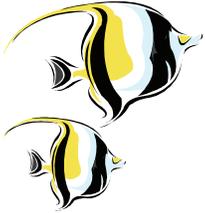


LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

MARCH 2007

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REACTIVATION MONTH

Each year LABUE convenes its annual Reactivation Month Meeting in March. With the beautiful weather currently being experienced in Southern California, March is the perfect time to 'get back in the water.' Although the dive season never really ends in the Los Angeles region, it seems that diving takes a back seat to other activities during the winter months. Whether it is skiing, preparing for the Holidays or simply taking a break, many regular divers don't go near the water for a few months. Now is the time for everyone to remember the reason for becoming certified and get back into enjoying the wonderful world below the surface.

2007 is shaping up as another exciting year for LABUE members. The beach divers never really stop diving, weather permitting, and their monthly beach dives are regularly scheduled for the first weekend of the month. See the Beach Dive article on Page 2 for the next beach dive. With regard to boat dives, LABUE starts the season by again participating with Pacific Wilderness Dive Co in the annual Easter Egg Dive on March 24. This fun dive day is more fully discussed in the Boat Dive article on Page 2. A number of other activities are being planned, including our annual club trip to Australia. But to be able to take part of these fun events, everyone needs to shake off the rust and get rid of the cobwebs.

This month's Reactivation Month Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2007 at the Museum of Natural History on Exposition Blvd across from USC. It will begin at 7pm. Unlike other meetings, this special meeting is designed to get everyone involved in a fun and very social way. Everyone whom attends is sure to have a good time. What better way to get motivated than to spend a very enjoyable evening with friends and dive buddies. Plan now to attend this special meeting and renew all those special friendships.



President's Message

As everyone knows by now, the 2007 club trip will be really special. We have chartered the entire liveaboard vessel The Spirit of Freedom. So far, the following members have confirmed their participation: Bob Simmons, Artie Williams, Charles Heath, Debora Ewing, David Robinson, Randy Tillery, Johannes Kepler, Sharlene Johnson, Francois Desamours, Aklia Chin, Kenneth Trapp, DonCosta Seawell, Clifton Williams, Debora Baker, Richard Rice, Don Pilkinton, Eric Shepard, Bob Dansby, Tish Ragland, Carla Dixon and Salim Jordan. That's 21 people who have assured that the trip will be a huge success. I had initially committed to 9 cabins or 18 spaces. I have since spoken to the owners of the boat and they have allowed us to begin reserving the last two quad rooms with the proviso that if we do not sell the final 5 spaces, they reserve the right to sell the spots to outsiders. Prior to our doing so well with our reserva-

tions, we would have had to guarantee that each of the quad rooms would be filled to capacity. The new concessions allow us far more flexibility in adding participants. We have five spaces remaining. I have just received the exciting pre- and post- trip options, along with pricing and will pass them on to everyone within the week. Suffice it to say, many of us will chose to visit and dive in Fiji as well as tour Caines and Sydney following the diving. It will be quite a package and we are all quite excited. Anyone wanting to join us needs to contact me and send in the \$600 non refundable deposit ASAP.

Bob Simmons



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

Beach Diving by Debora Ewing

On Saturday, we dove White's Point (San Pedro). The weather and surf conditions were exceptionally good. There were lots of ledges, underwater canyons, rocky reefs and kelp. There were lobster sightings, ling cod, sea urchins and of course the garibaldi. In attendance were myself, Richard Rice, Johannes Kepler, Carlos Spivey, Stan Malvo, Louis Emile (dive master) together with his wife Deanna Emile and Mudada Mthuthuzeli. As usual Johnnie Davis was on shore to render assistance if needed. Also on shore were Joseph Windolph and his son Josh. The next dive will take place on Sunday, April 1 at Malaga Cove (Palos Verdes). Malaga Cove is a rocky beach with a dirt path. Lamont Johnson will give the dive briefing. The time to be determined. ***Don't forget about LABUE's Annual Easter Egg Dive which will take place on Saturday, March 24 aboard the Bottom Scratcher.***

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Robert Simmons (323) 292-8960	Vice President Francois Desamours (310) 412-8128
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Treasurer Richard Rice (323) 299-3798	Secretary Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190
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Sharlene Johnson (310) 915-3931	George Linares (661) 729-6626
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Shannon Tanner
(818) 992-7902

COMMITTEES

Membership Bettye Linares (661) 729-6626	Ways & Means Debora Ewing
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Beach Dive Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190	Boat Dive Shannon Tanner (818) 992-7902
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Dive Training & Safety George Linares (661) 946-1516	Publicity & Internet Francois Desamours (310) 412-8128
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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

