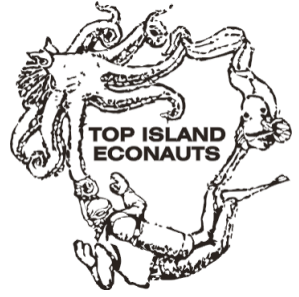


## Letter of Introduction Top Island Econauts Dive Club



### Contact Information

Box 1424, Port McNeill, BC, V0N-2R0  
Tel 250-230-7136; [econauts@telus.net](mailto:econauts@telus.net)  
Website: [www.econauts.org](http://www.econauts.org)

### History and operation

The Top Island Econauts Dive Club was established in 1975 to promote safe and environmentally sound recreational diving on Northern Vancouver Island. The Certificate of Incorporation dates back to April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1976. As a registered society, the Club operates according to the Society Act and the constitution and by-laws last amended on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018. A copy of the constitution and bylaws is available via the website.

### Club Philosophy

The Top Island Econauts are dedicated to sharing expertise and adhering to safe practices. The Club practices a strict "no touch, no take" approach and has a strong commitment to marine research and education.

### Membership

Membership dues are \$45/diver/year.

In order to be a diving member, the following criteria must be met:

- Valid dive certification
- An application for membership must be filled supported by nomination by a member of the Top Island Econauts
- Annual liability waiver must be filled in, in full (this is in addition to the waiver to be signed before every dive).
- The application must be accepted by all Top Island Econaut Directors
- If the application is accepted:
  - The applicant must watch the Diving Risk Awareness video and read the Standard Operating Procedures. Both [are at this link](#).
  - Dues must be paid within 14 days and are due annually by January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Any outstanding fuel fees are also due at this time. In accordance with bylaw 12, if annual dues are not paid within 60 days, membership ceases.

### Health and Safety

- It is the member's responsibility to relay any health issues and medications via a double-sealed envelope to the Club President. This will be kept, sealed, in the first aid kit that is always on the boat when we dive. It will only be opened in case of a medical emergency.
- It is Club policy that all diving members dive with a BCD, light, knife and spare second and that cylinders must be up to date with hydrostatic testing and visual inspections.
- It is expected that all members are vaccinated for COVID-19 as per the latest guidance from the Provincial Health Authority.
- It is expected that all members have [membership with the Divers' Alert Network \(DAN\)](#).
- All members must sign a liability waiver before every dive.

- All members must have read the Standard Operating Procedures and watched the Dive Risk Awareness video. Both are available here [www.econauts.org/Liability\\_Waiver.html](http://www.econauts.org/Liability_Waiver.html).

### **Liability**

Note that the Top Island Econauts Dive Club (Organization) is a collective of friends who share a vessel to make safe and responsible diving accessible to members. We are not a dive charter company. There is great attention to protocols and procedures that ensure safety. However, all responsibility lies with individual club members to ensure their wellbeing. The Organization is free from any and all liability for any damage, loss, expense or injury resulting from participation in the Organization's activities.

### **Meetings**

The Top Island Econauts meet online on the first Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise announced. The Annual General Meeting is held in November.

### **Dive dates**

Dives are announced at the monthly meeting and are listed online at [www.econauts.org/Dives\\_Events.html](http://www.econauts.org/Dives_Events.html) and [www.facebook.com/groups/TopIslandEconauts](https://www.facebook.com/groups/TopIslandEconauts). Sign up by calling the Dive Coordinator at 250-956-4902 (Andy Hanke).

### **Dive sign-up**

Divers can sign up at the meeting or by calling the Dive Coordinator. A minimum of 2 local dive members and a designated and approved boat operator are needed for the boat to go out.

### **Confirming or Canceling Dives**

The Dive Coordinator is to be called by the Wednesday prior to a dive to confirm participation.

### **Fuel fee**

There is a fuel fee of \$35 per boat dive per diver. If there are only 2 divers, the fuel fee is \$70 per diver per dive. E-transfer to [econauts@telus.net](mailto:econauts@telus.net).

### **Top Island Econaut Executive 2025-26**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dive Coordinator - Andy Hanke</li> <li>• President – Jackie Hildering</li> <li>• Vice President – Danielle Lacasse</li> <li>• Treasurer / Secretary – Jacqui Engel</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directors – 2-year term remaining<br/>- Alex Spicer and Gord Jenkins</li> <li>• Directors – 1-year term remaining<br/>- Stephanie Lacasse and Linnea Flostrand</li> </ul> |
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