



2026



## SharkBait Monthly Meeting

We meet at 6:30 PM on the second Tuesday of each month, except December, at Denny's Diner in Yorba Linda 17568 Yorba Linda Blvd. That is the corner of Richfield and YL Blvd. Enter off Richfield. We are also on ZOOM for those of you off our beaten track to join in.



See you there, in person or on the screen

## June Speaker Mike Spranger Founder and Operator of Pacific Sea Farm

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.

Pacific Sea Farms is located in Colvos Passage off the southwest shore of Vashon Island, WA. Here the waters are cold, currents are swift and kelp and shellfish thrive. Before becoming a nutritious, delicious food source for humans to enjoy, sugar kelp and shellfish enhance water quality and provide habitat for marine species.

We are proud to be one of Washington State's first kelp farms, pioneers in a new industry and sea-based economy. We believe kelp farming will have positive environmental and economic impacts on the Puget Sound region.

Our regenerative farm is an inspiration to us and to others to do work that makes a positive difference. Plus, it's a heck of a lot of fun.

June 9 Club Meeting  
Denny's Diner Yorba Linda 6:30

June 14 Beach Dive  
Fishermans Cove Laguna Beach 7:00 AM

June 27 Boat Dive  
Sundiver Express Details Page 3

July 12 Beach Dive  
Heisler Park Laguna Beach 7:00 AM

July 14 Club Meeting  
Denny's Diner Yorba Linda 6:30

August 15 Beach Night Dive  
Shaws Cove Laguna Beach 7:00 PM

August 22 Club Summer Picnic Get Together

## SCUBA Show Recap

The 2026 Scuba Show in Long Beach is the largest consumer diving event in the country, offering a massive hub for both seasoned divers.

Sharkbait had a group of 12 or 14 people in attendance at the show. We were a bit scattered around looking at all the gear and places to go dive. We did manage to round up ten of us for lunch at Islands across the street from the Convention Center.

After a hearty lunch, we got back to the task at hand, look for equipment that we determined we could not dive without, and find places to dive that would fulfill some items on a bucket list.

There was not anything revolutionary in the equipment realm. The story seems to be lighter gear, easier to get on/off and great for travel. There were some interesting innovations such as the Avelo Dive System which does away with the BCD and weights. It uses a water ballast system that works much the same as the systems used in submarines to maintain buoyancy.

For those of you who want to get around a dive site quickly, the cost of a Diver Propulsion Vehicle (DPV) has really come down. We looked at the SuBlue line which have DPV's from as low as \$500 on up to \$3,000.

Dive computers are getting larger footprints with more information available at a glance. and camera equipment is not getting any less expensive.

The dive destination vendors were plentiful and friendly. We stopped and spoke to several about their offerings and will get the information to Dave, our warm water guru to sort out and evaluate. Stay tuned for our next destination choice.

## Summer Picnic/Get Together Aug 22(Saturday)

**Save the date August 22 for our annual summer picnic/get together. The date is set, the location is not. Our Committee is finalizing the details of where and we will let you all know. It will be an afternoon of fun, food, fellowship for the whole family. For now, save the date!!!!!!**



## Beach Dive June 14 Fisherman's Cove Laguna Beach 7:00 AM

Fisherman's Cove (AKA Boat Canyon) is a small cove with a tiny beach, well protected from the surf; the sand drops off quickly. Portions of the reef can be shallow, but are generally 15 to 20 on average. Around the base of the reef, in the sand, the water depth is about 25 to 30 feet. Skirt along the edges and look for the many large cracks that lead into the reef.

Mermaids Grotto is a hole in the reef off Fisherman's Cove. The cracks leading to the grotto are only about 3 feet wide, or just wide enough for a diver to pass through. The top of the reef is at about 15 feet, and the bottom of the cracks and holes are at about 25 feet. Not a huge vertical drop, but enough to make it fun.

The site is populated with the usual Laguna Beach residents: Garibaldi, Sand Bass, Opal eye, Zebra Perch, small gobies, rockfish, urchins, Octopus, rays, and nudibranchs. A very enjoyable place to dive, especially at night.

