

California

Wreck Divers, Inc

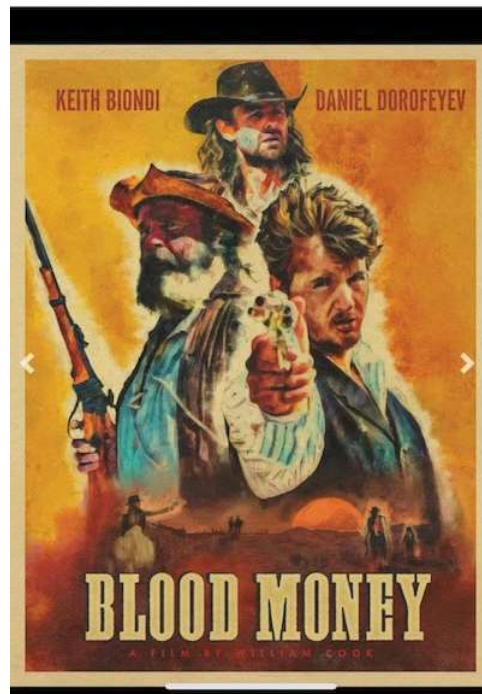
PORTHOLE

April 2025 Vol.55 No. 4

Our GENERAL MEETING will be Wed. April 23rd
Don't forget to Renew your Membership!

April Program is by our very own Keith Biondi discussing his recent Diving and Movie activities.

Keep an eye out for Will Cook's film "Blood Money" coming soon !



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

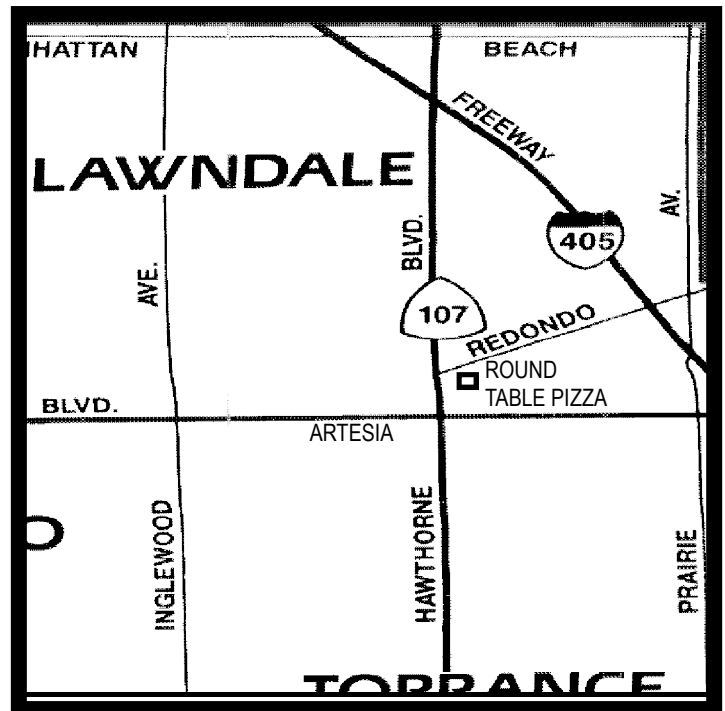
GENERAL MEETING

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.

January is renewal month. Help keep your club alive

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.

SCUBASHOW.COM

Show dates: May 31 & June 1, 2025

Location: Long Beach Convention Center, Hall C — Long Beach, CA

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.

2025 Dive Schedule Pending

Dive N'Surf has chartered Marissa to San Diego Wreck Alley on Saturday July 26, 8 am, 2 tank dive to Wreck Alley. Dive Team Members \$149.99, non-members \$169.99. Any interest?

Call us now to secure your spot!
310.372.842

Membership

Memberships are due January

2025 Renew: (E-mailed Porthole) \$25
mailed Porthole(Suspended)
New Associate Membership (E-mailed Porthole) \$30*



official website: www.ChamberDay.org.

CHAMBER DAY 2025 IS A LITTLE LESS THAN THREE WEEKS AWAY!

For those who have not yet signed up for Chamber Day 2025, here's how you can help support your USC Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber.

