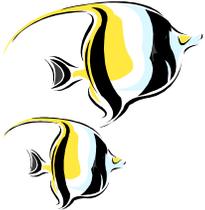


LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

MARCH 2005

Volume 10 Issue 3



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

There is no doubt...this 'new' year is already on its way. Where has the time gone??? Now that the Holiday parties are done with, it is time to plan for birthday parties, taxes and vacation time. Oh, and one more thing...your Membership Committee wants to encourage you to put renewing your LABUE membership on your 'to do list' as well. March is **REACTIVATION MONTH**. Soon the wet weather conditions will produce tremendous opportunities for beautiful and fun diving. It is time to 'Reactivate' yourself and your club membership. Club members are reminded that the first 50 members renewing prior to April 1, 2005, will receive \$10.00 in LABUE Bucks, the official club currency. These 'bucks' can be used for many club activities, including Boat Dives, as well as for club apparel and other items as they are identified by the Board. There are many benefits to being a renewing club member. LABUE continues to offer the cheapest boat dives in town. In order to encourage more members to dive, LABUE regularly subsidizes selected boat dives, offering current members prices in the \$60-\$85 price range...far lower than any boat or dive shop in the area. In addition, the club offers 'specials' from time to time. Again, these 'specials' are available to current members only. Mark your calendars now to plan to attend the Tuesday, March 8 club meeting. The Membership Committee has planned a special program activity as part of Reactivation Month. Everyone will be involved in what will be a very enjoyable evening. Bring a friend along to join in the excitement. As members of LABUE we have an opportunity to participate in a network of great people who enjoy various aspects of diving. After a slow and rainy winter season, it is time to shake off the cobwebs and get back into the water. See you Tuesday!!! By Bettye Linares



President's Message

Many club members are not aware that one of LABUE's objectives is to become more involved in the local dive community. We believe that we have an obligation to help support efforts underway to improve the dive environment as well as to make more individuals from the minority communities aware of scuba diving as a fun and safe sport. As an example, LABUE annually participates in the Catalina Cleanup, an event designed to remove trash and other debris from the local waters. This past February, Board Member Sharlene Johnson along with members Darryl Gross and Don Costa represented LABUE in this important effort to clean up Catalina Harbor and support the local hyperbaric chamber. LABUE similarly participates in the Redondo Beach Cleanup. A few weeks Steve Scruggs, Debora Ewing and myself represented our club at the annual Black History Month Program sponsored by the US Postal Service. The vast majority of people stopping by our booth had no idea that a club

such as ours existed. Several individuals will probably follow up for more information. In May LABUE will purchase a \$750 table at the Catalina Evening event created to generate funds needed to help the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber remain in operation. I have participated in a couple of career days which resulted in grade school aged children learning about our sport. Our club is very social and most members have a lot of fun in our various activities. I just wanted everyone to know that there is another, more serious, side to what we do and anyone interested is invited to ask me for more information.



Bob Simmons

Beach Dives

Continuing in the monthly tradition of scheduling beach dives at various Southern California locales, the Beach Dive Committee has tentatively decided to dive the beach immediately behind Gladstone's Restaurant on Pacific Coast Highway and Sunset Blvd. in Malibu. Because the club has never been diving in this location, the dive will not be confirmed until a few members of the committee pre-dive this site. Prior to taking any diver into a beach dive site, the committee makes sure that someone has dived the spot in the past and can inform the committee on what to expect. The pre dive will be completed in mid-March. Should the conditions be favorable, the date of the actual club dive will be on Sunday, April 3. Debora Ewing, Chairperson of the Beach Dive Committee will keep everyone informed.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Sharlene Johnson (310) 915-3931	George Linares (661) 941-1516
Steve Scruggs (310) 876-1260	

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Dive Training & Safety George Linares (661) 946-1516	Publicity & Internet Francois Desamours (310) 412-8128
Technical Diving Quinal Johnson (562) 929-4977	
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Serious Diving

Whenever there is heavy rainfall, the local streets, storm drains, streams and lakes are frequently flooded and become very dangerous places. Unfortunately, too many people get too close to these uncontrollable waterways and are swept away. Local authorities, which have the dangerous task of finding these missing people, often call on trained divers to help. Two veteran LABUE divers, XL Washington and Fred Humphries, are periodically called upon to take part in these search and recovery operations. The January 19, 2005 edition of the LA Times Newspaper featured a photo of XL and Fred exiting the waters after joining in a search for a missing young boy. LABUE salutes XL and Fred for volunteering their skills (placing themselves at great risk in the process) and helping out when the call came.

