AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS



NEXT CLUB MEETING: September 17th 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 winding down, but the dives keep coming. Last month our members were busy — from the Refugio BBQ and campouts on Santa Cruz Island to local beach dives — proving once again that there is no shortage of adventure in our club. And with fall around the corner we are looking

forward to clearer water, lobster season and even more reasons to get in the ocean.

September is a very important month for our club — it is time for **Board Elections**. This is your chance to step up, cast your vote and help shape the future of Channel Islands Divers. Serving on the board is not only a way to give back but also a great way to stay connected and ensure the club remains strong. I encourage everyone to attend the

September seventeenth meeting at the Black Bear Diner — your voice matters and your participation helps the club continue to thrive.

Along with elections we will welcome **Kenneth Niessen**, Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist with the Ventura office of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Ken will share insights on endangered plants of the Channel Islands and the ongoing conservation efforts that are helping preserve their unique ecosystems.

We are also excited to welcome Neil Holland. A long-time club supporter, **Rec2Tec** Scuba is now an official sponsor. I truly appreciate how local dive shops continue to step up and support our members and our raffle contests. Without the generosity of our sponsors, we would all be paying full price for raffle items, gear, fills or service. Their support deserves to be reciprocated, so please remember them when you are looking for classes, trips, gear repair and more. To obtain a discount, please show your club membership card. Rob Johnson, our club membership coordinator, along with our webmaster, Laura Taylor, has given the old card a much-needed facelift. If you need a new one, come to this month's club meeting and pick one up.

Do not forget our **photo contest** is underway! Submit your best shots taken since last November. Entries close at the October twenty-second meeting and winners will be announced at the Christmas Party. You can bring them to this month's meeting or even better upload them directly to our website.

Looking ahead we are heading out to **Bonaire!** All tickets are sold and we are ready for the warm waters of the Caribbean to soothe our bodies and souls. We also have thirteen club members signed up for our **Point Lobos mini-excursion**. Some will head up Thursday to enjoy camping while others will arrive Saturday October fourth for a quick but exciting weekend. Airbnb's have been booked, thanks to Melanie Kemmann . Also, recent dive reports from Point Lobos have been very promising so expectations are high. Wish us LUCK * U

And of course, mark your calendars for the **Pumpkin Carving Dive Contest** on October twenty-fifth hosted this year by **SC Diving**. Full details will be in next month's newsletter and posted on Facebook. If you have not attended one before, consider crossing this unique and fun dive off your bucket list.

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

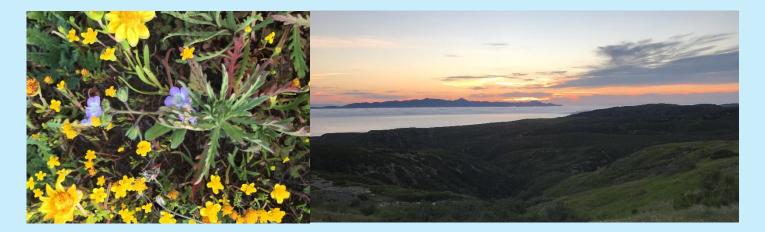


SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

Kenneth Niessen (Ken)

Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Ventura Office

I was born in Los Angeles, and have lived between there and Ojai most of my life. I went to UCLA and UC Berkeley, where I took lots of plant and field ecology classes, and ended up with a Masters degree in botany. Currently I am a botanist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and I cover the 14 or so federally endangered plants of Channel Islands National Park. I have had my job since 2018 and worked on the islands on the same plants for about 15 years before then. I am also very familiar with Southern California plants in general and have lots of other natural history interests. On my time off I do a lot of off-road camping in the deserts and Baja.



Endangered Plants of Channel Islands National Park

The California Channel Islands, including what is now Channel Islands



National Park, were ranched for about 150 years, ending about 15 years ago when the last feral animals were removed. Since the removals started, there has been dramatic recovery of native vegetation on the islands, and we were recently able to get two of the endangered plants off the federal endangered species list. These successful efforts were helped by advances in technology. There are a few more plants that are almost ready to be delisted, but there are also several that are not doing well. I will talk about the biology of these plants, why there are these differences, and what the future holds for them.







Top of El Montanon and Scorpion Anchorage Campout

This summer I got to revisit El Montanon on the Eastern end of Santa Cruz. It is the second highest peak in the Channel Islands Chain right behind Devils Peak on the same island. I have taken my children on many hikes but since I had already been up there once before and I knew it was difficult, I was a little nervous that my youngest who is 6 years old, would be able to make it. Nonetheless, he did which I think he might be one of or not the



youngest to climb that peak. Let me know if someone younger has done that.



