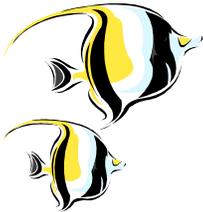


LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

August 2008

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CLUB CHARTER NOW OPEN



The LABUE Board of Directors recently announced that the 2008 club charter boat dive to the front side of Catalina is now open for reservations. Each year the club charts The Great Escape for a day of fun and camaraderie among members and non members alike. This year's dive is scheduled for September 13. The actual dive site will be selected on the day of the dive depending on the conditions.

As always, the first ten club members choosing to participate will receive a substantial discount. The regular price to visit Catalina Island on The Great Escape is \$145.00. For the club charter, the first ten club members may secure a spot for \$95.00. After those spots are exhausted, the remaining spots will be sold at \$125.00. The price includes food and air refills as well as the fuel surcharge currently being charged by all dive boats. The club will hold ten spots for members at the lowest rate until August 15. After that date, all spots will be available for purchase at \$125.00. Shared state rooms are available for \$20 per cabin.

Reservations may be purchased at the August 12 club meeting. In addition, payments may be mailed to the LABUE, PO Box 90069, LA 90009 or to 3978 S. Cloverdale Ave, LA, 90008. Don-Costa Seawell, Boat Dive Committee Chairperson, coordinating this event and may be reached for further information at 909 593-1877.

The annual club charter is always a lot of fun. Boat diving with so many club members is rewarding in itself and reminds us all of why we belong to a dive club. The Great Escape is considered one of the premier dive boats in Southern California and is known for its great food and service. The diving conditions and weather the past few weeks have been excellent. Reservations will be accepted on a first come-first served basis.

President's Message by Bob Simmons

Just a few thoughts...

Club Elections will be held in November of this year. A nominating committee will be nominated shortly and all eligible members (see By-Laws) can compete for the leadership positions in LABUE. Perhaps it is now time for you to get more involved and help make LABUE even better.

Charter Boat Dives have become an annual club activity. We will once again be aboard The Great Escape on September 13. The reduced price of the boat to members more than covers the annual dues. Membership definitely has its privileges.

Discover Scuba is a real opportunity for you to expose your friends to scuba diving and how much fun it can be. The next session will be on September 27. Tell your friends and invite them to an informative and fun event designed to 'make it real.'

Club Trips offer a chance for all to enjoy an exotic land with excellent scuba diving. Next year's destination will soon be announced and it

will be somewhere in the South Pacific. As President of our club, I take a personal responsibility to ensure that all of our trip locations potentially offer the best in diving experiences. The final decision on our locations is made by a Board consensus. Prior to making that decision, the Board considers a variety of opinions from very experienced and well traveled divers and travel agents whom have made several trips to the locations being considered. It should be comforting for members to know that a lot of thought goes into selecting a dive location and that excellent diving is the overriding factor in our decision along with value for your money.



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

General Membership Meeting

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 12, 2008, at The Museum Of Natural History on Exposition Blvd across from USC. It will begin at 7:00pm. The meeting will feature updates on club activities, including the club trip for 2009. It will also be one of the last chances to purchase a spot at a greatly reduced rate for our September 13 dive charter to Catalina Island aboard The Great Escape. The first ten club members to sign up can purchase a spot for the reduced rate of \$95.00, including food, air fills and fuel surcharge. Non-members are being offered spots for \$125.00. Members not purchasing a spot by August 15 may still do so but at the \$125.00 price on a first come, first served basis. The normal Great Escape price is \$145.00. Contact DonCosta Seawell at (909) 593-1877 or any Board member for information and to make payments.

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 (310) 284-4556
Sharlene Johnson (310) 915-3931	DonCosta Seawell (909) 953-1877

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Wonderful California Beach Dives by Debora Ewing

