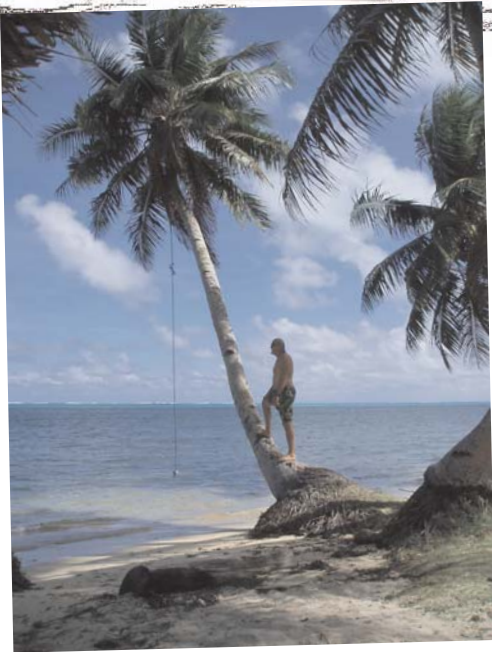
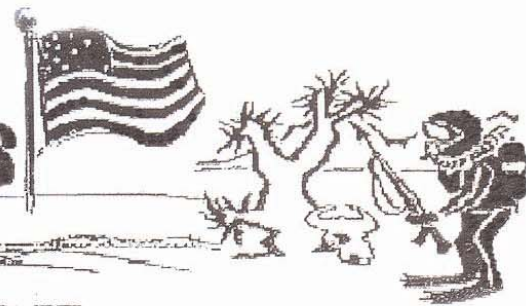


Desert Waves



February 2009

General Meeting - Mon - Feb 16th

John Bottka's photo tour of Yap

Board Meeting - Tue - Feb 24th

Meeting at the Nipper's house

Avalon Cleanup - Sat - Feb 21st

AVDD Banquet - Sat - Mar 7th

John Bottka climbing for his breakfast in Palau!

A.V. Desert Divers

P.O. Box 1178
Littlerock, Ca 93543



AVDD 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

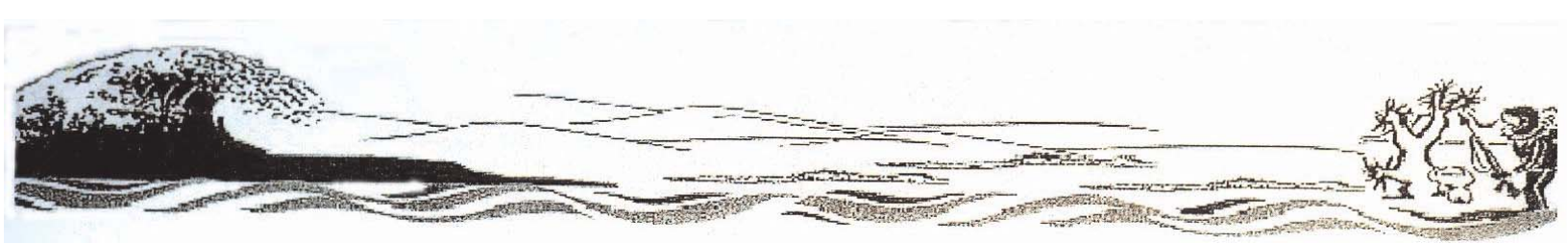
(These dates are tentative so check the Website)

- 2/21 Catalina Clean Up
- 3/7 Banquet
- 5/13 Chamber Day (tentative)
- 6/20 Clam Chowder Dive Local TBD
- 7/4 July 4th Bar-B-Q
- 9/4-7 June Lake Clean Up
- 10/ Two Harbors Clean Up
- 10/24 Pumpkin Dive

See this Newsletter in

Blazing Color at:

www.avdesertdivers.org



From the President...

We have so much planned for 2009. This next few months alone, we have the Catalina Clean Up, Banquet, Chamber Day and much more. I can't believe that next month we need to register for our camping spots again for the June Lake Clean Up. Before you know it will be 2010. Well, don't let another year go by where you look back and say, "I wish had a chance to dive this year" or "I wish I had dove more often this year". We have events planned, all you have to do is put them on your calendar and show up. Piece of Cake. Many of these events are either FREE or relatively inexpensive, but they are always fun. We are excited that thanks to Scuba Jack, we are going to be working on a Preferred Club status with the Sunfish for future boat dives. The reports that came back were all very positive from those that attended the last boat dive.

