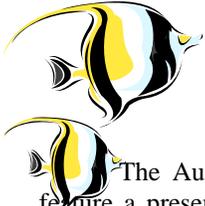


LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

August 2006

Volume 11 Issue 8



KELP RESTORATION PROJECT

The August 8 general club meeting will feature a presentation by Tom Ford, Director of the Kelp Restoration Project created by the Santa Monica Baykeeper organization. The meeting will be held at the Natural History Museum located in Exposition Park, across from USC. The giant kelp beds off of southern California are the second most biodiverse communities known to exist in the world's oceans. Only tropical coral reefs contain a wider array of life than these kelp beds. Fully one-fourth of California marine organisms depend on the kelp forests at some part of their life history. The survival of the threatened bocaccio, giant black sea bass, the few remaining sea otters and entire industries are dependant on large, stable kelp beds. Yet kelp beds continue to face numerous threats. Giant kelp canopies in Santa Monica Bay have been reduced by approximately 70% over the past one hundred years. Once colonizing great expanses of hard substrates and some areas of sandy bottom, these ocean forests now lay in patches, mere remnants of their historic selves. Too many sea urchins, coastal development, pollution, and El Niño events have contributed to the decline in California's magnificent kelp forests. The over harvest of key sea urchin predators within kelp beds namely the southern sea otter, California spiny lobster and California sheephead has destabilized the kelp ecosystem. The Santa Monica Baykeeper established the Kelp Restoration and Monitoring Project in 1996. The challenges of restoring and monitoring this building block of a healthy California ocean community are met through a combination of fieldwork, community action and education. Tom Ford is the Director of the effort being made to restore the kelp beds which are so vital to a healthy environment. His presentation will include video aids and is sure to be of interest to all divers. He will also explain the opportunities available to all divers to become involved in this project. The meeting will begin at 7pm.



President's Message

Every two years our ByLaws mandate that elections be held for all Board positions. The elections are held in the even numbered years. The Bylaws specify that the elections be conducted by an individual named as the Nominations' Committee Chairperson. Don-Costa Seawell has agreed to serve as that individual for this year's elections which will be held in November of this year. This Newsletter article is the official notification to all club members that the election process is commenced immediately.

The Bylaws further mandate that Nomination Forms shall be distributed at the August General Membership Meeting. Anyone interested in running for one of the Board positions must complete the Nomination Form and submit it to DonCosta Seawell by September 30, 2006. It is not possible to nominate anyone but yourself.

The Bylaws contain all of the de-

tails regarding eligibility to run for a Board position and members are referred to the LABUE website to review these details. I will mention, however, that the Bylaws require that all candidates be club members for the two full years preceding the election year and that they have served on at least one committee for one year. The Nominating Committee will verify that all requirements are satisfied. The Board of Directors of our club is at the heart of all club decisions and activities. I encourage all members to seriously consider becoming more involved by running for the Board.



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

Beach Dive by Debora Ewing

This year we'll be going to Catalina Island on Friday, September 29 and returning on Sunday, October 1. The hotel we're using this year is the Seaport Village Inn. Call 800-222-8254 (and mention LABUE dive club when making reservations). The price will include round trip sea passage, shuttle and two nights accommodations with breakfast each morning. For those of you coming up for Saturday only, we plan to dive at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. We plan to have lunch @ 1:00 p.m. Don't forget to let me know if you plan to attend so that I can include you in any meal reservations. Once I have the names of those in attendance, I'll contact you to find out whether you'll be joining the group for dinner on Friday and/or lunch on Saturday. Should anyone have any questions, please contact me at (213) 229-5190.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|---|--|
| President Robert Simmons (323) 292-8960 | Vice President Francois Desamours (310) 412-8128 |
| 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 | |

COMMITTEES

| | |
|--|--|
| Membership Bettye Linares (661) 946-1516 | Ways & Means Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190 |
| Beach Dive Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190 | Boat Dive Steve Scruggs (310) 876-1260 |
| Dive Training & Safety George Linares (661) 946-1516 | Publicity & Internet Francois Desamours (310) 412-8128 |
| Ad/Spec/Tech Quinal Johnson (562) 929-4977 | |
| Phone: (323) 292-8960 Fax: (310) 337-1542 Email: info@labue.org Web Site: www.labue.org | |

LABUE Charter Boat Dive by Steve Scruggs

On Saturday September 9th LABUE dive club will charter The Great Escape dive boat for the annual club charter to Catalina Island. The largest and finest dive boat in Southern California will be reserved exclusively for LABUE dive club with three dives and all the food and air you can take in. We have been annually chartering The Great Escape for several years and this particular dive is always a lot of fun...both in the water and out. Boarding will be available after 10:00pm on Friday night. The cost is only \$75.00 with an additional \$10.00 off for your LABUE Bucks. This is half the regular retail price of this trip and is a reflection of the success LABUE has enjoyed thanks to the support of its membership. More importantly, it is also meant as an incentive to get out and dive. Don't pass up this opportunity to have fun and support the club at the same time. Sign up as soon as possible because this trip at this price will sell out quickly. Be prepared to pay at the next meeting or send your payment to the club address as soon as possible.

