California Wreck Divers, Inc.

PORTHOLE

October 2026 Vol.56 No.10

Our GENERAL MEETING will be Wed. Oct. 28th

October Meeting Dave Hall - the Bottle Guy Presentation and dive report from the SAC River trip.

Members - Bring in your bottles for show and tell and evaluation

Any Interest in a Lake Mead B-29 Trip?

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?

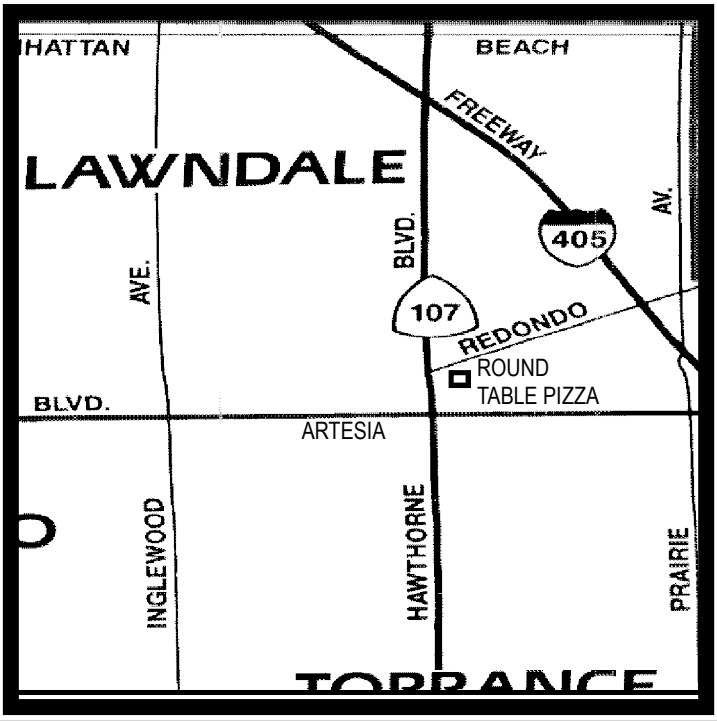
If your dive club or other organization would like a free presentation, contact David Finnern. As an award-winning author, he will regale your group with stories and photos; from treasure-laden shipwrecks and long-lost aircraft to submerged trains and sunken cities, his presentation will leave no doubt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

****

Membership

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

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.

****

Dec 6 CWD annual XMAS Dive contact Jim Vidmar for details.

Upcoming CIDA Dive Trips / Events

****

Sun.-Nov. 29, 2026		**Giant Stride (6)**	
	Olympic and Oil Rigs		
San Pedro 6:30 am Sat.	7:00 am-4:00 pm	3 dives, snacks & air	$230.00

For any questions concerning CIDA trips, please contact Ken Kollwitz at (805) 469-7288 or info@channelislandsdiveadventures.com

Wrecked in my rEvo

Trip Report : Cape Charles Wreck Photogrammetry Model – Dive 1 by Brett Eldridge

https://wreckedinmyrevo.com/2026/10/15/cape-charles-wreck-photogrammetry-dive-1/

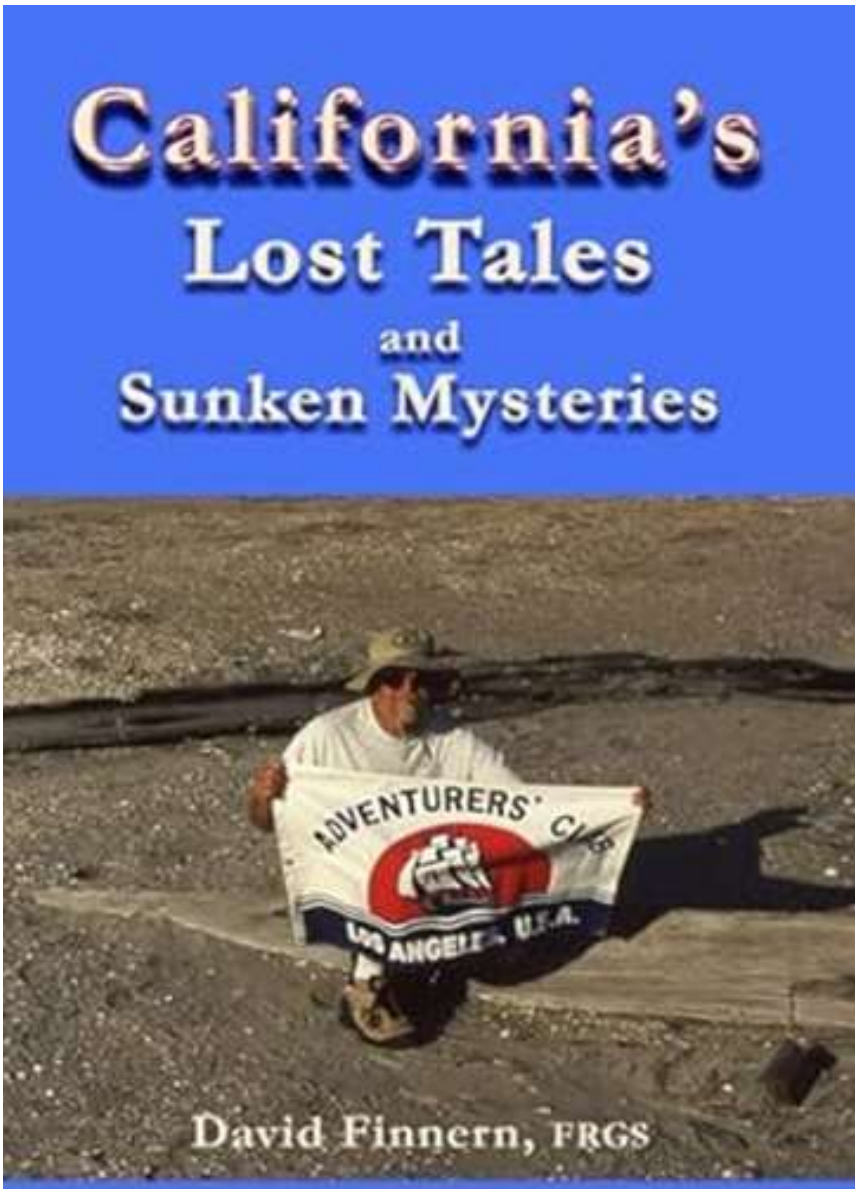
Swell Ships and Flying Coffins: The Letters of Lawrence Works (More Anacapa TBM Avenger Info)
By Brett Eldridge on October 19, 2026

