

# THE REEF SEEKER



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## THE DODGERS NEED DIVERS

If you follow baseball, you are doubtless aware of the issues the Dodgers had Tuesday night in an exhibition game with the Angels when a pipe in the field near third base burst and starting gushing out some sort of brown liquid. Although the problem has temporarily been fixed, it's not fully solved and the Dodgers are in need of a couple of divers to make the fix permanent.

It seems there's a huge reservoir tank under the stands on the third base side that helps supply water to the restrooms on that side of the stadium and that's where the problems lies. The Dodgers need at least two and maybe as many as four buddy teams to dive into this reservoir and plug the leak. The assumption is that this should take less than a day. Depth is less than 30 feet but you'll need to bring your own light and guideline.

To apply, you must at least be an Advanced Diver and have no fewer

than 12 open-water dives. Cave certification is a bonus and being a Dodger fan an even bigger bonus. Although there's no direct pay for the job, the Dodgers say that all the divers chosen will be given season tickets in the Dugout Club which will also include parking. (So it's a pretty good deal.)

You can get the information and a link to the application form over the phone by calling the Dodgers at 323/224-1507 and asking for David Edford, Dodger Stadium Facilities Director. (I think there's a waiver, too.) Good luck and make sure you tell him how you heard about this exciting limited once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.



## THE AIRFILL APP

For years scuba stores have complained about on-line competition but always had the saving grace of being the only way you could get a tank filled. Well, not anymore. Say hello to The Airfill App, available now through the Google Play Store

and Apple's App Store. Both are selling the app for a \$5.99 monthly fee (that entitles you to 10 fills per month) or pay a \$130 annual fee which entitles you to unlimited fills.

And it's pretty clever the way it works. (And it works on all mobile phone platforms, so that's a plus too.)

In addition to the app, you need to buy an adapter which will run you another \$99. But as you can see from the picture, you simply attach yoke end of the adapter to your tank, slide the mini-plug into the headphone jack of your phone, open up the app (you'll need to make sure you have an Internet connection), choose the size of your tank in cubic feet, and then the fill pressure and you're ready to go. Then click "FILL" and the air will start rushing in at a rate of 4 cfm (cubic feet/minute). By the time you're done with your surface interval, you'll be all ready to go again.

The Airfill App right now is only available for standard compressed air. They're working on both a Nitrox and a Mixed Gas version. But for now, say goodbye to those pesky trips to dive shops for airfills or waiting in long lines for it to be your turn. Get The Airfill App and adapter, keep your phone charged, and you'll be ready to go.



## **TRUMP TARGETS MARINE SANCTUARIES**

Apparently confusing Marine Sanctuaries with Sanctuary Cities, President Trump went on an early-morning Twitter tirade promising to clean up Marine Sanctuaries and send in ICE divers to do it. “These sanctuaries harbor foreign fish and MUST be stopped. These fish were not born in the United States and need to go back to where they came from, which is usually Mexico.”

Trump went on to complain that with the presence of “illegal alien” fish, American fishermen were being denied their right to catch “fully made-in-the-U.S.A.” marine creatures. “I love the Marines, you know,” he added, “and even my helicopter is named Marine One.”

Trump is proposing to reinforce the sanctuaries with “a big, beautiful net that will be 30 feet deep and extend out 200 miles to our territorial water limits.” Doing so, he claims, will replenish the number of fish in U.S territorial waters to the point that “we’ll have so many fish, big beautiful fantastic fish, that you won’t know what to do. In fact, there will be so many fish, that we’ll have to catch some

every day to keep the population down.”

To that extent, Trump’s also planning an Executive Order that will require every citizen to go fishing at least once a month. “I call it MAFA or ‘Make America Fish Again’ and there will be hats available too.”

Asked for a reaction, Sierra Club president Loren Blackford said, “This has got to some sort of horrible joke. We will fight this tooth and nail.” As some of this is supposed to go into effect Sunday, we’ll keep a close eye on this situation and will report back to you.



## **L.A. COUNTY UPDATES SCUBA ORDINANCE**

But they screwed it up. This has been on the books (Title 8, Chap-

ter 32) since 1974 and was revised in 1975. It has undergone another revision that is seemingly minor, but which has wide-reaching consequences.

The revision in question is intended to require divers to carry an additional means of breathing (octopus, Spare Air, pony bottle) when diving. But it is written in such a way that the L.A. County District Attorney, Jackie Lacey, says it means you also have to carry two snorkels, one to use and one for backup in case of a “snorkel failure.” Yeah, right.

This has got to be one of most idiotic things I’ve ever heard of and is obviously an interpretation from someone who knows nothing of snorkeling or is joking. But the fine for a violation (it’s a misdemeanor) is \$500 &/or up to six months in the County Jail. So it may seem stupid and funny at the outset but it has serious consequences.

We need to make our voices heard and explain that this isn’t the intent of the ordinance. You can call Jackie Lacey’s office and register your disapproval at 213/974-3512. In the meantime, you’d better start packing two snorkels.

