

THE AUTHORITY IN CALIFORNIA DIVING • Since 1984 • www.cadivingnews.com

CALIFORNIA DIVING



APRIL 2026

Dive Spotlight

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
Bruce Sudweeks
explores Pacific Grove's
Crest Point

MATTERS OF VISION

Robert N Rossier turns his attentions
to sorting out issues in underwater sight

Plus...

Dive Center Directory
Dive Club Directory
Scuba Events Calendar
Dive Boat Calendar
#AskMark

The Sheephead

Dale and Kim Sheckler get up close and personal with
a California resident that redefines fish sexual identity



"Best coral ever. Great staff. We had outstanding guides. Resort buildings and layout are attractive and functional and the operations for snorkeling and equipment were easy & convenient. The bungalow was very comfortable. I really appreciated the help at the airport!"

~ Charles Glass (April 2025)



An experience without equal

At Wakatobi, you don't compromise on comfort to get away from it all. Our private air charter brings you directly to this remote island, where the indulgences of a five-star resort and luxury liveaboard await. Our dive team and private guides ensure your underwater experiences will create lasting memories that remain vivid and rewarding long after the visit to Wakatobi is concluded. You need only ask and we will gladly provide any service or facility within our power. This unmatched combination of world-renowned reefs and relaxed luxuries put Wakatobi in a category all its own.



 wakatobi
www.wakatobi.com

Anthony's Key Resort

Roatan • Bay Islands
Honduras



Dive into the Caribbean's
most stunning reefs



CALIFORNIA DIVING news

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Mark Evans

Email: mark@rorkmedia.com

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Matt Griffiths

Email: matt@rorkmedia.com

DESIGNER

Doreen Hann

PUBLISHING DIRECTOR

Ross Arnold

Email: ross@rorkmedia.com

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Penney Evans

Email: penney@rorkmedia.com

ACCOUNT DIRECTOR FOR TRAINING AGENCIES, EQUIPMENT AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Leo Grower

Email: leo@rorkmedia.com

CONTRIBUTORS

Dale and Kim Sheckler, Robert N. Rossier, Bruce Sudweeks

MAGAZINE

To stock California Diving News in your center/store, email:

subscriptions@rorkmedia.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual (12 issues) – Scuba Diver North America & CDN – US \$25 / RoW - refer to website for specific country pricing

PUBLISHERS

Rork Media Limited

71-75 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London, England, WC2H 9JQ

Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the views of the publishers. Copyright for material published remains with Rork Media Limited. Use of material from Scuba Diver North America and California Diving News is strictly prohibited unless permission is given. All advertisements of which the creative content is in whole or in part the work of Rork Media Limited remain the copyright of Rork Media Limited. ISSN 1084-3264.

Times are changing and to keep the magazines free, we're asking dive stores to cover their own postage costs. If you enjoy reading the magazine, think about helping out your centre with a small donation to help cover their costs. Your continued support is most appreciated.

As I write this editorial, we have just held the UK GO Diving Show, and more than 16,000 people filled the halls over the weekend, with a palpable energy present on both days as enthusiastic visitors mingled with exhibitors and speakers.

The dust has hardly settled and we are already back in 'show mode', with our eyes set firmly on the 39th Scuba Show Long Beach on 30-31 May, and the inaugural Scuba Show Atlantic City on 6-7 June.

We'll be keeping all of the aspects of the long-standing California show you know and love, but giving it a fresh makeover with some new additions, including a Main Stage inside the hall complete with huge video wall, which will be host to our headline speakers – on the roster already are commercial diver Chris Lemons, whose story inspired the movie Last Breath, alongside freediving guru Kirk Krack, underwater photographer and film-maker Annie Crawley, cave explorer Patrick Widmann, and Hollywood stunt performer Liz Parkinson (who will also be acting as our MC). The seminar rooms have been organised into themes – so California Diving / Travel, California Diving / Photography, and Inspiration – which will make it easier to find talks in your spheres of interest.

Perhaps the biggest change is that there is now one ticket price - \$33 for one day, \$60 for a weekend pass – so every attendee gets the opportunity to experience every element of the Scuba Show, including the exhibition hall and the seminars. Head to www.scubashow.com to book your tickets now – see you there!

Mark Evans, Editorial Director

Inside this issue...

08 News

10 Central California

Bruce Sudweeks explores the pinnacles that make up the dive site of Crest Point off Pacific Grove.

14 Matters of Vision

Robert N Rossier turns his attentions to sorting out issues in underwater sight.

18 The California Sheephead

Ouch! That fish bit me! Such is the hazard when trying to hand feed reef fish. Only thing is the California sheephead have really big teeth! They can draw blood, as Dale and Kim Sheckler found out.

25-29 Events Calendar & Directories

30 #AskMark



With Aggressor, Big Adventures



Ornate Ghost Pipefish
THAILAND AGGRESSOR®

Come in Macro Packages



Spinecheek Clownfish
KOMODO AGGRESSOR®



Goniobranchus Leopardus
Nudibranch
PHILIPPINES AGGRESSOR®



Yellow-striped Cardinalfish
MALDIVES AGGRESSOR II®



Redspotted Hawkfish
ROATÁN AGGRESSOR®



It's the Little things, Below and Above, that make an Aggressor liveaboard vacation the trip of lifetime.

- In-room morning beverage service
- Bath robe for each guest
- Fresh warm towel after each snorkel or dive
- Plated dinner service each evening
- Complimentary beer & wine
- Evening turn down service
- Iron Diver Program: medals & BC tags
- Heated towel warmers
- Weekly memories slide show
- Free rental loaner program
- Farewell cocktail party



Book your worldwide Aggressor Adventure vacation today!



**AGGRESSOR
ADVENTURES**

Scan for
**BIG
Savings**



Sailfin Blenny
BELIZE AGGRESSOR IV®

800-348-2628 • +1 706-993-2531 • www.aggressor.com

Aggressor liveaboards, signature lodges, river cruises and floating resorts are independently owned and operated.



INDUSTRY NEWS

Each month, we bring together the latest regional industry news, as well as all over our water planet. To find out the most up-to-date news and views, check out the website or follow us on our various social media channels @divernetuk
www.divernet.com/news



CLOUGH & CARRUTHERS: DIVERS NAIL TWO MORE LAKES WRECKS

David VanZandt died in June 2024 while scuba diving to identify a newly discovered Lake Erie wreck, and now the formal confirmation that it was the 19th-century bark Clough has been made in tribute to the diver's dedication to maritime archaeology.

The positive ID was announced by the National Museum of the Great Lakes (NMGL) in collaboration with Cleveland Underwater Explorers (CLUE), the group VanZandt founded in 2001. The two bodies had worked together on a number of wreck projects over the past 20 years. VanZandt started diving in 1995 and became a mixed-gas diver and qualified maritime archaeologist. He began searching for shipwrecks from his boat the same year he started CLUE with others who shared his passion for nautical history.

He was 70 when he dived what turned out to be the Clough site. His failure to return to the boat prompted a major search operation, with local divers finding his body some four hours later, as reported at the time on Divernet.

In the months after his death the NMGL and CLUE 'committed to completing the identification process with care, accuracy and respect through collaborative research and documentation', says the museum. This had involved continuing to dive to create a detailed site-map, alongside extensive historical research. Built in Lorain, Ohio in 1867, the stone-hauling sailing vessel Clough belonged to quarry-owner Baxter Clough. It was 121-foot long and classified as a bark because it had three masts, with the foremast square-rigged and schooner sails on the main and mizzen masts.

The boat sank a year after its launch on 15 September 1868 with the loss of seven lives. "This discovery represents both a significant chapter in Great Lakes maritime history and a meaningful continuation of David VanZandt's legacy," said NMGL archaeology and research director Carrie Sowden. The Toledo-based museum is running a free 'micro' exhibition highlighting the Clough and the process behind its identification until mid-April.

Biggest Canadian ship in 1913

Meanwhile another wreck-research group has announced the positive identification in Lake Huron of what had been the biggest Canadian-built ship in 1913 – which was also the year of its sinking.

The Underwater Research Associates (URA), made up of volunteer divers, historians and wreck enthusiasts, say they



found the James Carruthers during a sonar survey last May.

The steel cargo ship, built in Ontario with state-of-the-art communications and safety equipment, was lost with all 22 crew and rests 196ft deep in US waters off the Michigan shore. It had previously been thought to lie much further north in Canadian waters. The 540-foot-long wreck was spotted on side-scan sonar area some 25 miles off Port Sanilac and, from its size and profile, the team felt that it could only be the Carruthers, the last missing victim of the 1913 'Great White Hurricane' that claimed some 250 lives.

When technical divers and ROVs later examined the site, they found the hull largely intact but partially embedded in mud. Notable features include a four-bladed propeller and deeply buried anchor pockets, although both anchors were absent. Some of the stern cabin structure was visible.

The Carruthers still holds much of its 375,000-bushel (about ten tonnes) cargo of wheat – and the team reported that the rotting grain had created a distinctive golden pall around the hull.

The location of the wreck has prompted reassessment of the James Carruthers' final voyage. Records suggest that the ship was bound for Port Colborne, Ontario, rather than previously assumed destinations, and might have lost steering or propulsion control in the storm. URA plans further expeditions to explore and document the wreck.

The formal announcements of the Clough and Carruthers wreck IDs coincide with that of the Lac La Belle, the Lake Michigan passenger steamer that sank in 1872 and was reported on Divernet on 17 February.

INDUSTRY NEWS

UPGRADED RED SEA AGGRESSOR IV DEBUTS IN 2026

Aggressor Adventures has announced an exciting upgrade to the Red Sea Aggressor IV, which will transition to a



newer, larger liveaboard yacht beginning 28 February 2026. The vessel – named Turquoise – will operate under the Red Sea Aggressor IV name and continue to offer guests memorable diving experiences in the southern Red Sea. This change will not affect any current or future reservations. Turquoise is a modern, five-deck liveaboard yacht that stands out with its striking turquoise paint scheme, giving it a fresh, contemporary appearance that is distinctly different from other Aggressor Liveaboards. The vessel measures at 42 metres in length with a nine metre beam, which makes it the largest liveaboard in fleet by area. While visually unique, the vessel fully aligns with Aggressor Adventures' commitment to safety, comfort, and exceptional guest service. While originally built to accommodate up to 34 passengers and crew, Aggressor Adventures will intentionally limit guest capacity to just 26 passengers, creating a more-spacious and relaxed onboard environment.

