

THE REEF SEEKER



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CHAMBER DAY & EVE 2017

To err is human. To dive is divine. To err while diving can cause some big problems. A study has shown that 69% of diving accidents are caused by diver error. So the last thing you'd want to hear is, "Sorry, there's no chamber in the area so there's nothing we can do for you." Fortunately, that's NOT the case in SoCal because, since 1974, we have relied on the USC Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber to bail us out when things go wrong. And once again, our Chamber is counting on you.

2017 marks our Chamber's 43rd year of unbending service to the Southern California diving community. While our Chamber still gets about 50% of its funding from the County, Chamber Day & Eve have become the major source of funds to keep our Chamber available to us 24/7/365. And that's

why we hope you'll participate in Chamber Day & Eve 2017 on Wednesday, May 3.

The first Chamber Day attracted about 200 divers and netted about \$15,000 for our Chamber. Over the years the event has grown to over 1,000 participants by adding Chamber Eve, the *Flying Dutchman*, and the Chamber Challenge. Last year we raised just under \$108,000 for our Chamber. We are justifiably considered the largest single-day scuba charity event in the United States and perhaps even the world.

It's important to know that all monies raised go to the Chamber. No administrative fees are deducted from the proceeds, the participating SoCal boats donate their time and services, the manufacturers donate gear for raffle prizes, the Aquarium of the Pacific donates their facility for Chamber Eve, hundreds of volunteers donate their time, and you (hopefully) donate your money.

Here's what's happening:

- The main event is Chamber Day, which includes two dives at Catalina, plus a walking tour of the Chamber facilities at the Isthmus. A ticket on one of the participating boats for Chamber Day is still only \$110 (plus \$30 for food and airfills for the boat). You get the diving, the tour, a T-shirt, and 5 daytime

raffle tickets.

- If you can't take the day off but would still like to participate, we have the *Flying Dutchman*—a mythical boat, yes, but a big part of Chamber Day and the perfect option for those who can't attend in person. "Diving" the *Dutchman* gets you 5 daytime raffle tickets and a special limited-edition T-shirt available only to folks who sign up for the *Dutchman*. And we're holding the price at \$95.

- There's also the Chamber Challenge, which "challenges" our community to raise extra funds for our Chamber through direct donations (mostly \$100 pledges, but also \$500 and \$1,000, and even \$5,000 and \$10,000). You donate, and then—we hope—you challenge your friends to match your generosity.

- Raffle tickets, anyone? Daytime raffle tickets are the way to go—because you don't need to be present to win. Tickets are \$1 each, with discounts when you buy more. Plus this year when you dive our participating boats in April, you'll get additional FREE raffle tickets.

- Chamber Evening, co-sponsored by the Aquarium of the Pacific, wraps things up. You'll have full access to the Aquarium, a sit-down dinner in the Great Hall (under the life-sized model of a blue whale), hear a few speeches—we try to

keep them short—maybe win a raffle prize, and finally, cheer during the presentation of the Chamber Day check to Karl Huggins, Director of the Chamber. As with Chamber Day, Chamber Evening tickets are \$110 each which includes five evening raffle tickets and your chance at our grand prize—a week of diving with the manta rays, hammerheads, Mandarinfish, and other creatures you'll find in Yap while staying at Manta Bay Resort.

For more information about these can't-miss events, visit our web site at www.chamberday.org. You can sign up there using our secure server, or you can Chamber Day HQ at 310-652-4990.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 3, 2017.

CHAMBER DAY 2017 RAFFLE TICKETS

Whether or not you attend Chamber Day 2017, you can still pitch in and help support our Chamber by buying daytime raffle tickets. Each ticket gives you a shot at winning some fabulous prizes. And, since you don't have to be present to win for the daytime raffle, you help our Chamber while perhaps helping yourself as well.

We appreciate it when you write your name (or use a stamp) on the back of your ticket. If you're diving, put your boat name on there too. It makes it that much easier for us to let you know you're a winner and get your prize to you.

Day raffle tickets are \$1 each. But we'll sweeten the deal when you buy in bulk. For \$10, you'll get 12 tickets; \$25 dollars nets you 30;

\$50 gets you 70; \$100 scores 150. Last year, a number of winners were people who couldn't attend the event but bought tickets anyway.

