



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.

Renewal dues schedule is: Single \$30
Family \$40

See Alf Johnson at the meeting to renew your membership.
OR.....Renew on-line on our website
WWW.sharkbaitdiveclub.org



SAVE THE DATE

**COMING
UP**

March 12 Club Meeting
Graziano's Italian, Yorba Linda

March 17 7:00 AM Beach Dive
Crescent Bay, Laguna Beach

April 27 Boat Dive
Sundiver Express to Catalina

May 1 Chamber Day and Evening

May 5-6 SCUBA Show
Long Beach





Over 40 Years of Service to the
Southern California Diving Communities

The USC Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber, located on the campus of the USC Wrigley Marine Science Center at Big Fisherman Cove at the West End of Catalina Island, has been serving Southern California Divers since 1974 as an emergency medical facility for the treatment of scuba diving accidents. Without proper treatment, major problems from diving accidents, most commonly Decompression Sickness (the "Bends") and Air Embolism, can lead to permanent disabling injuries and in some instances be fatal. In the Southern California area around Catalina Island, the combination of effective on-site management of a diving accident along with the rapid response by Los Angeles County Baywatch Lifeguards, or the U.S. Coast Guard, and swift, effective treatment at the Chamber can save a diver's life.

catalina chamber

The USC Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber places a great emphasis on education. Programs taught by the Chamber at the Wrigley Marine Science Center, and on the mainland, include Emergency Dive Accident Management (EDAM) Emergency Response Diver (ERD), and Hyperbaric Chamber Operations. Professional, recreational, and research divers come from as far away as Antarctica to attend these courses. Chamber Tours and experiential Chamber "Dives" are available for groups and service organizations.



31th ANNUAL CHAMBER DAY
21th ANNUAL CHAMBER EVE
Wednesday, May 1st, 2019
CHAMBER EVENING RAFFLE GRAND PRIZE
Nine-day trip to Manado, Indonesia, with
Murex Dive resort & Lembeh Resort

Diving is an amazingly safe sport . . . until it isn't.
But we're all human and things happen. In fact, a

study has shown 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. Since 1974, divers 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.

2019 marks our Chamber's 45th year of unbending service to the Southern California diving community. While our Chamber still gets about half of its funding from L.A. 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 need you to participate in Chamber Day & Eve 2019 on Wednesday, May 1.

This is our 31st annual Chamber Day event. The first one in 1989 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 over \$117,000 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 (we still have to pay for the food), hundreds of volunteers donate their time, and you (hopefully) donate your money.

Here's how you get involved:

Chamber Day - Two dives at Catalina and a walking tour of the Chamber facilities including meeting rescue personnel from various first-responder agencies.

The Flying Dutchman - For those who can't do the daytime dive. (IMPORTANT NOTE - IT IS NOT A REAL BOAT, AND YOU'RE NOT REALLY GOING ANYWHERE.).

The Chamber Challenge - Direct donations which can also be in someone's memory.

Daytime Raffle - Valuable prizes, and you don't have to be present to win.

Chamber Evening - Sit-down dinner at the Aquarium of the Pacific.

V.G.D. (Very Generous Diver) Package - Limited (150 people) add-on to a Chamber Evening ticket that gets you early access, free parking, and

other goodies.

For more information and the specifics about each of these, click the link. And remember that you can sign up using our secure server, or you can call Chamber Day HQ at 310-652-4990.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 1 and Chamber Day & Eve 2019. Hope to see you there!!!

Ken Kurtis (Chairman, Chamber Day/Eve 2019)

&

Karl Huggins (Director, USC Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber)



Chamber Day 2019

For a Donation of \$110* You Receive:

Two (2) Dives at Santa Catalina Island
Tour of the USC Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber
Chamber Day 2019 Commemorative T-shirt
Five (5) Chamber Day 2019 Raffle Tickets
Chance to talk to Local Search and Rescue
Personnel

*Plus a \$30 Food-and-Air Charge

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 1, 2019, as that's the date for the 31st annual Chamber Day where SoCal's finest dive boats donate their services for the day to benefit our Chamber. The full roster of confirmed participating boats (in alphabetical order) are: Asante, Cee Ray, Giant Stride, Pacific Star, Sundiver, Sundiver II, Sundiver Express, and Westerly. (And for those who can't take the day off or don't dive, there's always the Flying Dutchman.)

