

THE REEF SEEKER



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December - 2021

CLASSES AND LOCAL TRIPS FOR 2022

We're pleased to offer another ambitious/full slate of non-basic classes, single-day trips to Avalon, beach dives, and even some beach classes for the coming year. The full schedule is in this newsletter on page three, suitable for printing and posting for future reference. Here's a quick overview of some of the offerings:

AVALON DAY TRIPS – These proved very popular in 2021. We will again generally have them on Wednesdays. (Some dates may change as the year goes on.) The reason we go mid-week is quite simple: Less crowded. We realize that's an issue for those of you who have regular jobs but perhaps plan far enough ahead and you can see what days you might need to be "sick" in 2022. Includes boat, taxi to and from the Park, tanks/fills. Generally 8AM-ish departure and a return by 7PM.

SURF ENTRIES & EXITS – This is a new class that will be taught at Redondo/Vets Park. Chances are that your "training" for surf entries in your basic class consisted of your instructor yelling "Let's go!!" while waves that you swore were 10-feet tall bore down upon you. Most people are either not

very good at surf entries, terrified of them, or both. But the reality is that we've got lots of good shore diving here in SoCal, so it's a useful skill. This class is taught as skin-dive-gear only (no tanks) and will start with a short lecture on how to "read" a beach and what to watch out for. Then we'll go play in the surf, showing you not only the right things to do but the wrong things to do as well and how to recover from those. Generally 9A-Noon on a Saturday. If the surf's up, all the better. (No, I'm not a sadist nor trying to punish you.)

ZOOM-BASED CLASSES – Easy for me, easy for you. We'll once again go with the rotating sked of Secrets of Fish ID (learn what you're seeing underwater), Easy Tables & Computers (you might actually start to understand them), Photo Workshop (guaranteed to help you get better pictures), and NAUI Nitrox. These are generally 7-9PM on Wednesday evenings.

BEACH CLASSES – These include Navigation (taught first on land and then we go make a dive, so you can choose to only do the land portion), Beach Diving (especially good if you've done the entries/exits one), and Night Diving. All of these are guided dives and give you a taste of each type of dive as opposed to a formal certification. But they're good experi-

ence and are generally the areas where people feel less than competent. 9A-Noon-ish on Saturdays for beach and Navigation (we're not fans of starting at O'Dark-30) and 7PM-ish Thursdays for Night Diving.

SQUID DIVES – We break these out as a separate thing because they're FREE, a tradition we intend to keep going. The thing to remember is that the presence of squid or their eggs is not guaranteed. But when they're there in force . . . WOW!!! The season generally runs December through March but we had one year where they got frisky in August. Go figure. But a really unique experience and amazing that it happens 100 yards from shore. Because we do these during Standard Time when sundown is 5PM-ish, we usually start around 6PM on Thursdays.

As you might expect, there are modest price increases for everything next year. But we've tried to keep everything affordable and as importantly, fun. The other nice thing about all of these is that we're happy to do the outings with only a few people. And we also promise that none of the in-water classes will ever have more than 10. (The usual group size is 2-6.) So see what appeals to you, mark your calendars, and let us know if you have any questions.



MUST-SEE TV
(but you need Netflix)

On Thursday, December 16, Netflix will release a documentary called “Puff: Wonders of the Reef” which follows the challenges of a small Sharpnose Pufferfish born on the Great Barrier Reef. As the Netflix trailer says, “A baby pufferfish travels through a wondrous, microworld full of fantastical creatures as he searches for a home on the Great Barrier Reef.” Looks like it’s got lots of really nice macro photography. Runs just a bit over an hour.

AVALON
DECEMBER 8

Just a reminder that our last Avalon trip of 2021 is scheduled for December 8 (Wed.). 8:45AM out of San Pedro going over, and back in SP around 7:30PM. Boat, taxi, tank/airfills (3 dives) all included. Lots of fun and the Park is usually pretty un-crowded mid-week (which is why we like going on Wednesdays). Not sure if the Giant Sea Bass are still around in large numbers but we’ll give them a shot as well as visit the Cousteau plaque (as well as give it a quick clean). If you want to sign up, give us a call at 310/652-4990.

