



Septembers Guest Speaker

Joanna Mikutowicz - Caribbean Diving

A.V. Desert Divers

38713 Tierra Subida #200-227

Palmdale Ca 93551

September- 2022

General Meeting - Mon - Sept 12th

Joanna Mikutowicz - Caribbean Diving

Board Meeting - Wed - Sept 21st

Lancaster Location

June Lake Cleanup - Fri-Sun - Sept 2nd-4th

See flyer inside!

Pumpkin Carving Contest - Sat - Oct 22nd

Dry Town Water park

Catalina Fall Trip - Sat/Sun - Nov 5th & 6th

Catalina Island



The June Lake Cleanup - Sept 2nd - 4th



Presidents Message for September

Good afternoon, everyone I hope you are all getting excited for next weekend. That is going to be our June Lake clean-up. This year is going to be exceptional because we are joining forces with Clean up the Lake. I can't wait to see how we can learn from each other.

We also have our Pumpkin Carving Contest on October 22. Details on how to register will be coming soon, along with bring back Discover Scuba.

The last big event in our near future is our annual trip to Catalina the first weekend in November. If you have not got your room yet, there is still time but not much.

In closing I want to ask all of you for ideas on how we as a club can do a better job on marketing our club to grow our membership. I believe we do a good on the social media platforms we use now, but is there something else we can use to help grab more people's attention? I also believe I sometimes miss opportunities to capitalize on events we are doing that showcase what an awesome club we are.

Ok short and sweet, because its time to load up the trailer and get it ready to head up north. Hope to see you all there and do please reach out, I would love to hear your ideas.



Jeff

2023 T-Shirt Contest

Put on your creative caps, pull down that dusty sketchbook, and sharpen your pencils. In 2023, we will be having a T-shirt design contest for the new Club shirts!

The rules are simple:

1. All designs must have a white border around them (so we can put your design on shirts of different colors)
2. Preferably, shirt designs will have a particular theme
3. Feel free to design a front and back, or just the back. We can include our AVDD logo on the front
4. Submit your designs to avdesertdive@gmail.com. You will be given a super-secret ID number to keep submissions confidential when they are reviewed and a design is picked
5. There's no deadline to submit your designs yet, but keep an eye on the newsletter for the deadline

We can't wait to see what you get when those creative juices get flowing!

AVDD Board of Directors 2022-2023

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To contact any of the board members E-mail
[\(avdesertdive@gmail.com\)](mailto:avdesertdive@gmail.com)



September Guest Speaker - Joanna Mikutowicz

Joanna is the owner of one of the Caribbean's largest technical diving companies, Divetech.

Divetech is a full-service dive operator in Grand Cayman providing AM & PM boat dives, shore diving, sea pool for training, scuba gear rental and free pick-up shuttle service. 20 instructors on staff taking you in boat dives, how to learn diving, and kids diving programs or to advance dive into new adventures.

Originally certified as an Open Water diver in Grand Cayman in 1997 she followed her passion for diving to the Florida Keys earning her NAUI Instructor rating in 2004 at Halls Diving Center and Career Institute. This was also her first experience on a rebreather, getting certified on the Drager.

In 2005 she moved to the island of Oahu and earned her PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor rating and then went on to become a PADI Course Director in 2008. She worked as the Director of Training and Dive Operations at Ocean Concepts until the beginning of 2012.

In 2012 she finally moved back to where it all began, Grand Cayman. Joanna picked up a few more certifications after moving to Divetech like SSI Freediving Level 1 Instructor as well as certifications on the Poseidon MKVII and the KISS Spirit Lite.

After working for Divetech for 3 years she took ownership of the company towards the end of 2015 and has carried on the company's success as well as re-branding the company with her own touch of pink. Divetech supports large technical events each year like Innerspace and 12 Mile Bank.

Divetech also aids local organizations to assist with the Lionfish culling on island and holds events to raise money for charities in the Cayman Islands. Also partnering up with organizations like Save Cayman to teach local kids how to dive and teach them about protecting the marine environment.



- **AVDD Fall Trip,**

Hello fellow members. Guess what time it is? Yep, you guessed it! It is time for our annual Fall trip to Catalina!!

This year our trip will be November 4th ~ 6th. Many will be staying at the Seaport Village Inn.

Reservations are filling up quick so go online and make your reservation.

