



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.

April Speaker Mike Spranger

Mike Spranger is co-owner of Pacific Sea Farms, a 10 acre sugar kelp and oyster farm in the Salish Sea off Vashon Island (near Seattle).

He can speak to a variety of topics around seaweed farming including farm design, hatchery process, operations, permitting/lease requirements and the business side.

In addition to diving on the farm to maintain the infrastructure he is a volunteer diver for WA Reef Check and the Seattle Aquarium.

Mike has been a resident of Vashon Island for over 20 years. After working for 30 years at a fortune 500 company, he retired from corporate life to co-found Pacific Sea Farms with the intention of creating a business that allows him to support his local and global ecosystems and community. As an advisory member of the Washington Seaweed Collaborative, Mike is highly involved in bringing kelp farming to the Puget Sound Region. When not out on the water, Mike is working with government agencies and other potential kelp farmers to expand kelp farming throughout the region.



April 5-12 Warm Water Trip
Dominica

April 8 Club Meeting
6:30 PM Denny's Yorba Linda

April 13 Beach Dive
Crescent Bay, Laguna Beach 7:00 AM

May 7 Chamber Day and Eve

May 13 Club Meeting
6:30 PM Denny's Yorba Linda

May 18 Beach Dive
Woods Cove 7:00 AM

May 31 - June 1 SCUBA Show
Long Beach Convention Center

Attention Parrotheads

The Parrot Head Reef will be dedicated on September 1, 2025, two years after the passing of music's beloved Jimmy Buffett, a passionate ocean conservation advocate.

The reef will be located in federal waters outside the sanctuary boundary off Key West, Florida, one of Buffett's famously favorite and storied cities.



The Parrot Head Reef will be comprised of two sizes of reef balls, ranging in size from about 600 to 1,600 pounds (272kg to 726kg).

SCUBA Show 2025

It's back in Long Beach on May 31 and June 1. Save the dates for the equipment and travel event of the year. Many of us attend each year and always have a fun and interesting time. Maybe we can get a group together and carpool???

Los Angeles Wildfires Could Likely Be Affecting Ocean Life

The wildfires that have devastated parts of Los Angeles, California in the past weeks have resulted in ash and debris being scattered over the ocean surface as far as 160km/100 miles offshore, scientists have found.

Researchers from UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography and NOAA Fisheries' Southwest Fisheries Science Center on the NOAA Ship Reuben Lasker and its crew began collecting samples of the ash from the deck and the surrounding waters.



Things To Think About

"If you are being chased by a pack of taxidermists, do not play dead."

"Every rule has an exception. This rule is no exception."

"Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again."

"Television is a medium – anything well done is rare."

"They say: Do what you love and the money will come to you. Just ordered pizza, now I am waiting..."

"Be a cupcake in a world of muffins."

"Never judge a book by its movie."

"Think nothing is impossible? Try slamming a revolving door."

"Remember: Don't insult the alligator until you cross the river."

"It might look like I'm doing nothing. But, in my head, I'm quite busy."

April 13 Beach Dive Crescent Bay, Laguna Beach 7:00 AM

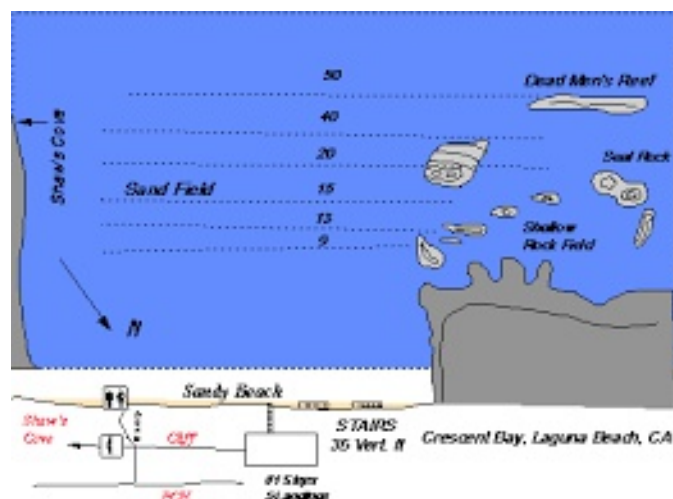
The options at Crescent Bay are numerous. To the South are reefs with large crevices, one of which leads over to neighboring Shaw's Cove. There are times when the surge in this passage is very strong so enter with care. On the North side is another reef which is a fun place to traverse. Beyond the reefs here lie Seal Rocks, a pair of rocky spires on which Sea Lions "haul out" to rest and sun themselves. Here you may have the opportunity to cavort with these playful and graceful mammals. They love to dive, zoom right at your face and pull up just at the last second, mouth open, blowing bubbles.

