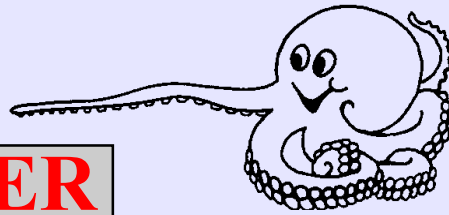
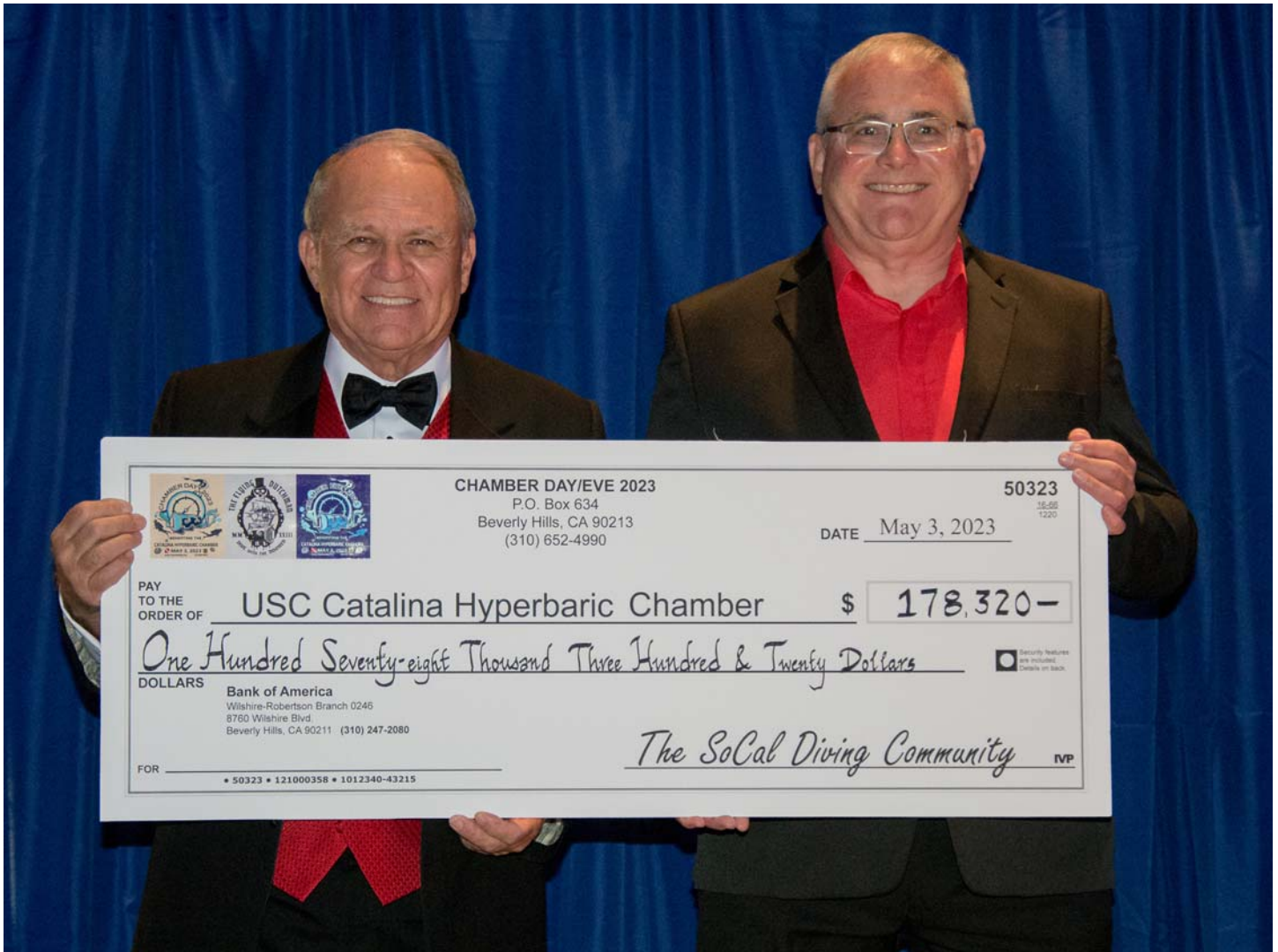


THE  
**REEF**  
**SEEKER**



REEF SEEKERS DIVE CO.  
P.O. Box 634  
Beverly Hills, CA 90213  
Phone & text: (310) 652-4990  
web: [www.reefseekers.com](http://www.reefseekers.com)  
e-mail: [kenkurtis@aol.com](mailto:kenkurtis@aol.com)

June - 2023



## ***CHAMBER DAY 2023 – YOWZA!!!***

Many thanks to all of you who helped make this another amazing and record-setting year for our Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber. Chamber Day 2023 raised \$178,320 for our Chamber and that will go a loooong way to helping get our Chamber financially healthy for the rest of this year and into 2024.