Keep your eye out for future newsletters as well as our website for upcoming events. The most important thing to do, is look at the calendar in the newsletter, put the dates in your calendar and get signed up. Better yet, cut out the calendar section and put it on the refrigerator so you don't forget. Don't let another year go by where you, "wish I had".

There is still 1 position left on the board for program director. Claudia has done a great job of starting us off this year and filling in while we continue looking for a volunteer. She is happy to help out whomever steps up to take over this position.

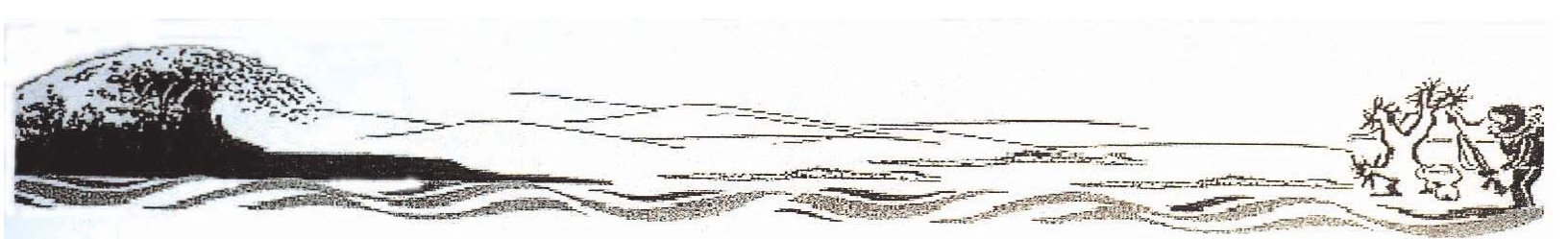
Well, let's get wet, Your Pres,

Linda

2008 AVDD Board of Directors

Linda Sharp	President	285-2624	President@AVDesertDivers.org
Mike Orlando	Vice President	810-2723	VicePresident@AVDesertDivers.org
Larry Ladd	Secretary	724-1048	Secretary@AVDesertDivers.org
Colin Young	Treasurer	951-7021	Treasurer@AVDesertDivers.org
Claudia Richardson	Program dir	269-1507	Program@AVDesertDivers.org
Terry Hodgkins	Newsletter	942-1042	Newsletter@AVDesertDivers.org
Donald Nipper	Conservation	285-2624	Conservation@AVDesertDivers.org
Brian Basura	Web Master	269-1507	Webmaster@AVDesertDivers.org
Jack Cook	Dive Cord.	816-4146	Dive@AVDesertDivers.org

(All # are 661 area code)



Speaker for Febuary 16th meeting...

Palau, Yap Adventure

What better way to kickoff my retirement then a dive trip with LaRae to Micronesia. Our adventure in diving the Islands of Palau and Yap started with the usual pre-trip planning and packing. As in all great plans, some last minute adjustments were needed, due to an unexpected foot of snow in the Antelope Valley. So after cutting down snow damaged branches and clearing the driveway of snow, we were ready to fly to a warm tropical paradise.

Paradise for us started at the Palau Pacific Resort for four fantastic days, of snorkeling, kayaking, and exploring the historic jungle surroundings. After our above water discovery of a WW2 Japanese Sea plane port, caves with armament still in place, and jungle flowers up close, we were primed for some world class diving.

The next seven days on board the Eco Explorer can only be expressed as diving heaven. We got to dive sites with names like, Blue Hole, Ngemedis Coral Garden, Big Drop-off, German Channel, Siaes Tunnel, Turtle Cove, and Ulong Channel. On these dives we saw large graceful Manta Rays, Eagle Rays, Black and white tip Sharks, Turtles, schools of Barracuda, and tropical fish of every size, shape and color imaginable.

The final four days of our tropical adventure was diving around the Island of Yap. Here we got really close and personal with Manta Rays, Sharks and some colorful mating Mandarin Fish. Now that's the way to end 2008 and start the New Year.

