



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

July Featured Speaker...

Rachel Cushman, Aquarium Of the Pacific

My name is Rachel Cushman, and I have an undeniable, unforgettable, irreplaceable, burning desire to show the next generation the beauty and necessity of underwater life. This pulsing feeling triumphs all persuasive thoughts and pushes for the pursuit of creating a better tomorrow.



More than a passion, my purpose is to help audiences everywhere cultivate an understanding of the ocean and develop a relationship with the life that lives there.

Dive Safety Officer Rachel Cushman joins us at the Aquarium of the Pacific this week to talk about diving inside the Aquarium's habitats.

What are the requirements, the process, the challenges, the commitment, and the fun of it all every day.



July 12 Beach Dive

Heisler Park Laguna Beach 7:00 AM

July 14 Cluib Meeting

Denny's Diner Yorba Linda 6:30

August 15 Beach Night Dive

Shaws Cove Laguna Beach 7:00 PM

August 11 Cluib Meeting

Denny's Diner Yorba Linda 6:30

August 22 Club Summer Picnic Get Together

More Information at the Club Meeting



Warm Water Trip Thoughts

At the last Board Meeting, we discussed several possibilities for future dive trips to warm water and exotic locations. Unlike in the past, we are not seeing participation rates in numbers great enough to qualify for group discounts and preferred status.

One of the options we discussed was partnering with other Dive Clubs and/or Dive Shops who are doing trips. The advantage here of course we would participate in the group discounts, thus lowering the cost. Another advantage is meeting other divers from the area, and who knows, could become some interesting and lasting relationships. Of course, the disadvantage is that we would not be the close-knit group of close friends and fellow club members. This is usually not a big deal in my experience.

Another idea is to develop a communications vehicle to announce to the club who is planning a dive adventure and invite whoever would like to join in. It could be a shared text to announce the trip and leave it up to the individuals to coordinate.

There was some interest in doing a live-aboard from some of the club members. Dave is looking into that as we read this. A Caribbean live-aboard seemed to be the favored route.

Let us know your thoughts, opinions, and whatever comes to mind.

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 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

We will get an update from Christine and Chuck at the meeting



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

A night SCUBA dive is a unique and exhilarating experience that offers a different perspective on the underwater world. Unlike a daytime dive, where the colors and shapes of the marine life are clearly visible, a night dive reveals a hidden realm of shadows, sounds and sensations. The diver needs to rely on a flashlight and a buddy system to navigate the dark waters and explore the nocturnal creatures that emerge from their hiding places. A night dive can be both thrilling and relaxing, as the diver feels a sense of wonder and curiosity about the mysterious environment. A night dive is an adventure that every scuba enthusiast should try at least once in their lifetime. OK, you are all familiar with this favorite spot for your first ocean dive. There's good reason for the popularity of Shaw's; conditions here for beach diving come as close to being ideal as any other place along Laguna Beach

The cove is well protected from waves and surf averages only one to two feet. Currents are weak to non-existent, and visibility is rarely less than 15 feet and will range up to in excess of 30 feet.

On the western side of the cove, the rocks extending from the point drop rapidly to the sand in 20 to 35 feet of water. At the end of the point there is a channel about 15 feet wide that cuts deep into the reef. Further out along the reef, the water deepens to about 30 feet with abundant sea life.

The eastern side of the cove is less spectacular, but far less crowded. A shallow reef covered with blade Kelp and Eelgrass extends from the point about 100 yards, ending in sand at about 25 feet depth. There are several places where the reef rises from the bottom about 8 feet. This is an excellent place to find Moray Eels.

Shaw's is located between Crescent and Fisherman's cove. The stairway to Shaw's is located at Cliff Drive and Fairview. From PCH, turn toward the ocean on Fairview. Look for Martin.

Understanding and Caring for Your BCD

In the last couple of months, I shared articles about our breathing gear, the regulators. This month it is the BCD, an equally important piece of gear you need to understand and take care of. Thanks to SCUBA Diver Magazine and some YouTube scouring for ideas in this article

Whether you call it a Buoyancy Control Device or a Buoyancy Compensator, your BCD is the unsung hero of your scuba kit. It serves as your structural framework, holds your tank, manages your trim, and gives you the ultimate superpower of neutral buoyancy.

Yet, because it doesn't have moving digital parts like a dive computer or intricate metal stages like a regulator, it is frequently overlooked during post-dive maintenance. According to dive safety resources like Divers Alert Network (DAN) and industry benchmarks from Scuba Diving Magazine, BCD malfunctions are highly preventable, usually tracing back to salt crystallization, sand intrusion, or poor storage.

To keep your diving effortless and safe, let's break down the critical working parts of your BCD and the specialized care they demand.

1. The Inflatable Bladder

The heart of the BCD is its internal bladder—the airtight chamber that holds the gas adjusting your displacement. Modern bladders are constructed from heavy-duty nylon or polyurethane coatings designed to withstand abrasion.

