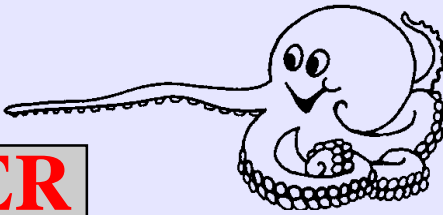


THE REEF SEEKER



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December - 2007



2008 LOCAL BOAT SCHEDULE

On page three of this newsletter (suitable for hanging on your refrigerator) you'll find our complete 2008 local boat schedule. Some things will look the same, and some things have changed.

We'll be dealing with four boats this coming year. In alphabetical order, they are: *Cee Ray*, *Great Escape*, *Magician*, and *Sea Bass*. (Plus we'll use the *Catalina Express* for the Avalon Underwater Clean-Up in February as well as any forays we do to the Avalon UW Park.) Additionally, on Chamber day (May 7) the *Cee Ray* will be the "official" Reef Seekers boat as it has been so many years in the past.

We're maintaining a good variety of dive destinations this year. In

fact, we seem to be one of the few shops left that still does trips to the outer islands of San Clemente and Santa Barbara Islands. (We've got nine trips scheduled to those places.) Plus we've got Farnsworth, the Oil Rigs, some wrecks (more on that in a minute), and Catalina. Our goal is to give you plenty of choices and get a good mix so it doesn't seem like we go back to the same place time and time again.

One difference you'll notice this year is that we're diving every-other-week. We started doing this towards the last half of this year and it seems to work well for us since we're (still) shopless. What that also tends to mean is our boats run a little fuller. That's good and bad. Obviously, we know you'd rather be on a half-full boat. Unfortunately economics are such that we can't run that way all the time. This is still a business.

But by running more full more often, it does mean that on the occasion time that we're running light, we don't simply cancel the boat. We can take a financial hit every now and then. And we certainly hope that -since our trips are 99.99% certified divers - that we're able to help you move in a way and you just instinctively know how to function on the boat so that it doesn't seem as full as the full-

boat numbers might indicate.

Speaking of economics, it should come as no surprise to you that the prices have gone up this year. The prices the boats are charging us have gone up which means the prices we have to charge you has gone up as well. We've generally held the increases to \$5/trip. Especially given the cost of fuel, we hope you'll agree that that's reasonable.

And don't forget about Early Purchase and Reef Saver Cards, which can save you a bundle. You'll note two prices on all of our trips. The lower one (by \$10) is the price you get when you pay for your trip two weeks or more ahead of time. On top of that, you can save 10% by owning a Reef Saver Card. It's only \$50 and is good for 365 days from the date of purchase and gets you a discount off of the Early Purchase &/or the Regular price. So even though the "regular" price of a San Clemente trip is \$160, with Early Purchase and a Reef Saver Card, you can get that trip for \$135. That's a significant savings.

You'll notice a slightly different layout to the schedule this year. Not only do we have everything listed in chronological order in the middle of the page, but at the bottom of the page, we show the schedule by destination. Want to know

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Dec. 6 Fish I.D.
8 **Beach Diving/Navig.**
12 **Night Diving (Squid)**
13 NAUI Advanced
20 Rescue
26 **Squid Dive**

Happy
Holidays

January, 2008
sked
TBA

when the next Santa Barbara trip is? Just look to the bottom. As you can see by how many times we intend to go to each place, it's a fairly well-balanced schedule.

We also have the schedule listed underneath that by which day of the week we're diving. You'll see it's a pretty even split between Saturdays (12 plus the Avalon Clean-Up) and Sundays (11). Once again, we've tried to achieve a sense of balance.

And we've got a couple of new things this year. We're doing three trips that are wreck trips. The first - on April 19 - is All Wrecks All the Time. We'll try for the *Palawan*, the *Avalon*, and the *Dominator*. On May 31, we're going out to the *Star of Scotland*, a wreck rarely visited by charter boats (and then we'll come back to Palos Verdes to finish up). And on September 21, we'll shoot for a dive on the *Olympic*, and then continue on to Catalina.

Nothing's perfect but hopefully you'll find this schedule to be to your liking. All of our trips include food and up to three airfills (but you need to come with your tank full for the first dive or you might be charged by the boat) and we'll always have three of our Divemasters (or Instructors) on board every trip. That means we've

got plenty of staff to run the show, as well as to help you out with any problems you might encounter from lack of a buddy to broken gear.

