



February 2010

General Meeting - Mon - Feb 8th

"Lifestyles of the Wet and Spineless."

Board Meeting - Tue - Feb 16th

Meeting at the Nipper's house

Catalina Harbor Cleanup Dive

Saturday - Feb 20th

40th Annual Instalation Banquet

March 6th



Gray Whale migration is in full swing.

Get to any west coast beach & you could see Whales.

A.V. Desert Divers

P.O. Box 1178  
Littlerock, Ca 93543



AVDD 2010 Calendar

- 2/8 General Meeting
- 2/20 Catalina Cleanup Dive
- 3/6 Banquet
- 3/8 General Meeting
- 4/12 General Meeting
- 5/5 Chamber Day (estimated date)
- 5/10 General Meeting
- 5/15 Scuba Show
- 6/14 General Meeting
- 6/19 Clam Chowder Dive (Leo Carrillo)
- 7/4 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ
- 8/9 General Meeting
- 8/ Little Rock Dam Cleanup and BBQ TBD
- 9/3,4,5 June Lake Clean Up
- 9/13 General Meeting
- 10/11 General Meeting
- 10/23 Pumpkin Dive
- 11/8 General Meeting
- 11/ Mexico Dive Trip TBD
- 12/13 Christmas Pot Luck

See this Newsletter in

**Blazing Color** at:

[www.avdesertdivers.org](http://www.avdesertdivers.org)



## Hello Desert Divers,



Spring is fast approaching. If you haven't done so, its time to get your equipment checked out. The California "warm water" diving season is upon us. AVDD banquet is happening on March 6th, tickets will be available at our next meeting. Join us at Pars in Palmdale for "Persian Nights". The cost will be \$35.00 per person for a four course meal & entertainment. We are working hard to gather some great raffle prizes. We hope that you will be able to come out enjoy the evening with us and help support AVDD. As you might know, this is our primary fund raiser to help support other club activities. Come on out and have some fun with us.

Our erstwhile program director Jack Cook has arranged a great speaker for this months meeting. Come out and hear about "Lifestyles of the wet and spineless", a presentation about marine invertebrates. Here is just another good reason to come out to the meeting, besides the company of fellow divers. See you at the meeting!



*Your Prez*

*Linda Sharp*

## 40th Annual Banquet and Magical Persian Evening

Fine Persian Cuisine - Live Music

### Belly Dancing - Magic of Chris Cory,

and raffle prizes, are just some of the things in store for the upcoming Antelope Valley Desert Divers 40th Annual Banquet. This years Banquet will be held at

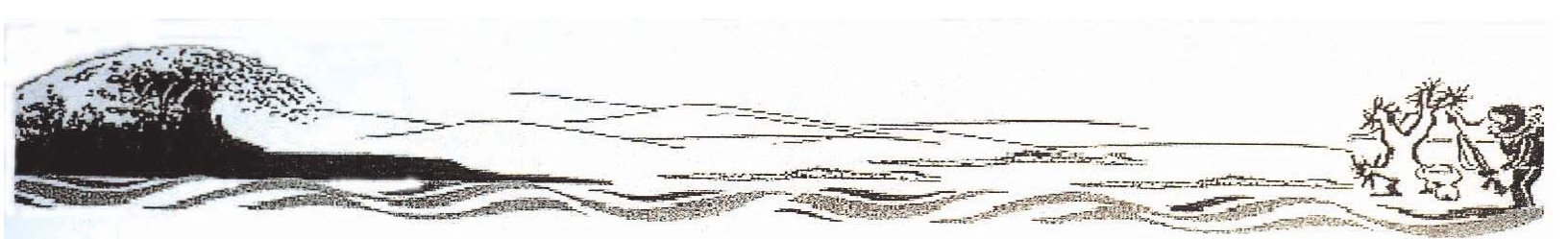
Pars Restaurant 40008 10th Street West Palmdale

Contact any Board member for tickets.

### 2009 AVDD Board of Directors

Linda Sharp	President	285-2624	LSharp@KrollOntrack.com
Mike Orlando	Vice President	810-2723	mcorlando@yahoo.com
Colleen Hodgkins	Secretary	714-0424	cchodgkins@hotmail.com
Robert Wisdom	Treasurer	917-3694	res031ft@msn.com
Open (any takers)	Program dir		
Terry Hodgkins	Newsletter	942-1042	thodgkins@verizon.net
Donald Nipper	Conservation	285-2624	dnipper@water.ca.gov
John Bottka	Web Master	944-4473	jbottka@yahoo.com
Jack Cook	Dive Cord.	816-4146	ScubaDiverJackCook@adelphia.net

(All # are 661 area code)



## Speaker for the February 8th meeting;

The Antelope Valley Desert Divers is pleased to announce that the speaker for the February 8th, 2010 meeting will be the Collections Manager of the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History Polychaetous Annelids Collection, Leslie H. Harris. Ms. Harris' topic will be

### “Lifestyles of the Wet and Spineless.”

Scuba divers often encounter members of the class Polychaeta (“poly-keet-a”) when diving in the local area. These usually small and unimposing creatures often escape notice because of their camouflage and sedentary lifestyles. They are there. We just don't see them. Additionally, there are other obscure invertebrates that remain hidden from the view of most divers.

