

# THE REEF SEEKER



REEF SEEKERS DIVE CO.  
P.O. Box 634  
Beverly Hills, CA 90213  
(310) 652-4990  
www.reefseekers.com  
e-mail: kenkurtis@aol.com

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## TRUMP ELIMINATES SoCal MPAs

With the stroke of a pen, President Donald Trump has eliminated all of the Marine Protected Areas in California waters by signing Executive Order 40117. When asked why, he replied, “You don’t need them. This is another example of the climate change hoax being perpetrated by the Chinese.”

White House press secretary Sean Spicer commented further, “There’s no real evidence to prove that these are needed or that they even work. This is another example of government over-regulation that we are determined to undo.”

When Trump was pressed further and made aware of baseline studies and five-year studies that show an increase in biomass in MPAs, he further stated, “Look, fish gotta swim and birds gotta fly. They

move around. Why don’t you, and I mean you’ll know I’m right, that they think, of the ocean which is simply HUUUGE, that there’s all of this stuff going on, and I mean a lot, believe me, so you end up with not knowing where things are, which is why it shouldn’t be done in the first place.”

Hopefully that now makes sense.

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## PASSPORT NOW REQUIRED FOR CATALINA

Travel to Catalina just became a little more burdensome because, in a ridiculous move, it’s now required that you present a valid U.S. Passport to set foot on the island. (If you’re going to be on a boat all day and not actually go ON the island, this will not apply.) The State Department announced the new rule goes into effect Saturday.

When you arrive on the island (at the Mole in Avalon or the pier at Two Harbors) rather than just getting off the boat and heading to wherever you intend to go, you’ll now have to queue up and pass through an Immigration checkpoint, where your nationality will be verified. The reverse will happen on the way back but - like in the Bahamas where you clear Im-

migration & Customs before you get on the plane home - you’ll clear Immigration on the island before you leave.

If you don’t have a passport and can’t get one before your next Catalina trip, you simply bring your driver’s license with a \$10 bill neatly folded and tucked underneath the license. Hand the license discretely to the clerk, and they’ll hand it back to you discretely but minus the \$10 bill with a wink/wink nudge/nudge.

So for your next Catalina trip, make sure you take your c-card to get airfills but also take your passport so you can get back home.

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## SAFETY FOR SNORKELERS

Following the lead of scuba divers who carry a second regulator (octopus) in case the primary one fails, snorkelers are now being encouraged to wear a second snorkel on the right side of their mask, in case their primary snorkel should fail. This way, they don’t have to worry about what happens in an out-of-air scenario. Instead of trying to lift their head all the way out of the water, they simply switch to the backup, known in the industry as a snorktopus. They’re available at your local dive shop.



## **DO A DIVE - PLAY SOME GOLF**

Here's a deal that sounds unbelievable: How would you like to do a dive AND get a chance to play a world-famous golf course?

It seems that the folks at the Riviera golf course need some divers to help clean out their water hazards (lost balls and thrown clubs). As a thank you and reward for doing so, they'll then let you play a round of golf on their course for free. Remember, this is not only Ben Hogan's old home course, but also a very exclusive golf course not open to the public and which is almost impossible to get on unless you know someone.

This offer is limited to only **THREE** divers so you'll have to act quickly. You'll play on the same day you dive (in fact, you tee off as soon as you're done with the dive) so you'll need to bring your dive gear along with your golf clubs. Best of all, since Riviera requires each golfer to take along a caddy, when you're diving, they'll assign you a caddy to carry your DIVE bag!!! How's that for service?

Bear in mind this is limited to only three divers so time is of the essence. You'll need to provide your certification number along with your USGA handicap. (If you don't have an official handicap, tell them 26.) The phone number to call is (310)454-6591. Good luck!!!

## **CALIBRATE YOUR WEIGHTS**

There's a new regulation from the California Bureau of Weights & Measures that requires all weight that's sold to the general public to be accurately labeled to within 1 gram of the actual weight. This regulation takes effect today.

While this was not aimed at the dive industry, it has the unintended consequence - because the bill that passed the legislature was not written clearly enough - of affecting us as well because there's a clause in there that applies retroactively. What this means is that if you own a weight belt with weights, you're going to have to take it in to make sure the weights you use are certified and calibrated to be labeled correctly.

Fortunately, most dive shops have a calibrated scale and will do the check for you for free. (And if your shop doesn't do it or doesn't know what you're talking about, call us at 310/652-4990 and we'll set your straight).

But the reason that this is so important to get done is that officers from the BoW&M will be check-

ing dive boats to make sure that divers are in compliance because if not, you can be fined. So make sure you gather your weights about you and get this taken care of right away.

## **AQUARIUM NEEDS SOME FISH-SITTERS**

The Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach needs your help. As they announced at Diver's Day a couple of weeks ago, they're going to be draining the big Tropical Reef tank for some repairs and have no place to put all the fish while the exhibit is empty.

So they need some people with home aquariums to temporarily house their fish. They can't pay you, but everyone who fish-sits, once the exhibit is filled back up, will receive a guest pass to do a dive in the Tropical Reef tank. A specific need is someone with a salt-water pool in their backyard to house the Queensland Grouper and the Zebra Sharks.

If you can help, call us here at Reef Seekers (310/652-4990) and we'll put you in touch with the right folks at AOP.

