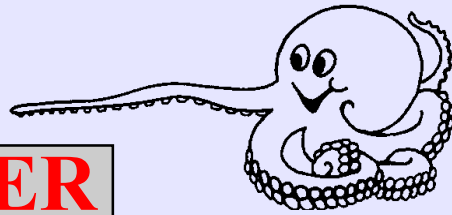


THE REEF SEEKER



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December - 2024

LOCAL TRIPS & CLASSES FOR 2025

The entirety of page 3 of this newsletter is the Reef Seekers 2025 Local Trips & Classes schedule, suitable for printing. We try to offer a variety of opportunities for you and the nice thing is that some of these we'll do even if there's only one person signed up.

That's especially true of the classes – Fish ID, Tables & Computers, Photo Workshop, and NAUI Nitrox – as those are done via Zoom and it takes the same amount of time to do one person as it does to do a dozen. And with those specific offerings, we try to choose things to help make you a better or more knowledgeable diver. Here's the brief rationale for each:

FISH ID – You took time to learn how to dive. Shouldn't you take time to learn what you're seeing? The question we hear most often after a dive is, "What was that fish?" This class aims to help you discover those answers on your own. We'll start with some basics of fish identification, learning common shapes, behaviors, habitats, and other things that help ID fish. Then we'll follow that up with some practical applications of actually figuring out the IDs of some fish pix. Because people travel so much nowadays, we'll cover California fish, Caribbean

fish, and Indo-Pacific fish. But you'll also learn, in addition to some specific names, that there are common characteristics that work in each ecosystem and once you get comfortable with some of the basics, the techniques work anywhere in the world.

TABLES & COMPUTERS -

With more and more diving "education" on-line these days, it seems there's less and less emphasis on some of the science and math behind our sport. This class is designed to simplify that for you and make the process easier to understand. We'll start with the basic gas laws and physics. Then we'll look at Haldane's research into decompression sickness which will take us into a simplified explanation of how (and why) dive tables work. After we've cleared the mental cobwebs about that, we go into computers, which essentially tell you the same thing as dive tables do, but on a much more sophisticated level.

PHOTO WORKSHOP - With the proliferation of cameras nowadays, from small point-and-shoots to big housed DSLRs to small video/still cameras like the GoPro, it seems like everyone is taking pictures or shooting video. And – as many of you probably already know – it's easy to take crappy shots. But to take ones you're proud of takes a little bit of work and thinking about

what you're doing. This 2-3 hour workshop aims to help you in those areas. We'll cover some of the basic things to remember when shooting, go over ways you can "fix" shots with things like Photoshop and Lightroom, and we can even look at things you've already shot and see if we can spot the problems. It's very free-form, and very hands on. The goal is for you to walk away with some skills and perspective that you didn't have when you walked in. And whether you're a new shooter or a veteran, we're willing to bet that you can become a better shooter after spending an evening with us.

NAUI NITROX - Although we were one of the last stores in the world to accept the concept of recreational divers using nitrox as a breathing gas, we're the best store to learn how to use it because we've thoroughly investigated all the ins and outs of diving nitrox, and didn't just succumb to the hype. We'll teach you all about PPO2s, proper and improper uses of nitrox, the dangers of oxygen toxicity, how to analyze tanks, and a whole lot more. At the end of the classroom session you'll be qualified to dive nitrox. Course fee covers instruction only. You may need to also purchase a book.

So in 2025, expand your knowledge base and join one of our Zoom-based classes.



EASTER ISLAND TRIPS - BOTH NOW SOLD OUT

Not much to say here except that we're full on both trips in terms of diver spots available. I can still take non-divers if that's of interest to you. Give us a call at 310/652-4990 to grab one of those spots or to get on a waiting list if one of the diver spots open up.

ROATAN IN LATE JUNE 2025

We've finalized plans for going back to Roatan next year. The trip dates will be June 28 – July 5 and once again we'll be staying at and diving with Anthony's Key. We had a wonderful time with them this year and hope to repeat that next year (without the delay from the burning of the sugar cane fields when we were leaving Roatan).

