

Ken Kurtis

In Search of Mantas

A.V. Desert Divers

38713 Tierra Subida #200-227

Palmdale Ca 93551

April - 2022

General meeting - Mon - April 11th

Ken Kurtis- In Search of Mantas

Board Meeting - Wed - April 20th

Lancaster Location

Beach Dive - Sun - April 10th

Shaws Cove - Laguna Beach

Chamber Day - Wed - May 4th

Long beach Aquarium

Clam Chowder Dive - Sat - June 11th

Leo Carrillo Beach



Clam Chowder Dive June 11th

Leo Carrillo Beach





Aprils President's message

Can you smell it? Spring is in the air! With that also comes a lot of activities for the AVDD. Have you seen the "year at a glance" calendar yet? This can help you keep track of all our upcoming events. Our club meeting is next up. I know most will be on the Little Cayman trip, but if you can join, I encourage you to join. Ken Kurtis will be our guest speaker, and this is the meeting we will be donating to the USC Hyperbaric Chamber. How much? Well, you will need to turn in and see.

We also have our monthly dive that will be led by our new Conservation Officer Adam Parra. June is our annual Clam Chowder dive at Leo Carrillo State Beach. If you have not done it yet, you should really join us. A good time is always had by all.

The end of June is our big (and only) fund raiser, the Fireworks booth. Let me thank you in advance for helping support our club and this year we will be bringing back the BBQ lady on the 4th of July.

In closing, I want to remind everyone that we can support your Scuba tank needs, so if you need a fill, visual inspection, or hydro please contact any board member to coordinate. Thank you all and continue to get your vitamin sea.

Jeff



Beach Dive

The April Club Dive will be on Sunday, April 10th at 8am, we will be at Shaw's Cove in Laguna Beach.
<https://www.beachcitysscuba.com/pages/dive-site-shaws-cove>

Plan on meeting at 8am, there is free parking along cliff drive, I recommend getting there early as parking can fill up quickly!

There is a bathroom about a 2-3 min walk from the beach entrance, bring fresh water to rinse off as there is none at this site close by.

Call/text me if you have any questions.

Adam Parra

Conservation Officer (520) 906-0015

AVDD Board of Directors 2022-2023

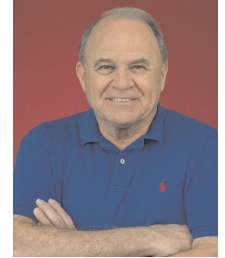
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To contact any of the board members E-mail
(avdesertdive@gmail.com)



Guest Speaker

Encounters with giant manta rays are usually on a diver's wish list and for those who have seen them, provide magical memories. And there are numerous places in the world where divers can fairly reliably hope to encounter these gentle giants. "In Search of Mantas" will give you some basic manta facts as well as take you to a number of places around the world where they can be found and show you the pictures of divers interacting with these wonderful creatures.



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 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. 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, 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.



Monterey Clam Chowder

Ingredients * 4 slices bacon, diced * 2 tbsp unsalted butter * 2 garlic cloves, minced * 1/2 onion, diced * 1/2 tsp dry thyme * 3 tbsp flour * 1 c milk * 1 c vegetable stock * 13 oz canned chopped clams, juices reserved * 1 bay leaf * 2 russet potatoes, peeled and diced * 1 c 1/2 and 1/2 * Salt (to taste) * Pepper (to taste) * 2 tbsp fresh parsley, chopped

Directions * Heat a large pot and add chopped bacon. Cook until crispy and remove. Empty grease, reserving 1 tbsp bacon grease * Add butter, garlic, and onion to the pot. Heat until aromatic and onions are translucent. Add thyme and heat until aromatic. * Stir in flour until browned. Add the stock, milk, reserved clam juice, and bay leaf. The slower you add the liquids, the thicker the broth will be. Stir until thickened slightly. * Add diced potatoes and bring to a boil. Simmer until potatoes are fork tender. * Add half and half and clams, and cook for about 2 minutes until clams are cooked through. If the broth is too thick, you can thin it with additional half and half. * Season with salt and pepper to taste. * Serve immediately, garnishing with the bacon and parsley

I'll see you at the Clam Chowder Dive June 11th 2022.

Lauren Bociaga



Conservation Officer Report

The Catalina clean-up was a great time, big thanks to all who came out! According to the clean-up officials, there were 722 total participants. Among them were 561 divers, 68 non-divers, and 98 volunteers/staff. An incredible 2,743 pieces of marine debris, totaling 1.69 tons of trash were removed from Avalon Harbor. It was pretty fun to see Ken and Lee dragging a sunken stand-up paddle board back to shore!

