

# LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

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## LAST CALL: THE PHILIPPINES

This is the last call to sign up for the Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers 2009 club trip to the Philippine Islands. From October 24-31, 2009, LABUE will enjoy spectacular diving in the pristine waters that have made the Philippines a must-do dive destination. For those interested, a post trip extension including 5 additional nights in Hong Kong and Macao, China, two of the hottest spots in Asia...full of history, mega shopping and Las Vegas style casino action has been arranged. With over 22 people signed up, the trip will soon be closed.

The club will be housed at the Atlantis Resort in Puerto Galera. This all inclusive resort is located south of Manila and has more than 35 world class dive sites within a 15 minute boat ride. Without exaggeration, Puerto Galera is truly one of the last great undiscovered dive destinations in the world. The nearly 5 mile reef boasts a bio-diversity exceeding that of the Great Barrier Reef and the entire Caribbean combined! Many of those amazing photos of colorful, micro critters are taken at this location. It is not unusual to see several different species of small creatures on the same dive. It is easy to see why Atlantis has long been a favorite of European and Pacific Rim divers.

The Atlantis Resort has a full service spa on site and is 3 minutes from a local gym. It also serves as the hub of many tours and activities for non-divers including snorkeling, beach activities, jet skiing, hiking, visiting local villages and lots more. The on site restaurant is well known for its great local and international cuisine.

The Philippines represents a great value for the US dollar. Right now, everything is priced very favorably for U.S. travelers. Airfare, at about \$959 from LAX, is particularly inexpensive. The trip price varies from as little as \$1350 pp/double occupancy (not including international airfare). A \$400 non refundable deposit is required to secure a reservation. Contact Bob Simmons 323 292-8960 for more detailed pricing information and to obtain a Registration Form. The Philippines will be LABUE's greatest trip yet...but don't hesitate!!!



### President's Message by Bob Simmons

Many years ago, Bettye Linares came up with what has become a LABUE tradition, the annual **Father's Day Dive and Picnic**. In this event, the Beach Dive Committee, chaired by Debora Ewing, stages its regular monthly beach dive at a location conducive to both diving and picnicking. Following the morning dives, everyone gets together for an afternoon of picnicking and fun. This year's event will take place on Father's Day, June 21 at Big Corona Breakwater (Corona Del Mar) in Newport Beach. What makes this event so special is that everyone in the family can participate and have a good time. Typically, the monthly beach dives are organized for the beach divers and shore support team, with little thought given to the other members of the families of the divers involved. With the addition of a picnic, everyone can be involved and have a very enjoyable day.

The diving begins at 8:30am and the picnic follows immediately. Things

are very informal and everyone brings whatever they choose to eat. There is usually a game or two of dominoes going on along with a serious game of chess and other board games. The most fun, though, is simply getting together with friends and having lots of fun. The setting on a grassy bluff overlooking the ocean cannot be beat. The event generally concludes around 3pm although several folks usually remain until later in the afternoon. Bettye deserves much of the credit for coming up with this winning idea years ago. She or Debora may be contacted for more information. Thanks Bettye for coming up with such a well received idea.



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

**Beach Dives** by Debora Ewing

*Big Corona Breakwater (Corona Del Mar).* On Sunday, June 21, 2009 LABUE's Fathers' Day Dive/Picnic will take place (See President's message on Page 1). George Linares will give the dive briefing at 8:00 a.m. and again at 10:30a.m. We plan to enjoy our picnic lunch at the beach immediately following the diving. The parking fee is approximately \$10.00 per vehicle. Bring your lunch, family and friends and enjoy a day at the beach with your fellow club members. 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.

