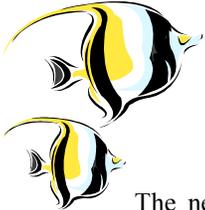


LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

AUGUST 2005

Volume 10 Issue 8



BECOMING A BETTER DIVER

The next LABUE General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 9 at the Museum of Natural History in Exposition Park, across from USC. Ken Kurtis, co-owner of Reef Seekers Dive Company, will be the guest speaker. His topic will be 'Ten Ways To Become A Better Diver.' As the title suggests, Ken will discuss several things which every individual can do to help himself become a more skilled diver. Most members will be surprised at some of the little things which they can do to improve their skills. Even though LABUE has many skilled divers, most of them achieved that status by practicing the things which Ken will discuss. The best divers are frequently those who recognize how little they really know about the sport **and** take steps to improve their knowledge and skill level.

Very few of LABUE's members know or even remember how difficult it was for our club to do so many of the things we now take for granted. Reef Seekers was there for us when we needed them the most. They have been a club sponsor (contributing a \$300 annual donation) since our sponsor program was initiated almost 10 years ago and has supported LABUE in a number of other ways as well. Reef Seekers is a first class dive store located on Wilshire Blvd, two blocks w/o La Cienega Blvd. Through the years you have probably seen Ken at various club functions. He has been a NAUI dive instructor for over 24 years with over 4000 logged dives. He is also chairman of Chamber Day, has written articles for various publications and regularly travels the world in pursuit of outstanding dive destinations. Plus, Ken is simply a good guy!!!

This meeting, which begins at 7pm, will be very informative and everyone is invited to attend. Parking is free in either of the lots off of Exposition Blvd or Menlo Ave.



President's Message

The club is on the verge of opening up the 2006 club dive trip for reservations. The destination will be Grand Cayman Island in the Cayman Island chain in the Caribbean. It currently appears that for less than \$2000 participants will be able to dive in the warm waters of one of the best places to dive in the world. Interest is high and the trip will almost certainly be a sellout. The Caymans will be ready for you but will you be ready for the Caymans? These islands have a huge variety of sea life and corals as well as some of the best wall diving in the world. Visibility is normally in the 75-150 feet range and the water temperature is reliably in the low 80's. The conditions will probably be perfect for a very enjoyable week. Nothing can spoil your week except yourself. Right now is the time to prepare for the April trip. You can start by asking yourself are you really in dive shape? When

was the last time you went diving? How is your buoyancy control? The walls are truly spectacular but they are very sheer and the bottom may be more than a 1000 feet away...buoyancy control is critical. Are you a dependant diver who relies on having a strong buddy at his side...just in case? If so, now is the time to improve those fundamental dive skills essential to your becoming an independent diver. Practice, practice, practice is really all it takes. Don't wait until you have paid a lot of money for the Cayman trip to discover that you need help. Get that help now and ensure that you will be ready for a great experience next April.



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

Beach Diving by Debora Ewing
LABUE's Beach Dive Committee has done it again! Our very own "Mr. Camp-Man", Quinal Johnson, has led the way for another successful LABUE event. The camping trip which will take place Friday through Sunday (September 30 through October 2) is now **sold out**. This is the second year in a row the camping trip has been a sell out. The next planned LABUE Beach dive will take place on Saturday, November 5 at Shaws Cove (Laguna). Shaws Cove offers a good beach dive for both the novice and the skilled diver. This site has lots of marine life out in the open water and also features a variety of creatures hiding in the cracks and crevices of the rocky reef. **Beach Divers, please don't forget about LABUE's Charter Boat dive on Saturday, September 10 aboard the Great Escape.** Please contact me at (213) 229-5190 for more information on any of the above mentioned events.

