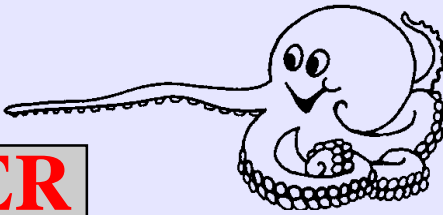


THE REEF SEEKER



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February - 2007



REEF SEEKERS UPDATE

Here's the short version . . . nothing much has changed.

We've made it through our first month under our new/interim incarnation. The office operations have been settled into Ken Kurtis' place (now affectionately known as "Reef Seekers West") and the things that we'll need for down the road like rentals, the compressor, and stuff like that, are scattered in a couple of garages across Los Angeles.

And we've been running trips. Well, at least we've TRIED to run trips. The weather scuttled one and the US Navy messed up our plans for another but we're giving it our best shot. And we've got some great things happening in February (details to follow).

We haven't made much headway in finding another location partly because of the time it took us to get

organized and settled in to our new configuration, and partly because Reef Seekers owner Ken Kurtis has been involved in a KCET project all during January (he's the producer for all of the "Black History Month" profiles that will run during February on the station) so there hasn't been much time to search for new real estate. But we hope to restart that process in February. And while we're generally looking mainly Beverly Hills-Westside, we're open to other suggestions too so if you see anything that looks interesting, let us know.

We're also sort of committed to the idea of doing it "right" this time and to us, that means having a pool on-site. It will certainly mean we'd need more space (because we want to good-sized pool, not just a deep jacuzzi) and we'll need to line up some financing, but we think it'll be worth the effort.

We're also going to ask for your help in this endeavor and want you to keep your eyes open for an e-mail touting an on-line survey that we'll get organized within the next few weeks. We'd like to pick your brain and have you help us design the ultimate dive shop. What are the things you'd really like to see and to have? What would you not like to have? What things would drive you to visit this type of a place? What things would keep you away? Put on your thinking

caps and let us have some of your thoughts and creative ideas when the time comes. Sky's the limit.

You may recall that what started this whole mess was the desire to build condos and mixed-use on our property and the two adjacent vacant lots. What's ironic is that as of the end of January, the project has yet to be approved. The most recent hearing was January 25 and there are still conflicts (that may prove irresolvable) between the developer and the city). What's even weirder is that in the conversations we had with the developer, he's told us that even if everything went ahead full steam, it would be September at the absolute earliest that they'd tear the place down. So we could have done a short-term lease or even month-to-month (both of which we offered) but the current landlord turned us down. Go figure.

So that's where things stand now. We've still got local and foreign trips going, we've got a schedule of post-certification classes for you, and we will be diving (and hoping to have you with us). Except for not having a physical location, a lot of what you've come to expect from Reef Seekers hasn't changed.

So that's where we are for the moment and, as always, we'll keep you posted.

2007 FUN DIVES & FORMAL CLASSES (MAKE YOURSELF A BETTER DIVER)

(FREEBIES ARE LISTED IN BOLD TYPE)

Feb. 1 Fish I.D.
8 Sea Signs
10 **Beach Diving/Navigation**
14 **Night Diving (Squid)**
17 CPR/Oxygen/1st Aid
28 **Squid Dive**

Mar. 1 Fish I.D.
8 **Photo Workshop**
10 **Beach Diving/Navigation**
14 **Night Diving (Squid)**
15 Rescue
22 NAUI Adv. (dives 3/24-25)
28 **Squid Dive**

Apr. 5 Fish I.D.
8 **Beach Diving/Navigation**
11 **Night Diving**
14 CPR/Oxygen/1st Aid
19 Tables & Computers
26 PADI Digital Diver

May 3 Fish I.D.
9 **Night Diving**
10 **Photo Workshop**
13 **Beach Diving/Navigation**
19 CPR/Oxygen/1st Aid
24 Sea Signs

June 7 Fish I.D.
10 **Beach Diving/Navigation**
13 **Night Diving**
14 Rescue
21 NAUI Adv. (dives 6/23-24)

July 5 Fish I.D.
11 **Night Diving**
12 **Photo Workshop**

14 **Beach Diving/Navigation**
14 CPR/Oxygen/1st Aid
19 Tables & Computers
26 PADI Digital Diver

Aug. 2 Fish I.D.
8 **Night Diving**
11 **Beach Diving/Navigation**
18 CPR/Oxygen/1st Aid
30 Sea Signs

Sept. 6 Fish I.D.
9 **Beach Diving/Navigation**
12 **Night Diving**
13 **Photo Workshop**
20 Rescue
27 NAUI Adv. (dives 9/29-30)

Oct. 4 Fish I.D.
10 **Night Diving**
13 **Beach Diving/Navigation**
18 Tables & Computers
20 CPR/Oxygen/1st Aid
25 PADI Digital Diver

Nov. 1 Fish I.D.
8 **Photo Workshop**
10 **Beach Diving/Navigation**
14 **Night Diving**
17 CPR/Oxygen/1st Aid
29 Sea Signs

Dec. 6 Fish I.D.
8 **Beach Diving/Navigation**
12 **Night Diving (Squid)**
13 NAUI Adv. (dives 12/15-16)
20 Rescue
26 **Squid Dive**

JOIN US & EXPLORE OUR UNDERWATER WORLD (310)652-4990

ADVANCED CLASSES

You've probably already noticed on that page 2 is our scheduled of classes to do after you're certified. (We still don't have a good name - "advanced" just doesn't seem to cut it.) These are a combination of our freebies (beach diving, night diving, photo workshop) and ones you pay for (Fish ID, Rescue, CPR) that have proved so popular over the years.