The fish life at Crescent includes Opaleye, Garibaldi (of course), Surfperch, and other usual suspects. Depths here range from 10 to 25 feet with vis in the 15 to 20 foot range.

Access is off of Circle Way near Cliff Drive. You Have Two Options:

There is a stairway off Circle Way leading down to the Cove. Circle Way is a One Way Street - Access is about 2/3 the way around the Circle.

There is also an access way at the intersection of Circle Way & Cliff Drive



May 18 Beach Dive Woods Cove Laguna Beach 7:00 AM

Woods Cove is a fairly large cove divided in two by a large rock structure at the surf line. On the Northwest side of the cove about 50 yards out are two rocks that break the surface. These are huge boulders that extend 20 feet down surrounded by smaller rocks with abundant marine life. Out from the southern most reef is a small underwater arch with Garibaldi and a great picture taking spot. The reefs straight out beyond there are spectacular. Huge boulders with ledges and caves harbor a variety of marine life. The reef extends quite a way offshore offering additional sites to explore

The access point to Woods Cove is almost directly off PCH. Turn toward the beach on Diamond Street and park on Diamond or Ocean Way. The beach access is at the end of Diamond Street

Meet Martin there at 7:00 AM



Meet Your Sharkbait Board Members

Some (many) years ago we featured a short bio of our Board members each month in the newsletter. At our last Board meeting, we decided to resurrect that feature. We thought it would be a good way for you to learn more about who and what we are.

So, to kick that off, here is a quick bio of Alf, our Secretary/Treasurer and Newsletter publisher.

Born in Sweden, emigrated to USA when I was 9. The family settled in Chicago where I spent my schooling years finishing grade school and High School there. Went off to DeKalb Illinois for college at Northern Illinois University and back to Chicago to eventually work my way into Computer Systems with Montgomery Ward. I spent 12 years with Wards in Chicago and Kansas City, then moved to Orange County to take jobs with Carter Hawley Hale (parent of Broadway Stores, Neiman Marcus and 9 other Department Stores nationwide), Miller's Outpost and Coopers & Lybrand before going out on my own as a Business Systems Consultant in 1994.

I had not thought at all of SCUBA diving until my Daughter got certified. She was in Med School at the time and was going on a medical volunteer trip to Central America and wanted to dive with her companions while she was there.

She came back and told (not asked) me to get certified so she would have a good buddy to dive with. Her buddy on the trip was an SOB (Sane Ocean Buddy).

So that was how it started. I went to Sport Chalet, signed up and a couple months later I was NAUI certified in 1997.. My daughter and I enjoyed many great dives together around Catalina and trips to Hawaii. Throughout that time we completed our PADI Advanced and Rescue certifications together.

She graduated and went into 80-100 hour weeks as an Intern and Resident so I was left

on my own and decided Divemaster would be a fun and rewarding continuation of my diving experience. That was completed in 2001.

I went to work for Sport Chalet as a Divemaster, mostly working on the dive charter boats and doing dive refreshers. I continued doing that and added the PADI SCUBA Experience when that was initiated. Alas, Sport Chalet went out of business in 2016 and so did I. Now I just dive for pleasure.

