

# THE REEF SEEKER



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January - 2021



## BYE-BYE 2020

I don't think many people will be sorry to see 2020 go. So long, farewell, and good riddance. That doesn't mean there weren't . . . some . . . good things to come out of the year. But certainly the pandemic and then a side dish of poisonous politics leaves everyone yearning for a better tomorrow. Simply put, I don't think 2020 will go on anyone's "Best Year Ever" list. So as we put 2020 into our collective rear-view mirrors, we look ahead to a (hopefully) brighter 2021.



## ZOOM SEEKERS

One of the positives to come out of 2020 IMHO was Zoom. What a great way to connect people fairly easily. For those of us who rou-

tinely speak at dive clubs, Zoom truly opened avenues for us because not only did it save us travel time (and we didn't always have to wear pants), but it allowed us to speak at clubs far beyond our geographic region or places where we happened to be. And for dive clubs, it opened up a variety of speakers that generally might not have been available to them.

At Reef Seekers, we've taken this to the max by creating Zoom Seekers, our monthly speaker series, open to anyone who wants to watch, listen, and learn, where we invite you to spend some time with us and our friends discussing various scuba-related topics. All the chats are free and, with the exception of January, are on the second Tuesday of every month starting at 7:30PM Pacific time. (January is on the first Tuesday.) I don't know that we'll ever crack the century mark, but our Zoom calls are limited to the first 100 people, so we'll also be streaming these on FaceBook Live in case we exceed 100 attendees or for those who don't have Zoom on their computers or phones.

We think we've got a pretty interesting and diverse set of speakers and topics lined up. (You can also see a more extensive bio and chat description on our website on the "Zoom Seekers speakers" page. The generic link to the chats will

be there as well as archived recordings of any of the chats that you miss.) Here's who's on tap:

- Jan. 5 – Dan Orr: Five Mistakes in Diver Safety
- Feb. 9 – Jeff Bozanic: Diving Antarctica
- Mar. 9 – Mike Emmerman: Life in the Fast Lane
- Apr. 13 – Dr. Doug Ebersole: Diving in the Era of COVID
- May 11 – Danny Charlton & Angelique Batuna: Diving Indonesia
- Jun. 15 – Marty Snyderman: Finding & Photographing Fishes and Their Behaviors
- Jul. 13 – Bill Macdonald: TBA
- Aug. 10 – Bill Acker: Diving Yap – More Than Just Mantas
- Sep. 14 – Pete "NetDoc" Murray: Secrets of ScubaBoard
- Oct. 12 – Jon Council: Circumnavigation Dive of Catalina
- Nov. 9 – Renee Grinnell Capozzola: From Point-&-Shoot to Professional
- Dec. 14 – Doug & Lorenza Sloss: Take Better Pictures

Each talk will last roughly 45-60 minutes (although we really don't have a time limit either way) and that'll be followed by a Q&A. So generally we'll be done by 9PM. Hopefully you'll be able to join us for some of these because we think all of our speakers have a lot to offer. And you certainly can't beat the price.



## **COVID VACCINE & TRAVEL**

Just a reminder that, as things loosen up and we start to travel again, make sure you know if your airline or hotel or boat will require proof of a negative COVID test or proof of a vaccine before they'll deal with you. Especially as more and more people get vaccinated – and granted this is likely a ways away on a large scale – countries are considering the option of proof of vaccination before they'll admit you. There will certainly come a day when a negative COVID test alone, while certainly good news, may not be enough. And if you're an anti-vaxxer, well, we've got some nice domestic sites for you to visit.

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## **LOCAL DIVES & CLASSES FOR 2021**

I was going to start with “We have an ambitious schedule planned for 2021,” but then I remembered that that's how I started this section last year as well and am now thinking better of it. So let me just say “We have a schedule planned for 2021.”

But in all seriousness, on the next page and suitable for printing and hanging up on your refrigerator or wherever you keep this sort of thing, you'll find our (ambitious) 2021 schedule for local trips and classes with our two foreign trips

listed as well as notable events like the Avalon Cleanup (40th Anniversary this year), Divers Day, Chamber Day/Eve 2021, the Scuba Show, and even the lobster season opening date.

Please bear in mind that the evolving COVID situation will certainly have an impact on some of these planned activities. So always check with us on anything you want to do to confirm that the activity is still happening. For instance, had we planned a Redondo dive for the end of the year (specifically December 31), we would have had to cancel because the surf made Vets undiveable. So you never know.

All of our classes will be taught, at least for the near future and likely the entire year, through Zoom. But the advantage of that is we're usually willing to do the class with only a couple of people as well as with a bunch of people since the teaching effort is the same either way, and there's no worries about social distancing or simply cramming a lot of people into a small space for any class that suddenly develops a large following.

Avalon trips have all been scheduled on Wednesdays. A big reason for this is that the Underwater Park,

even in the summertime, is significantly less crowded mid-week than on weekends. And even though the COVID vaccine instills great hope, it's still going to be a while until everyone is vaccinated so going on less-crowded days when we can easily avoid unknown people with unknown COVID-coping habits (like mask-wearing), makes the mid-week trip safer and more attractive.

The shore dives are all planned for Vets Park, which is south of the Redondo Pier. (Driving directions to this site, as well as Catalina Express terminals and the various dive boat landings, can be found on our website.) These are all obviously – as mentioned above – weather-dependent. And by “weather,” we mean “surf.” Our basic rule of thumb is that anything less than 2 feet is diveable, 2-3 feet could go either way, and over 3 feet is “let's do something else.”

