

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

APRIL 2007

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CATALINA HYPERBARIC CHAMBER

The next General Club meeting will be a special treat to all in attendance. Karl Huggins, Program Manager for the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber Facility at the USC Wrigley Marine Science Center on Catalina Island will be the guest speaker. The presentation will provide an overview of Chamber operations and a description of what happens when a diver is brought there on an emergency basis. Most divers have a very simple idea of what the Chamber is all about, but few could really describe how it counters the effects of decompression illness. This program is designed to answer the many questions participants have about the Chamber and will be augmented with photographic illustrations.

Karl has been the Program Manager since 1992. He started diving in 1977 and has been a NAUI Instructor since 1980. He is noted for his work in decompression theory and models, which resulted in the Michigan Sea Grant (HUGI) tables and his participation in the development of the EDGE dive computer. Karl enjoys educating divers in the area of decompression (making divers more aware of the limitations of dive tables and computers) and diving safety. To that end he has given hundreds of lectures, seminars, and workshops as a featured speaker at conferences around the world. He has authored many articles and publications on decompression theory, including, most recently, "The Dynamics of Decompression Workbook," and contributing to "Dive Computers - A Consumer's Guide to History, Theory, and Performance." Karl is the 1990 recipient of the Leonard Greenstone Diving Safety Award, the DAN/Rolex Diver of the Year for 1993 and the 2004 Conrad Limbaugh Memorial Award for Scientific Diving Leadership.

The April 10 meeting will be held at the Museum of Natural History on Exposition Blvd across from USC and will begin at 7pm. Plan now to attend this very informative meeting.



President's Message by Bob Simmons

When the Board was discussing where to go for the 2007 club trip, Richard suggested that we might be ready for an Australian LiveAboard. Everyone went along on a tentative basis and we began looking into the prices. To keep things manageable and because this would be the first liveaboard for many of our members, we decided to try the 5 day-4 night package to the Great Barrier Reef and the Coral Sea. After discussing our idea with a few regular travelers, I was encouraged and so committed us to 5 cabins or 10 spots on the Spirit Of Freedom. We thought we would be doing well to fill half the boat. To the amazement of myself and the other Board members, the response was better than envisioned. We quickly exceeded 10 divers and so increased the commitment to 18 divers. Again this number was reached in a relatively short period of time. Because we were doing so well, the

Spirit of Freedom owners allowed us to charter the entire boat without any additional financial risk if I agreed to give them any unsold spaces. As of today, we have 23 confirmed deposits out of a possible 26! We are currently filling the last cabin, a quad for \$1150 (maybe less depending on the final numbers). The trip is an assured success and all of us are proud that LABUE members would support such an expensive endeavor. Many travelers are even adding on a few days in Fiji as well as Australia proper. If you are interested in joining us on this trip of a lifetime, call me immediately.



Dedicated to Expanding the Knowledge and Enjoyment of Scuba Diving among African Americans

Beach Diving by Debora Ewing

On Sunday, April 1, LABUE dove Malaga Cove (Palos Verdes). As we viewed the dive site from the Gazebo at the top of the cliff, we could see a pod of dolphin playing in the surf. One of the buddy teams saw a large horn shark, while the other buddy team saw a nice size crab. The kelp forest is starting to come back along the coast which made the dive far more interesting. The divers were Johannes Kepler, Tish Raglund, Don Costa Seawell and Carl Hutchison. As usual Johnnie Davis was on shore to render assistance if needed along with Mudada Mthuthuzeli and myself. The next beach dive will be a weekend on Catalina Island (Friday, May 11 and returning on Sunday, May 13). The actual LABUE dive will take place on Saturday, May 12 at Casino Point. I will give the first dive briefing at 9am. Members have the option of spending the weekend or just the dive day. Call me for more details.

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Boat Diving by Shannon Tanner

As Emeril Lagasse would say...Bam! There is a new boat dive schedule on the LABUE calendar. Yes, it is time for all of us to get back on the boat and into the water. LABUE is dedicated to providing our club members with boat diving opportunities throughout the year. We plan to visit some of our old favorites like The Bottom Scratcher to Catalina and include some hopefully new favorites like the Spectre, leaving out of Ventura Harbor with it's on board Jacuzzi. As we all know, diving in California is not always the clearest or the warmest but that has not stopped us. Even with those conditions, California provides some of the best diving in the world and offers kelp beds that are second to none. Additionally, we would like to increase our presence with other dive shops to get those coveted random low cost dives under \$100 to keep us all in the water. Lastly, we are always committed to listening and learning from our club members on how we can provide the best boat diving throughout the year.

Our committee is open to your suggestions and we like to hear from you. The boat dive committee is comprised of Steve Scruggs and me. Between the two of us you are in good hands. Please take the opportunity to check out the LABUE website, register as a buddy if you have not done so already and ask any questions you may have. **Boat diving is a luxury...but aren't you worth it?**

Discover Scuba

One of LABUE's most popular programs has been the annually held Discover Scuba sessions. These sessions, while not a class leading to certification, offer an insight into what scuba diving is all about. Participants are briefed on very broad concepts involved in scuba diving and are then allowed to get into a swimming pool in full dive gear to experience what diving can offer. The sessions are conducted by George Linares, a very capable dive instructor. He is ably assisted by several other certified divers to ensure that every participant is safe and has a good time. For many members, Discover Scuba represents an opportunity to share the beauty of the sport with friends or acquaintances who may eventually be interested in becoming a fully certified diver. Nothing is better than allowing a potential diver to actually breath underwater and briefly experience a wonderful new world. The session will be held on Saturday, April 28 from 9am to noon at Pacific Wilderness located in San Pedro. The fee is \$15.00. Contact Bettye Linares at (661) 946-1516 to reserve a spot and for additional information.