Nudibranchs, molluscs, polychaete worms, and other invertebrates are the bellwethers for the health of the ecosystem beneath the sea. Ms. Harris' emphasis will be on species from the Southern California area and she will delve into their feeding and procreating habits.

Ms. Harris will be increasing our awareness of these fascinating creatures and showing us that just because a creature is individually small, it is not necessarily unimportant to the environment and far from uninteresting.



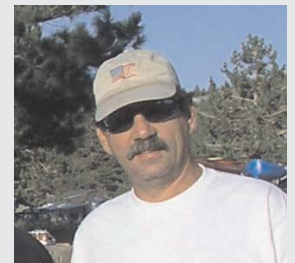
All local divers are invited to join us and benefit from this marvelous opportunity to learn about our undersea world. The meeting will be at the Larry Chimbole Cultural Center, 38350 Sierra Highway, Palmdale, CA 93550, at 7:00 PM, February 8th, 2010.

*Jack Cook*

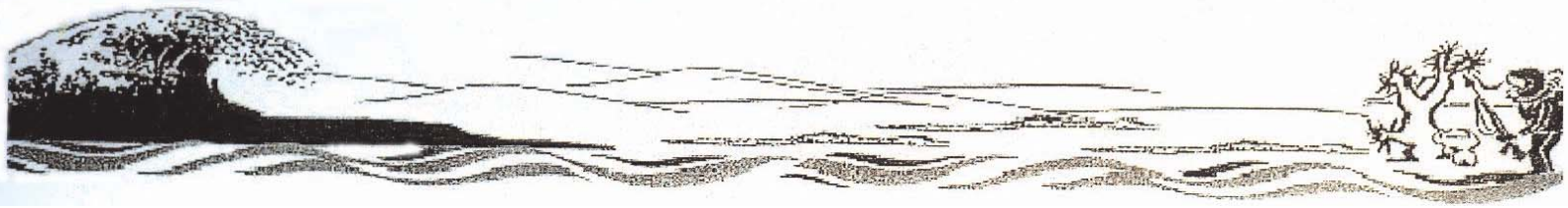
## From the Conservation Officer...

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.

The northern journey of whale migration is under way. Shore-based counting stations are already reporting mother's with calves on their way to the northern feeding grounds. A viewing location could be from any beach if you are patient and observant. There are also many commercial operations that offer whale watching adventures. The Blue and Grey whale bi-annual migration is magnificent to observe. I hope you can all have the chance to witness the migration, first hand.



*CO - Don Nipper*



## Catalina Harbor Cleanup Dive

The Catalina Harbor Cleanup Dive is scheduled for Feb. 20 this year. This is a unique opportunity to get to dive the harbor, which we normally don't get to do, and to be a part in helping to clean up our ocean which we at AVDD enjoy so much. This is a lot of fun and prizes and give-aways are always part of the day. (CHUMMING!!)

So if you can, come on out and enjoy the diving fun. Catalina Express is filling up fast so act quickly. The phone number and web address are listed below.

If you are wanting to make a weekend out of it, here are a few places to try.

Catalina Express (800) 481-3470 [catalinaexpress.com](http://catalinaexpress.com)

Seaport Village Inn 1-800-2-CATALINA [catalinacatalina.com](http://catalinacatalina.com)

Hermosa Hotel & Catalina Cottages Toll-Free: 877 241-1313 [hermosahotel.com](http://hermosahotel.com)

Look for AVDD banner. I'm not sure where it will be right now. If you need any further information give me a call or e-mail me. [Mangum\\_4@msn.com](mailto:Mangum_4@msn.com), [trmangum4@gmail.com](mailto:trmangum4@gmail.com)



*Hope to see you there,*

*Tammy Mangum*



## Gray Whales – An Epic Migration

One of the planet's epic migrations is taking place now along our coast. More than 18,000 California gray whales have left their Arctic feeding grounds, headed for the warm waters of Mexico to give birth. A few weeks after arriving, and with newborn calves in tow, they head north again—a round trip of over 10,000 miles!

The migration peaks in Monterey this week, with up to 20 whales an hour swimming by. Thirty years ago, the peak came earlier. Scientists believe changing ocean conditions, including loss of Arctic ice, is the cause. Whales can travel farther north to feed, making their journey that much longer.

As the only true coastal whale, it's easy to see them from shore, especially on the southbound journey. Look for the characteristic “blow” as they exhale warm moist air; it shoots as high as 15 feet.