Our goal is to show you the best possible time we can each and every day you come diving with us and, judging by your comments on the evaluation sheets after each trip, we seem to be hitting the mark most of the time. But we won't rest on our laurels.

We look forward to having you come dive with us in 2008 as we continue our quest to explore and enjoy all the SoCal diving has to offer. Our boat book is ready to go so you can start booking these trips any time you're ready. Just give us a call at 310/652-4990 and let's go diving soon!!!

SHOPLESS WONDERS

It's certainly be an interesting year being shopless. And we really do appreciate all of you whop have called - almost weekly - asking, "When are you going to reopen?" And the answer has always been, "I'm not sure."

But what I've also said is that if/when we reopen, I'd want to do it right with a pool, meeting rooms, etc., etc., and I'd need to find some funding.

Well . . .

I can't let the cat out of the bag but suffice it to say that I've been talking with some people who have some ideas about how this might all come about. In fact, their plans (and granted this is WAAAY in the early stages) are even more grandiose that I'd initially envisioned. There are a number of factors that will need to fall in to place to make it all happen but it certainly seems within the realm of possibility.

So, you never know. (And it never hurts to dream big.) And I'll tell you more as things develop and when I'm freer to reveal some more details.

DIVING VACATIONS

February 10-16, 2008 - Florida

March - Grand Cayman

April - Socorro

May/June - Yap



**IMPORTANT STUFF
YOU NEED TO KNOW**

Tickets are fully refundable with 14 days or more notice.
8-13 days notice, future trip credit.
7 days or less, no refund/credit.

All diving must be done within recreational sport diving limits: depths 130' or less, no-deco bottom times, with standard compressed air used as a breathing gas.

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

All of our *Great Escape* trips have a limited number of staterooms, reservable at a nominal extra charge.

Boat landings & locations:
Cee Ray - Queen's Wharf (LB)
Great Escape - Queen's Wharf (LB)
Magician - Ports O' Call (SP)
Sea Bass - Ports O' Call (SP)

Phone reservations are accepted on all trips and will be held for up to 72 hours.
After that time, unpaid reservations can be canceled without notice.

All destinations are dependent on weather and may be changed at our sole discretion.

You must show your certification card at sign-in.
No c-card, no scuba diving.

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

We generally try to offer 4 dives on all trips but sometimes, due to various circumstances, we may only be able to offer 3.



**REEF SEEKERS DIVE CO.
LOCAL DIVE TRIPS IN 2008
On the web: WWW.REEFSEEKERS.COM**

Prices listed are for early purchase (spots must be *paid in full* 14 days or more prior to the trip) and regular purchase (paid in full less than 14 days before trip). Early purchase saves you \$10. Reef Saver discounts (10%) apply to both prices.

Reservations: (310)652-4990

(If you get the machine, please leave a message.)

All trips include food, sodas, & up to 3 airfills

**NEED RENTAL GEAR? GET A 20% DISCOUNT AT
LAGUNA SEASPORTS, OCEAN ADVENTURES, & SCUBA HAUS
(SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY)**

DAY	DATE	BOAT	DESTINATION	EARLY/REG.
Saturday	Jan.12	<i>Great Escape</i>	Farnsworth/Catalina backside	\$140/150
Sunday	27	<i>Great Escape</i>	San Clemente (Pyramid Cove)	150/160
Saturday	Feb. 9	<i>Sea Bass</i>	••• Oil Rigs (limited load) •••	135/145

Saturday	23	Cat. Express	Avalon U/W Clean-Up	\$110
Sunday	Mar. 9	<i>Magician</i>	Catalina (Frontside)	130/140
Saturday	22	<i>Great Escape</i>	Santa Barbara Island	150/160
Sunday	Apr. 6	<i>Great Escape</i>	San Clemente (NW Harbor)	150/160
Saturday	19	<i>Sea Bass</i>	<i>Palawan/Avalon/Dominator</i>	130/140
Sunday	May 4	<i>Great Escape</i>	Farnsworth/Catalina backside	140/150

