

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

JULY 2005

Volume 10 Issue 7



THE GRAND CAYMANS

The July 12th club meeting will feature a presentation on The Cayman Islands, a primo dive destination in the Caribbean Sea and the site of LABUE'S 2006 club trip. Keith Sahn, Director of Marketing for the Sunset House Hotel, will be making a multimedia presentation designed to highlight the spectacular world class diving found in The Cayman Islands, the many land based activities available in Grand Cayman and the amenities of the dive oriented Sunset House.

The Cayman Islands are physically beautiful both above and beneath the sea with each of the three islands being blessed with an extraordinary fringing reef, superb marine life and long stretches of sparkling, palm-lined beaches. Underwater Cayman is a submerged mountain range complete with cliffs, drop-offs, gullies, caverns, sink holes and forests of coral. The islands are the visible above-the-sea portions of the mountains. At depth, the Cayman trenches drop off to more than 23,000 ft. Cayman is wall diving country with steep drop-offs on all sides. The endless walls offer a wide range of hard and soft coral as well as the complete gamut of sea creatures found in the Caribbean. The water temperature in April is normally a steady 82 degrees and the visibility is superb.

Keith Sahn learned to dive in land locked Indianapolis in the late 70's. The Cayman Islands were one of his first dive trips and he quickly fell in love with the islands and the ease and convenience of Sunset House. He spent over 18 years leading 2-3 groups per year to the islands. He is very knowledgeable and the program will be very informative. As always, the meeting will be held at the Museum of Natural History in Exposition Park, on Exposition Blvd, across from USC and will begin at 7pm. Since final travel arrangements have not been completed, the acceptance of the \$400 deposit required for the trip has been delayed until the August club meeting.



President's Message

There is no question that our dive club has become very successful, a fact of which all of us can be rightfully proud. The ultimate success of an organization can frequently be predicted by the success or failure of its start up activities. In the beginning of my term of leadership, I relied quite heavily on the knowledge of A. Jose Jones, PhD co-founder and, at that time, President of The National Association of Black Scuba Divers. Whenever I needed advice or had a question about the best way to do things, I did not hesitate to call Dr. Jones and he was (and still is) always there with the knowledge which comes with over 45 years of managing a dive organization. Most of our members have no idea of the quiet role Dr. Jones had had in our growth and development as a club. He has consistently given of himself to not only LABUE but to the more than 50 clubs created during his stewardship as NABS President.

Through his local club, The Underwater Adventure Seekers, and NABS, he has certified more than 2000 divers and logged more than 6000 dives in his 45 year career. In recognition of his lifetime of achievements, Dr. Jones was recently presented the prestigious DAN/Rolux Diver of the Year award.

At the award ceremony, he was acknowledged for his vision, dedicated leadership and commitment to excellence. LABUE joins dive community in congratulating Dr. Jones for receiving this award and for a job well done.



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

What A Success by Debora Ewing
On Fathers' Day Sunday, June 19, LABUE's Beach Dive Committee hosted yet another successful event! On this picnic perfect day, about 30 people participated in the festivities. The day started beautifully with the dive featuring the easiest beach entry/exit of the year. There was very little surf to speak of. Although trained for far more rugged conditions, it was nice to see the calm waters. The site had ample facilities (i.e., plenty of parking, restrooms, showers and a snack bar). Everyone in attendance had a great time during the picnic. Don't miss our next beach dive that will take place on Sunday, August 7 at Woods Cove in Laguna. If there is a beach dive site that you'd like the Beach Dive Committee to consider, please contact me at (213) 229-5190, as the Committee is getting ready to plan the 2006 Beach Dive Schedule.

Club Charter Boat Dive by Steve Scruggs

On September 17th LABUE will charter the Great Escape dive boat for our annual club charter boat dive. This dive is that one opportunity for the entire club to get together on a boat large enough to accommodate everybody for a full day of diving, eating, laughing, reminiscing and relaxing on an all day outing to the top dive spots at Catalina Island. This is the only opportunity you will have to dive on a boat where everybody knows your name and they'll all be glad you came. And why should you come? Economics. Dive shops are charging up to \$130 to dive Catalina Island. As a current member of LABUE this trip will cost you a club subsidized price of \$85.00 which **includes food and air**. That's enough savings to cover your annual club dues plus all the food you'll be eating on the trip with enough left over to call your friends and tell them what a good time you had. This trip is designed, subsidized and conceived for club divers to take advantage of what your membership and participation have made possible. This is the club giving you something back. This trip is for you. Send in your checks, mark your calendar and stay tuned for details.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Robert Simmons (323) 292-8960	Vice President Donna Wilson (310) 337-1541
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Treasurer Richard Rice (323) 299-3798	Secretary Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190
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Sharlene Johnson (310) 915-3931	George Linares (661) 941-1516
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Steve Scruggs
(310) 876-1260

