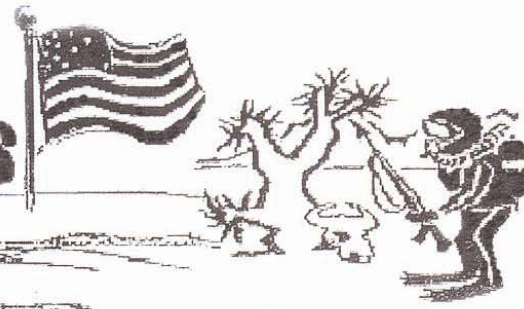


Desert Waves



May 2008

Chamber Day - Wed - May 7th

General Meeting - Mon - May 12th

Brian Meux from Santa Monica Bay Keepers

Board Meeting - Tue - May 20th

Meeting at the Nipper's house

Boat Dive - Sat - May 24th

"Island Time" to Catalina



Brian Meux will speak on

Kelp Restoration

A.V. Desert Divers

P.O. Box 1178
Littlerock, Ca 93543



AVDD 2008 CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS

Get Involved - Mark Your Calendar

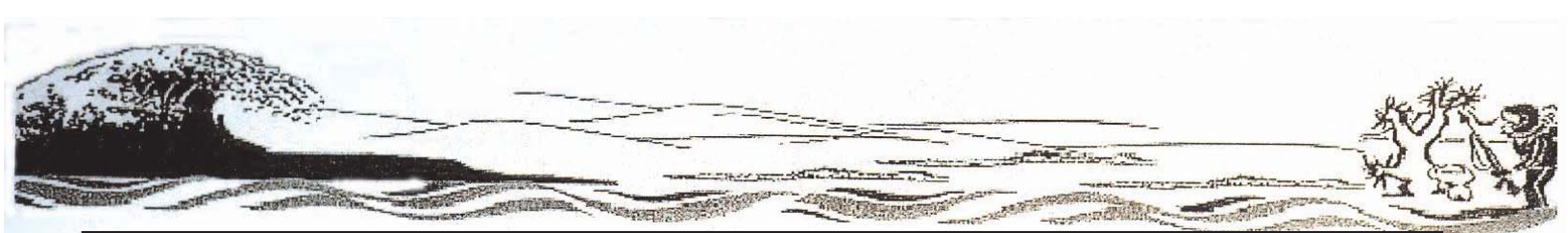
- 5/7/07 Chamber Day
- 5/12/08 General Mtg
- 5/24/08 Boat Dive - TBD
- 6/9/08 General Mtg
- JUNE CLAM CHOWDER DIVE - TBD**
- 7/4/08 4th of July Pool Party
- 7/13/08 Sheriff's Dept Gold Star Dive-Casino Point Catalina
- 7/14/08 General Mtg
- 8/11/08 General Mtg
- 8/29-9/1/08 June Lake Cleanup
- 9/8/08 General Mtg
- 9/24/08 California Coastal Cleanup
- 10/13/08 General Mtg
- 10/18/08 Two Harbors Underwater Clean-up
- October 2nd Annual Underwater Pumpkin Carving with City of Palmdale - TBD
- 11/10/08 General Mtg
- 12/8/08 General Mtg

Dates are subject to change. Please contact a Board Member prior to the date of the event to confirm. Let's go get wet!!!!

See this Newsletter in

Blazing Color at:

www.avdesertdivers.org



Club Meeting – May 12th



Brian Meux will be our guest Speaker in May. Brian is the Kelp Project Coordinator for the Santa Monica Bay Keepers and began working with and volunteering for them in 2005. Part of his masters' thesis is an analysis of the Santa Monica Bay Keeper Kelp Restoration and Monitoring Project. Brian became the Kelp Project Coordinator in June 2007. His aim, with the help of all the dedicated SCUBA-divers who volunteer their time to give back to our local reefs, is to restore and monitor as much kelp forest as possible in Santa Monica Bay.

Claudia Richardson



Casino Point Beach Dive Report

On April 26th, Sport Chalet and AVDD joined forces for a great weekend at Catalina's Casino Point. Those that didn't attend missed a great weekend. I took my class over the night before the Casino Point dive and we spent the entire weekend in Avalon. I had three students do the Discover Enriched Air dive and it went really well.

