



IN MEMORY

**CAPTAIN
JACQUES-YVES
COUSTEAU**

1910 - 1997



A LEGEND WHO GAVE US A VISION
AND THE KEYS TO THE SILENT WORLD

AVEC NOS PLUS SINCÈRES
REMERCIEMENTS

FROM
THE CALIFORNIA DIVING COMMUNITY

ORIGINAL DEDICATION - OCTOBER 1997
SECOND DEDICATION - OCTOBER 2020

December - 2020

Virtual Meeting - Mon -Dec 14th

Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest

Board Meeting - Thur - Dec 17th

Virtual Meeting

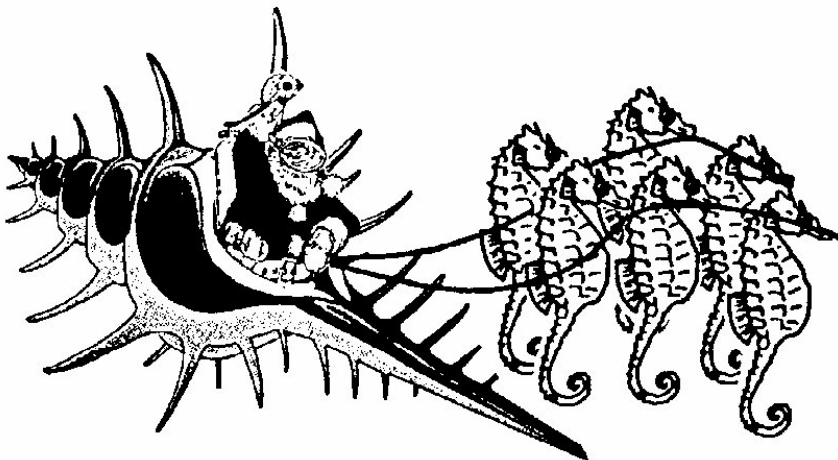
See you next year

Happy Holidays & News Year's

A.V. Desert Divers

38713 Tierra Subida #200-227

Palmdale Ca 93551





December Newsletter 2020



Hello Divers,

Man, what a year and the hits just keep coming. I am sure many a Christmas letter will start off the same way. With this year of so many let-downs I do believe we did the best we could. We were able to pull off at least the Clam Chowder portion of our "Clam Chowder Dive", and June Lake clean-up weekend was a success despite the Creek Fire. We couldn't do the traditional Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest but did use it as part of a memorable tribute for Mike Orlando at our annual fall trip to Catalina. (Thanks to John and Debbie Nichols for having the idea and executing it by bringing the pumpkins and tools on their Catalina Express voyage!) Despite the crummy weather, our dive conditions for Saturday morning were pretty outstanding. And we all got to hang-out together a lot over the weekend. Mike's loss was the hardest blow of the year by far. The one thing I can say, is that Mike's family got to see firsthand how important he was to the club and how much he meant to so many of us.

Next blow dealt by 2020: cancelled Holiday gatherings. So, for the safety of our members it was decided that due to all the new restrictions for Covid-19 we have cancelled our Christmas Party. Whatever your personal feelings on this may be, I will just say: I have seen what it can do to someone first-hand and friends, I do not want any of you to fall victim to this terrible sickness.

Moving forward, our club is looking good for next year! We are fifty years old and soon we will have a new T-shirt design to prove it. Until we can meet in person, get in the water if you can find a way to. Take advantage of that calming activity. It works for our Vets in WAVES and it will do wonders for you, too. Be safe and keep diving.

Hope to see you all soon,

Jeff



AVDD Board of Directors 2020-2021

President	Jeff Carlon
Vice President	Annette Childree
Treasurer	Robert Wisdom
Secretary	Shawna Ricker
Program Coordinator	Liliana Elenez
Conservation Officer	Don Nipper
Newsletter Editor	Terry Hodgkins
Member at Large	Mike Bociaga
Dive Coordinator	Ken White
Corporate Secretary	Kim Hill
Sergeant at Arms	Patrick Hill
Quartermaster	Lee Siffleet

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

T-shirts are Needed

Tina Carlon would like to have any of your old AVDD related T-shirts, even if they are stained, faded or ripped!