There are a couple of caveats to keep in mind:

(1) Tickets are good for the daytime raffle only.

(2) You can buy as many tickets as you like; however, a single individual can win no more than 3 prizes in the daytime raffle.

California law prohibits us from selling raffle tickets over the Internet, but if you'd like to get more tickets before May 3, we're allowed to do that transaction over the phone. Just call Chamber Day HQ at 310-652-4990 and we're get you all squared away.

CHAMBER DAY 2017 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 again this year,

we're doing something extra for the boats and something extra for you as well.

Simply put, we want you to dive with any of our 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. So we'll sweeten the pot by giving you free raffle tickets for every day in April you do that.

Every diver who does an April dive day with our participating boats - *Asante, Cee Ray, Giant Stride, Hattitude, Pacific Star, Perfect Mistress, Second Stage, 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

2017 DIVING VACATIONS

March 18-25 • Bonaire

June 10-17 • Isla Mujeres

July 7-19 • Yap Immersion #1

July 21 - Aug 2 • Yap #2

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 3 and deposit them then. 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 3 (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!!!



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

UPCOMING LOCAL DIVES

DAY	DATE	BOAT/SITE	PLANNED DESTINATION	PRICE
Wed.	Mar. 1	Veterans Park	••• Squid Dive •••	FREE!!!
Wed.	15	Westwood	Photo Workshop	\$25
Wed.	Apr. 5	Veterans Park	Night Dive	FREE!!!
Sat.	22	Catalina	Avalon UW Park	\$150
Wed.	26	Westwood	Fish ID	\$25
Wed.	May 24	Veterans Park	Night Dive	FREE!!!
Sat.	June 3	Catalina	Avalon UW Park	\$150

our Chamber and gets you a unique T-shirt.

Our *Flying Dutchman* is the answer for folks who can't get wet on May 3 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 every year the *Dutchman* logo is new and different.)

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. Last year, we had 119 people "dive" the *Dutchman* each year and we're hoping that 2017 will be even better.

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 2017 RAFFLE - WIN A WEEK IN YAP

The Chamber Evening raffle is an important part the overall fund-raising effort, as every dollar

makes our Chamber's future more secure. Unlike its daytime cousin, the evening raffle is open only to folks who actually attend the event, since one of the rules is that you have to be present to win.

Once again this year, our Grand Prize (and it will be the last thing we do in the evening) is a week of fabulous diving and manta-watching with our good friends and long-time Chamber supporters at Manta ray Bay Resort. One lucky person will hear his or her name called as the climax of a great evening.

It's extremely helpful if you write your name (or use a stamp or sticker) on the back of your raffle ticket. It makes the evening go much quicker when we can call out a name rather than calling out a number and then waiting while everyone checks their tickets.

With the total value of the evening raffle prizes in the range of \$10,000, you'll want to have as many tickets as your budget allows. Visit our web site—www.chamberday.org—for a complete listing of prizes and donors.

Every aspect of this event is designed to help solidify the financial footing of our Chamber, which we need to have available to us on a 24/7/365 basis. Every dollar you contribute goes to an important cause and your support is very much appreciated.

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, please feel free to send us an e-mail at chamberday@aol.com.



WHY WE DO THIS

Whether it's a boat, a store, a club,

a manufacturer, another organization, or an individual, those of us who work behind the scenes put a lot of time and effort into Chamber Day & Eve 2017 because we believe it's really important to have our Chamber available to us 24/7/365. 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 - Ch-Day & Eve past logos

(All pix by Ken Kurtis © 2017)

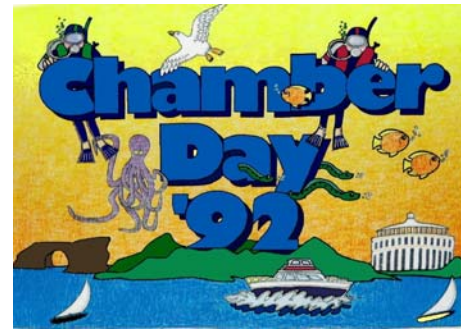


**Chamber Day
1989 (the first one)**



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WWW.REEFSEEKERS.COM



**Chamber Day
1992**



**Chamber Eve
2001**



**Chamber Day
2005**



**Rare look at rejected
2010 suggestion**