November 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

November Guest Speaker

Ashley Kidd

Conservation Program Lead & Co-founder
Sunflower Star Laboratory

In this presentation, Ashley explores the ecological importance of the critically endangered sunflower sea star, the impacts of Sea Star Wasting Syndrome on its rapid decline, and the ongoing recovery and restoration efforts of this keystone predator in California. Attendees will learn how divers, aquariums, researchers, and communities along the coast are working alongside Sunflower Star Laboratory at present and into the future.

Ashley Kidd worked for 12 years as a public aquarium professional, where her passion in aquaculture - supporting sustainable exhibits and conservation initiatives--began, notably with SECORE coral conservation & the White Abalone Recovery Project. She holds an MS in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences from the University of Florida, researching sunflower sea stars & their restoration. She is fortunate to continue this work at SSL, contributing to the Pycnopodia Recovery Working Group, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Sunflower Sea Star program, and the Pacific Coast Ocean Recovery initiative; coordinating public aquarium, nonprofit, and academic partners in sea star conservation, aquaculture, and field restoration

On the next page is more information about the outplanting of the Sunflower Star and the success Ashley and her group are spearheading.

SHARKBAIT DIVE CLUB SOCAL



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

November 15 Beach Dive
Crescent Cove Laguna Beach 7:00 AM

December No Club Meeting

December 12 Winter Party
Rick and Diana's place in Yorba Linda

January 2 Beach Dive
Balboa Pier Newport Beach, 7:00 AM

January 12 Club Meeting
Denny's Diner, Yorba Linda 6:30

Landmark Sunflower Star Outplanting Research in California Provides Key Insight for Future Restoration

MONTEREY, Calif., (October 5th, 2026) – For the first time in California, lab-reared sunflower stars are temporarily roaming the ocean floor in Monterey Bay as part of a collaborative research project to inform the restoration of this marine predator.

Led by conservation nonprofit Sunflower Star Laboratory (SSL), in partnership with Reef Check Foundation, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California State University - Monterey Bay (CSUMB), Phil Sammet's Underwater Company, and marine operations staff at Hopkins Marine Station, this collaborative research marks numerous advancements in the fight to save the IUCN-listed, critically-endangered sunflower star. The series of caged and uncaged field studies have revealed striking preliminary results regarding the strong kelp restoration potential of sunflower stars that will help guide the future of their recovery in the state.

"Together, the multiple components of this experiment demonstrate the transformational power of sunflower stars to recover California's vanishing kelp forests," said Reuven Bank, Sunflower Star Laboratory Executive Director. "This groundbreaking research from Sunflower Star Laboratory and our collaborators illustrates the strength of cooperative conservation in action, and lays the foundation for the future transition to permanent outplanting in our state."

Sunflower stars are keystone predators in kelp forest ecosystems, eating urchins and scaring them into hiding more and grazing less kelp. Since the outbreak of Sea Star Wasting Disease (SSWD) in 2013-2014 – one of the largest marine disease events on record – sunflower star populations have collapsed, a phenomenon associated with widespread urchin barrens and the decline of 95% of Northern California's kelp forests, with additional kelp losses spanning much of the West Coast.

In this research project, 16 sunflower stars were outplanted into enclosed pods in an urchin barren in Monterey Bay for a month-long dual experiment. In part one of the experiment, the stars were split into two groups, with half given an unlimited supply of starved urchins (simulating urchins found in barrens), and the other provided unlimited well-fed urchins (simulating urchins found in healthy kelp forests). The stars provided an all-you-can buffet of starved urchins consumed significantly more prey as stars feeding on healthy urchins, while still gaining over 50% body mass on average during the thirty day study. Coupled with previous research showing that sunflower stars don't differentiate between healthy and starved urchins when feeding, these results highlight the powerful potential of reintroduced sunflower stars to convert barren environments back into kelp forests through predation.

Beach Dive November 15 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--ay 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
Look for Martin

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



Beach Dive January 2 Balboa Pier Newport Beach 7:00 AM

The Balboa Pier offers an interesting dive for the adventurer. You can dive to 100 feet or more if you want to go beyond the pier; you can traverse the bottom looking for the creatures-of-the-sand; or you can explore under the pier for piling creatures or artifacts from the fishermen above!
This is probably the easiest Southern California beach dive you can do. Just walk out on the beach, no stairs or ramps to negotiate. A quick shuffle through the surf and you then fin under the pier and make a surface swim to the beginning of the rectangular platform at the end.
This is an arduous environment, subjected to high surf and the seasons, yet there was a proliferation of life under the pier. Here you will see Bryozoan carpets on the bottom making a nursery for juvenile fish, crabs and nudibranchs. Bundles of fishing line make a home for pipefish. Empty clamshells make a home for bay blennies. A discarded PVC pipe makes a home for sarcastic fringeheads. An empty shell makes a home for a small octopus. Crabs of many flavors enjoy the bounty of discarded filleted fish from the fisherman above.