Each March, right before Easter, LABUE shares a charter boat with Pacific Wilderness aboard the Bottom Scratcher for an unusual trip to Catalina Island. The event, called the Easter Egg Dive, involves the crew tossing golf balls (ie Easter Eggs) into the ocean surrounding the boat and the divers trying to retrieve as many of them as possible. Prizes are awarded for each ball (egg) retrieved. This dive is always a lot of fun and puts a different spin on what would otherwise be a regular dive. With only 15 spots available for club members, this boat sells out every year. So far, Bob Simmons, Debora Ewing, Steve Scruggs (Yes he is visiting us from Tennessee and will be on board), Santi Hall, Ron Reed, Don Costa Seawell, Mudada Mthuthuzeli, Angela Yarborough, Arthur Harris, Johannes Kepler, Artie Williams, Ed Persley, Shannon Tanner and Cash Tanner have already signed up. The weather has been picture perfect lately and the diving has been fantastic. This fun boat will be the perfect time for divers to get reacquainted with the water. But hurry, the spots are running out fast. Contact Shannon at (818) 922-7902 to confirm a reservation. Of particular note, Steve Scruggs will be on the boat and looks forward to seeing all his friends. So join in the fun and 'Dive with Steve.'

Discover SCUBA

The club's next Discover Scuba presentation is scheduled to occur on Saturday, April 28 beginning at 9am at Pacific Wilderness in San Pedro. Over the years this program has proven to be a good introduction into what diving is all about and has been well received by all who attend. Even though Discover Scuba is not a certification program, attendees will be allowed to try on scuba equipment, including tanks, and actually descend to the bottom of a 13 foot swimming pool under strictly supervised conditions. George Linares, LABUE Board member and a private Instructor will conduct the program. The presentation includes a brief introduction which describes exactly what scuba diving is all about. This classroom presentation is followed by a swim session in which several LABUE divers help participants explore the wonders of the 'underworld.' The session concludes by noon. This introduction has led to many participants enrolling in a diving certification program and is a perfect opportunity for friends and acquaintances to see what all the excitement is about in a safe and controlled environment. Contact George or Bettye Linares at (661) 729-6626 to make arrangements. There is a \$15.00 fee for this program.



David Robinson Enjoys Fiji
2004



Fijian Dancers...2004

Chamber Evening

Several years ago Reef Seekers Dive Company created an annual event to support the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber. The event includes several activities and is scheduled for May 2. LABUE has annually supported the Chamber Evening function held at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach. This affair features a full catered dinner, admission to the aquarium and its exhibits, spectacular raffle prizes and is always a very enjoyable evening. Proceeds from Chamber Evening go directly to the Catalina Chamber, which depends on fund raising efforts to maintain its valuable service. Everyone relies on the Chamber to be there when needed. However, there is a cost involved to make this happen. LABUE invites anyone interested to join with the club, have a good time and support a very worthwhile cause in the process. Debora is selling tickets to the LABUE table for \$85.00. Please contact her at (213) 229-5190 for additional information and to make your reservation.

Web Site Registration

The newly updated club website: 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 28 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.

Reminders:

- ** ***General Membership Meeting—3/13/07***
- ** ***Malaga Cove Beach Dive—4/01/07***
- ** ***Charter Boat Dive—3/24/07***

Calendar of Events

MARCH

- 03** Beach Dive—Woods Cove
- 13** 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 24** Easter Egg Dive Charter
- 27** 6:30 PM-Board Meeting

APRIL

- 01** Beach Dive—Malaga Cove
- 10** 7:PM—General Meeting
- 24** 6:30PM Board Meeting
- 28** Discover SCUBA

MAY

- 02** CHAMBER EVENING
- 05** BEACH DIVE
- 08** 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 22** Board Meeting

JUNE

- 05** Beach Dive—Shaw's Cove
- 12** 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 17** Father's Day Dive
- 26** Board Meeting

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.

Time to Renew

All LABUE members are required to renew their membership beginning January 1 of each new year. The regular dues is \$30 for an individual and \$45 for a family membership. Since the club restructured in 1996, the dues has remained the same. Despite the fact that costs for everything have increased, the club has managed to rearrange it's budget in a way to remain fiscally solvent while keeping the nominal membership rate at \$30. There are many benefits to being a club member, including reduced boat dive costs, opportunities to network with great people, very informative programs and, most importantly, the opportunity to participate in the sport of scuba diving with year 'round friends. Those members who have been around for awhile have a lot of good memories of the many trips the club has taken to warm water destinations. Although a small amount, the \$30 dues starts it all. Take time today to renew and help the club to continue to grow and improve.