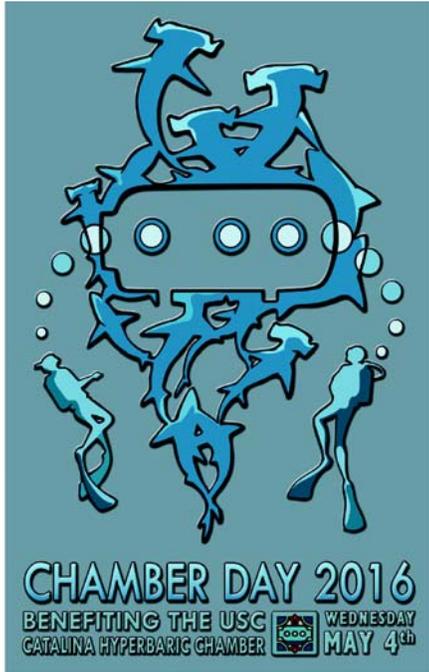


THE REEF SEEKER



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March - 2016



CHAMBER DAY 2016

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 4, 2016, as that's the date for Chamber Day where SoCal's finest dive boats donate their services for the day to benefit our Chamber. The full roster of participating boats (in alphabetical order) are: *Asante*, *Cee Ray*, *Giant Stride*, *Pacific Star*, *Perfect Mistress*, *Sundiver*, *Sundiver Express*, and *Westerly*.

Here's the way it works: Sign-Up for the boat you want to go on. We'll hold a reservation for you for 72 hours, but after that spots are guaranteed only when your donation is received. Note that we only have 150 spots available this year so don't get left behind. Your

donation of \$110 (plus \$30 for boat food & air) is for a good cause: your Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber. Try to book early, because once a boat fills, it's unavailable.

Boats will leave their respective docks at 7AM and head for Catalina. (Some boats may allow you to board the night before and sleep on board.) You'll make two dives at Catalina, get a commemorative Chamber Day 2016 T-shirt, and receive 5 daytime raffle tickets. To increase your chance of winning raffle prizes, you can purchase extra raffle tickets when you make your reservation, on the boat, or at the Chamber.

At some point during the day, your boat will dock in Big Fisherman's Cove and everyone will disembark for a 75-minute tour of our Chamber facilities, including a chance for you to hear from first responders from L.A. County Lifeguards, rescue helicopter crews from the Coast Guard and/or Sheriff's Department, and the Chamber crew will walk you around the Chamber itself. You'll even go inside and be pressurized to a depth of 1 foot. (Hard to believe, but you'll have to clear your ears.)

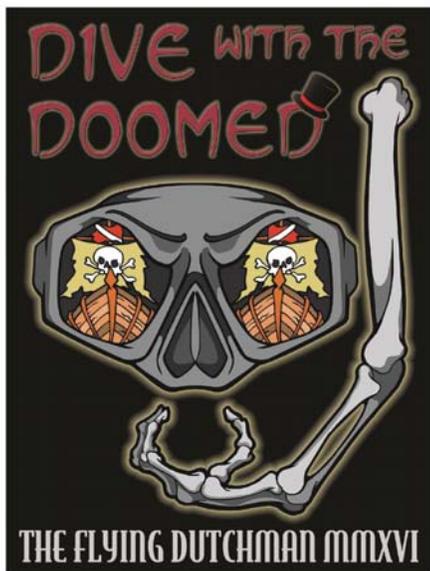
Most of the boats will arrive back at their docks between 5 and 5:30PM. We try to contact all the

boats to tell them who their raffle winners are. All the raffle prizes will be available in front of the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach from 4:30-7PM at our drive-up raffle prize pick-up table.

Please remember that Chamber Day is a fund-raising event and not a normal dive day charter. Due to the logistical issues involved, if weather conditions preclude the dive boats from safely going out on Chamber Day there will not be a make-up day. If weather forces us to cancel you will receive your Chamber Day shirt, be transferred to the *Flying Dutchman*, and will be given an additional 10 daytime raffle tickets.

