

THE REEF SEEKER



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CHAMBER DAY 2021: ALL VIRTUAL AGAIN THIS YEAR

The Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber is a strong proponent of safety, so it should come as no surprise to you that, given where we are in terms of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have again made the decision to be a 100% virtual event for 2021. But there are definitely some changes that we're putting in place compared to how we did things in 2020.

And we should start with this piece of information: Chamber Day 2021 is Wednesday, May 5.

One important thing to point out is that even though much of SoCal has been on lockdown for a year now, your Chamber has remained open and operational even through this pandemic. We haven't shut things down but have been standing at the ready should a diver need us (and some have in the last

year). So while other operations may have saved money during the last 12 months because they've been closed, that's NOT the case with your Chamber. Our expenses generally stayed the same as they would have in a normal year. So YOUR support is still vital.

We know these are trying times for everyone and we hope you'll still give some thought to doing one or more of the aspects of the event, knowing that your donations will be put to good use. Here's what's going on:

CHAMBER DAY – NEW!!! SIGN UP FOR A VIRTUAL BOAT (REAL BOAT – FAKE DIVE)

Even though SoCal dive boats have been running for a while now and the captains would love to be able to take you out on May 5 for two dives and a Chamber visit, USC COVID protocols prohibit us from having visitors to the Wrigley campus at the Isthmus, where the Chamber is located. Last year, we asked everyone to move to the original virtual boat, the Flying Dutchman. (More on that in a moment.) But this year, we've got another choice for you as we're creating "virtual" versions of each of the boats in the usual Chamber Day Fleet. To be clear: These are real boats, but these are fake dives.

When you register, sign up for one

of the virtual versions of your favorite boat for \$110. (Just remember, you're not really going to be diving on May 5 even if you sign up for a virtual boat.) We'll keep a roster for each virtual boat. Everyone who signs up for one of these boats will not only get a shot at some fabulous Daytime prizes, but you'll also receive a unique Chamber Day t-shirt.

This year, the Day shirt will have the Chamber Day 2021 logo on the front. But the back will list each of the virtual boats along with the names of each person who signed up for that boat. It will be a truly unique keepsake t-shirt that you will want to wear for years. But your name ONLY goes on the shirt when you sign up for a virtual boat. And there's more.

We'll have some special Daytime-only Blind Bids where you can hopefully submit the winning bid and get some cool stuff at a great price (plus help our Chamber). But you can ONLY bid on these items if you've signed up for one of our virtual boats. And there's still more.

Because our Evening live-stream was so successful last year, we're going to do a Daytime live-stream as well, which will be available ONLY to those who sign up for a virtual Daytime boat and those on the Flying Dutchman. Among our

guests for this webcast will be the first responders who you would normally chat with out on the island. You'll be able to do a little Q&A with them, we'll award some prizes, and we have some other surprises planned as well.

THE FLYING DUTCHMAN

Nothing changes. Please sign up (\$95 – the price hasn't changed), give us your "pirate" name, indicate your regular shop/club/affiliation (we'll post a running tally – there's also an "unaffiliated" option) and you're good to go. You'll get a unique Dutchman t-shirt with the "pirate" name in a mosaic on the front of the shirt, and you'll have a shot at some Dutchman-only prizes, and you'll be invited to watch the Daytime live-stream webcast mentioned above.

CHAMBER CHALLENGE

Same as always. Please contribute whatever you can. We absolutely appreciate – and need – the help.

CHAMBER EVENING

Same as we were last year. Virtual "tables" have been created for each store/club/group that would have had one at the Aquarium of the Pacific. Sign up on our website and choose where you want to be. "Seats" are still \$120 each. Normally you would get a chance to explore the Aquarium and you'd get fed. This year, everyone who "attends" Chamber Eve will get a ticket for free admission to the Aquarium once it fully re-opens to the public . . . and we're working on a food option. Plus you'll also get a Chamber Eve short-sleeved t-shirt, have a shot at a bunch of prizes, and there may be some other add-ons as well. Sign up with the table sponsor of your choice (there's also an "unaffiliated" option). As we did last year, we will

also have a live-stream webcast on May 5 from 8-9PM where we'll award raffle prizes, hear from some speakers, and have a great time.

