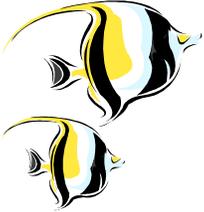


# LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

June 2007

Volume 12 Issue 6



## AMAZING MARINE BEHAVIOR

The next General Membership Meeting will be especially entertaining as the speaker, Mark Strickland, will be bringing a wealth of knowledge and dive adventures to share with attendees. Mark's program features his award-winning photography, and highlights the fascinating behaviors and interrelationships between sea creatures and their habitat. Areas covered are Thailand, Myanmar, Solomon Islands and the Bahamas. The presentation will have special appeal to photographers, but should interest anyone who wants to learn about marine life large and small.

Mark Strickland's life-long interest in the sea has included over 10,000 dives and careers as an ocean lifeguard, boat captain, and diving instructor. His passion for underwater photography began as a teenager in Florida, and subsequently led him to many of the world's best diving areas, including Thailand, where he spent 17 seasons as Cruise Director / Photo-Pro on the live-aboard vessels "M/V Fantasea" and "Ocean Rover". Strickland now resides in California, where he is trying to adjust to cold water diving. An avid marine naturalist, Mark has discovered several nudibranch species, including his namesake, *Halgerda stricklandi*. Mark's photos and articles have appeared in magazines and books around the world, including Action Asia, Asian Diver, BBC Wildlife, Blue Planet, Calypso Log, Conde Nast Traveler, Diver, Dive, Geo, National Geographic World, Natural History, Ocean Realm, Outside, Scuba Diving, Skin Diver, Sport Diver, Sportdiving, Sub, Tauchen, Undersea Journal, Unterwasser and many others.

Plan now to attend the latest in a long series of outstanding presentations. The meeting will be held at the Museum of Natural History in Exposition Park across from USC on June 12, 2007. It will begin at 7pm.



### President's Message By Bob Simmons

I just returned from Pacific Wilderness where I dropped off my gear for it's annual servicing. Prior to leaving, I had a chance to chat with employee Fred Scott about several things, including our upcoming trip to Fiji and Australia. Fred informed me that he was very familiar with the owner and crew of the Spirit of Freedom live aboard, the same vessel we have chartered for our exciting adventure. He has been to Australia and found the Spirit of Freedom to be head over heels above the other live aboards operating in the area. He mentioned that he is most impressed with the boat's owner whom he periodically speaks with. The owner's entire goal is to provide quality customer service and make sure that his guests have a fantastic experience at a fair price. This work ethic carries over to the crew. Fred mentioned that this attitude was reflected by the captain and crew. According to Fred, the crew is truly focused on making

sure that everyone's expectations are met and exceeded. The boat is huge, with plenty of space for everyone. In addition, the food is first rate and the diving excellent. He told me that we had done the right thing in choosing the Spirit of Freedom.

As of right now, we have 25 divers signed up for the trip. Even though we are now guaranteed to have the entire ship, there is still room for one additional female. In addition to diving and touring Australia, many of us will also be diving in Fiji. If you think you want to join us for what promises to be the best club trip yet, contact me immediately.

Bob Simmons



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

## **Beach Diving by Debora Ewing**

Mark your calendars folks. On Fathers' Day Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup> LABUE is headed to Big Corona (Newport). The divemaster George Linares, will give the dive briefing at 8:00 a.m.. This is a very shallow dive site and is easy enough for all skill levels. Parking will cost approximately \$8.00 for the day. Don't forget to bring your lunch because after the dives we plan to picnic on the adjacent grassy knoll area. For all of you going to Australia and Fiji, this will be the perfect opportunity for you to get back in the water and test your dive gear. 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 this beach dive, contact me at 213-229-5190 or 909-240-7022. **Casino Point (Catalina Island)** – This dive has been rescheduled to Saturday, August 11. Everyone is invited to come for the day or spend the entire weekend on the Island. Sharlene Johnson will be the divemaster.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Shannon Tanner  
(818) 992-7902

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Technical Diving  
Quinal Johnson  
(562) 929-4977

Phone: (323) 292-8960  
Fax: (310) 337-1542  
Email: info@labue.org  
Web Site: www.labue.org

## **Boat Dive by Shannon Tanner**

When was the last time you called that LABUE buddy and said hey let's go diving. When was the last time someone called you and said let's get wet? Has it been a while since you've been in the water? Do you walk by your bags of gear and say to yourself "I need to get in the water "and yet you still haven't. We have all been there and life can seem sometime never ending and overwhelming. What was that motivating factor that sent you to your first dive? Remember when every opportunity to dive, you had to do it, even if it wasn't convenient to your schedule. When there are so many reasons why we shouldn't do something, sometimes we need a reminder as to why we should.

