

February Speaker Dave Stewart

Manta Ray and Black Water Dives in Hawaii with Dave Stewart

Our speaker for the February meeting will be none other than that well travelled diver, our own Dave Stewart.

Dave has dived all over the Caribbean, the Galapagos, South Pacific, South-eastern Asia, Hawaii and of course the California coast and Baja California coast (both sides). Dave recently dived in Hawaii where he documented two experiences in particular,,,,, the fabulous Manta Ray Dive off the Kona Coast Black and Water Diving.

The famous manta ray night dive in Kona is widely regarded as one of the most memorable dives around the planet. The manta rays that live in the Hawaiian waters belong to the *Mobula alfredi* species. These so-called reef manta rays are the second largest species of manta rays in the world, and can grow up to a wingspan of 18 ft (5.5m)! On average, the manta rays you can see around Kona will be about 12 ft.

Manta rays eat plankton which they filter out of the water by swimming with their (giant) mouths open. The reef manta rays in Hawaii do not migrate and spend their lives in the coastal waters around the islands. Manta rays can live to be 50 years old, and all of the specimens in the Kona waters have been given their own name.

An entirely new cast of characters comes to life at night on the reef. Night diving feels mysterious. Sounds are amplified, and you can only see as far as the end of your torch beam. But unlike typical night dives, wherein you've got the reef as reference, blackwater dives often take place in open ocean. This relatively new practice has become extremely popular in recent years. Suspended in the pitch black at a shallow depth and usually tethered to a boat line, the diver hovers over an abyssal point in the ocean, whether a trench or a drop off. In the dark sea, the sensational, alien-like creatures of the deep rise to the surface to feed and breed.



February 11 Club Meeting
Graziano's Italian, Yorba Linda 6:30 PM

February 22 Avalon Cleanup
Avalon, Catalina

March 10 Club Meeting
Graziano's Italian, Yorba Linda 6:30 PM

March 15 Beach Dive
Moss Street Laguna Beach 7:00 AM

March 21 Boat Dive
Catalina Aboard Sundiver II

May 6 Chamber Day/Eve

May 30 - 31 SCUBA Show
Long Beach Convention Center



The First Fansworth Dive

By Dr. Sam Miller

Sam Miller is a good friend of SharkBait Dive Club. He, and many of the club's members were regularly together until Sam moved North to Pismo Beach where he now lives. Sam has



been honored for his involvement in recreational diving receiving the following honors; Outstanding Contributions to Underwater Instruction, 1963,(LA Co), Outstanding Underwater Instructor of the year, 1969,(LA Co), Over the Hill Gang, 1984, (NAUI), Diving Dinosaurs, 1986, (NAUI), Platinum Pro 5000 Diver 1993, (SSI), Who's Who of SCUBA Diving, 1993, (Academy of Marine Science and Undersea Research), Father of Free Diving and Spear Fishing, 2000, (Free Dive List) , West Coast Leader and Legend, 2005, (Dive Chronicles) Dive Legend, 2007 (Legends of Diving.) Diving service award 2013 (SCUBA Show).

Dr. Sam Miller's diving career began by chance in the 1940s. He contracted a serious eye infection while swimming in the local YMCA and his parents purchased a crude pair of swim goggles to protect his eyes so he could continue to participate in aquatic activities .

After WWII he obtained a Sea Net mask and few years later acquired a pair of Churchill fins. He became involved in an activity for which there were no full line manufactures, no dive shops, no training manuals, no organizations, no magazines, few books, no approved name and very few participants. Sam became a very active pioneer goggler!

At a very early age he discovered that recreational diving activities were all consuming. Since his college football days he has never taken up another hobby or participated in another sport. At his current age, it is suspected he's not going to change

and begin to drown worms or chase little white balls around a pasture.

After service as a USAF officer during the Korean war he returned to his beloved California and resumed his diving activities. By then the wet suit had been introduced and divers were beginning to populate the beaches.

Sam migrated into the world of diving instruction via the first and only program available at that time, the very prestigious and demanding LA County UW Instructor's program. A few years later he became a NAUI instructor followed by NASDS, SCIP, CMAS, PADI and a few others in the UW instructors alphabet soup.