Wednesday	7	All boats	Chamber Day Benefit Dive	\$90
Sunday	18	<i>Magician</i>	••• Oil Rigs (limited load) •••	135/145
Saturday	31	<i>Sea Bass</i>	<i>Star of Scotland</i> /Palos Verdes	140/150
Sunday	June 15	<i>Cee Ray</i>	Catalina (Italian Gdns/East End)	130/140
Saturday	28	<i>Great Escape</i>	Santa Barbara Island	150/160
Sunday	July 13	<i>Great Escape</i>	Farnsworth/Catalina backside	140/150
Saturday	26	<i>Great Escape</i>	San Clemente (Backside)	150/160
Sunday	Aug. 10	<i>Magician</i>	••• Oil Rigs (limited load) •••	135/145
Saturday	23	<i>Great Escape</i>	Santa Barbara Island	150/160
Saturday	Sept. 6	<i>Magician</i>	Catalina (West End)	130/140
Sunday	21	<i>Magician</i>	<i>Olympic wreck</i> /Catalina	130/140
Saturday	Oct. 4	<i>Cee Ray</i>	Farnsworth/Catalina backside	140/150
Sunday	19	<i>Great Escape</i>	San Clemente (Frontside)	150/160
Saturday	Nov. 1	<i>Great Escape</i>	Santa Barbara Island	150/160
Sunday	16	<i>Magician</i>	••• Oil Rigs (limited load) •••	135/145
Saturday	Dec. 6	<i>Great Escape</i>	San Clemente (Pyramid)	150/160

Oil Rigs (Adv. dive)	Wrecks (various locations)	Catalina Island (various)	Farnsworth (Adv. dive)	Santa Barbara	Clemente
Feb. 9			Jan. 12	Mar. 22	Jan. 27
May 18	Apr. 19	Mar. 9	May 4	June 28	Apr. 6
Aug. 10	May 31	June 15	July 13	Aug. 23	July 26
Nov. 16	Sept.21	Sept. 6	Oct. 4	Nov. 1	Oct. 19
					Dec.6

Saturdays: 1/12, 2/9, 3/22, 4/19, 5/31, 6/28, 7/26, 8/23, 9/6, 10/4, 11/1, 12/6

Sundays: 1/27, 3/9, 4/6, 5/4, 5/18, 6/15, 7/13, 8/10, 9/21, 10/19, 11/16

Thanks for choosing Reef Seekers

FLORIDA ANYONE???

We have a fairly complete idea of our planned trip to Florida to dive with the Manatees and explore the springs & caverns of Central Florida. And we've got it set up so we don't have to change hotels every single night along the way. On top of that, we're bringing this in for a reasonable price.

We'll leave on Sunday, February 10 and fly to Orlando, where we'll pick up vehicles and drive to Crystal River. Monday we'll spend the day exploring Crystal River, snorkeling with the Manatees and diving some spots. Tuesday morning we'll drive to Williston (40 miles away) to dive two of the privately-owned Caverns there. Wednesday plans are still a bit up in the air. But Wednesday evening we'll defi-

nately end up in High Springs, so we can be at Ginnie Springs on Thursday for an entire day of exploring the seven springs at Ginnie as well as some of the clearest water (up to 200' vis) that I've ever seen. We'll stay in the High Springs area Thursday night so that we can explore such sites as Orange Grove Sink, Peacock Slough, Pothole, Troy Springs, and others on Friday. Saturday morning we'll drive back to Orlando for our flight back to home. Overall, we'll get in five full days of diving.

I'm still working on final pricing but this should come in under \$1995, which includes airfare, hotels (double occupancy), vehicle, gas for said vehicle, all park/entrance fees (which average \$35-40/day), tanks and weights, tips, and even a Continental breakfast

many of the mornings. Those of you who won't need airfare (if you can fly on miles or you live on the East Coast and will meet up with us) can deduct about \$550.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE

Hard to believe it's "that" time of the year already. We hope this holiday season brings you and your family joy and happiness. One thing that will be a little weird this year is that, for the first time since 1988, we will not be able to have a Reef Seekers Holiday Party. Lack of venue sort of does us in. But we hope, even without our party, this time of the year is a good one for you and that whatever it is you're wishing for will come your way.

PICTURE PAGE - Christmas Tree Worms

(All pix by Ken Kurtis © 2007)



Merry



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WWW.REEFSEEKERS.COM



Christmas



everyone!!!



(Happy Holidays . . .



. . . for those who celebrate something else.)