



2020

March Featured Speaker

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.

Harmony Jeannie Durbin is a tax accountant who took up diving back in 2014. She's completed several diving courses up to Master Diver and made her 100th dive last December, but it was a dive to the Olympic in 2018 that hooked her on wreck diving.



Like many wreck divers, she not only admired the beauty of the shipwreck, but was intrigued by the wreck's history. A giant man-made structure the length of a football field sat on the bottom, waiting to be explored. Now captivated by the ship, she quickly joined up with the California Wreck Divers, to research and explore wrecks. Harmony has dived many wrecks in Southern CA, Mexico, and Hawaii. She is currently in the beginning stages of a new wreck project.

Steve Lawson's passion for shipwrecks started back in High School when he became an armchair treasure hunter reading tales about the discoveries



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

March 14 Diver Day
Aquarium of the Pacific, Long Beach

March 14 - 15 Festival of the Whales
Dana Point

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

March 21 Boat Dive
Catalina Aboard Sundiver II

April 19 Beach Dive
Crescent Bay 7:00 AM

May 6 Chamber Day/Eve

May 30 - 31 SCUBA Show
Long Beach Convention Center



of sunken treasure. He joined the dive club California Wreck Divers shortly after obtaining his scuba certification at age 17 and has been wreck diving ever since. In 1986, he and other California Wreck



Divers were invited to dive on Mel Fisher's recently discovered treasure wreck, the La Nuestra Senora de la Atocha and recovered some of the legendary pieces of eight from the Spanish Main. While many people feel the need to travel to exotic locations, Steve focuses on diving and researching local wrecks in Southern California. He is a technical diver, owns a boat and dives local wrecks whenever possible. He has discovered several new plane and shipwrecks and contributed to the discovery of many others.

Steve is a published author and the subject in other's writings; photos and articles by and about him have appeared in several books and publications, including the Los Angeles Times, Skin Diver Magazine, Underwater Diving News, California Diving News, Western & Eastern Treasures and even National Geographic.

Steve is an active member of the Adventurers' Club

February beach Dive at Little Corona

Driving toward Little Corona beach at around 6 a.m., dark clouds began to gather, some droplets began to arrive, and then whoosh the wind and the waves crashing...standing around for everyone to arrive, someone said, "Would I be wimping out if I didn't go in?" The chorus back, "NO"! The morning was not lost however as we all repaired to Ruby's and enjoyed a nice breakfast meal and good company, all 13 divers and 1 non-diver attending. Hope to see you in at Moss St Cove in Laguna on March 15th (7 a.m. rally time).



Early Birds at Little Corona



Warming up at Ruby's

As many of you recall, we had several members of the Women Divers Hall of Fame as our speakers a couple of years ago. They had some great stories to share, and gave us a rare view of these truly amazing people.



Passing of WDHOF Member Bonnie Cardone

It is with profound sadness that we share the news that our Sea Sister, Bonnie Cardone, passed away on January 14, 2020. She will be greatly missed by us all and words are hard to find to express how much. The following is a beautiful tribute to Bonnie that we received from her son Michael and daughter Pamela:

Bonnie J. Cardone February 21, 1942 – January 14, 2020

~ Michael Cardone and Pamela Cardone

"On the south side of the entrance to Bonaire's Harbor Village Marina is a dive site not known for its topside beauty, but for the incredible abundance and variety of marine life that school just offshore. In the shallows, I stalked squid with my 15mm lens and spotted a giant Cubera Snapper with an entourage of baitfish. During a dusk dive, we revisited a place where two orange frogfish had been lounging. This time, though, there was only one, which sat motionless while I took its portrait. A steady, seemingly unending parade of Creole Wrasse streamed past us, a prowling Sharptail Eel hot on their tracks. Spotted Morays peeked out from rocky lairs to witness the brief commotion and then slipped away silently, oblivious to my flashing strobe.

