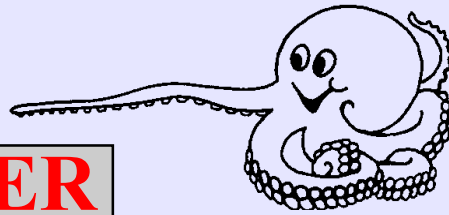


# THE REEF SEEKER



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January - 2025



## WELCOME TO 2025!!!

2024 is now behind us. For some, it was a good year, for others maybe not so much. (But I've got to believe it was better than 2020 and 2021 regardless.) At Reef Seekers, it was a pretty good year overall. We were once again an integral part of the Avalon Underwater Cleanup and well as HQ for Chamber Day 2024 (which set fund-raising records), and we had great foreign trips to San Ignacio Lagoon, Roatan, Indonesia (M Manado), Yap, Philippines (Dumaguete), and Palau. Of course, along with adventures, there were mis-adventures like two different cancelled plane flights and some other smaller bumps in the road.

In addition to those out-of-the-country experiences, we had some day trips to Avalon (got to see the Giant Sea Bass as well as give some TLC to the Cousteau plaque), did a few shore dives and local classes, did some classes via Zoom, and spoke at a number of dive clubs through the year.

But it was a wonderful journey

overall and we appreciate those of you who travelled the road with us. We look forward to what the new year will bring and hope to have you along for some of the new adventures as well.

## SOME OF WHAT'S IN STORE

Let me start with this: I just realized I typed the word "store" but that's not a sneaky way of saying we're going to re-open a brick-and-mortar physical location.

Amazingly, Reef Seekers closed our beloved 8612 Wilshire location on December 31, 2006. It's still incredible to realize that we've been on-line/internet-based for EIGHTEEN years now. Wow!!! Thank you for your loyalty and support. Much as we really did enjoy having a physical place where you could all come and hang out, commiserate, gather, talk, and occasionally actually buy something, the current retail landscape is very different than it was at the end of 2006. The real estate market has drastically changed – we had a really great deal on the Wilshire location – and the overall diving retail market has changed somewhat.

Plus we seem to have settled into a very comfortable niche in doing what we're doing the way we're

doing it. And I will quite candidly confess that not having the daily financial pressure of the annual overhead that comes with a physical store and employees - essentially we needed to cover roughly \$250,000 a years even if none of you ever walked through the door (and that was in 2006 dollars) – is not something I would relish taking on again.

So we'll continue to plan a full slate of adventures for this new year, with trips, classes, and other offerings on the horizon. We've again used page 3 to give you a printable copy of everything that's on the table at the moment. Take a look at what the choices and see which ones might be right for you.

## SUUNTO & HUISH PART WAYS

Huish Outdoors has distributed Suunto products for a number of years now. On December 27, we got a notice from Huish that Suunto had terminated their distribution relationship. They've also informed us that any pricing guidelines or restrictions previously enforced by Huish are no longer in place for Suunto products. As such, if you've had your eye on anything Suunto, we might be able to get you a smokin' deal. Obviously, this is a limited time offer so contact us sooner rather than later.



## TRAVEL IN 2025

We're somewhat victims of our own success in the travel department this year since four of our five offerings are already sold out. But here's what we've got planned.

**EASTER ISLAND** – We're going there in March and doing back-to-back trips. This will be our third visit there and it's a good example of how we like to occasionally find places that are a bit of the beaten path. You can't get much more "off the beaten path" than Easter Island, which is considered one of the most remote inhabited islands in the world. We'll enjoy taking land tours and seeing the Moai as well as learning the many theories behind how they came to be. We'll also enjoy diving with Orca Dive Center (we used them the other two times) and exploring the sometimes crystal-clear waters surrounding Easter Island. We're going at peak water temp time so that'll just be an extra perk. Trip dates are March 8-15 and March 15-22.

