



2024



SharkBait Monthly Meeting

A Reminder.....We Moved. Our new meeting place is Denny's in West Yorba Linda on Richfield just south of Yorba Linda Blvd (just south of the Mobil station on the corner). SOOOOOO, our meetings will be in our new digs. We are excited about the move and can't wait to see you there. BTW, the food is good and the people are great.

For you on ZOOM, we love your participation and look forward to seeing you in digital.



March Speaker

Our speaker at the March meeting will be Dave Stewart presenting diving the British Virgin Island.

Dave recently spent a week aboard the BVI Agressor visiting some great dive spots in the BVI's. The signature dive of the BVI area is the wreck of the RMS Rhone. He spent a whole day on the wreck, plus the night before the crew gave a talk about the Rhone and how it wound up on the bottom back in 1867 – very interesting history which Dave will fill us in on.

Dave was SCUBA certified in 1975 and has dived all over the Caribbean, the Galapagos, South Pacific, Southeastern Asia and of course the California coast and Baja California coast (both sides). Dave always has great adventures to share with us and this one will not disappoint. Come join us for what will be an interesting and fun night.



February Membership Renewal Month

March 17 Beach Dive
7:00 AM Moss Street Laguna Beach

March 12 Club Meeting
6:30 Denny's Diner Yorba Linda

March 23 Boat Dive
7:00 AM Departure Sundiver Express to Catalina

April 14 Beach Dive
7:00 AM Heisler Park (Picnic Beach) Laguna Beach

May 1 Chamber Day/Evening
50th Anniversary

June 1 & 2 SCUBA Show
Los Angeles Convention Center

Annual Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your membership.

Renewal dues schedule is: Single \$30
Family \$40

Renew on-line on our website
WWW.sharkbaitdiveclub.org
OR..... mail check payable to Sharkbait Dive Club to Alf Johnson at 17721 Seminole Way Yorba Linda, Ca 92886



February Speaker

Cheryl McCarron

Education and Program Director Shark Angels

Cheryl McCarron, Shark Angels resident "Shark Nerd" talked to us about "the State of the Sharks, 2023". There have been some interesting, and not always pleasant discoveries and updates to our shark knowledge base in 2023.

We know of over 440 species of sharks. In 2023, we lost 23 species to extinction due to, among other more minor causes, over fishing, habitat destruction, pollution.

We discovered a new shark species, the Demon Cat Shark.

Contrary to popular belief, with the exception of about 12 species of shark, they do not need to keep moving in order to "breathe". Of course we know that because most of us have come across sleeping Reef and Nurse sharks. They did discover some interesting behaviors in the population of 12, where they would rest facing a current to keep water flowing through the gills. They also suspect, that like Dolphin, sharks can shut down half their brain and keep the other half awake.

97% of the time, in California, Great White Sharks (GWS) are in close proximity to surfers and swimmers, yet shark bites are extremely rare. Worldwide, there were 10 people killed by sharks and 69 unprovoked shark bites.

73 million sharks were killed last year. An unsustainable rate.

Reef Shark population has declined by 60 -73%

Cheryl mentioned that shark is contained in sunscreens, anti-aging creams, lotions, hair conditioners, deodorants, eye shadows, lip balms, lipstick, and face cleansers. Additionally, health supplements, pet food, alternative medicine products and even wallets, purses and jewellery.

Shark meat is sold and served under many different names including grayfish, whitefish,

lemon fish, cape steak and many others. Not only is this depleting the shark population, but as a peak predator, shark meat contains high levels of Mercury (1.8 PPM, whereas .5 PPM is generally considered maximum safe level), lead, Arsenic and the biotoxin BMAA.

Shark Angels continues to advocate for sharks and we can do our part by contacting our legislators about loopholes in current shark overfishing and by-catch regulations, educating our contacts about the threat to sharks and the oceans, avoiding products containing shark, and of course contributing to shark advocates like Shark Angels.

Shark Angels publishes a monthly newsletter called Chomp. Visit their website <https://sharkangels.org> to sign up.

Thank you Cheryl for an informative and enlightening evening.

Coral Restoration

At Christmas I was gifted an adoption of a baby coral located in Mo'orea. I hope to visit my adoptee one day. More locally the Aquarium Divers For Coral Society is presenting a webinar on March 19, "Turn The Tide With Volunteers" free webinar about the Coral Crisis

This is for DIVE CLUBS and individual diver to find out how to help scientists and foundations working to rescue the reef systems. This is an all-hands-on deck effort in the FL Keys and the Caribbean.