This isn't how I expected to spend my summer. I planned to sit at my computer day

after day, writing mystery novels. Instead, I spent nine and a half weeks on Bonaire: diving, reading, housesitting, taking care of two dogs, four cats and a jungle of plants...and then, diving some more..."

So begins one of Bonnie Cardone's numerous diving stories, this one titled, "9 1/2 Weeks on Bonaire," which she published in an on-line dive journal.

It shows her attention to the details of the underwater world, which she began writing about after becoming a certified diver in 1973. Three years later, Bonnie began working for Skin Diver Magazine, and retired 22 years later as Executive Editor. Bonnie wrote more than 900 articles and published thousands of photos during her 22-years with Skin Diver Magazine, while at the same time she was writing articles about women diving pioneers for the Historical Diving Society's magazine and authoring two books, Shipwrecks of Southern California (co-authored with Patrick Smith), and Fireside Diver, a compendium of diving writers she chose to make up into a fascinating collection of underwater stories including her adventure of being shipwrecked on a deserted island in the Philippines and extracted by the US Navy. She was principal photographer for Diving and Snorkeling in Southern California & the Channel Islands.

What a hard worker Bonnie was! Her writings have appeared in California Diving News, The Journal of Diving History, Canada's Diver Magazine, Alert Diver, Sport Diver and several e-zines. In 1999, Bonnie received both the Women's Scuba Association's Women Diver of the Year Award and St. Brendan Corp's California Scuba Service Award. She was one of the original inductees of the Women Divers Hall of Fame and is a member of the California Wreck Divers Hall of Fame. In 2009, she was awarded a NOGI for the Arts by the Underwater Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Fireside Diver and her work for Skin Diver Magazine is a tribute to how Bonnie gathered not only information, but the works of friends

and divers. Her gentle nature was welcoming to all, and just as she put pages together of a monthly publication, she put divers together with divers, people together with people, and friends with friends. Her career required her to be selective and critical, but her attitude was soft and nonjudgmental.

Her sense of adventure went to the air when on her 50th birthday she did a tandem sky dive over Bakersfield.

Sometime after leaving Skin Diver Magazine, Bonnie moved from the Los Angeles area to Santa Maria and picked up on her big (hidden to most) love of writing murder mysteries. She is the author of the Cinnamon Greene Adventure Mysteries, which at the time of her passing included three books: *The Bride Wore Black*, *Murder Dives the Bahamas*, and *Murder Dives the Caribbean*. All of these books remain available on Kindle/Amazon.com, with followers who had written praises of her "short story caper(s)" and "fun, engaging repertory."

Bonnie was a long-time member of Mystery Writers of America and Sisters in Crime, and her short stories appeared in various anthologies including *SinC/LA's Last Exit to Murder*. She also edited their newsletter and was the "cub" reporter (complete with hat and press pass) where her constant snapping of photos transformed up and coming authors into celebrities.

We bid farewell to our underwater Boswell, and see her writing in the clouds, while her work on earth remains in the iCloud.

Bonnie is survived by son Michael Cardone, daughter Pamela Cardone, sister Susan Ritschof, and brother Dan Ritschof.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests the following for donations in Bonnie's name:

USC Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber, online at <https://domsife.usc.edu/hyperbaric/donate/>

The Academy of Underwater Arts & Sciences:

Warmest Regards,

Bobbie and Mary

Bobbie Scholley

Chairman, Women Divers Hall of Fame

Mary Connelly

President, Women Divers Hall of Fame



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/32620096/#132366285](https://www.meetup.com/Shark-Bait-Dive-Club-Meetup/messages/boards/thread/32620096/#132366285). The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows various icons including the Start button, search bar, and several open applications like Edge, File Explorer, and Outlook.

The Meetup page has a red header with navigation tabs: About, Events, Members, Photos, Discussions, and More (highlighted). On the right side of the header, there are links for '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: 903, Upcoming events: 6, Past events: 20, Our calendar), and a list of organizers with a profile picture of Silvia Swigert.

