

California

Wreck Divers, Inc

PORTHOLE

June 2025 Vol.55 No. 6

Our GENERAL MEETING will be Wed. June 25th

June Program will be our very own Chris Gilmartin.

Talking about Local South Coast shipwreck finds.



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.

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Secretary
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Porthole Editor
Membership
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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

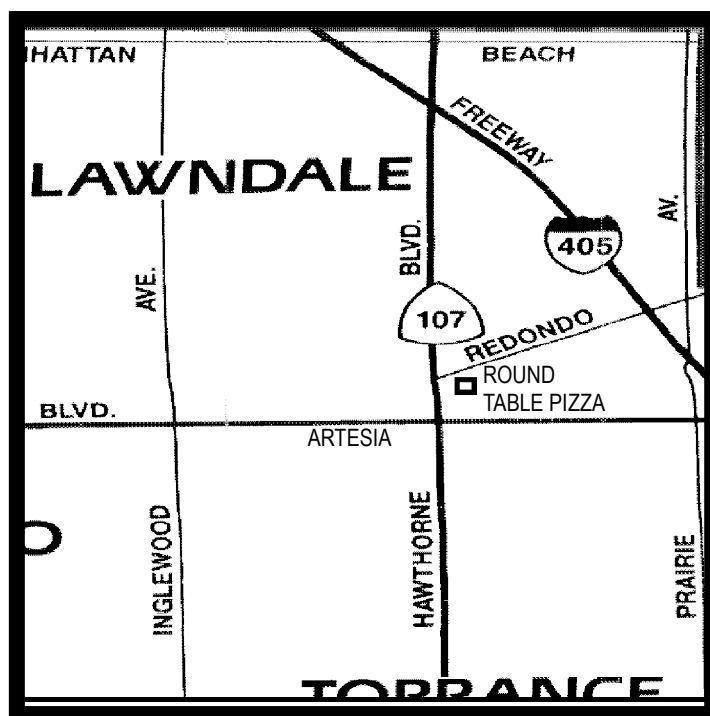
GENERAL MEETING

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

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*

New Memberships: CAWreckdivers.org/

Last month's meeting: Finding the Brother Jonathan with Jim Wadsley giving us the inside perspective.



Rork Media Expands Global Reach with Acquisition of California Diving News and Scuba Show

Rork Media, good friends of The Scuba News Team and the powerhouse behind international dive media brands such as Scuba Diver Magazine, Divernet.com, and the GO Diving Show, has officially acquired the California Diving News and the highly regarded Scuba Show held annually in Long Beach, California.



CWD Dive n Surf Swap Meet coming soon in August!

**New Post & Pics- Wrecked in my rEvo - TBF-1C
Avenger BuNo 47746 (Anacapa Island — 120 fsw)**

FYI: Letter from SCUBA Show / CDN former owner; Mark Young

Dear Industry Friends,

I wanted to get this out to everyone before the official announcement, and it is a hard letter for me to write. Since establishing Dive Training and Dive Center Business I have been deep in the diving industry for 34 years, now it's time to go. Some personal events in recent years prompted this, along with my family bugging me to do it, and as the thought was settling in I began thinking about who to trust to continue Scuba Show and California Diving News. That's when I came across Ross Arnold and Mark Evans at DEMA.

You know Rork Media (named for Ross and Mark). Among other properties they publish Scuba Diver magazine in four countries, the UK, Germany, United States and Australia, and they produce two successful and growing dive shows, GODIVING SHOW in the UK, and GODIVING SHOW in Australia.

I was embarrassed that I had never met them, but as they showed me all they are doing, and talked of their plans to grow their value for the industry, I was compelled to open the dialog, which has led to their acquisition of Scuba Show and California Diving News.

I was most interested in their vision for Scuba Show to become more than the strong West Coast show that it is. Our industry needs more powerful events that attract and motivate consumers and forge very important personal connections, and Ross and Mark plan to expand Scuba Show into other strong North American markets. Because of that, I will be a silent shareholder to the Rork Media Team and do what I can to assist with their visions for growth.

The official handover of Scuba Show and California Diving News will be the day after Scuba Show 2025, on June 2, and Ginny and I will work with them as needed through the 2026 show. Then I look to continue with Mark and Ross on a strategic level.

