

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

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SPREAD THE WORD!!!

A Few months ago, LABUE started a program designed to inform others whenever individual divers were planning non club sponsored dive events...either beach or boat dives. A couple of beach divers had planned a trip to Casino Point on Catalina Island for a day of diving and decided to let others know of their plans and invited anyone interested to participate. As it turned out 15 members signed up for the event! Because it was a non sponsored event, it was up to everyone to make their way to Catalina and make their own arrangements if they chose to spend the night or weekend. Most folks arrived early the morning of July 11 and departed later that evening. However, a couple of folks made a relaxing weekend of it.

There was no formal dive briefing but everyone seemed to be very familiar with Casino Point and generally entered the water around 9:30 that morning. The second dive happened 11:30. The most thrilling aspect of the dive was the common sighting of huge black sea bass within the boundaries of the park. Several lobster, an eel and the usual suspects of garibaldi, sheep head and other creatures completed the sightings. Although the visibility was limited, everyone had a very enjoyable dive day. As always, the group proceeded to a leisurely lunch at Antonios Pizza and ice cream cones (it was a very warm day) at the ice cream place next door.

The Point was not crowded and everyone had plenty of space to spread out. The most pleasant aspect of the day was again the socializing among dive buddies. It is emphasized that this event was a very successful impromptu activity. If anyone is planning a diving related activity and would like to alert other club members of their plans, please contact Bob Simmons and he will formally spread the word. By the way, the club has scheduled a Dive Day In Catalina for later this year in early October.



President's Message by Bob Simmons

Normally at this time of year, LABUE members have just returned from the annual club trip to an exotic location in the Caribbean. While always a lot of fun, the club trip has also served as a tune-up for the upcoming prime dive season in Southern California. However, because we are traveling to the Philippine Islands this year, the seasons are reversed and our trip is not until late October. Whereas the club trip is usually the beginning of the most active dive period, this year's fall trip occurs near the end of that period. The problem which arises is that some of us do not dive as often as we should and might not realize that, by the time the Philippines arrives, over 18 months will have passed since many of us 'got wet' in Belize. Not a good thing!!! More than ever, it is important to schedule a few dives to maintain your dive readiness and to put yourself in the best possible position to have the dive trip of a lifetime in the Philippines. It would not be fair to your-

self, your dive buddy or to other divers on the trip if you arrived in the Philippines in need of a dive tune up. While we are all willing to help, this trip is too expensive to have to spend time doing remedial dive activities simply because someone was not properly prepared. You don't want to be that person who slows everyone down because your dive skills are a bit rusty. The other potential problem involves making sure that your regulator and BC have been recently serviced and your computer has new batteries. Being fully prepared to dive in the Philippines is not an option...it is a responsibility!!!



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

Next Meeting

The next club meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 14, 2009, at the Museum of Natural History located on Exposition Blvd across from USC. The highlight of this meeting will be the always popular Diver's Pictionary Game in which buddy teams collaborate to visually solve riddles etc, very similar to the home game of the same name. LABUE'S version is always a lot of fun and makes for a very enjoyable meeting. Door prizes will be awarded to lucky attendees and, of course, there will be refreshments. The meeting will begin at 7:00pm. See you there.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Robert Simmons (323) 292-8960	Vice President Francois Desamours (310) 412-8128
Treasurer Richard Rice (323) 299-3798	Secretary Debora Ewing (310) 284-4556
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Beach Dive by George Linares

Our annual Father's Day dive and picnic went off with a bang this year, with quite a few of our dive buddies and picnickers showing up to dive and have fun in the sun at Big Corona Del Mar State beach. The weather cooperated that day with plenty of sun, a few clouds and lots of fun. For the first morning dive of the day Randy and Cheryl Tillery (who just recently earned her open water 1 certification) and I met at the south end of the parking lot and planned our dive out to Inspiration Point which is just south of the break water and a very good dive, conditions permitting. After the dive briefing, we suited up and met in the water. Surf entry was not an issue and after a nice lazy surface swim out to the far end swim buoy, we stopped for a short rest, chit chatted with some of the local area swimmers, took a quick compass heading orientation and we then dropped down in about 20 feet of water and headed out to the reef. Vis? Well vis was about 5 feet and the surge was manageable. The reef? Well, even though it is a nice size reef, and supports plenty of sea life ...more than enough to keep a diver busy, it was not to be found this day. Despite our not being able to locate the reef we were looking for, we still had an outstanding dive and it was well worth the effort.