CHAMBER DAY DIVES, TOURS, & RAFFLE (ONLY A FEW SPOTS REMAIN)

Go diving and get a tour of the Chamber with Chamber Day 2025 Dive
Talk with members of the organizations that respond to, and investigate, diving accidents
You will be entered into the Chamber Day Raffle for a chance to win valuable prizes

CHAMBER EVENING FUND RAISING DINNER & V.G.D. PACKAGE

Attend the 2025 Annual Chamber Evening Dinner at the Aquarium of the Pacific
Enjoy the chance to explore uncrowded exhibits at the Aquarium
Add to your Chamber Evening experience by becoming a V.G.D. (Very Generous Diver)

DONATE TO THE 2025 CATALINA CHAMBER CHALLENGE (CAN YOU HELP US REACH OUR \$140,000 GOAL)

Make cash donation and then “challenge” your friends and associates to follow your lead
If your employer has a matching grant program, your Challenge donations usually qualify

JOIN THE GHOSTLY CREW & “DIVE” THE FLYING DUTCHMAN (THERE ARE UNLIMITED SPOTS REMAINING ON THIS IMAGINARY BOAT)

For those who can't take a Wednesday off - sign up for the Flying Dutchman and get your limited edition 2025 Flying Dutchman T-shirt

ORDER CHAMBER DAY & CHAMBER EVENING SHIRTS ON-LINE

Pre-Order your event shirts on-line and pick them up during Chamber Day or Chamber Evening, or have them shipped to you

With just under three weeks to go until Chamber Day 2025 (Wednesday, May 7th), there are still plenty of ways you can support the USC Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber, now celebrating its 51st year of service to the Southern California diving community.

Over 60% of the funding needed to keep the Chamber operating comes from fundraising events like Chamber Day and Chamber Evening, as well as diver education programs. Your participation truly makes a difference.

If you've already signed up—THANK YOU for your support!

To learn more about how you can get involved in Chamber Day and Chamber Evening 2025, just click any of the

FYI:



SPONSORED BY OCUPS

Orange County Underwater Photographic Society



SCUBA SWAP

**JOIN US TO BUY AND SELL USED DIVING AND
UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY GEAR**

SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH




8:00 - 12:00

6082 EDINGER AVE - HUNTINGTON BEACH

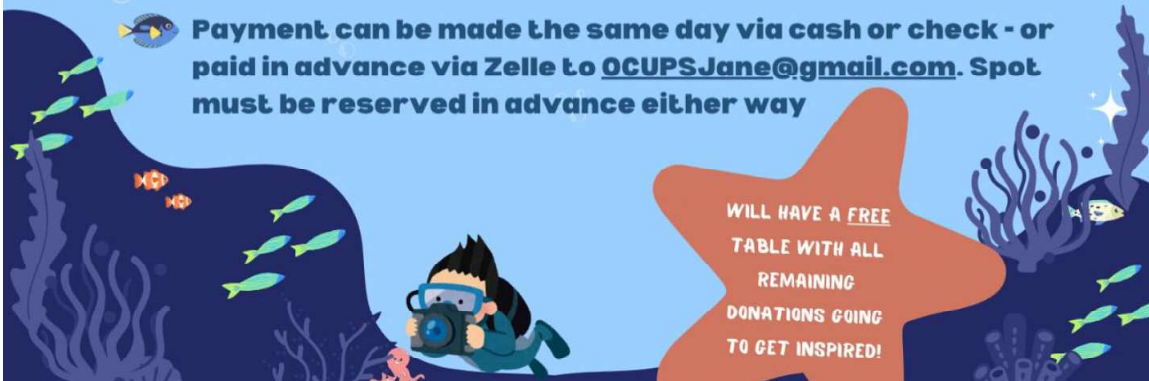
Parking is located across the street. PLEASE BE AWARE: Mario's, the mexican restaurant will tow after 11:00am. Please use the crosswalk to arrive and get home safely!

WANT TO SIGN UP TO SELL YOUR OLD GEAR?