### **2017 DIVING VACATIONS**

**June 10-17 • Isla Mujeres**

**July 7-19 • Yap Immersion #1**

**July 21 - Aug 2 • Yap #2**

**Sept. 1-6 • Isla Guadalupe**

## THE TRUTH BEHIND THE CLOSURE OF JELLYFISH LAKE

You may have heard about “problems” in Jellyfish Lake in Palau. The cover story is that, for some unknown reason, they’ve been seeing fewer and fewer jellies and they thought there was something going on, so they closed it down to snorkelers until they could figure out what was happening.

This story is simply not true. The REAL reason is simpler and much more ominous: The jellyfish in Jellyfish Lake have become carnivores and are attacking and eating people. (Sort of like that python who ate the guy in Indonesia last week.) So as to not hurt tourism, the Palauan government, with the help of the CIA, concocted the “fake news” about the jelly population dwindling until they could get a handle on this.

It turns out that not all of the jellies are carnivores, only a select few. But it turns out that they are voracious eaters and have the ability to consume as many as three people per day. To weed them out, Palau has employed a number of Jelly Hunters who daily go in and look for the dangerous ones. They’re fairly easy to spot as they swim with their bell up and they tilt to the left at roughly a 45° angle. When one of those are spotted - bam!!! - it’s neutralized and the threat goes down by one. The jellies, who for years have had no natural predators to fear, now have a formidable enemy.

Although many people will scoff at this article and think it’s just some elaborate joke, we at Reef

## UPCOMING LOCAL DIVES & CLASSES

DAY	DATE	BOAT/SITE	PLANNED DESTINATION	PRICE
Sat.	Apr. 1	Newfoundland	Night dive on the <i>Titanic</i>	<b>CRAZY!!!</b>
Tue.	4	Veterans Park	••• Night Dive •••	<b>FREE!!!</b>
Wed.	26	Westwood	CLASS - Fish ID	<b>\$25</b>
Sat.	29	<i>Catalina Express</i>	Avalon UW Park	<b>\$150</b>
Wed.	May 3	Cat. & Long Beach	Chamber Day/Eve 2017	<b>Varies</b>
Sa/Su	6-7	Long Beach	Scuba Show	<b>\$10</b>
Wed.	24	Veterans Park	••• Night Dive •••	<b>FREE!!!</b>
Sat.	June 3	<i>Catalina Express</i>	Avalon UW Park	<b>\$150</b>

Seekers have been able to secure a copy of a classified photograph that proves exactly what’s been going on. We warn you that it’s rather gruesome, but there’s a photo of a man being eaten alive while his wife swims away in terror. (We’ve put it at the bottom of page 4 to spare those of you who are delicate or squeamish.)

So be aware. Don’t let this happen to you. Don’t go to Jellyfish Lake until the all-clear is given and the jellies return to their former blissful state.

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## NEW REALITY TV SHOW

Here’s a TV show you won’t want to miss: “The Real Boat Captains of San Pedro & Long Beach.” That’s right, our very own lovable captains are getting their own television show and will be featured weekly. The show will be running on the Outdoor Channel on Friday evenings at 8PM through the summer.

You’ll see all the intrigue and behind-the-scenes hi-jinks that you may not know about. Who stole whose anchor? Which boat got their lines loosened at the dock? And whose deckhand is secretly dating the daughter of one of the captains? (Here’s a hint and spoiler

alert: She’s dating more than one.)

Every week, you’ll be exposed to the things these captains have to put up with. And you may find that some of you end up in the footage as well, because shooting will continue through the summer. But we think you should set your DVRs to record this if you can’t watch it live, because it really explains why some of them would simply rather stay in their wheelhouses.

“The Real Boat Captains of San Pedro & Long Beach” starts this month on the Outdoor Channel. Check your local listings and make sure to watch all the episodes.

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(which sounds  
nicer than  
"I couldn't  
think of  
anything else  
to write.")

## **NAUI SOLD**

You'll recall that we told you earlier this week that PADI had been sold to an investors group to the tune of \$700 million. Now the news comes out that NAUI has been sold as well.

Of all the certification agencies, PADI is certainly the behemoth, capturing an estimated 50-60% of the U.S. certification market. NAUI is generally considered to be third, with about a 15-20% market share. So it's not unexpected that NAUI would fetch a lower price than PADI.

The NAUI Board of Directors wouldn't divulge the exact price but said it would allow NAUI to

retire all of their debt. Sources speaking to us off the record say that the final price was \$150 (there's no "million" missing there - it's one hundred and fifty bucks) but the buyer also threw in new booties for the BOD plus lifetime passes to Swimland in Orlando.

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## **DISCLAIMER**

This specific newsletter gets harder and harder to write each year. (THAT'S not a joke.) Because I know that, over the almost 30 years that we've been doing this, most of you have caught on to the gag and are expecting this. So my hope is to just grab you with that first story or at least make you think

twice before going, "Oh, it's THAT time of year again."

For those of you new to Reef Seekers and for those of you with a short memory, this is our annual April 1 newsletter. It's the only one that has a specific date - instead of just Month, Year - in the header to hopefully give you one final clue before sucking you in.

You might read it for the fun of it or you're reading it wondering what the hell is going on and how could all of these outlandish things be happening. I have only one thing to say: Look again at the specific date on page 1 and then repeat after me: APRIL FOOL. And hopefully I also get to say . . . GOTCHA!!!

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# **TRAGEDY AT JELLYFISH LAKE IN PALAU**

*(All pix by Ken Kurtis © 2017)*