Here's the way it works: Sign up for the boat you want to go on. We'll hold a reservation for you for 72 hours, but after that spots are guaranteed only when your donation is received. Note that we only have 172 confirmed spots available this year so don't get left behind. Your donation of \$110 (plus \$30 for boat food & air) is for a good cause: your Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber. Book early, because once a boat fills, it's unavailable.

Boats will leave their respective docks at 7AM and head for Catalina. (Some boats may allow you to board the night before and sleep on board.) You'll make two dives at Catalina and receive five daytime raffle tickets. To increase your chance of winning raffle prizes, you can purchase extra raffle tickets when you make your reservation or at the Chamber. (Please note you'll NOT be able to purchase extra tickets on the boats this year.)

At some point during the day, your boat will dock in Big Fisherman's Cove and everyone will disembark for a 75-minute tour of our Chamber facilities, including a chance for you to hear from first responders from L.A. County Lifeguards, rescue helicopter crews from the Coast Guard

and/or Sheriff's Department, and the Chamber crew will walk you around the Chamber itself. You'll even go inside and be pressurized to a depth of 1 foot. (Hard to believe, but you'll have to clear your ears.)

Most of the boats will arrive back at their docks by 5:30PM. (Some of the faster, smaller boats will be back earlier.) We try to contact all the boats to tell them who their raffle winners are. All the raffle prizes will be available in front of the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach from 4:30-7PM at our drive-up raffle prize pick-up table.

Please remember that Chamber Day is a fundraising event and not a normal dive day charter. Due to the logistical issues involved, if weather conditions preclude the dive boats from safely going out on Chamber Day there will not be a make-up day. If weather forces us to cancel you will be transferred to the Flying Dutchman, and you will be given an additional 10 daytime raffle tickets.

The bottom line in all of this is that your continued support of our Chamber, in whatever form that takes, is essential for our Chamber to remain available and on-watch 24/7/365. And that means we need you to sign up for Chamber Day 2019 by calling a sponsoring shop or club, by calling our main number at 310-652-4990, or by going to our secure server. Come alone or bring a buddy, but don't miss this special event!

Chamber Evening 2019

Chamber Eve 2019 For a Donation of \$120 You Receive:

Private Exploration of the Aquarium of the Pacific
Catered Sit-Down Dinner in the Great Hall of the Pacific

Five (5) Chamber Evening 2019 Raffle Tickets

One (1) Grand Prize Ticket

Chance to talk to Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber Crew Volunteers

Especially for those who can't take a Wednesday off from work . . .

The Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach and the Chamber Day Committee once again invite you to join us for an evening of fish, food, and fun. Chamber Eve 2019 is Wednesday, May 1, from 7:00 - 10:30PM. Because the Aquarium realizes the vital role our Chamber plays in the overall safety of the SoCal dive community, and because they realize what a valuable contribution the roughly 150 volunteer divers make to the smooth running of the Aquarium, they waive their normal facility fee for this event and host it for us at no charge. (We still pay for the food but that's outside of the Aquarium's control.)

Our ticket price is again \$120 per person. (Folks who do the daytime and evening events will receive an extra \$20 in general day and eve raffle tickets as a bonus for doing both.) With attendance capped around 400, the earlier you sign up, the better.

Each table seats 10 for the sit-down, waiter-served dinner. Many of the tables are sponsored by area dive shops, clubs, and organizations. You can choose to sit with a group you know, or choose an "Open" tables and make some new friends. You can sign up directly with a table sponsor, through our secure server, or by calling us at 310-652-4990. Just be sure you let us know where you want to sit.