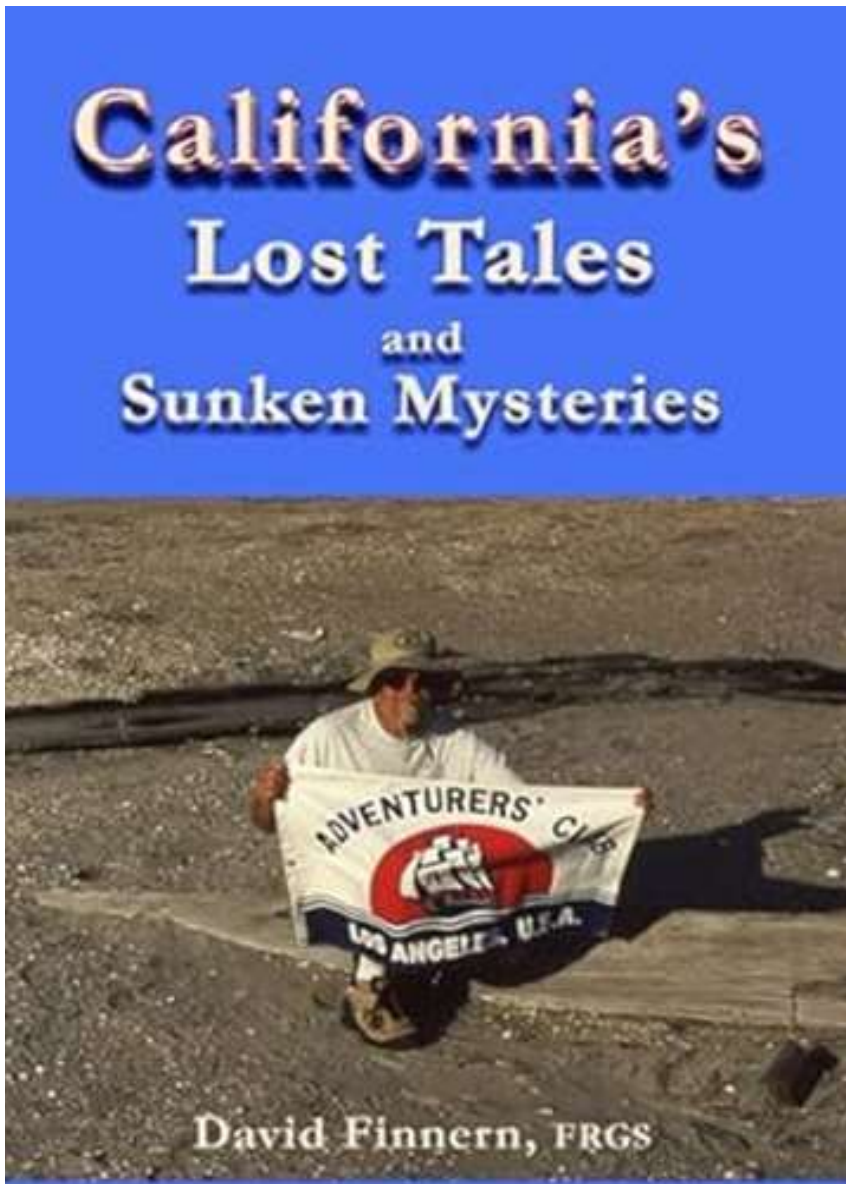
On a very personal note, I couldn't imagine having done anything better over the last three decades, and the best thing to happen was when I was approached by Kim and Dale Sheckler to take on Scuba Show. I knew the diving community, but not to the level of appreciation where this has led me. And that is 100 percent because of the very fine people that are attracted to the diving business, and that I have had the honor and privilege to work with and get to know. Those aren't words. It is deep in my heart.

Finally, please don't call or write. We are buried in the upcoming show and the transition of the business, and I would feel crushed to not be able to answer with reverent care. Plus, I would rather kind of drift off.

With love and all of my very best wishes,

Mark Young

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 on-line at Amazon. Get your copy!

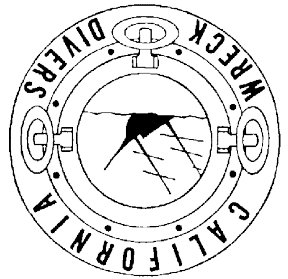
Why does a 120-year-old sunken train lay hidden beneath the waters of a remote mountain lake? Who built the mysterious antiquated submarine discovered beneath a river in downtown Chicago? Did hidden caves in a popular Southern California restaurant once conceal Nazi spies? Does a sunken gambling ship 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.

Porthole
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Address Correction Requested

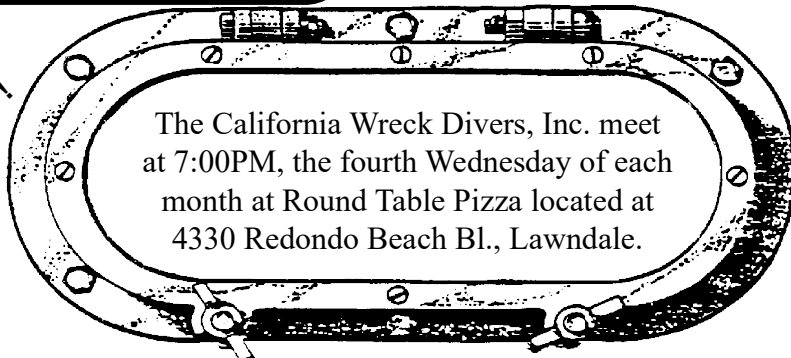


California Wreck Divers' 2025 Calendar of Events

**June 25th 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 !



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