The pier is located on the Balboa Peninsula. From the North, take 55 Fwy South to the end where it empties onto Newport Blvd. Continue south and Newport Blvd. transitions to Balboa Blvd. Follow the signs to the pier. There is plenty of parking, for a fee of course, it is Newport Beach after all. Look for Martin

Back to Groaners

"I used to be addicted to soap, but I'm clean now."

"A guy walks into a bar... and he was disqualified from the limbo contest."

"You think swimming with sharks is expensive? Swimming with sharks cost me an arm and a leg."

"When two vegans get in an argument, is it still called a beef?"

"Do you wanna box for your leftovers?" "No, but I'll wrestle you for them."

"That car looks nice but the muffler seems exhausted."

"Shout out to my fingers. I can count on all of them."

"If a child refuses to nap, are they guilty of resisting a rest?"

"What country's capital is growing the fastest?" "Ireland. Every day it's Dublin."

"I once had a dream I was floating in an ocean of orange soda. It was more of a fanta sea."

"A cheeseburger walks into a bar. The bartender says, 'Sorry, we don't serve food here.'"

"I once got fired from a canned juice company. Apparently I couldn't concentrate."

"I used to play piano by ear. Now I use my hands."

"Have you ever tried to catch a fog? I tried yesterday but I mist."

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

Catalina Divers Supply – Casino Point Dive Park Live Cam

There's a new Web Cam on Catalina. Just installed, it is located at the Casino Dive Park. It is mounted on the Catalina Divers Supply airfill/cylinder rental facility, and it points towards the stairs. The view encompasses the stairs and the water to the west side and in front of the stairs.

Brought to you by Catalina Divers Supply, a PADI 5 Star Dive Center and the oldest dive operation on the West Coast. Their shop sits in the historic Catalina Casino building, steps from the dive park entry.

Use this cam to:

Check surface conditions and swell before a shore dive or snorkel
See how busy the dive park is
Plan your day on the island from the mainland

The link to the Web Cam is on the CDS website.

Choosing the Right Dive Fin: Matching Blade, Body, and Environment

Fins are the primary engine of any scuba diver’s setup. Selecting scuba fins is not a matter of picking a color or buying whatever happens to be on sale. A diver's fin is the primary propulsion engine underwater. The mechanical efficiency of that engine depends on matching specific blade characteristics to the physical capabilities of the diver and the conditions of the dive environment.

Key Fin Characteristics
Understanding fin mechanics requires evaluating three physical variables: stiffness, length, and blade material.

Stiffness and Resistance: A rigid blade requires significantly more force to move through the water column. However, it transfers nearly 100 percent of that applied effort directly into forward thrust without energy loss from flexing. Conversely, a softer, more flexible blade bends under load, reducing resistance on the legs at the expense of maximum speed and control.

Blade Length and Surface Area: Long blades generate higher top-end speed per kick cycle but demand a wide amplitude kick and high muscular output. Short blades yield less thrust per stroke, yet allow a higher kick cadence and maneuverability in tight spaces, such as around delicate reef structures or inside wrecks.

Negative Buoyancy: Solid rubber fins are inherently heavy and negatively buoyant. High-density composite fins often float or remain neutral. The weight of a fin acts as a trim weight; a heavy fin pulls a diver's feet down, while a neutral or positive fin lets the legs float higher.

Matching Fins to the Physical Capabilities of the Diver
Physical strength, joint health, and overall cardiovascular conditioning dictate how much resistance a diver can sustain over a standard 45-minute dive.

High Muscular Strength and Endurance: Divers with strong legs and good joint mobility can effectively drive stiff, heavy rubber fins. These fins reward power with immediate acceleration and unmatched reverse-kicking control.

Joint Sensitivity or Lower Leg Strength Constraints: Divers prone to knee strain, hip discomfort, or calf cramps should avoid rigid, heavy fins. A stiff fin creates a high torque load on the ankle and knee joints at the start of each stroke. For these divers, a slightly softer or lighter composite blade reduces joint stress while maintaining consistent forward movement.

Leg Buoyancy and Body Trim: Divers who suffer from "heavy legs" or sink feet-first into an inefficient diagonal angle benefit from lightweight composite fins. Conversely, divers wearing thick neoprene booties or drysuits with buoyant feet need heavy rubber fins to force their lower body down into a streamlined horizontal plane.

Environmental Demands and Tactical Use
Where and how a diver enters the water determines which fin design performs best.

High Current and Shore Entries: Navigating heavy surf, strong shore currents, or high-volume ocean channels demands immediate, raw thrust. A stiff, full-sized paddle fin delivers the power necessary to push through water movement or pull a heavily laden diver off a rocky shoreline.

