

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

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THE PHILIPPINES OPENS



The Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers has announced that they will head to the Philippine Islands for the 2009 club trip. 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 8 days and 7 nights the club will be housed at the Atlantis Resort in Puerto Galera. This all-inclusive resort is located a short 70 mile ride 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. It is easy to see why Atlantis has long been a favorite of European and Pacific Rim divers.

In addition to excellent diving in some of the most pristine waters and reefs in the world, the Atlantis Resort is very close to outstanding 'muck diving' sites in which all sorts of pretty, macro critters are readily visible. It is not unusual to see several different species of small creatures on the same dive. 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 activities for the snorkler and non-diver alike. The on site restaurant is well known for its great food featuring both local and international cuisine.

A great reason to go to the Philippines is the value received for the US dollar. Right now, everything is priced very favorably for the U.S. Tourist. The price for the dive package, based on double occupancy is \$1350.00, not including airfare from the USA. The non-diver rate is \$1140.00. Single Person occupancy pricing is \$1650.00 for divers and \$1440.00 for non divers. The above prices are guaranteed once a \$400 non refundable deposit is received by LABUE. Contact Bob Simmons for additional information at 323 292-8960.

President's Message by Bob Simmons

Our 2009 club trip to the Philippines opened on October 14. Even though the trip is still 11 months away, the response has been excellent. We sold out of the initial 10 rooms we had reserved and have requested another 5 rooms. We will request additional rooms as needed, until the hotel is sold out. The hotel has approximately 35 rooms and will be sold out well before our trip.

The Atlantis Resort has an excellent dive operation on site, with boats carrying no more than 6-8 divers, equipment storage facilities, a large camera and equipment work room with individual work stations, and most dive locations are within 15 minutes of the resort. After having visited Fiji (twice) and Australia in the past two years, it is hard to imagine that the Philippines offers more species of fish than do these areas and the Caribbean combined! But, it's true. Most unusual are the large numbers of beautiful macro creatures usually seen in photographs but not in person. Divers

routinely encounter lion fish, pygmy sea horses, colorful nudibranchs and countless rare species of fish. Beautiful reefs or muck diving, it is your choice. After diving, a wide variety of activities awaits, including very inexpensive spa services and massages right at the Resort.

Those who traveled to Australia last year will fondly remember the great time we all had following the live-aboard touring Cairns and Sydney. With that in mind, the recommended optional add-on trip will be to Hong Kong, China. Since the recommended air route will take us thru China, it is a perfect opportunity to see yet another culture. This will be the greatest trip LABUE has undertaken. Come fly with us!!!



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

Beach Dives by Debora Ewing

The next beach dive will take place on Saturday, December 6, at Fisherman's Cove (Laguna). This dive site is for all skill levels. The site is conveniently located between Shaw's Cove and Picnic Beach at Heisler's Park. Laguna Seaports Dive Shop is located just around the corner from the site. Fisherman's Cove has restrooms, picnic tables, showers onsite and offers metered parking (quarters only). The dive master will be Sharlene Johnson and the dive briefing will be given at noon. The site has a shallow underwater rocky reef with an abundance of sea life. If you're interested in joining the group for either of these dives, please contact me at (909) 240-7022 and I'll add your name to the list of divers. Some divers have questioned why they should 'rsp.' The answer is so I know to contact you if the dive is cancelled or switched to another location for whatever reason. See you at Fisherman's cove on December 6.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Robert Simmons (323) 292-8960	Vice President Francois Desamours (310) 412-8128
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Boat Dive By DonCosta Seawell

Instructor George Linares is completing his latest training class and will be certifying his class of new divers on the boat dive scheduled for Saturday, December 6, 2008, aboard the Island Time. The boat has a 6am check in time and a 6:30am departure. Call 1-866-488-3483 for reservations and indicate you are with George Linares (see: www.expressdivers.com). For a map and driving directions please see <http://www.ecodivecenter.com/content/map--directions-to-island-time-dive-boat-by-eco-dive-center>. The fee is \$95.00. Club wide notification of this boat dive is part of our program to alert all club members of upcoming boat dives involving LABUE divers. George has 4 students who will be completing their certification dives. Several LABUE divers will be on board as support. It is always fun to dive with club members and this late season boat dive will be a perfect opportunity to get in a couple of dives, enjoy great socializing and return to Long Beach around noon. Although not required, everyone is asked to contact Bettye Linares to let her know of your plans to attend.

Membership Renewal

The Board has announced that, for this year only, members may renew their club membership for 2009 beginning immediately. Normally, only new members are granted a 'carry over' which allows their initial dues paid after October 1 to cover 2009 as well. The goal of this offer is to get as many folks renewed as early as possible. 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 funds represents the major source of club revenue. 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.

Next Club Meeting

The next club meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 11. 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. The latest information regarding next year's trip to the Philippines will be presented. Members may also submit their \$400 deposits at the meeting. Plan now to attend.

Philippines Update

The initial 10 rooms reserved by LABUE for the October 24-31, 2009, club trip to the Philippines have been sold out. However, the club has requested an additional 5 rooms. Additional rooms will be requested as needed. Following are the names of individuals whom have secured reservations to date:

Debora Ewing
Johnnie Davis
Tina Houston
DonCosta Seawell
Doralyn Seawell
Bob Simmons
Denise Barker
Wayne Wright
Richard Rice
Lamont Johnson
Randy Tillery
Cheryl Tillery
Pam McField
LaVerne McField
Charles Heath

Additional members have indicated their desire to be part of the group and so it will probably be necessary to request additional rooms beyond the 15 rooms already secured. The relatively inexpensive rate for individuals wishing to pay the single person supplement has lead to a 'larger than normal' number of travelers requesting a private room. Contact Bob Simmons for additional information. A reservation is considered confirmed when the \$400 non refundable deposit is received. Even though the trip is 11 months away, the hotel is expected to sell well in advance.

Spotlight

By Debora Ewing

INTERVIEW OF PAM McFIELD

1. **What Influenced you to get into diving?** I went on a Festival at Sea cruise and scuba diving was offered. I read in the ship's newsletter that there was a black scuba diving club aboard the ship and that peaked my interest. Shortly thereafter, I contacted LABUE once I got back from the cruise and then I watched a beach dive take place. After seeing that a person could actually breath underwater I was good to go!
2. **What do you enjoy most about LABUE?** The friendships and camaraderie that evolves. I also enjoy becoming reacquainted with old friends.
3. **Is there anything you would like LABUE to offer more of?** I would like to see more community involvement.
4. **What is your favorite California dive site?** San Clemente Island. I enjoyed the kelp forest. It was at this dive site that I first saw a juvenile leopard shark. I also enjoyed the rays.
5. **What is your most memorable dive?** The Blue Hole located in Belize. **Why?** It was surreal. I dreamed about the dive prior to actually doing the dive.
6. **What is your occupation away from diving? How did you get into this field?** Nursing. I have always had a heart for children.
7. **If you could leave California tomorrow to live anywhere in the world, where would that place be?** Martinique.
8. **What other hobbies do you enjoy?** Traveling, reading and relaxing.
9. **What famous person do people tell you that you favor most?** People have told me that I look like Whoppi Goldberg.
10. **Tell me something that LABUE's membership would be surprised to know about you.** In researching my family lineage there is the possibility that I had ancestors on the Henrietta Marie.

Reminders:

- ** **General Membership Meeting—11/11/08**
 ** **Philippines Trip Reservations—On Going**
 ** **Election Of Officers—12/9/08**