Sam recently sent Martin an E-mail wherein he recounted the first recreational dive on Farnsworth Bank. It is an interesting read and well worth your attention

This is from an old note about the very first recreational dive at Farnsworth Banks in December 1960- almost sixty (60) years ago that should be retold to the new member of the tribe.... the only article documenting this historical dive.. it therefore should be placed in proper historical prospective . Recreational diving was in its infancy and generally confined to the three counties of Southern California ; San Diego. Orange and Los Angeles. At that junction in history there was one magazine , Skin diver ,established in 1951, one regional certifying agency LACo UIA established 1954 one nationally recognized agency ,NAUI established in August of 1960 and only a smattering of local SoCal dive shops . Recreational diving was slowly being recognized in the hinterlands of California and the US via SDM, NAUI, a few published books and manuals and summer catalogs of Sears and (Montgomery) Wards. The world of recreations diving was in its infancy but slowly emerging into main stream as a recreational activity. The wet suit had also emerged about five years previous as the preferred method of thermal protection from the cool California water. Several months before the Farnsworth

dive I hoisted a wet suit making party in my Anaheim home. For each wet suit we purchased a WW 11 surplus 1/4 inch thickness rubber sheet from Kirkhill rubber company in Brea, total cost \$1.00 and a jar of "black magic" glue total cost \$1.00, to make a wet suit total cost of \$2.00 for a 1960 model homemade wet suit. When the big day arrived the dive tribe arrived in ones and twos ready to make a wet suit. The stripped to bathing suits and laid face up on a sheet of rubber as a companion traced their outline with a white "grease" pencil, pants first, followed by the body and finally the arms. The patterns were cut out with the then raw rolling pizza cutters. Next the cut pieces were placed over the remaining scraps to repeat tracing and cutting. Now time for assembly ...the component pieces were placed on top of each other and liberal amounts of black magic glue was spread along the edges. Then the two raw sides were squeezed together forming a glued seam

"I was the President of the Sea Sabres dive club in 1959-60. The previous President Bob Ruethford, who had founded the Aquatic Center in Newport Beach, had seen hunks of purple coral (allopura California) brought in by commercial abalone divers. Over a few drinks Bob discovered they found it at a place called Farnsworth banks. Selected member of the Sea Sabres and the scientific community at Kirkoff marine institute in Corona Del Mar consequently made a number of trips to the banks on the private boat called the "Aqua Duck."

Bob, a true diving pioneer who is famous for many first in diving (see www.legendsofdiving.com: Sea sabres signaling system) who relished publicity, published an article in Skin Diver magazine in June 1960 "California divers discover Rare purple coral" which was fine but his topside pictures clearly showed Ben Weston Point in the background. That same month Jake Jacobs the then head diver at Marine Land of the Pacific published "Marine land diver" (--Dodd, Meade & company NYC, LCC 60-9655 --I have an

inscribed copy) in which Jake also discusses the purple coral of Farnsworth -- So the secret of Farnsworth was out.

As the president of the then undisputed most active dive club in all of SoCal and possibly the US I made the decision to dive "Farnsworth banks". I contacted all the dive boat captains at that time, all refused to charter to Farnsworth as if it was some foreign or strange exotic place. Finally Dick Peters, who owned the newest dive charter boat of the fleet, the 42 foot "Out Rider" agreed to a charter at \$7.00 per person but with the stipulation "only in the winter when there are no boats fishing there and the water will be calm" (FYI the Outrider sunk about 1967 when returning from a trip to Catalina)

In early December 1960 we loaded the boat. It had no compressor - as many as three- four or even five tanks per person were stashed all over the boat. The water was like glass and the trip over and back was like riding on silk.

Using Ben Weston Point as a reference and relying on the recently developed recreational depth finder Captain Peters made numerous runs in all directions across the banks trying to locate a pinnacle.