Brian and Claudia, who are Nitrox certified, joined the fun and waited for us to get our Nitrox tanks from Catalina Scuba Luv. Brian and Claudia got in two dives to the glass bottom boat and Kismet wrecks, as well as another wreck that has gone back to the sea with only wood debris scattered about. Of note found were a Danforth anchor, lots and lots of chains, a mask and snorkel, and an abalone larger than hand span.

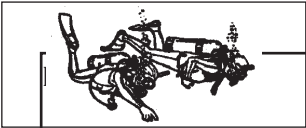
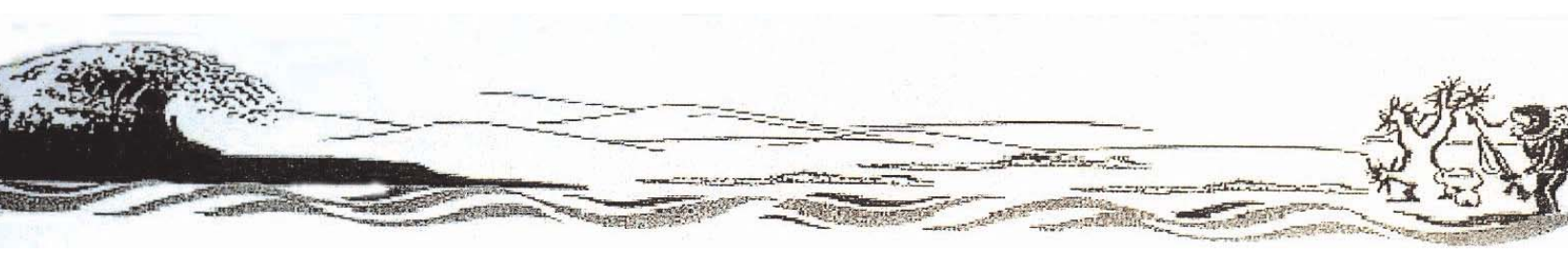
The weather was spectacular. It was not just warm. It was hot. I had to slather on the sunblock and I still have a lobster red countenance. The visibility ranged from 20 to 45 feet, depending on where you were in the park. There were a lot of classes going on, so there were the usual silt balls around the open water students near the shore. As you went further out and deeper, it opened up and we had a slightly murky 40 to 45 feet when we were diving the Kismet at approximately 60 ft.

We were able to do two night dives each on Friday and Saturday nights. The night dives yielded a lot of nocturnal sea life. We saw at least 8 Moray Eels. One was really big and it was actively feeding on what appeared to be a small Calico Bass. Lobsters were abundant. I was pleased to note a lot of very young California Golden Gorgonian starting to grow throughout the park. We saw a huge Great Sculpin. It

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(All # are 661 area code)



Notes from the President...

April has been a great month. It started with an informative presentation by Sport Chalet of all of the diving events that they have coming up. For those of us that didn't realize it, Sport Chalet has a travel division that schedules some amazing dive trips to exotic places. Last week AVDD and Sport Chalet joined forces for a dive trip to Catalina, led by Jack Cook our dive coordinator. There was the opportunity for individuals to try Nitrox. Chamber Day is just around the corner on May 7th. For those of you that aren't able to participate in the evening or dive events, watch for next month's newsletter for a full recap. The Clam Chowder Dive at White Point is coming on June 21st, make sure that your calendar is appropriately marked. This is a must-do event with some of the best Clam Chowder I have ever tasted. The recipe is a club secret and has been around for decades. That same day is the Scuba Show...so come on out for an early morning dive at White Point and some tasty chowder then make your way down to the Scuba Show. What better way to spend a day in the great California sunshine.

Make sure and check out the new and improved website (still under construction). Many thanks to Brian for all of his work on the new website. Information is still being added and if you have any ideas on links or information that you would like to see, please let your board know.

Another reminder that June Lake Clean Up over Labor Day weekend is just around the corner, don't wait until the last minute. It's only \$64 for the camping for the three-day weekend. Book your spot through Reserve America. Look for Oh Ridge campground. This is a great inexpensive time to bring the kids or grandkids and get them involved too.

