

**Dive coordinator email:**

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

**Laura Forsyth: Webmaster**

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

**Laurie Hennessy: Raffle coordinator**

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

**Rob Johnson: Membership coordinator**

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

**Franklin Murphy: Newsletter editor**

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

**Steve Peterson: Librarian**

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

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP: 109**

**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](mailto:cidtreasurer92@gmail.com)