To get to Fisherman's Cove in Laguna Beach, turn south at the traffic light on Beverly Street from PCH. The signal has a sign for Beverly Street, but when you turn south, you are going onto Cliff Drive. The road forks immediately on Cliff Drive. Stay to the left going onto Cliff Drive and go about 200 yards. The staircase to Fisherman's Cove is just before the last apartment building (looking south, towards the beach). The steps to the cove are just past (or before, depending on where you parked) the entrance to Divers Cove, right next to the apartment building.



## Beach Dive July 12 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 Dives

Chuck W. is set to go on the Sundiver Hi. I am booked for diving on Sundiver Express to Catalina on Saturday, June 27. Booking should be directly with Sundiver International. Select "SDE 3 tank Catalina" for June 27. \$225 includes tank, refills, continental breakfast, and a hot lunch. Boat boards at 7:00 AM at their mooring in Long Beach and returns at about 5:30 PM. Parking is free in front of the Captain's Locker store if you get there early.

### BONUS

Underwater portrait available to anyone who wants one.



## Demystifying the Second Stage: Your Link to the Underwater World

In our last few newsletter editions, we tackled the complexities of Decompression Illness (DCI), Dive Computers and looked under the hood of the SCUBA first stage. Now, let's follow that low-pressure hose down to the piece of gear you interact with on every single breath: the second stage regulator. While the first stage does the heavy lifting of dropping tank pressure down to an intermediate level, the second stage has arguably the most important job in your life-support system. It delivers that air to your lungs smoothly, naturally, and exactly when you ask for it.

### Purpose and Function: Air on Demand

The primary purpose of the second stage is to reduce intermediate pressure (typically around 135–150 psi above ambient pressure) down to ambient pressure—the exact pressure of the water surrounding you. This ensures that whether you are at 15 feet or 100 feet, you can inhale effortlessly.

It operates as a "demand valve." Inside the casing sits a flexible rubber or silicone diaphragm. When you inhale, the drop in pressure pulls the diaphragm inward. This movement presses down on a demand lever, which pulls open a poppet valve, allowing air to flow into the mouthpiece. The moment you stop inhaling, the diaphragm returns to its neutral position, the lever relaxes, and a small spring snaps the valve shut. When you exhale, a one-way exhaust valve opens, releasing bubbles into the water via the exhaust tee.

### Fine-Tuning Your Breathing: Manual Controls

Most modern high-performance second stages feature two external manual controls to customize your breathing experience or manage free-flows:

**The Venturi Lever (Pre-Dive/Dive Switch marked with a - +):** This lever alters the internal airflow using the Venturi effect (where fast-moving air creates a vacuum that keeps the valve open). In "Pre-Dive -" mode, a small deflector blocks this vacuum to prevent an accidental free-flow when you step off the boat or drop your regulator into the water. Once underwater, switching to "Dive +" mode unlocks maximum assist for effortless breathing.

**Inhalation Resistance Knob:** Often found on balanced second stages, this knob adjusts the spring tension against the poppet valve (also known as the cracking pressure). Tuning it can tighten the valve to prevent free-flows when diving into a strong current or scooter headfirst, or loosen it to maximize breathing comfort on a deep, relaxing reef drift.

### Post-Dive Care: Keeping it Pristine

Because your second stage contains delicate internal tolerances, salt crystals and mineral buildup are its worst enemies. Protecting your investment requires a disciplined post-dive routine:

**Keep the Dust Cap On:** Before rinsing your regulator assembly, make absolutely sure the first stage dust cap is firmly secured and dry.

**Soak and Rinse:** Submerge the entire regulator in warm, fresh water. Swish the second stage around to flush salt out of the exhaust tee and front cover.

**Hands Off the Purge Button:** Never press the purge button while the regulator is submerged **and** unpressurized. Doing so opens the poppet valve and allows water to flow straight up the hose and into your first stage, causing internal corrosion.

**Dry and Store Properly:** Allow the unit to dry completely out of direct sunlight. When packing it away, avoid wrapping the hoses too tightly, as sharp bends can prematurely weaken the internal plumbing.

Your second stage is your ultimate underwater buddy. Treat it well with a thorough fresh-water wash after every dive day, get it serviced annually by a certified technician, and it will keep delivering effortless breathing for years to come!