“This upgrade allows us to elevate the guest experience while staying true to what makes the Red Sea Aggressor IV so special,” said Wayne Brown, CEO of Aggressor Adventures. “From the yacht’s modern design and eye-catching look to the increased space and added amenities, this vessel is an outstanding platform for Red Sea diving.”

What Guests Can Expect Aboard the Upgraded Red Sea Aggressor IV

- A modern five-deck yacht
- A bold turquoise exterior and contemporary design unlike any other Aggressor liveaboard
- More space throughout the vessel, including cabins and shared areas
- Limited guest capacity (26 maximum) for enhanced comfort and personalized service
- A massage chair onboard, ideal for relaxing tired muscles after a full day of diving
- Four Master Staterooms with a queen mattress.
- Nine Deluxe Staterooms with side-by-side beds.

The Red Sea Aggressor IV will continue to deliver the same world-class itineraries, experienced crew, and unforgettable Red Sea diving – now paired with a refreshed look and expanded onboard comfort. Guests may book with confidence knowing this transition enhances the overall experience while preserving everything they expect from Aggressor Adventures.

www.aggressor.com

PALAWAN, SACRAMENTO, & THE STAR OF SCOTLAND • FREE DIVE • SPEARFISHING
WEEKDAY & NIGHTS • PRIVATE CHARTERS • GUIDED TOURS

FAST • EASY • LOCAL ISLAND DIVER REDONDO BEACH



Charters are available for six passengers to the wrecks and kelp beds off the Palos Verdes Peninsula & Santa Monica Bay

CALL 310-372-8423
FOR LATEST PRICING,
OPENING HOURS AND
TO BOOK A CHARTER



504 N. BROADWAY, REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA

THE NEXT STEP IN THE EVOLUTION OF DIVING

SPECTRUM FULL FACE MASK



USE YOUR OWN REGULATOR - BREATHE NATURALLY
NO JAW FATIGUE - COMMUNICATIONS COMPATIBLE

SEE MORE AT: WWW.OTSCOMM.COM

[f @otscommunications](https://www.facebook.com/otscommunications) [i @oceantechnologysystems](https://www.instagram.com/oceantechnologysystems)



Did you know?

Hermissenda opalescens and *Hermissenda crassicornis* are very similar in appearance and have been referenced interchangeably for many years.

Hermissenda opalescens;
lab rat of the sea

CREST POINT, PACIFIC GROVE

Central California

Text & photographs by Bruce Sudweeks

The Crest Point dive site is located approximately 2,400 feet due north of the John Denver memorial plaque in Pacific Grove. It is considered a boat dive and an advanced dive due to the depth and potential currents. The location has a lot of structure. There are three large pinnacles and four smaller pinnacles. Two of the large pinnacles have peaks at around 60ft depth. All of the other pinnacles have peaks with depths around 70ft. The bases of all the pinnacles are around 80ft-90ft depth. The larger structures are close to each other and form north-south

canyons. The granite pinnacles are completely covered with sessile invertebrates, specifically giant white plumose anemones (*Metridium farcimen*), strawberry anemones (*Corynactis californica*), and California hydrocoral (*Stylaster californicus*). The hydrocoral comes in a rainbow of coloration.

The most-abundant fish at this spot are lingcod (*Ophiodon elongatus*), cabezon (*Scorpaenichthys marmoratus*), schools of blue rockfish (*Sebastes mystinus*), China rockfish (*Sebastes nebulosus*), treefish (*Sebastes serriceps*), and black-and-yellow rockfish (*Sebastes chrysomelas*).



“ The granite pinnacles are completely covered with sessile invertebrates, specifically giant white plumose anemones, strawberry anemones, and California hydrocoral ”

The China rockfish has very distinctive coloring that consists of dark background with a large yellow stripe that looks like a check mark or hockey stick. They tend to stay very close to their home, which is a rock crevice, and they have been known to share their home with giant Pacific octopi (*Enteroctopus dofleini*). I make it a practice to keep an eye out for these fish in case they lead me to an octopus den.

On a recent dive at this location I spotted a number of treefish (all loners) which are somewhat rare in the Monterey area since the northern end of their range is San Francisco. This fish is very easy to identify with their yellow and black stripes and big red lips. The young look radically different from the adults and they look like they belong in tropical waters. The young, with vibrant yellow and black body coloring and wispy fins that are edged with white and blue, are gregarious while the adults are reclusive. It is not uncommon to see an adult wedged in a rock crevice with

only their butt showing. Treefish are known to live up to 25 years so you could easily see the same fish dive after dive.

You will likely find some kelp at the tops of the pinnacles struggling to grow while being surrounded by hungry purple urchins (*Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*). The general area in which this dive site resides has been hit pretty hard by the purple urchin invasion.

I spotted a number of crab species on a recent dive at this locale. The species included brown rock crab (*Romaleon antennarius*), sheep crab (*Loxorhynchus grandis*), moss crab (*Loxorhynchus crispatus*), sharp-nosed crab (*Scyra acutifrons*), and longhorn decorator crab (*Chorilia longipes*). Sheep crabs are the largest crab on the California coast and are rather speedy reaching speeds up to 1/4 mile per hour. For the most part sheep crabs are solitary. However, there are times in which the aggregate - likely for mating. Many of the California crabs are decorator crabs. ▶

Structure completely covered by invertebrates



For example, young sheep crabs will purposefully decorate themselves in order to hide from predators. Same goes for the longhorn decorator crab. However, the sharp-nosed crab is highly decorated, but not on purpose. Sponges, anemones, and other debris just seem to accumulate on the carapace of the sharp-nosed crab.

The site has a good variety of nudibranch species; including the opalescent nudibranch (*Hermisenda opalescens*), three-lined aeolid (*Flabellina trilineata*), San Diego doris (*Diaulula sandiegensis*), and the yellow-edged cadlina (*Cadlina luteomarginata*). *Hermisenda opalescens* and *Hermisenda crassicornis* are very similar in appearance and have been referenced interchangeably for many years. The distribution ranges of these two species overlap just north of Monterey Bay so this adds to the confusion. Another confusing factor is that these two nudibranchs have coloring

that varies. The opalescent nudibranch is the lab rat of the sea. It has been used as a subject for many pharmacology, neurology, ecology, and toxicology experiments. However, some of the experiments may need to be repeated because there was some confusion as to which *Hermisenda* species was the subject of the experiments in question.

The GPS coordinates of the site are 36.643500, -121.929950 and it resides in the Pacific Grove Marine Gardens State Marine Conservation Area, which means that only finfish can be taken. Since the location is near the Point Pinos lighthouse there is a fair bit of boat traffic in the area so it is best to use the anchor line to descend and ascend. It is a good idea to have a surface marker buoy in case you have to surface away from the boat. This is a good site to visit on a relatively calm day. Keep a close watch on your gauges due to the depth and potential current. ■



PEARL FLEET



BLUE PEARL

The Ultimate Dive & Discovery Dream Sets Sail July 2026

Komodo • Banda Sea • Raja Ampat • Alor • Forgotten Islands • Bali



www.pearlfleet.org



Matters of VISION

Diving, to a great extent, is all about what we see when we're underwater. That's what drives us to explore the depths. But sometimes our underwater vision comes into question.

Springtime allergies irritate our eyes as well as congest our sinuses. Our underwater vision may require correction beyond that of a mere mask. Other times, the issue is obstructions to our vision, either because our mask fogs up, or due to matter suspended in the water column. And sometimes what we see is unexpected, stunning, or even shocking. So let's take a look at these factors and what we can do to improve our situation.

Robert N Rossier turns his attentions to sorting out issues in underwater sight

Alleviating Allergies

It's that time of year again. The landscape is covered with a powdery yellow coating, and itchy eyes and sneezing become part of the daily experience. It might seem like the only way to escape the pollen is to slip beneath the waves. But the very problems we try to avoid can create issues for making that underwater sojourn, and that can raise some important considerations for divers. The first revolves around over-the-counter allergy medication, and determining what is safe and compatible with diving.

For those of us who suffer from seasonal allergies, the temptation is clearly there to use over the counter (OTC) medications to alleviate the symptoms. Typically, that would include antihistamines and decongestants. Antihistamines are medications that suppress the secretion of histamines in the body, which constrict smooth muscle in the bronchial system, and dilate capillaries and the small branches of arteries that lead to them. The effect is a drying out or

clearing of the mouth, nose, and sinuses – which is a good thing. Typical active ingredients for antihistamines include diphenhydramine hydrochloride, triprolidine hydrochloride and chlorpheniramine maleate, which you may see listed on the label of common allergy medications.

Decongestants are vasoconstrictors, which cause narrowing of the blood vessels, thus providing temporary improvement of airflow in the nasal passages. Typical active ingredients of decongestants include pseudoephedrine hydrochloride and phenylpropanolamine hydrochloride, again listed on the labels.

The problem with both types of medication is that they have negative side effects that can be problematic for divers. According to the medical staff at Divers Alert Network (DAN), antihistamines can cause ‘visual disturbances, drowsiness or an undesired sedation or depression – all significant factors that, together or separately, can affect the safety of a dive. Antihistamines can also depress the central nervous system (CNS) and impair a diver’s ability to think clearly and react appropriately when the need arises’.

Also, according to DAN sources, decongestants can cause ‘a mild CNS stimulation and can also offer numerous side effects such as nervousness, excitability, restlessness, dizziness, weakness and a forceful or rapid heartbeat’.

The bottom line is that the use of these and other OTC medications can impair us during a dive, putting our safety at risk. For more information, contact DAN or consult with your local diving physician.

