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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATALINA ISLAND'S 2nd ANNUAL FLYING FISH FESTIVAL
May 28 – May 31, 2009

AVALON, CATALINA ISLAND - In celebration of the annual return of Catalina Island's famous flying fish, Catalina announces the 2nd Annual Flying Fish Festival, May 28th – May 31st, a four day festival of family fun on California's only island resort destination.

From May to September every year, Catalina Island welcomes the famed flying fish. This spectacular fish soars out of the water at heights of up to 30 feet and glides for distances as long as ¼ mile. The flying fish visit the Island for only a few months a year and best show off at night when lured with lights. It is only fitting that Catalina celebrates their arrival by honoring them as special guests with a four day long weekend of festivities.

The Flying Fish Festival kicks off on May 28th, a Thursday night, with the Taste Around of Avalon. It's a chance to explore some of Avalon's finest eateries and taste their most delectable menu items – all in one night! Activities are plentiful throughout the rest of the weekend as the events and entertainment roll out to celebrate the fantastic flying fish.

This year's Flying Fish Festival includes the 80th anniversary celebration of the iconic Casino Building. A Saturday evening dance by the Good Vibrations in the Casino Ballroom will commemorate the architectural wonder, completed in May of 1929. Tickets will be \$19.29 to commemorate the opening year date and will include a piece of birthday cake.

Other events for the four day festival include evening Flying Fish Boat Tours aboard the *Blanche W*, a street fair and beer garden, a professional sand sculpture creation, free musical and theatrical entertainment, family kayak and segway races, live marine touch tanks, Tuna Club tours, garden tours, beach bingo, various ocean craft activities for kids, a Flying Fish Parade, Gil, the Flying Fish and Much More! The complete schedule of events can be found at www.CatalinaChamber.com/flyingfish.

Catalina Island, with its Mediterranean charm and crystal clear waters, is located just 22 miles off the coast of Southern California and can be reached in less than one hour by boat or 15 minutes by air. For additional information about Catalina Island Flying Fish Festival or other Catalina special events, accommodations, attractions, and activities, or to receive a free copy of the Catalina Island Vacation Planner, contact the Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau at (310) 510-1520 or visit www.CatalinaChamber.com.

Flying Fish Festival Schedule of Events

Thursday, May 28

10am-4pm: Touch Tank at the Tuna Club

5pm-9pm: Taste Around Town—the 5th Annual Taste Around of Avalon event

8pm-10pm: Small Boat Flying Fish Tours – Maximum 6 people, Afishinado Tours

Friday, May 29

9am-5pm: Flying Fish Exhibit, Catalina Island Museum

9am-6pm: Sand Sculpture at Wrigley Stage

10am-4pm: Touch Tanks at the Tuna Club

10am-4pm: Art demonstrations at the Casino Art Gallery

10am-7pm: Gill the Flying Fish welcomes visitors/strolls through town

11am-3pm: Flying Fish Crafts & Ocean Science Activities, Crescent St.

8pm-10pm: Small Boat Flying Fish Tours – Maximum 6 people, \$90 pp, Afishinado Tours

8:15pm: First Flying Fish Tour of the Season Flying Fish Tour (special pricing)

Saturday, May 30

7am-9am: Kids Fishing Derby at the Mole, prizes awarded to the winners!

9am-5pm: Flying Fish Exhibit, Catalina Island Museum

9am-6pm: Sand Sculpture creation, Wrigley Stage

9:30am: Family Kayak Relay Race, Descanso Beach, free activity - Must sign up in advance to participate. Prizes awarded to the winning team!

10am-11am: Peddle Boat Races at the Green Pier - Avalon Boat Stand, prizes awarded to the winners!

10am-4pm: Touch Tanks at the Tuna Club

10am-4pm: Art demonstrations at the Casino Art Gallery

10am-7pm: Gill the Flying Fish welcomes visitors/strolls through town

10am-4pm: Street Fair, Crescent Ave.

10am-4pm: Street Theater – Charles Frederick Holder and his boatman

11am-3pm: Flying Fish Sling Shot Competition on Crescent Avenue, prizes awarded to the winners!

11am-3pm: Flying Fish Crafts & Ocean Science Activities, Crescent St.

11am-4pm: Beer Garden at the Landing Bar & Grill.

1pm-2pm: Segway Obstacle Course Race, prizes awarded to the winners!

1pm, 2pm & 3pm: TUNA CLUB TOURS hosted by the Catalina Island Museum, led by Mike Rivkin, past Tuna Club President, author and historian. Tours are \$25 per person, \$20 for Catalina Island Museum members. 45 minutes, limited to 20 people per tour.

3pm: Guided tour of Wrigley Botanical Garden with Blanche Traske
3pm-4pm: Beach Bingo, South Beach with various prizes awarded to the winners!
7:30pm: Casino's 80th Anniversary Celebration & Dance with Good Vibrations, a Tribute to the Beach Boys. Tickets are just \$19.29 (the year the Casino opened) per person and include dessert! Doors open at 7:30pm, music begins at 8:00pm.
8:45pm: Flying Fish Tour
8pm-10pm: Small Boat Flying Fish Tours – Maximum 6 people, \$90 pp, Afishinado Tours

Sunday, May 31

9am-5pm: Flying Fish Exhibit, Catalina Island Museum
9am-12noon: Sand Sculpture completed
10am-4pm: Touch Tanks at the Tuna Club
10am-4pm: Art demonstrations at the Casino Art Gallery
10am-6pm: Gill the Flying Fish welcomes visitors/strolls through town
10am-4pm: Street Fair, Crescent Ave.
11am-3pm: Flying Fish Crafts & Ocean Science Activities, Crescent St.
1pm: Flying Fish Parade, Crescent St. Mr. Huell Howser – Grand Marshall. Judging at 10:30am on lower Descanso Street, line up at Casino at 12:30pm, parade begins at 1pm. Prizes awarded to the winners!
3pm: Guided tour of Wrigley Botanical Gardens with Blanche Traske
4pm-9pm: Sundown Isthmus & Flying Fish Cruise
7:45pm- 9pm: Flying Fish Kayak Tour, Descanso Beach - \$45pp, Advance reservations are required
9:30pm: Flying Fish Tour