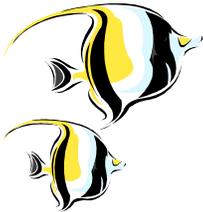


LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

December 2007

Volume 12 Issue 12



ANOTHER GREAT YEAR !!!



Soon 2007 will be history and all that are left are the memories. The regular programs continued as expected. However, three club activities should receive special recognition. The **Discover Scuba Program** has always been a club mainstay. Nevertheless, 2007 was special. Through the combined efforts of many club members and the generosity of Pacific Wilderness, Discover Scuba reach new heights in that the session held in April was an overwhelming success with more than 20 members and guests participating. Because of this success, the club decided to offer a second Program a few months later. Once again, the turnout was unusually high. George and Bettye Linares deserve much of the credit for making the program so successful and deserve special recognition for their efforts. Also, many club members (too numerous to name here) have regularly contributed their time both in and out of the water to help with the logistics. The **Beach Dive Program** is another example of a long standing program that achieved new heights this past year. In earlier years, attendance was very sparse and sporadic. Thanks to the continuous and consistent efforts of the Beach Dive Committee, chaired by Debora Ewing, attendance at all beach dives is regularly in the 10-20 diver range. Kudos to the Beach Dive Committee. Lastly, the fact that LABUE was able to fully **Charter a luxury Live Aboard yacht to Australia's** world famous Great Barrier and Osprey Reefs is another extraordinary achievement. Those who participated became part of history and had a great time in the process. It took many willing participants to make this happen and, as a result, LABUE now has no limits in terms of dive and travel opportunities anywhere in the world. LABUE has much to be thankful for this pass year and looks forward with anticipation to an equally successful 2008.

President's Message By Bob Simmons

While relaxing in lounge chairs on the top deck of the Spirit of Freedom luxury live aboard vessel with my longtime friend, Richard Rice, and enjoying the majesty of the South Pacific's scenery as we silently glided over the calm seas headed to our next dive spot in the famed Australian Osprey Reef, I asked him if he ever thought about how lucky all of us were to be able to enjoy such an exotic atmosphere. He indicated that he had indeed reflected on how fortunate we all were. Yes, a lot of hard work was involved, and yes, sacrifices had been made to make the entire trip possible. However, it is incumbent upon all of us to be thankful for the life styles that we are living which allow us to enjoy a sport such as scuba diving in truly memorable locales. Everyone in the club has 'issues' of some sort or another. Nevertheless, we sometimes fail to put things in perspective. No matter what the 'issues' may be, the fact

remains that we have been blessed to be able to enjoy our lives at a very high level. We are also blessed to have each other to share our experiences with. LABUE is a successful club because of its members. And, because of these members as a whole, we are all much better off individually. As we move through the Holiday Season, I encourage each of you to take a few quiet minutes to reflect on how lucky you are and be thankful.

Have a **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

Bob Simmons



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

Beach Dives by Debora Ewing**Redondo Beach (Navigational Skills)**

— This dive will take place on Saturday, January 5. This dive site is good for all skill levels as one can stay in the shallows or venture deep into the submarine canyon. George will give the dive briefing at 8:30 a.m. and he will also work with divers on their navigational skills. Many divers are looking for inexpensive ways to improve their skills and beach dives are the perfect answer. One can participate knowing that there will be someone willing to help out. Please bring plenty of quarters as this site has parking meters. You will also find showers and restrooms here. As usual, after the dive(s) the group will go to a local restaurant for lunch. If you're interested in signing up for this beach dive, contact me at 310-284-4556 or 909-240-7022.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Robert Simmons (323) 292-8960	Vice President Francois Desamours (703) 722-2142
Treasurer Richard Rice (323) 299-3798	Secretary Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190
Sharlene Johnson (310) 915-3931	Shannon Tanner (818) 992-7902

COMMITTEES

Membership Bettye Linares (661) 946-1516	Ways & Means Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190
Beach Dive Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190	Boat Dive Shannon Tanner (818) 992-7902
Dive Training & Safety	Publicity & Internet Francois Desamours (703) 722-2142