“ One common cause of poor visibility underwater is a simple matter of fogging of our mask ”

Contact Lens Concerns

Many divers wear contact lenses while diving, and many more who might be tempted to using contact lenses underwater. But some worry about the possibility of causing eye damage, and wonder if such concerns are justified.

While we may not have heard of any cases of eye injuries associated with contacts and diving, as with any aspect of diving, there is always some level of risk involved. However, we can take some simple steps to mitigate the known risks of wearing contacts underwater.

One underlying concern is that of gas exchange and the formation of gas bubbles behind the lens. According to sources at DAN, ‘hard and gas permeable lenses have been found to sometimes cause symptoms of eye pain and blurred vision during and after dives in which the diver accumulates a significant inert gas load. These symptoms occur as a result of gas bubbles forming between the cornea and the contact lens’.

Another concern is that of contamination of contact lenses. Depending on where we dive, we might be concerned over microbial hazards in the underwater environment that could contaminate our lenses, causing eye infections and other health concerns.

Again, sources at DAN suggest that the risk of such infections are low. The predominant risk of infection is due to contaminated water being swallowed or coming

into contact with eyes, ears, and open wounds, nothing suggests an increased risk due to the use of contact lenses. DAN does point out that the risk of infection ‘increases significantly in warm, brackish waters, in waters proximate to sewage and run-off inlets, at places of animal access, and at populated beaches’.

The point here is that we should carefully consider and avoid areas where microbial hazards may be higher. For anyone concerned about microbial infection, proper cleaning and stowage of equipment – including their contact lenses – is an important step. DAN points out that ‘if equipment is not properly cleaned, dried and stored after use, colonies can grow and microbes can reach sufficient numbers to infect users’.

Surprisingly, our efforts to remove salt from our equipment might result in unexpected health risks. Rinse buckets provided on many dive charter vessels are typically shared with the other divers on board, and might tend to spread microbial infections. For contact lenses, follow the manufacturer recommendations for care and disinfection, or better yet, use disposable lenses.

Divers might also be concerned over the potential loss of lenses while diving. This might occur if our mask floods or is accidentally knocked or kicked off during a dive. My personal experience is that even in these conditions, soft contacts tend to remain in place. However, that might not be the case for everyone. One precaution we can make is to make certain our buddy knows we wear lenses and have some hand signs at the ready to communicate a vision issue while underwater. Several precautions are recommended for divers who wish to wear contacts while diving:

- Choose only soft lenses for diving (disposable preferred).
- Follow the recommended procedures for storage and disinfection of contact lenses.
- Keep a spare set of lenses with you in case you lose one.
- Stop using your contact lenses if they become damaged or uncomfortable, or if your eyes become painful or irritated.

Be aware that other options are available, including prescription dive masks, that you can use if the contact lens option doesn’t meet your personal needs. Check with your eye doctor if you have concerns or need further advice.

Variable Visibility

One day while diving with a new and unfamiliar buddy in a kelp forest in Monterrey, CA, a ‘visibility’ issue arose. It was nearing the end of the dive, and we had just signaled our intent to ascend and return to the boat. I was making a slow ascent when I looked over and realized my buddy wasn’t moving. His legs were kicking and he was looking up, but he wasn’t going anywhere. On closer inspection, I saw that his mask was completely fogged, which I assumed played a pivotal part in his situation. He may have felt like he was headed to the surface, but because he couldn’t see anything, he didn’t realize he wasn’t actually ascending.

One common cause of poor visibility underwater is a simple matter of fogging of our mask. While commercial defogging solutions are readily available, some common household items can help us put a fog-preventing coating on the inside of our face plate. A chunk of raw potato, a dollop of shaving cream, or even a bit of human spit when rubbed vigorously on the face plate and then rinsed can do an amazing job as an anti-fog agent. ▶

Perhaps more difficult to deal with is the variability of underwater visibility. Depending on where we dive, we may find considerable variations in the visibility of the water. Typically this is caused by plankton, algae, and various particulates suspended in the water column. However, an array of factors contribute to the prevailing visibility, and these can change dramatically even in a short time. Wind and wave conditions in particular can cause poor visibility especially in shallower areas as the turbulence kicks up more particulate matter from the bottom.

Let's consider light penetration. To a substantial degree, the amount of light available underwater determines how well we can see. Cloud cover reduces the amount of light reaching the surface. Sea conditions affect the angle at which the sun's rays strike the surface, and how much light is reflected. And the deeper we go, the less light there is due to absorption of the light energy.

Several variables can be assessed to help us forecast the underwater visibility. High seas reduce light and can stir up sediment and silt on the bottom, thus reducing visibility. Heavy rains can result in runoff in coastal areas, which carries more silt, sediment, and particulates into the water. Tidal conditions can also affect the visibility as they change direction and velocity over the tidal cycle. And of course, we can consult local dive centers and divers who may have better knowledge of the prevailing conditions in popular dive sites.

Visions of Horror

Sometimes the scenes we come upon in the underwater world can be unnerving, or even downright scary, particularly if we're not familiar with some of the local underwater residents. Years ago I made a night shore dive near the marina in Westport, Massachusetts, where just such a situation occurred. Reaching the bottom, we found it crawling with what looked like huge black spiders. Everywhere we shone our dive lights was a carpet of these spooky creatures, boiling over one another in seemingly maniacal madness. At least one diver in the group was aghast and nearly bolted for the surface and the shore.


What we saw on that dive were, in fact, spider crabs, and while they aren't the most-attractive form of sea life, they harbor no evil intent toward divers. The spider crab (*Libinia emarginata*) is not a spider by any means, although its round, spiny carapace and long, skinny legs certainly give it the appearance of one. According to sources at the University of Rhode Island, these scavengers inhabit rocky shores, bays, harbors, eelgrass beds, and pilings where they feed on a variety of algae and detritus. And they aren't just in New England. Another species of spider crab (*Loxorhynchus crispatus*) haunts the southern California coast, living a similar lifestyle, and likely giving a few divers a ghoulish gaze. While their eyesight is poor, they have sensing organs in their legs that help them find food even in mud and murky waters. Spider crabs are highly tolerant of pollution and can readily survive in waters that are contaminated by oil and low in oxygen.

Another aspect that can make spider crabs frightening is that they aren't exactly a tiny species like our local hermit crabs. Spider crabs can grow to a body size of four inches with claw-to-claw lengths of nine inches. When they perceive a threat, they tend to raise their claws, wave them about, and snip them in a menacing manner.

While we may find these creatures unattractive, we should know that they are critical of their own appearance. Spider crabs will attach bits of algae, shells, and seaweed to the fine, sticky hairs covering their bodies in order to camouflage themselves from predators – or perhaps just to improve their personal appearance!

Stumbling upon a writhing mass of spider crabs covering the seabed on a dark night would be enough to freak out many divers, but bear in mind that they are not dangerous and are simply filling their special niche in the underwater world. Often times, once we know what we're looking at, we may find these and other seemingly dangerous critters are actually fun to watch!

Many factors play into our ability to dive safely and see clearly underwater. The more we know about these factors, the better we can be prepared for a good view of the underwater realm. ■



“ Stop using your contact lenses if they become damaged or uncomfortable, or if your eyes become painful or irritated ”

ABOFA

Aqaba Blue Ocean Future in Action

About the Event

ABOFA – Aqaba Blue: Ocean Future in Action 2026 is a comprehensive international exhibition & experience platform dedicated to Diving, Marine Technology, Water Sports & Adventure, Tourism & Ocean Lifestyle.

Taking place in the heart of the Red Sea, ABOFA aims to transform Aqaba into the region's leading hub for diving, marine innovation, & coastal adventure industries.

The event brings together global brands, innovators, researchers, divers, investors, & marine professionals to connect, collaborate, showcase technology, conduct demonstrations, & engage in Themed Activities & B2C experiences.



9-12

September 2026

Aqaba International Exhibition Center (AIEC)

Join global leaders

→ www.abofa.jo

Target Sectors



Diving & Underwater Sector



Marine Technology & Innovation



Water Sports & Adventure



Underwater Photography & Gaming



Boats & Marine Equipment



Tourism & Lifestyle



Education & Training Workshops & Startups



Themed Activities

Show Summary

80+

Exhibitors

20+

Workshops

50+

Speakers

4000+

Visitors

Organized by



International Partner

salonnautico
INTERNACIONAL DE BARCELONA



Host Partner



The California Sheephead

Redefines Fish Sexual Identity

Bold and beautiful the big male sheephead dominate the kelp forest with their bright grin

As with many beginning California divers, one of the first methods I learned to interact with marine life was to bust open an urchin and feed the fish with the guts. I did that for many years and even through my first couple of decades of underwater photography. But I continuously ended up with a number of problems.

First, it always disturbed me how the sheephead's behavior became unnatural. They became frantic, generally head down focused on nothing but the food at hand. All other natural behavior of territoriality disappears. There is no mating dancing. There is no natural interaction

between fishes of the same species or relationship between differing species. The delicate dance of balance of the reef and

kelp forest is turned upside down.

Second, simply put, it kills one animal for the benefit of your entertainment. Of course, there are certainly a lot of urchins in the sea, but at what point does this begin to compromise this reef and kelp forest ecosystem?

Third, you might get bit! Sometimes hard! Not only do they have big teeth, they also have powerful jaws.

Ouch! That fish bit me! Such is the hazard when trying to hand feed reef fish. Only thing is the California sheephead have really big teeth! They can draw blood, as Dale and Kim Sheckler found out!

Photographs by Dale and Kim Sheckler

“ All sheephead start out their lives as female and then transform themselves to male. Depending on local conditions it takes about eight years ”



Female sheephead are pink with a white jaw

Finally, it simply puts a lot of junk in the water. Busting open an urchin adds a huge amount of particulate in the water column. That matters most of all to the underwater photographer. Backscatter is the bane of the underwater photographer and destroying an urchin for a frantic feeding creates, on purpose, a horrible amount of backscatter. So how did I learn a better way? Hanging around a dive shop and just listening has more benefits of dive classes and gear sales. You learn a lot with the banter around the air fill station. It is there I learned a trick for great sheephead photo general observation. With this trick, the sheephead will move in very close with no or little crud in the water, you don't kill anything and this dynamic fish's behavior is more natural.