She will be cutting them up and making something out of them?

...so only give them up if you are done with them!

Thank you very much!





50th Anniversary T-Shirts & Hats

Hi Members, let me first say it's an honor to be part of the board members and for my first 'job' of writing an article.

I've come up with a cool T-shirt design for our 50th anniversary with the help of Courtney drawing the octopus, once the picture goes to the T-shirt graphic guy, he can adjust color and the featured 'angry face' as needed.

Also, it will have the WAVES emblem on the left sleeve and the front the traditional AVDD club emblem.

Now the hat, it is a light weight navy blue (I think that is the color), it has a nice wide brim for sun shade, neck, forehead and the nose :) and is UV 50+ protected, also has a built in sweat band.

Prices to come at a later date due to certain life happening circumstances.

*From the desert to as far as the ocean seen, lets dive somewhere in between,
stay safe ya'll.*

The Merman. AKA Lee.



Chamber Day/Eve 2021

Hello all, I have been asked by Ken Kurtis if we would like to represent our club in this year's Chamber Committee. I think this would be an amazing opportunity for us to be more involved and help carry on what Mike had started last year. I am asking for a board member to be a part of this great opportunity. as you can see it is not asking for a big commitment, just a zoom meeting once or twice a month. If you would like to participate then please send me an email. I believe it is an opportunity for us. we can then add it to our monthly update to our meeting. much like we do with WAVES. So, if you would be a part of this I will let Ken know. I will need to have an answer by this Friday, please. They are already getting started for next year. Thank you in advance and I hope to hear from you soon.

Jeff Carlson



THERE'S A NEW COUSTEAU IN TOWN

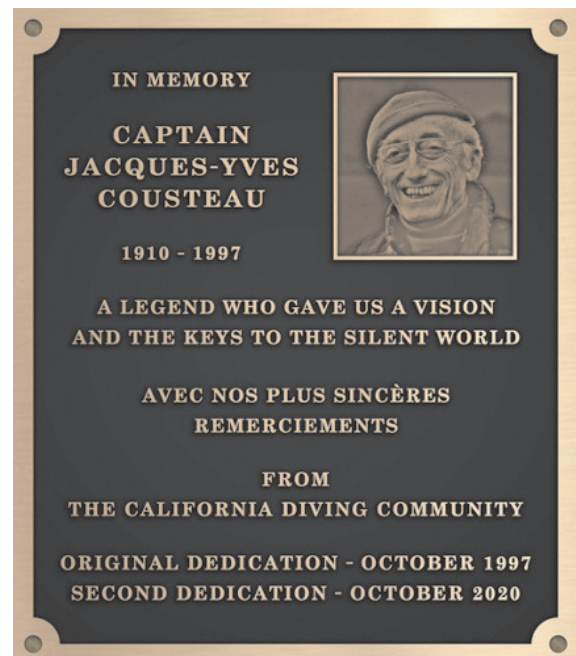
A big change has occurred with the Jacques Cousteau Monument and plaque in the Avalon Underwater Park (aka Casino Point State Marine Conservation Area).

The Cousteau Monument was originally created and installed in the Park in 1997, shortly after Cousteau died. As many of you have seen when you've been diving the Park, the monument consists of a commemorative aluminum plaque attached to a large rock at a depth of roughly 40 feet. (The rock was originally upright but eventually tipped over.) Sadly, twenty-three years underwater has taken its toll, as you can see from the pictures below. On the left is what the plaque looked like when new in 1997 and on the right, what it looks like today.

Time for a change was long overdue. Ken Kurtis of Reef Seekers contacted CA DF&W - since the Park is an MPA, it's under their jurisdiction - and got permission to proceed. As fate would have it, there was another group thinking about this too. When Ken mentioned what he wanted to do to Dr. Bill Bushing one day, Bill mentioned the other group and put Ken in touch with them: Signature Underwater Divers (affiliated with Signature Scuba in Rancho Cucamonga). Ken had permission but no know-how. Signature had the know-how - a bunch of them are underwater mechanics - but they didn't know how to get permission. Once efforts were merged, things proceeded in relatively short order. In fact, it was only two months from first discussion to installing the new bronze plaque on November 4.