COMMITTEES

Membership Bettye Linares (661) 946-1516	Ways and Means Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190
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Beach Dive Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190	Boat Dive Steve Scruggs (310) 876-1260
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Dive Training & Safety George Linares (661) 946-1516	Publicity & Internet Francois Desamours (310) 412-8128
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RLS & ASSOCIATES

**ROBERT L. SIMMONS
LABUE MEMBER**

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LOS ANGELES, CA 90008
323-292-8960**

Summer Fish Fry

LABUE will again be hosting a Summer Fish Fry fundraiser at Veteran's Park in Redondo Beach. The event is scheduled for Sunday, August 21st and will begin at 1:00 pm. Food will be served from 2-4 pm. This year the food will be provided by **Louisiana Catfish**, a local caterer well known for serving tasty and delicious seafood. The menu will include a combination plate of catfish, red snapper and shrimp along with the normal condiments and beverage.

This affair will be a relaxing opportunity to get together with friends on a lazy Sunday afternoon. In addition to the great food, there will be card games, dominoes and, of course, LABUE Bingo, which has become an annual favorite among attendees at club events.

Tickets are \$15.00 and are now available. They may be purchased at the General Membership Meeting, from any Board member or by mailing your check to LABUE (you can pick up your ticket at the park). Contact Donna at (310) 337-1541 for additional information.

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Dive Camp Weekend

From Friday, September 30 through Sunday, October 2, 2005, LABUE's second Dive and Camp Weekend will take place at Refugio (Santa Barbara). This event will also incorporate the regular October monthly beach dive on Saturday at Refugio, in conjunction with the planned weekend activities.

The reservation fee again includes a sumptuous dinner at a nearby ranch followed by a humorous play (a murder mystery) in the local theater. The cost is \$46.00 per person which includes the full course barbeque dinner and theater show on Friday night and a camp site for Friday and Saturday.

The first 20 people who pay the \$46.00 reservation fee will be guaranteed a spot. At last count the event was almost sold out. Reservations can be made at the July 12 General Membership Meeting.

Reservations can also be mailed to: 3671 Aureola Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90008 (with the reservation form). Quinal Johnson is the organizer of this event and can be reached at 562-754-2589.

Those who attended this sold out event last year found the dive & camp weekend to be a real treat. Sitting around moonlit campfires with friends makes this getaway truly special. Don't miss out this time!!!

Calendar of Events

JULY

- 12 7:00 PM – General Meeting
26 Board Meeting

AUGUST

- 07 Beach Dive—Wood Cove
09 7:00 PM – General Meeting
21 Fish Fry
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

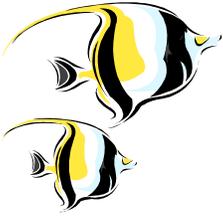
DECEMBER

- 04 Beach Dive—Divers Cove
13 7:00 PM – General Meeting

Woods Cove by Debora Ewing

Don't miss our next beach dive which will take place on Sunday, August 7 at Woods Cove in Laguna. Since Woods Cove is not part of a marine reserve, hunting is allowed if the taking of game is legal under normal California Fish and Game regulations. Abalone is illegal to take as this cove spills into the moratorium area. In about 40 feet of water there is also the wreckage of a long-ago ditched airplane. There are also plenty of photographs to be taken by photographers using both wide angle and macro techniques. Lunch will take place at our usual spot in Laguna (Cocos on Coast Highway) immediately following the dive(s). If there is a beach dive site that you'd like the Beach Dive Committee to consider, please contact Debora Ewing at (213) 229-5190 as the Committee is getting ready to plan LABUE's 2006 Beach Dive Schedule.

Los Angeles Black
Underwater Explorers
3671 Aureola Boulevard
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Reminders:

- ** General Membership Meeting—7/12/05
- ** Summer Fish Fry—8/21/05
- ** Club Charter Boat Dive—9/17/05