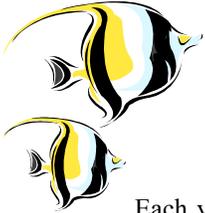


LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

FEBRUARY 2005

Volume 10 Issue 2



CATALINA BEACH DIVE

Each year LABUE schedules its largest beach dive of the year to nearby Catalina Island. Many divers take Catalina for granted because of its close location. Everyone is reminded that Avalon's Underwater Park off Casino Point offers divers numerous aquatic options. A variety of geological terrain such as drop offs, steep ledges and rocky reefs can be found. Depths range from shallow recesses to beyond 100 feet and, because of the steps and underwater platform, entries and exits are particularly easy making it possible for all levels of divers to find adventure and enjoyment within this underwater park.

Several shipwrecks and a memorial to Jacques Cousteau rest within the Park's boundaries as well as a dense growth of kelp which is a habitat for numerous fish. Big kelp bass, yellow tails and sheep heads seem to swim right up to divers as if the fish know they are protected in this area. The terrain changes from steep slopes to gradual drop-offs, providing a variety of interesting formations to explore. For the advanced divers, night diving is a special experience. Each evening the nocturnal creatures such as octopus, moray eels and leopard sharks venture out into the open in the never-ending search for food. The boundary of the park, which begins in front of the breakwater and extends beyond the Casino, is roped off to local boat traffic, providing divers, swimmers and snorklers with a safe, stress free dive location.

This year the dive is scheduled for March 5. Some divers overnight on the island, making for an even more relaxing outing. The Beach Dive Committee has planned day dives open to all divers and, for advanced divers only, a twilight dive has also been scheduled. LABUE has had as many as 35 divers participate. Mark your calendars now and plan to be part of what is always a fun adventure. Contact Debora Ewing for additional information. Don't miss this one.



President's Message

Francois Desamours, has done an outstanding job in reformatting the club's website and expanding the features it offers. It is important, however, for everyone to understand the purpose of our website. The initial idea behind the development of our site was to give LABUE a presence on the web. We wanted anyone looking for a club like ours to be able to find and contact us. The Board is very pleased with the way things have turned out. It seems like at least half of the first time visitors to our meetings discovered us via our website. In this day and age, it is possible to use a website to a far greater extent than is currently our practice. Recognizing that LABUE is a voluntary organization, we have to be aware of how we use our limited number of voluntary hours. The purpose of our site is not to provide very current and 'up to date' information on club activities and events. We have all seen too many sites quickly be-

come 'dated' because of the time required to keep them current. The newsletter, which is available on the site, is designated for this purpose. The idea of our site is to acquaint viewers with our club and give them enough information to contact one of us. It is also important that we coordinate the information which appears on our site. For that reason, anyone wishing to having something added to the site should contact myself or Donna, our club VP. While the site will be updated periodically, it will always be more of an overview of our club.



Bob Simmons

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

Casino Point By Debora Ewing

Our next LABUE Beach Dive is scheduled for Saturday, March 5, 2005 at Casino Point which is the underwater park located on Catalina Island. In past years, this has been LABUE's most well attended beach dive. Bob Simmons will give the first dive briefing at 10:30 a.m. Casino Point features a convenient stair entry/exit which makes diving this location easier than any other California beach dive. Morning and afternoon dives are great for all skill levels. There will also be a twilight dive in the late afternoon. George Linares will give the twilight dive briefing at 4:00 p.m. for those advanced divers possessing night dive experience. After diving we will have lunch at a local restaurant. Join with your LABUE buddies for a day of fun on our own Island In The Sun. Please call or e-mail me to sign up for this dive at (213) 229-5190.

Easter Egg Hunt-Dive By Steve Scruggs

On March 26th LABUE will kickoff its 2005 boat dive schedule with the annual Easter Egg Hunt-dive on The Bottom Scratcher dive boat out of Queen's Wharf in Long Beach. This is a three tank dive off Catalina Island that will feature one dive where numbered golf balls (eggs) will be scattered over the side of the boat and retrieved (hunted) during the dive. All retrieved balls can then be redeemed for prizes at Pacific Wilderness Dive Shop. Come out and experience the thrill of SCUBA diving, the childhood fun of an Easter Eggs hunt and the economic reward of useful dive shop prizes, all for a great price of only \$70 which includes food and air. Bring your own tanks and weights. There are only 15 spaces available for this dive and it never fails to sell out well in advance. For those members going to the BVIs this dive is an excellent opportunity to shake off the rust and refresh your skills. So send your checks to: LABUE 10736 Jefferson Blvd #428 Culver City, Ca. 90230 Call me at 310-795-0851 if you have questions.

