

March - 2023

**General Meeting - Sat - Mar 4th**

**AVDD Banquet**

**Board Meeting - Wed - Mar 22nd**

Lancaster Location

**Beach Dive - Sat - Apr 1st**

Catalina Island Cleanup

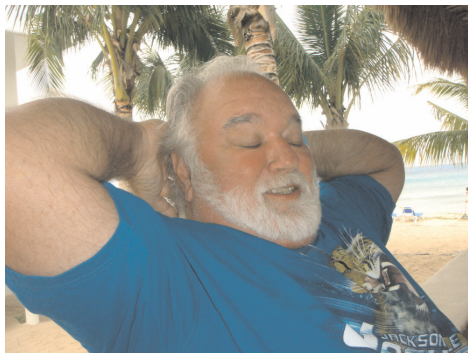
Ken Kurtis will be the guest speaker & M.C. For the

AVDD Annual Banquet on March 4th

**A.V. Desert Divers**

38713 Tierra Subida #200-227

Palmdale Ca 93551



Chip Fary, a long time member & friend has passed away





• **President's Report**

Are you getting excited for our banquet next weekend? I know I am. I rented my tux yesterday. It should be a great event and with Ken Kurtis as our MC, it will also be very entertaining. We will have a full night planned, awarding scholarships, announcing our T-shirt winner, Photo contest, and much more.

Are you planning on joining us in September for our annual June Lake clean-up? Then now is the time to make your reservations. You can reserve your camp site at [www. Recreation.gov](http://www.Recreation.gov), We try to get us in the squirrel loop, but there are many sites if that one is filled up. You can also find hotels and Air B&Bs in the area as well. This is one of my favorite events so I hope you will join me.

Building off our first meeting of the year, we had many good suggestions and we have been working on implementing as many as we can. The latest, was finding a way to give scholarship for a student wanting to pursuer a college degree or associated trade school in an ocean related area, Like Ocean Biography, Archeology, or in a trade like under water welding. Things are moving fast on this and might even be able to present it to someone this year.

I just got off the phone with Catalina Diver Supply about the cleanup and due to this weather, we are having, they are rescheduling the clean up to April 1st.

In closing I want to again thank you for everyone's continued support in making our dive club an awesome organization to be a part of.

*Jeff Carlon*



**Beach Dive for March**

The beach dive for March will be the Catalina Island Cleanup

April 1st

**AVDD Board of Directors 2022-2023**

President	Jeff Carlon
Vice President	Lauren Bociaga
Treasurer	Robert Wisdom
Secretary	Shawna Ricker
Program Coordinator	Liliana Elenez
Conservation Officer	Adam Parra
Newsletter Editor	Terry Hodgkins
Member at Large	Mike Bociaga
Dive Coordinator	Ken White
Corporate Secretary	Barb White
Quartermaster	Lee Siffleet

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



- **Conservation Officer Report**

**Due to inclement weather, the Catalina Harbor cleanup was rescheduled!**

The new date will be Saturday, April 1st 2023. If you are interested in going at this newly scheduled date, sign up at:

<https://www.catalinadiverssupply.com/avalon-harbor-underwater-cleanup>.

Just as before, choose AV Desert Divers for the team, and for the location choose 'Step Beach'.

As we roll into march, remember this is the last month for harvesting spiny lobster until later again in the fall. The last day of lobster season is Wednesday March 22, 2023! If you catch any, please send us your pictures so we can share.

Did you know that there are over 3,000 different species of nudibranch? Some reaching over 12in long, and weighing over 3 pounds!

*Adam Parra Conservation Officer*





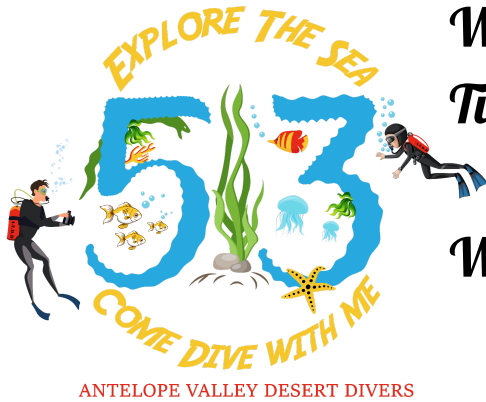
**2023 Antelope Valley Desert Divers Installation Banquet  
Celebrating 53 Years**

**When: Saturday, March 4th**

**Time: 6:00pm Mix and Mingle Cash Bar  
7:00 pm Dinner**

**Where: Antelope Valley Country Club  
39800 Country Club Dr.  
Palmdale, CA**

**\$35.00 pre paid (AVDD Web site)**



ANTELOPE VALLEY DESERT DIVERS

**We are stepping out in style this year - You choose: Dress Roaring 20's style commemorating the Titanic (we love to explore wrecks!) or maybe you fancy the 1600 - 1700's Black Pearl Pirate vibe. Whatever your fancy, we are going to have a great time. Ken Kurtis will be our "Master of Ceremonies" and the evening's speaker. There will be a door prize and your entry is included with your event purchase, Underwater Photo Contest (entries have been submitted and you get to be the judge and choose your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice), a Photo op for you, your friends and family, and fabulous raffle prizes - raffle tickets will be available at the venue.**