The bottom line in all of this is that your continued support of our Chamber, in whatever form that takes, is essential for our Chamber to remain available and on-watch 24/7/366. And that means we need you to sign up for Chamber Day 2016 by calling a sponsoring shop or club, by calling our main number at 310-652-4990, or by going to our secure server at www.chamberday.org. Come alone or bring a buddy, but don't miss this special event!





FLYING DUTCHMAN 2016

For those who can't take a Wednesday off, we have the perfect solution—sign up for the *Flying Dutchman*. In nautical lore, the *Flying Dutchman* is bad news as it was the name of a mythical ship doomed to sail the seas forever and never reach port. But from a Chamber Day perspective, the *Dutchman* is a good thing because it helps us raise more money for our Chamber and gets you a unique T-shirt.

Our *Flying Dutchman* is the answer for folks who can't get wet on May 4 but who want to say they "dove" the event. You won't really go anywhere but you'll get all the other benefits of Chamber Day participation. An "on-board" raffle will be conducted, just like on all the other boats, and you'll get a T-shirt—but yours will be unique. (And the consensus is that this is the best *Dutchman* design ever.)

Cost for the *Dutchman* remains at \$95. This includes your T-shirt, on-board raffle ticket, and 5 Chamber Day raffle tickets. It's a great way to participate if you can't get away for the day. We generally

have over 100 people "dive" the *Dutchman* each year and we're hoping that 2016 will be no exception.

To sign up for the *Dutchman*, either go online to our website www.chamberday.org or call Chamber Day HQ at 310/652-4990.



CHAMBER EVENING 2016

Especially for those who can't take a Wednesday off . . .

The Aquarium and the Chamber Day Committee once again invite

you to join us for an evening of fish, food, and fun. Chamber Eve 2016 is Wednesday, May 4, from 7:00–10:30PM. Because the Aquarium realizes the vital role our Chamber plays in the overall safety of the SoCal dive community, and because they realize what a valuable contribution the roughly 170 volunteer divers make to the smooth running of the Aquarium, they waive their normal facility fee for this event and host it for us at no charge. (We still pay for the food but that's outside of the Aquarium's control.)

As with last year, our ticket price is \$110 per person. (Folks who do both the daytime and evening events will receive an extra \$20 in raffle tickets as a bonus for doing both.) With attendance capped at 500, the earlier you sign up, the better.

Each table seats 10 for the sit-down, waiter-served dinner. Many of the tables are sponsored by area dive shops, clubs, and organizations. You can choose to sit with a group you know, or choose one of our "Open" tables and make some new friends. You can sign up directly with a table sponsor, through our secure on-line website

2016 DIVING VACATIONS

March 11-19 • Yap

March 20-27 • Palau

July 16-23 • Bonaire

August 1-6 • Isla Guadalupe

(www.chamberday.org—it also has a complete list of table sponsors), or by calling us at 310-652-4990. Just be sure you let us know where you want to sit. (And if you're a vegetarian or have special dietary requirements, let us know that as well, no later than May 1. We'll do our best accommodate your needs.)

The doors open at 7PM. You'll have over an hour to explore the Aquarium exhibits, check out the prizes, make purchases at our merchandise table, drink, and mingle. Dinner will start a little after 8PM and our program gets underway after 9PM with remarks, raffle prizes, some stills and videos from the day, and a check presentation at the end. We usually wrap up around 10:15PM. It's always a fun evening for everyone, so bring along your dive buddy or even a non-diving friend or Significant Other.

When you buy your ticket, you'll also get 5 evening raffle tickets. There will be opportunities to buy more raffle tickets when you get to the Aquarium. Total value of the evening raffle will be roughly \$10,000 and prizes will include regulators, BCs, computers, and more. (Check out our web site—www.chamberday.org—for a complete listing of all prizes and donors.)

Best of all, everyone in attendance will have a shot at our raffle Grand Prize, which will be announced at a later date.

In the early part of the evening, we'll have our Blind Bid Auction where you can bid on items but can't see what others have bid. This includes the highly coveted Dive Immersion for Two at the

UPCOMING LOCAL DIVES

Aquarium of the Pacific - Diver's Day

• • • March 12 • • •

Chamber Day & Eve

• • • May 4 • • •

Aquarium of the Pacific. So make your best offer and keep your fingers crossed. Winning bids will be announced throughout the evening.

