

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

MAY 2005

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DIVING WITH SAFEAIR AND NITROX

Rusty Berry, CEO of Aquatic Outfitters dba Scuba Schools of America, will be the speaker at the General Membership Meeting scheduled for May 10 at the Museum of Natural History in Exposition Park. His presentation will center around the merits of SafeAir and Oxygen enriched gases. What exactly is meant by SafeAir? What is Nitrox? What are the advantages of using these special mixes? What are the potential dangers associated with their use? These questions and more will be answered by Rusty as he brings LABUE up to date on the latest in technical diving techniques. Although LABUE encourages recreational divers to avoid the more highly technical nature of using mixed gases, it is good for everyone to have a good understanding of the subject.

Scuba Schools of America has been in business for over forty years. Rusty, who became CEO of SSA in 2000, has been diving since 1978, became an instructor in 1983 and has become one of the foremost experts in the use of mixed gases and rebreathers. In 1992, he became one of the first to provide SafeAir and Nitrox in Southern California. He has received several accolades for his work in the development of rebreather dive equipment and concepts as well as for his teaching skills. LABUE is honored to have him as the club's speaker.

Quinal Johnson, the chairperson of the club's Ad/Spec/Tech Committee, has been focusing his efforts on helping to provide the training opportunities necessary to allow members to participate in some of the Committee's planned future activities. If enough members become interested in this subject, it might be possible to arrange a class at reduced rates. Whether or not you are interested in personally using mixed gases, you will want to learn about this fascinating subject. The meeting will begin at 7pm. Plan now to attend.



President's Message

A group of LABUE members has just returned from the club's annual dive trip. This time the destination was Tortola in the British West Indies. The trip was a lot of fun with good diving and good camaraderie among good people. The warm water (82-84 degrees) and great visibility (60-100 feet) made for great diving conditions. There was a wide variety of underwater life and coral formations to enjoy. The highlight, of course, was the two tank dive to the wreck of the RMS Rhone. Although many of us had been to Tortola several times, diving the Rhone, sunk by a hurricane in 1867, offers different experiences each time. The conditions were so good that about 75% of my bottom times were over an hour. It was like diving in a clear underwater wonderland. Congratulations to Shannon Tanner and Clifton Williams for completing their advanced underwater certifications while on the

trip. Bettye Linares made sure that our land based activities were well planned out, particularly the dinners we all enjoyed at a variety of different restaurants. It just so happened that the Miss Caribbean beauty contest was held during our stay and the contestants whom representing over 20 Caribbean islands were housed at our hotel. Many of us watched the NBA playoffs. The only thing missing was the Lakers. All in all, everyone got along well with each other and had a wonderful time. Many who attended are already looking forward to next year's trip which will be in April 2006. Hopefully, you will be with us!!!

Bob Simmons



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

Wine Basket Raffle

The Ways and Means Committee has donated a gourmet wine basket to be raffled off at the May 10 General Membership meeting. Debora Ewing, Tina Houston and David Robinson each contributed funds and put together a truly fantastic basket full of goodies, including wines, cheeses, bottle openers, cork reinsertion devices and other items. The basket is packaged beautifully and could easily be displayed and sold in a major Department Store. The individual items in the basket would retail for over \$175. Tickets will be available for \$1 at the May meeting. LABUE is very appreciative of these three members and the contributions they continue to make to help make LABUE an even better club. The club sends out a hearty 'Thank You' to Debora, Tina and David for their outstanding work.

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Beach Dive and Boat Dive Combined Event

This year LABUE is again combining two very popular dive sites into one exciting weekend in San Diego. On Saturday, May 14th, LABUE divers will be diving the Wreck of the Yukon. While on Sunday, May 15th, LABUE divers will also be beach diving at La Jolla Shores.

Evening activities have been planned for those choosing to spend the weekend. Pat and Clifton Williams will be hosting a group dinner at their home in San Diego on Saturday evening. Non-hosted group meals at local restaurants will also happen on Friday evening and Sunday afternoon. The camaraderie will be great and the diving excellent.

LABUE has confirmed space for 12 divers on two boats to the Yukon. Initially it was hoped to fill up one 6-pack boat. However, demand was so great that a second boat was added. Both boats will dive in tandem so everyone will be together underwater. The boat dive trip is completely sold out.

La Jolla Shores is a beach dive site featuring a deep canyon which frequently reveals squid eggs, lobsters, halibut and other sea creatures. So far, over 20 members have signed up to participate in this Sunday afternoon activity. Despite the large numbers, and, as opposed to boat dives, there is always room for one more on a beach dive. As usual, following the beach dive, the participants will gather at a local eatery to share stories and enjoy each other's company. Contact Debora Ewing for additional info and to sign up. This is shaping up to be an incredible weekend of fun with the boat dive on Saturday and the beach dive on Sunday.

