



2017

SharkBait Dive Club

April Speaker

Ken Kurtis

Ken was our scheduled speaker for March, but due to some unfortunate events and an Eastern Seaboard Winter Storm, Ken could not make it for that meeting. He is however, able to be our speaker for April. Ken is a talented, interesting, knowledgeable, top of the heap guy who is always a joy to be around. Don't miss this opportunity to meet him and listen to his words of WISDOM.



Ken's topic is one we are all interested in knowing more about, Why Divers Die. Ken was part of the panel put together by DAN to discuss this subject at the Recreational Diving Fatalities Workshop in 2010.

Ken Kurtis was kicked out of swim class twice by the time he was six. (He didn't like putting his face in the water.) Hardly an auspicious start to a diving career. But Ken always loved being around the water, loved looking at fish, and in 1978 while running a radio station in Richmond, VA, was offered a chance to get certified and took advantage of it. Ken then became a NAUI Instructor (Top Candidate at his 1980 ITC) and has taught thousands of people over the years. He doesn't teach as much as he used to when the brick-and-mortar store was open, but still likes teaching Fish Identification and a few others. Ken's logged over 5,000 dives all over the world in such varied places as the Maldives, Indonesia, Yap, Tahiti, Bonaire, Cocos, Alaska, Easter Island and, of course, his beloved waters of Southern California. As the owner of Reef Seekers Dive Co., he speaks frequently to dive clubs about diving and especially safety issues. Ken's been chairman of Chamber Day/Eve since the early 90s, served as a member of the Statewide Interests Group for the MLPA (Marine Life



April 8 - May 23 Renaissance Pleasure Faire

Saturdays and Sundays · 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area, Irwindale

April 11 Club Meeting
6:30 PM Graziano's Italian Yorba Linda

April 22 Earth Day
See Web Site for Activities

April 23 Beach Dive
7:00 AM Fisherman's Cove, Laguna Beach

May 3 Chamber Day and Night

May 6,7 SCUBA Show
Long Beach Convention Center

May 9 Club Meeting

June 24 Club Summer Party
Vlad's House

Protection Act), and is a volunteer Dive Team Leader at the Aquarium of the Pacific. Ken's an accomplished photographer and his photos and stories can be found in the pages of the California Diving News, Sport Diver, Skin Diver, Undercurrent and other scuba publications, along with the monthly Reef Seekers newsletter. Since 2003, Ken has been a Forensic Consultant to the L.A.

Ken Kurtis Cnt'd

County Coroner for scuba fatalities, doing accident analysis. With all that he still finds time to maintain an acting career and leads all of the local and foreign trips for Reef Seekers. He's a very good cook, avid Scrabble & Boggle player, chases total solar eclipses (next one is in the US in 2017), ran five L.A. Marathons, and is kind to animals and small children. Be sure to ask him his mantra about divers. He also claims to hold the Reef Seekers deep diving record of 3500' . . . but we have to add the caveat that he did it in the Alvin submersible for a PBS special so that might be cheating.

Keep the dates around the end of October and beginning of November clear and join us for some fun and adventure.

PS Let Silvia know you are interested in going.

2017 Warm Water Trip

This fall we are off to Cozumel for our Warm Water escape to 80 degree water, warm sunshine, good food, great companions and loads of diving fun.

The dates have not been firmed up yet but will be around the last week of October or the first week of November. We will firm up in April. Let Silvia know if you are interested in going.

We will be staying at the Sunscape Sabor Hotel, all inclusive plan. The dive operator is Dive House Diving.

Sunscape Sabor is located toward the southern end of the island resort and is close to the wondrous Cozumel coral reefs where over 250 fish species swim in crystal clear waters.

The Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System is the second largest coral reef system in the world. Minutes away by boat, this reef system boasts 100% visibility and scuba diving for all levels. (No long boat rides to get to dive sites)

The resort's buffet restaurant serves a range of international food in an informal setting. There are two additional restaurants with a more formal feel as well as three (3) bars.

The hotel has on-site equipment for activities such as snorkeling, sailing, kayaking and many more.



Beach Dives

Change in Beach Procedure

Participation in our beach dives has been pretty spotty of late and to save Martin the hassle of getting to the dive site and having to abort because no one is there we have initiated a RSVP protocol. If you are participating in our beach divem, E-mail Martin at n1diver@aol.com or call at 714-833-9167.



