

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

MAY 2004

“1999 NABS Club of the Year”

Volume 9 Issue 5



JOOK JOINT IS HERE

Hey Everybody.

Let's Have Some Fun...

After two fabulously successful summer fundraisers, LABUE plans to out do itself with this year's theme event. On Saturday, July 17, 150 members and friends will gather at Harpo's...uh, LABUE's **JOOK JOINT!** For just \$25, everyone will have the evening of their lives. During the good 'ole days of the twenties and thirties, when the weekend came, everyone put on their 'high heel' slippers and headed on down to the Jook Joint...just to be there and be seen. Everyone who was anyone was there.

You Only Live Once...

Harpo's...uh, LABUE's Jook Joint will have live professional entertainment, a sumptuous dinner menu from the period, bid whisk, dominoes, tonk, darts and other games, as well as dancing and get'n down Jook Joint style!!! All under a leaky roof! LABUE's Jook Joint will be located near Stocker and Don Felipe in LA. You will have to go 'round back, and pass the weeds to the 'back door' You must know the password!!! If you are dressed to kill (ie Zoot Suits and Feathered Fedora Hats are in, along with shimmies and dresses from the twenties and thirties), you will be admitted to the 'joint.'

And When you're Dead You're Done..

Daphne King is heading up this event and guarantees to put on an unforgettable evening. Remember how fast the tickets sold out for the Hawaiian Luau and last year's Jamaica Fest. Another sell-out is guaranteed for the best Jook Joint on the block. Don't hesitate. Don't take a chance on missing out on this one. Tickets go on sale at Tuesday's meeting.

*So Let the Good times roll... Oh Baby,
Let the Good Times Roll...*



President's Message

In the past few months, several members have stepped forward to take on new committee assignments. Most recently, Quinal Johnson (Dive Master) and XL Washington (Instructor and Technical Diver) have volunteered to serve as co-chairmen of what was formally known as the Technical Dive Committee. One of the first things this new committee will do is to change the name to more accurately reflect the types of dives being planned and the skill levels required. This committee is focusing its efforts on developing different and more challenging types of dives for those divers possessing the skills required for a given dive.. More information will be available soon. However, suffice it to say that through this committee, LABUE will enhance the variety of dive options available to our members.

Francois Desamours has recently joined Donna on the Internet and Publicity Committee. Francois is working to substantially upgrade our website. Once completed, members will be able to gather even more information about LABUE and its activities. Our website has always presented a very positive image to potential members. Francois is committed to working hard to make the site even better. Again, more information will be available as the site nears completion and is ready for viewing.

I want to personally thank XI, Quinal, Francois as well as all members who served on our committees. It is through the combined efforts of these individuals and members like them that we have been able to achieve so much.

Bob Simmons

Boat Dive

By Steve Scruggs

On Sunday, May 23rd the Encore dive boat is heading to Santa Barbara Island out of Pierpoint Landing in Long Beach.

The cost is \$100 and this challenging, advanced boat dive promises to be a notch above Catalina, offering an abundance of sea life and conditions that will challenge your skills. If 10 or more LABUE members sign up, the price will be reduced accordingly.

The boat leaves Saturday at midnight returning late Sunday afternoon and if you've never been onboard the Encore you will be impressed with its size and service. Call me at 323-815-0099 if you would be interested in participating in this dive or if you have questions.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Robert Simmons (323) 292-8960	Vice President Donna Wilson (310) 337-1541
Treasurer Richard Rice (323) 299-3798	Secretary Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190
Denise Barker (562) 423-4974	George Linares (661) 941-1516
Steve Scruggs (310) 876-1260	

COMMITTEES

Membership Bettye Linares (661) 946-1516	Fundraising James Wiley (310) 477-2389
Beach Dive Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190	Boat Dive Steve Scruggs (310) 876-1260
Dive Training & Safety George Linares (661) 946-1516	Publicity & Internet Donna Wilson (310) 337-1541
Technical Diving Quinal Johnson (Interim)	
Phone: (323) 292-8960 Fax: (310) 337-1542 Email: info@labue.org Web Site: www.labue.org	

Next Meeting: Diving The Wreck Of The Andrea Doria!!!

