



2025



## SharkBait Monthly Meeting

Our club meetings are held at Denny's Diner in Yorba Linda, located on Richfield Rd at the intersection with Yorba Linda Blvd (behind the Mobil station)



We are also on ZOOM, check our meeting notice for ZOOM access info.

We look forward to seeing you.

### January Speaker

Andra Janieks, Director of Marketing, 5 Gyres

5 Gyres provides scientific expertise to companies and organizations as we work together for a planet free from plastic pollution.



Marcus Eriksen and Anna Cummins founded the 5 Gyres Institute to investigate key unanswered questions about plastic pollution: How much plastic is floating in the world's oceans? Where is it accumulating? Is it causing harm to people and the planet? And most importantly, what can we do about it? We explored 50,000 nautical miles in search of plastic on 19 research expeditions, publishing groundbreaking research, building a global network of ambassadors, and inspiring change along the way.

Andra spearheads the creation and implementation of the organization's marketing and communications strategy. She accelerates 5 Gyres' mission toward a plastic-free future by making otherwise complicated science and policy accessible and empowering individuals to join the movement. She has secured



January 14 Club Meeting and Election of Board Members

6:30 PM Denny's Diner Yorba Linda

January 19 Beach Dive

Heisler Park Laguna Beach 7:00 AM

February 11 Club Meeting

6:30 PM Denny's Yorba Linda

February 16 Beach Dive

Victoria St. Beach, Laguna Beach 7:00 AM

more than 100 articles about 5 Gyres' research, reaching millions of people and making waves around the world. Her work spans across 5 Gyres' programs, from producing and editing the Trash Academy video series to leading the pilot Plastic-Free Parks campaign. As a PADI divemaster, Andra is happiest underwater and likes to disconnect by going on beach walks collecting trash washed ashore. Her go-to plastic swaps are solid dish soap, Stasher bags, and beeswax wraps.

## **January 19 Beach Dive Heisler Park Laguna Beach 7:00 AM**

Having been a preserve for many years these waters teem with friendly fish and lobster. You will find barred sand bass, sheephead, calico bass, opaleye, schools of jack mackerel and more, including the ubiquitous bright orange garibaldi.

For the best diving, head out to the outer edges of the kelp (about 150-200 yards out) and circle around to the left. Water clarity varies but averages about 15 feet. The bottom is quite interesting with rocky ridges and small pinnacles reaching up to 25 feet down from a 35-40 foot bottom.

From the bluff it is easy to observe conditions and how the kelp forest pans out. There is shore access at other places in the park, but the easiest is at the northwest end directly out from the statue right off Cliff Drive. Here there is a ramp that leads down to a sandy beach with generally easy entry. If you want you can wheel your gear down to the sand and there you will find a freshwater shower. At the top of the bluff are restrooms, picnic tables and barbecues. Parking is metered. Look for Martin.

### **Boat Dive**

Our next boat dive will be in February or March of 2025. Time enough to get your gear checked out and ready for another year of diving.

See Andrea at SCUBA World on Tustin and Taft in Orange for your annual gear check-up, get your annual cylinders visual check and have them filled and of course pick up that piece of gear you have had your eye on.

## **February 16 Beach Dive Victoria St. Laguna Beach 7:00 AM**

Victoria Beach is accessed from Victoria Street off of Coast Highway in Laguna Beach. Just Past Moss Street is Victoria Street. Keep looking for the street on the ocean side of Coast Highway the street is small and it is easy to miss.

Parking at Victoria Street Beach is limited. Most of the parking along Victoria Street is private residential parking. Try the full length of Victoria Street and some of the adjacent side streets to find parking also.

Beach Access is a staircase on the south side of Victoria street on the corner of Victoria and Sunset streets. This staircase is a shaded path that takes the scuba diver to the west side of the beach area.

Diving at Victoria Street is on a reef system that is right at the bottom of the staircase and extends to the west. There are several small beach and cove areas along the reef.

## Newport Pier January 4, Beach Dibe Recap

By Martin

I had people interested in the dive up to a day or so before the actual dive. One by one, they ended up cancelling. In previous years, I would just go to the beach and come home if no one showed up. Or, I would not even go to the beach if no one showed an interest. These days, I hate missing out on good dives. So I just set out on my own for a wonderful experience.