## Groaners Are Back, And They Are Really M/Bad



Of all the inventions of the last 100 years, the dry erase board has to be the most remarkable.

What do you call a line of men waiting to get haircuts? A barberqueue.

In fact, if you sneer at any other method of measuring liquids, you may be held in contempt of quart.

My hotel tried to charge me ten dollars extra for air conditioning. That wasn't cool.

What do you call a beehive without an exit? Unbelievable.

If I ever find the doctor who screwed up my limb replacement surgery...I'll kill him with my bear hands.

Did you know that the first french fries weren't cooked in France? They were cooked in Greece.

This morning, Siri said, "Don't call me Shirley." I accidentally left my phone in Airplane mode.

It's easy to convince ladies not to eat Tide Pods, but harder to deter gents.

The difference between a numerator and a denominator is a short line. Only a fraction of people will understand this.

I found a wooden shoe in my toilet today. It was clogged.

I just broke up with my mathematician girlfriend. She was obsessed with an X

I can't take my dog to the pond anymore because the ducks keep attacking him. That's what I get for buying a pure bread dog.

To whoever stole my copy of Microsoft Office, I will find you. You have my Word.

## 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.

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.

**[Chuck.wade@yahoo.com](mailto:Chuck.wade@yahoo.com)**

## Dues Increase

### A Milestone & A Look Ahead: Membership Dues Update

Did you know that our club's membership dues haven't changed since 1992? For over three decades, we've worked hard to keep our community accessible to everyone. To ensure we can continue providing high-quality speakers, hybrid meeting access via ZOOM, and great local dive opportunities, the Board is announcing the first dues adjustment in 34 years, effective January 2027.

We invite you to read the full update below for a transparent breakdown of where your dues go, how we are managing inflation, and how our 100% volunteer board is working to keep our club thriving for the next 30 years and beyond.

### A Message Regarding Our Membership Dues

Since 1992, our club has operated with the same membership rates. For 34 years, we have successfully navigated inflation and the changing times without asking for more, ensuring that the price of membership was never a barrier to finding good dives and good buddies. To maintain the quality of our programming and ensure the club remains financially healthy for the future, the Board has made the decision to implement membership dues increase effective January 2027.

### Full Transparency: Where Your Dues Go

We want you to know exactly how your contributions support the club. It is important to note that every Board Member is a 100% unpaid volunteer. Every dollar of your dues is reinvested directly into the club's operations, including:

**The Hybrid Experience:** Funding our ZOOM subscription to maintain hybrid meetings, allowing us to bring in world-class guest speakers from around the globe.

**Digital Presence:** Professional website management and newsletter software to keep us connected.

**Member Outreach:** Covering postage for shipping club merchandise and mailing raffle prizes to our virtual meeting winners.

**Community Events:** Organizing local dives,

family-friendly land activities, and facilitating coordination of warm-water resort trips.

**Note on Board Service:** To recognize the significant "sweat equity" and time our volunteers contribute, board members receive a 50% discount on their annual dues. We are always looking for fresh perspectives; if you are interested in joining the leadership team, please reach out!

### New Dues Structure (Effective Jan 1, 2027)

Membership  
Type

	Current Rate	New Rate
		(+\$15)
New Single	\$40	\$55
New Family	\$50	\$65
Renewal Single	\$30	\$45
Renewal Family	\$40	\$55

### Moving Forward Together

We have postponed this adjustment for several years by absorbing deficits, but to keep the club thriving, this change is necessary. We value every member of this community and sincerely hope this increase does not present a hardship.

Our goal is to keep our fins in the water and our community together. If you have questions or would like to discuss this further, please reach out to any Board member at an upcoming meeting.

Thank you for being part of our story since 1992.

## 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

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## 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](mailto:Chuck.wade@yahoo.com)

## Club Board Members



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

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  
Scubaboard.com

### **President**

Monica Villegas  
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### **Vice President**

Rick Lindwall  
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### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Alf Johnson  
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Dave Stewart  
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Barry Bloch  
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Vlad Ilinsky  
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Silvia Swigert  
silviaswigerts@gmail.com

### **Board Member Assignments**

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