Here's what it looks like. We hope you'll agree it's a nice improvement. The wording of the original plaque was kept intact (although two grammatical errors were corrected) and a picture of Cousteau was added, which hopefully personalizes it a bit more.

The next time you and your club are diving the Park, be sure to swing by and say hello to Jacques Cousteau.





COMING TO A BEACH NEAR YOU!

Hopefully, all of you, our Cleanup Divers and Volunteers, are healthy, happy, and well. As much as we would love to gather in Avalon to celebrate the 40th anniversary of this amazing collective cleanup effort, alas, per LA County guidelines, it's not to be.

We are still committed to cleaning up our ocean! The 40th Underwater Cleanup will promote cleanup dives in your local waters, culminating in a live awards webcast on our traditional Cleanup Day, February 20th. Your efforts will be a meaningful (and fun!) way to support the essential efforts of USC's Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber, as well as the Wrigley Institute's Catalina Conservation Divers and Scientific Diving Program.

More event details to come.

We look forward to your continued participation!



Attention Fellow AVDD members!!

This is your last chance to be included in our 2021 trip to

Little Cayman!

We have 1 room left. If anyone is interested, please contact me immediately. All money is due 1 / 1 / 2021. Airfare is NOT included.

Please see the flyer included in this newsletter for details.

Let's go diving!

Robert Wisdom Treasurer AVDD



Come Join AVDD at the Little Cayman Beach Resort April 10th ~ 17th 2021



7 nights accommodation, 3 meals daily, 6 x 2 tank am dives (12 total) (Nitrox add \$96), resort fees, taxes and gratuities included (**dive staff gratuities not included**), + \$100 resort credit. **NO SHORE DIVING AT THIS RESORT**

Guests can add on: 5 afternoon tank dives for \$200 & Nitrox (17 dives) for \$136

Each room is air conditioned, has ceiling fans, mini-frig, 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)

	Member	Non-Member
DBL Pool Room	\$ 1600.00 pp	\$ 1800.00pp
Triple Pool Room	\$ 1500.00 pp	\$ 1700.00pp
Quad Pool Room	\$ 1455.00 pp	\$ 1655.00pp
Single Pool Room	\$ 2115.00 pp	\$ 2315.00pp
Non-Diver	\$ (250.00) pp	\$ (250.00)pp

A Deposit and low monthly payments are available, **this is a non-refundable trip.**

Little Cayman is pristine wall & reef diving at its best!

www.clearlycayman.com



Getting too Little Cayman. The best way is to fly from the U.S. mainland to Grand Cayman (GCM). Then take the puddle jumper from Grand Cayman over to Little Cayman.

Travelers will need a current passport with a minimum of 6 months remaining on their passport.

Please be advised this is a very small island (10 Sq. Mi.) so there are **very** limited top side activities.



Mike Orlando

It is with extreme sadness that I must formally announce the unexpected passing of my father Mike Orlando.

My father has been an amazing force in the scuba diving community for many years. His infectious love for this sport kept people engaged and excited about scuba diving.

We have all had the privilege of enjoying the events that he has fought for such as the underwater pumpkin carving contest. He wanted so badly for all his students to love the sport as much as he did. I have been lucky enough to experience scuba diving with him.

He has held many board positions and has taught a class to most of the members at one point or another. I know most of you have heard some of his famous dive stories and I know that I never got tired of hearing them because his passion was infectious. I know scuba diving will not be the same for me without him.

We will be holding a memorial service for him on Saturday 11/21/20 which was going to be his 60th birthday party. Please reach out to me if you would like to attend and I will be more than happy to provide the details.

My sister and I want to celebrate his life so he knows he was not alone.

Shauna Ricker