Today's News



High Waters Still a Threat

Los Angeles County Sheriff's divers emerge from San Antonio Creek after failing to find a Huntington Park boy. In the last week, five people have drowned in runoff from the record rainfall. **B1**

XL Washington & Fred Humphries

The Yukon by Steve Scruggs

Are you spoiled and tired of all the world-class diving we have right here in our own backyard at Catalina Island and ready for something new and more challenging? Well the Ad/Spec/Tech, Boat Dive and Beach Dive Committees, have teamed up to give you exactly what you asked for. On Saturday afternoon May 14th, seven LABUE divers will dive the Yukon wreck in San Diego. The dive boat will be coordinated through Dive Bliss located at 1617 Quivira Way (map will be provided) for \$80.00 which includes air and tanks. Nitrox is available for \$12.00 per tank. There are still spaces available on the boat at this time, so if you're interested or have questions please contact me immediately at 310-795-0851. In addition, a group of beach divers will be diving La Jolla Shores in the morning. All in all, it promises to be a 'fun in the sun' weekend. Contact Debora or myself for more information.

By Steve Scruggs

Chamber Evening

LABUE will once again be participating in Chamber Evening, an event created to help support the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber. Los Angeles County provides roughly 50% of the Chamber's budget. The remaining funds must be generated elsewhere. LABUE annually purchases a table of 10 to help in this regard. The sit-down dinner event will be held on May 2 at the Long Beach Aquarium and is always a lot of fun. Each year thousands of dollars worth of top of the line dive equipment is raffled off to lucky winners. Contact any Board member to purchase a \$85.00 ticket. This event is very worthwhile and is a chance for LABUE to do its part.

Next Meeting

March is Reactivation Month and the General Membership Meeting will support the reactivation effort in a fun and very interactive manner. The Membership Committee has planned a surprise program which is guaranteed to provide both fun and thought-provoking activities for all in attendance.

The goal is to put away the winter clothes and get back into the water...get reactivated. There will prizes for winners as well as for those who renew their membership on-the-spot. The meeting is will be at 7pm on Tuesday, March 8 at the Museum of Natural History in Exposition Park. Plan now to attend and bring a friend.

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Bylaw Amendments

Periodically, the Board reviews the club Bylaws for relevance in today's environment. After a recent study the Board is proposing to make three changes to the club document.

The first modification would be to change the name of the Technical Dive Committee to the Ad/Spec/Tech Committee (Adventure/Specialty/Technical). The former name was too strict and limiting in scope. The goal of the committee is to offer club members different types of dives, most of which will not be strictly 'technical' in nature. The proposed name change more accurately reflects this fact.

The second amendment would change the name of the Fundraising Committee to the Ways and Means Committee. Once again, the role of the committee is being expanded. More than simply fundraising, the primary purpose of this committee is

to recommend an annual financial model and corresponding activities for the club which is designed to ensure that the club remains financially viable throughout the year.

The third change would insert into the Bylaws the requirement that one's dues must be current to serve on any of the club's committees. This point corrects an oversight in the original Bylaws document.

Consistent with these proposed changes, any member wishing to comment on these proposed changes will be given an opportunity to do so at both the March and April General Membership Meetings. The Board will then consider these comments and make a final decision at its April meeting.

Calendar of Events

MARCH

- 05 Casino Point Beach Dive
- 08 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 22 Board Meeting
- 26 Easter Egg Boat Dive

APRIL

- 03 Beach Dive—Gladstones (Malibu)
- 12 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 16 Discover Scuba
- 17 Island Time Boat Dive
- 20 Club Trip To Tortola, BVI
- 26 Board Meeting

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
- 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

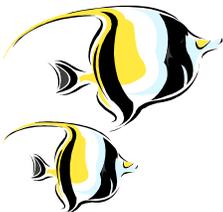
- 04 Beach Dive—Divers Cove
- 13 7:00 PM – General Meeting

Easter Egg Dive

On March 26th LABUE will kickoff its 2005 boat dive schedule with the annual Easter egg dive on the Bottom Scratcher dive boat out of Queen's Wharf in Long Beach. This is a three tank dive at Catalina Island that will feature one dive where numbered golf balls will be scattered over the side of the boat and retrieved during the dive. All retrieved balls can then be redeemed for prizes at Pacific Wilderness Dive Shop. Come out and experience the thrill of SCUBA diving, the childhood fun of an Easter Eggs hunt and the economic reward of useful dive shop prizes, all for a great price of only \$70 **which includes food and air**. Bring your own tanks and weights. There are only two spaces remaining for this dive trip and with three weeks to go, it's sure to sell out. The first two checks with the earliest postmarks will get the remaining spots on the boat. So send your checks immediately to:

Call Steve at 310-795-0851 if you have questions.

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LABUE MEMBER

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Reminders:

- ** **General Membership Meeting—3/8/05**
- ** **Easter Egg Dive—3/26/05**
- ** **Wreck Of The Yukon—5/14/05**