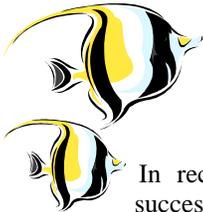


LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

March 2009

Volume 14 Issue 3



MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION

In recognition of more than 13 very successful years, LABUE will be having **MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION NIGHT!!!**

This night will be a 'thank you' to all members and guests in attendance. It is the membership which has made LABUE the successful club it has become. Without membership support, none of the club's most popular events would ever have taken place. Looking back over the years the highlights have been many: exciting summer events (remember the Juke Joint, the Hawaiian Luau, Jamaica Fest etc?), formal Holiday dinner dances in spectacular settings, annual Club trips to world famous dive locations (who would have dreamed 13 years ago that we would someday be able to charter and fill a South Pacific live-aboard boat in Australia like we did in 2007?) monthly informational meetings, and full-charter local boat dives are just a few of the memories we have shared together. Our meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 will be in honor of the membership. One of the evening's highlights will be a photo contest in which members will be asked to judge photographs taken by fellow members submitted in five different categories. Winners in each category will receive gift cards. See page 2 for more details. In addition, many lucky attendees will receive prizes and several gift certificates to local restaurants. Anyone bringing guests will be given an extra raffle ticket for each guest, thereby increasing the chances of winning one of the prizes. There will be refreshments of course as well as a delicious peach cobbler pie for dessert.. Whether you are a regular attendee or a member who has not been around for awhile, all are invited. Without each and every one of you the club would not be what it is today. This meeting is the Board's way of saying **thank you...one and all**. The festivities will begin at 7pm in the Museum of Natural History in Exposition Park across from USC. Plan now to be part of this celebration and relive memories through club photographs. Feel free to bring a friend.



President's Message by Bob Simmons

As mentioned in this month's theme article, Tuesday, March 10 will be Membership Appreciation Night. Our regularly scheduled meeting will be dramatically altered to recognize you, the membership, for your help is making our club become the organization that it is today. Looking back over the years, we all have a lot to be proud of. However, none of our achievements would have been possible if it were not for the members. I always get in trouble when I try to single out someone, deserving though they might be, because there are probably three other people equally deserving and it is not possible to recognize everyone. However, I feel comfortable recognizing our committee structure and the members who take the time to make these committees function at such a high level. Page two of this newsletter lists our committees and the chairpersons. In some cases there are

several other committee members working just as hard as the chairpersons and equally deserving of recognition. All of the members of our committees deserve a special note of recognition. These volunteers give up a tremendous amount of time to make sure that the club continues to work and improve. While I'm at it, I invite all of you to consider joining one of our committees and making your personal contribution. As we recognize the general membership on Tuesday, remember the extra special work being done behind the scenes by several very dedicated individuals. Thanks to you all....



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

Easter Egg Dive

Each year just before Easter Pacific Wilderness offers the annual Easter Egg Dive on The Bottom Scratcher. On this dive, golf balls (eggs) are tossed into the sea surrounding the boat at Catalina Island and the divers recover as many as possible. Prizes are awarded for each 'egg' retrieved. The dive will be on Saturday, March 21 and will leave at 6:45 am. from the 22nd Street Landing. Anyone wishing to participate should contact Pacific Wilderness directly at (310) 833-2422 for additional information.

Beach Dives by Debora Ewing

Fisherman's Cove (Laguna). On Sunday, March 1, the LABUE divers dove Fisherman's Cove. We couldn't have asked for more favorable conditions. There was absolutely no surf to speak of and the visibility was good. Most of the divers entered the beach at Fisherman's Cove and exited around the point at Diver's Cove. In planning the dive this way, one could dive the well known reef called Mermaid's Grotto and also take advantage of the shallows of Divers Cove. The fish seemed to follow us around underwater. A pair of rays could be seen in the shallows at Diver's Cove. Sharlene Johnson was the dive master and the divers who participated were Aklia Chin, Ken Trapp, Sharlen Campbell, Tony Linton, Bryant Turner, Joseph Windolph, Tish Ragland, Javier Perez and his fiance Kendal Kamen and myself. Johnnie Davis served as our reliable shore support personnel. *Malaga Cove* – We'll dive Malaga Cove on Saturday, April 4. Lamont Johnson will give the dive briefing. If you plan to join the group, make sure you let me know so that if the dive is cancelled for any reason I know to contact you. My phone number is (909) 240-7022.