We of course took Island Packers to Scorpion Anchorage, and we were immediately greeted by the Island Fox. In fact, that was a theme of the trip because by the end, even though they never stopped being cute, they were always trying to get into trouble and steal some food if it was left out. Now I know why there are fox boxes everywhere. You can't have too many on that island. I reserved Group Site B in the Upper Loop section which was beautiful and closest to the trail head. We all had done the Potato Harbor

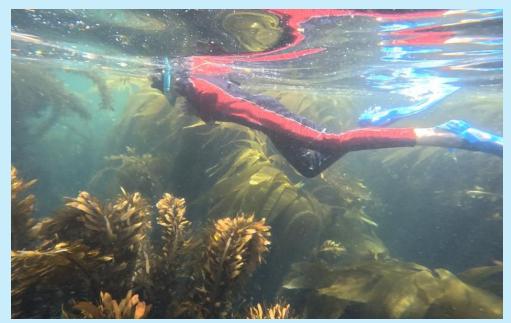
loop, so we were focused on El Montanon. The hardest part of that trip was taking the stuff from the boat to the campsite. If I had to do it again, I would have had a cart in a bag that they can put on the boat, then assembling it on land so it would be easier to take all the stuff to the campsite. I can't stress enough how important it is to have something that can carry heavy stuff like coolers because it was like I said the hardest part of the trip. Our wagon almost fell apart, and I saw others who had wagons that were broken only to barely function, held together by string. Finally setting up our tents and setting up camp was fun, and we went to bed with our eyes on the prize the next day.

We left at 8AM and it was a cool day and I would only recommend this hike in June or at the latest mid-July then October to November because it gets hot on the island. It gets hot to the point if you don't bring enough water it could turn into a dangerous situation. We walked up the mountain encountering the occasional steep climb but the whole way up is fairly

steep. Island Foxes were everywhere, and their scat is all over the trails. It seems they are well fed on the island! A testament to the success of the rehabilitation and conservation of the Island Fox. Oh, they are cute!

As we got towards the top, we were all doing well but we were tired. It took about 2 hours 45 min to get to the top with the children. We were greeted by the most beautiful views and the radio relay station on top. I was there 9 years ago and nothing had changed. We took pictures, had some lunch and then we headed back down which only took 2 hours and 15 min.

We all ate some watermelon which was probably the best watermelon we all ever had. I highly suggest that after a hike. We all took a nap and then went snorkeling for the second time. The children loved the water and had a great time looking at Calicos, Bat Rays, Smelt, Sardines, Anchovies, Spider Crabs, Snails, Opaleyes and even a Leopard Shark.



After snorkeling we made some dinner and then it got dark and then the real mischievous part of the night began when the Island Foxes under the cover of darkness literally were everywhere! They were climbing over all the

coolers and the boxes full of gear. Luckily, we were prepared and secured everything. One sniffed and touched my leg on the outside the tent, which was kind of creepy, but it shows how mischievous they can be.

Unfortunately, the campers next to us snored so loud you could literally

hear it off the walls in the whole campground. It was quite impressive but also very annoying and I couldn't sleep so that was one drawback. One thing I did mention to the Park Service is how the tables are all not level. I suggested they do something about that but hey, that's government work for you, right?

The next day we snorkeled some more but rested because we had to get our stuff back to the boat which was a chore as mentioned before. After getting back to land from Island Packers, I turned to my children, my buddy Kameron and his son Lincoln and we looked at Santa Cruz islands and saw the two tall peaks. I pointed to the one on the left and I said, "Can you believe we were on top of that?" What a cool thing to say and look at the beach and claim that you were there.

I would highly suggest you climb that peak if you look at the island from the beach because it will be something you will never forget.

-Franklin Murphy





Beach Dive Reports

Dive Report - Channel Islands Divers

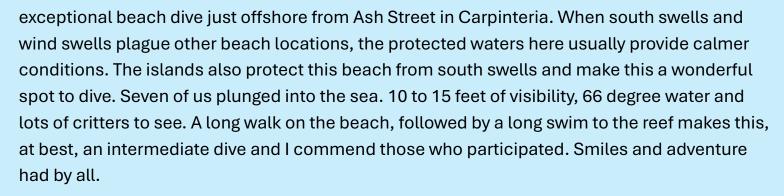
Date and Time: Aug 23rd 2025 **Location**: Carpinteria Beach Dive

Weather Conditions: Sunny

Surf Conditions: 1-foot waves, Water Temp: 68°F

Carpinteria Reef Delivers Again

Channel Islands divers were treated to another



We capped things off with lunch at the newly opened Linden Square and got to know one another even better. In attendance: Dale Burrows, Micah Overman, Mike Malone, Eddie Salazar, Rob Johnson, Stephen and Hayley Hodge.