Having dived the piers previously, I knew what to expect. I would have limited visibility, I would see mussels and assorted fishing gear and some fish and invertebrates.

I try to do alternate years with the Balboa and the Newport Pier in the beginning of January. I figure that is a likely time when people drop the more valuable items. We've picked up sinkers and fishing poles before. I even sold some items after a dive to a local fisherman!

After arriving before 7 am on Saturday, I was able to find a relatively close parking spot near the Dory Fish Market. I left my truck and took a few pictures of the area. Parking isn't enforced until 8 am, so I had some time to look around.

Along with others in the area, I had some nice pictures of the pier, the fish market and a budding sunrise where a sliver of sunlight tried to squeeze between the clouds. I had time to walk to the end of the pier and see what people were catching. A dolphin cruised by just before I arrived at the end of the pier. I wasn't able to get a picture of that.

Pigeons and some seagulls were picking over some bread that someone left on the ground at the end of the pier. Some folks were making an event of pier fishing. They pack in umbrellas, carts, boxes of bait, several poles, coolers and tackle.

Some seagulls were perched on the railing looking for an opportunity to steal some free catch. Small children chased some pigeons around. I headed back down the pier, past families and couples. I used the facilities and took a quick peek at what the

catch of the day was at the fish market. A Few rockfish and bass were all that were left.

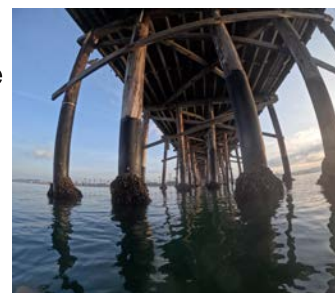
I passed a van that had quite a load of sea urchins that a couple of folks were packing into coolers. The air temperature wasn't cold at this point. More people were arriving at the beach as I prepared to assemble my gear.

Since parking meters weren't active yet, I took my time getting ready to go to the water. The last thing I did before putting my tank on was to activate the parking payment. I put in for two hours. Unfortunately, the time starts whenever you activate it and not prorated to 8 am. So my two hour payment started at 7:20 am to end at 9:20 am. This was free money to the City for 40 minutes.

I put on my tank and strapped up before I realized my air was still off. I unstrapped and put the tank down, then opened the valve and put my tank back on. I locked the doors and headed to the base of the pier.

Unlike the Balboa Pier, you can't walk straight down the middle of the pilings in Newport. I had to bypass at least eight pilings before I could clear the lower cross bars and walk in the middle. Also, the pilings seem closer together than at the Balboa Pier.

There were some small waves, but the pilings mostly blocked the force which made entry in the center a tolerable action. With strong waves, I would be forced to enter at the side of the pier before cutting back underneath.



It was fairly easy to swim on my back, gauging between the pilings and angling my direction based on the way the swell was cutting across the pier. Halfway to the end, I noticed a seagull that had been caught by fishing line and hanging suspended about ten feet above the water. The scene reminded me of some apocalyptic movie

where the dead criminals are displayed for all to see.

In a few short moments, I was at the expanded portion of the pier where it opens up to a wider area. I decided to drop down there and start my dive on the left side. I followed a piling down, noticing an unidentifiable object attached to it. I left it alone, but took a picture for posterity.

There was a large starfish at the base of the piling. On the sea floor were some small crabs, bits of kelp and mussels. I worked my way to the outer piling and spotted a small green plastic bucket. This would be the first addition to my game bag for trash. There was some debris inside which I started to clear out with my hand.

Memories flashed in my mind of the Newport Harbor Underwater Cleanup for Coastal Cleanup Day where I found a bucket similar to this with an octopus that didn't want to leave. Well, this was exactly the same scenario! I didn't know it was an octopus until I felt the soft body. By that time, he gave up and crawled his way out of the bucket.

I put the bucket in my game bag and started collecting other bits of trash while working my way to the end of the pier. One large item I found needed to be folded over a couple of times to fit in my bag. I usually find fishing poles near the end of the pier, but not this day.

