

Antelope Valley Desert Divers, Inc.



September - 2006

General Meeting - Monday - Sept 11th

Board Meeting - Wednesday - Sept 20th

June lake report

Beach Dive - Corral beach Cleanup - Sept 16th

Diver's Safty Day - October 21st

A.V. Desert Divers
P.O. Box 1178
Littlerock, Ca 93543

General Meeting will be Sept 11th
Palmdale Culltureal Center



See this Newsletter in

Blazing Color at:

www.avdesertdivers.org



From the President...

As I sit here writing this article I am thinking back to the great diving LaRae and I just had in the US Virgin Islands. We made it back safely, with lots of good memories. The only bad note is that we made it back missing one bag. Of course that had to be the bag with the underwater camera gear. Lucky for us we did save some of the picture to our lap top.

Getting back to the diving. The water temp. was 84 deg. same as the air. The vis. was 50+. The only time the vis. was less, was when the clouds of small bate fish swarmed around you. It was fantastic swimming in and with this huge school of little fish as they swam in one direction then another. As always the tropical waters were full of Sergeant Majors, Butterfly fish, Wrasse, Parrotfish, and your big eyed Squirrelfish. We also saw one of the biggest Cowfish ever as we explored some interesting arches and swim throws. The stingrays you could almost touch, and one good sized barracuda that look a little too interested in us.

Our last dive was a wreck dive. The wreck of the HMS Rhone was nothing less than fantastic. Even the boat ride to the British Virgin Islands to dive the wreck was special. As we navigated the choppy waters, Chris Sawyer gave us the history of this magnificent steel hauled, steam and sail ship. Chris described her final sailing and sinking and how the Great Hurricane of the 1800s overpowered her. During this narration our own boat was going threw some real choppy waters, giving us all a little taste of what it might have been like for the crew and passengers of the Rhone. Diving the wreck of the Rhone is truly diving into history. The wreck is still in great shape, you can still find glass in some of her portholes. The 24 inch diameter drive shaft and huge prop are still there to explore. As is most of her steel structure and steel masts. We all touched a shine spot, on one of the brass porthole, because it is said that if you do so, you will return and dive again on the HMS Rhone.

As a final note, remember our next meeting will be on Monday, Sept 11, at the Palmdale Cultural Center, 7:00 pm.



2006 AVDD Board of Directors

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Bob Laven	Beach Dive Cord.	943-6604	lavenj4@aol.com

(All # are 661 area code)

Los Angeles County
Department of Parks and Recreation
Underwater Unit
Presents
Divers' Safety Day
October 21st, 2006

Participants:

L.A. Co. UIA
USCG
L.A. Co. F.D. Lifeguards
Baywatch
Catalina Chamber
L.B.F.D. Lifeguards
L.A. Port Police
L.A. Sheriff Department
Local Dive Shops



8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Cabrillo Beach Youth
Waterfront Sports Center
3000 Shoshonean Rd.
San Pedro, CA 90731

**DIVERS'
SAFETY
DAY**

2006

\$30 Pre-registration fee includes: Continental breakfast, seminar packet, lunch, and a special commemorative Divers' Day t-shirt

Admission is limited to the first 300 pre-registered divers. Go to www.lascuba.com for details and to register.



JUNE LAKE 2006

Most Desert Divers would agree that a highlight of summer is the annual trek to June Lake. This high altitude destination is one of the most beautiful settings imaginable and this year we were fortunate to have near perfect weather, exceptionally clear water and a great group of divers eager to hit the water.

Campers started arriving Thursday and by the time we gathered at the beach on Saturday morning we numbered close to 75. John Bottka greeted the divers, got us organized into dive/support groups and handed the briefing over to Brian Bassura. After our very thorough orientation we hit the water. Divers brought bag after bag of trash up from the marina, slippery rock and beach area. We found hundreds of bait bottles, nearly a dozen fishing rods (3 hot pink, push button Barbie poles?), anchors, a VERY old tire with a square nail embedded in the tread, old soda bottles, lots of wine and beer bottles and one huge metal cylinder (float?) from the slippery rock area that had to be towed back to the beach. The divers would all agree that the cool water was exceptionally clear and the diving great fun. The club provided hamburgers and hot dogs were welcomed by all the hungry people who ate them as fast as John Nichols (thank you!) could pull them off the grill.

Saturday night was again the time for the pot luck in Duck loop. Great food and great raffle prizes were the highlight. We ate, and ate and ate some more. The club had once again provided some exceptional items for the raffle (dive knives, lights, camp chairs, sleeping bags, and a lovely dive bag and tank).

I am sure I am not alone in saying that this years trip to June Lake was a great fun. Many thanks go out to John Bottka and his board for organizing such a successful campout and dive.

Colleen Hodgkins