Back on land, everyone did what we do best, which is enjoy each other, eat, laugh, tell stories and just enjoy life. These Father's Day dives have become a club tradition and have always been very enjoyable. The 2009 edition was no exception and we all look forward to next year.



Special Club Elections

The club elections scheduled for November 2008 had to be postponed. They have been rescheduled for November 2009. The term for those elected will be for one year. The regular elections scheduled for November 2010 will be held as per the club By-Laws. The Nominating Committee consisting of Bob Simmons and Johnnie Davis will develop a slate of candidates. There will be several vacancies on the Board, including the positions of President and Vice President. Members interested in running for one of the club offices should review the By-Laws for the required qualifications. This election is an opportunity for interested members to get involved in the decision making process of the club.

Discover SCUBA II

The Discover Scuba program presented by LABUE in May was so popular that another sessions has been scheduled. Discover Scuba II has been scheduled for August 8, 2009. This program is designed to safely acquaint participants to the underwater realm, in the controlled confines of the swimming pool at Pacific Wilderness in San Pedro. George and Bettye Linares, assisted by several club members, will again briefly explain what scuba diving is all about and offer attendees an opportunity to 'gear up' and experience that first breath of air underwater. All members are urged to inform their friends about the August 8 date and refer them to Bettye at (661) 729-6626 for additional information and to confirm their participation. LABUE'S Discover Scuba program has had a rich history of successfully introducing scuba diving to many, many people and is well worth the \$15.00 fee.



SPOTLIGHT
OF PATRICIA WILLIAMS

By Debora Ewing

1. What influenced you to get into diving?

I was influenced to get into diving because of my previous “extreme” fear of the ocean and its depth and its force. I felt I needed to address my fear head on and diving seemed like a good way to do so... I was right ... I now have a greater understanding of the sea environment and the motion of the ocean.

2. What do you enjoy most about LABUE?

The exciting dive trips; the organized planning committees; the professionalism of the members and the dive buddies

3. Is there anything you would like LABUE to offer more of?

Can't think of anything except maybe more opportunities or social gathering for divers and non-divers ... sort of like a mid-year potluck/party similar to the ones we had in the past with the Caribbean theme.

4. What is your most memorable dive?

One of my most memorable dives was in Tortola BVI at the end of a wreck dive when a barracuda followed me back to our dive boat.

5. What is your occupation away from diving?

I'm a Training Manager

6. How did you get into this field?

I had previous IT experience and experience providing video conferencing training and the need arose for someone to manage the IT training and professional development, so I was very blessed to fall into the role.

7. What other hobbies do you enjoy?

Playing my Wii, playing softball, playing volleyball, bicycling, tennis, walking, playing Sudoku, reading, making crafts, building dollhouses, sewing

8. What famous person do people tell you that you favor most?

Diana Ross and her daughter Tracy Ross

9. What is your favorite food?

Seafood and Italian food, preferably the two mixed together

10. Where were you born?

In the backseat of my dad's car in the parking lot of General Hospital in Los Angeles California ...

In Los Angeles California

12. Tell me something that LABUE's membership would be surprised to know about you?

I just did... just kidding .. here you are ...when I was 10 a friend and I played football with the boys when they were short players, so I guess I was a "tomboy".



Reminders:

- ** **Membership Meeting—7/14/09**
- ** **Discover Scuba—8/09/09**
- ** **Philippines—10/24/09**