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION NIGHT IS MARCH 10

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Photo Contest

LABUE will conduct a photo contest at the March 10th Membership Appreciation Meeting. Interested participants will be allowed to submit two photos in each of the five categories. All members in attendance will vote to determine the winning photo in each grouping. The winners in each category will receive a gift card to local eateries. The five categories are Micro (small critters less than 2" in length), Regular (schooling fish, barracuda, eels, sharks, rays, etc.), Shell fish (lobster, shrimp, crab, etc.), Coral formations, and People (above and underwater). The photos may be sized up to 5" x 7" and will be returned after the contest. The idea is to have fun and relieve some of our club's memorable dive moments. Since we do not have any expert photographers, everyone

Drysuit Experience

Want to Try On A Drysuit? To help those individuals who want to know what it is like to wear a drysuit, Diving Unlimited International is taking its line of drysuits in a 38-foot trailer on a year-long road trip across the country. Interested divers are fitted with a drysuit and allowed to take a trial run in the water. A free BBQ lunch is also included the promotion. The first stop is San Diego on March 21, and the road trip ends in November at Terrell, TX. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 on site. Anyone interested in experiencing the 'feel' of a dry suit and may be considering diving in this popular alternative to the traditional wet suit can obtain the complete itinerary via: (http://www.dui-online.com/dog_main.aspx), the organization's website. Tickets may also be purchased through this site.

Discover Scuba

Once again, LABUE will be sponsoring a Discover Scuba Program in which participants are introduced to the basic concepts of scuba diving and are allowed, if interested, to try on full scuba gear and perform a controlled dive under the supervision of George Linares, a certified instructor. This introductory session is held in the classroom at Pacific Wilderness in San Pedro. The supervised dive is held at their pool at the same location. This year's event will be on Saturday, May 9, 2009 from 9am to noon. The price remains at \$15. Participants are required to bring swim suits and a towel. Scuba gear is provided courtesy of Pacific Wilderness. It is noted that everyone must already know how to swim. This session is not a swim class. The purpose of Discover Scuba is to give potentially interested applicants a glimpse into the beautiful underwater world and to provide a general introduction into the topics fully covered in a regular certification program. In addition to instructor George Linares, and his wife, Bettye, who coordinates the activities, several club members are also in attendance to help out as needed. All in all, Discover Scuba is a great way to expose folks to diving as well as to get acquainted with club members, many of whom started out by attending a similar program. Contact Bettye Linares at (661) 729-6626 to reserve a space in this year's program.



Discover Scuba 2007

Museum Rules

Our club constantly receives new members and guests. These individuals can not possibly be aware of the conditions under which the Museum Of Natural History agreed to let us use one of its conference rooms. One of these conditions is that our attendees are not permitted to stop and enjoy the many exhibits available in the museum. The museum regularly charges an admittance fee to those wishing to view the attractions and facilities on display. Obviously attendees to our meeting do not have to pay this fee and, therefore, are not entitled to roam about the premises. An honor system is in effect but LABUE doesn't want to abuse the privilege. Secondly, our meetings are to be conducted in a business meeting format, which does not permit children not old enough to appreciate the purpose of the meeting. Some of our attendees have unknowingly violated the terms of our agreement. For this reason, it is necessary to review these rules from time to time to ensure that we can continue to use this very fine facility.

