



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

Our Featured Speaker This Month Nancy Caruso

Marine biologist Nancy Caruso, founder of the non-profit Get Inspired, Inc., returns as our guest speaker. Nancy has dedicated over two decades to hands-on ocean restoration along our Southern California coastline. Many of us remember her early work replanting giant kelp forests off Orange County—a massive undertaking that brought back critical habitat and proved community-driven restoration actually works.

This month, Nancy will bring us up to speed on two of her primary ongoing restoration initiatives: green abalone and Pismo clams.

Both species played vital roles in our local ecosystem for generations but suffered severe population crashes from over-harvesting and habitat loss. To reverse the decline, Nancy built a program that pairs rigorous field research with community engagement. She works alongside thousands of local students and volunteer divers to spawn, raise, and outplant green abalone into local reefs, while simultaneously launching the region's first dedicated research effort to map, protect, and restore native Pismo clam beds.

Nancy's presentation will cover the biology, historical significance, and current field status of both species, along



September 8 Club Meeting
Denny's Diner Yorba Linda 6:30

September 13 Beach Dive
Moss Street Laguna Beach 7:00 AM

October 13 Club Meeting
Denny's Diner Yorba Linda 6:30

October 25 Beach Pumpkin Carving Dive
Fisherman's Cove Laguna Beach 7:00 AM

November 10 Club Meeting
Denny's Diner Yorba Linda 6:30

December Date TBD Winter Party
Rick and Diana's place in Yorba Linda

with practical ways local divers can get involved in monitoring and restoration efforts. Join us to hear direct updates from the front lines of SoCal marine conservation.

Sharkbait Summer gathering Aug 22

Saturday was a hot, hot summer day with a high of 92 degrees Fahrenheit! Glad it was not on Sunday, when it hit a high of 98 degrees! A big thank you to Charles Jordan, who did an excellent job setting up the clubhouse room at his condo community with chairs and tables, and bringing extra chairs indoors since it was too hot outside to be comfortable.

The food grazing options and goodies were aplenty. The Italian food options from Sister Sicily were delicious, as were all the fantastic desserts. There were cookies, cakes, brownies, pecan pie, crepes, and fresh fruit. Eric's wife, Karen, introduced us to Campitelli's Cookies, and they were amazing. Refreshing hydration options included a fresh citrus-infused water prepared by Charles, fruit juices, and sparkling fruit-infused Pellegrino water. All of this was perfect for an indoor gathering.

A couple of club members took a quick, refreshing dip in the pool, but it was too hot to be outside comfortably. The best part was meeting new club members in person, especially those of us who drove from far away and don't get to see everyone regularly. The atmosphere was friendly and inviting, and the name tags made mingling so much easier! It was fun to catch up with old friends and meet new people, with the hope of building lasting friendships. Chuck Wade and his wife, Cassie, will both have exhibits in the Beverly Hills Art Show this October; more information will follow as the date gets closer.

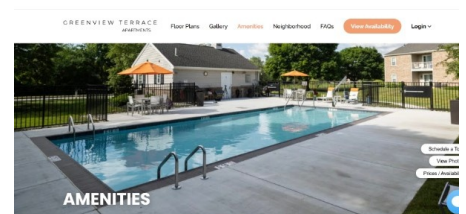
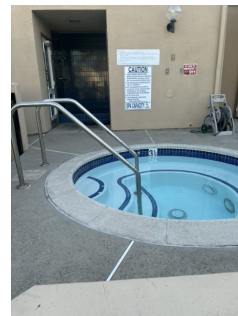
As I walked around the room, we reminisced about previous gatherings, and it was also nice to learn what drew others to SCUBA diving and Sharkbait. Everyone seemed to have a lovely time, enjoying the food and goodies, and mingling with others.

I normally don't get to all the events because of the distance, so I am usually the one asking others to take pictures, and I must say I was having so much fun that I forgot to take any! My request is: if you were present and took some pictures –

even of the food- please email pictures to sharkbaitdive@gmail.com.

Thank you for attending and being part of our Sharkbait, especially to the family members that are not SCUBA divers – thank you for your continued support. We will do our best to remember to take pictures next time. Until the next gathering, enjoy the rest of the summer; stay safe and hydrated.

