



April - 2020

Virtual Meeting - Mon - Apr 13th

Ken Curtis will be talking on

"The Conception - 6 months later"

Board Meeting - Thur - Apr 23rd

Virtual Meeting

Boat Dive - Sat - Apr 11th

CANCELED

Cee Ray - Channel Islands

**The NEW board for 2020
Looking kinda Groovy**

A.V. Desert Divers

38713 Tierra Subida #200-227

Palmdale Ca 93551



50 Years of Fun

Still making a Difference



Ken Curtis will be talking on the
"Conception - 6 months later"





Presidents message for April

Can you smell it? Spring is in the air. Well that is if we are allowed outside, lol This Coronavirus is putting a cramp in our outdoor activities. I do see as a firefighter, some of the reasoning behind having everyone staying at home until they can get their arms around it, but as a diver, not so much.

Well even though we have had to cancel next month's meeting we still have a lot to report. First off, I again want to give a HUGE thank you to Barbara White and her 50-year committee for the outstanding job putting together a great banquet. I think it is one of the best events I have had the honor to attend and I heard nothing but positive feedback from everyone.

After the banquet I joined up with the WAVES Project out at Lake Mead for the week for the mapping project. We were working with the National Parks on mapping the aggregate plant used in the making of Hoover Dam. It was a week of hard work but very rewarding. The final product will be a detailed map that divers can use when they dive there. I hope to be able to give a small presentation on the trip to the club soon. It was a rewarding experience I would love to share.

Please see the flyer on the changes made to the Chambers fundraiser. I am asking you all to consider contributing to the challenge. With the cancellation of all the events they normally do, the fear is that they will not be able to raise the amount needed to keep the chamber operational. I believe our club will help prove that fear wrong.

At this time, I am not sure about our Little Cayman trip, Robert Wisdom is on top of this and should be able to tell us something by the middle of April.

Depending on what happens with that trip, will determine what day we will do our annual Clam Chowder dive. It will be June 20th unless the Cayman trip is cancelled then we will move it to June 13th. At Leo Carrillo, stand by to stand by.

That is about it for now, thank you for your understanding while we figure out what we do in this time of uncertainty. We will keep you all updated through emails on anything that changes. I hope we soon will be again "Nifty, diving at 50"

Jeff Carlon



APRIL 2020 CLUB DIVE HAS BEEN POSTPONED

* Saturday, May 9, 2020

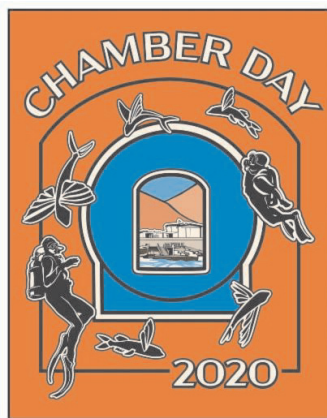
* CeeRay Dive Boat (map)

DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK, OUR APRIL 2020 CLUB DIVE HAS BEEN POSTPONED AND WILL TAKE PLACE ON MAY 9, 2020. If you still want to participate, you can still buy tickets on our website if you have not done so already. If you already bought tickets, please contact us at avdesertdive@gmail.com if you want to cancel the trip. Your ticket will be refunded promptly. Otherwise, your ticket will be postponed to May 9.

AVDD Board of Directors 2020-2021

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



CHAMBER DAY & EVE 2020 - WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

www.chamberday.org 🇺🇸 IG: @usc_hyperbaric_chamber

CHAMBER DAY HQ: 310/652-4990

Hello AVDD Member, as you may know Chamber events have been cancelled due to the coronavirus. What does this mean to us?

First off, we remain a huge supporter of the chamber and of all the efforts to raise money to keep it operational. I am pleased to announce that our club will again donate \$5000 this year, but I think as a club we can do more....