The main content area is titled 'Shark Bait Beach Dive Discussion Group'. Below the title, there are several interactive options: 'Close to new replies', 'Pin this discussion', 'Start a new discussion', and 'Stop tracking this discussion'. There is also a link to 'Add a reply'.

A post by Silvia Swigert is displayed, dated 'Posted 1/4/20 11:30 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". Silvia Swigert, Shark Bait Publicity Chair'. The post has a small profile picture of Silvia Swigert and a link to 'Add a reply'.

At the bottom right of the main content area, it says 'Powered by mynForum'.

2020 Warm Water Trip



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 March 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.

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 18 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. 83 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



**32nd ANNUAL CHAMBER DAY
22nd ANNUAL CHAMBER EVE
Wednesday, May 6th, 2020**

Diving is an amazingly safe sport . . . until it isn't. But we're all human and things happen. In fact, a study has shown that 69% of diving accidents are caused by diver error. So the last thing you want to hear is, "Sorry, there's no chamber in the area so there's nothing we can do for you." Fortunately, that's NOT the case here in SoCal. Since 1974, divers have relied on the USC Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber to bail us out when things go wrong. And once again, our Chamber is counting on you.

2020 marks our Chamber's 46th year of unbending service to the Southern California diving community. While our Chamber still gets about half of its funding from L.A. County, Chamber Day & Eve are still the major source of funds to keep our Chamber available to us 24/7/365. And that's why we need you to participate in Chamber Day & Eve 2020 on Wednesday, May 6.

This is our 32nd annual Chamber Day event. The first one in 1989 attracted about 200 divers and netted about \$15,000 for our Chamber. Over the years the event has grown to over 1,000 participants by adding Chamber Eve, the Flying Dutchman, and the Chamber Challenge. Last year we raised almost \$122,000 for our Chamber. We are justifiably considered the largest single-day scuba charity event in the United States and perhaps even the world.

It's important to know that ALL monies raised go to the Chamber. No administrative fees are deducted from the proceeds, the participating SoCal boats donate their time and services, the manufacturers donate gear for raffle prizes, the Aquarium of the Pacific donates their facility for Chamber Eve (we still have to pay for the food), hundreds of volunteers donate their time, and you (hopefully) donate your money.

Here's what's happening:

Chamber Day - Two dives at Catalina and a walking tour of the Chamber facilities including meeting rescue personnel from various first-responder agencies. (There will also be a non-tour option for those who have done the tour before.)

The Flying Dutchman - For those who can't do the daytime dive. (IMPORTANT NOTE - IT'S A FAKE BOAT AND YOU'RE NOT REALLY GOING ANYWHERE.)

The Chamber Challenge - Direct donations which can also be in someone's memory.

Daytime Raffle - Three great prizes and you don't have to be present to win.

Chamber Evening - Sit-down dinner at the Aquarium of the Pacific.

V.G.D. (Very Generous Diver) Package - Limited (150 people) add-on to a Chamber Evening ticket that gets you early access, free parking, and other goodies.

For more information about these can't-miss events, check us out (new this year) on Instagram: @usc_hyperbaric_chamber. You can sign up by going through our secure server, or you can Chamber Day HQ at 310-652-4990.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 6 and Chamber Day & Eve 2020.

We look forward to seeing you there!!!

Divers Day at Aquarium of the Pacific

FREE for SCUBA divers with valid proof of certification and photo I.D. Otherwise, general Aquarium admission, free for children under age 3, and Aquarium members.

Learn all about recent advancements in diving at the Aquarium of the Pacific's eighteenth annual Divers Day.

Featuring educational presentations and dive demonstrations. The Aquarium will also host several organizations that are related to the sport and science of diving. The diving community is invited to find out about volunteer diving and other opportunities for involvement with dive-related organizations in Southern California.

Divers who present valid proof of certification with their photo I.D. will receive free admission.



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
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Warm Water Trips

Monica Villegas
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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