We'll be staying out on the Key itself (as we did this year) in Key Superior rooms. These are nice-sized rooms overlooking the water and each room has access to a semi-private over-water deck as well. Although we have this priced for double-occupancy, a single supplement is available for an extra \$275 for the week (which is really reasonable).

We'll get in three dives each day starting with the day after we arrive. The dives are generally scheduled for 8:30, 10:30, and 2:15 and

you return to Anthony's after each dive. Most of the sites are within 10 minutes of Anthony's. So it's really easy to skip a dive if you like or simply take a break without missing out on the other dives that day. We should get in three "special dives": the Odyssey wreck, the wreck known as El Aguila, and Mary's Place, which is a really nice site that's about a one-hour run from the resort.

Meals are included in all of this as well. Most of the time we'll do breakfast/lunch/dinner in the newly-renovated dining hall but there's one night where they do a beach BBQ that's REALLY good. There's also a small snack shack by the boat dock for something between dives, but those goodies (sodas, chips, candy, etc.) you get charged for.

I'm aiming for a group size of around 12, so that should mean we'll get a boat all to ourselves. And we'll also hope that John Carter, our DM this year and the last time we were there, is available again (as well as willing to put up with us).

Cost for this vacation, which includes room, diving, meals, airport transfers, and crew/staff tip,

is \$3,195. A \$1,000 deposit will hold your spot. As you may have noticed, our other trips this year – Easter Island x 2 and Maldives x 2 – have all sold out. I presume this one will be no different. So don't get left behind and come have a blast on a Reef Seekers dive vacation!!!



ANOTHER RED SEA DIVE BOAT TRAGEDY

In what has become a too-common occurrence – and granted, even one is too many – a Red Sea dive boat has sunk with loss of life.

The *Sea Story*, a four-deck dive boat that was launched in 2022, was on a 5-day trip and sank this past Monday (November 25). Despite predictions of high winds and large seas as well as an advisory from the Egyptian Meteorological

(continued on page 4)

2025 DIVING VACATIONS

March 1-9 • Easter Island #1

March 8-15 • Easter Island #2

June 28 - July 5 • Roatan

September 19-28 • Maldives

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. — 2025 LOCAL DIVES & CLASSES

DAY	DATE	BOAT/SITE	PLANNED DESTINATION	\$\$\$
Wed.	Jan 9	--- CLASS ---	--- FISH I.D. ---	35
Sat.	11	Veterans Park	Surf Entries Made Easy	FREE!!!
Wed.	15	Catalina Express	Avalon UW Park	180
Thu.	23	Veterans Park	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE!!!
Sat.	Feb 8	Veterans Park	Beach Diving Made Easy	35
Wed.	12	Catalina Express	Avalon UW Park	180
Wed.	19	--- CLASS ---	--- TABLES/COMPUTERS ---	FREE!!!

Sat., Feb. 22 • 43rd Annual Avalon Underwater Cleanup

Thu.	27	Veterans Park	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE!!!
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March 8-16 • Chile • Easter Island #1 March 15-23 • Chile • Easter Island #2

Wed.	Mar 26	--- CLASS ---	--- PHOTO WORKSHOP ---	35
Sat.	Apr 5	Veterans Park	Navigation Made Easy	35
Wed.	9	Catalina Express	Avalon UW Park	180
Thu.	24	Veterans Park	••• Night Dive •••	35

Wed., May 7 • Chamber Day & Eve 2025

Wed.	May 14	--- CLASS ---	--- NITROX ---	95
Sat.	17	Veterans Park	Surf Entries Made Easy	FREE!!!
Wed.	21	Catalina Express	Avalon UW Park	180

Sat. & Sun., May 31 & June 1 • Scuba Show • LB Conv. Ctr.