The doors open at 7PM. You'll have over an hour to explore the Aquarium exhibits, check out the prizes, deposit your raffle tickets, make purchases at our merchandise table, drink, and

mingle. Dinner will start a little after 8PM and our program gets underway after 9PM with remarks, raffle prizes, some stills and videos from the day, and a check presentation at the end. We usually wrap up around 10:15PM. It's always a fun evening for everyone, so bring along your dive buddy or even a non-diving friend or Significant Other.

From 7-9PM, we'll have our Blind Bid Auction where you can bid (but can't see what others have bid) on the highly-coveted Dive Immersion for Two at the Aquarium of the Pacific. So make your best offer and keep your fingers crossed. Winning bid will be announced during the evening.

When you buy your Chamber Evening dinner ticket, you'll also get five evening general raffle tickets and one Grand Prize ticket. There will be opportunities to buy more general raffle tickets when you get to the Aquarium. Total value of the evening raffle will be roughly \$10,000 and prizes will include regulators, BCs, computers, and more.

Once again, we'll do "Pick-A-Prize" as we've done in the past, and we'll again do a "targeted" raffle. There will be a bin for prize #1, a bin for prize #2, a bin for prize #3, and a bin for prizes #4-20 (based on value). You can "target" whatever you like with as many of your tickets as you like. Throw them all in for a specific prize or split them up. It's up to you.

The ultimate prize - and the last thing we'll award during the evening - is the Grand Prize, which this year will have you spending nine amazing days in the Manado, Indonesia, area diving with Murex Dive Resort and Lembeh resort as part of the "Passport to Paradise" package.

Please note that again this year, the Grand Prize ticket is separate from the general raffle tickets. You will get one Grand Prize ticket with you Chamber Eve ticket. You can't buy more (levels the playing field).

However, if you also get the VGD (Very Generous Diver) package as an add-on to your Chamber Eve ticket, you'll receive two additional Grand Prize raffle ticket. And please note: You must be present to win.

All night, we'll have full access to the Aquarium and its 12,000+ critters, comprising over 500 species and representing three major regions of the Pacific. In case you didn't know, the Aquarium of the Pacific is the only aquarium that focuses exclusively on the Pacific Ocean. And it's the only Aquarium ever to breed a juvy Black Sea Bass which you can (and must) see in the Amber Forest exhibit, twenty feet to the right just beyond our prize table.

As with Chamber Day, Chamber Evening tickets can be purchased by calling 310-652-4990 or by going to our secure server. Indicate how many tickets you want, what table you'd like to sit at, what you want to eat, if you'd like to add the V.G.D. Package, and how you want to pay. It's as simple as that.

Mark the date - Wednesday, May 1. It's the dive party of the year. Don't miss it!

"DIVE" The Flying Dutchman

For a Donation of \$95 You Receive:

Limited Edition Commemorative Flying Dutchman 2019 T-shirt with your name or "Pirate" name on the front*

Five (5) Chamber Day 2019 Raffle Tickets
Ticket to the Flying Dutchman "On-Board" Boat Raffle

Listing of your Pirate Name as a Member of the Flying Dutchman "crew" on the T-shirt & on the On-Line Manifest

* Since we will be printing t-shirts only for those people signing up for the Flying Dutchman, the t-shirts will be sent out following Chamber Day with your "Pirate" name on it.

For those who can't take a Wednesday off, we have the perfect solution - sign up for the Flying Dutchman. In nautical lore, the Flying Dutchman was bad news as it was the name of a mythical ship doomed to sail the seas forever and never reach port. But from a Chamber Day perspective, the Dutchman is a good thing because it helps us raise more money for our Chamber and gets you a unique T-shirt.

Our Flying Dutchman is the answer for folks who can't get wet on May 1 but who want to say they "dove" the event. You won't really go anywhere but you'll get all the other benefits of Chamber Day participation. An "on-board" raffle will be conducted, just like on all the other boats, and you'll get a T-shirt - but yours will be quite different.

