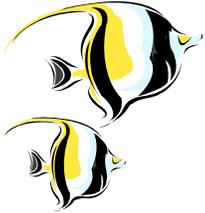


LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

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AUSTRALIAN LIVE ABOARD

LABUE has chartered the **entire** Spirit of Freedom Live Aboard vessel from October 25-29, 2007, for a 5 day-4 night adventure to the Great Barrier Reef and the Coral Sea, two of the world's greatest diving icons in Australia. Eighteen members have submitted deposits to date, thereby insuring that LABUE will have the entire boat. A few spaces remain for those interested in taking part of what will be the club's grandest annual trip yet. Anyone who has dived with LABUE on any of the past club charters knows how much fun everyone has with each other, especially when the club has the entire boat. This live aboard to such an exotic location will multiply the excitement and fun many times over. In addition, due to multiple requests, the club has arranged optional pre- and post- trip extensions. Participants will be able to spend four days in Fiji without incurring any additional air fare. Following the live aboard adventure, many members will also be spending a few days touring Caines and Sydney before flying back to Los Angeles.

Diving from a live aboard vessel is the ultimate in relaxing diving. Sleek, stylish and spacious, the Spirit of Freedom is one of Australia's largest live-aboard vessels and offers the best in cruising comfort, including electronic stabilizers, wide screen TV/DVD, comfortable lounge areas, sun decks and luxury accommodations. Divers will awake each morning with the Spirit of Freedom already positioned directly above the selected dive site. All divers have to do is jump in, on their own schedule and profile. Guides will be available as needed. Pristine dive sites, exotic South Pacific creatures, legendary warm towels, great meals and snacks, outstanding accommodations, and, best of all, a great group of people to interact with will ensure a fantastic voyage. This trip will be a once in a lifetime adventure.



President's Message

Our club is constantly generating new members. Having been in existence for more than a decade, LABUE has tried a number of things in an effort to improve. And, I must say with pride, that we have done very well and have every reason to be content. But we aren't. Virtually all of our programs have resulted from suggestions from members. New members benefit from the many trials and efforts which preceded their joining our club. However, the new members also have a responsibility to keep the tradition alive and moving forward. All of us, no matter how dedicated and forward thinking we may be, tend to run out of new things to try. To keep our club on the cutting edge, we are in constant need of fresh ideas. The greatest potential for these new thoughts is our new membership. Most people join our club because they share a common bond with the ideals of LA-

BUE and want to fit in within that framework. For many, we are exactly what they have been looking for. However, I am asking new members for help in coming up with new ideas. I am extending an open invitation and a challenge to our newest members to 'open up' and offer ways to make our club even better. You can contact me or any Board or Committee member with your ideas and comments. We have grown through a sharing process and I hope that new members will recognize their responsibility to continue the tradition and help us become the best.

Bob Simmons



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

Beach Diving by Debora Ewing

On Superbowl Sunday, we dove Wood's Cove (Laguna). The conditions were very good and everyone had a great time. There were lots of ledges, rocky reefs and eel grass which is the perfect habitat for lobsters. Lots of fish make these rocky reefs their home. In attendance were myself, Tish Raglund, Ed Persley, Johannes Kepler, Darryl Gross, Louis Emile (dive master) and his wife Deanna Emile. As usual Johnnie Davis was on shore to render assistance if needed. The next dive will take place on Saturday, March 3 at Whites Point (Palos Verdes). George Linares will give the dive briefing at 8:00 a.m. Whites Point is a rocky beach. Before the dive, George Linares plans to also put on a LABUE 3Rs workshop. The LABUE 3Rs portion will not be on scuba. The actual scuba dive will follow the 3Rs presentation. This is a state beach; therefore expect to pay a parking fee. This site also features restroom facilities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Sharlene Johnson (310) 915-3931	George Linares (661) 941-1516
Shannon Tanner (818) 992-7902	