LABUE's next general membership meeting promises to be one of the most interesting and entertaining meetings in the club's history. Fred Colburn and Scott Brooks, certified instructors and technical divers, will represent Pacific Wilderness (one of LABUE's Business Sponsors) in making the presentation: Diving The Andrea Doria.

The Andrea Doria was an Italian Luxury Liner which departed Genoa Italy on July 17, 1956, headed for New York with 1700 passengers and crew. After stops in Cannes, Naples and Gibraltar, the ship was bound for New York. She never made it. The day before it was due to enter into New York Harbor, she became enshrouded in fog and collided with another large vessel, The Stockholm. Despite having two separate radar systems and state of the art electronic navigation equipment, the supposedly unsinkable Andrea Doria sank in 225 feet of water off the coast of Nantucket.

Because of its depth, the wreck is well beyond the limits of recreational diving and is only for the physically fit and well trained diver. Many divers have died attempting this dive. Some refer to The Andrea Doria as the Mt. Everest of diving!!! Fred and Scott, both expert divers, spent two years planning to attempt the dive. In August 2003, their dream came true. Their visually aided presentation will feature a history of the wreck along with an insight into their experiences in two days of diving the remarkably intact ship. This will be the fourth presentation they have made and they have all been well received.

The 7pm meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 11 in the Times-Mirror Conference Room of the Museum of Natural History. The Museum is located on Exposition Blvd, between Figueroa and Vermont is Los Angeles. Parking is off of Exposition Blvd.

Casino Point by Debora Ewing

Last Saturday's Beach Dive at Casino Point was a success. We were blessed with absolutely perfect weather conditions and calm seas for our morning and afternoon beach dives. A variety of sea creatures were on display including a stingray or two. A rare sighting for Casino Point was that of a giant crab. This crab was obviously 'out' because many of observed him on separate dives. The divers were XL Washington, Tish Raglund, Daphne King, Charles Heath, Quinal Johnson, Pam McField, Charlie Marshall, Richard Rice, Santi Hall, Robert Simmons, Stanley Cooper and myself. On the shore we had Johnnie Davis,

Jackie Hall, Lavern McField and others. Prior to departing the island, we all got together for a group lunch at Antonios Pizzeria. All in all, it was a perfect day to dive with friends.



Dad's Dive & Picnic

Bettye Linares, is once again coordinating LABUE's annual Father's Day beach dive to be held on Sunday, June 20, 2004. For the past several years, the Beach Dive Committee has held a Father's Day dive and picnic at Diver's Cove in Laguna Beach. This activity involves getting Dad to the beach for a couple of good dives (conditions permitting) and afterwards relaxing with family and friends on the grassy knoll with your favorite picnic goodies, beverages (no alcohol) and games. Feel free to bring whatever table games you choose, although dominoes have been the favorite the past couple of years. Picnic tables are available on a first come-first served basis, so it might be a good idea to bring a folding table or top for the games.

Non divers are welcomed to join in the water fun for snorkeling, swimming, surf riding and even body boarding. The first dive briefing will be held at 8:00am. The second briefing will be held at approximately 10:00am. Picnicking at the immediately adjacent Heisler's Park starts at noon and continues until 4pm. This event is always well attended and is always a lot of fun. Participants are reminded to bring plenty of quarters for the metered parking. Contact Bettye for additional information.

Calendar of Events

MARCH

- 06 Beach Dive
- 09 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 20 Catalina Boat Dive on the Island Time
- 23 6:30 PM – Board Meeting

APRIL

- 03 Discover Scuba
- 04 Beach Dive—La Jolla Shores (San Diego)
- 10 Easter Egg Hunt Boat Dive on the Bottom Scratcher
- 13 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 25 Rips, Rocks & Reefs
- 27 6:30 PM – Board Meeting

MAY

- 01 Beach Dive—Casino Point (Catalina Island)
- 05 Chamber Day and Chamber Evening
- 11 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 22 Scuba Show – Long Beach
- 25 6:30 PM – Board Meeting

JUNE

- 08 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 20 Beach Dive—Father's Day Dive at Diver's Cove (Laguna)
- 22 6:30 PM – Board Meeting

