

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

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DIVING CASINO POINT



It is sometimes really amazing to listen to local divers discuss the best dive locations in the world and not hear them mention Catalina Island's Casino Point, located right in LABUE's own backyard. Warm water dives in exotic locales are fantastic getaways of a week or more. However, because of the expense and time involved, it is usually not possible to schedule more than two or three trips annually. Fortunately for Southern California divers, Catalina Island, and Casino Point in particular, is just an hour's boat ride away. With the spectacular coral formations, good visibility and the possibility of seeing a huge variety of sea life, Casino Point has become renown as an excellent site among those 'in the know.' The fact that concrete stairs were added several years ago to facilitate safe entry and exits into this underwater park only makes the site that much more of an attraction. On any day, divers may be treated to sightings of lobsters, giant sea bass, sea lions, garibaldi, sheep heads and a huge variety of schools of smaller fish. Looking up through the kept forest towards the surface and the bright sun beyond is a well chronicled sight as it is regularly featured in photographic publications. Each year LABUE schedules a Dive Casino Point Day. This very popular event has become the most well attended of all of the club beach dives. This year's event will be held on August 11. While the main event happens on Saturday, some members will choose to arrive Friday evening and depart on Sunday. Either way, the diving on Saturday with fellow LABUE buddies is always a highlight of the year and everyone is urged to attend. Contact Debora Ewing for information of the available Catalina Express Shuttles and to let her know you are planning to attend so she can add your name to the reservation list for lunch.

President's Message By Bob Simmons

Our club consists of a variety of members having a variety of backgrounds. While we socialize a lot and dive with each other, all too often it seems that we really don't know our dive buddies. In an effort to help us get to know each other a little better, Debora Ewing came up with the idea of conducting brief interviews with various members and publishing the results in our newsletter. This monthly series will be called **LABUE Spotlight**. The first installment is included in this issue and features George Linares. George has been a member of LABUE many years. As a dive instructor and chairperson of the Dive, Training and Safety Committee, George brings a distinct perspective to the club's Board of Directors. He has actively and tirelessly given of himself in his

effort to improve the dive skills of all interested divers. Though well liked, highly respected and certainly well known, George nevertheless shared a few very interesting aspects of his life that not too many members are familiar with. Debora will be interviewing a variety of members on a monthly basis with a goal of helping us become more familiar with each other. The Board looks forward to your comments and suggestions.



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

Beach Diving by Debora Ewing

Shaws Cove (Laguna)-The next beach dive is on Saturday, August 4th at Shaws Cove. There will be an afternoon and twilight dive. The dive master will be George Linares and he will give the dive briefing at 3:00 p.m.. The afternoon dive is for all skill levels but the night dive is reserved for the advanced diver with night diving experience. For all of you going on the warm water trip to Australia, this will be the perfect opportunity for you to get back in the water and test your dive gear. **Casino Point (Catalina Island)** – This dive has been rescheduled for Saturday, August 11. Everyone is invited to come for the day or spend the entire weekend on the Island. Sharlene Johnson will give the dive briefing at 9:00 a.m. The beach dives that LABUE offers are an excellent and inexpensive way for everyone to keep their skills sharp and stay in diver’s shape. If you’re interested in signing up for these beach dives, contact me at 213-229-5190 or 909-240-7022.

Boat Dives by Shannon Tanner

The weather has been beautiful and the boat diving has been unmatched. The season is now in full swing. As mentioned earlier, LABUE offers both dive opportunities as well as sponsored dives. Contact me for a complete schedule of planned activities. These dives are perfect tune-ups for those members diving in Fiji and Australia later this year. Now is the time to perfect that buoyancy and practice your other dive skills. The local beach and boat dives are great opportunities to improve in a very economical manner.

Next General Meeting

Just a reminder about our next General Membership Meeting which will be held on Tuesday, July 10 at the Museum of Natural History across from USC. The meeting will begin at 7pm. Summer has arrived and LABUE has a full array of activities scheduled for the next few months. The beach divers are very active and the boat dive program is in full bore. Plan now to attend Tuesday’s meeting and enjoy the fun and camaraderie among your dive buddies. As always, visitors are welcome. See you Tuesday...

Australia Live Aboard

For the first time, LABUE has fully chartered the live aboard vessel, Spirit of Freedom from October 25-29 of this year. This 120’ luxury live aboard will be the base for diving Australia’s famous Great Barrier Reef and the even more spectacular Coral Sea. To date, we have confirmed reservations for 25 of the available 26 spots. There is one space remaining for a female sharing a quad room. Anyone who has been on our single day charters knows how much fun we have with each other. Multiply that experience several times over to get an idea of the trip of a lifetime which awaits. The diving will be outstanding, the food will be great and the social interaction will be unbeatable. For a pre-trip, many of the travelers will be spending an additional 5 days in Fiji for more diving. Lastly, most folks will be touring various parts of Australia looking for Koalas, kangaroos, indigent aborigines and the famous outback experience. All in all, it will be a trip to remember and LABUE’s most ambitious trip to date. Any female interested in being part of this adventure should contact Bob Simmons ASAP. At this point, the airfare will be the biggest issue with anyone whom has not already made flight reservations, but there is still time.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Robert Simmons (323) 292-8960	Vice President Francois Desamours (310) 412-8128
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Discover Scuba 2

Due to the overwhelming success of the first Discover Scuba session in May and after receiving several requests, LABUE has scheduled Discover Scuba 2 for Saturday, August 4, 2007 at Pacific Wilderness. The session will begin at 9am. Everyone is reminded that this will be a very general introduction to the basic concepts of scuba diving and is not a certification program. Participants will be given a brief overview and then be given an opportunity to try on actual scuba gear and dive in the 12’ pool, under the strict supervision of instructor George Linares. Attendees have commented many times about how awesome their first dive turned out to be. All interested individuals should contact George for additional information. The fee for this session is \$15.00.



LABUE SPOTLIGHT: GEORAGE LINARES by Debora Ewing

1. What do you like most about LABUE?

The Camaraderie, the people have great personalities and are good hearted.

2. Where were you born?

Havana, Cuba

3. What is your occupation?

Licensed helicopter mechanic

4. If you could go visit anywhere in the world where would it be?

Cuba

5. What is your best asset?

My personality and friendliness; I'm very easy going and I'm very patient

6. How many languages do you speak?

Spanish is my first language and English is my second language.

7. What hobbies do you have other than scuba?

Flying; I'm a licensed pilot.

8. What is the furthest place you've traveled?

Curacao

9. If you wanted to change something about yourself, what would it be?

I'm very satisfied with myself. Of course there is always room for improvements. I guess I would pursue higher education...more than likely in marine biology or aeronautical engineering; or maybe becoming a medical doctor.

10. If you could go diving anywhere in the world, where would it be?

Chuck Lagoon (formerly known as Truk Lagoon).

Before I leave you, are there any changes you'd like to see LABUE make?

I'd like to see more club functions (i.e., the annual dinner dance of the past); more club members pursue higher skill levels in scuba diving to perfect their skills overall.



JULY

- 10 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 13 White Water Rafting
- 24 6:30 PM-Board Meeting

AUGUST

- 4 Discover Scuba
- 11 Catalina Day
- 14 7:PM—General Meeting
- 28 6:30PM Board Meeting

SEPTEMBER

- 11 7:00 PM-General Meeting
- 15 Club Charter-The Great Escape
- 25 6:30 PM Board Meeting

Reminders:

- ** **General Membership Meeting—7/10/07**
- ** **Discover Scuba—8/4/07**
- ** **Catalina Day—8/11/07**