

California

Wreck Divers, Inc

PORTHOLE

February 2026 Vol.56 No. 2

Our GENERAL MEETING will be Wed. Feb. 25th

January is Renewal Month

**Eric will give a presentation on
the 1939 Underwater Rescue of
33 sailors from the U.S. Navy
submarine USS Squalus SS-192**



**March 14 CWD Banquet and
Raffle (Info Pending)**

*To perpetuate the awareness of maritime history through organized
exploration, research, restoration, and display..."*

Visit us on the Internet: www.cawreckdivers.org for the
web version of our newsletter



California Wreck Divers, Inc.

Officers and Crew:

Jim Vidmar
President

Jocko Robinson
Vice-President,
Program Chair

Steve Lawson
Treasurer
(949) 433-8030

Eric Frasco
Dive Coordinator
Secretary
(310) 489-3495

Mike Reinboth
Porthole Editor
Membership
(310) 370-3411

NEED A SHIPWRECK PRESENTATION?

If your dive club or other organization would like a free presentation, contact David Finnern. As an award-winning author, he will regale your group with stories and photos; from treasure-laden shipwrecks and long-lost aircraft to submerged trains and sunken cities, his presentation will leave no doubt why some divers choose to explore that which is lost below.

(949) 735-6396

Email: dafin1@hotmail.com

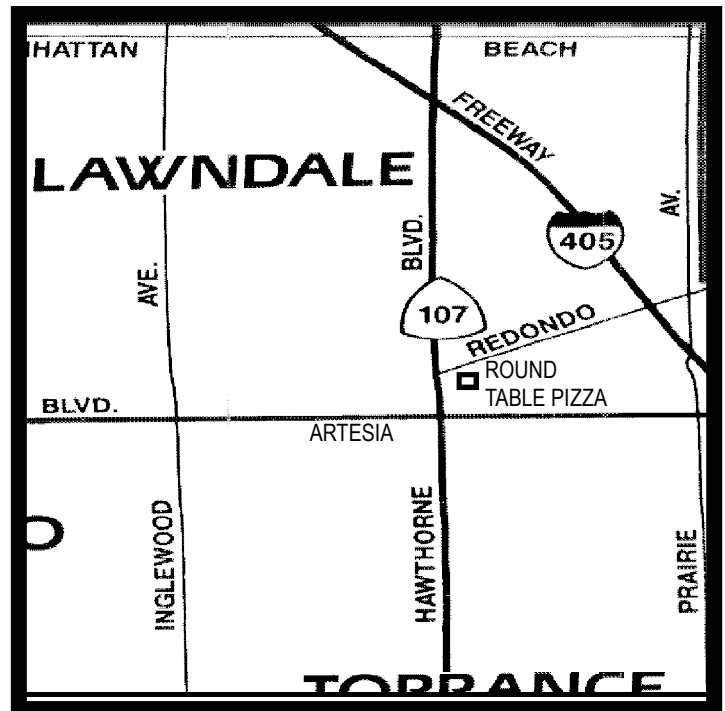
GENERAL MEETING

Meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of every month at Round Table Pizza, 4330 Redondo Beach Bl., Lawndale. All are welcome. A social hour begins at 6:30, and the formal meeting begins at 7:00.



Porthole Problems?

If you are having problems receiving your Porthole, contact Mike Reinboth at (310) 370-3411. If you get an answering machine, please leave your name and address corrections and the update will be made before the next issue is emailed. It is important to notify us of any changes because the subscriptions of all returned newsletters are cancelled. Note: Printed Porthole copies will resume later this year...





From the Helm

CWD T-Shirts and CWD Challenge Coins are available at the Wed. General Meeting.

Lobster Season is open: Be careful out there!

Brass for Travis! Its for a great cause!

We are still collecting: Scrap Brass and Copper for the benefit of Travis- We'll be ready to make a run soon. Bring anything you don't want to the meeting or Mike's house. Please see any full member for details.