I have dived in Southern California waters around Catalina for the most part with occasional jaunts to San Clemente, Santa Barbara, Anacapa and Santa Cruz Islands. Internationally I have dived several of the islands in the Caribbean, Belize, Cozumel and Roatan (Honduras) as well as all of the Hawaiian Islands and The Philippines.

In addition to diving, I enjoy sailing. I have been sailing for about 25 years now both cruising the Southern California waters and racing. I also enjoy golfing,,,, pretty much a work in progress. Currently a 18 handicap with eyes on 14 before I die (pretty much assured of a long life with that as a criteria).

I have been a member of SharkBait Dive Club since 1998 and a member of the Board since 1999. I have been President (3 or 4 times, maybe more, I can't remember), Vice President (a few times). Currently I publish the Newsletter, keep track of the finances of the club and am club Secretary.

Always looking for new and more effective ways to bring more members in to enhance the diving experience for all of us.

CHAMBER DAY 2025 – IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL OPTIONS

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Chamber Day 2025 is fast approaching!

Can we break last year's fundraising record?

In 2024, we came incredibly close to surpassing \$200,000 for the first time. This year, with your help, we can make it happen!

Once again, we're back to a full-scale Chamber Day. Expect:

- Live boat dives & Chamber tours at Catalina
- The Flying Dutchman for those who can't dive
- The Chamber Challenge for direct donations
- Chamber Evening at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach

Our Chamber remained fully operational even through the pandemic, when many organizations had to cut expenses. But, like any business, our operating costs continue to rise.

For example, we now need solar-powered battery backup units for the volunteer quarters and main Chamber hangar, an unexpected \$10,000-\$15,000 expense.

This is why every dollar raised during this event is critical.

Los Angeles County provides about 40% of our funding, but the rest must be raised by us—the diving community. Chamber Day remains the largest single-day scuba charity event in the U.S., and with your support, 2025 will be another record-breaking year!

THE HISTORY OF CHAMBER DAY

The Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber opened on October 5, 1974, thanks to a Los Angeles County grant. Its first treatment took place a week later.

By the mid-1980s, however, the County's continued funding was in serious jeopardy. In 1988, when funding cuts seemed inevitable, Roger Hess, owner of Charisma Charters, proposed an idea:

What if all local dive boats came together for a single day to raise funds?

Thus, Chamber Day was born in June 1988, raising \$15,000 in its first year.

Since then, Chamber Day has grown tremendously:

- 1991 – Raffle added
- 1998 – Chamber Eve, the Flying Dutchman, and the Chamber Challenge introduced
- 2020 – First all-virtual Chamber Day (due to the pandemic)
- 2022 – Full in-person return (but Virtual Chamber Eve remains)

Financially, the event has also flourished:

- 1990s – Surpassed \$50,000
- 2006 – Broke \$100,000
- 2021 – Surpassed \$150,000
- 2024 – Nearly reached \$200,000

With your support, 2025 will be our biggest year yet!

EVENTS FOR 2025

CHAMBER DAY – BOAT DIVES & TOURS

We've got seven boats ready to take divers on an unforgettable experience:

- Cee Ray | Giant Stride | Pacific Moon | Pacific Star
- SoCal Diver | Sundiver | Sundiver Express

Two dives near Catalina's Isthmus

A guided tour of the Chamber facilities

Meet first responders & rescue teams

Receive a Chamber Day 2025 t-shirt

Enjoy a meal & an air fill onboard

10 daytime raffle tickets included

Cost: \$175 per diver

- \$125 supports the Chamber
- \$50 covers boat operating expenses

Boats depart at 7 AM and return by 5:30 PM

THE FLYING DUTCHMAN – FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T DIVE

Price: \$95

Not everyone can take a Wednesday off to go diving, and some prefer to stay dry. That's why we have The Flying Dutchman, a virtual dive experience that still lets you support the cause.

Exclusive Flying Dutchman t-shirt

10 daytime raffle tickets

A ticket for the "onboard" boat raffle

Claim your pirate name when signing up and choose a dive shop or club affiliation (or go unaffiliated)!