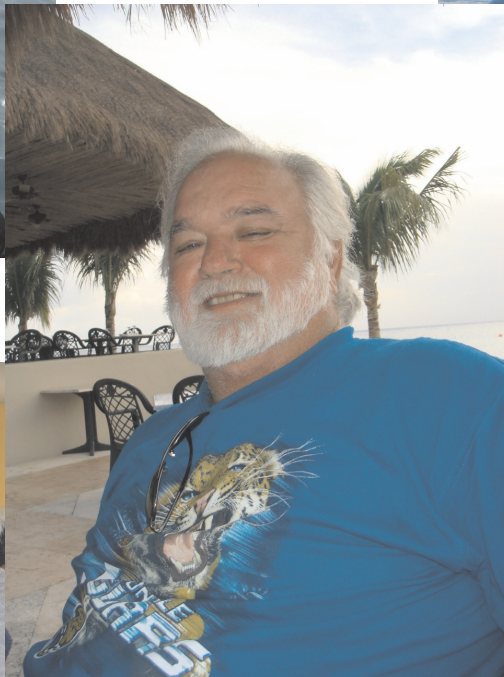


## Chip Fary Has Passed

We have sad news to share. One of our long-time club members, George "Chip" Fary, died on February 10, 2023. Chip leaves behind his wife Linda Bunten Fary, who is also a long-time club member.

For many years Chip held the position of club president or dive master. Chip was an Army veteran who stepped on a land mine in Vietnam and lost his foot. This in no way stopped him from becoming an avid scuba diver or for that matter, sky diver. Chip loved diving with the club, helping with classes and mentoring new divers. He loved traveling to exotic dive destinations in both warm and cold water. He was a hunter who enjoyed spear fishing, lobster hunting, scallop popping, and arguing with Terry Hodgkins and John Nichols about who had caught the biggest lobster.

Chip was an amazing cook! He was a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America and found great joy showing off his skills. Chip always cooked the club chowder; he manned the grill on the Fourth of July and boiled up the crawdads at June Lake. Chip was the kind of man who always lent a helping hand, who always had a story to tell and who always lit up a room. It was never boring when Chip was around! Oh, the stories we can tell! Chip passed away too soon and will be missed!



# *2023 Antelope Valley Desert Divers Installation Banquet*

- 6:00 Cash Bar Open - Mix & Mingle  
Photo Contest Viewing and Voting - Photo Opps  
Purchase Raffle Tickets and View Raffle Prizes
- 6:40 Welcome by Jeff Carlon, our Club President who will introduce our  
Master of Ceremonies, Ken Kurtis
- 6:50 Message in a Bottle Table Ice Breaker - Choose your table captain
- 7:00 Dinner is Served - MC Ken Kurtis will dismiss dinner guests table by  
table as table numbers are drawn. Table captain will share their  
table's "Message in a Bottle".
- 7:45 Last Chance to purchase and enter your raffle tickets, and to view  
and vote on the Photo Entries.
- 8:00 Thank You to our 2022 AVDD Board members - Introduce 2023  
AVDD Board Members
- 8:15 Award the Mike Orlando Scholarship.
- 8:30 Begin raffle prize drawings
- 8:45 Announce T-shirt Design Contest Winner
- 9:00 More raffle prize drawings
- 9:15 Announce Photo Contest Winners, and 2023 Super Diver Award
- 9:30 Announce Door Prize Winner and finish Raffle prize drawings
- 9:45 Present Donation Check to Ken Kurtis and say Good Night!



## *2023 Antelope Valley Desert Divers Installation Banquet*

Tonight's Master of Ceremonies is Ken Kurtis. Ken 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 other subjects. Ken has logged over 6,000 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 has 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 is an accomplished photographer and his photos and stories can be found in the pages of *California Diving News*, *Sport Diver*, *Skin Diver*, and *Undercurrent* among 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, performing accident analysis. With all of that, he still finds time to maintain an acting career and leads all of the local and foreign trips for Reef Seekers. Ken is a very good cook, an avid Scrabble & Boggle player, chases total solar eclipses, has run 5 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.

A vibrant underwater photograph of a coral reef. The scene is filled with various types of coral, including branching and table corals, in shades of yellow, orange, and green. The water is clear and blue, with sunlight filtering through from above, creating a bright and lively atmosphere. The coral structures are dense and layered, creating a complex and textured environment.

# AVDD

## Do you know your benefits of being a member of the Antelope Valley Desert Divers?

- Reduced price on monthly boat dives
- Club trips throughout the year
- Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest
- Free air fills
- Annual Visual inspections on your scuba tanks
- Reduced price on hydrostatic testing of your tanks
- Continuing education certifications like High Altitude Diver training
- First-aid and CPR training
- Discounted pricing on equipment
- Refresher training
- Cool swag!!