I did find a pair of scissors and then a knife shortly after that. I used my dive knife to free some sinkers and a float and I put those into my bag as well. Rounding the far right end of the pier, I spotted an apple iPhone. It appeared to be an older model, maybe a version 11 or 12. It had a really nice starfish plastic case.

Following the pilings, I saw a few more starfish and what looked like a giant prehistoric shark tooth half buried in the sand. It took some time to free it. But this turned out to be possibly from a boat. I picked up a partial plastic pipe after that. Remembering the earlier octopus incident, I looked more closely inside before putting this in my bag. As suspected, there was another octopus inside. This one wouldn't leave and I left the object on the sea floor.

I found a smaller orange cone next. As much as I tried, it wouldn't go into my bag since my bag was nearly full. I made another pass on the left side of the pier. By this time, I had gone a few sections down from the large open area. I spotted another cell phone.

As I picked up this phone, however, unlike the other phone, it came to life! A picture of a cat popped up on the screen along with the time and an indicator of a message. I set it down on the sand and had to take a picture of this amazing phone working at 17 feet under the pier.

After the picture and video, I noticed a bubble that came up from the case. I knew it hadn't been down long. The battery showed 48 percent. So maybe it had been a couple of days at best. I checked my own air at the time. I still had 1000 psi left and had done a 52 minute dive so far. I decided to head back to the shore. This was partially due to the bubble that I saw come from the phone and partially due to the strain of the full bag on my fingers along with the stuff I had that didn't fit in the game bag.

The waves had started to get a bit more intense as I approached the shore. I made the decision to swim away from the pier for my exit rather than risk getting tossed into the mussel laden pilings. But I knew the waves would be a challenge as well with full hands.

The tricky part was getting my fins off in shallow water while the waves tried to beat me up. But I managed. I got knocked down once before being able to recover my balance and stand up. No one had given me a second glance.

I made my way to the brick bench area in front of the fish market and rested. Once I started back to the truck, I was stopped and was talking to a few guys interested in what I found. I immediately pulled out the working cell phone and showed them. They suggested that I should start an Instagram of what I recover under the pier!

Back at the truck, I was able to release my gear and restore circulation to my fingers. I still had

time on my parking. Once changed, I threw the remaining trash into the receptacle. This included a baseball cap, a bottle, fishing line, plastic, paper, that long folded up item and a few smaller items. Five brittle stars were remaining on the ground. I brought those back to the surf and deposited them in the water.

Once I arrived home, I cleaned my gear. Then, I rinsed, cleaned and blew off the phones with air. The working one was still working, so I put it on my inductive charger. Not more than a half hour later, I received a call on this phone from the owner. I told him my story of that morning. We set up a meet for the afternoon.

I had to go into work, so I told him late afternoon. A couple of hours after I was at work, he called again and said he was in the area. I left to make the exchange. By the time I arrived home, the phone was at 80 percent charge now.

The man and his wife arrived a few minutes later. He said he was crab fishing the night before with the phone on his lap. Someone said they saw a large fish in the water. When he stood up to look, the phone plopped into the water.

We had a good chat while he was at my house. He brought me a Yeti cup as a recovery gift. I gave him some of my fresh grown scorpion peppers and an avocado from my tree as a parting gift.

## Newport Beach Christmas Boat Parade Recap

18 of us climbed aboard a 40 foot sailboat in Newport Beach for a tour of the harbor and front row viewing spot for the Newport Beach



Holiday Boat Parade. I think everyone was comfortable seated topside on the cabin roof, on the deck and in the cockpit. About 100 lavishly decorated boats were in the parade and opinions varied as to which one was the best.

After the boats had passed (twice, we caught them again further on in their route) we took a little tour of the harbor to look at the decorated houses on the waterfront. There were some really impressive decorations with plenty of lights and creativity.

We returned to the dock about 8:30 or 9:00 O'clock.





## Let's Start Off The New Year With Some Attitude!!!!

You secretly don't like me, I openly don't care.

When someone says that you can't do it, do it twice and take pictures!

Stop trying to please people who already don't like you and embrace the joy of being the most annoying person they've ever met.

Stop thinking we're enemies, I don't care about you.

