

# Angel's



Angel Gomez,  
Director of  
Member  
Services

# Be Alive!



On the Sea Lion and Rock tour.



A scenic view of the Harbor.

# Catalina Island

### Hello again!

First, let me thank everyone who wrote letters to the editor of *Alive!* about how much you enjoy this column, and that you use this as a guide when your family goes on a hike. That's great to hear! I hope you have as much fun as I do.

This month, we visit Catalina Island, "a sea of activities to enjoy; water sports, sightseeing, hiking, biking or just relaxing on the beach." And all just a one hour boat ride away, and only 22 miles off the coast of Southern California. These are activities we always do in "Be Alive," all wrapped into one. What are you waiting for?

My boys are on vacation right now, so I took my own advice and used my Club membership and purchased the Catalina Express round trip tickets and the Discovery Tours sightseeing passes (all at the great Club discount). Let me show you the savings: Retail price for tickets to Catalina Island Express (adult) are \$58, but the Club's discounted price is \$50.50, a \$7.50 savings for each ticket you buy. Children receive a \$3 discount. As for the sightseeing tour, adults save \$8.10, and children save \$3.80. Total savings was \$44.80 for two adults and two children. Our Club membership sure saves us money! What a value!

Meanwhile, back to Catalina: Here's a brief history. The island was inhabited by Native Americans for more than 7,000 years. In 1542 they greeted the first European explorer, Don Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo. Sixty years later, Don Sebastian Viscaino of Spain stopped at the island while exploring the California coast looking for good ports. This was when the island was given the name "Santa Catalina" after St. Catherine of Alexandria.

In 1887 the town of Avalon was founded as a resort by George Shatto. In 1898 the Avalon Tuna Club was founded. It is the oldest fishing club in the United States and attracted the likes of Zane Grey, Cecil B. De Mille, John Wayne and even Winston Churchill. In 1892 the Banning brothers purchased Catalina Island. They developed several attractions in Avalon and built roads in the interior of the island. A devastating fire destroyed half of the Hotel Metropole in 1915. Because of this event, the Banning brothers ultimately had to sell the island in 1919. That's when William Wrigley Jr. purchased controlling interest in the Santa Catalina Company and became the island owner. Mr. Wrigley Jr. also owned the Chicago Cubs and brought them over to Catalina Island for spring training for the next 30 years. The island even had a motorcycle race series known as the Catalina Grand Prix in the 1950s, attracting more than 300 motorcycles and thousands spectators. There is much history here on Catalina Island.

I left Long Beach at 8:30 a.m., went to Catalina



Aden and Angel are ready for their one hour boat ride.



Angel and Aden feel/feel come.



Aden enjoyed crops and strawberries at Original Jack's.



Angel, Aden and Kathy (Angel's wife) on the pier



Angel at the pier



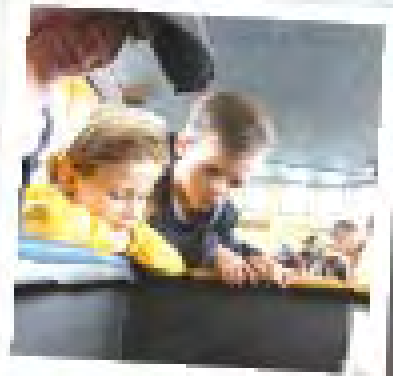
Armstrong's Seafood Restaurant. Angel and his family ate here.



Aden, Kathy and Angel overlook the Avalon Harbor on Catalina.



A view of the Avalon Harbor and the glass-bottomed boat.



Angel and Aden look down at the fish from the glass-bottomed boat.



Angel on Catalina Island.



The Catalina Drive, Supply and Sporting shop.



Eric's on the Pier.

Island, and returned by 7 p.m. In that amount of time, I was able to take my family on two tours and a one-hour golf cart ride.

I enjoyed the Glass Bottom Boat Tour, which includes bright orange garibaldi, spotted calico bass, opaleyes, half-moons, rockfish, bat rays, kelp forests and sea urchins. And watching my youngest, Aden, fall dead asleep looking into the glass bottom! But it's a really, neat tour.

Then we took the Seal Rock Cruise, and now I know why they call it that -- you get a long look at rocks and seals and that's all, folks. There is some interesting information about the rocks and where they go, but mostly I would say it's a good time to just lie back and enjoy the ride. After a relaxing boat ride, we wanted to go out on our own and explore the island, so we rented a golf cart for \$40 per hour. The memories are priceless! You can travel all across the island and see great scenic views from higher ground. That was pretty fun.

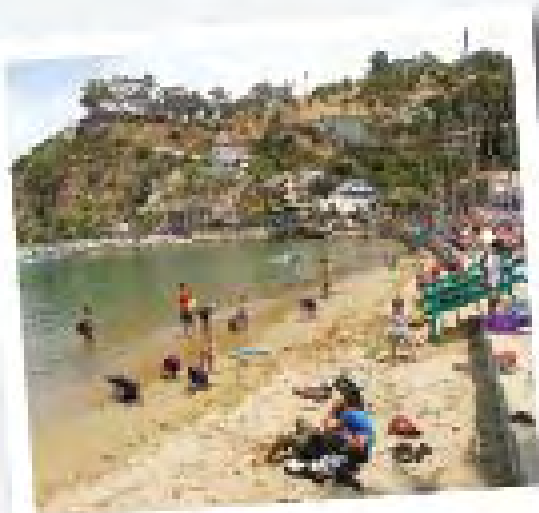
We had breakfast at Original Jack's (118 Catalina Ave.) It was great! The orange juice (freshly squeezed) and the strawberry crepes were wonderful. Thanks, Jack! And for lunch we went to Armstrong Seafood Restaurant (306 Crescent Ave.) in front of the golf cart rental. We had jumbo shrimp and a salmon lunch ... and enjoyed the beautiful view of Avalon Port with our meal.