You bang and rub rocks together and they swoop right in. It's like ringing the dinner bell. Sheephead feed by gnawing at the growth and critters found on the Californian rocky reefs. The grinding and banging sounds like another sheephead eating and, curious, they move in to check it out. Oddly enough the normally shy big males seem to be more attracted using this method than just smashing a poor urchin.

The California sheephead is a fascinating creature coloration and lifecycle. The males are, in my opinion, the most interesting. They are beautiful handsome creatures with a tri-color scheme of a black head, pink body and black tail, snow-white chin and bright big eyes. A big bulbous head with a snaggle-tooth mouth makes them fascinating to watch and great photo material.

But then again, the females are nearly as beautiful with more sleek pink to dusky pink.

Don't like the females? Stick around long enough and they will become males. Yes, sheephead are sex change artists. All sheephead start out their lives as female and then transform themselves to male. Depending on local conditions it takes about eight years. It is built into their lifecycle, instincts and their very DNA. Long before our society accepted sex change as an alternate lifestyle, the sheephead had it down pat.

Sheephead are Protogynous hermaphrodites. All wrasses, a family of fish to which the sheephead belong, fall into this category. That is they start their lives as ▶

females and, given the right conditions, will transition to the male gender of the species. This occurs when the dominant male of a particular section of reef is removed. One or more of the females will then transition to male. Sometimes this leads to territorial disputes often witnessed by divers with teeth flashing confrontations.

During the transition not only colors change but the gonads do as well. Female gonads just disappear, absorbed into its body. Male gonads then grow into their place. Teeth grow even bigger and the jaw more powerful.

The teeth and strong jaw come in very handy for feeding. Females feed in much the same way but on smaller prey. Sheephead feed on worms, crustaceans including the California spiny lobster and crabs and, you guessed it, urchins. This makes them a powerful force in the kelp forest ecosystem.

With their tough mouth, powerful jaw and sharp teeth the sheephead, especially the big ones, can dispatch a purple urchin regardless of the spines. The smaller purple urchins are its primary food.

It is a horde of these purple urchins that can sweep through a kelp forest stripping it bare in quick order. A healthy feeding sheephead population keeps their population in check.

Should you hunt them? They may bite you if you are not careful but if they are not careful we might eat them. They are a target species for human consumption. Many scuba spearfishers consider them a prime goal, especially the big males. They are also a desired mark for hook and line fishers as well as being coveted in many Asian restaurants. Are they edible? Most certainly but with some serious caveats.

First, if you are concerned about California ocean reef ecosystems, leave them alone. As mentioned previously they keep things healthy and ticking properly in the kelp forest. Remove these valuable animals, especially the big urchin-eating males, and things start to fall apart quickly, with the kelp being the first to go. Unfortunately that has happened in far too many places.

Second, there are strict California Fish and Wildlife regulations on bag limit and size. Violate them and you are looking at a stiff fine and possible confiscation of your gear.

Third, there is simply no sport in hunting these creatures. They are easy to attract and simple to shoot. Ring the dinner bell and they trot in like trained pigs for the slaughter.

Finally, you have to prepare them just right. While they are quite tasty, if you over cook them even just a little, the flesh turns to an unappetizing pile of mush.

Because of their popularity for human consumption, their numbers have unfortunately dropped considerably making their listed conservation status as that of 'vulnerable'.

Being a species hunted for consumption, you'll stand a much greater chance of seeing and approaching them in ecological preserves and reserves. Big males are rarely seen outside of these protected areas except in remote locations. Personally, my favorite location for photographing large sheephead is along the front side of Anacapa Island. Most of this area has long been a preserve. Being that Anacapa is frequented by divers the big males are much more conducive to encounters.

How about we just rather stick to hunting them with our cameras? They make excellent if not challenging photo subjects. Females are not too difficult by using a strobe or light to bring out their pink color. In addition they are abundant and for the most part not afraid of divers. Their warm pink color make for good photos against the backdrop of the blue-green of the kelp forest.

Males and the juveniles on the other hand take skill. And practice. Lots of practice. The multiple coloration of the big males makes balanced exposure challenging to say the least. It is easy to underexpose the dark head and blow out the white chin. Two tricks help. ▶

Did you know?

By eating urchins, Sheephead help to maintain healthy kelp, which, in turn, provides habitat for many, many other species.



Showing off their territoriality sheephead with flash sharp teeth in a strong posture of combat.



METITA BEACH
& DIVE RESORT

DISCOVER INDONESIA'S LAST DIVING FRONTIER

North Halmahera offers the kind of diving Indonesia was once known for: remote, and remarkably untouched.

"Dive North Halmahera with Metita Beach and Dive Resort."

www.metitaresort.com

SAVING LIVES
**SUBMERSIBLE
SYSTEMS, INC**
FOR OVER 45 YEARS

The Diver's Reserve Parachute!

A skydiver wears a reserve parachute, a SCUBA diver should have a reserve breathing system. For over 45 years Spare Air® has been a better safety option than an octopus and buddy breathing. In an out-of-air emergency, why would you trust your life to anything else? Visit spareair.com and read why sharing air is NOT the solution.

CE 0598

SPARE AIR
3 cu.ft.

SPARE AIR
6 cu.ft.

spareair.com

Frame the subject's head in front of a lighter background like open blue or green water. Also hit the strobe flash as best you can on the top of its head to bring out the texture. Properly exposed it will be a more dark charcoal on the blueish side. Overexpose it 1/2 to a full stop. Vertical image format works best to get the one strobe high pointed down. The lower strobe pointed up to expose the chin should be dialed down about a stop so as to not blow-out the white chin.

The small juvenile sheephead shows their own distinctive color pattern



eggs and sperm are ejected into the water column to fertilize in the surge. The fertilized eggs then become part of the planktonic soup where they hatch.

Age range of the sheephead is ten to 50 years depending on conditions and food supply. The origin of the common name of 'sheephead' is unknown but a common mistake is to call them 'sheepshead'. There is an east coast fish also by the common name of sheephead. The California sheephead's scientific name is *Semicossyphus pulcher*. *Semicossyphus* in Greek is 'half fish' and *pulcher* is Latin for beautiful. In Mexico they go by the name of *vieja de California*.

With the beautiful brightly colored juvenile sheephead, the challenge in photography is they simply won't sit still. Like the adults they generally stay in one reef area that is small and sometimes will follow the same patrolling pattern that area. In addition where there is one there is usually more. At only an inch or two inches in size, you'll need a macro setup where you can stand off a bit. Standard exposure will work.

As a member of the wrasse family the sheephead has many relatives. All of them, as previously mentioned, are Protogynous hermaphrodites. On California reefs wrasse relatives include the less-common rock wrasse (up to 12 inches long) and the ubiquitous sonority. Sonority wrasse fishes are often seen cleaning parasites off other fish. Some of the señorita's customers include the giant sea bass. The señorita fish are those tan to brown cigar-shaped fish that vary in size from a little more than an inch up to eight inches or so.

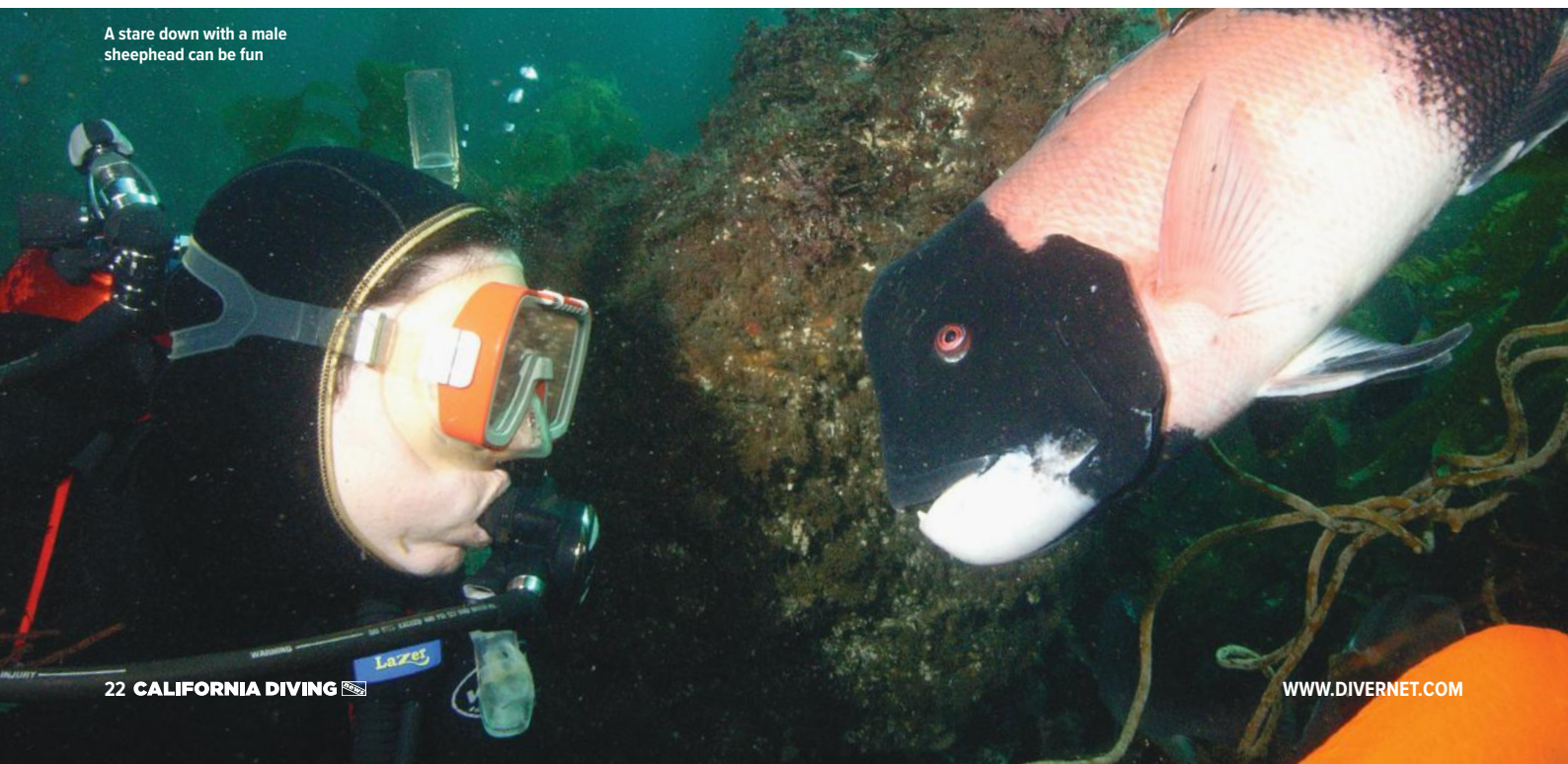
Before you photograph the sheephead you need to find them. Fortunately you don't need to look far. Sheephead are common to all Southern California reefs but also be found as far north as Monterey and as far south as upper Baja. While they usually stick around the rocks you will occasionally find them having ventured out onto the sand flats. An odd but not entirely unusual place to find them is wedged into the reef at night. Sometimes they can be found wrapped in a cocoon of mucous. Sheephead are diurnal, moving about the reef during the day. The sheephead are by far the largest of the wrasse family in California seas. The big males can grow as large as 2lbs and three feet in length.

