

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

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LABUE VISITS THE PHILIPPINES



The Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers is currently accepting deposits for the 2009 club trip to the Philippines. From October 24-31, 2009, LABUE will enjoy spectacular diving in the pristine waters that have made the Philippines a must-do dive destination.

For 8 days and 7 nights the club will be housed at the Atlantis Resort in Puerto Galera. This all inclusive resort is located 70 miles south of Manila and has more than 35 world class dive sites within a 15 minute boat ride. Without exaggeration, Puerto Galera is truly one of the last great undiscovered dive destinations in the world. The nearly 5 mile reef boasts a bio-diversity **exceeding that of the Great Barrier Reef and the entire Caribbean combined.** It is easy to see why Atlantis has long been a favorite of European and Pacific Rim divers.

In addition to excellent diving in some of the most pristine waters and reefs in the world, the Atlantis Resort features outstanding 'muck diving' sites in which all sorts of pretty, macro critters are readily visible. It is a common occurrence to see several different species of small creatures on each dive. Up to four dives per day are included in the package. The Atlantis Resort has a full service spa on site and is 3 minutes from a local gym. It also serves as the hub of many land based activities for the snorkler and non-diver alike. The on site restaurant is well known for its great food featuring both local and international cuisine.

A great reason to go to the Philippines is the value received for the US dollar. Right now, everything is priced very favorably for the U.S. Tourist. The price for the dive package, based on double occupancy is \$1350.00, not including airfare from the USA. The non-diver rate is \$1140.00. Single Person occupancy pricing is \$1650.00 for divers and \$1440.00 for non divers. Since the second payment is now due, anyone wishing to participate must remit an \$800 deposit with \$400 nonrefundable. Contact Bob Simmons for additional information at 323 292-8960.



President's Message by Bob Simmons

After having visited the best dive destinations in the Caribbean, sometimes more than once, LABUE ventured 'outside the box' a couple of years ago and did a live aboard to Australia with subsequent touring in Sydney and Cairns. The trip was such a success that the Board decided to venture out again. This year's trip to Puerto Galera in the Philippines is expected to be another grand adventure. The diving in the Philippines is superb and regularly offers highly unusual sea life. However, beyond the diving, there are several exciting things to do within the vicinity of the Atlantis Hotel. The hotel itself offers a world class spa and massages. A shopping center immediately adjacent to the Hotel provides samples of the many types of local artistry. Even though all meals are included in our package, you might want to sample the local food 'in town.' Enjoy an adventure into jungles and forests, viewing exotic waterfalls and caves in small groups or on your own.

The island of Mindoro has breathtaking landscapes, tropical vegetation, interesting hill tribe-villages, beautiful flowers and orchids, ideal for video or photography and nature lovers! Banana Boat rides, jet skis, mountain bikes are also offered. The island also has some of the most scenic beaches in the world, most of which are in a unique setting. Snorklers will not be disappointed. The best part of our trips though is the fun we share with each other. Whether enjoying dominoes, chess, bid whist or whatever, we always have a great time. Information about a post trip to Hong Kong will be available soon. So far 21 folks have signed up. I hope we can add your name to the list.



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

Beach Dives by Debora Ewing

On Saturday, January 31, Bryant Turner and I dove Dead Man’s Reef on an impromptu dive at Crescent Bay Beach in Laguna. The dive conditions were unbelievably calm and the air temperature was above 80 degrees. The surf was virtually nonexistent and the visibility was decent. A very healthy reef lured schools of fish and they seemed to follow us around hoping for a handout of perhaps a newly opened sea urchin. This year our coastline has been great for diving. After the dive we enjoyed lunch and shared travel stories. We are truly blessed to have such beautiful beaches and a temperate climate to go along with it. California divers can dive year round relatively inexpensively. For the cost of an air fill or two, a great day of diving can be yours! Why not join in the fun?! Call me at 909 240-7022 for more details on upcoming beach dive activities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Robert Simmons (323) 292-8960	Vice President Francois Desamours (310) 412-8128
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Ad/Spec/Tech Vacant	
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Membership Renewal

LABUE has been in existence for many years and the \$30 membership renewal fee has not changed in all that time. Even though costs have gone up, the Board has made it a priority to reduce club expenses (such as sending this newsletter via e-mail instead of regular mail) whenever possible. Nevertheless it is imperative that members renew their membership as these funds represent the major source of club revenue. Membership enables one to participate in club activities at a discount and is a requirement for club subsidized activities such as boat dives and the upcoming club trip to the Philippines and Hong Kong, China. Everyone is asked to do their part by renewing today.

