

# THE REEF SEEKER



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## CHAMBER DAY & EVE 2018

Diving is an amazingly safe sport . . . until it isn't. But we're all human and things happen. In fact, 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. Since 1974, divers 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.

2018 marks our Chamber's 44th year of unbending service to the Southern California diving community. While our Chamber still gets about half of its funding from L.A. 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 need you to participate in

Chamber Day & Eve 2018 on Wednesday, May 2. And we're trying some new things this year that we hope you'll find inviting.

This is our 30th annual Chamber Day event. The first one in 1989 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 \$106,000 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 (we still have to pay for the food), 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, five day time raffle tickets, and a chance to chat with (and thank) first responders from Coast Guard, L.A. County Sheriffs, Baywatch, and others.

- This year, we're introducing an Early Bird Chamber Day price of just \$95 (still plus the food-and-air). Anyone who pays for their boat spot before April 1 (no foolin') will get the discounted price.

- 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 five daytime raffle tickets plus a special limited-edition T-shirt available only to folks who sign up for the Dutchman. And we're holding the Dutchman 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 a great way to go

because you don't need to be present to win. Tickets are \$1 each, with discounts when you buy more. Again this year, when you dive our participating boats in April, you'll get five additional FREE raffle tickets.

- Chamber Evening, co-sponsored by the Aquarium of the Pacific, wraps things up, and we've got some changes there as well. This year Chamber Evening tickets are \$120 each which includes five evening general raffle tickets and one Grand Prize raffle ticket, which this year is a trip to Guadalupe Island (south of Ensenada) to go nose-to-nose with Great White Sharks on one of the Nautilus Explorer boats.

- When you purchase your ticket, we will also ask you to specify if you want the regular meal (chicken) or the vegetarian/vegan meal. FYI, all the meals are gluten-free (except for the rolls).

- Do you want early access to the Aquarium, a private lounge area, and free preferred close-in ground-level parking? Then sign up for our V.G.D. (Very Generous Diver) Package. This is limited to the first 150 people. For an extra \$75 you get that plus a private cash bar, private outside lounge/deck area with seating (available to you all evening until 10:45PM), exclusive access to the Moon Jellies exhibit, five extra general raffle tickets, one extra Grand Prize raffle ticket, a Chamber Eve t-shirt and early access (6PM) to selected areas and exhibits inside the Aquarium.

- For everyone else, the doors open at 7PM. You can explore the Aquarium (as well as the raffle prize and merchandise tables) from 7-8:15PM, dinner is from 8:15-

9:15PM, and our program (acknowledgements, short speeches, raffle prizes) is from 9:15-10:15PM.

- There are some changes to our raffle this year. The most noticeable is that the Grand Prize - a trip to Guadalupe Island with Nautilus Explorer - is now a separate ticket from the general raffle. When you get your Chamber Eve ticket, you'll also receive one Grand Prize raffle ticket, and you can purchase more for \$5 each. But we will only sell 1,500 Grand Prize tickets in total and once they're gone, they're gone. So don't miss out on a chance to increase your odds of winning a fabulous trip.

- The regular raffle will now be a targeted raffle as well as Pick-A-Prize. There will be a special bin for each of our top three prizes, plus a separate bin for prizes #4-20. You choose where you want to deposit your raffle tickets. Split them up equally, put more in one bin than another, or however you want. For each of the top three prizes, the name drawn gets that prize. For #4-20, it'll be Pick-A-Prize as we've done in the past, from what's still available on the prize list.

- The grand finale is the presentation of the overall proceeds check to Chamber Director Karl Huggins, and the drawing of one lucky person who will win the trip to Guadalupe with Nautilus Explorer.

For more information about these can't-miss events, visit our web site at [www.chamberday.org](http://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 2, 2018, and Chamber Day & Eve.

**Ken Kurtis**  
(Chairman, Ch-Day/Eve 2018)

&

**Karl Huggins**  
(Director, USC Catalina  
Hyperbaric Chamber)



## 2018 DIVING VACATIONS

**April 14-21 • Bonaire**

**June 8-20 • Yap Immersion**

**August 18-25 • Isla Mujeres**

**September?? - Indonesia???**



## THE V.G.D (VERY GENEROUS DIVER) PACKAGE

THIS is the way to go. We have been asked in years past if there was a way to get into the Aquarium earlier than 7PM so you'd have more time to walk around. We've always had to say no. Until now. Introducing the V.G.D (Very Generous Diver) Package. This is an add-on to your Chamber Evening ticket. You cannot buy this as a stand-alone item.