- **The Threat:** Salt water and pool chlorine are highly corrosive. When salt water dries inside a bladder, it forms sharp, jagged salt crystals. As the BCD inflates and deflates on subsequent dives, these crystals act like sandpaper, wearing down the inner lining and causing microscopic leaks. Furthermore, dark, damp bladders are perfect breeding grounds for bacteria and mold.

- **Special Handling:** Simply rinsing the outside of your BCD is not enough. You must flush the inside. After a dive day, depress your oral inflation button and hold the inflator mouthpiece up to a freshwater faucet, allowing a few cups of clean water to flow inside. Inflate the bladder

slightly by mouth, shake and slosh the water thoroughly to dissolve internal salt deposits, and invert the BCD to drain the water out through the inflator hose or dump valves.

2. The Power Inflator and Oral Valve Assembly

Connected to your regulator's first stage via a low-pressure hose, the power inflator assembly contains mechanical buttons that direct air into the bladder or allow you to vent it manually.

- **The Threat:** This assembly relies on tiny internal springs, O-rings, and pins. If salt or sand gets trapped around the power inflator button, it can cause the valve to stick open. A stuck power inflator leads to a dangerous runaway ascent. Conversely, a sticky oral inflation valve can slowly leak air, causing unexpected positive buoyancy or letting salt water flood into the bladder.

- **Special Handling:** During your post-dive freshwater soak, completely submerge the inflator mechanism. Actively cycle (press and release) both the power-inflate and oral-deflate buttons while underwater to work out any trapped salt crystals or grit. Inspect the quick-disconnect coupling to ensure it snaps smoothly onto the low-pressure hose without resistance.

3. Overpressure and Quick-Dump Valves

Most BCDs feature multiple quick-dump valves located at the right shoulder, lower kidney area, or integrated into the inflator pull-string. These valves serve a dual purpose: they allow you to vent air from various body orientations, and they act as overpressure relief valves, venting air automatically if the bladder expands too much during a rapid ascent or over-inflation.

- **The Threat:** Dump valves rely on small metal springs and rubber seating gaskets. If sand grains get stuck under the rubber gasket, or if salt build-up corrodes the spring, the valve will slowly leak air throughout your dive, forcing you to constantly add air to stay neutral.

- **Special Handling:** Periodically unscrew the plastic caps of your dump valves to visually check the rubber seals and springs. Ensure no grit is trapped inside. When rinsing

your gear, pull the dump cords slightly to allow fresh water to flow through the seals, clearing away salt water that pools around the housing.

4. Harness, Weight Pockets, and Cambands

The structural integrity of your BCD relies on its heavy nylon webbing, plastic buckles, tank straps (cambands), and integrated weight retention systems.

- **The Threat:** Sunlight and UV radiation degrade nylon fibers over time, weakening the structural straps. Salt and sand can also jam weight-release buckles, which could prevent you from successfully ditching weights in an emergency.

- **Special Handling:** Thoroughly wash weight pockets and mechanical weight locks. Test the quick-release mechanism to make sure the pockets slide out effortlessly but lock securely back into place. When drying your BCD, always hang it in a shaded, well-ventilated area—never leave it baking in direct sunlight.

Pro-Tip for Off-Season Storage

When your BCD is completely clean and dry, don't store it completely flat or folded tightly in a gear bag. Storing it flat can cause the inner walls of the bladder to stick together and degrade. Instead, store it partially inflated on a heavy-duty, wide-rimmed hanger in a cool, dry closet. This keeps the internal air cell open, prevents creases, and ensures your BCD is ready to perform perfectly on your next underwater adventure.

Some vintage BCDs



Groaners Are Back, And They Are Really M/Bad



What do you call a man with a pot on his head?
Stu.

A priest and a rabbit walk into a blood clinic.
The priest says, "I think I'm Type A." The rabbit
says, "I think I'm a typo."

I've been reading a horror story in Braille.
Something bad is going to happen....I can feel it.

I got fired from my job at the orange juice
factory. I just couldn't concentrate.

RIP, boiling water. You will be mist.

What do you call a sad cup of coffee?
Depresso.

What do you call a well-balanced horse?
Stable.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a
banana.

Why do cows wear bells? Because their horns
don't work.

What's the difference between a poorly dressed
man on a tricycle and a well-dressed man on a
bicycle? Attire.

What do you call a chicken that is staring at a
lettuce? Chicken sees a salad.

How do you make a water bed bouncer? Add
spring water.

How do you identify a bald eagle? All his
feathers are combed over to one side.

What do you call a magician who loses his
magic? Ian.

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

Dues Increase

We covered this at the last meeting and I thought it best to leave the article in for this month also, just in case someone missed it.

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

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



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

Scubaboard.com

Club Board Members

President

Monica Villegas

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Vice President

Rick Lindwall

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Secretary/Treasurer

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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