

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

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AUSTRALIAN LIVEBOARD OPENS

As previously announced, \$600 deposits are now being accepted for next year's LABUE club trip which will be a 5 day-4 night liveboard adventure on the Spirit of Freedom to Australia's Coral Sea and Great Barrier Reef region. This luxurious 120' vessel will depart from Lizard Island after a brief flight from Cairns, Australia on October 25, 2007 and return on the 29th. LABUE has chartered the entire boat for 22 lucky divers (potentially 26 depending on the configuration) whom are the first to submit their deposits. The exact cost of the liveboard is still being negotiated and, upon request, anyone submitting a deposit will receive a full refund once the final prices for the boat are announced. The order in which the deposits are received establishes a priority list for room requests and roommates. The prices for the liveboard are expected to range from \$1200 - \$1600 plus applicable taxes and local fees. Airfare from LAX is not included, although LABUE will offer flight arrangements for anyone participating. In addition, a 4 day-3 night pre trip to Fiji with diving in the Bega Lagoon is also being arranged as an optional add-on. Finally, for those interested in sightseeing in Australia following the liveboard, the club will also offer a suggested land package designed to expose participants to some of the many highlights of Australia. Airfare from LAX to Australia, with a stopover in Fiji, is expected to be approximately \$1500. Laying over in Fiji does not add much, if anything, to the cost of the air from LA. The Hotel in Fiji would be extra. This trip will feature the best of the diving in the Coral Sea and the Great Barrier Reef area. It is usually possible to get in as many as 12-16 dives during the 5 day span. Because of the anticipated high demand, members are advised to submit their deposits as soon as possible. Several checks have already been received and more are expected at the December 12th General Membership Meeting..



President's Message

The biannual club elections were held in November. The following individuals were reelected: Myself-President, Francois Desamours-Vice President, Richard Rice-Treasurer, Debora Ewing-Secretary, George Linares-At large and Sharlene Johnson-At large. Lastly, Shannon Tanner was newly elected to the Board to fill the At large vacancy created by the Steve Scruggs who moved to Tennessee. The new Board will officially convene on the 4th Tuesday of January 2007. I look forward to continuing to work with the reelected members and welcome Shannon whose experience in the private sector will be very useful. Shannon will also chair the Boat Dive Committee.

For those unaware, Steve Scruggs recently retired from Raytheon and decided to return to his home of Knoxville Tennessee, where he will continue to be a LABUE member. Steve has had

many responsibilities on the Board over the years. He regularly wrote articles for LABUE NEWS. His unique style will still appear from time to time. He was also chairperson of several of our very successful Holiday functions. His primary Board function, however, was as Chairperson of the Boat Dive Committee. Thanks to Steve, our boat dive program became very well organized. It was also at his insistence that most of our boat dives are offered at 'below' cost prices. All of us wish Steve well and he will certainly be missed.

Bob Simmons



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

Beach Dive by Debora Ewing

On Sunday, December 3 we dove Shaw's Cove (Laguna). The conditions were simply amazing. There was very little surf and visibility was at least 17'. The water temperature was 61 degrees and the air temperature was in the 70s. Needless to say the divers had a great time. Among the cast of characters that appeared beneath the sea were bass, octopus, moray eels, garibaldi and numerous starfish. Since there was very little surge the divers were able to make their way towards Crescent Bay. In attendance were myself, Tish Raglund, Richard Rice, Johannes Kepler and Calvin Gipson. As usual Johnnie Davis was on shore to render assistance if needed. The next dive will take place on Saturday, January 6 at Veterans Park (Redondo). George Linares will give the dive briefing at 8:00 a.m. Please bring plenty of quarters because there is metered parking only at this site. This site does feature restrooms and showers.

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	

New Website

Francois Desamours, LABUE Vice President, has continued to develop the club's new website. The latest feature being worked on is the LABUE store. When completed, viewers will be able to purchase LABUE merchandise directly from the website. Since purchasing items thru the internet has become a worldwide fact, LABUE decided to join in and make it's line of merchandise available to anyone interested. This feature will be especially useful to those members unable to make the regular club meetings, particularly those members who do live in the Los Angeles area. The initial offering will be the newest club caps and polo shirts. The club is currently developing a jacket, complete with logo. This jacket will also be available from the website. As time passes, additional items will be added. Periodically check out the site as it is constantly changing.

On another note, members are reminded to register on the club Website. The process is very simple and will help everyone stay in contact with each other. If anyone is having trouble completing the registration process, please contact Francois at (310) 412-8128.

Next Meeting

The next club meeting will be on Tuesday, December 12 at the Museum of Natural History located on Exposition Blvd across from USC. This holiday meeting will be different from our regularly structured meetings. The business portion will be very short and almost the entire time will be dedicated to everyone having fun and getting to know each other a little better. As everyone has been reminded a couple of times in the last few weeks, we will play the 'Steal-A-Gift' game in which everyone is asked to bring a wrapped gift, valued between \$15 and \$35. After having been randomly assigned a number, participants will open the wrapped gift of their choice. After all gifts are opened, members will be able to 'steal-a-gift' from someone who may have a better gift than the one originally selected by each member. After a defined number of rounds, you get to (or have to) keep the gift you end up with. This game is always a lot of fun. Please bring a gift that you would not mind receiving. Following the game, Bettye has promised a special meal for everyone in attendance. Different from our usual 'chips & dips,' the refreshments will definitely be significantly upscale. Members may also sign up for the 2007 Australian LiveA-Board by leaving a \$600 deposit. LABUE has chartered the entire 120' Spirit of Freedom' vessel. Since the space is limited to 22 members, it is important for members to make a deposit early.

Ad/Spec/Tech Committee

Dive Master Quinal Johnson, Chairman of the Adventure/Specialty/Technical Committee (Ad/Spec/Tech) is planning the calendar for 2007 and beyond. He is seeking members interested in helping to develop the program to appeal to the more highly skilled divers looking for more challenging dive opportunities. The ultimate goal is to schedule a special trip to Florida to dive many of the fabulous wrecks located in the region. For more information, please contact Quinal at (562) 929-4977.

Catalina Chamber Donation

A few months ago the call went out to LABUE members to contribute to the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber. The goal was for the club to donate \$500 to help support this very important facility. Congratulations are due to all who contributed. Thanks to these contributions, LABUE reached its goal and recently sent a \$500 check to Karl Huggins, Program Director of the Chamber.

2007 Dues

Everyone's renewal dues of either \$30 or \$45 (individual or family membership) is now due for 2008. LABUE has reduced costs through the years and, as a result, has managed to maintain the same dues structure for the past 10 years. In order for the club to continue in its efforts and program, members must fulfill their responsibility to renew. Bettye Linares, chairperson of the Membership Committee reminds everyone to do their share and help support the club.

Museum Rules

New members and guests regular attend LABUE meetings. These individuals cannot possibly be aware of the conditions under which the Museum Of Natural History agreed to let us use its largest conference room. One of these conditions is that our attendees are not permitted to stop and view 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 of our meetings do not have to pay this fee and, therefore are not entitled to roam about the premises. An honor system is in effect and LABUE doesn't want to abuse the privilege. Secondly, our meetings are to be conducted in a business meeting format, which does not permit children not old enough to appreciate the purpose of the meeting to attend. 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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

<u>Reminders:</u>	** General Membership Meeting—12/12/06
	** Veteran's Park Beach Dive—1/09/07
	** Australian Liveboard—10/25/07