But if you're interested in getting into the Aquarium early, getting free preferred/close-in/ground-level parking, having a private exclusive area in which to hang out and mingle, plus a lot more, then this is the package for you. But it's limited to 150 people so if this floats your boat, don't dilly-dally.

Here's what the V.G.D Package includes:

- Free preferred close-in ground-level parking in the Aquarium parking structure
- Early-access (starting at 6PM) through a separate entrance
- Private outside lounge area (two levels) with plenty of chairs and sofas
- Private cash bar
- Exclusive Moon Jellies exhibit access (on the lower level) 6:00-8:00PM

## UPCOMING LOCAL DIVES & CLASSES

DAY	DATE	BOAT/SITE	PLANNED DESTINATION	PRICE
Thu.	Mar. 1	- CLASS -	- PHOTO WORKSHOP -	<b>\$25</b>
Sat.	10	Aqrm of Pacific	Divers Day	<b>FREE!!!</b>
Sat.	17	<i>Catalina Express</i>	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	<b>\$150</b>
Thu.	22	Redondo	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	<b>FREE!!!</b>
Sat.	Apr. 7	Redondo	Navigation dive (single tank)	<b>\$25</b>
Tue.	10	Redondo	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	<b>FREE!!!</b>
Sat.	28	<i>Catalina Express</i>	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	<b>\$150</b>

- Hors devours 6:00-7:30PM
- Five additional general raffle tickets
- One additional Grand Prize raffle tickets
- Chamber Evening short-sleeve t-shirt
- Early access (6PM-ish) to selected exhibits, including Shark Lagoon
- Private outside lounge & bar area stay open until 10:45PM
- Limited to 150 people

You can get this for an extra \$75. When you sign up for your Chamber Evening ticket, make sure you also get the V.G.D. Package because once we've gotten 150 people signed up for it, that will be it. Call us at 310/652-4990 or sign up through our secure server at [www.chamberday.org](http://www.chamberday.org).

## THE FLYING DUTCHMAN 2018

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 was 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 2 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 quite different. (Remember that 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 five Chamber Day raffle tickets. It's a great way to participate if you can't get away for the day. Last year, we had 92 people "dive" the Dutchman, and we're hoping that 2018 will be even better.

To sign up for the Dutchman, either go to our website online at [www.chamberday.org](http://www.chamberday.org) or call us at Chamber Day HQ by dialing this number: 310/652-4990.



## CHAMBER CHALLENGE 2018

Each year the SoCal diving community raises extra funds for our Chamber through the Chamber Challenge. These funds are vital to the operation of our Chamber and account for over 50% of what we generally raise during the entire event. It's a simple concept: you make a donation and then "challenge" your friends and associates to do the same. Last year was an incredible year, with almost \$64,000 in Challenge donations so we've got our work cut out for us.

Don't forget that donations can be made in someone's memory. A number of people have already made donations in memory of long-

time Chamber Committee member Tom Wetzel. You can donate in memory of Tom or someone else.

Although contributions of any amount are welcome, we have a tiered level of donations, as follows: Diamond – \$10,000, Platinum – \$5,000, Gold – \$1,000, Silver – \$500, Bronze – \$100. Or you can choose a different amount.

Contributions can also be grouped together for a larger total. If the company you work for has a matching grant program, Challenge donations usually qualify.

Donations can be made either through our secure server at [www.chamberday.org](http://www.chamberday.org) or by calling 310/652-4990. Cash, check, and credit card are all fine.

## WHY WE DO THIS

Those of us who work behind the scenes put a lot of time and effort into Chamber Day & Eve 2018 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](http://www.chamberday.org) and support our Chamber.

## PICTURE PAGE - Chamber Checks past

(All pix by Ken Kurtis © 2018)



**2013**  
**\$125,393**



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



**2014**  
**\$96,051**



**2015**  
**\$117,129**



**2016**  
**\$107,885**



**2017**  
**\$105,825**