EVENT SCHEDULE 2024
PLEASE ARRIVE PROMPTLY AT LEAST 1/2 HOUR PRIOR TO DEPARTURE TIME Call ERIC FRASCO at (310) 489-3495 to sign up or for further info.

Membership

Membership Renew: (E-mailed Porthole) \$25
mailed Porthole(Suspended)
New Associate Membership (E-mailed Porthole) \$30*
New Memberships: CAWreckdivers.org/join

Upcoming Events

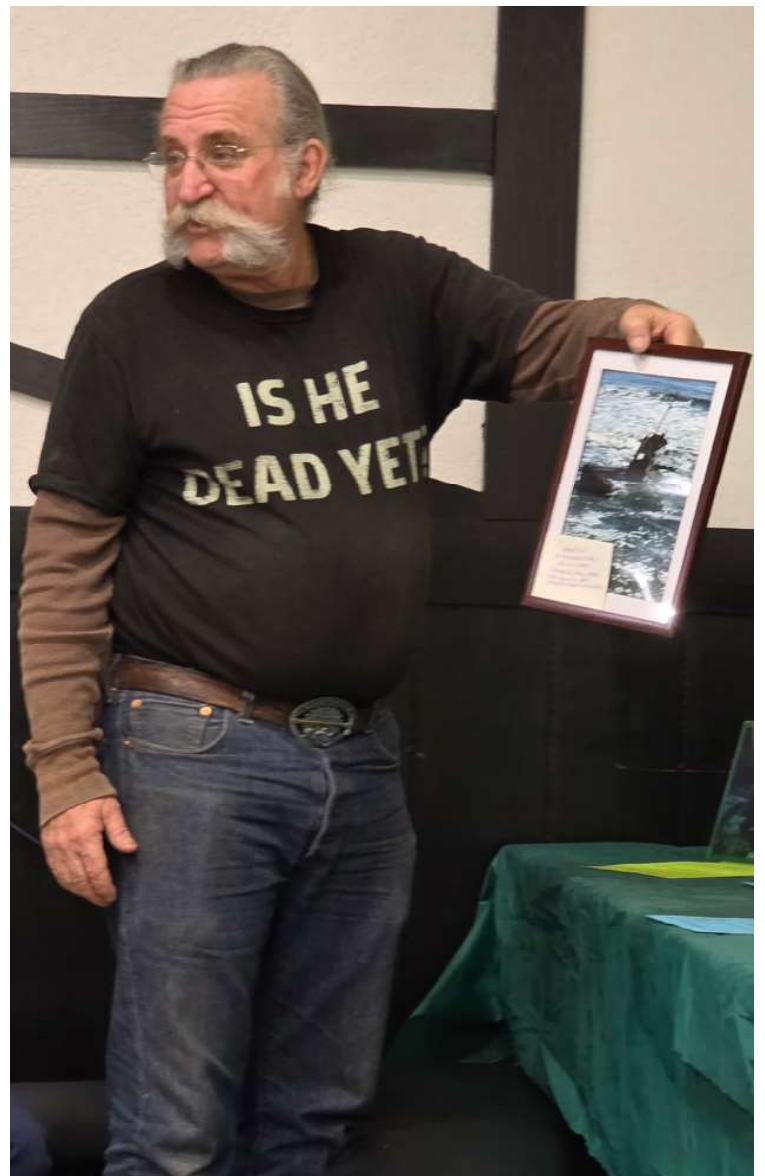
CWD Monthly Meeting Raffle has come back!

Thank you Harmony!

Dive n Surf Yard Sale Ongoing at 10am
Come early for the best gear!