Most wrasse family relatives to the sheephead are colorful cleaner fish that are quite small. There are however exceptions. One of these is the sheephead's relative, the huge and beautiful but shy Napoleon wrasse found throughout the Indo-Pacific. These have never been known to bite divers.

Sheephead are somewhat territorial but especially exhibit this behavior during mating. A dance ensues and

But when the California sheephead bite divers, it is the diver's own fault by breaking open an urchin and offering a hand out — literally. ■

A stare down with a male sheephead can be fun





Onboard technology
Electronic Rescue and
Location System
(ENOS) & free
5G internet
connection



TIARÉ CRUISE

LUXURY & DIVING IN INDONESIA

Welcome to Tiaré, a luxurious yet traditional Indonesian Phinisi that will take you on a journey of discovery to some of the most stunning diving spots in the world's largest archipelago!

tiarecruise.com



Contact our team today to book your adventure!

+62 811 386 586
reservation@tiarecruise.com
www.tiarecruise.com



EXPERIENCE DIVING AT ITS FINEST

YAP

7 nights / 15 dives starting at \$1,799*



Manta Ray Bay
RESORT & Yap Divers
mantaray.com

VISIT YAP

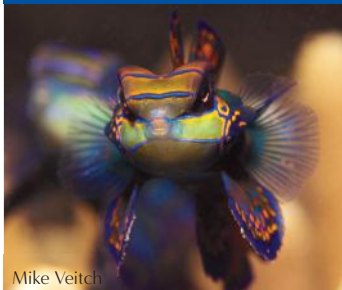


SCAN ME FOR MORE INFO

Andy Schumacher

* per diver, double occupancy.

World-Class Diving • A Single Airline from CA to Yap • Smooth, No-Hassle Travel.



Mike Veitch



David Fleetham



Tim Rock



KIDS SEA CAMP: VOTED THE BEST FAMILY DIVING VACATIONS IN THE WORLD!

"GIVE THEM A WEEK THEY WILL REMEMBER FOREVER!"

- AFRICA
- ALOR
- BELIZE
- BONAIRE
- THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
- DOMINICA
- FIJI
- THE FORGOTTEN ISLANDS
- GALAPAGOS
- INDONESIA
- KOMODO
- LEMBEH
- MALDIVES
- MEXICO
- PALAU
- THE PHILIPPINES
- RAJA AMPAT
- THE RED SEA
- ROATAN
- ST. EUSTATIUS
- ST. LUCIA
- TURKS & CAICOS



FAMILY DIVE ADVENTURES
kids@kidsseacamp.com
803-419-2556 www.familydivers.com

Trip listings are subject to change.

Please visit the boats' websites for the most current calendars.
 You can also find a complete calendar at cadivingnews.com/dive-trips/.

Date	Duration	Destination	Boat	Boat Location	Charter Group	Phone
4/3/26	2 Days	San Clemente	Pacific Star	San Pedro	Scuba Schools of America	909-621-4171
4/5/26	1/2 Day	2-Tank Charter	Island Diver	Redondo Beach	Open Charter	310-372-8423
4/12/26	1/2 Day	2-Tank Charter	Island Diver	Redondo Beach	Open Charter	310-372-8423
4/18/26	1 Day	Catalina Island	Pacific Star	San Pedro	Scuba Schools of America	909-621-4171
4/19/26	1/2 Day	2-Tank Charter	Island Diver	Redondo Beach	Open Charter	310-372-8423
4/25/26	1 Day	Freediving Only	Peace	Ventura	OC Spearos	Book Online
5/1/26	3 Days	Anacapa/ Santa Cruz	Peace	Ventura	Dolphin Scuba	916-929-8188
5/3/26	1/2 Day	2-Tank Charter	Island Diver	Redondo Beach	Open Charter	310-372-8423
5/6/26	1 Day	Chamber Day Dive	Pacific Star	San Pedro	Scuba Schools of America	909-621-4171
5/10/26	1/2 Day	2-Tank Charter	Island Diver	Redondo Beach	Open Charter	310-372-8423
5/16/26	1 Day	Catalina Island	Pacific Star	San Pedro	Scuba Schools of America	909-621-4171
5/17/26	1/2 Day	2-Tank Charter	Island Diver	Redondo Beach	Open Charter	310-372-8423
5/23/26	3 Days	Anacapa/ Santa Cruz	Peace	Ventura	Dolphin Scuba	916-929-8188
5/24/26	1/2 Day	2-Tank Charter	Island Diver	Redondo Beach	Open Charter	310-372-8423
5/24/26	2 Days	Catalina Island	Pacific Star	San Pedro	Scuba Schools of America	909-621-4171
5/25/26	1/2 Day	2-Tank Charter	Island Diver	Redondo Beach	Open Charter	310-372-8423
5/31/26	1/2 Day	2-Tank Charter	Island Diver	Redondo Beach	Open Charter	310-372-8423
6/7/26	1/2 Day	2-Tank Charter	Island Diver	Redondo Beach	Open Charter	310-372-8423
6/13/26	1 Day	Catalina Island	Pacific Star	San Pedro	Scuba Schools of America	909-621-4171
6/13/26	2 Days	San Miguel	Peace	Ventura	Sea Divers	626-221-1119
6/14/26	1/2 Day	2-Tank Charter	Island Diver	Redondo Beach	Open Charter	310-372-8423
6/19/26	3 Days	Intermediate/ Advanced Freediving	Peace	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online
6/20/26	1 Day	Catalina Island	Pacific Star	San Pedro	Scuba Schools of America	909-621-4171
6/21/26	1/2 Day	2-Tank Charter	Island Diver	Redondo Beach	Open Charter	310-372-8423
6/27/26	1 Day	Freediving Only	Peace	Ventura	Open Charter	Book Online

REDONDO BEACH



Size: 34'
Capacity: 6
Liveaboard: No
Islands/Areas Served:
 Long Beach to Santa Monica, coastal
Phone: 310-372-8423
Website: divensurf.com
Email: dive@divensurf.com

VENTURA



Size: 65'
Capacity: 34
Liveaboard: Yes
Islands/Areas Served: Channel Islands
Phone: 949-247-1106
Website: peaceboat.com
Email: info@peaceboat.com

APRIL 8

**OCEAN INSTITUTE
DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES**

📍 Dana Point

In this talk, Emily Martin will introduce zooplankton and explain why they matter. She will share how the introduction of sport fish has changed zooplankton communities in Sierra Nevada lakes that were once fishless. She will also discuss how environmental conditions influence which species can survive in these sensitive mountain lakes.

🌐 oceaninstitute.org/calendar-new/

APRIL 12

**KIDS BEACH CLEANUP
DOCKWEILER BEACH**

📍 Playa del Rey

This special event is designed to inspire and empower the next generation of environmental stewards. Kids and families will have the opportunity to learn about ocean conservation while taking meaningful action to help protect our local coastline.

🌐 eventbrite.com/e/kids-beach-cleanup-2026-tickets-1983412206301

APRIL 13

**SCIENCE PUB: TACKLING
IRREVERSIBLE CLIMATE CHANGE**

📍 Santa Barbara

What can you do to help your children and grandchildren survive in a hotter world? Why is it so hard to stop global warming? How do we know it's really irreversible? Face these important topics head-on with engineer Craig Smith, Ph.D.

🌐 sbnature.org/visit/calendar/

APRIL 18

STAND UP TO TRASH BEACH CLEANUP

📍 Dana Point

🌐 oceaninstitute.org/calendar-new/**VENTURA EARTH DAY FESTIVAL**

📍 Ventura

The annual Ventura Earth Day celebration is filled with cultural performances, live music, and games for all ages.

🌐 venturacountycoast.com/event/ventura-earth-day/**SAVE OUR BEACH SEAL BEACH CLEANUP**

📍 Seal Beach

🌐 saveourbeach.org/beach-clean-ups/**ESPLANADE BEACH CLEANUP**

📍 Pacifica

🌐 pacificbeachcoalition.org/calendar-2026/

APRIL 19

THE SEA CENTER EAST BEACH CLEANUP

📍 Santa Barbara

🌐 sbnature.org/visit/calendar

APRIL 22

EARTH DAY

📍 Worldwide

"Our Power, Our Planet" is Earth Day 2026's theme reflecting a fundamental truth: environmental progress doesn't depend on any single administration or election. It's sustained by daily actions of communities, educators, workers, and families protecting where they live and work.

🌐 earthday.org/earth-day-2026/

APRIL 25

SANTA BARBARA EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

📍 Santa Barbara

Celebrate the 56th Earth Day with a weekend jam packed with music, a plant forward food court, eco friendly vendors, education, non-profits and the largest green car show on the west coast.

