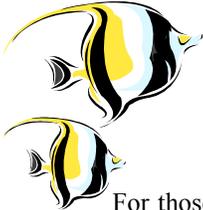


LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

OCTOBER 2005

Volume 10 Issue 10



GRAND CAYMANS...Price Reduced

For those interested in joining LABUE for the club trip to Grand Cayman Island from April 20-28, 2006, there is good news. Because of Delta Airlines' bankruptcy activities, the trip was switched to American Airlines. In the process, the airfare was reduced by more than \$200! The reduction lowered the trip price to \$1625 for divers (pp/double occupancy) and \$1325 for non divers. The final price will depend on the options selected. The trip is open and 20 members have already submitted deposits.

LABUE will spend 8 days and 7 nights on Grand Cayman Island, the largest of the three islands comprising the Cayman Island chain. The club will be housed at the Sunset House Hotel, the only resort in the Cayman Islands designed by divers, operated by divers, for divers. It is also the only hotel in the Cayman Islands which has its own coral reef with modern and ancient shipwrecks in shallow water right off shore. The package includes roundtrip airfare from Los Angeles, 7 nights accommodations (double occupancy), 5 days of 2-tank dives, unlimited shore diving, daily breakfasts and transfers.

The Cayman Islands are consistently rated among the top 10 dive destinations in the world, where underwater visibility is regularly in the 75-150ft range and can reach over 200ft. These islands have a huge variety of sea life and corals as well as some of the best wall diving in the world. Water temperature is reliably in the low 80's. With the availability of unlimited shore diving right on the premises, some divers will easily complete 20 dives or more during the 6 potential dive days.

The terms of the trip are included in the attached flyer. Anyone interested must submit a signed application along with a \$400 check. As with LABUE's previous trips, \$250 of the deposit is non refundable. If you are interested being part of an exciting week, act immediately as the trip will close prior to Thanksgiving.



President's Message

Over the past couple of years, I have noticed that our club continues to evolve in a positive direction. Since we moved from my home (smile) to the Museum of Natural History, the average attendance at our monthly meetings has increased. It is probably not an accidental coincidence that participation in our events has increased as well. After all, the greater the number of people at the meetings, the greater the number of people who hear about club activities and, therefore, the greater will be the number of people wanting to get more involved. A large percentage of our activities regularly sell out. Our Boat Committee Chairperson, Steve Scruggs, has increased the number of spots he reserves on our boats and, even then, those spots are usually taken long before the dive. The group of regular beach divers has also steadily increased. Your Board made a decision last year

to offer more of the kinds of activities which you, the members, wanted to have. The theory is that if we can come up activities which a large number of club members want, the easier it is to attract willing participants. I believe that all Board members are looking at the increased levels of participation as positive reinforcement that we continue to head in the right direction. To that end, all club members are invited to submit ideas or activities which you believe LABUE should try to incorporate into the calendar. Feel free to contact any Board member with your ideas. We want LABUE to be *your* club and can always use new ideas!!!



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

Beach Diving by Debora Ewing

The next beach dive is scheduled for Saturday, November 5 at Shaws Cove in Laguna. I will be giving the dive briefing at 8:00am. As many of you know, beach diving is my favorite type of diving and I have been fortunate to have dived in a wide variety of local dive spots. Of all the locations I have dived in, Shaws Cove is my favorite because of the wide variety of marine life and interesting bottom formation. I have seen lobster, crabs, eels, squid eggs as well as the 'usual suspects.' As a reminder, on all beach dives, we make a special effort to pair lesser experienced divers with more advanced divers. These dives are the perfect opportunity to practice those skills learned during the certification process and to move closer towards becoming the independent diver that everyone wants to be. See you there...

Boat Dive by Steve Scruggs

The good news is that the club will once again be diving on the local oil rigs. The bad news is that all of the club spots are sold out, as is the rest of the boat. The LABUE boat dive for October has sold out quickly because of the unique challenges and rewards that go along with diving the local oil rigs.