Next Meeting

The next club meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 8 at the Museum of Natural History on Exposition Blvd in the Times Mirror Conference Room. This meeting will feature two officers from the LAPD Underwater Dive Unit. They will discuss the very unusual activities of the UDU including evidence recovery operations and their more recent assignment to help guard against terrorist attacks. Attendees will be treated to an opportunity to inspect the specially equipped dive truck which the speakers will have on hand in the park-



ing lot. A special time will be set aside for the inspection. This meeting, which promises to be very interesting, begins at 7pm.

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	

COMMITTEES

Membership Bettye Linares (661) 946-1516	Fundraising 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
Technical Diving Quinal Johnson (562) 929-4977	
Phone: (323) 292-8960	
Fax: (310) 337-1542	
Email: info@labue.org	
Web Site: www.labue.org	

JMJ Unisex Dive Jacket for Raffle By Tina M. Houston

Thanks to LABUE member Melvin Wells for donating this XL Unisex Dive Jacket manufactured by *JMJ Manufacture, Inc.* being raffled off in three consecutive meetings. The previous 2 meetings, we've sold approximately \$130.00 worth of raffle tickets. This is the last and final month to try your luck. The jacket will be awarded at Tuesday's meeting. Who will be the lucky person to take this dapper jacket home to enjoy on their next dive adventure? The description of the jacket is as follows:

Size: Extra Large; Style: Unisex; Color: Royal Blue; Material: Denier Coated Nylon exterior; gray soft polar fleece lined interior; with 2 fleece lined exterior pockets to warm your hands and an inside chest/breast pocket for keys. Plastic zipper front, adjustable cuffs can cinch tight with Velcro closures and hood has a drawstring with barrel locks for stay put adjustment. Also, cut long for extra protection. A great coat for out on the water, after a dive or just wearing around. This Dive Jacket's manufacturers suggested retail price is (MSRP) \$149.00. This is a perfect opportunity to test your luck to win for yourself or a loved one, while getting to know your fellow LABUE members in a fun setting. In addition, Board Member and Club Sponsor Debora Ewing has donated a 4-piece Peppermint Foot Care Product Kit by Jafra as a second prize in the raffle. Members whom buy raffled tickets for the Dive Jacket will automatically be entered in the raffle for the Foot Care Kit. Two quality prizes, for the price of one raffle ticket. What a deal! Although winners need not be present to be awarded the jacket, winners must be present to win the Foot Care Kit. Remember, **You can't win, if you don't play!!!**

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

- 06 Beach Dive—Malaga Cove
08 7:00 PM – General Meeting
22 Board Meeting

MARCH

- 05 Casino Point Beach Dive
08 7:00 PM – General Meeting
22 Board Meeting
26 Easter Egg Boat Dive

APRIL

- 03 Beach Dive—Gladstones (Malibu)
12 7:00 PM – General Meeting
16 Discover Scuba
17 Island Time Boat Dive
20 Club Trip To Tortola, BVI
26 Board Meeting

MAY

- 10 7:00 PM – General Meeting
14 La Jolla Shores Beach Dive
15 Boat Dive—Yukon Wreck
22 Scuba Show
24 Board Meeting

JUNE

- 14 7:00 PM – General Meeting
18 Oil Rig Boat Dive
19 Father's Day Beach Dive
28 Board Meeting

JULY

- 12 7:00 PM – General Meeting
26 Easter Egg Boat Dive

AUGUST

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

SEPTEMBER

- 13 7:00 PM – General Meeting
17 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



Last Call for Tortola, British West Indies

Time is running out to sign up for LABUE'S ninth annual club trip to Tortola, in the beautiful British Virgin Islands. From April 20 to 28, divers and non-divers alike will enjoy spectacular Caribbean surroundings while lodging at a first class ocean front resort. The group will stay at the recently renovated Prospect Reef Resort, conveniently located a short walk from the main town of the island. The cost of the trip will depend on the room selection and current air fares. The Resort has an on-site dive operation, offers a large swimming pool and Jacuzzi, tennis courts, a nautilus fitness center, water sports, refrigerators or mini-bars and daily trips to various beaches. St. Thomas is a 30 minute ferry ride away. The most impressive aspect of visiting the BVI's is the diving and the Prospect Reef Resort is ideally located to some of the world's best dive sites. Foremost among these sites is the Wreck of the RMS Rhone which sank in a hurricane in 1867.