Australia Update

The excitement continues to grow as the time approaches for the first LABUE charter live aboard to the Great Barrier Reef and the Coral Sea off the Australian coastline. After having made several trips to the Caribbean and a previous journey to Fiji, the Board decided that there was sufficient interest to try something really different and experience world class diving in more remote regions. Although the Board initially expected and hoped to have 10 divers, the list continues to expand and so far, 23 members have paid the non-refundable \$600 deposits. The capacity of the boat is 26 and the club is now trying to fill the final cabin. To be able to successfully charter the entire yacht is an impressive statement about LABUE. The following members have signed up so far: Bob Simmons, Artie Williams, Debora Ewing, Charles Heath, Francois Desamours, Eric Sheppard, Bob Dansby, David Robinson, Johannes Kepler, Richard Rice, Sharlene Johnson, Randy Tillery, DonCosta Seawell, Akliia Chinn, Kenneth Trapp, Clifton Williams, Pat Williams, Debora Baker, Don Pilkinton, Tish Ragland, Carla Dixon, Salim Jordan and Paula White. The actual dates of the live aboard will be from October 25-29, 2007. However, several members will be taking advantage of reduced airfares and will spend 4 additional nights in Fiji prior to embarking on the Spirit of Freedom. Still others will be adding time to the end of the trip to explore the Cairns and Sydney regions of Australia. Everyone has heard about the excellent diving in the South Pacific and a few members have been fortunate enough to go there. However, nothing will compare to the fun everyone will have on a full boat charter. This trip will be very special and anyone interested should contact Bob Simmons asap. Only 3 spots remain.

Calendar of Events

Membership Renewal

The year is well underway and with it comes the time when all members need to renew their memberships to continue to receive club benefits. The annual dues of \$30 per individual and \$45 per family are the main source of revenue for LABUE and it is necessary for everyone to renew to help the club reach its goals. The amount of money involved is small and it is easy to overlook. However the club relies on these funds to continue to pay for the Museum of Natural History where the General Membership Meetings are held and other incidental expenses. Many members have already renewed. If you are one of the ones who have not submitted your renewal, the Board requests you to take time out today and submit the appropriate funds. While you are at it, all members are encouraged to register on the new club website to improve communications and make the buddy list more complete.

Museum Rules

Our club constantly receives new members and guests. These individuals could not possibly be aware of the conditions under which the Museum Of Natural History agreed to let us use one of its conference rooms. One of these conditions is that our attendees are not permitted to stop and enjoy the many exhibits available in the museum. The museum regularly charges an admittance fee to those wishing to view the attractions and facilities on display. Obviously attendees to our meeting do not have to pay this fee and, therefore are not entitled to roam about the premises. An honor system is in effect but LABUE doesn't want to abuse the privilege. Secondly, our meetings are to be conducted in a business meeting format, which do not permit children not old enough to appreciate the purpose of the meeting. Some of our attendees have unknowingly violated the terms of our agreement. For this reason, it is necessary to review these rules from time to time to ensure that we can continue to use this very fine facility in professional manner.

April 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

APRIL

- 1 Beach Dive
- 10 7:00pm General Meeting
- 24 6:30pm Board Meeting
- 28 Discover Scuba

May 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

MAY

- 2 Chamber Evening
- 8 7:00pm General Meeting
- 12 Catalina Weekend
- 22 6:30pm Board Meeting

Easter Egg Dive

The March 24th club charter Easter Egg Dive onboard the Bottom Scratcher dive boat was another sold-out success with plenty of sunshine and dozens of valuable prizes. This particular 1/2 boat charter shared with Pacific Wilderness has become a club tradition. Virtually all LABUE divers participated in the 'hunt' and many were successful in finding the 'eggs' which closely resembled golf balls. The numbered 'eggs' were exchanged onboard for prizes, valued in excess of twenty-five dollars, that were provided by Pacific Wilderness. This instant gratification came not only with the prizes but with the home cooked meals and great diving. Low water temperatures and strong currents challenged each diver's skills. Sea life was abundant during the dives at Catalina Island and, on the trip home, Captain Greg treated us to an unplanned whale watching excursion to cap-off the first of many LABUE scheduled summer boat dives. As usual on a club charter, the most fun happens during the social hours when everyone gets a chance to interact with one another. The club calendar is filled with many opportunities for local boat dives. With the summer months approaching and all the warm water trips on the horizon, it is important to

Chamber Evening

LABUE has once again committed to purchasing a table at the annual Chamber Evening event being held on May 2 this year. This event is held in conjunction with Chamber Day activities and culminates a huge fund raising effort on behalf of the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber. The Chamber receives about 1/2 of the funding needed to operate from the Los Angeles County. It is up to others to make up the difference. This vital facility is always there when needed and LABUE feels it is important for the club to do its share. The \$90 tickets include a catered 'sit-down' dinner, admission to the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach and several chances to win very valuable prizes, including regulators, dive computers and BCD's. Contact Debora Ewing to purchase your ticket and join the club in supporting our local chamber, just as we rely on others to support their local chamber all over the world just in case...