I don't care about those who talk behind my back they're behind me for a reason.

Stop serving good vibes to those who deserve goodbyes.

If you are hating now, be patient, I didn't even turn up yet.

Care less about if people don't like you, you are not here to entertain them.

Some people will never like you and you should never care.

People say I act like I don't care, but I'm not acting.

Confidence is not "they will like me".  
Confidence is "I don't care if they don't".

I'm 97% sure you don't like me but I'm 100% sure I don't care.

## Club Board Nominations

Each January we nominate and elect a Board of Directors for our club. This is normally done at our January meeting. The nominees are listed below. Please e-mail Alf Johnson at [alfjohnson1@gmail.com](mailto:alfjohnson1@gmail.com) with your acceptance of these nominees, and if so motivated, submit additional names (including yourself of course).

The activities, operation, control and overall governance of SharkBait Dive Club is controlled by the elected Board of Directors. Each November we nominate members to the board. The nomination forms will be available for all members to nominate individuals to be voted on at the January meeting.

Those members elected to the board at the January meeting will, at their meeting in January, vote to elect the officers of the club.

Board members meet monthly to discuss financial matters, activities planning, Dive trips, local dive outings, parties and celebrations, speaker schedules and various other matters which affect the club and it's membership.

The club is dependant upon active participation of it's members and especially those members elected to the Board to ensure that the club is responsive to the needs and wants of the membership.

The Board is always looking for new members. Should you wish to participate on the Board, and be a part of guiding the club, please write yourself in as a write in candidate or send an E-mail to Alf Johnson at [alfjohnson1@gmail.com](mailto:alfjohnson1@gmail.com) indicating your interest and your name will be included on the nominating ballot. We need your ideas, participation and enthusiasm.

Nominees

Monica Villegas

Silvia Swigert

Martin Carreon

Dave Stewart

Alf Johnson

Barry Bloch

Christine Riley

Rick Lindwall

Vlad Ilinsky

## **Fathom Fantasies Chuck Wade Underwater Photography**

Our Sharkbait member and buddy, Chuck is restarting his underwater photography business. You may remember Chuck's awesome photographs when he shared some of his work with us last year. Before he put his underwater camera away a decade or more ago, Chuck was actively shooting underwater photos of our local critters and exhibited and sold his work at the Laguna Art Festival for several years.

Well now he has dusted off his skills, upgraded his equipment and is actively shooting again. Specifically, he is offering his photography skills in photographing you underwater.

Chuck is looking to commemorate in pictures new divers as they get certified during their first ocean dives. Additionally, recording experienced divers as they achieve advanced certifications from advanced all the way up to Instructor.

This is a great way to memorialize these events, and chronicle your diving progress and adventure.

## **Dive Club Holiday Meeting/Party**

We had a great turnout for our Club Meeting/Holiday Party. Plenty of nibbles and beverages, lot's of conversation, a White Alliphant gift exchange with some keeper gifts and some "alliphant" gifts, and a video.

Dave S. put together a presentation of images and videos from our recent "warm" water trips to the Philippines, Belize, Roatan and Singapore/Lembeh. It was a nice reminder of all the good times and fabulous diving we enjoyed in the past year and a half.

The White Alliphant gift exchange featured the usual "what will I do with this" gifts and some really nice gifts which changed hands up to the maximum allowed.

It was great to see everyone and get a chance to just talk and exchange ideas. We have wonderful and interesting club members who are welcoming and enthusiastic, and really enjoy each other.

We left looking forward to next year with more diving, trips and getting together.



## 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



## We Like



**World of Diving**  
Dive Travel



**Fanthom Fantasies**  
**Chuck Wade**  
Personalized Underwater Photography  
[Chuck.wade@yahoo.com](mailto:Chuck.wade@yahoo.com)



# 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 .

..  
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  
n1diver@aol.com

### **Warm Water Trips**

Monica Villegas  
rescue1grl@gmail.com

### **Boat Dives**

Barry Bloch  
divingwetdog@yahoo.com

### **Summer/Winter Club Parties**

Vlad Ilinsky  
vilinsky88@gmail.com

### **Special Projects**

Christine Riley  
christine.riley@gmail.com

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