Precision Boat Diving and Marine Conservation: Diving over sensitive coral reefs or in low-visibility environments requires kicks other than the standard flutter kick. The frog kick, helicopter turn, and back-kick require a fin with firm lateral edges. Soft fins twist under lateral load, making precise positioning impossible. Stiff or mid-stiffness paddle fins excel at these propulsion techniques, allowing divers to maneuver without stirring up silt or damaging marine life.

Travel and Weight Constraints: Divers who fly frequently to warm-water destinations must balance performance with luggage weight limits. Compact, lightweight composite fins provide adequate thrust for calm ocean conditions while minimizing gear bag weight.

Practical Selection Criteria
When selecting fins, divers should evaluate three core factors:

Physical Match: Choose a blade stiffness that does not overload knees, ankles, or hip flexors during sustained finning.

Trim Correction: Select fin density based on lower-body position. Use negative rubber fins for buoyant feet or drysuits, and neutral or light fins to correct downward foot tilt.

Primary Environment: Prioritize rigid paddle fins for high-energy shore diving, heavy current, or technical maneuvering. Choose compact composite blades for low-stress warm-water boat diving and travel.

Testing different blade designs in controlled water conditions remains the most reliable method for finding the ideal fin. Matching blade mechanics to individual physical traits ensures greater efficiency, lower gas consumption, and enhanced safety on every dive.

Bits and Pieces

GEAR AID has announced the completion of independent assessments for three of its widely utilized dive care formulas.

ReefTox, an accredited international laboratory in Brittany, France, conducted the testing and specializes in coral ecotoxicology testing.

Because a significant portion of the company's product line is used directly in or near marine habitats and coastal waterways, leadership sought empirical insights into how their chemical formulations interact with delicate aquatic ecosystems.
The testing targeted three primary products frequently brought into close proximity with marine environments:

Sea Gold Anti-Fog Gel
Sea Drops Anti-Fog & Mask Cleaner
Neo Slix Wetsuit Entry Lubricant

The final trial metrics revealed positive outcomes across all evaluation categories

SS United States Set to Become World's Largest Artificial Reef in November

One of the most ambitious artificial reef projects in diving history is approaching its final stage, with officials in Florida confirming that the legendary SS United States is now scheduled to be sunk in the Gulf of Mexico during the second week of November 2026.

The 990-foot former ocean liner, once the fastest passenger ship in the world, is expected to be deployed approximately 22 nautical miles southwest of Destin-Fort Walton Beach, creating what is being promoted as the world's largest artificial reef. Artificialreef tours

Shearwater Jetpack
An advanced buoyancy-control system built specifically for the Avelo diving system.

Specifically designed for the Avelo diving system, this state-of-the-art buoyancy-control system isn't like a traditional BCD. It uses a specialized pump to offset the diver's buoyancy by adding water to a flexible membrane within an Avelo dive cylinder—the Hydrotank (sold separately). As a result, less bulk and ballast are required for diving. The system features enhanced electronics, an improved Shearwater battery and an onboard Swift GPS transmitter. It fully integrates with Shearwater computers using the Avelo mode to monitor gas information and to log dive entry and exit coordinates. The Jetpack is equipped with a traditional front-adjustable harness with swivel buckles at the shoulders. It offers a streamlined, comfortable fit and includes multiple D-rings for attaching accessories. The Jetpack is available in two sizes: S/M and L/XL.

WatchDive: turning an everyday smartwatch into a dive computer

Dive-tech company DIVEROID has developed WatchDive, a housing that turns a regular 38–49mm Apple Watch or Galaxy Watch into a dive

computer, with no Ultra and no subscription needed. Pressure and water-temperature sensors built into the housing do the measuring, and the watch shows depth, dive time, and decompression guidance based on the Bühlmann ZHL-16C algorithm with Gradient Factors (30/80 by default, adjustable), plus a compass. Every dive is logged automatically to the phone app, along with your photos from the dive. Field testing is complete, along with 60m waterproof testing. WatchDive launches on Kickstarter in December 2026, with an early-bird price of US$149 for the first 100 backers. Updates: watchdive.diveroid.com

Low Pressure Air Hoses Need Love Also

There have been numerous reports of late where the inner lining of breathing air hoses has degraded, allowing sizeable debris to move in the direction of gas flow. With increasing depth, the force holding the debris in a place increases with depth. Once at the surface, the inter-stage pressure is the lowest. It is possible that this would then allow the debris to shift and gas to flow again.

The sudden nature of the failure at a specified depth could tend to indicate either mechanical damage inside the first stage regulator or debris blocking the flow path to the breathing regulator.

Might be worth a check if you have had those hoses on your gear for a long time. Don't take them for granted.

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



Vinyl Sticker 4" X 4"
$2 each or 3 for $5

Sizes M,L,XL,XXL 95% Cotton
$25 Shipped



We Like

World Of Diving
Dive Travel
https://worldofdiving.com/

Ryan Dandy

Scuba World
Orange, Ca.

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

https://getinspiredinc.org/

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 . . .
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

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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