

THE REEF SEEKER



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

April 1, 2022



ESCALATOR TO BE INSTALLED AT VETS PARK

For years divers at Veterans Park in Redondo (south of the Pier) have struggled with the stairs that go from the parking lot down to the beach. But that will soon be a thing of the past as the City of Redondo Beach is installing an escalator to get us up and down.

Construction has already started and the plan is for it to be finished in time for this weekend. With the knowledge that the escalator would be used by divers who are dripping salt water from their dive, the city had to do special weatherizing of the individual escalator steps so that they wouldn't corrode too quickly. (Being in the salt air is going to be an issue anyhow but c'est la vie.)

The biggest problem faced by the project is that, as you can see from the picture above, the current stairs really aren't all that wide. And the problem is that the space simply

isn't wide enough for an escalator going down and a side-by-side one coming up, as you'd normally expect.

So what they've done is decide to run the escalator in one direction at a time but alternate that. From the top of the hour to half past, the escalator will run down from the parking lot to the beach. At half past the hour, it will reverse and run up from the beach to the parking lot. This means, of course, that you'll need to time your entries and exits now not only to account for the waves in the surf zone, but also for which direction the escalator is running. The good news is that if you mis-time it, the most you'd ever have to wait would be 30 minutes. Then again, if you're planning on taking the escalator down to use the bathrooms, that wait could prove to be an eternity.

But the next time you're at Vets Park, we hope you'll enjoy the new escalator. After you've used it, be sure to call City Hall and let them know what you think.

LB HARBOR TO BE DRAINED AND CLEANED

You may have missed the announcement, but they're doing the annual draining and cleaning of the Long Beach Harbor this week-

end and it might affect the Catalina Express sked for boats leaving out of Long Beach.

Basically, the area from where the Express dock is, under the bridge and out to just beyond the Queen Mary is drained every year not only so they can inspect the hull of the Queen Mary (you've probably read about those problems) but also so they can make sure there aren't any new obstructions underwater that could cause problems for the Express. (This is why the Express goes so slowly out of Long Beach until after they pass the Queen Mary.)

As I mentioned, the other thing this accomplishes is a good visual check on the hull of the Queen Mary. It's quite interesting when you watch them draining the area, because the Queen Mary actually floats, so they have to have some tugboats around as the water level lowers, to ensure that the ship rests flat on the bottom and doesn't drift or get punctured by any rocks. To see it resting on the bottom is absolutely worth going to see. Make sure you bring your camera too.

The draining and refilling is supposed to be completed by today but if you've got an Express trip scheduled for this weekend, you might want to call them first to confirm that the harbor has been drained and refilled and that your trip is still good to go.

ADDING SAND TO THE AVALON UNDERWATER PARK

As you may know, the Avalon Underwater Park is undergoing a number of improvements. One of the big ones has been relocating Catalina Divers Supply to a new location in the side ground floor of the Casino and building a shed near the porta-potties (which also will be upgraded) which will become the airfill location. All well and good.

But I'm not so sure about this next "improvement."

The City has decided that the UW Park should become a true beach dive so what they're going to be doing, starting Friday (today) is that they're going to be ripping out all the stone and rock that makes up the area on the seaward side of the wall, and will replace it all . . . with sand.

"Our goal is to make it truly a beach dive," said – ironically named – Sandy Shore, who works for the Island Company. "Plus it will make the area more hospitable for non-divers as well, who just want to sunbathe." Just what we need: More non-divers crowding the area.

Aside from being a rather foolish endeavor, when asked what they planned to do about the inevitable loss of sand due to waves breaking on the "beach," the answer was that the City would be investing a few million dollars in a sand renourishment program. Every month or so, they'll put a dump truck full of sand on a barge to Avalon and once it arrives, drive the dump truck over to the Park and, well, dump the sand. Then

crews will have to spread it evenly &/or redistribute it to the areas that need it the most.

As unbelievable as this plan sounds, they at least plan to keep the stairs intact.



D.A.N. IS CHANGING THEIR NAME

The Divers Alert Network is changing their name. This is not unprecedented as they were originally known as the "Divers Accident Network." The reason for this change is to lessen confusion regarding incoming phone calls because apparently there are now almost a dozen employees working at D.A.N. whose name is Dan. So when a call comes in for D.A.N. and it gets routed to Dan in HR, mayhem can ensue. Hence the need for the name change.

They debated long and hard as to what the new name should be,

polled employees, and even sent out notices to dive shops for suggestions. When all was said and done, they went with an internal suggestion that they claim makes sense but which might not seem so obvious at first glance.

The new name will be F.R.E.D. because there's no one working at D.A.N. named Fred. (They are also putting a clause into their by-laws that anyone named "Fred" can no longer apply for a position at D.A.N. and while this may seem discriminatory, it was actually approved by Dan in HR.)

Because acronyms have to mean something and they're not sure what theirs should stand for yet, there's also a contest going on to submit the best one for the new F.R.E.D. and you can enter. So far, the entries have included, "Fine Recompression Entails Determination," "For Rapid Emergency Decompression," and "Fully Regarding Embolised Divers."

You can enter a name for the acronym contest if you like. The winner will receive a free lifetime F.R.E.D. (formerly D.A.N.) membership. Call them at 919/684-2948 and be sure to ask for Dan in HR. Good luck!!!

2022 DIVING VACATIONS

April 1 - Atlantis

May 20-28 • Bonaire

July (??) • Antarctica

Fall (??) • Marianas Trench



NITRO PEPSI – BENDS PROBLEM???