The presenters are the volunteer nonprofit Aquarium Divers For Coral Society, Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire and the Islamorada Conservation And Restoration Educations (I.CARE).

Hosted by ADFC

For more information and to register here is the link

https://www.aquariumdiversforcoral.org/2024/02/23/adfc-lunch-break-webinar-with-reef-renewal-foundation-bonaire-rrfb-islamorada-conservation-and-restoration-education-i-care-march-19th-at-12-1pm-est/?fbclid=IwAR0kQofe1_xdM0DQTAJkdD3Y88hnvXt0QEi8JOI1x7J8W9YS4OUI7-zOMHPs

March 17 Beach Dive Moss Street, Laguna Beach 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 23

Chuck and a group of club members are going out on the Sundiver Express **March 23** for a three tank dive at Catalina. To join them, go to the Sundiver website <https://sundiverinternational.com/>, use the Book Now and then SDE 3 Tank Catalina options to reserve your spot. The cost is \$200 and includes tanks and snacks.

Let Chuck know you are coming so he will expect you.
chuck.wade@yahoo.com



SPRING What a great time for intellectual awakening,,,,,,with.....Knock Knock Jokes

Knock, knock!
Who's there?
Butter.
Butter who?
Butter bring an umbrella, it's raining!

Knock, knock!
Who's there?
Swarm.
Swarm who?
'Swarm outside!

Knock, knock!
Who's there?
Beezer.
Beezer who?
Beezer buzzing, it must be spring.

Knock, knock!
Who's there?
Worm!
Worm who?
Worm in here, isn't it?

Knock, Knock.
Who's there?
March.
March who?
Bless you!

Knock, Knock.
Who's there?
Bunny.
Bunny who?
Bunny you should ask!

Knock, Knock.
Who's there?
Rain.
Rain who?
You're not going to tell me to go away and come again another day?

Chamber Day Note from Ken Kurtis

2/26/24

CHAMBER DAY & EVE 2024 IS COMING

Chamber Day 2024 officially opens for business this Friday so this week is our last-minute scramble to get everything in place. We have seven boats (119 spots) participating in the Day, the Flying Dutchman (unlimited spots), the Chamber Challenge (always a key factor in our final tally), Chamber Evening at the Aquarium of the Pacific (we're expanding from 300 to 350 seats available this year due to demand), and virtual Chamber Evening with a link to our live stream for those who can't make it in person.

Best of all, 2024 represents the 50th year that our Chamber has been around. It became operational on October 5, 1974, treated the first patient a week later, and has been helping divers ever since. So we hope to make a lot out of 50 years of service to the diving community.

But all of this can't happen without direct help from you. This event lives (or dies) by word-of-mouth. In the next day or so, I'll be sending you cut-and-paste articles you can use for your newsletters, websites, or e-mail blasts to your flock. We're in the process of finalizing the logos for Day, Eve, and Dutchman and will get those to you too.

Some of you are boat &/or table sponsors and have already been filling you spots. So what we really need from everyone - especially if you're a shop, club, or independent instructor - is to reach out to your folks, emphasize how important our Chamber is, and encourage them to donate and get involved.

We bill Chamber Day as the largest single-day charity scuba event in the U.S. and we're pretty sure that's not an exaggeration as, when you tally all those who participate and those who volunteer their time to make it all happen, it

involves over a thousand people.

We had a great year last year and hopefully we can set a new fund-raising record this year. As always, if you have questions/concerns/ideas/whatever, please feel free to reach out directly to Karl or myself. This is really an "ecumenical" event that works best when the entire diving community is involved.

Thanks so much and we'll get back to you shortly.

Ken Kurtis (Chairman)
& the Chamber Day 2024 Committee
www.chamberday.org
(310)652-4990

Wetsuit Recycling Program

I just read about this recycling program for used wetsuit and want to pass it along.

A wetsuit recycling program, a partnership between equipment supplier Scuba.com, Lava Rubber and the Diveheart Foundation has been launched.

The program aims to repurpose and turn old wetsuits into usable items such as:

Yoga Mats.

Welcome mats.

Coasters.

Koozies and much more.

The program aims to make wetsuits more sustainable and environmentally friendly, since neoprene is not biodegradable.