Dutchman T-Shirt Front

The limited-edition Flying Dutchman Chamber Day T-shirt is available ONLY to those who dive the Dutchman. The back of the shirt features a unique design each year, while the front of the shirt will have your name on it as a member of the "Lost Crew" of the Flying Dutchman. You can either use your real name or make up your pirate name—it's your choice (though we retain

Upcoming 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 dive, E-mail Martin at n1diver@aol.com or call at 714-833-9167.



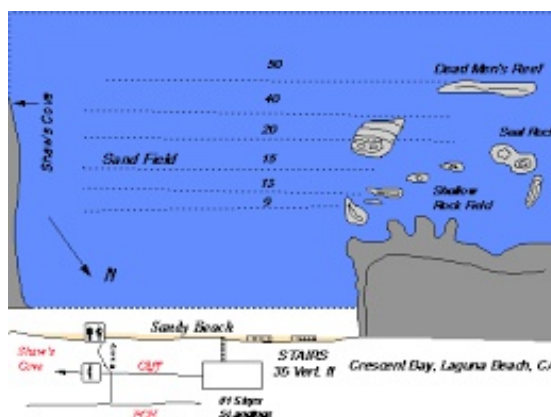
www.clipartof.com · 441036

March Beach Dive Balboa Pier February 10 7:00 AM

The options at Crescent Bay are numerous. To the South are reefs with large crevices, one of which leads over to neighboring Shaw's Cove. There are times when the surge in this passage is very strong so enter with care. On the North side is another reef which is a fun place to traverse. Beyond the reefs here lie Seal Rocks, a pair of rocky spires on which Sea Lions "haul out" to rest and sun themselves. Here you may have the opportunity to cavort with these playful and graceful mammals. They love to dive, zoom right at your face and pull up just at the last second, mouth open, blowing bubbles.



The fish life at Crescent includes Opaleye, Garibaldi (of course), Surfperch, and other usual suspects. Depths here range from 10 to 25 feet with vis in the 15 to 20 foot range.



Sharkbait Dive Club Invitation to Taveuni Island (Fiji)

Join us for 10 days of warm water; sun drenched white sands, waterfalls, spectacular diving, good food and good company. Divers and non-divers alike are welcome.

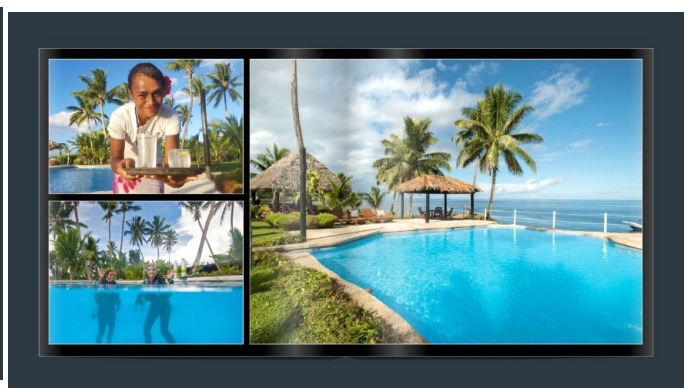
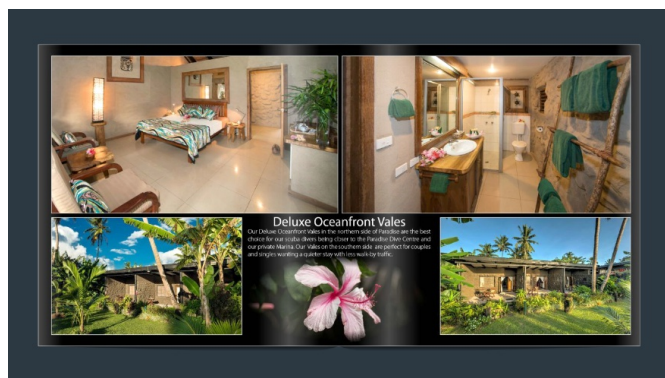
Fed by the nutrient-rich waters that flow through the Somosomo Straits, Taveuni's Rainbow Reef is home to one of the world's greatest displays of soft coral. Journey through national rainforest parks, coastal walks where the jungle meets the ocean, visit gorgeous white sand beaches and waterfalls that plunge into the sea, visit secluded spots like Devoux Peak where you might spot the Tagimoucia flower, found only on Taveuni, or the Orange Dove and the Silktail, rare bird species only to be found on this island.



