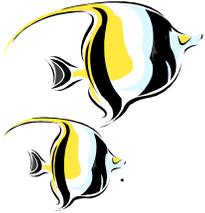


LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

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CLUB CHARTER DIVE



LABUE chartered the entire boat The Great Escape on September 9 for a day of diving and intermingling with each other. The Great Escape is truly one of the premier local dive boats and Captain Tim and his crew came through again. The food and service we received was great. A complete breakfast was ready beginning at 6am prior to the first dive. There were sweet rolls and monkey bread along with fruit and juices between the first and second dives. Following the second dive, a tasty chicken pasta complete with a tossed green salad was ready when everyone was back on board. A highlight of the 'food' day, of course, is always the brownies and ice cream which await everyone following the third dive. Since there were fewer people on board, everyone had all the brownies they could eat. The weather was also perfect from start to finish. However, the main event was the diving and it was exceptional! The usual creatures, including large schools of fish, were present but there were many unusual sightings. Several large black sea bass were seen, some of which were over 6' as it was easy to hover next to them and get very close. Excited divers also saw a horn shark, lobsters, moray eels, a school of over 100 barracuda and a startled silvery black sea lion which came within 5' of some divers as it departed the scene. The visibility of about 75' was the best many had ever experienced in Catalina and the water temperature at depth was 73 degrees. Conditions were great but it was also easy and fun to practice navigational skills. Some divers did a little better than others. Since there was a little more room than normal, it was very easy to maneuver around the boat and everyone was very comfortable. Next year LABUE will again charter The Great Escape but it will be difficult topping the experience everyone shared on this day. Join the club's next charter. You never know what you will see...

President's Message

Longtime LABUE member Artie Williams sent an e-mail notifying me that he was doing a boat dive in a couple of weeks. His thought was that I could pass the word among those going to Fiji and Australia and maybe someone would want to join him on the dive as sort of a warm up to the upcoming trip. I forwarded his e-mail to everyone participating in the trip and, in fact, one of our newer members responded and joined Artie for the two tank dive. I started thinking and realized that we have members diving on their own throughout the year. My thought was that perhaps others would sign up for a particular boat if they knew another club member would be on board. The club currently announces both upcoming dive opportunities and club charters. However, I believe we can go one step further and let everyone know when someone in the club is diving. If you are consid-

ering making a particular dive, please let me know and I will be happy to let other club members know. In this way, members do not have to wait for a club dive to dive with fellow members. We are all about networking and I see that we can provide a useful service in this regard. All you have to do is call or e-mail me or Francois Desamours (our website administrator) and we will send out a general club announcement. The more participation in this program, the more divers we will have in the water...a good thing!!!

Bob Simmons



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

Beach Dive by Debora Ewing

On Sunday, October 7, several of the dedicated club beach divers met at Crescent Bay in Laguna. The day was simply gorgeous and the conditions were excellent. We dove the site and enjoyed seeing the many wonderful underwater scenes unfold before us. Although we did not see anything really unusual, we all had a great time just enjoying the dive and each other. We had plenty of time to explore the very nice rocky reef at a depth of about 35 feet. A couple of the divers used this dive as a tune up for next week's trip to Fiji and Australia. Beach dives are a great way to improve skills in a very economical way. I will be in Fiji and Australia for a couple of weeks and I wish all of you could be there. Watch the newsletter for the announcement of our next local dive. If you have any questions, feel free to call my cell at (909) 240-7022.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Robert Simmons (323) 292-8960	Vice President Francois Desamours (703) 722-2142
Treasurer Richard Rice (323) 299-3798	Secretary Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190
Sharlene Johnson (310) 915-3931	George Linares (661) 941-1516
Shannon Tanner (818) 992-7902	

COMMITTEES

Membership Bettye Linares (661) 946-1516	Ways & Means Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190
Beach Dive Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190	Boat Dive Shannon Tanner (818) 992-7902
Dive Training & Safety George Linares (661) 946-1516	Publicity & Internet Francois Desamours (702) 722-2142
Ad/Spec/Tech	
Phone: (323) 292-8960	
Fax: (310) 337-1542	
Email: info@labue.org	
Web Site: www.labue.org	

Warm Water Trip for 2008

In about 10 days, 24 lucky club members will depart for LABUE's grandest warm water trip yet. The group will spend over two weeks diving in both Fiji and on the 120' Spirit Of Freedom luxury live aboard dive yacht diving the Coral Sea and Great Barrier Reef in Australia. Included are 6 days of sightseeing in both Cairns (gateway to the Outback) and Sydney (home of the 2004 Olympics). It promises to be a dive trip to remember. Even though this trip has not yet happened, it is time to start planning for the club's 2008 trip. The Board considered several options as it decided to stay closer to home (ie The Caribbean). After a process taking several months, it was decided to return to Belize in 2008. The club visited San Pedro on Ambergris Cay several years ago and had a great time. Belize is known for its canyons, spectacular coral formations and large pelagics. It is always rated among the top 10 dive destinations in the world and for good reason. Whether it is viewing large spotted eagle rays or bull sharks while diving the world famous Blue Hole, Belize offers something special. There are also land options available for non divers. The final details will be announced soon but the trip will be in late April and should be priced between \$1500-\$2000. Start saving now.

Next Meeting

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at the Museum of Natural History located in Exposition Park across from USC. This meeting will be highlighted by a series of beautiful photographs from the stunning underwater world we all enjoy so much. Many members of the club, past and present, will also be featured in the presentation. After 12 years, it is sometimes enjoyable to look back and appreciate all we have experienced. Be sure to be a part of this meeting which is guaranteed to be very entertaining. The meeting will begin at 7pm. See you there!!!

Online Store

LABUE recently joined the world of internet marketing. Francois Desamours, club vice president, recently announced that the club's web based store had been expanded to include the new full length dive jackets, club decals and club patches. Complete with photos, as time has passed, the 'store' has been expanded to make club merchandise available to anyone interested. Our first sale was a club baseball cap sold to a non member back east whose last name happened to be Labue. Customers may pay by cash or via PayPal. Check the store periodically as the line of club apparel will continue to increase.



File Photo



File Photo

SPOTLIGHT

By Debora Ewing

INTERVIEW OF MIKE DILLARD

Mike is one of LABUE's truly advanced divers. He has been diving for 27 years. Once certified, he only stopped diving for a few years while he was in the armed services.

Where were you born? Los Angeles, California

What is your profession? A U.S. postal service mail handler. I tow cages of mail inside the postal facility. I love that job, it's fun.

What is your favorite activity while diving? Exploring different wrecks. It gives me a new dimension in diving and it's very challenging.

Do you have any non-diving hobbies? I like to ride my motorcycle.

What would our readers be surprised to learn about you? I've been a country music fan since 1991. I was driving down the street one day channel surfing when I heard an interesting song entitled "Chattahoochee". I then had to listen to the next song and I was hooked instantly. I listen to 105.1.

What are your future goals and aspirations? I would like to obtain the highest level of technical diving so that I can dive the really deep wrecks.

If there was something you could change about yourself, what would it be? Probably not being so shy in front of an audience.

With your body size, have you ever considered sports as a career? If so, which sport? Yes, pro football. I played football in high school and college. I also attended a free agent camp for the Dallas Cowboys. Out of 500 people only two were chosen and I wasn't one of them.

What famous person have you been told you resemble? Reggie White, pro football player.

What do you think about so many women getting certified today? I think it's great! Actually, I'd like to see even more women diving.

What is your favorite LABUE activity? The annual club charter dive. That's when we are all in the water at the same time and I have the most fun.

