

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

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DIVING WITH SAFEAIR AND NITROX

Rusty Berry, CEO of Aquatic Outfitters dba Scuba Schools of America, will be the speaker at the General Membership Meeting scheduled for June 14 at the Museum of Natural History in Exposition Park. His presentation will center around the merits of SafeAir and Oxygen enriched gases. What exactly is meant by SafeAir? What is Nitrox? What are the advantages of using these special mixes? What are the potential dangers associated with their use? These questions and more will be answered by Rusty as he brings LABUE up to date on the latest in technical diving techniques. Although LABUE encourages recreational divers to avoid the more highly technical nature of using mixed gases, it is good for everyone to have a good understanding of the subject.

Scuba Schools of America has been in business for over forty years. Rusty, who became CEO of SSA in 2000, has been diving since 1978, became an instructor in 1983 and has become one of the foremost experts in the use of mixed gases and rebreathers. In 1992, he became one of the first to provide SafeAir and Nitrox in Southern California. He has received several accolades for his work in the development of rebreather dive equipment and concepts as well as for his teaching skills. LABUE is honored to have him as the club's speaker.

Quinal Johnson, the chairperson of the club's Ad/Spec/Tech Committee, has been focusing his efforts on helping to provide the training opportunities necessary to allow members to participate in some of the Committee's planned future activities. If enough members become interested in this subject, it might be possible to arrange a class at reduced rates. Whether or not you are interested in personally using mixed gases, you will want to learn about this fascinating subject. The meeting will begin at 7pm. Plan now to attend.



President's Message

The Board recently decided to have the club trip for 2006 on Grand Cayman in The Cayman Islands. The Cayman Islands are consistently rated among the 10 best dive destinations in the world on virtually any published listing of such sites. The warm waters, great visibility, sheer walls, beautiful corals and wide variety of sea life have combined to make diving this Caribbean island a truly fantastic experience. The exact details have not been finalized. However the trip will take place towards the end of April and will be for 8 days and 7 nights with five days of two tank diving included in the package. Although we are still looking at hotels, The Sunset House, a dive oriented facility located a few minutes east of the capital city of Georgetown is emerging as a leading prospect. As always, every effort is being made to negotiate the best possible price for

LABUE members. It is expected that the trip will open for signups at the July General Membership Meeting. The usual \$400 deposit will be required to reserve a spot. This trip will be exclusively for LABUE members. This will be the tenth annual club trip to an exotic destination, a statistic of which we can be very proud. All of our trips have been a lot of fun and are always the highlight of our year. Hopefully, this will be your year to join in the festivities. I look forward to welcoming everyone to what promises to be another exciting week of fun in the sun.



Bob Simmons

Beach Diving Committee

As the year reaches the halfway point, the Beach Dive Committee is proud of the number of beach dives which have been successfully completed. Despite one of the rainiest seasons on record, the very hardy divers persevered and did what they intended to do. In the end, diving under 'beach dive' type conditions makes those who participate much better divers. The Beach Dive Committee is committed to helping to ensure that all participants are assigned an appropriate dive buddy. Special care is taken to address the skill level needs of those who request training tips. Many divers are looking for someone with a little more experience to help them gain the confidence they need to become a totally independent diver. The Beach Dive Committee has made a commitment to provide assistance in this area. If you want to become a better diver and are looking for LABUE to help, call Debora Ewing and plan to participate.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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 only three spaces remained. Reservations can be made at the June 14 General Membership Meeting. Reservations can also be mailed to: 10736 Jefferson Boulevard, #428, Culver City, California 90230 (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!!!



Family and Friends Day

The Beach Dive Committee is reminding everyone that the annual Family/Friends Day Dive & Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 19 at Big Corona 'Breakwaters' in Corona Del Mar. The first dive briefing will be held at 8am. Each year on Father's Day, morning beach dives are followed by an afternoon of picnicking and fun with both divers and their non-diving friends. After the morning dives everyone is invited to get together for 'picnicking' from noon until 3:00pm to relax with family and friends. Simply bring your own basket packed with whatever you prefer to snack/drink.

Bring your games, cards, volleyballs, a good book, beach chairs & umbrellas, blankets and sit by the shoreline and enjoy the tides rolling in & out. As is the case with all beach dives, divers who do not dive regularly can practice their skills and can also expect to be paired with a more experienced buddy. As opposed to boat dives and warm water trips in which participants are expected to be self reliant, LABUE uses beach dives as a training opportunity for those interested in improving their skills. The only way to become a better diver is to dive...and beach dives are an inexpensive way to practice skills. Non divers are welcome and invited to participate in swimming and snorkeling.

LABUE's Beach Dive Committee annually looks forward to this fun-filled Family & Friends Day at the beach in Newport. Contact Debora Ewing if you plan to attend.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!!!

Summer Fish Fry

After several years of having different summer activities, LABUE will return to the original summer fish fry as the club's summer activity. 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 will be available beginning at the June General Membership Meeting. Contact Donna at (310) 337-1541 for additional information.



LABUE GOES TO TORTOLA



Oil Rig Dive by Steve Scruggs

The LABUE Adventure Specialty Technical (Ad/Spec/Tech) Dive Committee is sponsoring an advanced dive on the Oil Rigs on Saturday June 18th and the few spaces that were available to the club have been sold out for weeks. The Island Time dive boat only accommodates twenty-two divers and due to the popularity of the dive site the spaces sold quickly. As with all club boat dives it is strongly recommended that you sign up as soon as possible if you are interested in participating in any announced dives.

The next club boat dive will be a rare trip to the back side of San Clemente Island on Saturday July 23rd on the Great Escape dive boat with our club sponsor Reef Seekers Dive Company on Wilshire Blvd. in Beverly Hills. The cost for this trip is \$100 and is designed for all those divers ready to take a step up from Catalina Island and challenge your skills in a new and unfamiliar environment. If you are interested in making this dive bring your check to the next meeting or mail it in to the club address in your newsletter.

Mark your calendars for the annual LABUE club charter on board the Great Escape dive boat scheduled for Saturday, September 17th. If you only make one dive all year, this is the one to make. Call Steve at 310-795-0851 if you have any questions about club boat dives, policies or procedures.



Calendar of Events

MAY

- 10 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 14 La Jolla Shores Beach Dive
- 15 Boat Dive—Yukon Wreck
- 22 Scuba Show
- 24 Board Meeting

JUNE

- 14 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 18 Oil Rig Boat Dive
- 19 Father's Day Beach Dive
- 28 Board Meeting

JULY

- 12 7:00 PM – General 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

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RLS & ASSOCIATES

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LABUE MEMBER**

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Reminders:

- ** **General Membership Meeting—6/14/05**
- ** **Fish Fry—8/21/05**
- ** **Club Charter Dive—9/17/05**