Finally a suitable pinnacle was located and the anchor was dropped--right in the middle of a school of hungry welcoming sharks. "They are only blues, lets dive!" someone shouted. With only a nano second of hesitation on that bright sunny day in December 1960, the late Ed Mossbrooke, formally of Fountain Valley became the first recreational diver to dive the Banks from a charter boat, Andover immediately followed by the rest of the divers.

I was using the then very popular "Orange County twin 44s." Harry was using surplus USN single aluminum 90s, the others were using everything from a single 70 to twin 72s. All breathed from a variety of double hose regulators, most used the recently introduced wet suits which were home made, although the SPG had been introduced it was considered unreliable and was seldom used, and of course

commercial floatation devices were still fifteen years in the future. At that time we were diving with the state of the art equipment but today we would be considered "antique, retro or old school."

It was a different world at that time with no thought for the future or the conservation of the precious natural resources. We came for hunks of the famous purple coral of Farnsworth banks and we harvested hunks of purple coral. In addition most harvested a limit of ten scallops, and the then limit of ten bugs, with Harry Vetter getting the largest at 13+ pounds. I somehow in my four dives that day managed also to spear a rather "large fish," which because we were not equipped for large fish took some doing to horse it on the boat.

All too soon it was all over, the divers began returning to the Outrider, storing their equipment, game and hunks of purple coral. All that is but, Norma lee Smith who decided to decompress on the bow line and attracted every curious and hopefully not hungry shark from miles around investigate this morsel. Norma's only defense was to exhale copious amount of rapidly diminishing supply of air. She slowly with great caution made her way to the stern of the boat where she rapidly ascended thrust out her hands and was unceremoniously but also rapidly pulled over the gunnel onto the deck of the Outrider...So ended the first recreational dive trip to Farnsworth.

So many adventures, so many stories

California Wreck Diving Adventures: Meet Member Harmony Solo

Harmony Solo is a Shark Bait Club member with a passion for California wreck diving. As a member of Cal Wreck Divers (CWD) (<http://cawreckdivers.org/>), she recently participated in their annual "Brass Contest" where members salvage an item and submit it in January each year for the contest. Members will be learning about the winning entry at their 49th Banquet and "Giant Raffle" at the end of March this year. The mission of the club is "To perpetuate the awareness of maritime history through organized exploration, research, restoration, and display...". Harmony will be our guest speaker for our March meeting with a presentation on the contest rules and her entry to the Brass Contest at CWD this past January.



Find out what these are about with Harmony in March!

New Beach Dive Central Location –Our Meetup Discussion Page

Our Meetup <https://www.meetup.com/Shark-Bait-Dive-Club-Meetup> is the place for our members and friends to add their own beach dive plans, in addition to the official club beach dives that are pre-planned, usually once per month. Sometimes conditions don't cooperate or your equipment isn't ready and you might want to dive on a different day or place than the club Divemaster has selected. If you haven't signed up for Meetup yet, go to our page and simply join. Then go the More tab and select Discussions.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Meetup.com page for the "Shark Bait Beach Dive Discussion Group". The browser's address bar shows the URL: [meetup.com/Shark-Bait-Dive-Club-Meetup/messages/boards/thread/52620896/#132368285](https://www.meetup.com/Shark-Bait-Dive-Club-Meetup/messages/boards/thread/52620896/#132368285). The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows various icons including the Windows logo, search bar, and several application icons.

The Meetup page has a red header with navigation tabs: "About", "Events", "Members", "Photos", "Discussions", and "More" (highlighted in red). To the right of these tabs are "Group tools" and "My profile".

On the left side, there is a sidebar for the group "Yorba Linda, CA" (Founded Feb 6, 2019). It includes an "About us..." section, statistics (Members: 103, Upcoming events: 6, Past events: 20, Our calendar), and a list of organizers, including "Silvia Swigert, Alf". Below this is a "We're about:" section with a list of related topics like "Outdoors · Scuba Diving", "Scuba Instruction", "Discover Scuba Diving", "Diving · Dive Travel", "Scuba Diving Travel", "Advanced Scuba Diving", and "Scuba Diving Adventures".

