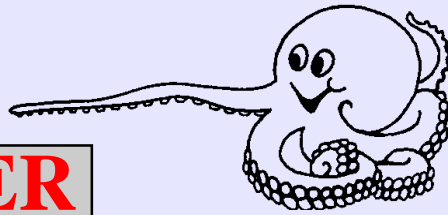


THE
REEF
SEEKER



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

May - 2019



CHAMBER DAY 2019 - \$121,996

Many thanks to everyone who made this possible. Whether you dove the Day, crewed the *Dutchman*, dined at the Evening, donated to the Challenge, bought raffle tickets, or got a t-shirt, we couldn't do it without you. And especially when you remember that the Chamber relies on the diving community for roughly 50% of the annual funding, this is amazingly wonderful. As I mentioned to someone who lamented they didn't win anything in the raffle, when our Chamber stays fully-funded, we ALL win. Thanks again, and make sure you mark May 6 next year on your calendar as that's the date for Chamber Day 2020.

WHY WE DO THIS

I think this bears repeating . . .

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 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.



STILL TIME TO GET INVOLVED

There's still time for you to donate to Chamber Day 2019. We're leaving our donation page active until close-of-day Friday, so you can add your name to the *Flying Dutchman* or make a donation to the Chamber Challenge. Just because the event is over, that doesn't mean you can't join your fellow divers in supporting our Chamber.

IMMERSION PULMONARY EDEMA

At the Scuba Show this past weekend, we (L.A. County Coroner Capt. John Kades, Chamber Director Karl Huggins, and me) gave our overview of the fatalities in L.A. County from 2018 in the panel discussion "Why Divers Die." There was only one fatality last year (that's a good thing). The cause of death was Immersion Pulmonary Edema and that merits some further discussion.

"Immersion" refers to being underwater, "Pulmonary" means it's about the lungs, and "Edema" is excess fluid in body tissues. So the phrase is fairly self-explanatory.

When you go underwater, your body starts shifting fluids to your core. This is natural. But if there's too much fluid in your system - for a number of reasons which can also include over-hydrating - then the fluid shift is taking place faster than your lungs can deal with it and you essentially start to drown in your own body fluids.

The symptoms, some of which may be evident underwater, include chest pain, difficulty breathing or getting a "full" breath, wheezing,

and a pink frothy sputum either underwater or after emerging from the water (the sputum also makes it look like an air embolism).

In the case we presented, the victim signaled underwater (about 40 feet deep - so IPE is not something that's necessarily depth-related) that he wanted to ascend. At the surface, he had difficulty breathing and had blood-tinged foam around his mouth. He went unconscious, CPR was started and a shock was administered using an AED, but he could not be saved. He had a history of cardiac issues (but had been cleared by his cardiologist the week prior to dive), had fairly advanced hardening/narrowing of the arteries, and was on a number of medications, all of which might have factored in. These issues may seem more obvious in hindsight than pre-dive.

To read more about IPE, Google "Immersion Pulmonary Edema" which should yield a DAN article. Be aware of over-hydrating. Have a discussion with a DIVING doctor about any medications you take that could increase fluid retention. And remember, just because you find a doctor who will sign your medical, that doesn't necessarily mean diving is a good choice.

2019 DIVING VACATIONS

July 6-22 • Indonesia

August 10-17 • Isla Mujeres

Oct. 12-25 • Maldives

December 4-10 • Sea of Cortez



ISLA MUJERES IN AUGUST

We hope to have enough folks to go back to Isla Mujeres this year (off of Cancun) for fabulous encounters with Whale Sharks. But we're approaching a make-or-break point where we've either got to commit or decide we don't have enough to make a go of it. So if this is something that's been on your radar, make sure I know of your interest.

In short, this is an opportunity to swim in the middle of the largest known congregation of Whale Sharks in the world, with an estimated 400-800 animals in the area at any given time. So it's safe to say that this is a trip where we can pretty much guarantee that we'll put you nose-to-nose with the world's largest fish.

Our dates are August 10-17.

One thing I like about this trip (which we've done four times before) is that it's good for both snorkelers who don't dive as well as divers because Mexican government regulations limit Whale Shark interaction to snorkel-only. So if you've got a non-diving spouse or S.O., this is a great trip for them.

We also do something different

UPCOMING LOCAL DIVES & CLASSES

DAY	DATE	BOAT/SITE	PLANNED DESTINATION	PRICE
Wed.	May 1	Many boats	Chamber Day/Eve benefit	\$120
Sa/Su	4-5	LB Cnvntion Ctr	- Scuba Show 2019 -	\$10
Wed.	15	- CLASS -	- Tables & Computers -	FREE!!!
Sun.	June 2	<i>Catalina Express</i>	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Thu.	6	Redondo	••• Night Dive •••	\$25
Sat.	15	Redondo	Beach dive (single tank)	\$25
Wed.	19	- CLASS -	- PHOTO WORKSHOP -	\$25
Sat.	29	<i>Catalina Express</i>	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Sun.	July 28	<i>Catalina Express</i>	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Sat.	Aug. 10	Redondo	Navigation dive (single tank)	\$25
Wed.	14	- CLASS -	- NAUI NITROX -	\$75

each day because it's not all Whale Shark, Whale Shark, Whale Shark.