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

Boat Dive

The 2007 boat dive schedule will be published by March and filled with opportunities to grab a buddy and dive. The first dive will be the annual club charter Easter Egg dive on March 24th onboard the Bottom Scratcher dive boat out of Queen's Wharf in Long Beach with our friends at Pacific Wilderness Dive Shop in San Pedro. This dive has been very popular over the years and a lot of fun. Because it occurs at Easter, the staff at Pacific Wilderness tosses several golf balls (easter eggs) in different directions. Divers who find and return an 'egg' receive a gift certificate for a prize from the dive shop. Although many friendships have been strained when two friends both see and try to retrieve the same 'egg,' it always turns out to be a great day. LABUE has already pre-purchased 15 spots and is offering them at \$75.00 each. Most dive boats to Catalina are charging over \$125 so being in the club definitely has its advantages. Contact Shannon Tanner or any Board member to make your reservations. By the way, a reservation is made when the \$75.00 is paid. The boat dive will open at the February General Membership Meeting on February 13th.

Time To Renew

All LABUE members are required to renew their membership beginning January 1 of each new year. The regular dues is \$30 for an individual and \$45 for a family membership. Since the club restructured in 1996, the dues has remained the same. Despite the fact that costs for everything have increased, the club has managed to rearrange it's budget in a way to remain fiscally solvent while keeping the nominal membership rate at \$30. There are many benefits to being a club member, including reduced boat dive costs, opportunities to network with great people, very informative programs and, most importantly, the opportunity to participate in the sport of scuba diving with year 'round friends. Those members who have been around for awhile have a lot of good memories of the many trips the club has taken to warm water destinations. To be able to travel with friends to Fiji, Cozumel, Belize, The Cayman Islands, The British Virgin Islands (twice), Utila (Honduras), Dominica, Jamaica, and this year to Australia and Fiji is very special and meaningful. In addition, the first 50 members renewing prior to April 1 receive \$10 LABUE Bucks, the official club currency. Please take the time today to renew. You may renew by mail, in person or through PayPal. The club relies on each member's participation to succeed.

Australia Participants

The members listed below have signed up for this year's club trip to Australia. Many of them will also be taking part in one or more of the optional tours being offered to Fiji and sightseeing in Caines and Sydney.

Bob Simmons	DonCosta Seawell
Artie Williams	Aklia Chinn
Charles Heath	Kenneth Trapp
Debora Ewing	Clifton Williams
David Robinson	Deborah Baker
Randy Tillery	Richard Rice
Johannes Kepler	Don Pilkinton
Sharlene Johnson	Eric Shepard
Francois Desamours	Bob Dansby

There is still limited space for additional divers who may be interested. A \$600 deposit will confirm a reservation.

Next Meeting

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 13, at the Museum of Natural History in Exposition Park, across from USC. This month's program will be centered around certain aspects of technical diving and how it differs from recreational diving. By far, most scuba divers are considered recreational divers and generally are in the sport to have a close up view of the fabulous underwater world. Technical divers, on the other hand want a more challenging and stimulating experience. The differences between the two can be enormous in terms of preparation. The meeting will begin at 7pm. Due to construction activities, parking is available from the Menlo entrance to the lot.

Calendar of Events

Catalina Cleanup

This is the 26th Anniversary of the Avalon Harbor Underwater Cleanup and an event you will not want to miss. This event has grown into one of the major dive events in Southern California. Approximately 500 divers from across California and neighboring states are expected to join in this annual endeavor to clean Avalon's spectacular harbor. Divers compete for both raffle prizes and awards in a ceremony after the dive. The proceeds from the event are for the benefit of Catalina Conservancy Divers, a non-profit ecological organization whose mission is to monitor and protect the waters around Catalina Island and the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber, a life support recompression chamber on Catalina that serves the thousands of divers who frequent the nearby waters. Several club members support this event by participating in the cleanup. This year, participants are asked to review the website and register on line at: www.ccd.org and clicking on the Underwater Cleanup icon. Tom Turney may also be contacted for information at: turney@newcap.com.

FEBRUARY

- 4 Beach Dive
- 13 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 24 Catalina Cleanup
- 27 6:30PM-Board Meeting

February 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

March 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

MARCH

- 3 Beach Dive
- 13 7:00PM--General Meeting
- 24 Easter Egg Charter Dive
- 27 6:30PM-Board Meeting

Reminders:

- ** **General Membership Meeting—2/13/07**
- ** **Whites Point Beach Dive—3/03/07**
- ** **Charter Boat Dive—3/24/07**