https://wreckedinmyrevo.com/2026/10/19/lawrence-works-tbf-avenger-letters/

Trip Report : Million Dollar Point: Diving the WWII Junkyard of Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu August 26, 2026by Brett Eldridge

https://wreckedinmyrevo.com/2026/08/26/million-dollar-point-vanuatu/

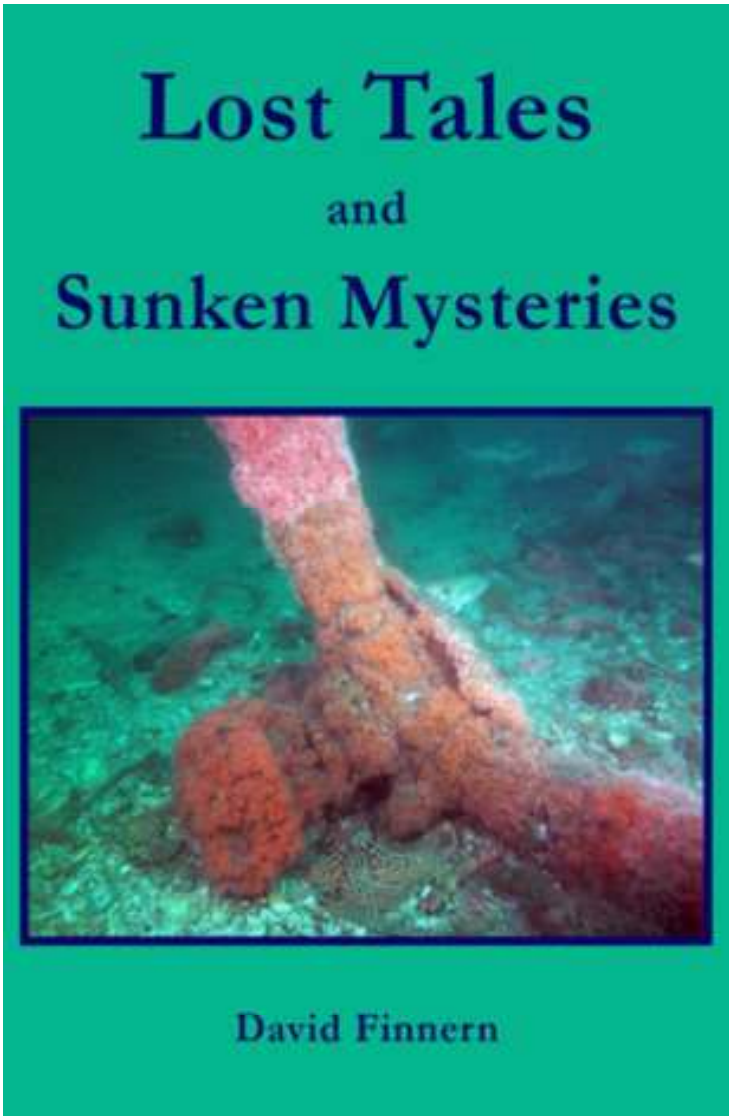
SUNKEN TREASURE, PIRATE SHIPS, SMUGGLERS, LOST AIRCRAFT – CALIFORNIA TEEMS WITH HISTORICAL INTRIGUE



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 (Amazon).

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



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 down-town Chicago? Did hidden caves in a popular Southern California restau-rant 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 breath-taking 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 inter-est 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.

Dated First
Class Material!

California Wreck Divers,Inc.
P.O. Box 3042,
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
Address Correction Requested

Porthole

California Wreck Divers' 2026 Calendar of Events

October 28th 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.

"SOCIAL HOUR" BEGINS AT 6:30 !