We usually have a table at Chamber Eve and encourage you to buy tickets and join us for a fun night of charity. I have always said I would like to find ways for the club to get more "Buy In" in what we do and I believe this is a perfect opportunity to do just that. I would like to challenge each and every club member to donate and show their support to our great club and to the Chamber. There are two ways you can do it

First is the Table Challenge, this is in place of Chamber Eve. The cost is \$120, You would sign up under our table and you will receive 5 tickets for the special raffle and a T-Shirt, you can upgrade to a long sleeve for an extra \$10

The other challenge available is the Flying Dutchman. For a Donation of \$95 You Receive:

Limited Edition Commemorative Flying Dutchman 2020 T-shirt with your name or "Pirate" name on the front, Five (5) Chamber Day 2020 Raffle Tickets, Ticket to the Flying Dutchman "On-Board" Boat Raffle Listing of your Pirate Name as a Member of the Flying Dutchman crew on the T-shirt & on the On-Line Manifest.

By participating in either or both events, you are supporting a great cause and making the show of force from the AVDD even stronger. I hope you all join me in this challenge and show how much we support the Chamber

Thank you for your ongoing support

Jeff Carlon, President AVDD



CANCELED/POSTPONED - AVDD Trip Little Cayman Beach Resort 2020

* Saturday, June 6, 2020

Saturday, June 13, 2020

DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK, THIS TRIP WILL BE EITHER CANCELED OR POSTPONED. Check back here after April 6, 2020 for updates. You will be eligible for a refund upon request if the trip is postponed. If it is canceled, you will be refunded automatically.

7 nights accommodation, 3 meals daily, 6 x 2 tank am dives (12 total), resort fees, taxes and gratuities included (dive staff gratuities not included), + \$100 resort credit or free Nitrox upgrade. **NO SHORE DIVING AT THIS RESORT.**

Guests can add on: 5 afternoon tank dives for an additional \$180.

Each room is air conditioned, has ceiling fans, mini-fridge, private bathrooms with hair dryers, soap, shampoo, hair conditioner, small drip coffee makers, and TV (limited satellite), free Wi-Fi.

Each room has either one king or two double beds. (MAX. 4 guests per room)

Cost for members is \$1,550 cash for a double per person or \$1,600 credit. **IMPORTANT: STARTING NOVEMBER 1, 2019, THE TRIP WILL BE OPENED TO NON-MEMBERS.** The cost to non-members will be \$1,750 cash for a double per person or \$1,800 credit.

There are only a few rooms left so act quickly. Email us at avdesertdive@gmail.com for more information!





AVDD - 50 YEARS 1970 - 2020



The club was started in 1970 by some divers who lived in the Antelope Valley. Desert Scuba, owned by Leon Breeden, was the only dive shop in town. Leon had a club representative come talk to all the newly certified divers in his classes. When people heard about us, the first thing they asked was, "Where do you dive in the desert?" Our answer was, "Anywhere there is water." Most of the time we dove in the Channel Islands off the California coast. Through the years we did some dives at Lake Palmdale, Little Rock Dam, Lake Elizabeth, Castaic Lake, and Pyramid Lake to find lost fishing gear, sunk fishing boats, or just for fun. One of the dives at Lake Palmdale involved searching for a gun and a cell phone at a crime scene.

The club meetings started in a garage, but as the club grew, we joined the YMCA in Lancaster. We then became the Antelope Valley "Y" Desert Divers. While there, our newsletters were hand done on a mimeograph machine. After many years there, we left the YMCA and dropped the "Y".

The club was very active during this time period and were chartering two boat dives almost every month. If you didn't sign up and pay at the first available date, you would end up on the standby list. The club's other activities were the Clam Chowder Beach Dive, a 4th of July swim party, a two-day boat dive in October for lobster, and a Christmas Potluck. One year our president, Walter Stine, organized a dive at Marine land of the Pacific in the large fish tank. Most of the members were hunters, but we had a group of photographers in the club also. The club even has its own recipe for the clam chowder.