Boat Diving by Steve Scruggs

The club charter boat dive was erroneously reported being scheduled on the wrong date. The correct date is Saturday, September 10th. You will be allowed to board the Great Escape dive boat, which is located at Queen's Wharf in Long Beach, as early as Friday night September 9th after 9:00pm. The boat will depart promptly at 6:00am. The cost of the trip for club members is \$85 but two weeks before the dive we will open the boat to the public for \$95 in order to ensure a sellout. This low cost covers three dives at Catalina Island with complete meals and air refills but be sure and bring your own tanks and weights. Every year this boat dive is special because it reminds us all what LABUE is all about...friends getting together to dive. Only in a club such as ours could we ever hope to charter our own boat. Because we are a non profit organization, we can offer this day of diving aboard one of the premier dive boats in Southern California for 30-40% less than local dive shops. If you have never experienced the camaraderie which happens when LABUE charts its own boat, you are missing something special. Everyone is invited, but don't hesitate, this boat will surely sell out. Send your money to the club address on your newsletter as soon as possible or pay at the next club meeting on August 9th. Call me at 310-795-0851 if you have any questions.

LABUE Fish Fry

Join **The Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers (LABUE)** on **Sunday, August 21st** for the club's Summer Fish Fry. The location is **Veteran's Park**, Redondo Beach (Esplanade and Catalina). The event is from 1pm-5pm with food being served from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Under the direction of "**Louisiana Catfish**" owner, Ben King is preparing a fabulous fish fry with Red Snapper, Catfish and Shrimp—the meal will be filling and tasty. New this year will be games designed to introduce everyone and help make non-club members feel welcome. Tickets are now on sale for \$15 (\$5 with your LABUE Bucks). If you plan to eat on Sunday, August 21st, plan to eat at the LABUE Fish Fry, or stop by and take a plate with you. Enjoy Red Snapper, Catfish and/or Shrimp, potato salad, coleslaw, soda and desert. Play dominos, bid whist...or just enjoy the company. **Since we are at a public park, No meals can be sold the day of the event** so purchase your tickets early, please contact Donna for more information (310) 337-1541. You can pick up tickets at the August 9th Membership meeting or mail your check to LABUE, 10736 Jefferson Boulevard, #428, Culver City, CA 90230 and we'll get the tickets to you

Dive Camp Weekend Sold Out

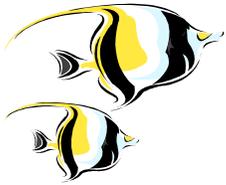
This year's Dive Camp Weekend is completely sold out. Due to the large demand, LABUE was able to secure space for a couple of additional campers. However, those spots were sold immediately and there is no more room. From Friday, September 30 through Sunday, October 2, 2005, LABUE's second Dive and Camp Weekend will take place at Refugio (Santa Barbara). This event will also incorporate the regular October monthly beach dive on Saturday at Refugio, in conjunction with the planned weekend activities. Attendees will be treated to a sumptuous dinner at a nearby ranch followed by a humorous play (a murder mystery) in the local theater. Quinal Johnson is the organizer of this event. Those who attended this sold out event last year found the dive & camp weekend to be a real treat. Sitting around moonlit campfires with friends makes this getaway truly special. For those who have not made a reservation, it is too late this time. However, be ready when the event is offered again next year.

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
Sharlene Johnson (310) 915-3931	George Linares (661) 941-1516
Steve Scruggs (310) 876-1260	

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Beach Dive Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190	Boat Dive Steve Scruggs (310) 876-1260
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Calendar of Events

AUGUST

- 07 Beach Dive—Wood Cove
- 09 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 21 Fish Fry
- 23 Board Meeting

SEPTEMBER

- 13 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 10 Charter Boat Dive
- 27 Board Meeting
- 30 Beach Dive and Camping

OCTOBER

- 11 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 25 Board Meeting

NOVEMBER

- 05 Beach Dive—Shaw’s Cove
- 08 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 19 Boat Dive
- 22 Board Meeting

DECEMBER

- 04 Beach Dive—Divers Cove
- 13 7:00 PM – General Meeting

RLS & ASSOCIATES

**ROBERT L. SIMMONS
LABUE MEMBER**

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