🌐 sbearthday.org/**EARTH DAY TEEN CLIMATE FEST**

📍 Long Beach

This event for the whole family is inspired and created by young leaders.

🌐 aquariumofpacific.org/events/list

APRIL 26

FAMILY TIDEPOOL BIOBLITZ

📍 Pacific Grove

Join naturalists from the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History for a guided tidepool bioblitz at the Great Tidepool.

🌐 pgmuseum.org/upcoming-events

APRIL 29

SCIENCE UNCORKED

📍 Bodega Bay

"Seagrass Health 101: Why it Matters to Our Coasts," presented by Serina Moheeds.

🌐 marinescience.ucdavis.edu/events

MAY 6

CHAMBER DAY & CHAMBER EVE 2026

📍 Catalina Island / Long Beach / Virtual

Chamber Day is the United States' largest single-day scuba charity event—and a vital fundraiser for the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber, ensuring it remains operational 24/7/365 to protect the diving community. Participation options available for both divers and non-divers.

🌐 dornsife.usc.edu/hyperbaric/chamber-day-home/

MAY 30 & 31

SCUBA SHOW

📍 Long Beach

SCUBA SHOW 2026 is an exhilarating dive into the world of underwater exploration, catering to enthusiasts and professionals alike. This event is a beacon for divers seeking to connect, learn, and experience the latest in scuba diving. Tickets on sale now.

🌐 scubashow.com



SCUBA™

SCHOOLS OF AMERICA

#1 RATED DIVE STORE WITH THE LARGEST DIVE CLUB



#THE MOST ACTIVE DIVESTORE IN THE GALAXY

PRICES SO LOW ON SUEX WE CAN'T PRINT THEM!

SUEX
When Your Dive Demands the best..

NEW
VR
SERIES



SCUBA
SCHOOLS OF AMERICA

EVENTS CALENDAR

- Apr 3rd-4th – San Clemente Island
- Apr 11th – Club Aquarius
- Apr 18th – Catalina Island
- May 6th – Chamber Day/ Chamber Night
- May 16th – Catalina Island
- May 24th-25th – San Clemente Island
- May 30th-31st – The Scuba Show, JOIN US!

SCUBA Certification at Camp Emerson – Summer 2026

CAMP EMERSON

5th-11th & 12th-18th July

SCUBA
SCHOOLS OF AMERICA

Get Certified This Summer!
Join the Adventure at Camp Emerson!



JULY 15TH-19TH
DIVE THE CENOTES

RT AIRFARE DIRECT
9 GUIDED DIVES A DAY
LUNCH/HOTEL
TRANSFERS
\$2895

SXT ADVENTURES

PROTEC DIVE CENTERS

SCUBA
SCHOOLS OF AMERICA

KISS SIDEWINDER REBREATHERS

SCUBA
SCHOOLS OF AMERICA



KISS DEMO
DAY EVERY SAT
11AM SSA POOL



INTERNATIONAL TRIPS
WITH SXT ADVENTURES



- Playa Del Carmen Cenote Adventure | 07/15/26 - 07/19/26
- Sea of Cortez | 10/30 - 11/06/26
- New Year's in the Philippines | 2026/27
- Bahamas Adventure | 04/03 - 04/10/27
- Cocos Island | 07/06 - 07/18/27

divecenterdirectory

Find California Diving News at these western dive centers.

BAY AREA

Anderson's Scuba Diving
541 Oceana Blvd,
Pacifica 650-355-3050

Any Water Sports
1344 Saratoga Ave, San Jose
408-244-4433

Bamboo Reef Enterprises
584 4th St, San Francisco
415-362-6694

Deep Ocean Explore Store
650 W Tower Ave, Alameda
510-626-9044

Dive N Trips
1032 Serpentine Ln #108,
Pleasanton 925-462-7234

Diver Dan's Wet Pleasure Inc.
2245 El Camino Real, Santa
Clara 408-984-5819

Marin Dive Center
3765 Redwood Hwy, San
Rafael 415-479-4332

Pacific Ocean Sports
936 Detroit Ave E, Concord
925-687-5354

Pacific Ocean Water Sports
431 First Street, Gilroy
408-713-1211

Pacific Scuba Divers Inc
1179 East Homestead Road,
Sunnyvale 408-247-7702

Pinnacles Dive Center
875 Grant Ave, Novato
415-897-9962

S.c.u.b.a.
1827 Venice Lane, Antioch
925-755-7268

Scuba Fusion
1210 S El Camino Real,
San Mateo 650-212-3483

Seal Watersports
2112 Armory Drive,
Santa Rosa 707-542-3100

Sonoma Coast Divers
5702 Commerce Blvd, Rohnert
Park 707-586-0272

CENTRAL VALLEY

Aqua Sports
1616 E Shields Av., Fresno
559-224-0744

Aquatic Dreams Scuba Center
1212 Kansas Ave, Modesto
209-577-3483

Bakersfield Scuba
1918 G St, Bakersfield
661-324-3337

California Scuba Center
510 Shaw Ave, Clovis
559-908-1444

Dolphin Scuba Center
1530 El Camino Ave, Sacramen-
to 916-929-8188

Fishery Scuba
8679b Auburn Folsom Rd,
Granite Bay 916-850-1145

Free Dive Shop
4674 Duckhorn Drive, Sacra-
mento 916-371-3410

High Sierra Divers Inc.
217 Palm Ave, Auburn
530-823-6757

Howell's Dive Shop
1426 Eureka Way, Redding
530-241-1571

Justin's Scuba Time
3255 W Hammer Lane #2,
Stockton 209-851-2928

Sac City Scuba
5114 Madison Ave, Sacramento
916-772-3483

Scuba Hut
2725 State Highway 32 Ste F,
Chico 530-636-2644

Scuba World
5114 Madison Ave, Sacramento
916-332-8294

INLAND EMPIRE

American Scuba Academy
1551 East Ontario Avenue #105,
Corona 951-496-4148

Riverside Scuba
1043 W La Cadena Dr, Riverside
951-682-3483

Scuba Center Temecula
28860 Old Town Front St #A9,
Temecula 951-506-0252

Scuba Choice
1531 5th Street, Twentynine
Palms 909-643-5552

Scuba Choice
14020 Central Avenue #530,
Chino 909-643-5552

Scuba Schools Of America
4420 Holt Blvd, Montclair
909-621-4171

Signature Scuba
11955 Jack Benny Dr, Rancho
Cucamonga 909-476-8183

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Aloha Dive
7620 Tampa Ave, Reseda
818-345-3483

Aquanautics Dive Inc
13059 San Fernando Road,
Sylmar 818-362-2800

Blue Holic Scuba
3636 West Olympic Blvd #A,
Los Angeles 323-641-7416

Channel Islands Scuba
1348 N Moorpark Rd Unit B,
Thousand Oaks
805-230-9995

Dive N' Surf Inc.
504 N Broadway St, Redondo
Beach 310-372-8423

Divers West
257 S Rosemead Blvd, Pasade-
na 626-529-5220

Eco Dive Center
4027 Sepulveda Blvd, Culver
City 310-398-5759

Free Dive And Spear
950 Aviation Blvd #B, Hermosa
Beach 310-374-7333

Hollywood Divers
3575 Cahuenga Blvd West,
Los Angeles 323-969-9666

In 2 Deep Diving
3103 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica
424-744-8384

Malibu Divers
21231 Pacific Coast Hwy, Malibu
310-456-2396

Ocean Safari
125 E Las Tunas Dr, San Gabriel
626-287-6283

Pacific Wilderness
1719 S Pacific Ave, San Pedro
310-833-2422

Pch Scuba
5284 Kanan Road, Agoura Hills
818-891-1800

Sharky's Scuba & Swim
490 W Arrow Hwy F,
San Dimas 909-596-2505

Spear America South Bay
2301 Artesia Blvd Ste 2,
Redondo Beach 424-247-8509

Zen Dive Co.
2020 Lincoln Ave, Pasadena
(866) 936-3483

NORTH COAST

Pacific Outfitters
1600 5th St, Eureka
707-443-6328

Pacific Quest Dive Center
110 D. St., Crescent City
707-464-8753

ORANGE COUNTY

Beach Cities Scuba
34283 Pacific Coast Hwy,
Dana Point 949-496-5891

Beach Cities Scuba
6021 Orange Ave, Cypress
714-527-1500

Beach Cities Scuba Center
4537 W Coast Hwy, Newport
Beach 949-650-5440

Beach Cities Scuba Mania
19036 Brookhurst, Huntington
Bch 714-378-2611

Dive & Photo
3033 Bristol St Ste F2,
Costa Mesa 949-476-8500

Laguna Sea Sports
925 N Coast Hwy, Laguna
Beach 949-494-6965

Lost Winds Dive Shop
2411 S El Camino Real,
San Clemente 949-303-0835

Ocean Gear
6836 Edinger Ave,
Huntington Beach 714-375-
0595

Openwater Habitat
1800 E 1st St, Santa Ana
714-558-1055

Scuba.com
1781 Newport Blvd, Ste A, Costa
Mesa CA

Scuba World
1706 N. Tustin St.,
Orange, 714 998 6382

Sea Stallion Scuba Outfitters
21098 Bake Pkwy Ste 108,
Lake Forest 949-699-3600

Spear America
2950 Airway Ave Unit A7,
Costa Mesa 949-536-5336

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Beyond Land Adventures
3445 Midway Dr G,
San Diego 619-366-6266

House Of Scuba
5141 Santa Fe Street Ste #A,
San Diego 858-581-2800

La Jolla Watersports
2710 Garet Avenue #110,
San Diego 619-788-6416

North County Scuba Center
122 Encinitas Blvd,
Encinitas 760-753-0036

Ocean Enterprises
7710 Balboa Ave Ste 101,
San Diego 858-565-6054

Oceanside Scuba and Swim
225 Brooks St, Oceanside
760-231-1332

San Diego Divers
1121 Sorrento Valley Rd Ste P,
San Diego 858-458-1348

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Blue Water Hunter
117-D Harbor Way, Santa
Barbara 800-452-6696

