



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

Brandon Zwirner

Brandon Zwirner serves as AWARE Regional Manager for the Americas, supporting dive centers, divers, and local communities in advancing PADI's Blueprint for Ocean Action across the region.

From a young age, Brandon was drawn to the water, spending his childhood swimming and playing water polo. After earning a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of California, Santa Barbara, he moved to Thailand to teach English, where he discovered a passion for scuba diving that would shape his career.

A PADI Instructor, Brandon joined PADI in 2015 and has served in a variety of roles across the organization before joining the PADI AWARE Foundation in 2023. He is passionate about empowering divers and communities to become active stewards of the ocean and helping turn local conservation action into lasting global impact.

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

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

The October 25 Beach dive will be our annual 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 game 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 lead into the reef.

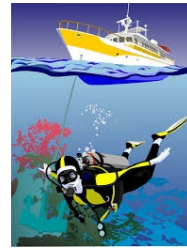
Mermaids Grotto is a hole in the reef off Fisherman's Cove. The cracks leading to the grotto are only about 3 feet wide, or just wide enough for a diver to pass through. The top of the reef is at about 15 feet, and the bottom of the cracks and holes are at about 25 feet. Not a huge vertical drop, but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

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



Back to Groaners

What does a baby computer call his father?
Data.

After an unsuccessful harvest, why did the farmer decide to try a career in music?
Because he had a ton of sick beets.

I only seem to get sick on weekdays. I must have a weekend immune system.

What do you call a Frenchman wearing sandals? Philippe Flop.

Why is it so cheap to throw a party at a haunted house? Because the ghosts bring all the boos.

I don't get why Marvel doesn't use the Hulk to advertise more. He's basically one big Banner.

What brand of underwear do scientists wear?
Kelvin Klein.

I just found out I'm colorblind. The news came out of the purple!

My wife asked me the other day where I got so much candy. I said, "I always have a few Twix up my sleeve."

How do cows stay up to date? They read the Moo-spaper.

I hate my job—all I do is crush cans all day. It's soda pressing.

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.

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

Doings in Orange County

Oktoberfest - Huntington Beach
September 12 - November 8, 2026
Wednesday through Sunday
Old World Huntington Beach
7561 Center Ave.
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

Newport Beach Film Festival - Newport Beach
October 15-22, 2026

Winter Fest OC - Costa Mesa
November - January
OC Fair & Event Center
88 Fair Dr
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Eco-Friendly Wetsuit Materials

In 2014, I wrote an article about the eco-friendly wetsuit materials that were coming to market. I thought I would update where the eco-friendly materials stand today. While the broad categories remain similar, materials have evolved from niche novelties into mainstream industry standards with distinct operational realities.

Eco-Friendly Wetsuits: A Decade Later — Where Do We Stand?

Back in 2014, alternative wetsuit materials were largely confined to a handful of surf brands experimenting with limestone-derived "Geoprene" and early plant-based bio-rubbers. Over the past decade, the conversation has shifted from "Do these materials actually work?" to "How well do they perform compared to traditional petroleum?"

"For scuba divers, the landscape has matured significantly. Here is how the two main eco-alternatives have evolved.

1. Limestone-Based Neoprene (Geoprene / Yamamoto)

What was once marketed distinctively as "Geoprene" is now universally recognized by its source—most notably Yamamoto Corporation limestone neoprene. While it is still technically a chloroprene rubber (meaning it shares the chemical family of traditional neoprene), the substitution of petroleum with calcium carbonate derived from Japanese limestone has changed the manufacturing and performance benchmarks.

The Reality on Performance: The claims of high nitrogen-cell independence, high elongation (up to 480–580%), and low water absorption have proven true in the field. Suits built with high-grade limestone rubber (such as Yamamoto's #39 or #40 tiers) offer exceptional memory, stretch, and warmth-to-weight ratios.

Environmental Nuance: While limestone avoids oil drilling, mining and processing it requires substantial energy inputs. However, major producers like Yamamoto have mitigated this by shifting core processing facilities to renewable energy and substituting petroleum-derived oils in the foam-making process with food-grade plant oils (like canola oil).

Adoption in Diving: Limestone neoprene has largely

graduated from being a surf-only specialty. Many premier drysuit and wetsuit manufacturers now rely on limestone-based foams for their superior compression resistance and longevity relative to cheap oil-based alternatives.

2. Plant-Based Rubber (Yulex / Guayule)

When Patagonia first introduced Yulex in 2014, it relied on a 60/40 blend of guayule-derived natural rubber and neoprene. Today, Plant-based natural rubber has achieved 100% neoprene-free construction and expanded far beyond surfing

The Reality on Performance: Natural rubber inherently offers incredible stretch and snap-back. Early criticisms regarding stiffness or weight have been largely solved through advanced micro-cellular foaming techniques. Major dive brands—such as Scubapro (with lines like the Everflex Yulex) and Henderson (with Greenprene alternatives)—have integrated plant-based natural rubber into mainstream scuba gear.

Environmental Nuance: Guayule remains an ideal industrial crop because it thrives in arid, semi-arid regions (like the southwestern U.S.) requiring minimal water and zero pesticides, and it produces latex free of the antigenic proteins found in standard Hevea rubber.

The Trade-Offs: While Yulex and plant-based foams boast the lowest carbon footprint in the industry, they typically come at a premium price point and historically required slightly more careful post-dive rinsing to maximize lifespan compared to heavy-duty commercial synthetics.

The Verdict

An eco-friendly suit is no longer just "in our future"—it is sitting on the dive shop rack. Whether you opt for the long-lasting thermal efficiency of limestone-derived rubber or the genuine plant-based sustainability of Yulex, divers no longer have to sacrifice flexibility or warmth to minimize their footprint in the ocean.

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 renews 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