JULY

- 13 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 17 Summer Event—"Jook Joint"
- 27 6:30 PM – Board Meeting

AUGUST

- 01 Beach Dive—Deer Creek (Malibu)
- 01 Festival at Sea – Hawaiian Islands
- 10 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 24 06:30 PM – Board Meeting

SEPTEMBER

- 14 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 11 Club Charter—Great Escape Boat Dive
- 28 6:30 PM – Board Meeting
- 30 Club Trip to Fiji

OCTOBER

- 01 Beach Dive—Refugio Santa Barbara Campout Dive
- 12 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 26 6:30 PM – Board Meeting

NOVEMBER

- 06 Beach Dive—Shaw's Cove
- 09 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 23 6:30 PM – Board Meeting

DECEMBER

- 05 Beach Dive—Redondo
- 11 Holiday Gala & Awards Banquet
- 14 7:00 PM – General Meeting

Mike Ball Liveboards

Each year many dive related vendors descend on Los Angeles for the Scuba Show in Long Beach. Since some of LABUE members traveling to Fiji later this year have expressed an interest in a 3-4 day liveboard adventure to Australia, LABUE has arranged a special slide presentation by a representative from Mike Ball Liveboards.

On Monday, May 24, the day after the Show closes, a slide and video presentation on liveboards in Australia will be given to any interested LABUE members. The presentation will be held at the home of Bob Simmons, 4082 S. Cloverdale Ave, in Los Angeles (323 292-8960). This presentation will focus on the packages Mike Ball offers and will generally inform attendees of the benefits of his program.

This meeting will be the perfect opportunity to learn about liveboards from one of the best in the business. This presentation is only possible because the Mike Ball personnel will be in town for the Scuba Show. Call Donna for additional information.



SHARK EGGS

Why do we dive? While normal people were sitting at home on the couch enjoying a quite Saturday on the day before Easter, fifteen LABUE divers were hunting for numbered golf balls on the bottom of the ocean and swimming with sharks.

This was the scene on April 10th onboard the Bottom Scratcher dive boat at Catalina Island where golf balls pretended to be Easter eggs and divers pretended to be kids and everybody had fun. The golf balls were to be redeemed for prizes at Pacific Wilderness dive shop and Santi Hall's excitement of locating five "eggs" was easily overshadowed by his sighting of six sharks circling beneath him on our second of three dives.

Exaggerated fish stories are common among divers but the eyes of a new diver's first shark sighting don't lie. This was the kind of trip that provides the memories that last a lifetime. This is why we dive.

Steve Scruggs

NABS Summit

The National Association of Black Scuba Divers has announced that the 2004 Summit will be held in the Caribbean Island of Cozumel, just minutes away from the resort town of Cancun in Mexico.

Each year the Summit the members of the NABS family an opportunity to get away and enjoy good diving and good fellowship.

The group will be housed at the El Presidente Hotel from November 10-14, 2004.

For information on prices package options, please refer to the NABS website...www.nabsdivers.org.

Electronic Newsletter

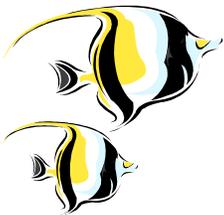
LABUE recently switched to distributing the monthly newsletter via e-mail.

A review of the membership roster revealed that over 80% of the membership now have e-mail addresses.

In an effort to save time and printing costs as well as joining the 21st century, the mailing of hard copies of the newsletter will only be done for a limited time to those members for whom LABUE does not have e-mail information.

Please notify Donna with your e-mail address in order to continue to receive the newsletter.

**Los Angeles Black
Underwater Explorers
10736 Jefferson Blvd., #428
Culver City, CA 90230**

**Reminders:**

- ** **General Membership Meeting—05/11/04**
- ** **Mike Ball Live Aboard Presentation—5/24/04**
- ** **Board Meeting—05/25/04**

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If you are a small business or individual and could use the help of a virtual assistant (bookkeeping, database, secretarial, paralegal, desktop publishing, websites or web hosting) please contact us at the above number or register at our web site for more information.

Donna Wilson
LABUE Member and Club Sponsor

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