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 call Chamber Day HQ at 310-652-4990.

Mark your calendar: Wednesday, May 5, Chamber Day & Eve 2021.

CHAMBER DAY 2021 - DO A REAL DIVE WITH REAL BOATS IN APRIL

We really appreciate the fact that the boats and their owners/captains/crews donate their time and their vessels to make this whole thing work. And even though they can't bring you over to our Chamber on May 5, we still want to try to help them out as well.

Simply put, we want you to dive with any of our Chamber Day boats during the month of April. We think it's important for the dive community to support the businesses that support our Chamber. So we'll sweeten the pot by adding you to the names in our prize pool on Chamber Day and you'll get an invite to the Daytime-only webcast. You don't have to do

anything other than dive with our boat sponsors. At the end of the trip, they'll forward to us a copy of their sign-in roster and we'll take it from there.

We'll try to let you know which boats are going where on which day in April and how to book (open boat or charter). And much as we hope you'll also do a virtual dive with us on May 5 on our local boats or the Flying Dutchman, the goal of this part of the event is to get you diving in April and supporting our participating dive boats.

WHY WE DO THIS

Those of us who work behind the scenes put a lot of time and effort into this because we believe it's really important to have our Chamber available to us 24/7/365. When an accident occurs, getting an injured diver to our Chamber alive means that he/she has an excellent chance of survival and recovery. Knowing this while you're doing whatever it takes is a reassuring thought. Our Chamber is an invaluable safety net that we simply don't want to lose. Your participation in any or all of the facets of Chamber Day will help to ensure our Chamber's future. Please go to www.chamberday.org and support our Chamber.

2021-22 DIVING VACATIONS

(Bonaire dates have changed)

Aug. 28 - Sept. 4 • Bonaire

March 12-20, 2022 • Socorro

BONAIRE POSTPONED AGAIN

The new dates are August 28 (actually leaving late evening on the 27th) through September 4. We were scheduled to do this trip late May and it just still didn't feel right. But hopefully – especially with the approval of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine – by end of August things will be looking up. And while we were all really pleased from a COVID-risk standpoint with how our recent Socorro trip went, part of that comfortable feeling was that we were on a boat and sort of in a bubble. In Bonaire, we're at a resort where there will be plenty of other people along with staff and who knows who is doing what or how seriously they take mitigation measures. So it seems postponement is the way to go, at least for the moment.



PHOTOG OF THE YEAR – RENEE CAPOZZOLA

Congrats to Renee Capozzola (one of our own, BTW), for being named Underwater Photographer of the Year by the Underwater Photographer of the Year contest held annually (based in the UK). The shot you see above was the winning entry, which also took first place in the Wide Angle category. The shot was taken at one of Renee's favorite places, Mo'orea in French

UPCOMING LOCAL DIVES & CLASSES

DAY	DATE	BOAT/SITE	PLANNED DESTINATION	PRICE
Wed.	Mar. 17	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$160
Thu.	25	Redondo (Vets)	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE
Sat.	27	Redondo (Vets)	Navigation (single dive)	\$25
Wed.	Apr. 7	--- CLASS ---	NAUI NITROX	\$75
Thu.	22	Redondo (Vets)	••• Night Dive •••	\$25
Wed.	28	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$160
Sat.	May 8	Redondo (Vets)	Beach dive (single tank)	\$25
Thu.	20	Redondo (Vets)	••• Night Dive •••	\$25

Polynesia, and show sharks at the surface and gulls overhead as the sun sets.

Believe it or not, Renee started with a point-and-shoot camera, first at places like the Avalon Underwater Park, and has moved up both in equipment and skill since then. She'll also be talking all about that as our November 9 Zoom Seekers speaker with a chat titled, "From Point-and-Shoot to Professional Photographer." And speaking of Zoom Seekers . . .