CHAMBER CHALLENGE – DIRECT DONATIONS

The Chamber Challenge is one of the biggest drivers of our fundraising success. Every donation—big or small—makes a difference.

Donation Tiers:

Bronze – \$100

Silver – \$500

Gold – \$1,000

Platinum – \$5,000

Diamond – \$10,000

Chamborium – \$15,000+

Employer matching grants can double your donation!

CHAMBER EVENING – AT THE AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

Location: Aquarium of the Pacific, Long Beach

Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Price: \$175 per person

Aquarium access (7-8 PM)

Catered dinner (starting at 8 PM)

Five raffle tickets included

Opportunity to buy more tickets

Grand prize drawing for a 9-day Indonesia dive trip

Only in-person and Virtual Chamber Eve attendees are eligible for the grand prize.

Limited to 350 guests (35 tables of 10)

Every table is sponsored by a local dive shop, club, or boat. Reserve early!

CHAMBER EVENING V.G.D. (VERY GENEROUS DIVER)

Add-on price: \$50

Early access (starting at 5 PM)

10 extra raffle tickets

2 extra Grand Prize entries

Private outdoor lounge & appetizers

Complimentary soft drinks & cash bar
Perfect for those who want an enhanced experience or are traveling from afar!

VIRTUAL CHAMBER EVENING – JOIN FROM HOME

Price: \$95

For those who can't attend in-person, Virtual Chamber Evening allows you to watch the event live and still participate!

10 raffle tickets included

Entered for the grand prize trip

Chamber Evening t-shirt mailed to you

Exclusive private livestream link

EVERY DOLLAR RAISED SUPPORTS THE CATALINA HYPERBARIC CHAMBER

Your support keeps our Chamber running 24/7/365—a vital safety net for divers.

Sign up today at www.chamberday.org or call (310) 652-4990.

Mark your calendar: Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Ken Kurtis (Chairman, Chamber Day/Eve 2025)

Karl Huggins (Director, USC Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber)

Some Interesting Happenings in Our Area

Renaissance Pleasure Faire (April 5 – May 18) ->

Ren-Faire enthusiasts can expect over 200+ artisans, merchants, and vendors, plus costume contests, games, rides, a food court and more, all taking place at the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area on Saturdays and Sundays through May 18. Adult single-day admission starts at \$44.

Meet The Grunion (April 14 & 29) ->

Join Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in San Pedro for Meet the Grunion, a unique nighttime experience where you'll learn about these silvery fish before heading to the beach to (hopefully) witness their fascinating mating ritual. As the waves roll in, the grunion briefly emerge onshore before disappearing back into the ocean—a true natural spectacle.

Veggiepalooza Plant Sale - Fullerton April 17-18, 2025

Over 200 varieties of heirloom tomatoes, sweet, mild & hot peppers, and varietal veggies. Check out over 200 varieties of ornamental plants including California natives grown here at the Arboretum.

21st Annual ACES Hot Rod Resurrection - Huntington Beach Saturday, April 26th, 2025 9:50am-3pm

Aces Car Club is once again hosting their annual Aces Hot Rod Resurrection.

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.

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

<https://worldofdiving.com/>

Ryan Dandy



<https://getinspiredinc.org/>



Scuba World
Orange, Ca.



1706 N Tustin St,
Orange, CA 92865
(714) 998-6382

Fanthom Fantasies Chuck Wade

Personalized Underwater Photography

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 .

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

You will get a reminder when your renewals are due

Club Contact/Social Media Information

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

Club Board Members

President

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Vice President

Rick Lindwall
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Secretary/Treasurer

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Christine Riley
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Monica Villegas
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Board Member Emeritus

Randy Garcez

Board Member Assignments

Alf	Membership
Barry/Vlad	Special Events
Christine	Boat Dive Liaison
Dave	Warm Water Trips
Martin	Beach Dive
Rick	Speakers, ZOOM
Silvia	Public Relations, Publicity, Social Media, Website