All night, we'll have full access to the Aquarium and its 11,000+ critters, comprising over 500 species and representing 3 major regions of the Pacific. In case you didn't know, the Aquarium of the Pacific is the only aquarium that focuses exclusively on the Pacific Ocean.

As with Chamber Day, Chamber Evening tickets can be purchased by calling 310-652-4990 or by going to our secure server at www.chamberday.org. Just indicate how many tickets you want, what table you'd like to sit at, and how you want to pay. It's as simple as that.

Mark the date—Wednesday, May 4. It's the dive party of the year. Don't miss it!

CHAMBER DAY 2016 FREE RAFFLE TICKETS – GET MORE BY DIVING IN APRIL

We really appreciate the fact that the boats and their owners/captains/crews donate their time and their vessels to make this whole thing work. So this year, we'd like to do something extra for the boats

and something extra for you as well.

Simply put, we want you to dive with any of our eight Chamber Day boats during the month of April. We think it's important for the dive community to support the businesses that support our Chamber. And we'll sweeten the pot by giving you free raffle tickets for every day in April you do that.

Any and every diver who does an April dive day with our participating boats - *Asante*, *Cee Ray*, *Giant Stride*, *Pacific Star*, *Perfect Mistress*, *Sundiver*, *Sundiver Express*, or *Westerly* - will receive five FREE Chamber Day raffle tickets. The boats will all have a supply of tickets and will give them to you at the end of the dive day. Dive as many days during the month as you like. Dive with as many different participating boats as you like. And it doesn't matter if you'll be diving on Chamber Day as well or not. We want to help the boats that help us, and we want to reward you to boot.

When you get your FREE tickets, simply put your name and phone number on the ticket stub, tear it off, and either mail them to us, leave them with the boat or - if you will be diving on Chamber Day - bring them back on May 4 and deposit them then. And since you don't need to be present to win a prize in the Daytime Raffle, you might find that doing a dive in

April could snag you a regulator, a BC, or some other wonderful prize.

We'll publish a list each week as part of our event updates telling you which boats are going where on which day and how to book (open boat or charter). And much as we hope you'll dive with us on May 4 (or at least do the *Flying Dutchman*) the goal of this is to get you diving in April and support our participating dive boats.

Hope to see you underwater!!!

CHAMBER DAY/EVE SECURE SERVER

Once again this year we are offering you the opportunity to sign up for Chamber Day and Chamber Eve activities through the Internet

and our secure server. (If you choose to use this option, please make sure you provide your phone number and e-mail address where prompted.) Credit card charges that go through our server will appear on your statement as "USC College of Letters Arts." Rest assured that all donations go directly into the Chamber's operating account.

You can also use your credit card when you make purchases over the phone at 310-652-4990. All charges done this way will be billed through Square and should appear on your statement as "Reef Seekers Dive Co." which is simply the billing agent. All the monies are transferred immediately to the Chamber's account.

If you have any questions, e-mail us at chamberday@aol.com.

WHY WE DO THIS

Those of us who work behind the scenes put a lot of time and effort into Chamber Day & Eve 2016 because we believe it's really important to have our Chamber available to us 24/7/366. When a dive accident occurs, getting an injured diver to our Chamber alive means that he/she has an excellent chance of survival and recovery. Knowing this while you're performing first aid, administering oxygen, or doing whatever it takes is a reassuring thought. Our Chamber is an invaluable safety net that we simply don't want to lose. Your participation in any or all of the facets of Chamber Day will help to ensure our Chamber's future. Please go to www.chamberday.org and support our Chamber.

PICTURE PAGE - Chamber Days past

(All pix by Ken Kurtis © 2016)



**Getting the lowdown
on the dock**



P.O. Box 634
Beverly Hills, CA 90213

WWW.REEFSEEKERS.COM



**USCG chopper
arriving**



The only 3 Chamber Directors - Andy, Ron, & Karl



**Dinner in the Great Hall at
the Aquarium of the Pacific**



**Ken & Karl
with the 2015 mock check**