



Jeff Victor

Underwater Photographer

A.V. Desert Divers

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Palmdale Ca 93551

March - 2022

General meeting - Mon - Mar 14th

Jeff Victor - Underwater Photos

Board Meeting - Thur - Mar 24th

Lancaster Location

AVDD Banquet - Sat - Mar 5th

"Under the Sea Carnival"

Boat Dive - Sat - Mar 12th

Sundiver to Catalina Island





A Carnival, a zoo? We're still diving at 52!

Good morning AVDD, you have heard me talk about our challenge coin for a few months now, and I was happy to finally present a few to 4 well deserving members of our club for their dedication and many years of service. It was my honor to present our coin to Larry Ladd, Bill Neil, and John and Debbie Nichols. I hope you all agree they have earned their coin. We have more people we would like to honor, but if you have someone in mind, please reach out to any board member and let them know who you would like to acknowledge and why. We believe that anyone in the club who is supporting our club and is continually demonstrating our core values should be recognized.

Our banquet is fast approaching, and the Banquet Committee have been working their tails off to make sure it will be a blast. Have you bought your tickets yet? If not, then please head to our Facebook page or Website and click on the link.

Our theme this year is "Carnival Under the Sea". This should be lots of fun for everyone, there will be games, lots of cool raffle prizes, a cash bar, and if that's not enough, we also encourage you show up in costume that will express the night's theme "Carnival Under the Sea"

You know what else is fast approaching? Our annual June Lake Clean-up the first weekend in September! Are you planning on going? If so, you should reserve your campsite soon. They fill up fast. You can make reservations at recreation.gov for Oh Ridge campground. We try to all get in the Squirrel Loop, but don't be surprised if we all end up spread out. June Lake also has many motels, bnb's etc. if you prefer not to camp. And they are not at all far from the cleanup site, or the Saturday potluck in Oh Ridge!

As I end this month's letter, I would like to acknowledge the excellent work Liliana Elenez has been doing as our Program Coordinator. She has been working hard and just getting some outstanding speakers. Keep up the good work Liliana.



Salmon Taco's

In a small bowl mix paprika, chili powder, brown sugar, salt, pepper, onion powder.

Pat salmon dry with a paper towel Put your skillet on the fire on medium heat.

While the oil is heating, season the salmon with the spice mix

When the pan is hot, add the oil and salmon. Wait for the pan to be hot or your salmon will stick.

Salmon should be out of the fridge for 10 to 15 minutes before you put it on the skillet. Let the salmon cook about 4 minutes each side.

Flip when no longer translucent. If it sticks it isn't ready to be flipped.

While salmon cooks, chop tomatoes, onion, and avocado.

Put it in a bowl with more salt and pepper. Add a serrano or jalapeno pepper if you like some heat.

Mash everything together thoroughly. When the salmon is cooked, take off the flame and shred.

Add salmon, sour cream, guac, and lime. And tacos!

Sincerely, Lauren Bociaga

AVDD Board of Directors 2022-2023

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



Conversation Officer Report

Attention lobster hunters! Remember, there is only a few weeks left to get your bugs. The Season closes on March 16th. You must submit your spiny lobster report card from March 17th through April 30th to avoid any late reporting fees. For the fisherman in the club, Rockfish season opens March 1st.

As I mentioned in a previous newsletter, the California Science Center is now accepting applications for diver volunteers! According to their website, you must have at least 50 dives, be rescue certified, and be O2 provider, CPR/First aid certified. For the full list of requirements, visit their website at www.californiasciencecenter.org. It would be cool to see some AVDD members doing diver presentations!



Fun fact: Did you know that scallops can have up to 200 eyes?

Adam Parra, Conversation Officer (520) 906-0015



Boat Dive - March 12th

The Spectre Dive is a bust, would anyone be interested in going on the Sundiver instead? I don't need 10 divers for Sundiver but i do need to know if you are retired military. this trip would still be on the 12th and 3 tanks are included in the price.

Please let me know ASAP or I can organize a beach dive if that would be preferable.

Ken White





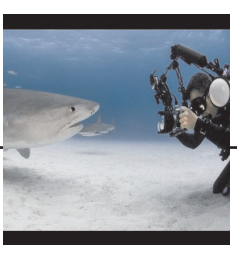
Guest Speaker



My name is Jeff Victor, although I live in Chicago without an ocean for thousands of miles... my great passion is underwater photography. I love everything about the underwater world, through my pictures I attempt to document what I see and feel on every dive. My favorite underwater subjects are sharks, although I photograph as many species as I can during my travels.