Our first day is a dive day where we'll explore some of the sculptures that make up the Cancun Underwater Museum (MUSA), all sculpted by Jason deCaires Taylor. There are many themed groups we'll point out and, since I know Jason, we'll give you some of the inside story behind things.

Our second (and fourth and sixth) days are all Whale Shark days. We'll leave around 8AM-ish and head out to the Whale Shark area, which changes day-to-day depending on where the clear fish eggs they're feeding on are drifting. It's a 60-90 minute run out but we'll have a boat just for our group. Mexican regulations limit everyone to 2 people at a time (with a guide) in the water with the WS so we rotate turns and everyone generally makes about 4 jumps over the course of the morning with each jump lasting 10-15 minutes. Come back on and rest up, have a snack, and get ready to go again when it's your turn. And those of us on the boat spot for you, so we'll let you know where they are relative to you. It's a really amazing experience.

Our third day is another adventure where we journey back over to Cancun and then down to the

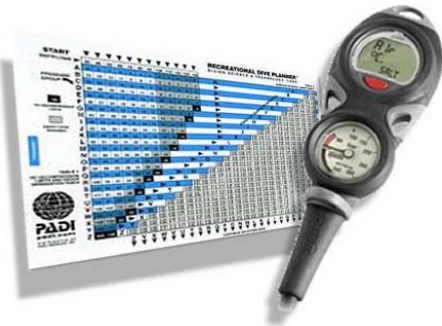
Tulum area to experience diving in the cenotes, which are cave systems that have existed down there for years and years. Obviously, this will all be guided so cave-diving experience or certs are not required.

Our fifth day is usually a morning 2-tank dive exploring a medium-sized wreck off of Cancun, the C-53, and then coming back in for a reef dive. In 2014, we even saw a Loggerhead Turtle, which was a personal first for me.

On top of that, Isla Mujeres has an amazing number of very good restaurants and – except for Tuesday which is a pretty full day because of all the travel – the days are very relaxing because it's not go/go/go and there's ample time to relax, stroll around the island, or do some non-diving activities (like sip cervezas).

I still need to finalize pricing but generally this trip runs around \$2,600 which covers hotel (2 to a 2-bedroom condo), diving & Whale Sharking, various xfers and taxis, and crew tips. Economy airfare is running around \$700 this week on United for the non-stop (\$1,100 for Business).

This trip is really a lot of fun. Don't miss out. Call us at 310/652-4990 to reserve your spot.



FREE CLASS COMING UP

I don't think I've made it a secret that I'm appalled at what passes for "good" scuba instruction nowadays. At the Scuba Show, I was talking about this with another well-known dive professional, and he relayed to me that he was doing an accident investigation where buoyancy (or lack thereof) may have factored in. In talking with an instructor named in the case, the

instructor quite matter-of-factly said, "We don't have time to teach that in a basic class." And he didn't see anything wrong with that.

Over the years, IMHO, we've had a dumbing down of dive instruction so that we can teach things more quickly. But just because we're cutting things out, that doesn't make things better. And one of the things that's been cut back in dive classes is a thorough grounding in the dive tables, the whats, the whys, the wherefores, so that you really can understand what's going on inside your body so that when you use a dive computer, you have some rudimentary understanding of what the numbers mean that the computer is displaying.

Hence, "Tables & Computers" on

Wednesday, May 15. And because I think this is so important, I'm willing to donate my time and expertise to indoctrinate you, which means this class is (a diver's favorite word) **FREE!!!** We'll do it 7-10PM at Reef Seekers West(wood) which is my place in Westwood. We'll start by giving you the info of why dive tables look like they do, what they tell us, how you can manipulate them, and other goodies, and then we'll segue into how the computers interpret that information, using the same general base of operations.

It's a class I enjoy teaching and one I hope you'll enjoy taking. Class size will be limited (due to the size of my apartment) so if you're interested, give me a call at 310/652-4990 to get signed up.

PICTURE PAGE - Ch-Eve 2019

(All pix by Ken Kurtis © 2019)



*The view
from the podium*



P.O. Box 634
Beverly Hills, CA 90213

WWW.REEFSEEKERS.COM



*The view
from on high*



*Karl Huggins & Jill Boivin
with the Cleanup check*



*Chowing
down*



*Karl gives Lorraine Sadler
her award*