Call Steve at 310-795-0851 if you have any questions.

Club Fish Fry

Join LABUE on Sunday, August 27 for the club's Summer Fish Fry. The location is Ladera Park from 1pm-5pm with food being served from 2pm-4pm. Under the direction of "Louisiana Catfish," a local caterer well known for serving tasty and delicious seafood, owner Ben King is preparing a fabulous fish fry with Red Snapper, Catfish and Shrimp with the normal condiments and beverage. This affair will be a relaxing opportunity to get together with friends on a lazy Sunday afternoon. There will be card games, dominoes, bid whist...or just enjoy the company. Tickets are now on sale for \$15 (\$5 with your LABUE Bucks). So if you plan to eat on Sunday, August 27, plan to eat at the LABUE Fish Fry, or stop by and take a plate with you.

This year we encourage and challenge the entire membership to not only join us at the Fish Fry, but to sell a few tickets as well! So don't just bring a family member...bring a friend or two to this wonderful opportunity of fellowship and friendship.

Since we are at a public park, no meals can be sold the day of the event. Therefore, to purchase your tickets early and get tickets to sell to friends, please contact Francois for more information (310) 412-8128. You can pick up tickets at the July 11 Membership meeting or mail your check to LABUE, 10736 Jefferson Boulevard, #428, Culver City, CA 90230 and we'll get the tickets to you.



Calendar of Events

LABUE BUCKS

Several factors which have occurred this year have caused a delay in the distribution of LABUE Bucks to some of those qualified to receive them. The Club policy is to issue the \$10 certificates to the first 50 club members renewing prior to April 1 of each year. Unfortunately many members who are entitled to the 'Bucks' have not received them. This problem is being remedied and the certificates will be distributed to those members whom have not received them in a relatively short time frame. In recognition of this problem, the deadline for use of the LABUE Bucks has been extended to include **2007** instead of the normal December 31, 2006 deadline. Thank you for your patience.

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.

AUGUST

- 6 Beach Dive
- 8 7:00PM - General Meeting
- 22 6:30PM - Board Meeting
- 27 Fish Fry

SEPTEMBER

- 9 LABUE Charter Boat Dive
- 10 7:00PM - General Meeting
- 26 6:30PM - Board Meeting

OCTOBER

- 7 Beach Dive
- 10 7:00PM - General Meeting
- 24 6:30PM - Board Meeting

August 2006

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
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September 2006

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October 2006

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| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

Chamber Donation

LABUE has developed several goals and objectives as a club. One of these objectives is to support the surrounding dive community in worthwhile endeavors. One such endeavor is contributing to the Catalina Island Hyperbaric Chamber. The LA County provides about half of the funds needed to keep the Chamber functioning. The remaining funds must be generated from other sources. LABUE regularly attends the annual Chamber Evening event which raises over \$100,000 for the Chamber. The club was not able to purchase a table at this year's dinner yet would still like to make a contribution to this vital facility. Therefore, members are asked to contribute a financial donation of any amount to this cause. The club is currently collecting funds from the membership and will add an additional amount which will be given to the Chamber. LABUE believes that it has a responsibility to support 'our' Chamber, just like we rely on communities around the world to support their local chamber which would be available to us should it be necessary. This donation is tax deductible and is certainly for a worthy cause. We will be collecting funds through the August General Membership Meeting and will make a presentation to the Chamber immediately following. Any contribution of any amount is appreciated.

New Website

Francois Desamours, LABUE Vice President, has been working to update the club website. The new site is now up and running. Although the site is 'Up,' it is still under construction and many links are not operative at this time. Additional features will be rolled out in the very near future. In the meantime all members are urged to register and complete profiles for inclusion on the site. The registration process only takes a few minutes and will be useful in a number of ways, including facilitating buddy diving. In the long haul, the new site will permit LABUE to take full advantage of the many electronic technologies currently available and become more efficient in the process. The site address remains the same: www.labue.org.