Santa Barbara Aquatics
5822 Hollister Ave, Goleta
805-967-4456

Sea Landing Dive Center
301 West Cabrillo Blvd,
Santa Barbara 805-963-3564

Maverick Undersea Divers
425 Constitutions Ave G,
Camarillo 805-484-0051

Sc Diving
575 Dawson Drive Ste9,
Camarillo 805-207-7272

Ventura Dive & Sport
1559 Spinnaker Dr Ste 108,
Ventura 805-650-6500

ARIZONA

72 Aquatics
3110 East Fort Lowell, Tucson
520-887-2822

Alexander's Dive Shop Too
590 N Morley Ave, Nogales
520-287-5103

Arizona Dive Center
10001 W Bell Road, Sun City
855-777-2822

Arizona Scuba Shack
1349 S 22nd Dr, Yuma
928-783-1177

Dive Arizona
18618 S 186th Way,
Queen Creek 480-493-4089

Dive Shack Usa
1047 Highway 95 Ste B, Bull
Head City 928-404-1527

Diventures
9299 W Olive Ave #816,
Peoria 602-314-6650

El Mar Diving Centers
2245 W Broadway, Mesa
480-833-2971

Fins Up Scuba
6730 E McDowell Rd Ste 115,
Scottsdale 480-794-1109

Inland Water Divers
13220 W Van Buren Rd #102,
Goodyear 623-882-9060

Johns Scuba Shop
3005 North Highway 89, Suite
C, Prescott 928-778-3483

No Limits Scuba
744 W Elliot Rd #106 Tempe
480-625-0591

Paragon Dive Group
2951 N Swan Road Suite 175,
Tucson 520-771-8214

Phoenix Scuba
8502 N Black Canyon Hwy Ste H,
Phoenix 602-374-3206

Salt and Sea Scuba
4139 W Bell Rd Ste 17, Phoenix
602-601-6114

Saguaro Diving & Sports
908 E Impala Ave, Mesa
480-507-3988

Scottsdale Scuba
10636 N 71st Way Ste 14,
Scottsdale 480-998-1900

Scuba Training & Technology
Inc
2150 Kiowa Blvd, Lake Havasu
City 928-855-9400

Sea 2 Sea Scuba
3217 E Shea Blvd Ste 5,
Phoenix 480-448-5696

Summit Divers
103 S Milton Rd, Flagstaff 928-
556-8780

The Dive Shop
1702 E Prince Rd #150, Tucson
520-326-2424

The Scuba Shop
1122 South Greenfield Rd Suite
104, Mesa 480-705-9327

NEVADA

3rd Reef Divers
80 N. Pecos, STE. C, Hender-
son 725-735-2000

Aai Neptune Divers
1505 Falling Snow Ave,
Las Vegas 702-452-5723

Adventure Scuba
335 Edison Way, Reno
775-826-5333

Sierra Diving Center
104 E Grove St, Reno
775-825-2147

Simply Scuba
8544 Ble Diamond Road
Ste 150,
Las Vegas 702-462-5727

Sin City Scuba
1421 E Sunset Rd #10, Las
Vegas 702-336-8451

Stone Sports
4965 S Fort Apache Rd,
Las Vegas 800-238-9507

Tahoe Dive Center
209 Kingsbury Grade Unit 1d,
Stateline 775-884-3483

OREGON

Adventure Sports Inc
24023 Ne Shea Lane Unit #109,
Woodville
503-491-0107

Aquatic Sports & Scuba Ctr.
10803 Sw Barbur Blvd, Portland
503-245-4991

Astoria Scuba
100 39th St, Astoria
503-325-2502

Central Oregon Diving
157 Greenwood Ave, Bend
541-388-3660

Coral Sea Scuba & Watersports
123 W M Street, Grants Pass
541-472-8111

Eugene Skin Divers Supply
1090 W 6th Ave, Eugene
541-342-2351

Ocean Paradise Dive And Travel
9895 Se Sunnyside Rd, Ste H,
Clackamas 503-653-3114

Pacific Watersports Inc.
17128 Sw Shaw St, Beaverton
503-642-3483

Rogue Scuba
6022 Crater Lake Ave, Central
Point 541-830-5551

Salem Scuba Diving,
Equipment & Adventure
1170 Vista Ave Se, Salem
503-588-3483

Underwater Works Inc.
12170 Sw Main St, Tigard 503-
620-6993

UTAH

Access Scuba
446 N Park Street Ste F, St
George 435-628-3483

Adventure Plus
765 N Bluff St #D, Saint George
435-674-0082

Adventure West Scuba
1875 East Skyline Drive,
So Ogden 801-476-1300

Aqua Sports
431 W Tabernacle, St George
435-688-3483

Bonneville Sea Base
1600 N Sr 138, Grantsville
801-884-3874

Caribbean Dreamin Scuba
4520 Old Hwy 40, Park City
385-442-9065

Dive Addicts
12356 S 900 E #102, Draper
801-572-5111

Dive Utah
4679 South 2225 East, Holla-
day 801-277-3483

Dive Utah
1354 W Henkley Ave, Ogden
801-394-8842

Dixie Divers
558 E Riverside Dr Ste 108,
St George 435-627-2173

Neptune Divers
2445 S 900 E, Salt Lake City
801-466-9630

North American Divers
350 E 800 S, Orem
801-491-3483

Scuba For You
31 West 7065 South, Midvale
801-856-1158

Scuba Utah
1942 E 7000 S, Salt Lake City
801-942-2100

Scubaholics Dive Club
224 S Main St, Centerville
801-390-8273

The Dive Shop
429 W 500 S., Bountiful
801-295-5445

The Scuba Dive
2478 W 12600 S, Riverton
801-260-2100

WASHINGTON

Anacortes Diving And Supply
2502 Commercial Ave, Ana-
cortes 360-293-2070

Eight Diving Co
22311 Marine View Dr S, Des
Moines 206-429-3480

Evergreen Dive Services
4610 Evergreen Way Ste 1,
Everett 425-512-8811

Exotic Aquatics Ltd
328 Madison Ave N Ste B,
Bainbridge Isl 206-842-1980

Lighthouse Diving Center
7315 27th St W, Suite B1,
University Place 253-627-7617

Lighthouse Diving Center
13718 31st Ave W,
Lynnwood, WA 98078
425-771-2679, 800-777-DIVE

Octopus Gardens Diving
2410 Washington Suite D,
Port Townsend
360-385-3483

Orca Scuba Center
223 Ohme Garden Rd, Wenat-
chee 509-665-0660

Silent World
Diving Systems Inc.
1910 132nd Ave Ne Ste 11,
Bellevue 425-747-8842

Sound Dive Center Inc.
5000 Burwell St, Bremerton
360-373-6141

Tacoma Scuba Center
1602 Center Street Suite C,
Tacoma 253-238-1754

Thunder Reef Divers Inc.
12104 Ne Highway 99, Vancou-
ver 360-573-8507

Ti Sea Diving Lic
23405 Pacific Highway South,
Seattle 206-824-4100

Undersea Adventures Inc.
6855 W Clearwater Ave #G,
Kennewick 509-735-0735

Underwater Sports Inc.
10545 Aurora Ave N, Seattle
206-362-3310

Underwater Sports Inc.
9606 40th Ave Sw, Lakewood
253-588-6634

Underwater Sports Inc.
12003 Ne 12th Street #59,
Bellevue 425-454-5168

Underwater Sports Inc.
264 Railroad Ave, Edmonds
425-771-6322

Underwater Sports Inc.
34428 Pacific Hwy S, Federal
Way 253-874-9387

Whitworth Aquatic Center
W 300 Hawthorne Rd, Spokane
509-466-3297

Yss Dive
24080 N Hwy 101 P.o. Box 1187,
Hoodsport 360-877-2318

Joining a local dive club is a great way to add a social element to diving, and to make new like-minded friends. The following clubs have been confirmed to be around and active. To be listed in this directory and at www.cadivingnews.com send your club info to mail@scubashow.com. Copies of California Diving News will be shipped to recognized dive clubs for your members at no charge.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

ANTELOPE VALLEY DESERT DIVERS: Meets 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm at the Palmdale Cultural Center | avdesertdivers.org | avdesertdive@gmail.com

BARNACLE BUSTERS LGBT SCUBA CLUB: Meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month | barnaclebusters.org | gaydivers@sbcglobal.net

CALIFORNIA WRECK DIVERS: Meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Round Table Pizza, 4330 Redondo Beach Blvd., Torrance | cawreckdivers.org | webmaster@cawreckdivers.org

DOUGLAS DIVE CLUB: [facebook.com/groups/676947145694656](https://www.facebook.com/groups/676947145694656)

FATHOMIERS: Meets 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:30pm | fathomiers.net | fathomiers@gmail.com

LOS ANGELES BLACK U/W EXPLORERS: For club calendar and membership meeting information go to MeetUp.com | labuedivers.com | labue.org | labue@sbcglobal.net

LOS ANGELES U/W PHOTO SOCIETY: Meets 3rd Wednesday of most months at 7:30pm — Location TBA | LAUPS.org | president@laups.org

SOLE SEARCHERS DIVE CLUB, INC.: Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at zen dive co., 2020 Lincoln Ave Suite A, Pasadena | solesearchersdiveclub.com | divers@solesearchersdiveclub.com

THE SEA DIVERS: Meets 1st Tuesday of the month at 7pm at Round Table Pizza, 4330 Redondo Beach Blvd., Torrance | seadivers.org | reservations@Seadivers.org

WHALERS DIVE CLUB: whalersdiveclub.com | info@whalersdiveclub.com

ZEN DIVE CLUB: shore dives planned first and third weekend of each month, conditions permitting. Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/450804939548385/; Instagram: [@zendiveclub](https://www.instagram.com/zendiveclub/); Email: club@zendive.com

VENTURA/SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS: Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm at Black Bear Diner, 2401 Harbor Blvd, Ventura CA | channelislandsdivers.org | president@channelislandsdivers.org

PARADISE DIVE CLUB: Meets last Tuesday of the month at 6pm at Brass Bear Uptown in Santa Barbara | paradisediveclub.org | info@paradisediveclub.org

ORANGE COUNTY

AMERICAN LEGION YACHT CLUB DIVE AND SNORKEL CLUB: Meets the last Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm in the Hut at American Legion Post 291, Newport Beach | alyc.com/page-1754555 | divechair@alyc.com

DIVE 714: [facebook.com/groups/dive714](https://www.facebook.com/groups/dive714)

DIVE 760: [facebook.com/groups/dive760](https://www.facebook.com/groups/dive760)

DIVE 949: [facebook.com/groups/DIVE949](https://www.facebook.com/groups/DIVE949)

D.I.V.E.R.S.: Meets the second Wednesday of each month at McDonalds, 1839 West Chapman Avenue. Club Information 714-833-9167 | www.ecodivers.org.