**ROATAN** – This is the sole trip where we still have availability. We'll be going back to Anthony's Key, leaving June 28 and back on July 5. We dove with them this year in May and have pushed the 2025 trip back because on the past trip, there were issues (and plane delays) with smoke coming from sugar cane fields burning on mainland Honduras. That's all done with by late June so shouldn't be

an issue. Once again, we've got rooms on the Key overlooking the water, plus we'll be doing three dives each day, as well as two night dives. All the dive sites are close to Anthony's (short runs) and all are guided. On top of that, all meals are included as well. Whether you're an old salt or a newbie, you'll enjoy the diving and the overall ambiance. Call us at 310/652-4990 to get signed up or to find out more.

**MALDIVES** – To put it simply, Maldives diving isn't cheap. We love diving with Moosa, Ali, and the crew on *Manthiri* and Moosa somewhat goaded me into booking back-to-back trips for 2025. I was a bit reluctant and said I'd give it a go and no one was more surprised than me when we sold out both trips. In fact, half of the people going – the *Manthiri* only takes 12 divers – are doing BOTH weeks. So we're hoping to get in a Northern itinerary and a Southern itinerary. Either way, we know the diving will be spectacular and that the *Manthiri* crew will take good care of us. Trip dates are September 19-28 and September 29-October 8.

We generally don't plan more than

a year ahead so haven't laid out anything for 2026 yet. But we're thinking about Dumaguete, Philippines (combo of resort and liveboard diving), probably back to Indonesia, maybe back to Yap, and some others to fill out the dates.

The one I'm really trying to wrap my head around is in 2027. On August 2, there's a total solar eclipse through Egypt that will pass through the ancient city (now quite modern) of Luxor. This eclipse will have the longest duration of totality – 6 minutes 23 minutes – since 2009 and this type of length won't happen again until 2114. So I'm trying to see what we could do to set up an eclipse trip combined with a week of diving the Red Sea. It won't be cheap but if you want to get on the early interest list, let me know.

Anyhow, that's where we are with everything. Of course, if you'd like to stay local . . .



## 2025 DIVING VACATIONS

**March 8-15 • Easter Island #1**

**March 15-22 • Easter Island #2**

**June 28 - July 5 • Roatan**

**September 19-28 • Maldives #1**

# 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 start/finish times  
vary by event. Please confirm  
these when you sign up.

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

All dives are weather-dependent  
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  
[you can text this last # too]

**zelle**



## — REEF SEEKERS DIVE CO. — 2025 LOCAL DIVES & CLASSES

DAY	DATE	BOAT/SITE	PLANNED DESTINATION	\$\$\$
Wed.	Jan 9	--- CLASS ---	--- FISH I.D. ---	<b>35</b>
Sat.	11	Veterans Park	Surf Entries Made Easy	<b>FREE!!!</b>
Wed.	15	Catalina Express	Avalon UW Park	<b>180</b>
Thu.	23	Veterans Park	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	<b>FREE!!!</b>
Sat.	Feb 8	Veterans Park	Beach Diving Made Easy	<b>35</b>
Wed.	12	Catalina Express	Avalon UW Park	<b>180</b>
Wed.	19	--- CLASS ---	--- TABLES/COMPUTERS ---	<b>FREE!!!</b>

### Sat., Feb. 22 • 43rd Annual Avalon Underwater Cleanup

Thu.	27	Veterans Park	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	<b>FREE!!!</b>
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### March 8-16 • Chile • Easter Island #1 March 15-23 • Chile • Easter Island #2

Wed.	Mar 26	--- CLASS ---	--- PHOTO WORKSHOP ---	<b>35</b>
Sat.	Apr 5	Veterans Park	Navigation Made Easy	<b>35</b>
Wed.	9	Catalina Express	Avalon UW Park	<b>180</b>
Thu.	24	Veterans Park	••• Night Dive •••	<b>35</b>

### Wed., May 7 • Chamber Day & Eve 2025

Wed.	May 14	--- CLASS ---	--- NITROX ---	<b>95</b>
Sat.	17	Veterans Park	Surf Entries Made Easy	<b>FREE!!!</b>
Wed.	21	Catalina Express	Avalon UW Park	<b>180</b>

### Sat. & Sun., May 31 & June 1 • Scuba Show • LB Conv. Ctr.

Thu.	Jun 12	Veterans Park	••• Night Dive •••	<b>35</b>
Wed.	18	--- CLASS ---	--- FISH I.D. ---	<b>35</b>
Wed.	25	Catalina Express	Avalon UW Park	<b>180</b>

