



Fireworks Booth was a record setting year for the club. Thanks to all that helped!

A.V. Desert Divers

38713 Tierra Subida #200-227

Palmdale Ca 93551

January - 2021

General Meeting - Mon - Jan - 11th

Discussion of the new year for the club

Virtual Meeting

Board Meeting - Thur - Jan 21st

Virtual Meeting

Club Dive - Sat - Feb 20th

40th Catalina Clean-up



June Lake Clean-up - Sept 4,5,6th
Good Times



Happy New Year
from the A.V. Desert
Divers





Happy Holidays Divers!



If you are like me, you're ready to put 2020 in the rearview. I do want to give a huge thank you to everyone in AVDD for standing by the club and helping make work what we could. Who knew that our banquet would be the last normal thing we got to do this year?! We did get to spend some quality time together in Catalina last month and were able to give a proper goodbye to a dear friend and pillar of the club during that trip, but everything else got pushed to the side.

Still, I am so proud to be part of such a great club. You all stood by and supported each other at every turn, and when tragedy hit, you showed what it means to be a part of our Dive family.

My hope and wish for this next year are to help make our club an even better thing to be part of; fun gatherings, expand our WAVES Project program to include more Antelope Valley veterans, and just bring more people in to experience the wonders of the underwater world!

Continue to support each other, the club, and never pass up the opportunity to blow some bubbles. Thank you all again for the opportunity to serve as your president another year. Your Board and I look forward to what we can do in '21 better than we did in '20!



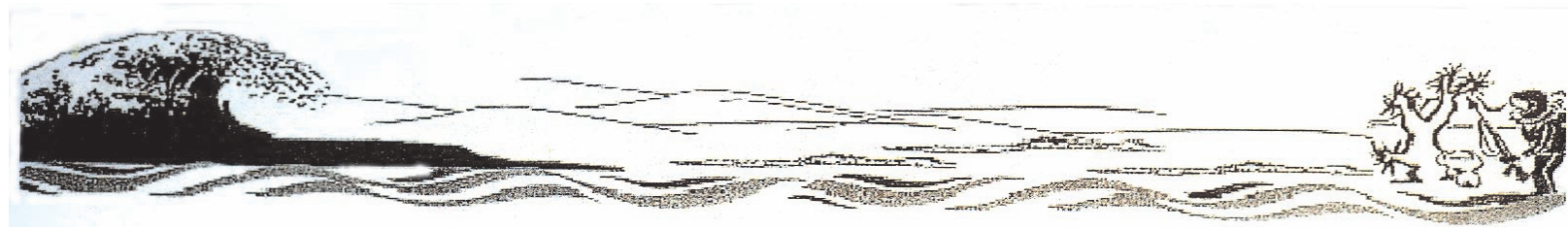
Jeff Carlon

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





January Meeting

2020 was an unforeseeable and unpredictable journey. But through it all, you- and every member of this amazing club and Dive community- kept AVDD moving forward. As we say goodbye to 2020, we bring in 2021 together.

January will not have a guest speaker. Instead, we will have member club meeting. The meeting will discuss previous and future dives & activities for the club.

Hope to see you on the 11th for the first time this year.

Happy New Year

Liliana Elenes





40TH ANNUAL

JANUARY 18 - FEBRUARY 20, 2021

**AVA VIRTUAL HARBOR
UNDERWATER CLEANUP**

**Hello AVDD!!
Virtual, REALLY???**

We were hoping that the new year would bring a hope of normalcy but think again. Regardless this is still an important cause that needs our support. If you look at the flyer in this newsletter you will see they would like us to still register and do a clean-up of our own. This is a great idea and if you would like to do this on your own, I would encourage you to please do.

This is usually our club dive for February, and we came up with an idea. We will still plan on Feb 20th as our clean up dive. Right now, we will do it at Casino Point, but we are also checking on the ability to dive other areas there. Our plan "B" will be either a boat dive or beach dive that morning. If you are interested in joining us please send an email to me scubamoose37@gmail.com we will need to know before February 18. Once we have a list of people interested, we will reach out and coordinate what we will be doing.

Thank you and I look forward to diving with you all soon.

Jeff



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.