OBDC: Meets quarterly at 7pm at Remax in Irvine | obdc.org | DiverJane@obdc.org

OC SPEAROS CLUB: ocspearos.org | info@ocspearos.org

ORANGE COUNTY U/W PHOTO SOCIETY: Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm-Location TBA | ocups.org | ocups1@gmail.com

PACIFIC COAST DIVE CLUB: Multiple dives planned every month (Thursdays and Sundays). Various shore locations, meet time 6:30 am | <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PacificCoastDiveClub> | Info@scuba.com | Scuba.com

SHARK BAIT DIVE CLUB: Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm - Call for location | 714-357-4623 | sharkbaitdive-club.org | sharkbaitdive@gmail.com

SOUTH COAST DIVERS: Meets every Saturday at 7:30am at the Laguna Hills Mall | southcoastdivers.com | rich@southcoastdivers.com

SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY DIVE CLUB: Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm at Buffalo Wild Wings Kaleidoscope Mission Viejo | socdc.com | socdcdiving@gmail.com

SAN DIEGO

DIVE ANIMALS SCUBA CLUB: diveanimals.com | contact@diveanimals.com

POWER SCUBA: Multiple times a week. Various shore and boat locations throughout San Diego County and beyond | www.powerscuba.org

SAN DIEGO DIVE CLUB: Meets 1st Thursday of month at 7pm at Hooley's Public House | 5500 Grossmont Center Dr. | La Mesa, CA 91942 | sandiegodiveclub.com | president@sandiegodiveclub.com

SAN DIEGO U/W PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY: Meets 4th Thursday of the month at 7pm — Location TBA | sdups.org | sdups1961@gmail.com

INLAND EMPIRE

CLUB AQUARIUS: Meets every 6 weeks at 6pm at Scuba Schools of America & Swim | scubaschoolsofamerica.com/club-aquarius | scubaschoolsofamerica@gmail.com

REEF RANGERS DIVE CLUB: Meets the first Thursday of every month at American Scuba Academy, 1551 E. Ontario Ave. Corona

SIGNATURE UNDERWATER DIVERS — RANCHO CUCAMON-GA: Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm at Round Table Pizza in Fontana | signatureunderwaterdivers.com/our-club | signatureunderwaterdivers@gmail.com

CENTRAL COAST

MONTEREY BAY SEA OTTERS: Meets last Wednesday of the month at 7pm — Virtual | montereybayseaotters.org | president@montereybayseaotters.org

UNDERWATER VOYAGERS: Meets for weekly night dives and weekend day dives at Aquarius Dive Shop, 2040 Del Monte Ave., Monterey | aquariusdivers.com/dive-club | info@aquariusdivers.com

CENTRAL VALLEY

DOLPHIN DIVERS OF SACRAMENTO: Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at Mountain Mike's Pizza at 2220 Gold Springs Ct. Gold River, CA 95670 | dolphin-divers.org

BAY AREA

ALACOSTA DIVERS: Meets 1st Monday of the month at 7:30pm at the Orinda Public Library in Orinda | alacosta.org | infoformat@alacosta.org

AQUA TUTUS: Meets 1st Thursday of the month at 7pm at Round Table Pizza in Castro Valley | aquatutus.org | newsletter@aquatutus.org

CALIDIVERS SCUBA DIVING CLUB: calidivers.org

MARIN SCUBA CLUB: Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the Sausalito Parks & Rec Center, Exercise Room, 420 Litho Street, Sausalito | marinclub.org | membership@marinclub.org

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SKIN DIVERS CLUB: We have at least one dive every month. Check website for 2022 event schedule | norcalkindivers.com | garrattb@gmail.com

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA U/W PHOTO SOCIETY: Meets 2nd Friday of the month at 7pm, via Zoom for now | ncups.org | info@ncups.org

SALT WATER REVIVAL CLUB: Meets annually on our SoCal Lobster Opening multi-day trip. Several Central and NorCal dive, boat and camp events scheduled throughout the year | saltwaterrevival1969@gmail.com | www.facebook.com/groups/256771389715384

SAN FRANCISCO REEF DIVERS: Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm at Movable Feast | sfreedivers.org | sfreediver@comcast.net

SAN JOSE FLIPPER DIPPERS: Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm at Knights of Columbus Santa Maria Hall, 2211 Shamrock Dr., Campbell | SJFlipperDippers.com | clubinfo@SJFlipperDippers.com

TRI-VALLEY DIVE CLUB: We meet the third Thursday of every month in Pleasanton. We sponsor 1-2 local dives every month and several regional dive trips each year. Trivalleydiveclub@gmail.com

NORTH COAST

HUMBOLDT SKINDIVERS: Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month | humboldtkindivers.com | cnotthoff@gmail.com

ARIZONA

ARIZONA DIVE CENTER: (co-ed) club meets the last Wednesday monthly at 6:30 pm for dinner at Dillon's BBQ, 20585 N 59th Ave, Glendale, AZ 85308. www.arizonadivecenter.com

DESERT DOLPHINS SCUBA DIVE CLUB of TUCSON: Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm | DesertDolphins.org | dolphins@desertdolphins.org

SCUBA GIRLS ARIZONA: Meets the 2nd Tuesday monthly at 6:30 pm for social dinner. Locations vary each month. Please see our Facebook events for locations. www.arizonadivecenter.com

SCUBA CLUB TUCSON: Quarterly Meetings at Paragon Dive Group, 2951 N Swan Road Suite 175, Tucson | (520) 771 8214 | www.scubaclubtucson.com

THE DIVING EVENT OF THE YEAR

2026 SCUBA SHOW

LONG BEACH CONVENTION CENTER MAY 30 – 31, 2026
ATLANTIC CITY CONVENTION CENTER JUNE 6–7, 2026

#ASKMARK



#AskMark is our scuba diving Q&A section to answer your scuba diving questions. Have a burning question about buoyancy control, or big dreams of becoming a Divemaster? Mark Newman, a Pro Diver since 2009, is here to answer your questions and share his expert knowledge – no question is too basic or bizarre! **So, gear up, dive in, and let's #AskMark**

@sheimong

#AskMark: So are there any benefits to diving sidemount in non-overhead environments?

Sidemount does have several benefits over backmount, outside of squeezing through tight cave systems. The first being the stability. Because your tanks are lower and spread alongside you like outriggers, you're less likely to turn turtle. And because the valves are under your shoulders instead of behind your neck, you can see and reach any leaks in front of you and close valves very easily.

But the best benefit for me is that you don't have to fully kit up and carry the weight of your cylinders at the same time out of the water. It saves your back to be able to place your tanks in the water, and attach them in the water. At the end of the dive you can remove your tanks and clip them to a rope to be hauled out later. Unlike backmount, you don't need to have your cylinders attached to you out of the water.



@ianjones5841

#AskMark: How can I become a certified equipment technician so I can service regulators, etc?

Message the manufacturer you want to service and they can point you in the right direction. It varies depending on what country you live in. Here in the UK, each manufacturer runs servicing courses periodically throughout the year, which are open to people who work for dive centers. Some manufacturers provide online courses so that you can learn how to service their equipment at home or at work, but you still must be affiliated with a dealer.

Here in the UK, you need to be affiliated with a dive center to service gear because that's the only way you'll be able to get official parts and tools. Many regulators have specific tools to be able to service them properly. And even if you complete a servicing course, it only qualifies you to service that particular brand, not just any brand of regulator.

It's different for other brands and countries. So your best option is to contact the brand so they can inform you of the best way to become a technician for their gear.

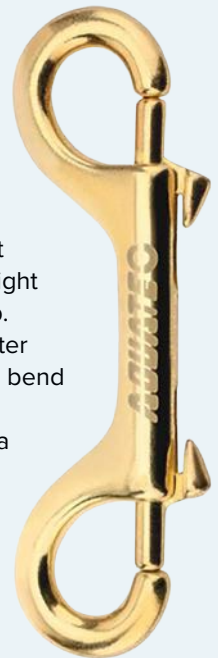


@char-007-1

#AskMark: What is your opinion on brass bolt snaps?

I dislike brass boltsnaps. Brass is a great metal for scuba diving because it cannot rust, it's lightweight and it's relatively cheap. However, brass is a softer metal that will dent and bend easily. That's okay for a first stage because it's a solid block of brass. For small, thin tools like a boltsnap, they can easily bend and leave an opening for something small to escape the hook.

I also find that the movement isn't as smooth with a brass boltsnap and they can sometimes develop sharp edges, which can damage gear. Overall, a brass boltsnap will get the job done, but if there's a stainless steel boltsnap available, I'd choose that over brass any day.



TUSA[®]
FIND YOUR OCEAN

Xentra



Smart

SLEEK DESIGN AND PROPULSION
ENGINEERED FOR EVERY
UNDERWATER ADVENTURE.

Powerful



Arennui
The Boutique Liveaboard



INDONESIA
KOMODO
RAJA AMPAT
AMBON
ALOR
SPICE ISLANDS
TRITON BAY
HALMAHERA
SULAWESI
BORNEO
FORGOTTEN ISLANDS



22 CREW TO MAX 16 GUESTS
5 DIVE GUIDES
WESTERN CRUISE DIRECTORS

✓ LUXURY CABINS

✓ 5 STAR SERVICE

✓ GOURMET FOOD

✓ MASSAGE

WWW.THEARENUI.COM / INFO@THEARENUI.COM