

**Rips, Rocks and Reefs**

George Linares, Chairperson of the Dive, Training and Safety Committee, recently announced that the popular Rocks, Rips and Reefs training course will be held on Sunday, April 25, 2004 at Cabrillo Beach in San Pedro from 8:00am until noon. This course, conducted by certified scuba instructors, dive masters and teaching assistants, focuses on safe beach entries and exit skills, certain aspects of the local marine environment and site typography information. There will be an 'on land' briefing followed by an 'in water' demonstration and practice session that includes a skin diving tour of the actual dive site (conditions permitting). Being a certified diver is not a requirement to take this course and, in fact, tanks and regulators are not permitted. Following the class, certified divers who wish to make a dive may certainly do so. This class represents an opportunity to learn the basics of beach diving as well as how to find the 'cool stuff.' Contact George for more information and to sign up for the course.

**March 20th Boat Dive** by Steve Scruggs

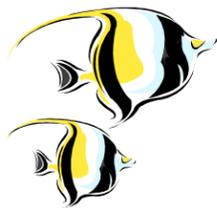
The first boat dive trip of the year was a sold out occasion as twenty-two LABUE divers enjoyed two dives on the front side of Catalina Island onboard the Island Time dive boat on a beautiful, sunny day . 'Italian Gardens' and 'Hen Rock' were two dive sites that proved to be both challenging and fun for new and seasoned divers alike who took advantage of this unique dive boat that got us over and back in less than five hours. The luxury of the club having the entire boat to ourselves is an experience I hope every member gets to share. The key is to remember to act fast when the next opportunity arises. Make your plans to go diving soon.

**Advertising in LABUE**

Businesses or individuals purchasing \$300 Sponsor Packages (Reef Seekers Dive Company, Pacific Wilderness, On The Go and RLS & Associates for 2004) automatically receive a quarter page ad in each issue of LABUE NEWS as part of their package. Over one year ago, in response to requests from members and friends, LABUE introduced a program in which additional advertisement space could be purchased for \$50 per quarter page. Since then, several ads have been sold. This program gives everyone a chance to expose their business to the readers of the newsletter. Please submit 'camera ready' ads that will be scanned; or a picture file (jpg, tiff, gif).

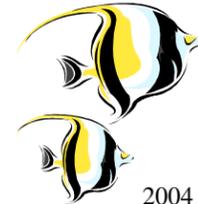
**GET READY FOR THE JOOK JOINT!!!**

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers  
10736 Jefferson Blvd., #428  
Culver City, CA 90230



**Reminders:**

- \*\* **General Membership Meeting—4/13/04**
- \*\* **Easter Egg Boat Dive—4/10/04**
- \*\* **Casino Point Beach Dive—5/1/04**



**A Good Start For 2004**

2004 is well underway and it is shaping up to be the best one yet for LABUE. Although the year has barely began, many club members have already been involved in many activities. The first club boat trip for the year happened on March 20th. What started out as the club securing 6 spaces on the Island Time to Catalina, turned into a full LABUE club boat charter as more and more members signed up. Better yet, as is the club policy, whenever LABUE charts an entire boat, the price drops even lower. The already low price of \$78 was reduced to \$70. For those divers with LABUE Bucks, the price was reduced to \$60! Similar discounts are planned for upcoming boat dives, including the next club charter in September aboard The Great Escape. The Beach Dive program has had two well attended beach dives. This in spite of rainy weather forcing the cancellation of two other dives. These dives also represent a good opportunity for divers to practice dive skills in a very economical way. Last weekend's Discover Scuba program was a complete sell out. LABUE instructor George Linares found himself in front of 15 individuals interested in learning about diving. The club meetings at the Museum of Natural History in Exposition Part have been very popular. Our regular attendance is averaging about 50% more than in the past. Part of the reason is that there is no longer a space issue. The other reason is the quality programs which have been arranged by the newly created Program Committee. The Reactivation Month meeting was another in a long succession of well attended meetings. The future program line up looks even brighter and will include a feature program by divers who have dived the famed Wreck of the Andrea Doria. The upcoming highlights of the year include the surprise summer fundraiser, the Annual Holiday Gala and, of course, the club trip to Fiji in September. So much to do...so little time to do it in.