The Rhone is the most dived and frequently photographed wreck in the world! The package includes 5 days of two tank dives. Additional dives and night dives are also available. Don't miss out again. Contact Donna for the current prices and to reserve your spot.

2004 Renewal

With the start of the new year, membership dues is now due. Everyone except lifetime members must now pay either \$30 or \$45 (individual or family memberships, respectively). Membership in LABUE offers a great value. Once again, LABUE will give members who renew prior to April 1, a \$10 LABUE Bucks coupon. This coupon may be applied towards the purchase of LABUE Wear items, special events, boat dives and other items as determined by the Board. This offer is limited to the first 50 renewing members. In addition, the club offers substantial discounts on many of our Boat Dives and other items. These discounts, however, are only available to members who are current with their dues. Over the years our expense pattern has changed, the major addition being the fee we pay to the Museum Of Natural History for our meeting facility. The major component of our revenue stream continues to be the annual dues. Help yourself and the club by sending in your dues.

RENEW TODAY!!!

Discover Scuba

Once again LABUE will be offering a Discover Scuba program for interested individuals. This class is not a certification program. The purpose of this program is to introduce attendees, in a very general way, to the basic concepts involved in scuba diving and, most importantly, give them a chance to experience the sensation of scuba diving in a very controlled environment. Students will actually be given scuba gear and taken underwater for a few minutes. The Dive, Training and Safety Committee, under the leadership of George Linares, has scheduled the event for Saturday, April 16 from 9am-noon at the Pacific Wilderness swimming pool in San Pedro. Each participant must pay a fee of \$15 to cover expenses and logistics. As more people become aware of LABUE and scuba diving, there is a growing number of individuals whom wish to know more about the sport. Discover Scuba offers them a chance to see what it is all about and meet several of the club members. Space is very limited. Contact Bettye or George Linares for more information.

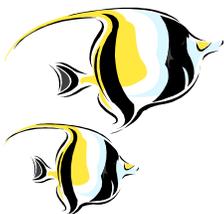
Advertising in LABUE

Businesses or individuals purchasing \$300 Sponsor Packages, (On The Go Travel, Debora Ewing's Jafra Products and RLS & Associates for 2005) automatically receive a quarter page ad in each issue of LABUE NEWS as part of their package. Two years ago, in response to numerous requests, LABUE introduced a program in which additional advertisement space could be purchased for \$50 per quarter page. Since then, several ads have been sold. This Ad program gives everyone an equal chance to expose their business to the readers of the newsletter. A few individuals have asked LABUE to help format their ad or make a 'few changes' to a previous ad. Since the time required to make changes can become cumulatively excessive, these requests cannot be accommodated. Everyone is reminded that all ads must be submitted in 'camera ready' form. In other words, the ads should be reading for scanning and printing without any adjustments or modifications.

Catalina Cleanup

Each year LABUE participates in the Catalina Cleanup, an event designed to help improve Catalina's underwater environment by encouraging several hundred divers to retrieve trash and other debris from the ocean's floor. This year the event will be held on Saturday February 26. Divers normally take the early morning Catalina Express Boat to Catalina Island where they are organized into groups assigned to clean a particular section of the shoreline. For this one day, divers are allowed to dive in the actual harbor, which is normally off limits. Prizes are awarded for the best 'finds' and everyone normally has a good time. Quinal Johnson, Coordinator for the event, has been joined by Board Member Sharlene Johnson in working out the details of LABUE's participation. LABUE has been active in helping to cleanup the environment as well as supporting the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber. This event satisfies both efforts as a part of the proceeds goes to supporting the Chamber. Interested members should contact Quinal or Sharlene for additional information and to sign up.

**Los Angeles Black
Underwater Explorers
10736 Jefferson Blvd., #428
Culver City, CA 90230**



<u>Reminders:</u>	<p>** General Membership Meeting—2/8/05</p> <p>** Casino Point Beach Dive—3/5/05</p> <p>** Easter Egg Boat Dive—3/25/05</p>
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Donna Wilson
donnawilson@dawnenter.com