We did all of this in just seven hours. You can, too ... and at a discount. Make sure to come by the new Club Store and Service Center (120 W. Second St.) and buy your tickets today. Go out and have some fun!

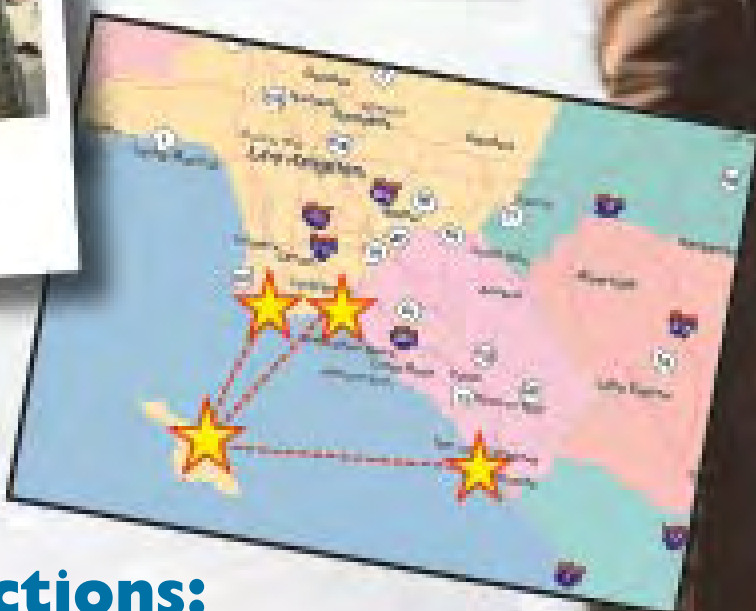
**As always, "Be safe and Be Alive!"**



Angel in front of Wigley Memorial and Botanical Garden.



The Avalon beach area.



## Directions:

- You can board a Catalina Express at San Pedro, Long Beach or Dana Point (at press time ...); check with the Club Store for specific information.)



Start here at Catalina Express.

## August Events

### Rock 'n' Roll for Kids

- Aug. 4-5

Lloyd Miller -- lead singer and bassist of the Deedle Deedle Dees, a popular East Coast-based educational rock band drawing rave reviews for its fine musicianship and fresh songs encouraging kids to read about historical persons such as Cesar Chavez, Satchel Paige and Amelia Earhart -- will perform solo at four Library branches, beginning with the Vernon Branch, 4504 S. Central Ave., Aug. 4 at 1:30 p.m. Later the same day, he will travel to the John Muir Branch, 1005 W. 64th St., at 4 p.m. On Aug. 5, Miller will play at the Cypress Park Branch, 1150 Cypress Ave., at 2 p.m., and later wrap his tour at the Lincoln Heights Branch, 2530 Workman St., at 4 p.m. The concerts are free and open to the public. Miller's musical exploits were recently featured in *Esquire* magazine, which referred to the Deedle Deedle Dees as a "terrific band."

- Information: [www.lapl.org](http://www.lapl.org)

### Festival of Sail

- Aug. 15-18

The majestic Tall Ships return to the Port of Los Angeles at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 15 with a grand parade of sail into port to kick off Festival of Sail LA 2008. More than a dozen ships will be participating, including the US Coast Guard's 297-foot *Eagle* as well as *HMS Bounty* and *HMS Surprise*, which have been featured in major Hollywood films. Activities include boat tours, dockside demonstrations, maritime-themed entertainment and an educational area for young and old alike. Parking at various locations around the Port will be available free. Food will be available for purchase on site, and at nearby restaurants. The Warner Grand Theatre will present special showings of movies featuring two of the ships in the Festival of Sail.

- Information: (888) LAMI-808 or [www.lafestivalofsail.info](http://www.lafestivalofsail.info)

### Pershing Square Summer Concert Series

- Through August

Rec and Parks offers a great summer concert and movie series -- outdoor, in downtown's Pershing Square. Lunchtime concerts ... Salsa Sundays ... activities for children ... and Friday Night Flicks. Pull up (your own) chair and have a great time! Details are in the ad in this month's *Alive!*, or can be found at [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)

### Fourth Annual Hansen Dam Triathlon

- Aug. 17

Attention, all you extreme athletes: Rec and Parks is once again sponsoring the annual Hansen Dam Triathlon, Sunday, Aug. 17, and the pool and open water facility, 11798 Foothill Blvd. in Lakeview Terrace. The event is suited for all multi-sport competitors. Whether you are a novice or professional triathlete, this fun, fast and competitive event is a good thing to try. The race starts with a 500-yard open water swim, followed by an 11-mile fast and flat road course with good views, and ends with a three-mile trail run through the lower lake area.

- Information: (818) 899-3779

## Ticket Guy Recommends



"I recommend Mulligan's Family Fun Center. They have miniature golf, go-karts and endless hours of arcades and air hockey action!"