AVALON
UNDERWATER
CLEANUP 2022

We’re in full swing with registration for the 40th Annual Avalon Underwater Cleanup to be held on Saturday, February 26. As things stand right now – fully aware that this could change – this is an in-person event as we have in the past. Reef Seekers will once again plant ourselves at the Green Pier. You can join us by calling 310/652-4990. Our package will include event registration, the boat over and back, taxi to and from the dive site. Even though it’s only a single dive, it’s a lot of fun and since we didn’t hold the live event last year, there ought to be lots of goodies waiting to be discovered this year.

ZOOM SEEKERS
IN 2022

We’ve been really happy with the reaction from all of you to our monthly Zoom Seekers gatherings. And it seems the speakers have been having a good time too. So we’ll be extending it into 2022 and we’ve almost got the sked finished.

Just a few more things to iron out. Our plan is to release the full sked in a few weeks, most likely as part of one of our TWARS e-mails.

But I can tell you that our first speaker on Tuesday, January 11, will be Dan Orr who will be speaking on “Safety Issues for Divers as We Grow Older” (which is pretty much all of us). As we say in the chat description: “Growing Older is inevitable. In order to continue to safely enjoy the sport, it is important to understand how the normal aging process affects diver safety. Every diver should know how to recognize and reduce risks to improve safety and maximize enjoyment for divers as we age.”

All talks are on the second Tuesday of the month, 7-9PM Pacific.

‘TIS THE SEASON

The first day of the week was Cyber Monday. Then hopefully you connected with your favorite charities on Giving Tuesday. I’m told they tried to make the following day Taking Wednesday but that didn’t fly. However, I’m fairly certain the end of the week many times is known as F*ck-It Friday.

2022 DIVING VACATIONS

March 11-20 • Socorro

May 20-28 • Bonaire

July (??) • Indonesia

Fall (??) • Yap

RESERVATIONS (310)652-4990



IMPORTANT STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW

All diving must be done within recreational sport diving limits: depths 130' or less, no-deco bottom times, standard compressed air or nitrox (<40%) as a breathing gas.

Limit one scuba tank per diver. Pony bottles do not count as a second tank.

Specific start/finish times vary by event. Please confirm these when you sign up.

Directions to all landings & Veterans Park are on our website.

All dives are weather-dependent and may be changed or cancelled at our sole discretion.

You must show your certification card(s) if asked. No c-card, no scuba diving.

A general briefing is conducted for each trip and is mandatory for all divers.

Avalon trips are generally 3 dives. Redondo dives are single-tank.

We may add an occasional boat trip to this schedule.

Day-of-dive problems?
Call Ken directly at (310)995-3639
or (310)652-4990
[you can text this last # too]

zelle



— REEF SEEKERS DIVE CO. — 2022 LOCAL DIVES, CLASSES & VACATIONS

DAY	DATE	BOAT/SITE	PLANNED ACTIVITY/DIVE	PRICE
Wed.	Jan. 5	--- CLASS ---	--- Photo Workshop ---	\$30
Thu.	13	Redondo (Vets)	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE
Wed.	19	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$170
Sat.	29	Redondo (Vets)	Beach Diving (single tank)	\$30
Wed.	Feb. 2	--- CLASS ---	--- NAUI Nitrox ---	\$95
Sat.	12	Redondo (Vets)	Navigation (single dive)	\$30
Wed.	16	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$170
Thu.	24	Redondo (Vets)	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE

Sat., Feb. 26 • 40th Annual Avalon Underwater Cleanup • \$140

Wed.	Mar. 2	--- CLASS ---	--- Secrets of Fish ID ---	\$30
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March 11-20 • Socorro • Big animals and lots of them

Thu.	24	Redondo (Vets)	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE
Sat.	26	Redondo (Vets)	Mastering Surf Entries & Exits	\$30

Sat., March TBA • Divers Day • Aquarium of the Pacific

Wed.	30	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$170
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 4 • Chamber Day & Eve 2022

Sat. & Sun., May 14 & 15 • Scuba Show • LB Conv. Ctr.