So take a look at what the opportunities are, note the ones that might interest you, give us a call or shoot us an e-mail if you have questions, and hopefully we'll be sharing some underwater &/or Zoom time with you in 2021.

## **2021 DIVING VACATIONS**

**January 13-22 • Socorro**

**May 29 - June 5 • Bonaire**

**July (??) • Indonesia**

**August (??) • Isla Mujeres**

# 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  
or (310)652-4990 [text this # too]

**zelle**



## — REEF SEEKERS DIVE CO. — 2021 LOCAL DIVES, CLASSES & VACATIONS

DAY	DATE	BOAT/SITE	PLANNED ACTIVITY/DIVE	PRICE
Thu.	Jan. 7	Redondo (Vets)	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE

### January 13-22 • Socorro • Big animal adventures

Wed.	27	--- CLASS ---	TABLES & COMPUTERS	FREE
Sat.	30	Redondo (Vets)	Beach dive (single tank)	\$25
Wed.	Feb. 3	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$160
Thu.	11	Redondo (Vets)	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE

### Sat, Feb. 20 • Avalon Underwater Cleanup • VIRTUAL

Wed.	24	--- CLASS ---	PHOTO WORKSHOP	\$25
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### Sat., March 13 • Divers Day • Aquarium of the Pacific

Wed.	Mar. 17	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$160
Thu.	25	Redondo (Vets)	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE
Sat.	27	Redondo (Vets)	Navigation (single dive)	\$25
Wed.	Apr. 7	--- CLASS ---	NAUI NITROX	\$75
Thu.	22	Redondo (Vets)	••• Night Dive •••	\$25
Wed.	28	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$160

### Wed., May 5 • Chamber Day & Eve 2021

Sat.	May 8	Redondo (Vets)	Beach dive (single tank)	\$25
Thu.	20	Redondo (Vets)	••• Night Dive •••	\$25

### Sat. & Sun., May 22 & 23 • Scuba Show

Wed.	26	--- CLASS ---	FISH ID	\$25
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### May 28 - June 5 • Bonaire • Excellent Caribbean diving

Wed.	June 9	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$160
Wed.	23	-- CLASS ---	TABLES & COMPUTERS	FREE
Sat.	26	Redondo (Vets)	Navigation (single dive)	\$25
Thu.	July 1	Redondo (Vets)	••• Night Dive •••	\$25
Wed.	7	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$160
Sat.	24	Redondo (Vets)	Beach dive (single dive)	\$25
Wed.	28	--- CLASS ---	PHOTO WORKSHOP	\$25
Thu.	Aug. 12	Redondo (Vets)	••• Night Dive •••	\$25
Wed.	18	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$160
Sat.	28	Redondo (Vets)	Beach dive (single dive)	\$25
Wed.	Sept. 1	--- CLASS ---	FISH ID	\$25
Thu.	23	Redondo (Vets)	••• Night Dive •••	\$25
Wed.	29	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$160

### Sat., October 2 • Lobster season opens at 6:00AM

Sat.	Oct. 9	Redondo (Vets)	Beach dive (single tank)	\$25
Wed.	20	--- CLASS ---	NAUI NITROX	\$75
Wed.	27	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$160
Thu.	Nov. 4	Redondo (Vets)	••• Night dive •••	\$25
Sat.	13	Redondo (Vets)	Navigation (single dive)	\$25
Wed.	17	--- CLASS ---	TABLES & COMPUTERS	FREE
Sat.	Dec. 4	Redondo (Vets)	Beach dive (single tank)	\$25
Wed.	8	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$160
Thu.	16	Redondo (Vets)	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE
Wed.	22	--- CLASS ---	FISH ID	\$25

Throughout the year, we may add foreign trips  
or modify our local trips as the COVID situation evolves.

**COME DIVE WITH US AND HAVE SOME FUN!!!**



## LAST-MINUTE SOCORRO

Barring any last-minute COVID complications, we're planning on departing for our Socorro trip on the *Nautilus Under Sea* on January 14. The reports out of Socorro so far this year (the season started mid-November) have been phenomenal and we're keeping our fingers crossed for smooth sailing, great water conditions, and incredible animal encounters. Big ani-

mal encounters there are the rule rather than the exception and if we get lucky, we might even run across some of the Humpback Whales who winter there. Plus there's really cool small stuff too, like the glorious Clarion Angelfish and the magnificent Leather Grouper, to name just two.

And if you're thinking "I've always wanted to go there," this could be your lucky break. Because we've had some cancellations and right now have three open spots. It's certainly not a cheap trip with the boat fees, park fees, and crew tip (although the airfare's really cheap right now) but if you are looking for something last-minute, this could be your ticket. If you're interested, give us a call at 310/652-4990 and let's see if we

can make this all work for you. It's definitely a magical trip that will create special memories.

And keep an eye on our Facebook pages while we're gone. The boat has a Wi-Fi connection and we're hoping to share some pix with you each day that we're diving on the trip. (The first two and last two days are spent at sea, with five dive days in the middle.) So even if you can't join us in person, you'll join us vicariously (as long as we have good bandwidth).



# PICTURE PAGE - Rose Parades Past

(All pix by Ken Kurtis © 2021)



**Butterflyfish**  
2020



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



**Aquatic float**  
2019



**Humpbacks**  
2018



**Weird "lantern" fish**  
2015



**Smiling fish**  
2014