

THE  
**REEF**  
**SEEKER**



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January - 2020



**WELCOME TO 2020!!!**

Another year under the weight belt and another year about to start. We look forward to more adventures in 2020.

What strikes me at this point is that Reef Seekers in 2020 will begin our 32nd year in business overall and our 14th year as an Internet-based store with a no-brick-and-mortar to back us up. When we closed the Wilshire location at the end of 2006 (which seems like yesterday - and they are only NOW putting the finishing touches on the building that displaced us), and Billy Wright decided to retire, there was some obvious trepidation as to whether or not I'd be able to continue Reef Seekers as an operation that only did local & foreign travel as well as repairs.

Fortunately, it's worked out pretty well over the last thirteen years. (As I like to joke with people, I'm happy to keep this scam going as

long as you'll all let me.) Although we don't do as many local trips as we used to, we do more foreign trips and to more varied places, we're still able to do non-basic classes on a limited basis, and we still really do get a kick out of diving with all of you.

So I'm looking forward to 2020 and what lies ahead. And in addition to the Reef Seekers stuff, there's also the Avalon Underwater Cleanup, Divers Day at the Aquarium of the Pacific, Chamber Day/Eve, and issues where we can lend a hand to look out for the diving community.

So here's to the journey ahead and thanks for making it with us!!!

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**LET'S GO TO YAP!!!**

I do love diving Yap, but I REALLY love the way we've done it lately as "Yap Immersion" where it's a 13-day trip (March 16-29) with 10 days of diving. Yap's got Manta Rays, Mandarinfish, sharks, scenic reefs, marvelous macro, historic ties to World War 2, Stone Money, wonderful people, and is just a fabulous place to spend time.

We do up to 25 dives that will include manta dives at the cleaning stations, a shark feed, a Mandarinfish dive, macro dives, reef dives, and wall dives. We will

also include a Manta ID program which will teach you the ins and outs of manta identification. And because a lot of this ID-ing is enhanced by the photos, we'll also be including photo workshops and critiques throughout the week as well as a general fish ID class.

On the non-diving side, we'll take a day off from diving for a 1/2-day island tour that will include delving into Yap's role in World War 2, giving you a sense of the history of the people which also includes the unique Stone Money that forms a key part of their culture.

Cost of the "Yap Immersion" package is \$3,995 (only \$100 more than last year). Everyone gets a double-occupancy Ocean View room (single supplement available if desired), breakfast daily, all the stuff already mentioned, airport transfers, and crew/staff tips. If you've got the time, you can also add on a side trip to Palau or other destinations (like Truk Lagoon) that are in the region. It's a really great trip and package. (Of course, I might be a bit prejudiced about this.)

So whaddya say? If you have any questions about this (or want to sign up), feel free to contact me directly via e-mail or phone. We know it's a short timeline but it's gonna be a great trip, so don't miss out!!!

## **2020 LOCAL DIVES & CLASS SKED**

Page 3 (the next page) is suitable for printing and hanging up on your refrigerator (or wherever you keep such things). It's our complete list of all dives and classes for 2020 as well as our foreign vacations. Here's what's what:

### **DIVES:**

- Redondo Beach - All are at Vets Park, just south of the Redondo Pier. All single-tank. Squid Dives are at night through mid-March and are free. We also offer regular Beach Dives, Navigation Dives, and Night Dives. Each are \$25.
- Avalon Underwater Park - These are 3-dive days and include round-trip Catalina Express, taxi to and from the Underwater Park, up to three tanks of air (you provide the rest of the needed gear), and a guide (although you can also dive on your own). Generally we leave from San Pedro around 9AM and return around 7PM. \$150.
- Foreign trips - We also offer vacation-style trips, all guided by Reef Seekers owner Ken Kurtis. Prices vary but generally include hotel or boat, all diving, staff/crew tips. Some trips include various meals. Air fare is not included.

