



March - 2020

General Meeting - Sat - Mar 7th

50th anniversary Banquet

Board Meeting - Thur - Mar 19th

Lancaster location

Boat Dive - Sat - Mar. 14th

Spectre - Lobster Dive

Boat Dive - Sat - Apr 11th

Cee Ray - Channel Islands



Clive Cussler died on 2/24 at his home in Scottsdale, Ariz.

He was 88.

A.V. Desert Divers

38713 Tierra Subida #200-227

Palmdale Ca 93551



Spectre - Lobster Dive on Saturday 3/14



50 Years of Cleanups  
Makes a Difference



## Presidents Message for March

Hello AVDD Members, I just got home from the Catalina Clean up this weekend and it was a blast. We did have some inclement weather, but overall a great time. It was good to see some of our members come out to support a great cause. I am sure some even took home a treasured find.

Since the last newsletter I am happy to report we certified 3 more Veterans for the WAVES Project, Alex, Ricky, and Harrison. These guys were Rockstar's! I want to give a BIG thank you to Kim and Patrick Hill for all their help and support and of course Sam Childree serving as our Dive Master, having Sam makes the pool day a great event. The class was a HUGE success.

Can you believe we are already closing in on making reservations for June Lake? Remember to reserve early to secure your spot. We try to stay in Squirrel Loop and if you want to reserve early, you should do it starting now. Most are planning on reserving the week prior to try and keep us all together. Last year another group came in and got all our spots. But if we are slit up, no worries. The goal is to have a good time with great people, and we will find a place where we can gather as a group.

We have about two weeks before our banquet and I am very excited. So many people have been working very hard behind the scenes to make sure our 50th year celebration will be a fun and memorable event. Make sure you have contacted our Vice President to secure your tickets.

I hope you all are doing well and I cannot wait to see you all at the banquet, were we say good bye to the old Board Members and say Hello to the new. Until then "Isn't it nifty still diving at 50"



*Jeff Carlon*

### 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)

### AVDD Upcoming Club Dives 2020

- Mar. 14- Spectre \$105.00- members \$115.00- non-members
- Apr. 11- Cee Ray \$105.00- members \$115.00- non-members
- May 9- Sundiver Express - price determined by how many divers, must sign up through Ken.
- June 13- Clam Chowder Dive Location TBA
- July- 4th of July Pool Party Date and Location TBA
- Aug. 8- Raptor to Santa Cruz Waiting for price
- Sept. 5- June Lake Clean Up
- Oct. 10- Sundiver Express Waiting for price
- Nov. 7- Annual Catalina Weekend
- Dec. 12- Deer Creek



## Dive Coordinator



Mar. 14- Spectre \$105.00- members \$115.00- non-members Going to Santa Cruz Island

Still lobster season!

Hello Divers, Saturdays Dive on the 8th was again unfruitful for the Thermograph due to poor viz, but 4 of us dove Deer Creek, nonetheless.

March 14 dive on the Spectre is sold out. We started with 10 spots and sold 16.

April 11 dive is on the CEE RAY, we only have 14 spots so sign up soon, and YES, we can overnight bunk on the Cee Ray.

**See yawl at the Banquet.**

*Ken White*

## Conservation Officer

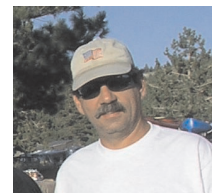
Greetings Divers, Green Sea Turtles! Yup, that's right. Chelonia mydas living right here in our own back yard. I didn't know that, did you? Thousands of dollars to fly to Hawaii to see these beautiful creatures and all I really needed to do is hang out at the San Gabriel River with the cyclists, kayakers, paddle boarders and joggers. These guys get to see them often in the early morning hours.

Since 2012 the Aquarium of the Pacific volunteers have been counting them in those early morning hours; looking for their little heads to pop up for air. When these guys get injured, the Aquarium of the Pacific veterinary staff works hard to fix them. Sea turtles from as far away as Morro Bay have been brought to the Aquarium for treatment; they can receive as many as ten patients a year. All of the patients are taken in with the hope that they may be released. The

Aquarium has rehabilitated and released fifteen sea turtles since 2000. The Aquarium coordinates releases near the mouth of the San Gabriel River with Seal Beach Marine Safety, NOAA and USFW. They say, that when released there the turtle can choose to upriver or out to sea. Kudos to the US and the countries where they nest for the conservation efforts that are allowing the turtles the thrive and survive.

**Keep an eye out for the "Locals" (sea turtles). Stay wet!**

*Don Nipper AVDD Conservation Officer*





## **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!

**ISNT 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...



**ISN'T IT NIFTY, STILL DIVING AT 50**

**ANTELOPE VALLEY DESERT DIVERS**

**50TH ANNUAL INSTALLATION BANQUET**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020**

**6PM SOCIAL HOUR      7PM DINNER**

**GINO'S RESTAURANT**

**819 W PALMDALE Blvd Palmdale, CA 93551**

**RAFFLES**

**SILENT AUCTION**

**70'S COSTUME CONTEST**

**PHOTO BOOTH**

**DANCING**



**COME AND HELP CELEBRATE AVDD'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY. DRESS IN YOUR GROOVIEST 70'S OUTFIT (COSTUMES ARE OPTIONAL). COME SAY GOOD BYE TO THE OLD BOARD MEMBERS AND HI TO THE NEW, WATCH THE AVDD YEAR IN REVIEW SLIDE SHOW, HAVE A GREAT TIME, GOOD LAUGHS, GREAT FOOD AND WIN SOME GREAT PRIZES.**



**\$35.00 P/P**

**FULL BAR IS AVAILABLE (ALCOHOL NOT INCLUDED)**

**TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW, ASK ANY BOARD MEMBER OR BUY TICKETS THRU THE AVDD STORE ON THE CLUB WEBSITE. PLEASE RSVP WITH THE # IN YOUR PARTY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE NEED A HEAD COUNT.**