If you are interested in experiencing the thrills of diving the rigs, sign up early when the opportunity presents itself in the coming year. But most importantly, dive often to improve your skill level so that you are qualified to sign up for these types of advanced dives. If you don't grow within the sport, the sport will outgrow you and you'll get bored. Use your C-card as a license to learn and get out and dive.

The Boat Dive Committee will offer LABUE members a monthly boat dive and the Beach Dive Committee will offer a monthly beach dive, but these are just suggestions. There are a lot of dive opportunities every weekend, and during the week there are great bargains that can be taken advantage of through local dive shops.

The next LABUE boat dive is scheduled for November 19th going to San Clemente Island onboard the Encore dive boat at a cost of \$110. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for details. And remember, if you want to enjoy this dangerous sport safely, you must dive often to maintain a skill level to handle any situation because no one can hear you scream underwater.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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LABUE Dive Camp Weekend by Richard Rice

Escaping the smoky L.A. Basin, more than twenty-two members and friends participated in LABUE’s recent *Dive and Camp Weekend*. The event, which was sold out months ago, was held for the second year at Refugio State Park & Beach, just north of Santa Barbara. Participants arrived as early as September 29, and traveled as far as Phoenix, Arizona. Official activities started Friday evening after setting up camp, with everyone heading to the nearby Circle Bar-B Ranch for a delicious BBQ dinner and an evening of hilarious theater featuring local actors performing *The Murder Room*, a comedic murder mystery. Beach Dive Committee chairperson Debra Ewing and Quinal (“Mr. Campman”) Johnson, *campmaster* for the weekend, planned an event that offered tasty food, theater, and a variety of activities. Our experience this year was in contrast to last year’s enjoyable, but rainy event; the weather this year was perfect and the water was warm. Members expertly set up camp on reserved campsites; creating a *LABUE Village* complete with “ghetto” and “Beverly Hills” camp enclaves that included well equipped cooking facilities, and accommodations ranging from cot tents, to pup tents, to multi-room family tents, to camper vans, to rooms at the hotel down the road. Divers enjoyed a leisurely breakfast on Saturday before suiting up for a mid-day dive. Sea life on the extensive offshore reef system was abundant and colorful. The afternoon was spent ocean kayaking, hiking, cycling along the coastline, enjoying some serious games of chess, dominoes, and cards, and just relaxing. The local lobsters breathed a sigh of relief as the planned night dive and bug hunt was canceled, due to poor visibility. Everyone pitched in to create a potluck feast on Saturday night, with every variety of meat, chicken, freshly speared fish, side dishes, and desserts you could desire. The highlight of each evening included socializing under the clear night’s stars around a roaring camp fire, reminiscing about past and planned LABUE trips and diving experiences. We were all up early on Sunday enjoying Q’s fabulous “dirty” scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage, Bettye’s French toast, and Pat’s hash browns. We efficiently broke camp, packed up and were all on the road home by noon after enjoying another great *LABUE Dive and Camp Weekend*.



Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

- 11 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 25 Board Meeting

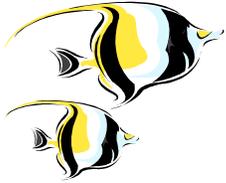
NOVEMBER

- 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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Next Meeting

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 11 at the Museum of Natural History. The featured speaker will be Mr. Marty Golden, a Fisheries Service marine biologist stationed at the Long Beach Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). His present title is Pacific Recreational Fisheries Coordinator and he is responsible for dealing with recreational fisheries issues for entire Pacific coast, including Alaska. Marty's presentation will include a DVD of diving in National Marine Sanctuaries, a discussion of Marine Protected Areas, artificial reefs, and fisheries management. Those in attendance will come away with a greater awareness of the responsibilities of the NOAA and will be entertained by the amusing and unusual situations which arise. Marty is an underwater photographer and has been diving since high school. His favorite place to dive is in the kelp beds of southern California but enjoys tropical diving as well. His most recent tropical dive was in Fiji, and he said, "it was almost as a good as a California kelp dive". The meeting will begin at 7:00pm. Plan now to attend.

RLS & ASSOCIATES

**ROBERT L. SIMMONS
LABUE MEMBER**

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