**Getting involved is the best way to make it happen.
Get Wet!!!**



Your Pres.

Linda

Hunting on the Sunfish

Ken, the Channel Islands Divers dive coordinator, reports an inexpensive halibut hunting trip is available on the Sunfish on May 17th out of Channel Islands Harbor. He recalled that there are some halibut hunters in our club and thought maybe they would be interested in the trip. They are going to Santa Cruz for 3-4 dives and the cost is \$75.00 (special price) and that includes food and air. They will be leaving at 7:00am. If anyone would like to go they will need to call 805 644-1499 to make their reservations. It is not a club dive. There will be no classes on the boat.



By Jack Cook, Dive Coordinator



Conservation Officer Report...

Now that spring is here, the weather is mostly nice (down right hot for some of us), we should have already been thinking about the “spring cleaning” of getting our gear in order. Critical things like getting the inspections current on our scuba tanks, regulators, and buoyancy compensators. These are a few things that we should consider having performed by the “professionals” (unless you are one of those professionals). A few of the items that we take for granted are fin and mask straps. Not only should these be checked annually, but every time we use them. We should also keep a spare handy in our “save a dive” kit for that unexpected “dang-it” moment.

I recently re-learned the “have a spare with you” lesson. I lost a mask on a beach dive entry (no spare) and would have been done had it not been for a thoughtful dive companion that loaned me their spare. I had gotten complacent; I have not had any equipment problems in so long that I removed my backup gear from my bag.

We divers, as we get more experienced, might become a little complacent with our pre-dive procedures. We should always remember the training (and attention to detail) that has kept us safe in the past and adhere to it.

My lost mask was the result of being out of practice in the skill of beach/surf entry, and possibly task over-load. In addition to dealing with big surf, I was also hauling a diver propulsion vehicle. I had a lot to deal with; in hind site, I should have considered reducing my task load by leaving the DPV behind. When I got a new mask, that is what I did, and had a fun dive. Please, learn from my mistake. Follow your safety procedures: use a dive plan, inspect your gear, dive your plan, and do not task over-load.

With that rant completed, I would like to extend an invitation to the monthly meeting. Our guest speaker will be Brian Meux from Santa Monica Bay Keepers. He is the director of their kelp restoration project. I am looking forward to seeing you all there.

June Lake altitude/cleanup dive is creeping up on us, have you gotten your camp spot in Oh Ridge campground yet?



Don Nipper

Resort Style Diving on the Island Time

I spoke with Express Divers about their boat “Island Time” for our May Club dive on the 24th of May. Their website is <http://www.expressdivers.com/>. Their phone number is (889) 488-DIVE (3483). The trip is a two-tank Resort Style day trip with tanks and air fills provided. If you bring your own tank, they want it to be filled. They don’t have time to fill tanks during their short crossing to Catalina. They serve Continental Breakfast and lunch of Cold Cut sandwiches. The cost is \$99.00 with no other charges added. Right now the boat is almost empty, so they have plenty of slots. California Diving Magazine reviewed the boat very favorably. The boat departs promptly at 06:30 AM. It takes about 75 minutes to the dive spot. In the water by 8:00 AM and back to port just after noon. Be sure to read their refund policy. Good diving!



Casino Point (con’t)

was probably about 24 inches long. I saw two Treefish in the boulders, one juvenile that was really brightly colored and one large adult that was pushing the maximum size for Treefish.

In the crevices, I saw at least six Spotfin Sculpin. On one occasion, I was pointing out a California Golden Gorgonian to my student, when I noticed a Spotfin Sculpin hiding behind it. It would have made a great picture, but my son had the camera. I managed to get a very rushed picture of a free swimming Thornback Ray, identified by the bulbous tip of its tail and the thorns that range along its spine. Unfortunately, I didn’t get the tail in the picture, only the head and wings.

Two of my students qualified as Advanced Open Water Divers, three of them finished the Night Diver specialty, and one completed the Peak Performance Buoyancy specialty on the trip. Overall, it was a good weekend. We had fun and we got a lot accomplished.

By Jack Cook, Dive Coordinator