### **2018 DIVING VACATIONS**

**April 14-21 • Bonaire**

**June 8-20 • Yap Immersion**

**August 18-25 • Isla Mujeres**

**Oct. 27 - Nov. 3 • Roatan**



## LONG BEACH AQUARIUM TO EXHIBIT GIANT SQUID

For the first time ever, a living Giant Squid will go on exhibit in a public aquarium, starting Sunday in Long Beach, the Aquarium of the Pacific has announced. Although a permanent exhibit for the animal is still being built - this is what the construction in front of AOP is really all about - the animal will live temporarily in the Shark Lagoon enclosure, which is thought to be big enough to comfortably house the creature.

Little is known about Giant Squid because they've only rarely been filmed in the wild so this presents an amazing opportunity for researchers to gain valuable knowledge about the species. The Shark Lagoon exhibit was picked not only because of its size, but also because it has a live camera inside (through Explore.org), allowing researchers and others an unprecedented 24/7 ability to observe.

This particular animal was captured out at Farnsworth Banks off of the backside of Catalina, when it became entangled in some of the purple coral that's found out there. What has amazed researchers is that this Giant Squid was actually breaking off and eating the hydrocoral. For many years, it's been assumed that the broken purple coral observed at Farn-

## UPCOMING LOCAL DIVES & CLASSES

DAY	DATE	BOAT/SITE	PLANNED DESTINATION	PRICE
Sat.	Apr. 7	Redondo	Navigation dive (single tank)	\$25
Tue.	10	Redondo	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE!!!
Sat.	28	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Wed.	May 2	Many boats	Chamber Day/Eve benefit	\$120
Thu.	10	Redondo	••• Night Dive •••	FREE!!!
Sat.	19	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Thu.	24	- CLASS -	- NAUI NITROX -	

sworth was due to anchor damage from fishing and diving boats working the area but now there's proof positive that this has all been due to the appetite of a very elusive creature.

If you go down to the Aquarium to see the Giant Squid, one thing visitors need to be aware of is the length of the tentacles of the animal, which can be as long as 10 feet. This means the squid may have the ability to slide a tentacle up and over the exhibit wall and actually grab people who are viewing from the outside. As such, you'll be required to sign a waiver before entering the exhibit area. There's also a yellow safety line that's painted on the ground. And it's recommended you keep a tight grip on any children you have with you at the time.

It's assumed as word spreads that the crowds will get big so the suggestion is to arrive early so that you can get the best view. The Aquarium is open daily from 9AM-6PM and they have a close relationship with area hospitals should the need for medical attention arise.

## PASSING GAS UNDERWATER CAN KILL FISH

I know it sounds strange but it's true. In fact, there was a recent

incident (it even made Fox News) in Indonesia where a bunch of divers on a live aboard had been fed a particularly gas-producing meal. When they did their next dive, they were all farting like crazy underwater, so much so that their emissions changed the water chemistry and caused a small fish die-off.

Believe it or not, there's a study going on now at UCLA through the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology to research this and they're looking for volunteer subjects, so hopefully you can help them. The study is being undertaken by Dr. Peggy Fong whose Fong Lab website states their mission is to study "how human activities impact coastal ecosystems." So this is right up their . . . alley.

All the initial study work will be conducted at UCLA starting next week, with the final phase being done out at Catalina in the Underwater Park. For the first phase of the study, participants will be hooked up to a special rectal hose and asked to pass gas into a fish tank where the reactions of several species of fish - some more gas-tolerant than others - will be monitored. (They had originally tried this by putting fish down the back of divers wetsuits but the results were inconclusive.) You'll also be fed a variety of gas-producing foods to see how that affects things.

This should take no more than 3-4 hours plus a day at Catalina down the road. All participants will be compensated with a pair of tickets to the UCLA/USC football game this coming November 17 at the Rose Bowl. (A parking pass will be provided as well.) Also, round-trip transport to and from Catalina will be covered, as well as a gas-producing catered lunch while on the island and contributing to the study.

Space is limited so if you'd like to participate in the study, contact Dr. Fong directly at the Fong Lab (310/206-6560) and tell them you'd like to sign up for the "Fish-Gassing" study. Good luck!!!



## C-CARD VALIDATION

Don't forget that you now have to bring your c-cards in annually for validation. This is mandated by NAUI, PADI, and others. Take each of your cards in and the shop will examine them for cracks, accuracy of the picture, and verify that the card is legit. Then you get a "Good-to-Dive" sticker which is valid through the rest of the year. Don't delay - get it done today!!!

## DISCLAIMER

This newsletter is harder to write each year. (THAT'S not a joke.) Because I know that, over the 30-plus 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!!!

# PICTURE PAGE - Mis-identified creatures

(All pix by Ken Kurtis © 2018)



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**Box fish  
(Hollywood Bowl version)**



**Dog  
fish**



**Floating  
heads**



**Warped  
mind**