You sign up just like you have in the past: simply give us a call at 310/652-4990. But print out a copy of our sked and put it some place handy so we can help you continue your underwater education.



SQUID RUN

The annual squid run is well underway and this looks to be a really active year. (We actually had to cancel a dive on 1/31 but hope to go again on 2/6.) One of the best places to go search for them and their eggs is Veteran's Park in Redondo Beach.

If you're looking for the egg masses (which this year have been described as "a carpet of eggs") you can do this dive either during the day or during the night. But if you want to see the live squid and hopefully see some mating (and the

UPCOMING BOAT DIVES

Feb. 3	<i>Sea Bass</i>	••• Oil Rigs (limited load) •••	\$130/140
17	<i>Great Escape</i>	Santa Barbara Island	145/155
24	<i>Cat. Express</i>	Avalon Underwater Cleanup	\$95
Mar. 4	<i>Magician</i>	Farnsworth/Catalina backside	130/140
17	<i>Great Escape</i>	San Clemente (NW Harbor)	145/155
Apr. 1	<i>Cee Ray</i>	Catalina (Italian Gardens)	120/130
7	<i>Great Escape</i>	Santa Barbara Island	145/155
21	<i>Sea Bass</i>	••• Oil Rigs (limited load) •••	130/140
29	<i>Great Escape</i>	San Clemente (frontside)	145/155

Prices are listed as 14-day advanced purchase/regular. Food/air included all trips. All diving to be done on compressed air only - no nitrox. Fuel surcharge may apply.

demise that follows along with the scavenging) then you have to do the dive at night.

Either way, you park in the Vets parking lot, gear up, go down the stairs, and go in. Some people enter straight out from the main stairs and others have been walking down the beach to the right (about half-way to the Redondo Pier) and using those stairs as a marker point.

As you kick along the sandy bottom, you'll eventually - at a depth of about 30 feet - come to the slope that will lead you into Redondo Canyon. This is where most of the action is, although this year there are even some eggs in the shallower areas.

Down in the canyon, cruise out to the 70-foot depth contour and make a choice to go left or right. As you follow that contour, you should start to see the egg masses. Depending on when you're doing the dive, you may see squid burying their eggs inside the mass, mating, or see their carcasses (they die after they mate) littering the bottom. Either way, it's quite a sight to see.

We've got our long-standing Night and Squid dives happening all during February and March, just about

every two weeks. And (now that he's a Man of Leisure) you might even be able to talk Ken into going more often because the run seems so good so far. Usually, the activity should last until mid-to-late March.

So if you're interested in joining us, give a call to get signed up at 310/652-4990. If you get the machine, just leave a message and we'll get back to you.



SQUID ARTICLE

Speaking of squid, there's a really great article in Wednesday's *Los Angeles Times* "Food Section" that talks about squid fishing. If you still don't have the paper, you can probably find the story on-line at the website for the *Times*. Interesting reading.

AVALON UNDERWATER CLEANUP

One of the great things that's happening this month is the 26th annual Avalon Harbor Underwater Cleanup. This is a great chance to do a fun dive AND to give something back at that same time, as we go around and clean up all the trash we can find in the harbor. (It's also the only time of the year when we can dive this area.)

Reef Seekers always takes a group to dive at the Green Pleasure Pier and we'd love to have you join us. \$95 covers you for event registration, t-shirt and goodie bag, boat ride over and back, and gear transport/storage. We do one dive for the Cleanup and then you can ei-

ther go to the Park to dive on your own, or to attend the Awards/Prize ceremony at 1PM.

We'll also have the (informal) annual Reef Seekers Miniature Golf Championship at the Golf Gardens in the heart of Avalon. One round only, no fair cheating or practicing (which we think is a form of cheating) and a good time will be had by all. Low score gets bragging rights for the coming year. It's a fun little course and actually quite challenging. It's more about straight putting than it is gimmicks like windmills and such things. (\$7/round, not included in your fee to us.)

Monies raised are split between the CCD (Catalina Conservancy Divers) and the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber. If you'd like to join us, give us a call.

NEED RENTAL GEAR?

One of the hassles for you is that you can no longer get rental gear (or airfills) from us. So we've taken steps to make that easier for you by teaming up with two shops we've always worked closely with - Scuba Haus & Ocean Adventures.

Tell them you're diving with Reef Seekers and you'll get 20% off their regular rental rates. So even though we can't directly supply you, we still look out for you.

Scuba Haus (2501 Wilshire - 310/828-2916) is at 25th and Wilshire in Santa Monica. Ocean Adventures (1915 Lincoln Blvd. - 310/578-9391) is in Venice on Lincoln Boulevard a few blocks north of Venice Boulevard. Tell them both we sent you.

PICTURE PAGE - Avalon Cleanup, 2006

(All pix by Ken Kurtis © 2007)



**Part of our group
of intrepid trash-hunters**



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**Getting everyone
briefed beforehand**



**Fall down go boom!!!
(Not one of ours . . .)**



**Checking back in
with the on-shore DM**



**Treasures
from the deep**