Date and Time: September 6th, 2025 **Location**: Refugio Beach, Santa Barbara

Weather Conditions: Sunny **Surf Conditions**: 1-2 ft. 68F

The Refugio Barbeque for the Dive Club was once again a big hit and a good party. Many people got to Dive the point and the reef east of the campground. Tritip and chicken were served for the food and many people brought some amazing salads and side dishes. We got to take an awesome group photo which in this months article is the banner. Raffle prizes were given out and many happy faces were made that day. Another Refugio Beach BBQ in the books!



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 <u>channelislandsdivers.org</u>. 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 <u>paid</u> and current when you enter <u>and</u> 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

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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.ChannelIslandsDivers.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

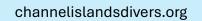
22 Nov Point Dume

6-Dec Christmas party

20-Dea Last Dive 2025

UPCOMING BOAT DIVES

15 Nov Spectre-Gull Island, Santa Cruz

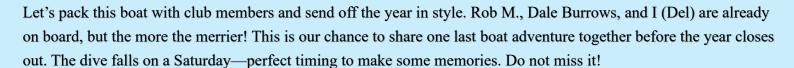


Club Boat Dive

Saturday November 15th on the Spectre

https://spectreboat.com/

Last boat dive of 2025! 🕿 🕡



Dive into Life at Gull Island

If you have never dove Gull Island, you are in for a real treat. Part of the Gull Island State and Federal Marine Reserves, this site hosts a rich mix of habitats — from kelp forests to rocky reefs to steep drop-offs — and shows off the best marine biodiversity of the Northern Channel Islands. (wildlife.ca.gov)

Expect to see California sea lions darting around, colorful sea stars and nudibranchs crawling among crevices, and purple hydrocoral — a rare find this far north — blooming in deeper zones. (wildlife.ca.gov)

In the kelp forest, keep an eye out for kelp bass, sheephead, cabezon, and torpedo rays. Beyond the kelp, you might spot schools of bonito, tuna, or even migrating whales if the timing is right. (wildlife.ca.gov)

Visibility usually sits between 20-80 feet, depending on conditions, with depth ranging from shallow reefs (20-30 feet) down to dramatic slopes and walls that drop well past 100 feet. Morning dives tend to be the best before wind and current pick up. (california.greatestdivesites.com)



Book of the Month

CALIFORNIA LOBSTER DIVING

By Kristine and Steve Barsky

California Lobster Diving is your inside guide to the secrets of successful lobster hunting. This book represents the combined experiences of more than 30 years of lobster diving with all the tips, hints, and "classified information" you need to catch lobster and come home with a bag full of "bugs"!

If you are a novice lobster diver you will find this book invaluable.

Included in this book is the following information.

- . Biology of lobsters; their habits and habitat
- Lobster diving regulations
- . Where to hunt for lobsters
- . Gear selection
- Gear rigging
- . Lobster grabbing techniques
- . How to cook lobsters
- . How to get the most meat out of a lobster

About the authors: **Kristine Barsky** was a professional marine biologist with the California Dept of Fish and

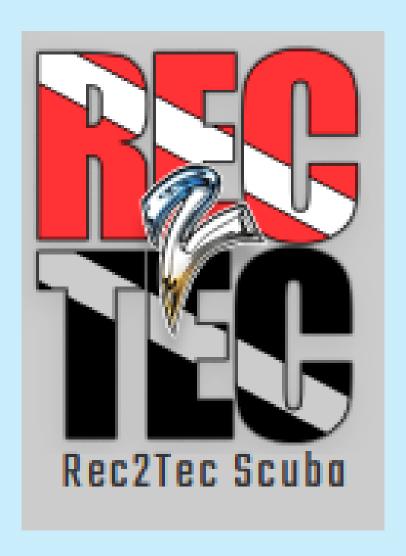
California
Lobster Diving

by
Kristine and Stove Barsky

Biology
Gear Selection
Regulations
Techniques
Cooking & Eating
Where to Hunt

Game. **Steve Barsky** is a full-time consultant in the diving industry as well as a professional under-water photographer

NEW SPONSER!



https://www.rec2tecscuba.com/

Sponsors Corner











<u>Please see our membership page</u> <u>for member benefits</u>

https://www.channelislandsdivers.org/membership

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 6 - Refugio yearly BBQ and dive 17 - Club Meeting Speaker: Kenneth Niessen 22 - Board Meeting	OCTOBER 4 - Monterey Pt. Lobos each Dive 15 - Club Meeting Speaker: TBA 18 - BONAIRE! 20 - Board Meeting	NOVEMBER 1 - Lechuza beach dive 19 - Club Meeting Speaker: TBA 22- Point Dume 24 - Board Meeting
DECEMBER 6 -Christmas Party 17- No meeting 20 - Last Beach Dive 2025 22- no board meeting 25 - Christmas!	JANUARY 3 - Beach Dive 21 - Club Meeting 24- Beach Dive	FEBRUARY 7 - Beach Dive 18 - Club Meeting 21- Beach Dive

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: 99

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