

Ashley Buinoch will be
May's Guest Speaker

A.V. Desert Divers

38713 Tierra Subida #200-227

Palmdale Ca 93551

May - 2022

General meeting - Mon - May 9th

Ashley Buinoch - talking "Diving"

Board Meeting - Wed - May 18th

Lancaster Location

Beach Dive - Sat - May 14th

Long Beach Scuba Show

Chamber Day - Wed - May 4th

Long beach Aquarium

Clam Chowder Dive - Sat - June 11th

Leo Carrillo Beach



The club trip to Little Cayman Island
was "World Class Diving"





May Message From The President...

Hello divers! Have you been keeping up on everything we are doing? I am so happy to see more and more people start to show up in person for our monthly meetings. One of our core values is support and you just putting the effort to show up is a huge boost to what we are trying to do.

If you did not see the last meeting, then you missed the big event. We were honored to present Ken Kurtis our donation to the USC Hyperbaric Chamber on Catalina Island. As you can see from the picture it was not the \$5000, we have given in the past, but a Huge \$10,000 Check!! We are the first club in history to donate that amount to this very important cause. Your hard work has made this happen and I hope you are as proud of this accomplishment as we the board are. It was amusing watching over Zoom, Ken Kurtis's face react to seeing all those zeros on that check.

All of you donate so much time to making sure the fireworks booth is a success and that hard work translates to making sure the Hyperbaric Chamber is available for a diver whose life might depend on it being there. As for the Fireworks Booth, keep an eye out for the sign up sheet at our next General Meeting.

The Club's trip to Little Cayman was a big success, as I am sure you have seen from all the Facebook posts from those who were there. If you could not make it for whatever reason, I have good news: one of our goals for the dive show this month is to find another club trip for next year that will hopefully tempt everyone to go! Fiji, the Philippines, Turks and Caicos, maybe Belize? I am excited at the possibilities.

Our next club dive aside from the Scuba Show on May 14, will be the Clam Chowder dive on June 11th. I hope you all can attend! This is one of my favorite events, and I am sad that I will not be able to go due to a commitment I have with the WAVES Project. I hope you can attend and enjoy some famous secret club recipe Clam Chowder and good camaraderie with fellow club members.

I am sorry to have to say farewell to the Thompson family who have been members for many years and will be moving to Florida. They have been great supporters of our club and they will be missed. Their son Marty will be attending school to work with animals and hopefully someday work at SeaWorld as a trainer. They attribute his successful acceptance into Santa Fe College with his love of diving and their association with the AVDD. I hope they will still find the time to dive, and maybe find another club to join in Florida!

In closing, I will also ask you to mark your calendars for July 9th. Our annual Pool party is a go! Thank you so much Terry and Colleen for opening you house once again for us.

Jeff Carlon



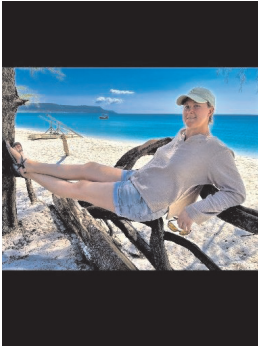
Waves on Roatan Island



Marty Thompson



Guest Speaker for May



Ashley Bujnoch was certified as a PADI Open Water Diver in 1994 at age 14. She began her diving career in college working as a Nautical Archaeologist on multiple underwater excavations. Her training with the American Academy of Underwater Sciences led her to work as a diver at NASA's Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory where she trained Astronauts in the construction of the International Space Station and Hubble Space Telescope.

Ashley took a short break to attend James Cook University where she earned her Master's Certificate in Maritime Archaeology.

In 2009 she graduated from the FBI Training Academy and started working Organized Crime as a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Knowing her background, the FBI recruited Ashley to the Underwater Search and Evidence Response Team where, in addition to her case work, she located and recovered pieces of evidence to solve multiple investigations. Ashley obtained her PADI Instructor Certification in 2020 and currently works with Dive N Surf in Redondo beach while doing contract work for SpaceX.



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

**Ken Kurtis was shocked to see
the \$10,000 Check to the Chamber
Largest donation from a club ever!**



The club dive to Little Cayman Island was “World Class”
The food was “Five Star”, The crew was “First Class”
We had the “VIP” treatment every day



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.