If you would like to see and hear more of what diving in paradise is like. Come to the next dive club meeting on Feb. 16, at the Palmdale Cultural Center.

John Bottka

21st Annual CHAMBER DAY

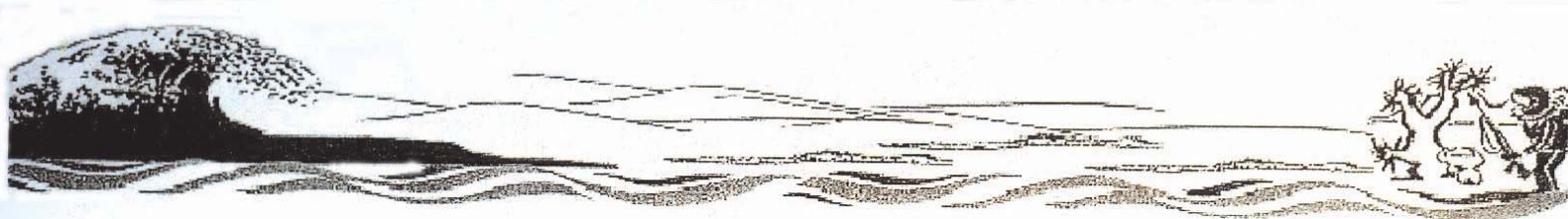
Well, it really is that time of the year... Chamber Day will be on us before you know it. Mark your calendar for the first week in May. The exact day has not been selected but we should be hearing soon. Remember, it is always a Wednesday of diving and fun in the sun and then the dinner at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach. Grab your dive buddy and get signed up. Come for a dive on one of the many boats that contribute their proceeds from that day to the Chamber or join other AVDD members and I at the dinner that evening. As in years past, AVDD has filled a table and we hope to have the same great response from the members. This is a worthwhile event and although we hope none of us ever needs to experience the skills of those volunteers working at the chamber, it is a relief to know that they are there. Remember, they can't exist unless we as divers provide our time, talent and treasures....

For more information, <http://wrigley.usc.edu/hyperbaric/TOP.HTM>

Your Dive Coordinator/Conservation Officer,

Don





2009 Avalon Harbor Underwater Clean Up

It is that time of year again. Time to drag that dive gear out of the garage (or other local of safe keeping) and join AVDD on the Catalina Express on their way for a fun filled weekend (or day) at Catalina. This event has proven to be not only worthwhile, but is great fun. Last year, Linda and I took the kids as well so that they can participate and to ensure that they understand how important our oceans are to the future of our ecology. This year should be another great day of sunshine, sand and salty water. The event is scheduled for February 21, 2009. You can register on-line at www.catalinaconservancy.org/ecology/underwater_cleanup.cfm. Register early for only \$35 per person alternatively, the fees are \$45 per person if you wait until February. Don't forget to book your boat trip on the Catalina Express. At the meeting next week, January 20th, we will be discussing where everyone wants to dive so that the club can dive together.

We look forward to seeing you there,
Your Dive Coordinator / Conservation Officer,
Don



Top Quality DVDs Sought for Underwater Film Festival

Assemble now your best underwater video film footage for the SCUBA Show 2009 underwater film festival. The 22nd annual SCUBA Show is the largest dive expo of its type in the U.S. and this year takes place May 30-31 (the weekend AFTER Labor Day) at the Long Beach Convention Center.

One of the most popular portions of the annual Southern California SCUBA Show has been the unique continuous underwater film festival. Films will be displayed digitally on a massive screen and viewed by thousands of attendees. Featured at past film festivals have been footage, videos and films from some of the world's greatest underwater cinematographers. Even so, some of the most well received films have been from non-professional and semi-professional underwater camera operators.

For this year's show, the film festival will be wide open to this talented group. The management of the popular annual dive convention is conducting an aggressive all-out search for the best in underwater video films. They are also opening up the category to include digital still presentations set to music or narration. Films and digital slide shows of 3 to 30 minutes in length are preferred, but shorter is usually better. Footage can be from anywhere in the world, but the video should contain at least 50 percent underwater footage. Those films accepted for screening will be paid an honorarium.

Deadline for DVD submission is March 17, 2009. For a complete guideline sheet on submissions, call (310) 792-2333, e-mail mail@scubashow.com