The main content area is titled "Shark Bait Beach Dive Discussion Group". It features a sub-header "Shark Bait Dive Club Meetup Message Board · Shark Bait Beach Dive Discussion Group". Below this is a post by "Silvia Swigert" dated "1/4/20 11:10 AM". The post text reads: "Hello Meetup Members! The club will be using Meetup Discussions for updates on club planned beach dives (about once per month) as well as offering a place for you to set up your own beach dives or inquire about joining other beach dives any time of the month. I do recommend that a divemaster lead beach dives other our club dives, which are led by a divemaster, for safety sake. Let's see if this can work and keep on 'California diving'! Cheers, Silvia Swigert, Shark Bait Publicity Chair". The post has a "Post #: 3" and an "Add a reply" button.

At the bottom right of the main content area, it says "Powered by mvnForum".

2020 Warm Water Trip (Extended availability til end of February, see below)



A group of our members are planning a warm water trip for the fall of 2020 to Little Cayman Beach Resort (Cayman Islands)

November 7-14, 2020.

Join us for 8 days and 7 nights of warm water, spectacular diving, good food, and good company. Divers and non-divers alike are welcome. Little Cayman is located only 80 miles north-east of Grand Cayman, yet it feels worlds away. You can leave your hurry behind, because you'll be on Little Cayman "Island time".

In addition to world-class diving, you can rent a kayak and visit nearby Owen's Island for some snorkelling; tour the Central Caribbean Marine Institute and learn how they're studying and saving reefs; grab a bike and go exploring; or just read a book in the shade of the palm trees that surround our pool and beach.

Reef Divers is a PADI SCUBA diving operation: Personalized Valet Service Delivers the World-Class Experiences You Expect at a World's-Best Dive Destination



Costs: prices noted below are per person

Double Occupancy, Pool View = \$1,995/ non-diver = \$1,745

Single occupancy, Pool view = \$2,457/non-diver = \$2,207

Double Occupancy, Ocean front \$2,345/ non-diver = \$2,095

Single Occupancy, Ocean front = \$3,157/ non-diver = \$2,907

Nitrox for the week is \$120.00 (12 boat dives)



Book by: We still have a few spots open. **Secure your spot for only \$125**

Deposit due by extended to end of February and final payment September 1, 2020

How to pay: please pay by check, made payable to Sharkbait Dive Club

mail to: Monica Villegas 5930 Bixby Village Drive, #156, Long Beach, CA

90803

Details of what is included:

7 nights' accommodations Breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily 6 X 2-tank AM (12 boat dives)

Complimentary use of dive computer (we require them)

Complimentary WiFi

Airport ground transfers

Resort fees, taxes, and gratuities except dive gratuities

Air Fare: (NOT included)

Other Info:

A valid passport is required; expiration must be greater than 6mos beyond date of travel.

Contact: Email Monica at SharkBaitDive@mail.com

The resort: <https://www.littlecayman.com/dive-resort/>

Little Cayman Beach Resort is situated on a white, sandy beach in Blossom Village, the first area of the island resettled in 1833 after Spanish privateers ran off the turtle fishermen who'd settled there. The two-story resort has 40 air-conditioned guest rooms. And there is a spa! Nature Spa Puts More "Aah" Into Your Dive Vacation: Y

The Diving:

Cayman Islands diving is mostly current-free, which is optimal for new divers, divers who wants to move at their own pace, and underwater photographers who may want to spend their entire dive at one location, waiting for the perfect shot. With sheer underwater cliffs that plummet to unseen depths, generations of ocean divers have made Little Cayman Island Resort a leading Caribbean diving destination. From healthy reefs to the iconic Bloody Bay Wall, enjoy little to no current, unlimited visibility, jaw dropping swim throughs and plentiful marine life. Whether you go deep or stay shallow, diving Little Cayman Island is a bucket list experience!



Upcoming Dives

Beach Procedure

To save Martin the hassle of getting to the dive site and having to abort because no one is there we have initiated a RSVP protocol. If you are participating in our beach dive, E-mail Martin at n1diver@aol.com or call at 714-833-9167.