### June 28 - July 5 • Roatan • Diving at Anthony's Key

Sat.	Jul 12	Veterans Park	Beach Diving made Easy	<b>35</b>
Wed.	16	--- CLASS ---	--- TABLES/COMPUTERS ---	<b>FREE!!!</b>
Wed.	23	Catalina Express	Avalon UW Park	<b>180</b>
Sat.	Aug 9	Veterans Park	Navigation Made Easy	<b>35</b>
Thu.	14	Veterans Park	••• Night Dive •••	<b>35</b>
Wed.	20	--- CLASS ---	--- PHOTO WORKSHOP ---	<b>35</b>
Sat.	30	Veterans Park	Surf Entries Made Easy	<b>FREE!!!</b>
Wed.	Sep 3	Catalina Express	Avalon UW Park	<b>180</b>
Sat.	6	Veterans Park	Beach Diving Made Easy	<b>35</b>

### September 19-28 • Manthiri dive boat • Maldives #1 Sept. 29 - Oct. 8 • Manthiri dive boat • Maldives #2

### Fri., September 26 • Lobster season opens at 6:00PM

Wed.	Oct 15	--- CLASS ---	--- NITROX ---	<b>95</b>
Sat.	18	Veterans Park	Navigation Made Easy	<b>35</b>
Wed.	22	Catalina Express	Avalon UW Park	<b>180</b>
Thu.	30	Veterans Park	••• Night Dive •••	<b>35</b>
Sat.	Nov 8	Veterans Park	Surf Entries Made Easy	<b>FREE!!!</b>
Wed.	12	--- CLASS ---	--- FISH I.D. ---	<b>35</b>
Wed.	19	Catalina Express	Avalon UW Park	<b>180</b>
Wed.	Dec 3	--- CLASS ---	--- TABLES/COMPUTERS ---	<b>FREE!!!</b>
Sat.	13	Veterans Park	Beach Diving Made Easy	<b>35</b>
Wed.	17	Catalina Express	Avalon UW Park	<b>180</b>

## Reservations: (310) 652- 4990

We may add foreign or local trips as the year evolves.  
Come dive with us and have some fun!!!





## **LOCALLY . . .**

You'll notice from all of the page 3 stuff that we've once again got a full slate off offerings for after-basic-class training and Avalon trips for 2025. (And we can still set you up for private basic instruction or a private refresher if that's what you need.) But mostly,

we focus on people who are already certified.

So our classes include a number of things that can be done at a beach (specifically at Vets Park in Redondo): Navigation, Beach entries/exits, an entire beach dive itself, and night dives. We also do squid dives at Vets as well, through March.

We also offer regular Zoom-based lecture classes that include Fish ID, Photo Workshop, NAUI Nitrox, and Tables and Computers. The last one is a freebie because it seems like a lot of people either don't understand tables or don't understand the connection between tables and a dive computer (really just a very sophisticated way of looking at tables) and we think it's important to know what's what.

(We've long endorsed the idea that a smarter, better-educated diver is a safer diver.) So perhaps you can set aside some time this year for one of those.

On top of all of that, we schedule regular day trips to Avalon to dive in the Underwater Park. We generally get in three dives, they're escorted by me (Ken Kurtis), and can serve as a pseudo-refresher course, or just a pleasant day of diving the Park. We'll always see if we can find any of the Giant Sea Bass who have taken up seasonal residence there, and we'll visit the Jacques Cousteau plaque on our first dive to give it a little TLC.

So whatever your needs or interests in our local waters, Reef Seekers has something for you. Hope to see you in 2025.

# **PICTURE PAGE - Closing the store (2006)**

*(All pix by Ken Kurtis © 2025)*



***Our beloved shed in the back***



P.O. Box 634  
Beverly Hills, CA 90213

**WWW.REEFSEEKERS.COM**



***Moving the (very heavy) compressor***



***No way to save the hand-painted wall map***



***Our final moments at 8612 Wilshire***



***Reincarnated in Westwood where we are to this day***