April 23 Fisherman's Cove Laguna Beach 7:00 AM RSVP to Martin

Fisherman's Cove, located in Laguna Beach, lies just south of Shaw's Cove. The beach is small, protected and there are multiple mini-reefs are straight out. The South Side of Fisherman's Cove is a complex, teaming with varied Marine Life rock reef system. Large numbers of Mussels, Urchins, Garibaldi, Kelp Bass, Sea Cucumbers, Starfish, and Gorgonians are common sights at this site. Bat Rays commonly play in the sand!.



Diving at Fisherman's Cove is on the reef straight out. If you head to the left you get to the reef area of Divers cove. If you head to the right you get to the reef area of Shaws cove. The depth is typically about 18 to 30 feet. The reef straight out has several rock reef areas that are great to explore. This area is a marine preserve and there is no hunting or gathering allowed! This area has always been good for seeing octopus, lobster, and small crabs.

To get to Fisherman's Cove in Laguna Beach turn south at the traffic light on Beverly street from PCH. The signal has a sign for Beverly street, but when you turn south you are going onto Cliff Drive. The road forks immediately on Cliff drive, stay to the left going onto Cliff Drive and go about 200 yards. The staircase to Fisherman's Cove is just before the last apartment building (looking south, towards the

May 14 Little Corona Corona Del Mar
7:00 AM RSVP to Martin

Little Corona has a good supply of sightseeing and photo subject matter. On the reefs, in water 20 feet and deeper, small gorgonian sea fans, starfish, feather worms and assorted invertebrates can be found.

Visibility is generally good. Water clarity on the outer reefs can reach 30 feet but is generally in the 15 to 20 feet range.

The reefs start shallow and slope gradually to 30 feet 150 yards out. The reefs lie on either side of a sandy cove with the more interesting reefs to the south side.

Little Corona is located in Corona Del Mar and is easily reached by turning toward the ocean from PCH onto Poppy Street. Poppy will end overlooking the ocean and turn into Ocean Blvd. the path to Little Corona is just left of this intersection. A paved path winds down to the beach. Restrooms and showers are located half way down the path.



Chamber Day / Evening 2017

CHAMBER EVENING RAFFLE GRAND PRIZE - A WEEK OF DIVING IN YAP

To err is human. To dive is divine. To err while diving can cause some big problems. A review of DAN Annual Accident Reports indicates that 69% of diving accidents are caused by diver error. So the last thing you'd want to hear is, "Sorry, there's no chamber in the area so there's nothing we can do for you." Fortunately, that's NOT the case in SoCal because, since 1974, we have relied on the USC Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber to bail us out when things go wrong. And once again, our Chamber is counting on you.

2017 marks our Chamber's 43rd year of unbending service to the Southern California diving community. While our Chamber still gets about 50% of its funding from the County, Chamber Day & Eve have become the major source of funds to keep our Chamber available to us 24/7/365. And that's why we hope you'll participate in Chamber Day & Eve 2017 on Wednesday, May 3.

The first Chamber Day attracted about 200 divers and netted about \$15,000 for our Chamber. Over the years the event has grown to over 1,000 participants by adding Chamber Eve, the Flying Dutchman, and the Chamber Challenge. Last year we raised just under \$108,000 for our Chamber. We are justifiably considered the largest single-day scuba charity event in the United States and perhaps even the world.

It's important to know that all monies raised go to the Chamber. No administrative fees are deducted from the proceeds, the participating SoCal boats donate their time and services, the manufacturers donate gear for raffle prizes, the Aquarium of the Pacific donates their facility for Chamber Eve, hundreds of volunteers donate their time, and you (hopefully) donate your money.

Here's what's happening:

The main event is Chamber Day, which includes two dives at Catalina, plus a walking tour of the Chamber facilities at the Isthmus. A ticket on one of the participating boats for Chamber Day is still only \$110 (plus \$30 for food and airfills for the boat). You get the diving, the tour, a T-shirt, and 5 daytime raffle tickets.

If you can't take the day off but would still like to participate, we have the Flying Dutchman—a mythical boat, yes, but a big part of Chamber Day and the perfect option for those who can't attend in person. "Diving" the Dutchman gets you 5 daytime raffle tickets and a special limited-edition T-shirt available only to folks who sign up for the Dutchman. And we're holding the Dutchman price at \$95.

There's also the Chamber Challenge, which "challenges" our community to raise extra funds for our Chamber through direct donations (mostly \$100 pledges, but also \$500 and \$1,000, and



even \$5,000 and \$10,000). You donate, and then—we hope—you challenge your friends to match your generosity.

Raffle tickets, anyone? Daytime raffle tickets are the way to go—because you don't need to be present to win. Tickets are \$1 each, with discounts when you buy more. Plus this year when you dive our participating boats in April, you'll get additional FREE raffle tickets.