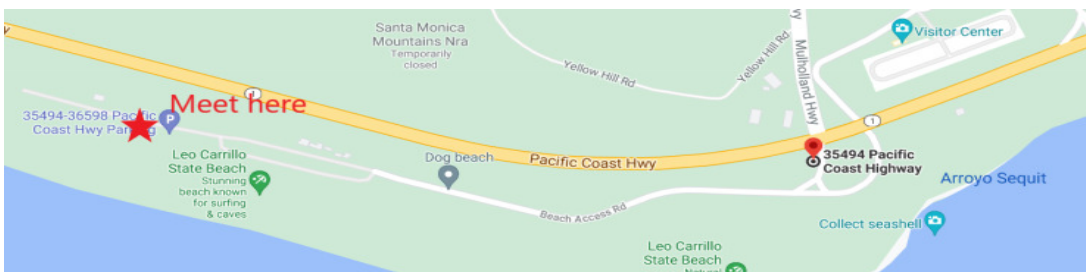
Fun for the whole family.

See you there!

June 11th 2022 9:00AM

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

Malibu, CA 90265





CHAMBER CHALLENGE

This hasn't changed and was a major factor in our record-setting total from last year. Every Challenge donation – big, small, and in-between – makes a difference. Companies that offer matching grants help increase the value of your contribution. Please contribute whatever you can. We absolutely appreciate – and need – the help.

CHAMBER EVENING – LIVE AND IN-PERSON AT THE AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

We are delighted to invite you to join us again IN-PERSON at the fabulous Aquarium of the Pacific for Chamber Evening. (There's a virtual option too. More on that in a moment.) The date is also Wednesday, May 4, and the doors will open at 7PM. But as we navigate our way out of this COVID nightmare, there are some changes in how we have to do this portion of the overall event.

One major change is that we're limiting attendance to 250 people. (In the past, we've had as many as 450.) This is in accordance with USC protocols (don't forget that our Chamber is operated by USC so we have to adhere to their regulations) which require a minimum distance of seven feet between tables for any indoor seated dining event which limits how many tables we can fit into the Aquarium's Great Hall. We will still be 10 to a table but can only fit 25 tables in overall. This also means that most table sponsors will only be able to get one table per group this year (a few groups might get two). So tables will fill quickly and you won't want to be left out.

Although this may change by May 4 as COVID protocols adjust, we are at this moment requiring all attendees to be fully vaccinated with proof of such, and to wear a mask when not actively eating or drinking, whether indoors or outdoors at the Aquarium. As we get closer to May 4, we will publish the specific requirements should any of this change.

The other major change is pricing. Because we are severely reducing the number of people in attendance, we're forced to raise the cost of a seat, which will now be \$150 (the same as the total price for the Daytime portion). But for those who attend, you'll still have a chance to wander around and explore the Aquarium from 7-8PM, we're working on a fabulous feast that will start around 8PM, then we'll go into our program of raffle prizes and recognitions a little after 9PM, and we'll send you home around 10:15PM.

Speaking of prizes, would anyone like to win a weeklong trip on the Turks & Caicos Aggressor??? Because that's what our Grand Prize is this year and ONLY people who attend Chamber Evening (or sign up for the virtual version) will have their names in the hopper with a chance to score this wonderful dive experience. Attendees will also get five evening raffle tickets as well as have a chance to win some Blind Bid items that we'll have on-site.

But if you'd rather stay home . . .

VIRTUAL CHAMBER EVENING – TAKES THE WORRY OUT OF BEING CLOSE

As we did last year, we're offering a virtual version for those who are not yet comfortable with this type of an indoor event. As we did last year, we've got sponsored tables as well. (Some organizations have both an in-person table as well as a virtual one.)

Cost for the virtual version of the event is the same as the Flying Dutchman - \$95. Virtual attendees will get five raffle tickets and be entered in the drawing for the Turks & Caicos Aggressor Grand Prize, as well as you'll get a Chamber Evening t-shirt mailed to you. And because we want you to feel connected to what's happening at the Aquarium, you'll receive a private link to our live-stream of the event. So you can observe and enjoy from the comfort of your own home.

Essentially for 2022, we have both an in-person and virtual option for both the Day and Eve events. All the monies raised go to benefit our Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber, which in turn benefits our diving community. For more information about all of this, visit our website 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 for Wednesday, May 4 and Chamber Day & Eve 2022.

Ken Kurtis (Chairman, Chamber Day/Eve 2022)

Karl Huggins (Director, USC Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber)





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.