### **CLASSES:**

(all taught at Reef Seekers Westwood - each given two or three times during the year):

- Photo Workshop - An informal evening of photo tips and tricks, plus an opportunity to bring your own digital copies of pictures you've taken and we can see what worked and what didn't. \$25.
- NAUI Nitrox - Learn the plusses and minuses of diving with nitrox and why it may (or may not) be a good choice for dives you'd like to

make. This is a formal NAUI course that results in being issued a NAUI Nitrox certification card. \$75 + some course material fees.

- Fish ID - Paul Humann said it best. You took a class to learn how to dive, why not take a class to learn what it is you're seeing? Based on Humann's teachings, this class gives you an easy-to-use universal system of identifying fish, as well as showing you how to track down elusive ones you've never seen before. \$25.
- Tables & Computers - Let's be honest: You probably really don't have a good understanding of why your dive computer gives you the numbers that it does. That lack of perspective and understanding can get you in trouble. This class starts at the beginning with Boyle, Dalton, Henry and Haldane. We then move into a general discussion about dive tables and how to use them and - more importantly - what they're telling you, and then go into how computers do sort of the same thing on a much more sophisticated level. Because we think it's SO important for divers to understand this stuff, this class is offered **FREE OF CHARGE**.

For any and all of these, make sure you sign up/register ahead of time.

You can do that through e-mail to [kenkurtis@aol.com](mailto:kenkurtis@aol.com) or by phone to our main Reef Seekers number at 310/652-4990. Hope to see you on a dive and have you in a class during 2020!!!

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## **AVALON CLEANUP - FEBRUARY 22**

We're going over for the 39th annual Avalon Underwater Cleanup and we hope you'll be joining us. We're usually a small group, but an enthusiastic one, and everyone has a good time. As usual, we'll camp out at the Green Pier for the dive. The nice thing about the Green Pier is that it also frequently produces some of the most interesting finds.

We'll be going over on the 6AM Express out of Long Beach. Cost if you're going with us is \$150, which includes event registration, taxi to the Green Pier, and gear storage or more Park diving later in the day. Call us at 310/652-4990 to get signed up. Net proceeds from this event benefit the Catalina Conservancy Divers and the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber.

## **2020 DIVING VACATIONS**

**March 16-29 • Yap Immersion**

**May 15-23 • Bonaire**

**August 1-8 • Isla Mujeres**

**September 9-14 • Guadalupe**

# REEF SEEKERS DIVE CO.

## 2020 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, 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 these when you book your spot.

Directions to all landings & 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) if asked. No c-card, no scuba diving.

A general briefing is conducted for 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 ACTIVITY/DIVE	PRICE
Sat.	Jan. 4	Redondo (Vets)	Beach dive (single tank)	\$25
Thu.	9	Redondo (Vets)	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE!!!
Wed.	15	- CLASS -	- PHOTO WORKSHOP -	\$25
Sat.	18	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Thu.	Feb. 13	Redondo (Vets)	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE!!!
Sun.	16	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150

Sat.	22	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Cleanup	\$150
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Wed.	26	- CLASS -	- NAUI NITROX -	\$75
Sat.	Mar. 7	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Thu.	12	Redondo (Vets)	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE!!!

Sat.	14	Diver's Day	Aquarium of the Pacific	FREE!!!
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#### March 16-29 • Yap Immersion • Mantas, Mandarinfish, & more

Wed.	Apr. 1	- CLASS -	- FISH ID -	\$25
Thu.	9	Redondo (Vets)	••• Night Dive •••	\$25
Sat.	18	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Sat.	25	Redondo (Vets)	Navigation dive (single tank)	\$25
Wed.	29	- CLASS -	- TABLES & COMPUTERS -	FREE!!!