**President's Message**

As LABUE continues to grow and expand, both in terms of membership as well as in terms of dive related activities, It would be easy to forget how we started and what it was like in the early days during the development of our expanded format which began in 1996. Back then we had a treasury of about \$32 and could not offer much more than a vision to our members. The publication of our newsletter was a major financial challenge. There were no such things as LABUE Bucks or discounts on dive boats. We certainly could not afford a meeting location. To help us become more financially viable, we started the Business Sponsorship Package in which businesses were invited to participate in helping us realize our

vision at a cost of \$300 per year. Two dive shops have continuously been a part of this program from the very beginning...Reef Seekers Dive Co (Billy Wright and Ken Kurtis Co owners-310 652-4990) and Pacific Wilderness (Jeff Smith owner-310 833-2422). LABUE owes quite a lot to these two businesses. One way to show our appreciation is to shop at their stores. Top equipment at discounted prices is offered to LABUE members. But whether you purchase something or not, next time you stop by either of these stores, you might thank them for being there when we needed them. I'm sure they will appreciate it...

Bob Simmons

**JOOK JOINT IS COMING!!!**

**Casino Point** By Debora Ewing

Each year one of our beach dives is scheduled for the Underwater Marine Park at Casino Point on Catalina Island. This year several of us will be diving the stairs at Casino Point on Saturday, May 1. The Beach Dive Committee is taking the Express boat from San Pedro to Avalon at 8:50 a.m.; and will return the same day on the 5:15 p.m. boat from Avalon back to San Pedro. The first dive and dive briefing will happen @ 10:30 a.m.. The second dive will probably happen @ 1:00 p.m. A lunch reservation has been made for 3:00 p.m. at Antonio's Pizzeria. This is the only 'beach dive' in which the entry is via stairs directly into the water. The visibility is usually very good and there is a variety of sea life and kelp. Last year, two of our divers even saw giant black sea bass right there at the point! Please call Debora at (213) 229-5190 if you plan to either dive or have lunch.

**Discover Scuba Sellout**

The Discover Scuba program held on April 3 was a huge success!!! For the first time LABUE completely filled the facility at Pacific Wilderness with 15 class participants!!! The purpose of this program is to provide an introduction to a few of the fundamental concepts of scuba diving. The program is designed to give those interested attendees an opportunity to have a hands-on experience in the water using full scuba gear. For many students, this was their first time being underwater.

Instructor George Linares led the participants through the classroom discussion and the 'getting wet' pool session. He was ably assisted in the classroom administration by his wife Bettye. XL Washington, Quinal Johnson, Debora Ewing and Mike Dillard were volunteers helping in the pool session. Also, present to add support and answer impromptu questions were Joe Windolph, Steve Scruggs, Richard Rice and Bob Simmons. Leonard Lumas, Daphne King and Shannon Tanner were also available in a supporting role. A special thanks goes out to Leonard who made arrangements for several youth and adults from the Agape Church to participate. Following are a few photos from the most successful Discover Scuba program to date.



**Thank You**

"Thank You"...goes out to each and every one of my buddies for your support and assistance. We had a nice turnout for this year's DISCOVER SCUBA-the largest participation in LABUE's history-15 with 13 club members at pool side to help cheer them on. We had a successful day-two participants-also club members-have committed to training. I want you all to know that you and your efforts are appreciated.

George Linares

**Calendar of Events**

**MARCH**

- 06 Beach Dive
- 09 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 20 Catalina Boat Dive on the Island Time
- 23 6:30 PM – Board Meeting

**APRIL**

- 03 Discover Scuba
- 04 Beach Dive—La Jolla Shores (San Diego)
- 10 Easter Egg Hunt Boat Dive on the Bottom Scratcher
- 13 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 25 Rips, Rocks & Reefs
- 27 6:30 PM – Board Meeting

**MAY**

- 01 Beach Dive—Casino Point (Catalina Island)
- 05 Chamber Day and Chamber Evening
- 11 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 22 Scuba Show – Long Beach
- 25 6:30 PM – Board Meeting