When: August 11-21, 2019

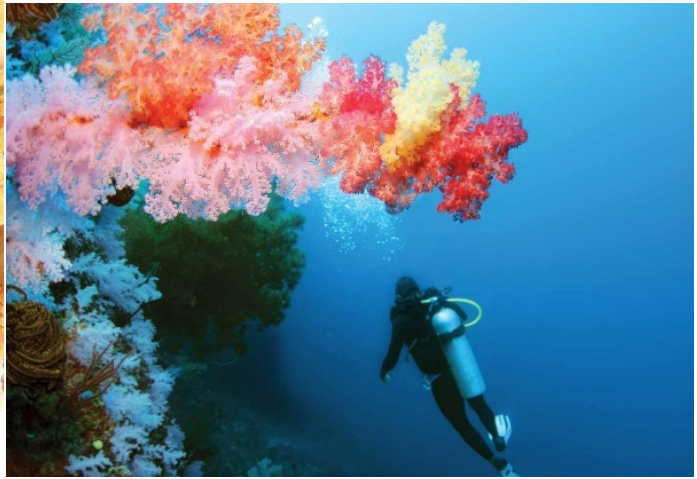
The Resort: Paradise Taveuni Resort (www.paradiseinfiji.com)

The Paradise Taveuni Resort still offers 16 accommodation choices. These include all brand new Deluxe Oceanfront Bures, Deluxe Oceanfront Vales, Deluxe Oceanfront Family Vales, Oceanview Bures and Oceanview Family Bures. Each of our newly built lodgings includes ocean views from each room, tropical outdoor shower in your own private lava-rock garden, generous king bed, spacious deck to read and enjoy the views and air conditioning. All Fiji government taxes (25%), transfers, are included. Resort amenities include air-conditioning, spa, and all-inclusive dining (breakfast, lunch, dinner). Free WIFI in main Bure.



The Diving:

The Dive Center offers full service. Unlimited shore diving during store hours. Twenty-one dive sites on the Rainbow Reef; blue sharks, giant clams, soft and hard corals, nudibranchs, leaf fish, bull sharks, barracudas, and sea snakes are some of the reef life to be seen. We will also be there at the right time for the Great White Wall dives (30 minutes from the resort). Dubbed as 'One of the Top 10 Dive Sites in the World' by legendary scuba diver, Cousteau himself, the Great White Wall is a sheer wall of white soft corals and is best seen and accessed on a slack low tide.



The Particulars

Paradise Taveuni*

Double occupancy: \$2,200 per person for 10 nights

Single occupancy: \$2,740 per person for 10 nights**

Non-Diver: \$ 930 per person for 10 nights

*All-inclusive rates **2 Singles can share a bathroom in a Family Bure for a double occupancy rate

Family Bure: <https://www.paradiseinfiji.com/oceanview-family-bures/>

Ocean View Bure: <https://www.paradiseinfiji.com/oceanview-bure/>

Diving

15 boat dives + FREE shore dives daily from 7am – 5pm + 2 Night Dives on the house reef (lots of critters). Nitrox is available at \$10 per tank. Weights, tanks, and a guide are included.

Book by May 11, 2019

Deposit of \$286 to secure a reservation. Full refund of deposit for cancellation until May 11, 2019. Pay in full by May 11, 2019.

Air Fare: (not included)

Currently airfare on Fiji Air is about \$1,200 RT for a nonstop flight. A discount may be available with group booking.