Next Meeting

The purpose of the General Membership Meetings is to give members an opportunity to interact with each other, keep informed about club activities and be exposed to various aspects designed to help everyone improve their dive skills. They are also a great way to keep in a ‘diving’ frame of mind. The February 10th meeting will be held at the Museum of Natural History on Exposition Blvd across from USC and will begin at 7:00pm. The meetings are always interesting and fun. The upcoming meeting will feature a short video, door prizes, and a free raffle of a book about Barack Obama’s rise to the Presidency, which will be given to a lucky attendee. Richard Rice was the lucky person to win last month’s raffle prize of a \$25 dinner gift certificate to The Red Lobster. The meetings are a good time to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. Plan now to attend.

E-Mail Updates

Over the past several months, it has become obvious that the LABUE data base of members and their respective e-mail addresses on file contains several errors and is missing information. In an attempt to bring the membership and e-mail data base up to date, an effort is underway to verify that the club has the latest information for its members. In addition, it appears that several members were completely and unknowingly dropped from the system when the club data base was hacked a couple of years ago. The Board needs to be informed whenever a member’s e-mail address changes. Please remember to notify LABUE so that the club data base can be kept up to date.



**Clifton and Pat Williams
Circa 1999**

Philippines Update

Following are the names of the 21 individuals whom have secured reservations for the club trip to The Philippines October 24-31, 2009:

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| Debora Ewing | Johnnie Davis |
| DonCosta Seawell | Doralyn Seawell |
| Bob Simmons | Tina Houston |
| Denise Barker | Wayne Wright |
| Richard Rice | Lamont Johnson |
| Randy Tillery | Cheryl Tillery |
| Pam McField | LaVerne McField |
| Charles Heath | Rhonda Willis |
| Patti Glenn | Salim Jordan |
| Eric Shepherd | Myra Shepard |
| Luster Ingram | |

The initial 10 rooms plus the additional 5 rooms requested have sold out. Since a few more members have indicated their desire to be part of the group, a request for 5 more rooms has been made. At this point, \$800 will be required to confirm a reservation, with \$400 being non refundable. Contact Bob Simmons for additional information. Since the club is traveling in peak dive season, the hotel will sell out well in advance. It is imperative that reservations be made ASAP to ensure a spot.



Tortola, BVI’s 2007

SPOTLIGHT
By Debora Ewing

INTERVIEW OF JOSEPH WINDOLPH

What influenced you to get into diving? Even as a child I wanted to be underwater. I can remember, like it was yesterday, sitting on the bottom of my parents’ swimming pool with a barbell in my lap trying in vain to suck surface air out of a garden hose. However, my inspiration to learn how to dive was influenced by a fraternity brother of mine. We were in O’ahu, Hawaii and he took me snorkeling in Hanauma Bay. This was the first time I went snorkeling in the ocean and I was fascinated. We even swam with a sea turtle that day. I eventually got certified in scuba a few years later.

What do you enjoy most about LABUE? The camaraderie and sharing the passion of diving with knowledgeable people in the sport.

What is your most memorable LABUE moment? I was almost speared by a member while he was hunting for fish. It was more my own fault rather than his.

How do you keep your level of fitness so high? I bicycle at the Rose Bowl and hike the hills around Glendale regularly.

What is your occupation away from diving? I work in Information Technology consulting. I am also a PhD. Student in that field.

What other hobbies do you enjoy? My most favorite activities are spending time with my son, motorcycle racing, sailing, and reading.

What is your favorite food? I love Chinese and Thai foods.

Where were you born? Las Vegas, Nevada

Tell me something that LABUE’s membership would be surprised to know about you? Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce is half brother to my great great grandfather, and I am also related to Sgt. Charles Windolph, who won the Metal of Honor at the Battle of Little Big Horn.



<u>Reminders:</u>	** General Membership Meeting—2/10/09 ** Philippines Trip Reservations—On Going ** Renew Membership Now
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