**NABS Summit**

The National Association of Black Scuba Divers has announced that its 2009 Summit will be held in Freeport, Grand Bahama Island from November 4-8, 2009. The Bahamas have long been a favorite dive location featuring a wide variety of species and interesting coral. The Summit offers an opportunity for divers from across the country to socialize together once each year. The NABS website: [www.nabsdivers.org](http://www.nabsdivers.org) has additional information and details.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President Robert Simmons (323) 292-8960	Vice President Francois Desamours (310) 412-8128
Treasurer Richard Rice (323) 299-3798	Secretary Debora Ewing (310) 284-4556
Sharlene Johnson (310) 915-3931	DonCosta Seawell (909) 953-1877

**COMMITTEES**

Membership Bettye Linares (661) 729-6626	Ways & Means Debora Ewing (310) 284-4556
Beach Dive Debora Ewing (310) 284-4556	Boat Dive DonCosta Seawell (909) 593-1877
Dive Training & Safety Vacant	Publicity & Internet Francois Desamours (310) 412-8128
Ad/Spec/Tech Vacant	

**Boat Dives**

As a reminder, LABUE is attempting to act as a clearing house of information regarding LABUE divers participating in upcoming dives on various boats. The concept is simple. Any LABUE diver planning to dive on a particular date should submit the pertinent details regarding the dive for distribution to all club members. It is hoped that divers looking for other club divers to dive with will contact each other and make the experience that much more enjoyable. Information regarding upcoming dives scheduled by club divers looking for buddies should be e-mailed to Bob Simmons at LABUE-

**Membership Renewal**

LABUE has been in existence for many years and the \$30 renewal fee has not changed in all that time. Even though costs have gone up, the Board has made it a priority to reduce club expenses (such as sending this newsletter via e-mail instead of regular mail) wherever possible. Nevertheless it is imperative that members renew their membership as this source of revenue represents the major source of club funds. Membership enables one to participate in club activities at a discount and is a requirement for club subsidized activities such as boat dives and the upcoming club trip to the Philippines and Hong Kong, China. Everyone is asked to do their part by renewing today.

**Special Elections**

The club elections scheduled for November 2008 had to be postponed. They have been rescheduled for November 2009. The term for those elected will be for one year. The regular elections scheduled for November 2010 will be held as per the club By-Laws. Bob Simmons has announced that he will not be a candidate for President. Francois Desamour, current Vice President has indicated that since he has moved to Virginia, he will not be a candidate for reelection as well. A nominating Committee will be appointed and a slate of candidates will be developed. Members interested in running for one of the club offices should review the By-Laws for the required qualifications.

**Next Club Meeting**

The next club meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12. The meeting will be held at the Museum of Natural History on Exposition Blvd across from USC and will begin at 7:00pm. Club meetings represent the best way for members and guests to keep abreast of club activities and upcoming events. They are also a great way to keep in a 'diving' frame of mind. The meetings are always interesting and fun. Among other items discussed, the latest information regarding the club trip to the Philippines will be presented. Plan now to attend.

**Discover Scuba**

On Saturday, May 9, LABUE hosted another in a long series of Discover Scuba sessions at Pacific Wilderness in San Pedro. Instructor George Linares and his wife, Bettye, coordinated the event which is designed to give non divers a chance to experience a real dive experience in a confined and safe swimming pool environment. Seven participants got an opportunity to try on scuba gear and actually dive underwater under the strict guidance of the instructor. As usual the 'divers' were overwhelmed with the underwater environment, even though it was only in a pool. Club members Mike Dillard, Debora Ewing, DonCosta Seawell, Joe Windolph and his son Josh were on hand to assist George and Bettye. As has become the custom the past few years, another session will probably be scheduled for August or September. Discover Scuba has consistently attracted potential divers and has become a mainstay of LABUE's calendar. The dates of the next session will be announced once they are established.

**Chamber Evening**

LABUE once again sponsored a table at the annual Chamber Evening dinner held on May 6 at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach. The proceeds from this fundraiser help the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber achieve the funds needed to stay in operation. This year, the event again raised over \$100,000 despite the current economic climate. Ken Kurtis of Reef Seekers Dive Company coordinated the event which was another sellout with over 500 people in attendance. Everyone had a lot of fun for a good cause as well.