Ad/Spec/Tech

Phone: (323) 292-8960
 Fax: (310) 337-1542
 Email: info@labue.org
 Web Site: www.labue.org

Next Meeting

The next LABUE General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 11, 2007, at the Museum of Natural History on Exposition Blvd across from USC. This will be a special Holiday Meeting and the regular agenda will be replaced with gift exchanges, door prizes, socializing and good food. The highlight of the evening will be the Steal-A-Gift activity (see the adjacent article). In this fun challenge, one soon finds that it is not who laughs first that always has the last laugh. In addition, many members have donated useful door prizes. These prizes will be given away free during the evening to lucky attendees. A special food fare has been ordered from Simply Wholesome Restaurant to make sure that everyone has tasty tidbits to enjoy during the festivities. This 'meeting' is always a lot of fun and reminds us all of how much we enjoy each other's company. On this occasion, the club members are the stars of the show. The fun will begin at 7:00pm.

Chamber Evening

Each year a fund raiser is held on behalf of the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber. Since all divers rely on these chamber facilities to be available wherever we may be diving around the world, it is our responsibility to help ensure that our 'own' chamber is there and properly maintained...just in case. LABUE proudly supports Chamber Evening by purchasing a table for this dinner event. Major dive related gifts (regulators, computers, fins, dive bags etc.) are raffled off to lucky attendees. Anyone interested in participating in this year's event, which will be held on May 7, 2008, may reserve a spot for a non refundable deposit of \$20. In addition, anyone reserving a spot and paying for it by February 29 will also receive a \$10 LABUE Bucks certificate. By accepting reservations early in the process, LABUE will be better able to determine the exact number of tickets to confirm.

LABUE in Australia 2007**Steal A Gift**

Last year the club had a 'Steal A Gift' activity during its Christmas meeting. It was so much fun and so well received, that it has been decided to repeat everything this year. The 'Steal A Gift' will again be held at the club meeting in December. Basically, all participants are asked to bring a gift costing in the \$25 price range. One by one, each participant is allowed to 'steal' a desired gift currently being held by someone else. After a few rounds, all of the more desirable gifts have changed hands several times before a final round is conducted. The gift each participant has in his possession at the conclusion of the game is his to keep. This a fun game and the more participants there are, the more fun everyone has. Get your gift, wrap it, and bring it to the December meeting.

SPOTLIGHT By Debora Ewing

INTERVIEW OF JOHNNIE DAVIS

Johnnie is a dedicated LABUE member. At most of LABUE's beach dives, you will find her on the beach in the capacity of Shore Support!

Where were you born? Jackson, Mississippi

What is your profession? Accounts Receivables Clerk

What are your thoughts on so many women now participating in what was once considered a male dominated sport? I think that's very cool, it's nice seeing women getting into the sport and not thinking about their hair.

Although you're a non-diver, how is it that you're so reliable? (i.e., I can only remember you missing one meeting in 10 years and maybe one beach dive). My grandmother always told me that if I am to do something, do it to the best of my ability or leave it alone.

Although you do not scuba dive you do enjoy snorkeling. What is your most memorable snorkeling site and why? Curacao; the fish in the shallows are really neat. In addition, the city offered a lot of sightseeing.

What do you like most about LABUE? The camaraderie and friendliness of the people. Everyone is so nice and the club is a lot of fun.

Is there anything you would like to see LABUE do in the future that is currently not being done? I would like to see the Christmas Dinner Dance and Awards Ceremony return as an annual event.

What is your favorite LABUE activity? The summer fundraisers. At the summer fundraisers you are able to see a large variety of people. I also enjoy helping out at this activity; therefore, it didn't seem like work.

Which California beach do you enjoy most? Crescent Bay because it has restrooms and a large sandy beach area.

Tell me something that our readers would be surprised to learn about you? I have 15 grand and great-grand children.

If you could live your life over again, what would you do differently? I wouldn't change a thing!