Pepsi is in the process of introducing a brand new version that they call Nitro Pepsi. This is regular Pepsi that’s been infused with nitrogen to make it “smoother.” There’s just one potential problem: If you drink one of these after a dive, the extra nitrogen could compromise your decompression status because you’re adding nitrogen to your system by drinking the Nitro Pepsi.

So the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber is looking for a few volunteers to do a field study to see how much this new form of Pepsi will affect things. Volunteers will be asked to come over to the Chamber and will do first a single-tank dive. The dive will be deep enough to approach no-deco limits. Volunteers will then drink a can of Nitro Pepsi and be monitored for the next hour (via Doppler) for nitrogen bubble formation. If anyone gets bent from the Nitro Pepsi, they’ll immediately be treated in the Chamber.

For those who don’t experience any issues, they’ll then make a second dive and this time will be asked to go right to their no-decompression limit. Once again, they’ll come up and drink another Nitro Pepsi and once again will be monitored for nitrogen bubble formation via Doppler. Anyone ad-

UPCOMING LOCAL DIVES & CLASSES				
DAY	DATE	BOAT/SITE	PLANNED DESTINATION	PRICE
Wed.	Apr. 6	--- CLASS ---	--- Easy Tables & Computers ---	FREE
Sat.	16	Redondo (Vets)	Beach Diving (single tank)	\$30
Thu.	21	Redondo (Vets)	••• Night Dive •••	\$30
Wed.	27	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$170
Wed.	May 18	--- CLASS ---	--- Photo Workshop ---	\$30
Thu.	June 2	Redondo (Vets)	••• Night Dive •••	\$30
Sat.	4	Redondo (Vets)	Navigation (single tank)	\$30
Wed.	8	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$170

versely affected will, of course, be treated.

But assuming there are no ill effects, volunteers will then make a third dive and this time go five minutes past a no-deco limit, come back (after a deco stop), and consume a third Nitro Pepsi and be monitored. (And for the record, any excess belching will not be considered adverse nor assumed to be off-gassing.) As with the first two dives, anyone adversely affected will be treated in the Chamber.

Dives will take place this weekend, transportation to the island will be provided via the Miss Christi (the boat of the Wrigley Marine Science Center), but you’ve got to sign up today to be considered. If you’re interested in participating in this ground-breaking study, call Chamber Director Karl Huggins at 310/510-4020 and be sure to tell him where you read about this.

THE HOSELESS REGULATOR FROM ATOMIC

First there was the hoseless dive computer which received a signal from your tank about air pressure and used that to calculate no-decompression time, all without hav-

ing to deal with a cumbersome hose that can flop around, leak, or even fail all together. Now, that idea has migrated to the regulator.

Introducing the hoseless regulator from Atomic, the HL-1. No more worrying about how to coil the hose when you’re trying to pack the reg. No more worrying about whether or not the fittings on each end of the hose are tight enough. No more worrying if the hose will be long enough to have the reg sit comfortably in your mouth without pulling.

With the HL-1, you simply put it in your mouth and go. The HL-1 has a built-in sensor that’s constantly communicating with the tank to see how much air is available. And through a patented process known as Delusive Reverse Dissolution, the air in the tank breaks down into atomic components, leaches out and seeks out the regulator in your mouth, where it is then recomposited into breathable gas. As a bonus, it’s very easy breathing.

The HL-1 has already started shipping to local dives shops and should be available today. Best of all, it comes in a very small box because it doesn’t have any hoses!!! (Be sure to ask about the octopus version too.) But the HL-1 will change the way you dive. You simply can’t believe how this regulator performs.

PADI POOL DIVER

Knowing that a lot of people are simply terrified to go into the ocean and knowing that they hate cold water, PADI has come up with a new diver certification level: the PADI Pool Diver.

Simply put, the PADI Pool Diver card will allow you to scuba in any pool, public or private, that allows people to do so. No more worrying about stirring up the bottom, running into pesky fish, or even having a decompression issue. A PADI Pool Diver is qualified to swim all around the shallow end, up to FIVE feet deep. Among the skills you'll learn will be how to look out for swimmers in your lane, and how to go between people's legs.

Ready to kick it up a notch? Then

go for some additional training and get the coveted Deep End Endorsement. This will allow you to go down the slope of the pool into the deepest regions of this specialized aquatic environment. All it takes is 10 shallow end dives and the desire to go further.

So contact your local store today and become a PADI Pool Diver. No previous swimming experience or skill required.

ONE MORE THING . . .

If you're a veteran to this newsletter, you already know what this final note is going to say. For those of you who may be new to Reef Seekers, or for those of you who

may have simply not noticed that the date on this specific newsletter is April 1, or for those who may have forgotten how in the past the "facts" printed in the April 1 newsletter should be considered . . . suspicious as to their veracity . . . let us just say this: At Reef Seekers, we believe in having a good time. We try not to take ourselves too seriously. And we've sort of established a tradition that every year when April 1 rolls around, we might just stretch the truth just a wee little bit when we put out the newsletter.

And if that vague statement doesn't clue you in, let us suggest you go back and re-read the articles contained herein and keep two words planted firmly and prominently in your mind . . . April Fool!!!

PICTURE PAGE - Funny Fish

(All pix by Ken Kurtis © 2022)



Clownfish



P.O. Box 634
Beverly Hills, CA 90213

WWW.REEFSEEKERS.COM



Clownfish



Clownfish



Clownfish



Clownfish