**JUNE**

- 08 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 20 Beach Dive—Father's Day Dive at Diver's Cove (Laguna)
- 22 6:30 PM – Board Meeting

**JULY**

- 13 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 18 Summer Event—"Juke Joint"
- 27 6:30 PM – Board Meeting

**AUGUST**

- 01 Beach Dive—Deer Creek (Malibu)
- 01 Festival at Sea – Hawaiian Islands
- 10 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 24 06:30 PM – Board Meeting

**SEPTEMBER**

- 14 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 11 Club Charter—Great Escape Boat Dive
- 28 6:30 PM – Board Meeting
- 30 Club Trip to Fiji

**OCTOBER**

- 01 Beach Dive—Refugio Santa Barbara Campout Dive
- 12 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 26 6:30 PM – Board Meeting

**NOVEMBER**

- 06 Beach Dive—Shaw's Cove
- 09 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 23 6:30 PM – Board Meeting

**DECEMBER**

- 05 Beach Dive—Redondo
- 11 Holiday Gala & Awards Banquet
- 14 7:00 PM – General Meeting

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President Robert Simmons (323) 292-8960	Vice President Donna Wilson (310) 337-1541
Treasurer Richard Rice (323) 299-3798	Secretary Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190
Denise Barker (562) 423-4974	George Linares (661) 941-1516
Steve Scruggs (310) 876-1260	

**COMMITTEES**

Membership Bettye Linares (661) 946-1516	Fundraising James Wiley (310) 477-2389
Beach Dive Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190	Boat Dive Steve Scruggs (310) 876-1260
Dive Training & Safety George Linares (661) 946-1516	Publicity & Internet Donna Wilson (310) 337-1541
Technical Diving Quinal Johnson (Interim)	
Phone: (323) 292-8960 Fax: (310) 337-1542 Email: info@labue.org Web Site: www.labue.org	

**Chamber Evening**

The hyperbaric chamber on Catalina Island is made available to all divers just in case...Everyone knows of its existence and takes comfort in this thought. What most individuals do not realize is that the Los Angeles County only partially funds the Chamber's operations. The remaining funds must come from other sources. Each year, the Reef Seekers Dive Company coordinates Chamber Day and Evening in an effort to raise money for this most important facility. LABUE participates and supports Chamber Evening. This very worthwhile fundraising effort will take place on Wednesday, May 5 at the Long Beach Aquarium. The fun evening features dinner and the raffling off of some very nice dive related items. Chamber Evening represents an opportunity for LABUE to do its share in helping to ensure that the local Chamber continues to operate. Tickets are \$75. Contact Bob for additional information and to reserve tickets.

**Easter Egg Boat Dive**

There are still spaces available on the Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup> Easter egg boat dive to Catalina Island. If you act fast you can take advantage of this once a year dive event onboard the Bottom Scratcher dive boat leaving out of Queens Wharf on Saturday morning April 10 for the all inclusive club member price of only \$70.00. This dive is a little different in that prior to the dive, golf balls (Easter eggs) are tossed into the ocean. Divers then enter the water to hunt and recover the 'eggs.' The divers whom recover these balls are awarded prizes from Pacific Wilderness. This is the second year in a row in which LABUE has participated in the Easter Egg Dive. Last year, several club members proved very adept at finding the 'eggs' and everyone had a great time. Call me at 310-334-0567 or 323-815-0099 if you are interested. LABUE Bucks are accepted.

Steve Scruggs

**Next Meeting**

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 13, and will begin at 7:00pm. These meetings are held in the Times Mirror Conference Room at the Museum of Natural History in Exposition Park. Each month the General Membership meetings provide a forum for networking among members and are always informative and very entertaining as well. Plan now to attend.

**2004 Renewal**

With the start of the new year, membership dues is now due. Everyone except lifetime members must now pay either \$30 or \$45 (individual or family memberships, respectively). Membership in LABUE offers a great value. As the club has matured, it has been able to offer substantial discounts on Boat Dives and other items. These discounts, however, are only available to members who are current with their dues. Help us all by renewing today!!!