Divers who want to recycle their old suits can drop them off at Scuba.com retail locations in Costa Mesa, CA

For every wetsuit donated to Scuba.com's stores in NYC and Costa Mesa, California, divers will receive a token of appreciation: 15% off their next wetsuit purchase, redeemable in-store only.

Wetsuit donations can be also sent directly to Lava Rubber to be upcycled.

Oil Slick Spreading to Bonaire

An oil slick from a grounded barge off Tobago is traveling west with the currents and wind and has reached Bonaire. Authorities in Bonaire said the oil posed “a serious threat to both humans and nature”.

It's not very clear who the owner of the barge is and there were no crew on board. Tobago declared a national emergency on Feb. 11 and has been trying to contain the spillage from the continuing leaks.

Officials in Bonaire are particularly concerned for the mangroves on the Island's east side which are among the best preserved in the Caribbean.

Daylight Saving Time is Here Again

March 10, 2:00 AM

Well it's that time again. If you look at the title above, it is Daylight **Saving** Time, not Daylight SavingS time. First implemented in Germany in 1916 to save fuel in WW I. The United States adopted it in 1918 and was standardized in 1966 with the Uniform Time Act.

The reason Daylight Saving Time starts at 2:00 a.m., rather than midnight, is all thanks to the railroads: Amtrak, specifically. When the country first experimented with Daylight Saving Time in 1918 during World War I, there were actually no trains that left New York City at 2 a.m. on a Sunday. That was when they would interrupt the least amount of train travel around the country

Warm Water Trips

We have two trips scheduled this coming year.

1. April 20-27, 2024 Roatan, Honduras at Anthony's Key Resort:

We are fully booked and will be a traveling group of 11 divers.

2. September 16-28, 2024 to Singapore & NAD-Lembeh, North Sulawesi, Indonesia (Southeast Asia)

We still have a couple rooms available if you would like to join us.

We start by spending a few days (2 nights, 3 days) in Singapore to explore and get acclimated to the time zone change. Then off to the island for some great diving.

If you are interested, please contact us.

- Beachfront Room is \$1,600 per diver based on double occupancy
 - Seaview Bungalow is \$1,990 per diver based on double occupancy
 - Single supplement is \$525.00
- A \$200 non-refundable deposit due now with balance payable July, 2024.

I listened to location desires for these trips, Christine's vacation presentation, and talk of the coral triangle, along with availability of the resort made these trips possible. The deposit dates are now, so please email if you are interested and I will send you the flyers with specifics.

Questions? Contact
SharkBaitDive@gmail.com

Fun travel
Regards,
Monica

Still available Club T-shirts & stickers!!

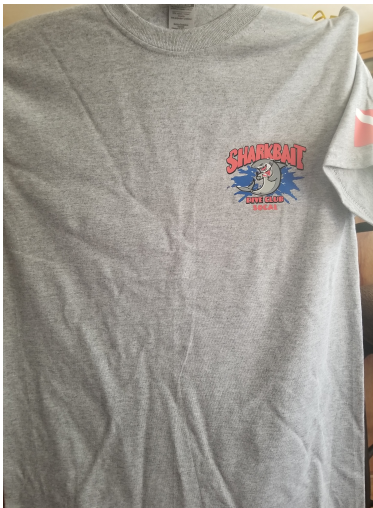
After what seems like forever, we finally have T-shirts with the Sharkbait logo front and back.

In addition, we have window stickers which you can adhere to the outside of windows, bumpers, doors or just about anything.

They are vinyl and the manufacturer says they should stand up to the sun for quite a while.

E-mail Alf Johnson to order
alfjohnson1@gmail.com

Sizes M,L,XL,XXL 95% Cotton
\$25 Shipped



Vinyl Sticker 4" X 4"
\$2 each or 3 for \$5



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 Contact/Social Media Information

Website
Sharkbaitdiveclub.org
Facebook
SharkBait Dive Club - SoCal
Twitter
@sharkbait diver
Scubaboard
Scubaboard.com

Club Board Members

President

Monica Villegas
rescue1grl@gmail.com

Vice President

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

Secretary/Treasurer

Alf Johnson
alfjohnson1@gmail.com
Newsletter, Membership

Beach Dives

Martin Carreon
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Warm Water Trips

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Boat Dives

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Summer/Winter Club Parties

Vlad Ilinsky
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Special Projects

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Silvia Marketing/Publicity, Speakers
Vlad Webmaster
Alf Newsletter, Membership
Martin Beach Dives
Monica Warm Water Trips
Christine Special Projects
Barry Special Projects