



Desert Waves

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Message from the **PRESIDENT...**



Hello AVDD,

Wow! 2023 was gone before we knew it. It's hard to believe 2024 is already here. I'm sure many of us have found ourselves saying the same thing. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

As your AVDD Club President, I am excited about what is shaping up for the club in 2024. Our next monthly meeting will be on Monday, January 8th at 7pm. We will have a guest speaker and will also be looking at the AVDD year at a glance.

I want to encourage everyone to join us for this meeting either in person or virtually. The board and I look forward to hearing from everyone with any suggestions on what you would like to see from the club. I look forward to seeing everyone on Monday night!

Sincerely,

Jeff Carlon

President, AVDD

Conservation Report



Happy New Year! I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and great holiday season. As most of you remember, we presented Jim Elliot of Diveheart with a donation during our annual club trip to Cozumel. Diveheart is a scuba non-profit organization that helps people with all different types of disabilities learn to scuba dive.

Recently I've been in contact with Larry St. Georges, the new owner of Channel Islands Scuba in Thousand Oaks. Larry is an adaptive scuba instructor who works with Diveheart. On March 9th; 10th; 16th; 17th, 2024 Larry is teaching an adaptive dive buddy course at his shop in Thousand Oaks. Course space is limited, and the price is \$750.

Below is a description of the course from Diveheart's website:

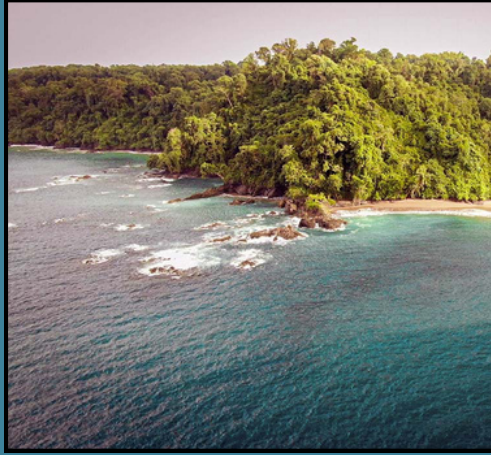
"This course introduces Adaptive Diving to certified divers interested in working with adaptive divers (individuals with disabilities)! This is Diveheart's entry-level Buddy Course. Upon earning their certification, Adaptive Dive Buddies will have the ability to participate on Diveheart Adaptive Dive Teams!"

For more information contact Larry at Channel Islands Scuba at 805-230-9995
www.cisdivers.com and Diveheart at www.Diveheart.org.

Adam Parra
Conservation Officer, AVDD
Aparra44@yahoo.com

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Monday, January 8th @ 7pm



Wondering where you should book your next dive trip? Join us in learning about Costa Rica. Vanessa Willing of Bill Beard's Costa Rica Scuba Diving & Adventure will be sharing with us how to experience Costa Rica for all of what it has to offer.

Afterwards we will be we will review the AVDD year at a glance. The floor will be open for members to share any suggestions for the club. We look forward to seeing everyone in person or virtually!



759 W LANCASTER BLVD, LANCASTER, CA

Zoom Meeting ID: 868 6291 2484

Passcode: 798725

January Dive

We will be returning to the Sundiver Express on **January 13th. Spots are available.** \$140 per person. .



Spots Available

Sundiver
Express

Be Prepared:

- Arrive at 7am to:
 - 182 N Marina Dr,
Long Beach, CA.
- 3 tanks included.
- Lunch included.

To reserve your spot, contact **Ken White**
BarbiezKen@sbcglobal.net
661.202.7485

Let's Get Trashed!

Tide-Y Up a Mile

It might not be the beach but it is a clean up! The Antelope Valley Desert Divers are participating in the City of Lancaster Tide-y Up a Mile program. We will be participating in the clean up efforts over the next year.



Location

Our mile location is 23rd Street West from Ave I to Ave H. All required materials will be supplied. Please make sure to wear close toed shoes. Hard hats and vests will be provided as they are required by the city.

Our next clean up will be Saturday, January 20th @ 8am



The cleanup will be from 8am to 10am followed by brunch at Crazy Otto's. We will meet at the beginning of our adopted mile on 23rd Street West and Ave I (north of Bobby Wayne's RV).

For more information:

AVDesertDive@gmail.com

February 2024 Dive

AVALON HARBOR UNDERWATER CLEAN UP



February's dive will be the annual Avalon Harbor Underwater Clean Up on February 24th, 2024. Please sign up directly at www.AvalonHarborCleanUp.org. When signing up, select Antelope Valley Desert Divers as your club. Select Step Beach as the Dive Location.



Room Accommodations

AVDD is currently working with Hotel Catalina to put together a group rate. **Please email AVDD if you are interested in accommodations so we can establish a final rate.**

AVDesertDive@gmail.com

2024 ANNUAL BANQUET

BE SURE TO SAVE THE DATE! MARCH 9TH AVDD IS ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET FOR THE OSCAR-THEMED 2024 ANNUAL BANQUET.

THE BANQUET WILL BE HELD AT THE NEWLY RENOVATED DOUBLETREE HOTEL IN PALMDALE, CA.

TICKETS ARE \$40 PER ATTENDEE WHICH INCLUDES ADMISSION, DINNER, AND DESSERT. A CASH BAR IS AVAILABLE. COCKTAIL ATTIRE IS REQUESTED.

THE EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL. TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED ON THE CLUB WEBSITE STORE.

WWW.AVDESERTDIVERS.ORG



MR. & MRS. VARGO

December 27th, 2023



Congratulations to Justin & Shawna Vargo!

It is with great pleasure that we share in announcing the marriage of Justin & Shawna Vargo. Shawna is not only a long-term member of AVDD, but our Secretary.

Shawna & Justin met several years ago when Shawna's father, Mike, was certifying Justin and his parents - Paul & Bobbie Vargo. Justin, Paul, and Bobbie are also members of AVDD.



Justin & Shawna were married on December 27th, 2023 in Carlsbad, CA in a beautiful ceremony.



Join us in congratulating Justin & Shawna!

An underwater photograph showing a vibrant coral reef with many colorful fish swimming around it. The scene is set in clear blue water.

Important Dates

January 8th - @7pm General Meeting

January 13th - @7am January Dive (Sun Diver Express)

January 20th - @8am Tide-Y Up a Mile

February 24th - Avalon Harbor Clean Up

March 9th - @5pm Annual Banquet (tickets available for purchase)