Chamber Evening

Each year a fund raiser is held on behalf of the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber. Since all divers rely on chamber facilities to be available wherever we may be diving around the world, it is our responsibility to help ensure that our 'own' chamber is there and properly maintained...just in case. LABUE proudly supports Chamber Evening by purchasing a table for this dinner event annually held at the Long Beach Aquarium. The aquarium is normally closed in the evenings. However, participants in this event will have full access to all exhibits and attractions, allowing viewers to see the exhibits in the evening light when many fish are more active. Major dive related gifts (regulators, computers, fins, dive bags etc.) are raffled off to lucky attendees. Anyone interested in participating in this year's event, which will be held on May 6, 2009, beginning at 7pm, is required to purchase a ticket for \$90, which includes a full 'sit down' dinner, 2 non alcoholic beverage coupons, 10 raffle tickets and full admission to all of the aquarium attractions. Contact Sharlene Johnson or any Board Member to purchase the ticket.

Membership Renewal

It is time to renew your LABUE membership. The annual dues amount remains at \$30 for an individual and \$45 for a family membership (living in the same household). The first 50 renewing members submitting dues prior to April 1, 2009 will be eligible to receive \$10 LABUE bucks coupons which can be applied towards club attire and specified activities. Also, becoming a club member provides the opportunity for you to pay a discounted price for club boat dives, participate in the club's bi-annual elections, and receive personalized club business cards (5). Each year the club depends on the collection of membership dues to help balance the budget which includes expenses for the club meeting room, boat deposits and other items. Please remit your dues today...

SPOTLIGHT

By Debora Ewing

INTERVIEW OF LOUIS EMILE**1. What influenced you to get into diving?**

- a. To teach for a dive shop & make a little extra money.
- b. Buy gear at reduced prices.
- c. Start a Scuba program at Santa Monica College.
- d. Tax deductions for vacationing.
- e. Possibly live in Hawaii as a Dive Master or Scuba Instructor.

It doesn't get any better than that.
I've done 4 out of 5, not bad.

2. What do you enjoy most about LABUE?

Black people scuba diving, cool. I think we have a lot of fun together.

3. What is your most memorable LABUE moment?

My first dive with the club was at Veteran's Park. My wife Deanna hadn't really done a beach dive so her entrances and exits needed some practice. After the dive was done we went back in on snorkel. The LABUE Club was going to have brunch at El Torito on the pier and I said to Bettye go ahead we'll catch up and she said what we do we stay together and they waited.

4. What is your favorite California dive site?

Catalina, Casino Point.

With over 60 dives I have seen everything there is to see there and yet when I dive still see more. Easy entry and exit, excellent accommodations, food, true laid back island attitude, close to home and of course all the animals.

5. What is your occupation away from diving?

Swimming and Lifeguard instructor Scuba Instructor for Santa Monica College & Santa Monica High School

6. What do you enjoy most about teaching scuba?

On the last day diving open water seeing everything I taught the students come together. Watching the students applying the skills I taught them.

Reminders:

- ** ***Membership Appreciation Meeting—3/11/08***
- ** ***Easter Egg Boat Dive—3/22/08***
- ** ***Discover Scuba—4/6/08***

7. What other hobbies do you enjoy?

There are other hobbies? Just kidding, I would love to get back into flying fixed winged aircraft.

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

What, I'm not famous yet?

9. What is your favorite food?

Chocolate Chip Cookies & a cold glass of milk.

10. Where were you born?

Queens, New York

11. Is there anything that you would like to see LABUE offer more of?

I can't say we seem to be a pretty complete dive club. I wish we could get together for more boat dives chartering the whole boat.

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

a. I owned a used automobile dealership for several years.

b. I went through the Los Angeles County Underwater Instructor Certification Course having only completed Open Water Scuba just a few months before with only 5 recent dives.

Reminders:

- ** Membership Appreciation Meeting—3/10/09**
- ** Easter Egg Boat Dive—3/21/09**
- ** Discover Scuba—5/9/09**