Best regards,
Monica



Beach Dive September 13 Moss Street Laguna Beach 7:00 AM

Moss Street Beach is at the end of Moss Street in Laguna Beach. Take Coast Highway 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 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, lobsters, as well as the usual suspects: Sheephead, Garibaldi, Kelp Bass and so on.

Boat Dives

As you have no doubt noticed, the seas have been a bit touchy lately, resulting in many Dive Boat cancellations. We will get an update from Christine and Chuck at the meeting



Pumpkin Carving Beach Dive October 25 Fisherman's Cove Laguna Beach 7:00 AM

The October 25 Beach dive will be our pumpkin dive. The dive will be at Fisherman's Cove, located in Laguna Beach on Cliff Drive just West (North to some of you) of Heisler Park. The pumpkin dive will require you to take an UNCARVED pumpkin down with you. When on the bottom, you will carve your pumpkin, being careful not to injure yourself. Bring a bag with you to put the pumpkin in after it is carved as we will continue the dive, with the pumpkins. After the dive, the carved pumpkins will be judged for originality, beauty and art worthiness

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 leads 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, go 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.

SCUBA Fun Facts (or maybe hallucinations)

From a book by J.K. Reid

The first diver to fall forward invented the "dry dive" and retired from diving immediately afterward.

Ninety percent of dive photos are blurry proof that you actually went underwater and spent money.

Financial Advisers recommend divers carry an extra zero in their checking/savings accounts for gear emergencies only.

Advanced divers can mention their certification within thirty seconds of meeting anyone at any social gathering.

More divers are injured annually by boat ladders than sharks, but ladders don't sell magazines, or clicks on shark stories.

Dive computers have perfected the art of dying exactly when you finally see something cool underwater.

The theoretical break-even point for SCUBA gear exists only in spreadsheets created by Diver's spouses.

Buddy breathing is romantic until you realize your partner breathes air like a panicked vacuum cleaner.

Divers have invented forty-seven variations of "I told you so" using only hand gestures underwater.

Professional underwater photographers spend sixty percent of their time explaining why your GoPro footage looks terrible.

Dive shop maintenance includes the mysterious phrase "it worked fine when I tested it yesterday probably".

Fathom Fantasies Chuck Wade Underwater Photography

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

Local Doings

Underwater Santa Monica Pier Clean Up Dive on Sept 19th 2026

Join Eco Dive Center, LA County Beaches & Harbors, and Heal the Bay for the 2026 Coastal Cleanup Day Underwater Dive at Santa Monica Pier – Saturday, September 19th!

<https://ecodivecenter.com/pages/special-events/underwater-santa-monica-pier-clean-up-dive-on-sept-19th-2026.html>

Saturday, September 26, 2026 · 7am · Marina Park, Newport Beach

Sign up for the Newport Harbor Underwater Cleanup
Join 300+ scuba divers and shoreline volunteers

<https://www.newportharborunderwatercleanup.com/>

LOBSTERS ARE COMING TO Southern California!

The Original Lobster Festival with Fresh Live Maine Lobster flown in daily will be held on September 11-13, 2026 at the spacious green park - Fountain Valley Sports Park located in Fountain Valley, California

<https://www.originallobsterfestival.com/>

Anatomy of an Avoidable Incident: What DAN Data Teaches Us About Diver Error

If you spend enough time reviewing incident reports from the Divers Alert Network (DAN), a persistent trend emerges: total gear failures are remarkably rare. Modern life support equipment is robust, highly engineered, and forgiving. Human behavior, however, is a different story.

When DAN analyzes dive accidents, fatal incidents, and emergency hotline calls, they repeatedly trace compromised situations back to a predictable set of diver errors. Most dangerous scenarios do not stem from a single catastrophic event; they result from a chain of small, preventable missteps.

By examining DAN's fatality and injury research, we can identify the most common mistakes divers make—and how to keep them off your dive log.

1. Gas Mismanagement: The Unforced Error

It sounds elementary, but DAN fatality statistics consistently show that running out of breathing gas is the single most common triggering event in fatal diving accidents, accounting for roughly 41% of studied cases.