Our annual installation banquet would usually have a guest speaker. Some of them were Jack McKinney, a veteran underwater cameraman who dove the Andrea Doria, author Clive Cussler, and Dale Sheckler from California Diving News. We also had many theme banquets where we would decorate and dress up in costumes like Under the Sea; Wild, Wild West; Pirates of the Caribbean; Hawaiian; and Roaring 20s.

At our Clive Cussler banquet we met some Frigid Froggers dive club members from Bishop, CA. They convinced us to come up and do a high-altitude dive at June Lake in the Sierra Nevada mountains. Our first trip was in 1987, and we have been going up there every Labor Day weekend since. At first, we just collected interesting items from the bottom along with some crawdads to eat, but it has morphed into a serious clean-up event. The locals are very appreciative of our efforts!

Bob Laven set us up with our first official beach clean-up at Corral Beach. Our club now participates in many other ocean clean-ups from Heal the Bay, Redondo Beach, to Catalina.

At one point we had 8 club members that were volunteering out at the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber. Walt and Lee Schob were the first to do it. Now that we have our fireworks fundraiser, the club is able to give a substantial monetary donation every year to the chamber. It also allows us to provide scholarships, to those in our community, who want to learn to scuba dive.

Some more recent supporting activities our club is doing is helping our local veterans by providing a lunch and entertainment annually at the Pete Knight Veterans home. The WAVES Project, which helps veterans with disabilities experience scuba diving, is our newest activity.

We have come a long way in 50 years in fulfilling our mission of education, safety, and community outreach. We are one of the oldest dive clubs in Southern California. It was difficult at times to keep the club together, but we did it, and are proud of it!



ISN'T IT NIFTY, STILL DIVING AT 50!

John & Debbie Nichols



Clive Cussler - Gone at 88

Clive Cussler, the author and maritime adventurer who captivated millions with his best-selling tales of suspense and who, between books, led scores of expeditions to find historic shipwrecks and lost treasures in the ocean depths, died on Monday at his home in Scottsdale, Ariz. He was 88.

Mayan jungles, undersea kingdoms, ghost ships, evil forces out to destroy the world, beautiful women, heroes modeled on himself — Mr. Cussler's vivid literary fantasies and his larger-than-life exploits swirled together for four decades, spinning off some 70 books and locating almost as many shipwrecks.

Mr. Cussler looked like the hero of Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea." You had to imagine the battered straw hat and the tired shoulders hunched over a gunwale, but after years of roaming oceans and diving for wrecks, he had that seafarer's husky build and sunburned cheeks, and his face, more sea dog than bibliophile, was flecked with gray: the grizzled beard, the mustache, the eyes, the gray-white hair.

Often compared to the thrillers churned out by Tom Clancy, Robert Ludlum and Ian Fleming, the Cussler novels featured formulaic plots, one- or two-word titles ("Cyclops," "Dragon," "Inca Gold," "Poseidon's Arrow") and frequently a recurring hero, Dirk Pitt, an undersea explorer who cheats death and saves the world as he foils the diabolical plots of megalomaniac villains, while satisfying his taste for exotic cars and lusty women.

Mr. Cussler was hardly a stylist. Critics called his characters wooden, his dialogue leaden and his prose clichéd ("the cold touch of fear," "a narrow brush with death"), while praising his descriptions of marine hardware, underwater struggles and salvage operations. But readers were swept along on the page-turning tides, and after his commercial breakthrough, "Raise the Titanic!" (1976), his books were frequently on the best-seller lists for months.

Mr. Cussler also connected with readers by turning his love for scuba diving into an oceanic lifestyle that paralleled and validated his superhero.

Mr. Cussler, who had homes in Arvada, Colo., and Paradise Valley, Ariz., restored vintage cars and had about 100 in his museum in Arvada, including a 1906 Stanley Steamer, a 1913 Marmon and a 1921 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost.

Mr. Cussler was a banquet speaker for the club. He was a great speaker & signed books for everyone. He will be missed...

