

THE REEF SEEKER



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January - 2018



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Hard to believe we've got another year under our belt. Even harder to realize that it's been eleven full years now since we closed the retail store on Wilshire and went to a trips-oriented on-line-only presence. But we truly appreciate the fact that you keep having faith in us for trips (local and foreign) as well as repairs. (And remember that we still deal with a number of manufacturers so if there's a piece of equipment that you want, we can likely help you with that too.)

Here's to a fabulous 2018 and all the wonderful journeys and experiences we will share together. Thanks for keeping this ride going for another year.

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS

You wouldn't think there was a connection between diving and geology but there is, sort of.

I first met Dr. Mark Legg back in March of 1996, when I got to dive

in the *Alvin* submersible while doing a special documentary for KCET/PBS called "*Alvin & the Earthquakes*." One of the objectives on the 5+-hour dive we did was to pick up samples of rock on the seabed (backside of Catalina near Farnsworth, roughly 3500' deep), so Mark could analyze them afterwards to see if we'd crossed over an earthquake fault line and what the differences were.

As part of the overall program, I interviewed Mark both pre- and post-dive about what to expect and what we found, gave him the nickname of "Dr. Rock," and his segments played a big part in the final 30-minute program. After that, we stayed in touch and Mark asked to be on our e-mailing list.

You may recall in the mid-90s, there was a sailboat that sank at Arrow Point. It was only about 35-40 feet deep, nose pointing out to sea over a slight slope, and readily accessible, even to open water classes, so we (and lot of other stores/clubs/boats) would visit it often.

I had written a story about it and Mark very excitedly sent me a note explaining that there was an interesting underwater fault out that way and that he and some other geologists either had recently or were preparing to explore it with an unmanned ROV.

A few years later, perhaps around 2000 we went to that area to dive and I was amazed. What had been a gentle slope under the nose of the sailboat had suddenly become a sheer drop. It seemed that a large section of the area had simply vanished. Obviously, I called Mark.

He got back to me and confirmed that there had indeed been a massive landslide there, his colleagues were very excited about it, especially after getting some first-hand info from me, and they intended to explore it with ROVs to document as best they could what happened, what the extent of it was, and what it all meant.

Over the years, Mark and his buddies have made numerous ROV dives in this area to monitor how it changes. And to bring this back full circle, they were out a week or so ago and Mark sent me a note telling me - he had seen some of the reports I wrote about the squid run at Redondo - that there were fields of squid eggs everywhere in the area.

So we start this story with the divers giving some good info to the geologists, and we end it with the geologists giving some good info back to the divers. Just goes to show how sometimes two seemingly unrelated disciplines can actually be inter-connected and can benefit each other.



SQUID RUN

Unless you live on Catalina to go see the squid eggs Mark Legg described, there's a closer-to-home spot to visit and that would be Veterans Park in Redondo. We've been having a pretty amazing run there for the last month or so. You'll definitely see eggs whether you go during the day or evening. You'll generally find the clusters around 60-80' deep, more or less between Main Stairs and Middle Stairs. Gestation period for the eggs is about eight weeks, so they might even be far enough along that with a bright light, you'll see little squidlings inside the egg sac.

Seeing live squid mate is a nighttime thing. You also need to remember that these episodes tend to run in waves and it seems like the first wave has passed. When - or even IF - the second wave happens is anyone's guess but a lot of times they tend to happen right after a full moon. The next one of those is January 1 so later in the week might be productive. (And we've got a Squid Dive planned for January 9.) Good luck!!!

TSA POSTPONES REAL ID REQUIREMENT

You may have been hearing that you'll have to produce a passport

even to fly domestically starting in 2018. Not true. What was true was that, originally starting in 2018, any ID you used had to comply with the Real ID Act, and driver's license from nine states (Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Washington) were not compliant and would not be accepted for boarding a plane. So if you lived in one of THOSE states, you'd need a passport.

But now the TSA has pushed back eighteen months. The new date for implementing this is now October 1, 2020. (The original effective dates was going to be January 18, 2018.) For California, anyone renewing their license after January 22, 2018, will be issued a Real ID-compliant license. If your current license doesn't expire before October 1, 2020, you might want to look into getting it renewed early so you'll be in compliance. (Or just travel with your passport at all times.)

But it'll be interesting to hear what happens on January 18, 2018, because you KNOW that some lower-level people will not have gotten the word about the delay and will

be denying people boarding. Keep your eyes peeled . . .

KEY DATES FOR 2018

- Saturday, February 24
Avalon Underwater Cleanup
- Saturday, March 10
Divers Day at the
Aquarium of the Pacific
- Wednesday, May 2
Chamber Day & Chamber Eve

UPDATED REEF SEEKERS SKED

On the next page, you'll find the Reef Seekers class/local/vacation schedule. Although it looks like the one I sent out in December, there have actually been a few date changes so this one is the most up-to-date version. There are two ways to tell that you're looking at the latest one. This one has a very exuberant Patti Wey as the poster child and, in the lower right-hand corner, you'll see a small "UD122917" which indicates the date it was updated. Sorry for any confusion.