If you do not want to stay at Seaport, there are many other options available for you to choose from. Look forward to seeing you there!

Robert Wisdom Treasurer AVDD



June Lake Agenda

Can you believe it's almost time for our June Lake camping trip? I guess I should plan what we're going to eat before we end up snacking on Doritos all weekend (it could be worse). If you're wondering what to do after your tent is all set up, we have a great weekend of fun planned!

Friday, September 2, 2022 We will have an informal non-Club sponsored dive at the June Lake Marina at 10am. The marina is a great spot for rare finds, including antique/unique bottles.

Saturday, September 3, 2022 Our official clean-up dive will be at 9am (setup at 8am), followed by a lunch of chili at the beach. It is easy access to the beach from Oh Ridge Campground, just follow the road down. Park at the very end of the lot, and we set up our dive gear on the sand right in front of the water.

We'll send divers from the beach (don't worry, it's an easy beach dive, no waves to tackle), and we also have dingy boats that will take you to other dive sites around the lake. Once you've hauled up all the trash you can handle, grab a bowl of chili with all the fixins' for a hearty lunch.

Everyone taking the High-Altitude Certification will do their second dive at the June Lake Marina after the lunch surface interval. We'll take the boat across the lake. If you're not taking the class, you're still welcome to enjoy a second dive at the marina. There are great finds there, including a lot of antique bottles.

Join us on Saturday night for our Club potluck and raffle at 5pm at the Wisdoms' campsite, which will be Squirrel Loop #47.

Sunday, September 4, 2022 Join us for lunch and drinks at June Lake Brewing, 131 S Crawford Ave, June Lake, CA 93529. The brewery has good beer, and there's a delicious sushi and Japanese food truck right outside. This will be informal and flexible, between about 12pm until everyone goes back to their campsites!

Monday, September 5, 2022 Most folks will be packing up this day, so we have no Club activities. Have a safe trip!





- **2023 Cozumel Mexico Trip**

The trip will be scheduled for some time in May 2023, exact dates are TBD.

We have chosen the Cozumel Hotel (By Windham)

The rates below are an approximate, and they may increase slightly as we solidify pricing, and possibly choose to add additional dives, services etc.

7 nights, 2 tank am boat dives included.

Single \$1,800 - Double \$1,200 - Double (Non-Dive) \$725

Triple \$1,150 - Triple (Non-Dive) \$675



We will be posting more information as it comes along. If you are interested, and have any further questions please contact Robert Wisdom via e-mail treasurer@avdesertdivers.org

Adam Parra Conservation Officer (520) 906-0015





Canada Bans Plastic Products

Most of us have seen images of sea turtles malformed by plastic six-pack rings, dead birds with stomachs full of debris, animals smothered by plastic bags...Our excessive use of disposable plastics is disastrous, not just for wildlife, but for us as well. Canada is starting to take it seriously, with a ban on several single-use plastic items starting in December.

Manufacturing and importing plastic bags, takeout containers, single-use plastic straws, stir sticks, cutlery and six-pack rings will be banned by December, sales by the end of next year and exports by the end of 2025. The goal is to keep “15.5 billion plastic grocery bags, 4.5 billion pieces of plastic cutlery, three billion stir sticks, 5.8 billion straws, 183 million six-pack rings and 805 million takeout containers” from littering lands and waters and ending up in landfills every year. (There’s an exception to the straw ban for people who require them for medical or accessibility reasons.)

Although the timeline seems long and the list of items short, government faced enormous pressure from industry, including legal battles. Plastics companies and organizations have challenged the government over jurisdiction, arguing regulation should be left to provinces, and over scientific assessments and classification of plastic manufactured items as “toxic.”

Almost all plastic is a byproduct of the oil industry, which has also pushed back. For example, Imperial Oil filed a notice of objection to the government’s classifying plastics as “toxic substances” under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.

But given the excessive amounts of plastic choking lands, rivers, wetlands, lakes, oceans and even air, industry should work to get ahead of the ban, phasing out the six targeted items and other non-essential plastics sooner rather than later. And the public and governments must get behind the call to expand the ban to more items. Public pressure has already helped, with the ban on exports — originally exempted — added since last December.

The government is starting with the most common and harmful items but isn’t ruling out banning other single-use plastic products. That’s important because those banned make up only about five per cent of Canada’s plastic waste.