Chamber Evening, co-sponsored by the Aquarium of the Pacific, wraps things up. You'll have full access to the Aquarium, a sit-down dinner in the Great Hall (under the life-sized model of a blue whale), hear a few speeches—we try to keep them short—maybe win a raffle prize, and finally, cheer during the presentation of the Chamber Day check to Karl Huggins, Director of the Chamber. As with Chamber Day, Chamber Evening tickets are \$110 each which includes five evening raffle tickets and your chance at our grand prize—a week of diving with the manta rays, hammerheads, Mandarinfish, and other creatures you'll find in Yap while staying at Manta Bay Resort.

For more information about these can't-miss events, visit our web site at www.chamberday.org. You can sign up there using our secure server, or you can Chamber Day HQ at 310-652-4990.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 3 and Chamber Day & Eve 2017.

Ken Kurtis (Chairman, Chamber Day/Eve 2017)

&

Karl Huggins (Director, USC Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber)

More Warm Water Fun

WITH SHARKBAIT TEAMING UP WITH ALICIA'S
DIVE/ADVENTURE TOURS FOR A SUMMER TRIP
TO ISLA MUJERES.



This summer we are going to Isla Mujeres, off the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. We will stay at the all-inclusive resort Catalonia Riviera Maya. The big draw is cenote diving and diving with whale sharks. There will be some other adventures scheduled for this trip and we'll let you know what they are as soon as we finalize them. The trip is planned for July 21-29. The cost for the land and diving package is \$1700. This price is the cash discounted price. Air fare is not included in the package. Right now the air fare is around \$400 from LAX. If we get enough people we might be able to swing a group rate for the air.

Here are the specifics of the land/diving package:

Package Includes:

- 7 nights accommodations in the all inclusive Catalonia Riviera Maya
- Garden View Room
- All food and drinks
- 3 days of two tank reef diving
- 1 day of two tank cenote diving
- 1 day whale shark excursion
- Tanks and weights
- Airport transfers
- Taxes

Package does not include:

- Airfare
- Gear rental
- Trip Insurance
- Anything else not listed



We are accepting a \$500 nonrefundable deposit for the land/diving package at this time. Final payment will be due April 30th. Deposits may be forwarded to Alicia. She may be contacted at trailgoddess@yahoo.com or 949-584-8408.

Annual Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your membership. As you recall, we changed the annual dues renewal from an anniversary system to a set date system.

At the February Board Meeting, yhe Board voted to reduce the dues to \$20 per year with no additional charge for a family membership.

See Alf Johnson at the meeting to renew your membership.



Don't Forget Our Sponsors

We are fortunate to have a great group of sponsors who contribute to the success of SharkBait Dive Club. Without their help and support, we wouldn't be able to provide the benefits that membership in SharkBait gives our members.

We need to do our part also by supporting our sponsor/friends with our continuing business support. When considering a purchase of equipment, a class or a trip, or when you have that irresistible taste for Italian food please remember our sponsors. They are great partners !!!!

Hollywood Divers is located right near Universal City Walk. They are giving us raffle Gift Certificates from time to time. You will be able to redeem these online through their web site, <http://www.hollywooddivers.com>. You will remember Heather Hamza and her husband Karim. They have both been speakers at our meetings.

Dive Seekers is located across the country in New Jersey. They will also be giving us Gift Certificates from time to time. The certificates can be redeemed through their web site at <http://www.diveseekers.com>.

Both of these sponsors carry a complete line of equipment and are reputable SCUBA shops. Give their sites a visit, we think you will be pleased with their GOODIES.



SCUBA World

1706 N Tustin St, Orange, CA 92865

(714) 998-6382



17487 Imperial Hwy
Yorba Linda, Ca 92886
(714) 524-2770

<http://www.grazianosrestaurants.com/>



HOLLYWOOD DIVERS

Club Information



Monthly club meetings
with speakers and raffle
prizes
Monthly Newsletter
Land-based Club activities
and events for the whole
family
Organized local dives
Resort warm-water trips
Good dives and good
buddies
Membership costs are as
follows . . .
New Membership:
\$30
Renewal:
\$20

membership renewals are
due in February for all
current members. New
members dues will be
prorated depending on the
month they join the club



SCUBA World



Club Board Members

President/Speakers/Boat Dives/Webmaster

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Vice President/Membership/Facebook (social media)

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Honorary Board Member

Randy Garzes

Club Contact/Social Media Information

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Scubaboard

Scubaboard.com