CWD Annual Banquet Saturday March 14
(Info Pending)

Brass Contest 2025 Dive Year



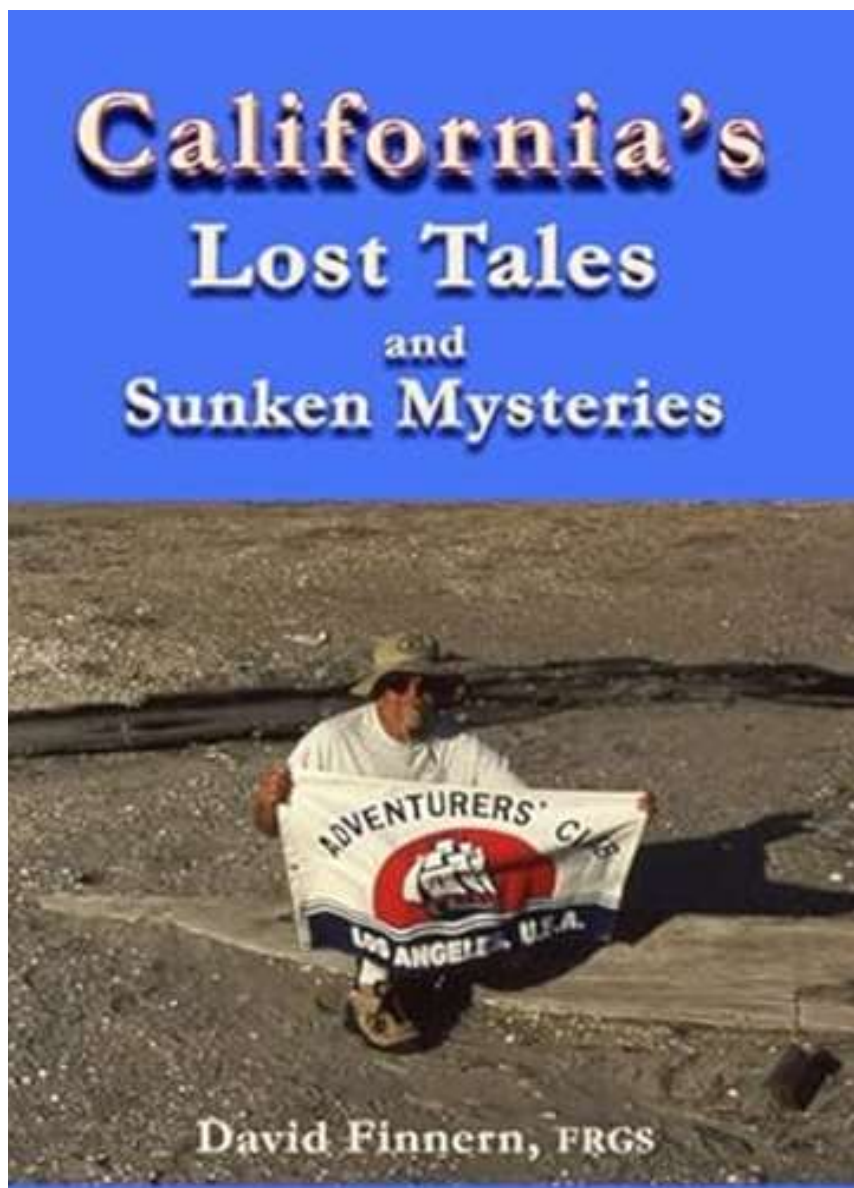


2025 CWD XMAS Dive (Thanks to Kathy and Jocko for Pics)





SUNKEN TREASURE, PIRATE SHIPS, SMUGGLERS, LOST AIRCRAFT – CALIFORNIA TEEMS WITH HISTORICAL INTRIGUE



Award-winning writer, explorer, and investigator David Finnern delves into the far corners of the Golden State to uncover the forgotten tales and sunken mysteries of the past. The treasure-laden Brother Jonathan slams into a submerged rock and sinks in 1865 to become California's worst maritime disaster. The airship USS Macon was one of the largest flying objects ever built, only to crash into deep water off Monterey in 1935. The USS Bennington lay quietly at anchor until a mysterious explosion rocks San Diego Harbor in 1905. A harbor filled with enigmatic shipwrecks, including a notorious Chinese pirate ship, hidden off Los Angeles. These are but a few of the tales in California's Lost Tales and Sunken Mysteries.