ZOOM SEEKERS IN MARCH

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, March 9, as that's our next Zoom Seekers presentation. Our speaker that evening will be well-known disaster preparedness expert Mike Emmerman (he and his family are also big supporters of Chamber Day each year with a generous

Challenge donation) who will be talking about "Life in the Fast Lane." I don't think he'll be humming the Eagles' tune of the same name but instead will focus on his findings while researching a series of diving fatalities in the 1990s. Mike found a correlation between a particular set of personality traits that the divers exhibited that may have contributed to actions they took on the dives that cost them their lives. Mike will discuss these traits and how all of us can take steps to understand our own personal risk profiles.

As you well know, there's no such thing as being "too" safe in this sport. And by attending this talk, you may discover that some of the traits Mike is discussing are present in some of your dives. Introspection can be a good thing. So hopefully you'll be able to join us in a little over a week (depending on when you read this).

Just a reminder that the talk starts at 7:30PM on Zoom – link will be in TWARS next week – and we're limited to the first 100 hundred people on Zoom. But the talk will also be featured (unless I mess it up again) on the Reef Seekers FaceBook page through FB Live. When you first connect with Zoom you'll be placed in the "Waiting Room" and then everyone will be admitted at 7:30. Mike's talk will last about 45 minutes and will be followed by a Q&A.



THE FLYING DUTCHMAN 2021

Sine we're usually the biggest supplier of victims . . . I mean DIVERS . . . for the Flying Dutchman, I wanted to get in a pitch for that as well.

The Flying Dutchman is the original virtual dive. (FAKE boat . . . FAKE dive.) It has always been an

on-line experience and this year, we're going to try to make it even a little bit better.

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. And this year, it's a really FABULOUS design.

Our Flying Dutchman is the answer for those of you who have done it for so many years. Remember that May 5 is our date this year. You'll get all the 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 as we incorporate your "pirate" name into a mosaic skull design. And we have something new this year.

All Dutchman divers will get an invitation to the Dutchman-and-Day-boat-only Zoom meeting featuring the first responders you'd normally chat with on the island and a couple of other surprises. Cost for the Dutchman remains at \$95. This includes your T-shirt, on-board prize opportunities, and peace of mind knowing you're pitching in to support our Chamber.

To sign up for the Dutchman, you can choose to either go online to www.chamberday.org, or give us a call at Chamber Day HQ and talk to a human at 310/652-4990.

PICTURE PAGE - Zoom Seekers speakers

(All pix by Ken Kurtis © 2021)



**April 13 - Doug Ebersole
"Diving After COVID"**

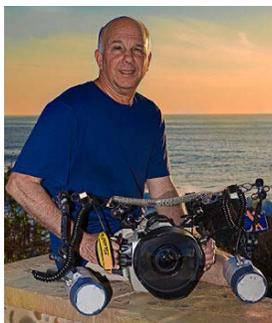


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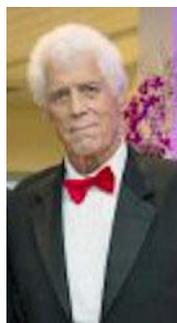
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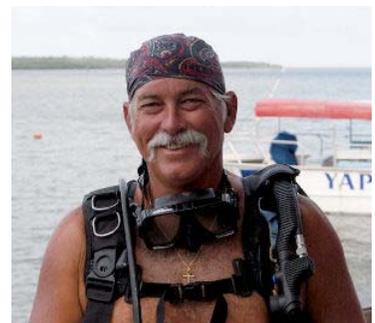
**May 11 - Danny Charlton
"Diving Indonesia"**



**June 15 - Marty Snyderman
"Finding/Shooting Critters"**



**July 13 - Bill MacDonald
"Video Production"**



**August 10 - Bill Acker
"Yapping About Yap"**