Other Info

A valid passport within 6 months of travel is required.

CONTACT: Email Silvia at SharkBaitDive@gmail.com

Did You Know???

How much do oceans add to world's oxygen?

By EarthSky in EARTH | SCIENCE WIRE |
June 8, 2015

Most of Earth's oxygen comes from tiny ocean plants – called phytoplankton – that live near the water's surface and drift with the currents.



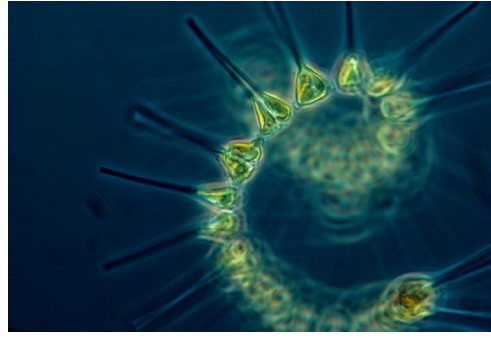
Sharing is caring!

In April, 2013, NASA's Aqua satellite captured this true-color image of the dynamic growth of a springtime phytoplankton bloom in the Bay of Biscay, off the coast of France. Read more about this image here.

In April, 2013, NASA's Aqua satellite captured this true-color image of the dynamic growth of a springtime phytoplankton bloom in the Bay of Biscay, off the coast of France. Read more about this image here.

Scientists agree that there's oxygen from ocean plants in every breath we take. Most of this oxygen comes from tiny ocean plants – called phytoplankton – that live near the water's surface and drift with the currents. Like all plants, they photosynthesize – that is, they use sunlight and carbon dioxide to make food. A byproduct of photosynthesis is oxygen.

Scientists believe that phytoplankton contribute between 50 to 85 percent of the oxygen in Earth's atmosphere. They aren't sure because it's a tough thing to calculate. In the lab, scientists can determine how much oxygen is produced by a single phytoplankton cell. The hard part is figuring out the total number of these microscopic plants throughout Earth's oceans. Phytoplankton wax and wane with the seasons. Phytoplankton blooms happen in spring when there's more available light and nutrients.



Phytoplankton - the foundation of the oceanic food chain. image via NOAA
Phytoplankton – the foundation of the oceanic food chain. Scientists estimate that phytoplankton contribute between 50 to 85 percent of the oxygen in Earth's atmosphere. Image via NOAA

And the density of phytoplankton varies. They sometimes float just at the surface. At other times and places they can be a hundred meters – about 100 yards – thick.

By the way, by about 400 million years ago, scientists say, enough oxygen had accumulated in Earth's atmosphere for the evolution of air-breathing land animals. But free oxygen by itself wasn't enough. Another form of oxygen was also essential: the build-up of a special kind of oxygen at the top of Earth's atmosphere. There, where three atoms of oxygen bonded together, ozone formed. This layer of ozone at the top of Earth's atmosphere shields land organisms from harmful ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

Bottom line: Tiny ocean plants called phytoplankton contribute 50 to 85 percent of the oxygen in Earth's atmosphere.

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:
Single \$40 pp
Family \$50 (couple/family)
Renewal:
Single \$30
Family \$40

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

Club Board Members

President

Speakers/Webmaster
Vlad Ilinsky
vilinsky88@gmail.com

Vice President

Publicity/Social Media, Warm Water Trips
Silvia Swigert
silviaswigerts@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Membership/Newsletter
Alf Johnson
alfjohnson1@gmail.com

Beach Dives

Martin Carreon
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Warm Water Trips

Monica Villegas
rescue1grl@gmail.com

Boat Dives

Barry Bloch

Board Member Emeritus

Randy Garzes

Club Contact/Social Media Information

Website

Sharkbaitdiveclub.org

Facebook

SharkBait Dive Club - SoCal

Twitter

@sharkbait diver

Scubaboard

Scubaboard.com