Speaking of which . . .

Chamber Day 2024 will be Wednesday, May 1. Mark it on your calendar.



## **SCUBA SHOW 2023 THIS WEEKEND**

The focus of the diving world shifts to the Long Beach Convention Center this weekend as Scuba Show 2023 comes to town Saturday and Sunday. Show hours are 10AM-6PM on Saturday and 10AM-5PM on Sunday. If you've never gone before, you'll be amazed because it's pretty much the entire scuba industry under one roof, and with a focus on the consumer. And if you've gone before, there's always something new to see, whether it's new gear or a new destination to discover.

Although you can cover the entire exhibit floor in a single day, you might want to give some thought to attending both days. This not only lets you browse at a more leisurely pace, but will also give you opportunity to attend some of the many seminars that are being offered (there's an extra charge for a seminar pass) both days. Photo tips, training ideas, safety thoughts, and destination reviews are just some of the topics being presented.

There's also a free party Saturday night from 6-10PM which will be held in "The Cove," which is outside the seminar rooms along East Seaside Way. There will be food trucks and cash bars there along with a Beach Boys tribute band. Additionally, the California Scuba Service Award will be presented posthumously to Bob Hollis,

founder of Oceanic, and an industry icon.

As usual, I'll be there and teaming up with L.A. Coroner Captain John Kades and Chamber Director Karl Huggins (Karl will join us via pre-recorded video) as we present our annual review of actual scuba fatalities that happened within L.A. County. (In case you didn't know, I'm the forensic consultant to the L.A. County Coroner for scuba fatalities.) The seminar is Saturday at 4PM and is called "Why Divers Die." We review real cases from the previous calendar year – there were two in 2022 – and give you the basic facts, what the Chamber did or didn't do, analyze it from a scuba gear and training standpoint, and then give the official results including the official cause of death. (Hint: It's not always just "drowning.") We'll also give an update on two previous fatalities where it took a while to determine the official cause of death. Our aim is to make the information presented useful not morbid.

I'm also scheduled to give two other talks on Sunday. At 2PM I'll be sharing with you "The Keys to Fish ID" and then at 4PM I'll be

giving the ins and outs of "Understanding Dive Tables & Computers."

Overall, it's a fun two days and there's a lot to see as well as a lot to learn. You can go for one day or do both. And as I mentioned, with pretty much the entire industry under one roof, you'll get a view of scuba diving unlike anything you've had before.

So make plans to join us in Long Beach this weekend. This is one dive you won't want to miss.

---

## **SUMMERTIME AVALON DAY TRIPS**

Just a reminder that we do mid-week (Wednesdays - \$175/person) day trips to Avalon to dive the Underwater Park through the summer. The scheduled dates are June 21, July 5, and August 9. We usually leave out of San Pedro around 8:45AM, have a taxi take us to the Park, get in 3 dives, and have a blast. And we can almost . . . almost . . . promise that this is the right time of the season to have a magical Giant Sea Bass encounter. Call us at 310/652-4990 to get signed up.

---

## **2023-2024 DIVING VACATIONS**

**July 10 - August 2 • Yap**

**November 15-29 • Maldives**

**March-ish • San Ignacio V2**

**Where else in 2024???**



## MALDIVES IN NOVEMBER

Who wouldn't want to jump on the opportunity to dive some pristine remote reefs, have Nurse Sharks snuggle up to you, and maybe run into a hundred or so Manta Rays hanging out together? These are things that are on many divers' wish lists and also are things we hope to supply to those joining us on our Maldives trip in November aboard the *Manthiri*.

This will be our fifth trip to the magical Maldives as well as our fifth trip with the good folks on the *Manthiri*. One thing we really like about this boat is that it only takes 12 divers max. Right now we have 9 people confirmed so we've got three spots left which include a female-share cabin as well as one totally empty cabin, so perfect for a couple or two friends.

This is admittedly a long trip, which we realize knocks some of you out of the running. We spending nine nights on the boat plus it takes a day-and-a-half to get there and a similar time to get home. So the actual travel dates for this adventure are November 15-28. Note that this includes Thanksgiving.

There are numerous ways to get there – through Istanbul, Dubai, Doha, and Singapore to name a few – but most people are opting for the Singapore option, which means we fly non-stop from LAX, short layover in Singapore, and

## UPCOMING LOCAL DIVES & CLASSES

DAY	DATE	BOAT/SITE	PLANNED DESTINATION	PRICE
Wed.	June 7	--- CLASS ---	--- Photo Workshop ---	<b>35</b>
Wed.	21	<i>Catalina Express</i>	Avalon Underwater Park	<b>175</b>
Sat.	26	Redondo/Vets	Taming Surf Entires	<b>35</b>
Thu.	29	Redondo/Vets	••• Night Dive •••	<b>35</b>
Wed.	July 5	<i>Catalina Express</i>	Avalon Underwater Park	<b>175</b>
Thu.	6	--- CLASS ---	--- NAUI Nitrox Diver ---	<b>95</b>
Sat.	8	Redondo/Vets	Beach Diving	<b>35</b>
Thu.	Aug. 3	Redondo/Vets	••• Night Dive •••	<b>35</b>

then into the Maldives. We then will rest for a full day at a fabulous boutique hotel (Hotel78) before we get on the boat.