Explore the true accounts of lost aircraft, missing riverboats, and the very ship that Jack London used as a model for Ghost in his immortal tale, The Sea Wolf. Search for such enduring legends as the Ghost Ship of the Desert and other true accounts of not only history but the adventure of exploration and discovery as told

by a seasoned storyteller. 200 pages. Illustrated with over a hundred vintage and present-day photographs. [Available in print, Kindle and Audible versions.](#)

New Book (2nd in the series) by our very own Dave Finnern! Look for an Upcoming Presentation and Book Signing in the near future...

Lost Tales and Sunken Mysteries



David Finnern

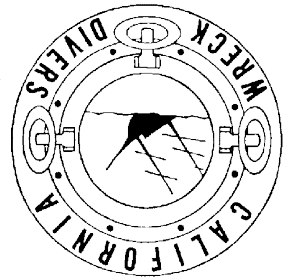
Dave Finnern's 2nd latest book is now available online at Amazon. Get your copy!

Why does a 120-year-old sunken train lay hidden beneath the waters of a remote mountain lake? Who built the mysterious antiquated submarine discovered beneath a river in downtown Chicago? Did hidden caves in a popular Southern California restaurant once conceal Nazi spies? Does a sunken gambling ship still hide secret treasures? Part history, part real-life adventure, these are but a few of the 23 stories regaled in *Lost Tales and Sunken Mysteries*.

In the tradition of Indiana Jones, with perhaps a hint of Mark Twain,

David Finnern has spent over 35 years diving deep below foreboding waters, trudging through swamps and exploring jungle rivers - whatever it takes to discover and write about that lost and unknown piece of the past. In *Lost Tales and Sunken Mysteries* history becomes breathtaking as only an award-winning adventure writer can make it.

The book was recently released in both print and Kindle versions, and is available through Amazon or wherever books are sold. Of special interest to California Wreck Divers, several members are featured in Dave's explorations, including Steve Lawson, Peter Jensen, Chris Gilmartin, Bill Wilson, Phil Bergeron, Tom Oedy and the Bottle Guy – Mike Polak.



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Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
Address Correction Requested

California Wreck Divers' 2026 Calendar of Events

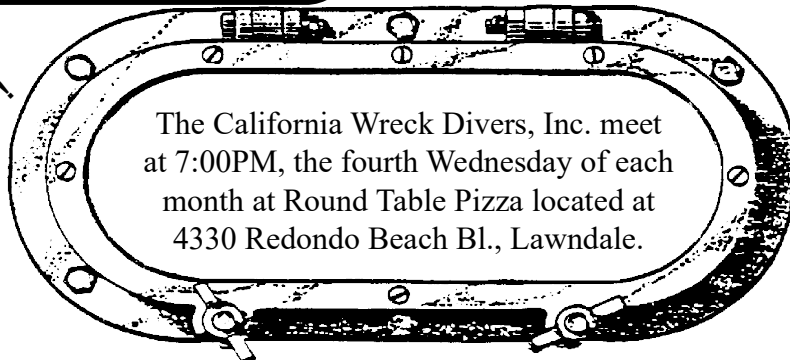
**February 25th General Meeting at
Round Table Pizza**

March. 14th Annual CWD Banquet

Dive n Surf Yard Sale ongoing

If you would like to become an Associate member of the California Wreck Divers, Inc., you do not have to be a scuba diver to participate. There are many activities you may enjoy. However, you must be at least 18 years of age. **The first year's dues are \$40.** You will receive a membership card, club patch, and a year's E subscription to the *Porthole*. Membership renewal is just \$25 for electronic newsletter distribution. If you are interested in a new way of having fun and entertainment, contact one of our officers listed on Page 2.

**"SOCIAL HOUR"
BEGINS AT 6:30 !**



The California Wreck Divers, Inc. meet at 7:00PM, the fourth Wednesday of each month at Round Table Pizza located at 4330 Redondo Beach Bl., Lawndale.

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