2018 DIVING VACATIONS

April 14-21 • Bonaire

June 8-20 • Yap Immersion

July 14-28 • Sulawesi, Indo

August 18-25 • Isla Mujeres

REEF SEEKERS DIVE CO. 2018 LOCAL DIVES, CLASSES & VACATIONS

RESERVATIONS (310)652-4990



IMPORTANT STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW

All diving must be done within recreational sport diving limits: depths 130' or less, no-deco bottom times, on standard compressed air or nitrox (<40%) as a breathing gas.

Limit one scuba tank per diver.
Pony bottles do not count as a second tank.

Specific departure & return times vary trip-to-trip. Please confirm those when you book your spot.

Directions to all boats & Veterans Park are on our website.

All dives are dependent on weather and may be changed or cancelled at our sole discretion.

You must show your certification card(s).
No c-card, no scuba diving.

A general briefing is conducted on each trip and is mandatory for all divers.

Avalon trips are generally 3 dives.
Redondo dives are single-tank.

We may add an occasional boat trip to this schedule.

Day-of-dive problems?
Call Ken directly at (310)995-3639

DAY	DATE	BOAT/SITE	PLANNED DESTINATION	PRICE
Tue.	Jan. 9	Redondo	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE!!!
Sat.	20	<i>Catalina Express</i>	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Thu.	25	- CLASS -	- FISH ID -	\$25
Sat.	Feb. 3	Redondo	Beach dive (single tank)	\$25
Thu.	8	Redondo	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE!!!
Sat.	17	<i>Catalina Express</i>	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Sat.	24	<i>Catalina Express</i>	37th Avalon U/W Cleanup	\$150
Thu.	Mar. 1	- CLASS -	- PHOTO WORKSHOP -	\$25
Sat.	10	Aqrm of Pacific	Divers Day	FREE!!!
Sat.	17	<i>Catalina Express</i>	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Thu.	22	Redondo	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE!!!
Sat.	Apr. 7	Redondo	Navigation dive (single tank)	\$25
Tue.	10	Redondo	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE!!!
Sat.	28	<i>Catalina Express</i>	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Wed.	May 2	Many boats	Chamber Day/Eve benefit	\$120
Thu.	10	Redondo	••• Night Dive •••	FREE!!!
Sat.	19	<i>Catalina Express</i>	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Thu.	24	- CLASS -	- NAUI NITROX -	\$75
Sat.	June 2	Redondo	Beach dive (single tank)	\$25
Sat.	30	<i>Catalina Express</i>	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Thu.	July 12	- CLASS -	- Fish ID -	\$25
Sat.	Aug. 4	<i>Catalina Express</i>	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Sat.	11	Redondo	Navigation dive (single tank)	\$25
Thu.	Sept. 6	Redondo	••• Night Dive •••	FREE!!!
Sat.	15	<i>Catalina Express</i>	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Thu.	20	- CLASS -	- PHOTO WORKSHOP -	\$25
Thu.	Oct. 4	Redondo	••• Night Dive •••	FREE!!!
Sat.	13	<i>Catalina Express</i>	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Sat.	20	Redondo	Beach dive (single tank)	\$25
Thu.	25	- CLASS -	- NAUI NITROX -	\$75
Thu.	Nov. 8	Redondo	••• Night Dive •••	FREE!!!
Sat.	17	<i>Catalina Express</i>	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Sat.	Dec. 1	Redondo	Navigation dive (single tank)	\$25
Sat.	8	<i>Catalina Express</i>	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Thu.	13	Redondo	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE!!!
Thu.	20	- CLASS -	- FISH ID -	\$25

NEED A VACATION???

April 14-21 • Bonaire • Excellent Caribbean diving

June 8-20 • Yap Immersion • Mantas, Mandarinfish, & Macro

July 14-28 • Indonesia • Bunaken Park & Lembeh Straits

August 18-25 • Isla Mujeres, Mexico • Whale Sharks & more

October 15-20 • Isla Guadalupe • Great White Sharks

Oct. 27 - Nov. 3 • Roatan • Big and small critters

Reservations: (310)652-4990

(If you get the machine, please leave a message.)





R.I.P. TOM WETZEL

It is with heavy heart that we have to announce the death of Tom Wetzel, longtime NAUI and PADI instructor, key Chamber Day Committee member, and friend. Although Tom never formally taught for us at Reef Seekers as a staff instructor, he always used us as his home base, would bring his students in for gear, got his tanks filled, and was certainly one of the family. (Plus he always brought his rumballs to our annual Christmas party.)

Tom died on the morning of December 28, apparently of a heart attack, and it seems he knew something was wrong because he had called someone to come and take him to the hospital, but he died before they got there. As of this writing (literally on the day that he died), there's no information on services. Once that becomes known, look for that info in the weekly TWARS.

PICTURE PAGE - Tom's fish friends

(All pix by Ken Kurtis © 2018)



**Giant (or Black)
Sea Bass**



**P.O. Box 634
Beverly Hills, CA 90213**

WWW.REEFSEEKERS.COM



**Halfmoons
(there's no "fullmoon")**



**Male
California Sheephead**



**Kelp
Bass**



**Garibaldi
(Official CA marine fish)**