### Top 10 Reasons I need to go on a Boat Dive

1. I love this sport – SCUBA is the best
  2. I haven't seen my friends from LABUE in a while
  3. California diving is challenging and full of ocean life
  4. Keep my diving skills sharp
  5. I miss my dive buddies from LABUE
  6. I don't like sand on me or my gear (no offense beach divers)
  7. The sleep you get on the boat ride to/from the dive spot is unparalleled
  8. My weekend errands can wait, fun will not
  9. I need to get in the water before the Australia/Fiji warm water trip
- I really really miss diving with members from LABUE

Your boat dive committee has a "Dive Opportunity" that is still open and selling for an amazing price. Many of the "Dive Opportunities" listed on our calendar are there because we have searched the web and dive shops to provide you our LABUE members with the best dive pricing available. Take advantage and take advantage early as these prices sell out quickly. The next Dive Opportunity is on Sunday, June 24 on the Mr. C located at the 22nd street landing in San Pedro. The trip will be to Catalina Island and the \$80 price includes 3 dives, food with air fills being extra. The boat departs at 7am. Contact me for additional information.

## **Discover Scuba 2**

Due to the overwhelming success of the first Discover Scuba session last month 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.



## Web Site Registration

The newly updated club website: [www.labue.org](http://www.labue.org) has several new and useful features designed to improve the club's communication with its membership. The site is a work in progress and will continue to be under construction for the foreseeable future. One important aspect of the new site is the membership roster feature which allows members to be registered and submit a brief profile about themselves and their dive interests. Members are required to register themselves to be included in this listing. To date, out of over 150 possible listings, only 38 members have registered. To maximize its usefulness as a buddy list, everyone should register. It is easy to do. Simply go to the website and follow the registration instructions. The goal is 100% participation. Take time to register today.

## On Line Store

The new website has added another feature...an **online store**. Although the final design is not complete, members can purchase any of a growing number of LABUE club items. Payment is made through the Paypal system. In the past, members had to be present at a club function to purchase an item. That requirement is no longer the case. From t-shirts to caps to jackets, everything is now available on the web. In the near future, the club decals, dive jackets, business cards and other club merchandise will soon be added to the list. Francois is working hard to keep the website up to date and to create as many useful items as possible for its use. Anyone having any comments should contact him at (310) 412-8128.

## Calendar of Events

### JUNE

12 7:00 PM – General Meeting  
17 Fathers' Day Dive  
24 Dive Opportunity  
26 6:30 PM Board Meeting

### 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

## White Water River Rafting

Left Forward...Right Back are just a few of the directions you will receive from the River Guide. This wild ride will take you through heart pounding rapids and a couple little toe tappers just to get wet. The weather is warm and the water is cool just what a diver needs to keep the summer flowing. Join LABUE on this exciting camping and rafting weekend in Northern California. The American River is where we will raft, laugh, eat and yell Woo Hoo! Delicious meals are provided on days that we raft and there will be plenty for everyone. At night we will watch the highlight footage of the days wicked rides and wild wrecks cheering for our LABUE rafters. Do not miss this opportunity to have a weekend of extreme fun with your LABUE Buddies. Its summer you have worked hard and now its time to play even harder.

**When: July 13th-15th 2007**

**Where: American River - Northern California - 8-9 hours outside of Los Angeles**

**How Much: \$280.00 per person includes rafting, camping and food**

**Contact: Shannon Tanner 818/251-7530 days or 818/992-7902 Nights**

## Reminders:

- \*\* **General Membership Meeting—6/12/07**
- \*\* **Father's Day Dive—6/17/07**
- \*\* **White Water Rafting—7/13-15/07**