Wed.	May 18	--- CLASS ---	--- Photo Workshop ---	\$30
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May 20-28 • Bonaire • Excellent Caribbean diving

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
Wed.	22	--- CLASS ---	--- NAUI Nitrox ---	\$95
Thu.	July 7	Redondo (Vets)	••• Night Dive •••	\$30
Sat.	9	Redondo (Vets)	Mastering Surf Entries & Exits	\$30
Wed.	20	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$170
Wed.	27	--- CLASS ---	--- Secrets of Fish ID ---	\$30
Thu.	Aug. 4	Redondo (Vets)	••• Night Dive •••	\$30
Sat.	6	Redondo (Vets)	Beach Diving (single tank)	\$30
Wed.	17	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$170
Wed.	24	--- CLASS ---	--- Easy Tables & Computers ---	FREE
Sat.	27	Redondo (Vets)	Navigation (single dive)	\$30
Thu.	Sept. 1	Redondo (Vets)	••• Night Dive •••	\$30
Sat.	17	Redondo (Vets)	Mastering Surf Entries & Exits	\$30
Wed.	21	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$170
Thu.	28	Redondo (Vets)	••• Night Dive •••	\$30

Sat., October 1 • Lobster season opens at 6:00AM

Wed.	Oct. 5	--- CLASS ---	--- Photo Workshop ---	\$30
Sat.	15	Redondo (Vets)	Beach Diving (single tank)	\$30
Wed.	19	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$170
Thu.	27	Redondo (Vets)	••• Night Dive •••	\$30
Wed.	Nov. 2	--- CLASS ---	--- NAUI Nitrox ---	\$95
Sat.	5	Redondo (Vets)	Navigation (single tank)	\$30
Wed.	16	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$170
Thu.	Dec. 1	Redondo (Vets)	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE
Sat.	3	Redondo (Vets)	Mastering Surf Entries & Exits	\$30
Wed.	7	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$170
Wed.	21	--- CLASS ---	--- Secrets of Fish ID ---	\$30

We may add foreign or local trips as the COVID situation evolves.

COVID UPDATE

Fiji and Cayman have both reopened but now we have to deal with Omicron. Have you noticed how easily “Omicron” can morph into “Omigod”???? That seems to be the reaction of most governments so far. They don’t want to over-react but they don’t want to under-react either. Pretty much damned if you do, damned if you don’t, and let’s not get started on the political BS that’s likely to ooze from Omicron.

The biggest issues are what the transmissibility of Omicron is (in other words, how easily can an infected person spread it) and how severe will it be (in other words, how sick will you get if you get infected). The initial reaction –

and the disclaimer is that this could all be proven wrong in a few days time – is that Omicron is highly transmissible but not all that severe. So it could end up being that this is the type of thing where the official government reaction is, “If you get infected this will be like a bad cold or flu and you can deal with that.”

One thing that does seem to be prevalent (I even asked my personal doctor about this today) is that Omicron becomes the poster virus to either get vaccinated if you haven’t already . . . or . . . get your booster now, before the holidays descend upon us in full force.

Especially if you’ve got a post-Christmas or post-New Year trip, or know you’ll be in close quarters

with a lot of people, NOW might be a very good time to go get your booster shot. If it’s an over-reaction, no harm, no foul (or in this case, no virus). But if you under-react (“It’s no big deal,” “My immune system can handle it,” “What’s the worst that could happen”), you may live to regret it. Or even worse, you may NOT live to regret it.

Given the criticism that has already started, I assume we will see under-reactions first, with over-reactions to follow. But no sense in taking chances. Hopefully you feel a social obligation because while YOU may be able to survive an infection, you could pass it on to someone who can’t survive it. And who needs that kind of guilt? So be brave and do the right thing.

PICTURE PAGE - Squid & their eggs

(All pix by Ken Kurtis © 2021)



**Squid
gliding in**



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WWW.REEFSEEKERS.COM



**Good look at eye
and tentacles**



**Attaching
the egg sac**



**Completed
cluster of egg sacs**



**Bye
bye!!!**