Scuba Certifications: Rescue Diver, Aware Shark Conservation Diver, Enriched Air Diver, Equipment Specialist, Coral Reef Conservation Diver.

I was proud to be awarded the Best Photography Booth at the Wells Street Art Festival in Chicago.



His website is oceanjeff.com where all his work and photography are presented!



• WAVES Project

For your WAVES Project update this month, I am happy to report that we have just successfully completed the pool training this last weekend for 4 people. I need to give a big THANKS to Sunny for coming out on Sunday and helping. We were on a tight schedule and without her, I am not sure we would have completed all the pool skills. Our class is made up of 3 Veterans and 1 buddy. 2 of the Veterans are local from the AV. Possibly future members? Next weekend we will do our open water training at Corona Del Mar. I would have liked to use Catalina but alas, that is also the Catalina Cleanup weekend so I didn't think we would fit. In any case I have no doubt on the success of these 4 as they finish up and become Open Water Divers!





CHAMBER DAY 2022 – BACK TO LIVE IN-PERSON AS WELL AS VIRTUAL OPTIONS



Let's start with this: Chamber Day 2022 is Wednesday, May 4.

We are pleased to announce that we're able to resume live in-person involvement this year, both for Chamber Day on the dive boats and at the Chamber facilities at the Isthmus on Catalina, as well as at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach for Chamber Eve. In addition, because we realize some of you are still not comfortable attending this type of a large in-person event, there are options to participate virtually as well.

One important thing to point out is that even though much of SoCal - and the world - has been dealing with various iterations of COVID mitigation measures, your Chamber has remained open and operational all throughout this pandemic. We haven't shut things down but have been standing at the ready should a diver need us (and some have in the last year). So while other businesses may have been able to cut expenses during this pandemic, that's NOT the case with your Chamber. Our expenses generally stayed the same as they would have in a normal year, so YOUR support is still vital.

We know these have been trying times for everyone and hopefully we're seeing the light at the end of this COVID tunnel. Here's what we have planned for 2022:

CHAMBER DAY – THE BOATS ARE RUNNING AGAIN

We're delighted to announce that we can take you diving again and welcome you for a walking tour of our Chamber facilities!!

We've got eight boats ready to plop you into underwater SoCal on May 4. In alphabetical order they are: Asante (the boat will be retired from diving after May 4 so this will be their LAST dive trip), Cee Ray, Explorer, Giant Stride, Pacific Star, Pacific Moon (the new sister ship to Pac Star), Sundiver, and Sundiver Express. We plan to run most of the boats with somewhat limited loads (roughly 80% of normal diving capacity – and who doesn't like a less-crowded boat?) as a mitigation measure. But this also means we don't have as many spots available as we normally do. The number this year will be around 140 boat diver spots.

All of our May 4 boats will do two dives and also do a walking tour of our Chamber. Some boats will do the tour first and then dive. Others will do their dives and then come in for the tour. All participating divers will receive a Chamber Day 2022 t-shirt, five daytime raffle tickets, food and an airfill on the boat, and a walking tour of our Chamber facilities, which will include a chance to talk with various rescue and first-responders. The cost this year is \$150 total, which breaks down as \$115 going to the event and \$35 going back to the boats to cover their food and airfill costs. (This is only \$10 more than it was previously.) Generally boats will leave their respective docks at 7AM and return no later than 5:30PM.

COVID mitigation protocols will be in place. When you show up for your boat, the protocols for that particular boat will be what are in effect. For those who will do the island tour, USC protocols for COVID will be in effect on the island. Because these protocols will likely change between now and May 4, we will give out the specifics as we get closer to the event. If you have any questions now, you can call Chamber Day HQ at 310/652-4990 and we'll answer as best we can.

THE FLYING DUTCHMAN – THE ULTIMATE WAY TO SOCIAL DISTANCE

For those uncomfortable with being on a dive boat on May 4, we've still got the Flying Dutchman at your disposal. And we're holding the price for the Dutchman at \$95. When you sign up, give us your "pirate" name, indicate your regular shop/club/affiliation (we'll post a running tally – there's also an "unaffiliated" option) and you're good to go. You'll get a unique Dutchman t-shirt with the "pirate" name in a mosaic on the front of the shirt and you'll have a shot at some Dutchman-only raffle prizes as well.



CHAMBER CHALLENGE

This hasn't changed and was a major factor in our record-setting total from last year. Every Challenge donation – big, small, and in-between – makes a difference. Companies that offer matching grants help increase the value of your contribution. Please contribute whatever you can. We absolutely appreciate – and need – the help.