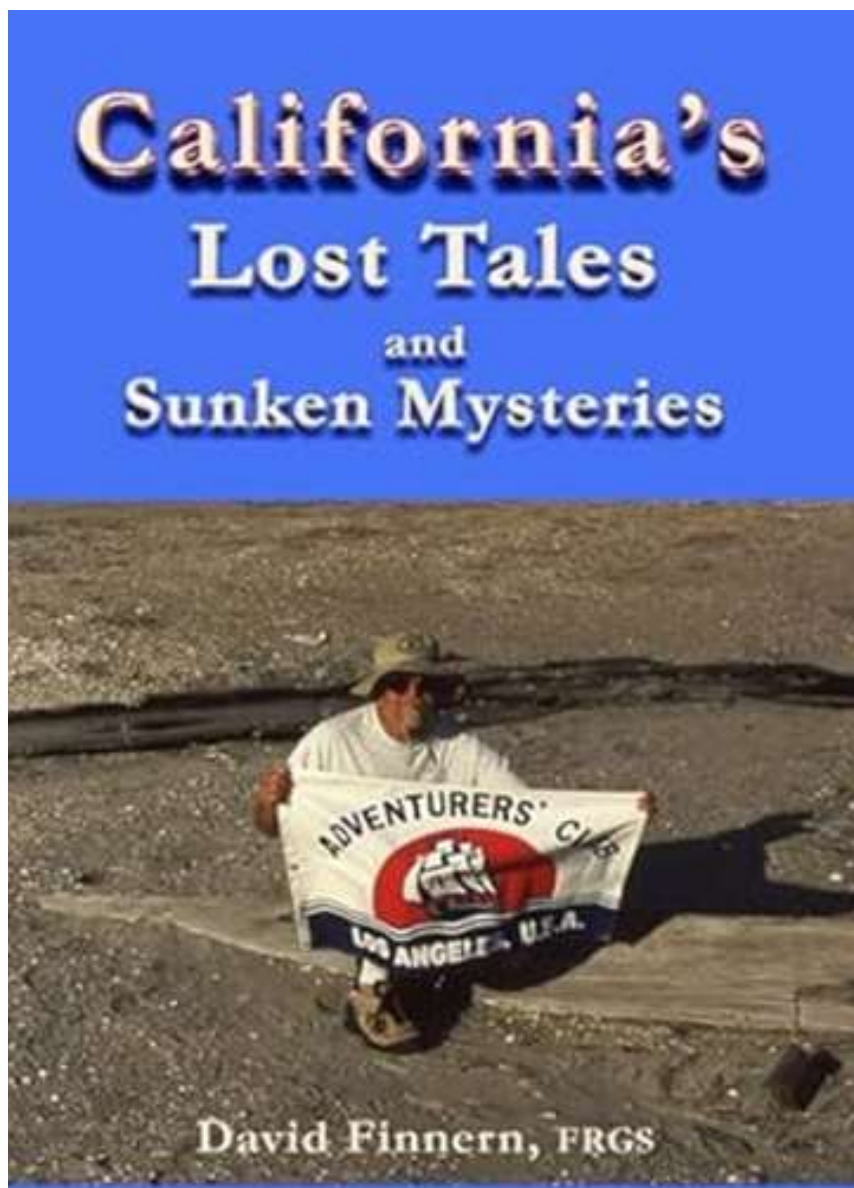
We'd love to have you come out to support and sell your old gear (we all have it!) If you'd like to sign up, here's what you need to know:

-  **\$25 for a standard parking lot size space - can be individual or shared**
-  **Your spot must be reserved in advance as we expect to fill up. Please email Cindy Shaw at CindyDives@gmail.com to claim your spot!**
-  **Payment can be made the same day via cash or check - or paid in advance via Zelle to OCUPSJane@gmail.com. Spot must be reserved in advance either way**

**WILL HAVE A FREE
TABLE WITH ALL
REMAINING
DONATIONS GOING
TO GET INSPIRED!**



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

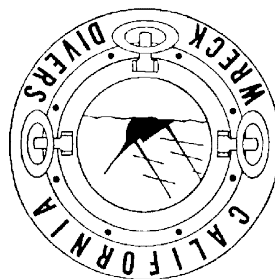
Dave Finnern's 2nd latest book is now available online at Amazon. Get your copy!

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.



California Wreck Divers, Inc.
P.O. Box 3042,
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
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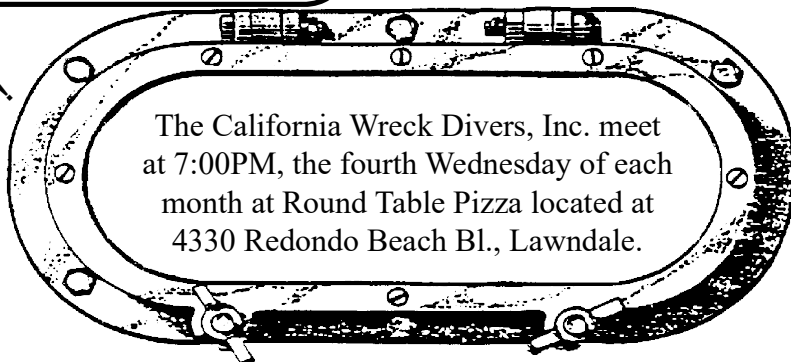
Porthole

California Wreck Divers' 2025 Calendar of Events

April 23rd General Meeting at
Round Table Pizza

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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