

PLUGGED IN

FUN FOR KIDS

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY AND ART

This Month's Theme: Underwater Exploration

How did diving start in Santa Barbara?

Santa Barbara diving began in the late 1800s and early 1900s when Asian immigrants began diving for abalone and other marine invertebrates (animals without a backbone). Early diving consisted mostly of hardhat diving and included a heavy metal helmet with a hose leading to it (see picture at right). The hose contained air, which was pumped down to the diver from a boat at the surface. It wasn't until SCUBA diving was invented in the mid 1900s that diving was made easier and allowed more people to participate. Divers today can move freely underwater to dive for fun, work, and to harvest seafood. SCUBA is a popular activity that allows people to experience the unique beauty of the Santa Barbara Channel and visit it like they would any other tourist destination on land.



Photo by Julie McDonald

Trivia Question: What does "SCUBA" stand for?
 Answer: Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus

What do divers do?

Professional divers are needed in many different areas. Santa Barbara City College offers a diving degree program, allowing students to pursue career paths in commercial or recreational diving. The Marine Diving Technology program works closely with the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum for many events and festivals throughout the year. Below are some opportunities and jobs for divers.

- * Harvesting seafood
- * Scientific research
- * Building/repairing oil rigs and sewage pipes
- * Welding, drilling, ironworking and rigging

While working underwater, divers constantly have to monitor their surroundings. If they are not careful, the heavy equipment they are repairing or their own tools can slip and cut the airlines that connect them to their tanks or to ocean surface. Locally, divers work on off shore oil rigs, study shipwrecks, and conduct scientific research.

The Winfield Scott

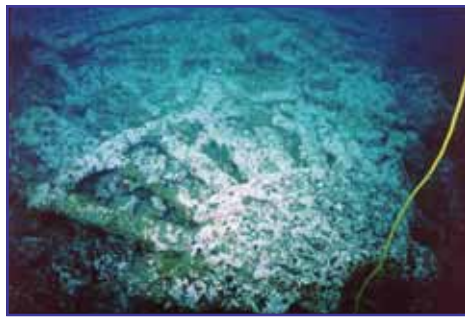
The *Winfield Scott*, a side-wheel paddle steamer, sunk at Anacapa Island in 1853 while en route from San Francisco to Panama with 500 passengers on board and a cargo of gold bullion. This is one of over 200 documented shipwrecks in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and National Park. To find out more about the *Winfield Scott*, please visit the following web page: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/cinms/winfieldscott1.html>

Become A Marine Archeologist

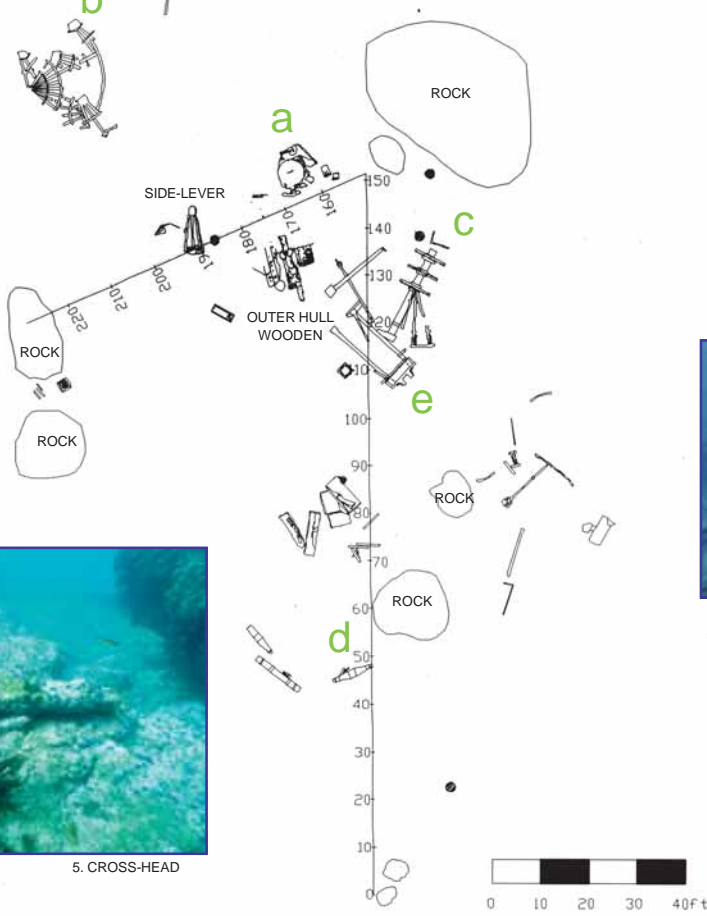
Marine Archeologists study and map underwater shipwrecks. Below you will find an underwater map of the pieces of the *Winfield Scott* shipwreck. See if you can draw lines to match the photos to the parts of the shipwreck (labeled a-e). Answers are upside-down and below.



Photo courtesy of Deborah Marx



1. PADDLE-WHEEL BRACING



3. PADDLE-WHEEL SHAFT & HUB



4. PADDLE-WHEEL SHAFT SUPPORT



2. PISTON CYLINDER BASE

Winfield Scott wreck photos by Robert Schwemmer. Activity courtesy of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

Site Map
 Submerged Shipwreck,
Winfield Scott
 Middle Anacapa Island



5. CROSS-HEAD

Answer Key: 1b, 2a, 3c, 4c, 5d

Santa Barbara Maritime Museum

At the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, you and your family can explore the interesting history of diving in this area! The museum has an exhibit that features many of the different types of dive helmets as well as helmets used in movies, such as *The Abyss*. You can also see the JIM suit (photo on left) — a suit from the 1970s that was used in deep water environments for the oil industry. It can descend to 2,000 feet underwater!



Photo by Gretchen Beckert

Live Dive!

Divers at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Ty Warner Sea Center use cutting-edge diving technology to take visitors on a tour of the many marine creatures living under Stearns Wharf. Visitors view real-time video of fish, sea stars, and other marine animals, without setting a foot in water. Using a full-face mask, an underwater naturalist narrates the live dive experience!



Photo by Gary Robinson

Page Contributors: Stephanie A. Griesmer, Director of Education, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum; Aaron Micallef, Curator, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum; Abbey Chamberlain, Education Assistant, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum; Laura Francis, Education Coordinator, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary; and staff of the Ty Warner Sea Center.

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www.wildlingmuseum.org

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www.theoutdoorschool.org

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