CHAMBER EVENING – LIVE AND IN-PERSON AT THE AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

We are delighted to invite you to join us again IN-PERSON at the fabulous Aquarium of the Pacific for Chamber Evening. (There's a virtual option too. More on that in a moment.) The date is also Wednesday, May 4, and the doors will open at 7PM. But as we navigate our way out of this COVID nightmare, there are some changes in how we have to do this portion of the overall event.

One major change is that we're limiting attendance to 250 people. (In the past, we've had as many as 450.) This is in accordance with USC protocols (don't forget that our Chamber is operated by USC so we have to adhere to their regulations) which require a minimum distance of seven feet between tables for any indoor seated dining event which limits how many tables we can fit into the Aquarium's Great Hall. We will still be 10 to a table but can only fit 25 tables in overall. This also means that most table sponsors will only be able to get one table per group this year (a few groups might get two). So tables will fill quickly and you won't want to be left out.

Although this may change by May 4 as COVID protocols adjust, we are at this moment requiring all attendees to be fully vaccinated with proof of such, and to wear a mask when not actively eating or drinking, whether indoors or outdoors at the Aquarium. As we get closer to May 4, we will publish the specific requirements should any of this change.

The other major change is pricing. Because we are severely reducing the number of people in attendance, we're forced to raise the cost of a seat, which will now be \$150 (the same as the total price for the Daytime portion). But for those who attend, you'll still have a chance to wander around and explore the Aquarium from 7-8PM, we're working on a fabulous feast that will start around 8PM, then we'll go into our program of raffle prizes and recognitions a little after 9PM, and we'll send you home around 10:15PM.

Speaking of prizes, would anyone like to win a weeklong trip on the Turks & Caicos Aggressor??? Because that's what our Grand Prize is this year and ONLY people who attend Chamber Evening (or sign up for the virtual version) will have their names in the hopper with a chance to score this wonderful dive experience. Attendees will also get five evening raffle tickets as well as have a chance to win some Blind Bid items that we'll have on-site.

But if you'd rather stay home . . .

VIRTUAL CHAMBER EVENING – TAKES THE WORRY OUT OF BEING CLOSE

As we did last year, we're offering a virtual version for those who are not yet comfortable with this type of an indoor event. As we did last year, we've got sponsored tables as well. (Some organizations have both an in-person table as well as a virtual one.)

Cost for the virtual version of the event is the same as the Flying Dutchman - \$95. Virtual attendees will get five raffle tickets and be entered in the drawing for the Turks & Caicos Aggressor Grand Prize, as well as you'll get a Chamber Evening t-shirt mailed to you. And because we want you to feel connected to what's happening at the Aquarium, you'll receive a private link to our live-stream of the event. So you can observe and enjoy from the comfort of your own home.

Essentially for 2022, we have both an in-person and virtual option for both the Day and Eve events. All the monies raised go to benefit our Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber, which in turn benefits our diving community. For more information about all of this, visit our website at www.chamberday.org. You can sign up there using our secure server, or you can call Chamber Day HQ at (310)652-4990.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 4 and Chamber Day & Eve 2022.

Ken Kurtis (Chairman, Chamber Day/Eve 2022)

Karl Huggins (Director, USC Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber)





Our AVDD Challenge coin

The front: is our beginning, we were established in 1970 with the values we still hold true 50 years later.

The Back: The rope signifies our strength. As the rope grows stronger with every fiber added, so does our club with each of you, our members, and supporters.

In the outer ring shows our “**Core Values**”:

Support- is at the top. It represents our commitment to support each other, our local and dive community, and our affiliates.

Educate- we have always strived to educate people about the wonderful world underwater. We do this by annual scholarships, online certifications, in person training, and sometimes just when standing in line at the store when someone sees our dive shirt and starts to ask us about scuba diving!

Conserve- we have a proud and long-standing commitment to conserve our underwater world. We support underwater clean ups, Heal the Bay, and beach clean ups.

On either side of Support, you will find a Star. The one on the left is solid. This reminds us that we are a Buddy Sport, and it is important to look out for each other. We always make sure to do our buddy check before jumping into the deep blue and helping when we see a need.

The empty Star **on the right** symbolizes the loss we have suffered in the sport. A tragic dive accident or the loss of a member of the club.

The AVDD shark is our newest logo and shows that as we move forward, we still stand on a solid base (our Core Values) that has kept our club going strong for over 50 years.

Behind the shark is a wave. This represents our affiliation with the WAVES Project through our Core Values to Support and Educate our community, in this case it is our Veterans.

At the bottom we have a banner with the Latin phrase “Cura Personalis” that simply reads Care of People. This is the heart of our club, to always look out for each other and make everyone who visits us feels welcome and part of our family.



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