Wed.	May 6	Many boats/AOP	Chamber Day/Eve 2020	\$120
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#### May 15-23 • Bonaire • Excellent Caribbean diving

Sa/Su	30/31	Scuba Show	LB Convention Center	\$15
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Wed.	June 3	- CLASS -	- PHOTO WORKSHOP -	\$25
Sun.	7	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Thu.	11	Redondo (Vets)	••• Night Dive •••	\$25
Sat.	20	Redondo (Vets)	Beach dive (single tank)	\$25
Wed.	July 8	- CLASS -	- NAUI NITROX -	\$75
Sat.	18	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150

#### August 1-8 • Isla Mujeres, Mexico • Whale Sharks & more

Thu.	Aug. 13	Redondo (Vets)	••• Night Dive •••	\$25
Sat.	22	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Wed.	26	- CLASS -	- FISH ID -	\$25
Sat.	Sept. 5	Redondo (Vets)	Beach dive (single tank)	\$25

#### September 9-14 • Guadalupe • Great White Sharks

Sun.	20	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Thu.	24	Redondo (Vets)	••• Night Dive •••	\$25
Sat.	Oct. 10	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Wed.	14	- CLASS -	- TABLES & COMPUTERS -	FREE!!!

#### October 17-29 • Indonesia • Bunaken Park & Lembeh Straits

Sat.	31	Redondo (Vets)	Navigation dive (single tank)	\$25
Sat.	Nov. 7	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Thu.	12	Redondo (Vets)	••• Night Dive •••	\$25
Wed.	18	- CLASS -	- PHOTO WORKSHOP -	\$25
Sat.	21	Redondo (Vets)	Beach dive (single tank)	\$25
Wed.	Dec. 2	- CLASS -	- FISH ID -	\$25
Sun.	6	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150

#### December TBA • Socorro • Big animals abound

Thu.	10	Redondo (Vets)	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE!!!
Sat.	12	Redondo (Vets)	Beach dive (single tank)	\$25



## YOU SHOULD COME DIVE WITH US!!!



**GREAT DEAL -  
SAVE 40%**

We don't get to say THAT too often . .

To be clear, this is NOT an official Reef Seekers trip so Ken won't be leading this. It also does NOT replace our intended trip back to Murex in Manado, Indonesia, in October. But the bottom line is that if you'd like to save 40% on a liveaboard (and for 11 nights to

boot), you should consider this trip on the *Indo Aggressor*, April 6-17. (Actual travel dates will likely be April 4-20.) This all came about because Shirley Parry was checking the Aggressor website for deals and now we've got five of our Reef Seekers regulars confirmed, with room for more (the boat only takes 16 divers max and they have 18 crew - nice ratio).

The itinerary is for the "Forgotten Islands" which are along the southern edge of Indonesia, between Indo and Australia, pretty much south and southeast of Sulawesi. Best of all, the area is rarely visited by dive boats so the reefs should be fairly pristine. The trip (twin cabin) normally goes for \$5,050 but with the discount, a space can be yours for just \$3,030.

You could also choose a slightly larger upper cabin (only one left) for \$3,270. Airfare will add another \$2,000 plus you'll need two hotel overnights as well as factor in a crew tip and a \$180 marine park/port fee to your financial planning, but either way, this is a FABULOUS deal.

If you're interested in joining up with our adventurers, call us at 310/652-4990. Simple as that. We'll set you up on the boat and then we'll work on the plane tickets. Be aware though that, given that this trip is only a little more than three months away, Aggressor will want full payment shortly after we confirm your reservation. But if you're interested, let's get you on this trip lest the discount disappear.

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## **PICTURE PAGE - Fav shots of 2019**

*(All pix by Ken Kurtis © 2020)*



**Male Sunset Wrasse  
Easter Island - January**



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



**Cuttlefish & Bill Acker  
Yap - March**



**Yawning Scorpionfish  
Indonesia - July**



**Elegant/Decorated Dartfish  
Maldives - October**



**Smiling Porcupine Puffer  
Cabo Pulmo - December**