The July Beach Dive took place at Malaga cove (Palos Verdes). California beach diving just doesn't get better than this one! LABUE held a dive during the month of July on Sunday, July 20th. Normally, due to the 4th of July holiday, dives simply are not scheduled in July. The Beach Dive Committee decided to venture outside of its box and try something different. This dive not only took place in July but the meeting time was 11:30 a.m. (as opposed to the more normal 8:00am) which worked well since high tide was around noon. The water temperature was a toasty 68. The visibility was an unbelievable 15-20 feet with no surf. There were many sightings of legal sized lobsters and some were half way out of their holes. When we thought we'd seen all the lobsters that we were going to see we hit the jackpot! One large rock contained 10-15 large lobsters. There were also horn sharks, garibaldi and a very large ray was seen as well. The kelp forest has grown back thick and healthy. The divers who participated were as follows: myself, Sharlene Johnson, Tish Raglund, Ed Persley and Richard Rice. On the shore we had Bryant Turner and his lovely daughter along with regular beach diver Carlton Jordan. Everyone had a great day. *Shaws cove was the site of our August beach dive:* This dive took place on Sunday, August 3 at 2:00 p.m. Once again we had picture perfect conditions. It was such a nice day that we had to compete for parking with the regular beach goers. The sea creatures were out in full force. Large crab were out and about. Lobsters could also be seen hiding. There were plenty of garibaldi to feed and a halibut or two was also sited. For the second time in two days, a large ray was again seen. The divers who participated were myself, Carlton Jordan, Bryant Turner, Tony Linton, Mike Dillard, Carl Hutchinson, and Richard Rice. On the shore we had Carl's wife Theresa, Johnnie Davis and Elizabeth Singleton, who happens to be my Grandmother. Once again, everyone really enjoyed themselves and had a great day. *September...* LABUE's annual full charter boat dive to Catalina Island will take place on Saturday, September 13 aboard the Great Escape. Space is limited and members are encouraged to act now to secure the lowest possible price (\$95).

Discover Scuba 2

Once again, LABUE will be sponsoring a Discover Scuba Program in which participants are introduced to the basic concepts of scuba diving and are allowed to try on full scuba gear and perform a controlled dive under the supervision of George Linares, a certified instructor. This introductory session will be held in the classroom at Pacific Wilderness in San Pedro on September 27, 2008, from 9am until noon. The supervised dive is held at their pool at the same location. This will be the second session held this year and was arranged by popular demand. The price remains at \$15. Participants are required to bring swim suits and a towel. Scuba gear is provided courtesy of Pacific Wilderness. It is noted that everyone must already know how to swim. The purpose of Discover Scuba is to give interested applicants a glimpse into the beautiful underwater world and to provide a general introduction into the topics fully covered in a regular certification program. This will be the second year in a row in which two sessions were scheduled. In addition to instructor George Linares, and his wife, Bettye, who coordinates the activities, several club members are also in attendance to help out as needed. All in all, Discover Scuba is a great way to expose folks to diving as well as to get acquainted with club members, many of whom started out by attending a similar program. Contact Bettye Linares at (661) 729-6626 to reserve a space in this year's program.



MEMORIES OF BELIZE — 2008



SPOTLIGHT

By Debora Ewing

INTERVIEW OF BETTYE LINARES

1. **What Influenced you to get into diving?** A curiosity of what's down below. I still continue to dive for this reason. However, scuba diving is relaxing, soothing and just darn good fun - but - **most importantly**, whenever I do dive, I do so *in order to continue to dive to 'keep up my skills!*
2. **What do you enjoy most about LABUE?** In 1996, I began to attend club meetings because the club's activities were so organized and planned so much in advance to allow me to arrange my own dive schedule. In 1997, I joined LABUE because it continued to be very organized, good communication with the membership, fun dive activities (locally and abroad) as well as social affairs; and, *the commaraderie* proved to be the 'reason' I kept wanting to return and participate.
3. **Is there anything you would like to LABUE offer more of?** It would be wonderful if the club could resume its annual Holiday dressy affair.
4. **What is your occupation away from diving? How did you get into this field? Thirty years ago did you foresee yourself doing what you currently do for a living?** My current professional job assignment is with L.A. County's Sheriff's Dept. at the Palmdale Station. I'm one of several Secretariats - aka - Sheriff Clerk. After a 30 yr career in the private sector with Robinsons-May as an Executive Administrative Assistant in the Men's Buying Offices and our doors closing due to a corporate buy-out, I decided to become a permanent County employee after accepting a temporary job assignment with the County last year in their Human Resources Department. So far, I'm glad I did. Of course, 30 yrs ago, I had no foreseeable idea I would work for Robinsons-May for as long as I did; nor, not to currently be working for them. I actually liked working for that corporation and they provided wonderful benefits and perks.
5. **If you had the chance to change anything about your life to date, what would that change be?** I would have graduated from Cal State L.A. in the late-80s or early-90s and not gone on a 'break' which I'm still on.
6. **What dive trip would you most like to participate in?** I regret not being able to participate in the club's last trip which was the liveaboard. That total trip would have been a jewel of a number of log entries.
7. **What other hobbies do you enjoy?** Gardening, decorating and keeping my home organized, and shopping, of course.

**Reminders:**

- ** **General Membership Meeting—8/12/08**
- ** **Club Dive Charter—9/13/08**
- ** **Discover Scuba 2—9/27/08**