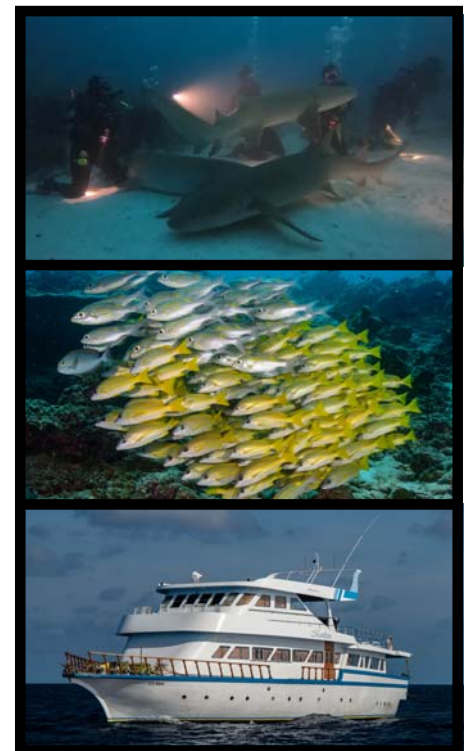
On the way back, we'll leave the Maldives a little after noon on the 27th and fly to Singapore. We'll then overnight inside the Singapore Airport at one of the wonderful Transit Hotels which will also give us an opportunity to have a relaxing dinner as well as a good night's sleep, and then we'll take a morning flight (on the 28th) back to LAX via a short stop in Tokyo. Due to the International Dateline, we'll arrive back in L.A. also on the 28th.

All of our previous trips have included memorable dives. Because the Maldives lies within the Indian Ocean, even if you've been diving in the tropical/western Pacific, there are fish species that you've never seen before. We do some of our dives in Ari Atoll, which is the world's second-largest atoll (after Rangiroa in Tahiti) and we plan on going up to the Raa/Baa Atoll area which is where the annual manta aggregation can usually be found. We had an amazing encounter in 2019 where we had at least 50 mantas zipping all around us and we'll hope to duplicate that experience again on this trip.

This is not an inexpensive trip. The trip cost – which covers the boat along with food and drinks on

board, all diving, nitrox, a generous crew tip, a few other incidentals, and the hotel overnight in Male on the way in – is \$5,550. Economy airfare is running around \$1,600 and the Transit Hotel adds another \$100 or so. So figure \$7,500 all-in. But it will be well worth it.

If you'd like to sign up and join us, you can call us at 310/652-4990. The *Manthiri* also will be in booth #424 at the Scuba Show this weekend so you can feel free to stop by there and check things out as well as they'll have a video running. But the Maldives is definitely a place that should appear in your logbook and hopefully you'll make those entries with Reef Seekers.





## UNDERWATER SCULPTURES

We've been a fan of Jason deCaires Taylor for a long time. He's the artist who created the Cancun Underwater Museum, a series of underwater sculptures that we visit when we dive Isla Mujeres (as we will in August). Jason has other installations all around the world, all ocean-focused and dedicated to raising people's awareness of the issues that plague the oceans

of the world. And he's just finished his latest work on the Great Barrier Reef near Townsville.

From Jason's website: "*Ocean Sentinels* is comprised of eight figurative sculptures that meld the textures of marine life with the likeness of influential conservationists . . . these works are made of pH-neutral, low-carbon concrete and stainless steel and are created with the intention that sea creatures use them as homes."

The idea behind all of his underwater artwork is that, over time, it becomes part of the reef as marine creatures settle on and inhabit the works. A lot of times the artwork is placed in barren/sandy areas away from an active reef to not only lure divers to a new area, but

to encourage new reef growth as well. This is especially important on the Great Barrier Reef, as it has had a number of coral bleaching incidents over the past few years that threaten the overall reef health.

You can learn more about Jason's work and see some of it when you go visit his website at: <https://www.underwatersculpture.com/>



# PICTURE PAGE - Chamber Day at the Chamber

(All pix by Nick Neumann - USC © 2023)



**LASD Air5 and crew**



P.O. Box 634  
Beverly Hills, CA 90213

[WWW.REEFSEEKERS.COM](http://WWW.REEFSEEKERS.COM)



**Tying up at the dock**



**Talking with Chamber crew**



**Dials and knobs that make it work**



**Inside our Chamber**