February Beach Dive Little Corona February 9 7:00 AM

Little Corona has a good supply of sightseeing and photo subject matter. On the reefs, in water 20 feet and deeper, small gorgonian sea fans, starfish, feather worms and assorted invertebrates can be found. Visibility is generally good. Water clarity on the outer reefs can reach 30 feet but is generally in the 15 to 20 feet range. The reefs start shallow and slope gradually to 30 feet 150 yards out. The reefs lie on either side of a sandy cove with the more interesting reefs to the south side. Little Corona is located in Corona Del Mar and is easily reached by turning toward the ocean from PCH onto Poppy Street. Poppy will end overlooking the ocean and turn into Ocean Blvd. the path to Little Corona is just left of this intersection. A paved path winds down to the beach. Restrooms and showers are located half way down the path.



March Beach Dive Moss Street March 15 7:00 AM

Moss Street Beach is at the end of Moss Street in Laguna Beach. Take coast Hwy and turn on Moss Street (toward the ocean). Parking may be found along Moss Street and on Ocean Way.

Beach access is via a staircase which leads down to the rather intimate beach.

Moss Cove offers two distinctive dive spots -

South-East or to your left from the stairway You'll find Scattered rocks and a series of Parallel reefs rising 20 feet from the sandy bottom.

Several with a sharp drop-offs, all interesting to explore. South or to your right from the stairway there are several "mini" reefs with lots of promise for exploration. This area is generally shallower.

The entry is fairly easy and straightforward. The bottom drops off rapidly five or six feet.



The site contains many small walls and ledges with some of the rocks towering some 18 feet off the bottom. There is a wide variety of marine life here. Gorgonians, Feather Worms, Anemones, lobster as well as the usual suspects Sheephead, Garibaldi, Kelp Bass and so on.

Boat Dive March 21 Sundiver to Catalina

Join a few of our members as they head to Catalina for a day of diving aboard the Sundiver Express. The Sundiver Express offers a unique experience for diving in the Los Angeles / Orange County area. They proudly offer the fastest dive boat for large groups. Our travel time to Catalina Island is approximately one hour and 15 minutes. The 2001 model Custom Dive Boat Pro is 48 feet long with a 16 foot beam. It is powered by new (2007) twin 450 hp Caterpillar engines and travels at 22 knots. Sundiver Express is stabilized and offers a fast, smooth ride. We comfortably accommodate up to 22 divers per trip.

Tanks and weights are included on all trips. (low pressure steel 85 cu ft or you can bring your own. 63 cu.ft. aluminum or 50 cu.ft. aluminum tanks are available on request.)

Sundiver Express trips to Catalina Island leave at 7:00AM, boarding begins at 6:00AM. The boat normally returns about 1:00PM.

The cost is \$140. Make your reservations direct with Sundiver at <http://sundiverinternational.com/>

Contact Barry and let him know you are coming divingwetdog@yahoo.com

Last Chance to join the 2021 Philippine Trip

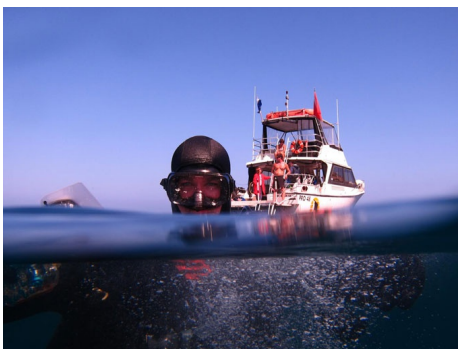
There are only a few openings left for our Atlantis international dive trip – especially Puerto Galera, since many people limit their trip to the first resort. In Puerto Galera, there are the following openings:

- 6 Deluxe Twin Rooms

- 1 Suite (Penthouse U)

- 1 Premiere Seaview Suite (Penthouse B)

Dumaguete has more openings but the trip number is limited to Puerto Galera openings since it is a combination trip with island transportation included. Email Silvia Swigert at sharkbaitdive@gmail.com to get information about reserving these spots, at the same negotiated prices, as soon as possible.