As a reminder, all boat dives are very limited in space and sell out very quickly. So if you plan on diving this summer, plan on acting fast when these dives are announced. Call Steve at 310-795-0851 for all your boat diving needs. LABUE regularly beats all dive shop prices for club members only. Don't be left high and dry in a club designed to get you low and wet. Dive your plan and plan to dive.



Calendar of Events

Fish Fry

After several years of having different summer activities, LABUE will return to the original summer fish fry as the club's summer activity. The event is scheduled for Sunday, August 21st and will begin at 1:00 pm. Food will be served from 2-4 pm. This year the food will be provided by **Louisiana Catfish**, a local caterer well known for serving tasty and delicious seafood. The menu will include a combination plate of catfish, red snapper and shrimp along with the normal condiments and beverage.

This affair will be a relaxing opportunity to get together with friends on a lazy Sunday afternoon. In addition to the great food, there will be card games, dominoes and, of course, LABUE Bingo, which has become an annual favorite among attendees at club events.

Tickets are \$15.00 and will be available beginning at the June General Membership Meeting. Contact Donna at (310) 337-1541 for additional information.

Family & Friends Day...Dive and Picnic

The Beach Dive Committee is reminding everyone that the annual Family/Friends Day Dive & Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 19 at Big Corona 'Breakwaters' in Corona Del Mar. The first dive briefing will be held at 8am. Each year on Father's Day, morning beach dives are followed by an afternoon of picnicking and fun with both divers and their non-diving friends. After the morning dives everyone is invited to get together for '*picnicking*' from noon until 3:00pm to relax with family and friends. Simply bring your own basket packed with whatever you prefer to snack/drink. Bring your games, cards, volleyballs, a good book, beach chairs & umbrellas, blankets and sit by the shoreline and enjoy the tides rolling in & out. As is the case with all beach dives, divers who do not dive regularly can practice their skills and can also expect to be paired with a more experienced buddy. As opposed to boat dives and warm water trips in which participants are expected to be self reliant, LABUE uses beach dives as a training opportunity for those interested in improving their skills. The only way to become a better diver is to dive...and beach dives are an inexpensive way to practice skills. Non divers are welcome and invited to participate in swimming and snorkeling. LABUE's Beach Dive Committee annually looks forward to this fun-filled Family & Friends Day at the beach in Newport. Contact Debora Ewing if you plan to attend.



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

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NABS Annual Summit

The National Association of Black Scuba Divers has announced that the 2005 Summit will be held in Barbados from November 9-13.

This Summit is the one National event in which divers from across the country convene to dive and share. Pricing for this 5 day/4 night event begin at \$713 pp not including airfare. For more information, please refer to the Summit Website at www.nabsdivers.org/summit.

Dive & Camp Weekend

From Friday, September 30 through Sunday, October 2, 2005, LABUE's second Dive and Camp Weekend will take place at Refugio (Santa Barbara). The regular October monthly beach dive will take place on Saturday at Refugio, in conjunction with the planned weekend activities. The reservation fee again includes a sumptuous dinner at a nearby ranch followed by a humorous play (a murder mystery) in the local theater. The cost is \$46.00 per person which includes the full course barbeque dinner and theater show on Friday night and a camp site for Friday and Saturday. The first 20 people who pay the \$46.00 reservation fee will be guaranteed a spot. At last count only a few spaces remained. Reservations can be made at the May 10, General Membership Meeting. Reservations can also be mailed to: 10736 Jefferson Boulevard, #428, Culver City, California 90230 (with the reservation form). Quinal Johnson is the organizer of this event and can be reached at 562-754-2589. Those who attended this sold out event last year found the dive & camp weekend to be a real treat. Sitting around moonlit campfires with friends makes this getaway truly special. Don't miss out this time!!!



Reminders:

- ** **General Membership Meeting—5/10/2005**
- ** **Yukon/La Jolla Shores—5/14/2005**
- ** **Fish Fry—8/21/2005**

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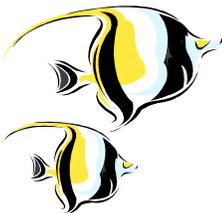
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Bylaws Amendments

The Board previously announced that it was considering amending the club bylaws. As prescribed by the club Bylaws, the membership was given several opportunities to comment on these proposed amendments.

Following the comment period, the Board discussed the proposed amendments and voted to ratify them at the April 2005 Board Meeting.

The following three amendments were ratified:

(1)The name of the Technical Committee has been changed to the Ad/Spec/Tech committee;

(2)The name of the Fundraising committee has been changed to the Ways and Means Committee; and,

(3) All Committee members are required to be current with their dues as a condition of committee participation. The Bylaws will be rewritten to include these amendments in the near future and will continue to be available on the LABUE Website.

RLS & ASSOCIATES

**ROBERT L. SIMMONS
LABUE MEMBER**

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