Why does an experienced diver run out of air?

Checking pressure only at depth: Failing to monitor the Submersible Pressure Gauge (SPG) frequently throughout the dive, particularly when distracted by photography, navigation, or wildlife.

Misreading tank valve status: Partially opening a tank valve or turning it back a quarter-turn out of an outdated habit. At depth, elevated ambient pressure restricts gas flow through a partially opened valve, leading to a sudden, unexpected breathing resistance that mimics an empty tank.

Ignoring reserve thresholds: Pushing the turnaround pressure too low and failing to leave an adequate gas margin for unexpected events, currents, or an out-of-air buddy.

The Takeaway: Confirm your tank valve is fully open, test-breathe your regulator while

watching your SPG needle prior to entry (if the needle drops, the valve is closed or restricted), and treat your turn-pressure limit as a hard ceiling, not a suggestion.

2. Buoyancy Control Failures

DAN statistics reveal that buoyancy-related issues—such as improper weighting, uncontrolled ascents, and rapid depth variations—are major contributors to barotrauma and Decompression Illness (DCI).

The primary mistakes include:

Overweighting: Carrying excessive lead forces a diver to add more air to the Buoyancy Compensator Device (BCD) to achieve neutral buoyancy at depth. As the diver ascends, that large volume of air expands rapidly, making ascent rate control exponentially harder.

Mismanaging air expansion on ascent:

Forgetting to vent air incrementally during ascent, leading to positive runaway ascents that put divers at severe risk for pulmonary barotrauma and Arterial Gas Embolism (AGE).

The Takeaway: Perform a proper weight check at the surface with an almost-empty tank (around 500 psi). If you are neutral at the surface with a deflated BCD while holding a normal breath, your weighting is correct.

3. Ignoring Pre-dive Health and Fitness Indicators

Diving demands physical exertion, particularly when battling surface chop, heavy currents, or long surface swims. According to DAN data, underlying cardiovascular issues are a major factor in diving fatalities, especially among divers over the age of 40.

Crucially, DAN notes that in nearly 60% of cardiac-related fatal incidents, the diver actually experienced pre-dive symptoms—such as unusual fatigue, shortness of breath, or chest discomfort—but chose to enter the water anyway.

The Takeaway: Never dive through unexplained physical discomfort. Diving under

physical stress amplifies risk. Maintaining baseline cardiovascular fitness and opting out of a dive when not feeling 100% is a fundamental safety practice.

4. Complacency in Pre-dive Buddy Checks

As divers gain experience, pre-dive checks often become superficial or get skipped entirely. DAN incident reports show a high frequency of preventable pre-dive errors that standard buddy checks would catch instantly:

Unhooked low-pressure inflator hoses

.Integrated weight pockets not fully locked in place.

Unopened tank valves.

Entangled alternate air sources.

The Takeaway: Treat every pre-dive check with intention regardless of your logbook hours. Standardized routines (such as BWRAF: BCD, Weights, Releases, Air, Final check) prevent simple oversights from escalating into underwater panics.

5. Exceeding Personal Training and Experience Limits

DAN emergency calls frequently involve divers who found themselves in environmental conditions beyond their current skill level.

Examples include:

Entering overhead environments (caves, caverns, or wreck interiors) without formal penetration training and safety lines.

Diving in heavy ocean swells, strong currents, or low visibility without prior orientation.

Descending past limits without monitoring nitrogen narcosis or decompression obligations.

Condition changes can turn an easy dive site into an advanced environment quickly. Pushing boundaries without formal instruction or local orientation strips away safety margins.

Safety in diving isn't about avoiding the water when risks exist; it is about maintaining disciplined habits that prevent small errors from connecting into an accident chain. Check your gas, check your buddy, and dive within your limits.

Dues Increase and Renewal Information

Old news, we are increasing our dues. New news renewals will be January and June of each year.. Those joining Jan to June 30 renew in Jan of each year. July 1 til EOY joins will renew in June each year

Current members will renew each January.

This will make things easier for our aging treasurer and hopefully for the membership.

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

If you have questions or comments, get hold of Alf at the meeting or email him .

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

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 .

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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

President

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Club Contact/Social Media Information

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