Thu.	Jun 12	Veterans Park	••• Night Dive •••	35
Wed.	18	--- CLASS ---	--- FISH I.D. ---	35
Wed.	25	Catalina Express	Avalon UW Park	180

June 28 - July 5 • Roatan • Diving at Anthony's Key

Sat.	Jul 12	Veterans Park	Beach Diving made Easy	35
Wed.	16	--- CLASS ---	--- TABLES/COMPUTERS ---	FREE!!!
Wed.	23	Catalina Express	Avalon UW Park	180
Sat.	Aug 9	Veterans Park	Navigation Made Easy	35
Thu.	14	Veterans Park	••• Night Dive •••	35
Wed.	20	--- CLASS ---	--- PHOTO WORKSHOP ---	35
Sat.	30	Veterans Park	Surf Entries Made Easy	FREE!!!
Wed.	Sep 3	Catalina Express	Avalon UW Park	180
Sat.	6	Veterans Park	Beach Diving Made Easy	35

September 19-28 • Manthiri dive boat • Maldives #1 Sept. 29 - Oct. 8 • Manthiri dive boat • Maldives #2

Fri., September 26 • Lobster season opens at 6:00PM

Wed.	Oct 15	--- CLASS ---	--- NITROX ---	95
Sat.	18	Veterans Park	Navigation Made Easy	35
Wed.	22	Catalina Express	Avalon UW Park	180
Thu.	30	Veterans Park	••• Night Dive •••	35
Sat.	Nov 8	Veterans Park	Surf Entries Made Easy	FREE!!!
Wed.	12	--- CLASS ---	--- FISH I.D. ---	35
Wed.	19	Catalina Express	Avalon UW Park	180
Wed.	Dec 3	--- CLASS ---	--- TABLES/COMPUTERS ---	FREE!!!
Sat.	13	Veterans Park	Beach Diving Made Easy	35
Wed.	17	Catalina Express	Avalon UW Park	180

Reservations: (310) 652- 4990

We may add foreign or local trips as the year evolves.
Come dive with us and have some fun!!!

(continued from page 2)

Society to suspend marine operations, the boat was out with a total of 44 people, 30 passengers and 14 crew. 28 people survived and were rescued right away, 5 more have survived after being found in air pockets in the submerged vessel, 4 are confirmed dead, 7 remain unaccounted for.

The *Sea Story* is one of two dive vessels operated by Dive Pro Liveboard, which is based in Hurghada, Egypt. They've now stripped their website of any mention of the boat

Survivors report that a large wave, estimated to be as high as 10-12 feet, hit the vessel around 5:30AM and caused it to capsize. It then sank in about 5-7 minutes into 40

feet of water. Many passengers were trapped inside their cabins. Some were able to get out and floated with their life jackets. Others were not so fortunate.

Some people are questioning the idea of a large wave causing the boat to sink and are asking for an investigation by the Egyptian government. As of this writing, there's not a much more info coming out. But you would also think that being in only forty feet of water, and some reports indicate the hull of the capsized boat is out of the water, it shouldn't take too long to search the entire vessel.

Whatever the exact cause of the sinking is found to be, this illustrates how important it is anytime you're on a boat, but especially a

boat where you'll be sleeping, to make sure you have in your head the possible escape routes should the boat flounder. A capsized boat is even more problematic because now up is down and down is up and it goes against general instinct to remember that you might have to swim down to go up.

There can never be a 100% guarantee of safety when you're diving, whether you're underwater with a tank on your back or back on the boat, so it behooves us to make sure we do everything possible to be prepared to deal with any problems that might arise.

As this is a developing story while the search continues for the still-missing people, we'll let you know if we hear any other news.

PICTURE PAGE - Christmas Tree Worms

(All pix by Ken Kurtis © 2024)



Palau
with the Palau Aggressor II



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Bonaire
with Buddy Dive Resort



Dumaguete
with Atlantis Dive Resort



Indonesia
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