AVALON CLEANUP

WIES–CCD 39th Annual Avalon Harbor Underwater Cleanup

Saturday, February 22nd, 2020

FACT - Did you know that diving Avalon Harbor is only permitted once a year?

The tradition started in the 1970s as a community effort to clean the harbor, and this year, USC's Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber and Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies–Catalina Conservation Divers are proud to do our part in protecting the health of one of Catalina's coastal treasures by hosting the 39th Annual Avalon Harbor Underwater Cleanup.

Register online to join Southern California divers' premier social event on Saturday, February 22nd, 2020 in the warm friendly atmosphere of Catalina Island.

There are many ways to participate:

Enter our T-Shirt Contest for a chance to win a free round-trip ticket to the Cleanup aboard the Catalina Express. Become a Sponsor and get direct exposure to dive clubs and individual divers attending the event as well as in media coverage.

Register as a Dive Team and build support for the Cleanup and recognition of your dive club while showing off your team spirit.

Join the hundreds of Volunteers that come out every year and make this event so fun and valuable.

Last year, 535 participants recovered 2,740 pounds of trash!

All proceeds from the event will benefit USC's Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber and Wrigley Institute Scientific Diving Program.

Registration

Register online at <http://bit.ly/39thCleanup>

Non-Divers: \$30

Divers:

\$45 Early registration through January 6th

\$55 January 7th – February 13th

\$65 Day-of Registration at Wrigley Stage

If you are unable to attend, the registration fee is greatly appreciated as a donation. Refunds will not be available after close of registration February 13, 2020. Unless otherwise determined, the event will run RAIN or SHINE. No refunds will be given due to inclement weather.

Forms

Each diver must bring the following completed forms to check-in.

Safe Diving Practices Form (PDF) On the website

Informed Consent and Waiver of Release Form (PDF) On the website



Club Board Election and Selection of Officers

At the January meeting we voted for the members nominated to the Board of our club. All the members from the previous board were reelected. Additionally, a write in candidate was nominated and elected to the Board, John Adams. John has been a long time member of the club, returning to regular membership after a few years when other obligations intervened. We are fortunate to have John on our Board.

At the January Board meeting, the elected Board members elected the officers to serve for the coming year and assigned responsibilities for taking care of the many tasks of running the club and club activities. The 2020 officers and assigned responsibilities are:

President	Silvia Swigert
Vice President	Vlad Ilinsky
Secretary Treasurer	Alf Johnson
Board Member	Martin Carreon
Board Member	Barry Bloch
Board Member	Monica Villegas
Board Member	John Adams

Silvia Marketing/Publicity, Speakers
Vlad Webmaster, Summer/Winter Club Parties
Alf Newsletter, Membership
Martin Beach Dives
Barry Boat Dives
Monica Warm Water Trips
John Club Supplies/Materials



Club Information



Monthly club meetings with speakers and raffle prizes
Monthly Newsletter
Land-based Club activities and events for the whole family
Organized local dives
Resort warm-water trips
Good dives and good buddies
Membership costs are as follows .

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New Membership:
Single \$40 pp
Family \$50 (couple/family)
Renewal:
Single \$30
Family \$40

membership renewals are due in February for all current members. New members dues will be prorated depending on the month they join the club

Club Board Members

President

Silvia Swigert
silviaswigerts@gmail.com
Marketing/Publicity, Speakers

Vice President

Vlad Ilinsky
vilinsky88@gmail.com
Webmaster, Summer/Winter Club Parties

Secretary/Treasurer

Alf Johnson
alfjohnson1@gmail.com
Newsletter, Membership

Beach Dives

Martin Carreon
n1diver@aol.com

Warm Water Trips

Monica Villegas
rescue1grl@gmail.com

Boat Dives

Barry Bloch
divingwetdog@yahoo.com

Board Member

John Adams
Club Supplies/Materials

Board Member Emeritus

Randy Garzes

Club Contact/Social Media Information

Website

Sharkbaitdiveclub.org

Facebook

SharkBait Dive Club - SoCal

Twitter

@sharkbait diver

Scubaboard

Scubaboard.com