The California Science Center closed its spring diver volunteer session. However, I was told they will be opening it up once again in the summer/fall if you were possibly interested in applying. I will keep you all posted once it becomes available!



Remember to submit your Spiny Lobster Report cards no later than April 30th to avoid any late fees!

Fun Fact: Did you know giant kelp can grow 100 feet tall,
and up to 3 feet per day in ideal conditions?

Adam Parra

Waves Update for April

Hello AVDD, I would like to start off once more with a huge CONGRADULATIONS to Pat and Dave Turbide. They have successfully completed their Instructor Exam this last weekend and are now Bona fide SSI Scuba Instructors. With them now part of the team I look forward to more WAVES Project classes in the AV.



WAVES Project is currently in Bolder City NV. To once again partner with the National Park Service. The mapping project of the aggregate plant is

completed, and the new mission is to identify areas of interest in Lake Mojave. They will also do an assessment dive on the B-29 that crash landed in Lake Mead back in the 1940's

Waves will also be going down to Roatan this month for a little vitamin Sea and some warm water training. This is also the same time the Club will be down in Little Cayman, so I am sure there will be some good stories from each.

Thank you so much for all your support with our affiliate and I hope next year perhaps we can look at doing a joint trip.



CHAMBER DAY 2022 – BACK TO LIVE IN-PERSON AS WELL AS VIRTUAL OPTIONS



Let's start with this: Chamber Day 2022 is Wednesday, May 4.

We are pleased to announce that we're able to resume live in-person involvement this year, both for Chamber Day on the dive boats and at the Chamber facilities at the Isthmus on Catalina, as well as at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach for Chamber Eve. In addition, because we realize some of you are still not comfortable attending this type of a large in-person event, there are options to participate virtually as well.

One important thing to point out is that even though much of SoCal - and the world - has been dealing with various iterations of COVID mitigation measures, your Chamber has remained open and operational all throughout 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 businesses may have been able to cut expenses during this pandemic, 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 have been trying times for everyone and hopefully we're seeing the light at the end of this COVID tunnel. Here's what we have planned for 2022:

CHAMBER DAY – THE BOATS ARE RUNNING AGAIN

We're delighted to announce that we can take you diving again and welcome you for a walking tour of our Chamber facilities!!

We've got eight boats ready to plop you into underwater SoCal on May 4. In alphabetical order they are: Asante (the boat will be retired from diving after May 4 so this will be their LAST dive trip), Cee Ray, Explorer, Giant Stride, Pacific Star, Pacific Moon (the new sister ship to Pac Star), Sundiver, and Sundiver Express. We plan to run most of the boats with somewhat limited loads (roughly 80% of normal diving capacity – and who doesn't like a less-crowded boat?) as a mitigation measure. But this also means we don't have as many spots available as we normally do. The number this year will be around 140 boat diver spots.

All of our May 4 boats will do two dives and also do a walking tour of our Chamber. Some boats will do the tour first and then dive. Others will do their dives and then come in for the tour. All participating divers will receive a Chamber Day 2022 t-shirt, five daytime raffle tickets, food and an airfill on the boat, and a walking tour of our Chamber facilities, which will include a chance to talk with various rescue and first-responders. The cost this year is \$150 total, which breaks down as \$115 going to the event and \$35 going back to the boats to cover their food and airfill costs. (This is only \$10 more than it was previously.) Generally boats will leave their respective docks at 7AM and return no later than 5:30PM.

COVID mitigation protocols will be in place. When you show up for your boat, the protocols for that particular boat will be what are in effect. For those who will do the island tour, USC protocols for COVID will be in effect on the island. Because these protocols will likely change between now and May 4, we will give out the specifics as we get closer to the event. If you have any questions now, you can call Chamber Day HQ at 310/652-4990 and we'll answer as best we can.

THE FLYING DUTCHMAN – THE ULTIMATE WAY TO SOCIAL DISTANCE

For those uncomfortable with being on a dive boat on May 4, we've still got the Flying Dutchman at your disposal. And we're holding the price for the Dutchman at \$95. When you sign up, 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 raffle prizes as well.



2022 AVDD Annual Clam Chowder Event



Annual Clam Chowder Event / Dive

Antelope Valley Desert Divers will again be hosting our annual Clam Chowder Dive event.

Our recipe has been handed down for years! Bring your own hot sauce!

Parking is \$12.00 per vehicle.

Meet at 9:00AM for the dive briefing, Clam Chowder will be served @ 11:30AM.

Come join us for this lifelong tradition.

Fun for the whole family.

See you there!

June 11th 2022 9:00AM

Leo Carrillo State Park & Beach, 35000 Pacific Coast Hwy,

Malibu, CA 90265

