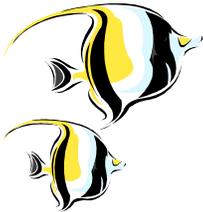


LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

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DIVING CASINO POINT!!!

It is sometimes really amazing to listen to local divers discuss the best dive locations in the world and not hear them mention Catalina Island's Casino Point, located right in LABUE's own backyard. Warm water dives in exotic locales are fantastic getaways of a week or more. However, because of the expense and time involved, it is usually not possible to schedule more than two or three trips annually. Fortunately for Southern California divers, Catalina Island, and Casino Point in particular, is just an hour's boat ride away. With the spectacular kelp formations, good visibility and the possibility of seeing an impressive variety of sea life, Casino Point has become renown as an excellent site among those 'in the know.' The fact that concrete stairs were added several years ago to facilitate safe entry and exits into this underwater park only makes the site that much more of an attraction. On any day, divers may be treated to sightings of lobsters, giant sea bass, sea lions, garibaldi, sheep heads and a huge variety of schools of smaller fish. Looking up through the kept forest towards the surface and the bright sun beyond is a well chronicled sight as it is regularly featured in photographic publications. Each year LABUE schedules a Dive Casino Point Day. This very popular event has become the most well attended of all of the club beach dives. This year's event will be held on September 26. While the main event happens on Saturday, some members will choose to arrive Friday evening and depart on Sunday. Either way, the diving on Saturday with fellow LABUE buddies is always a highlight of the year and everyone is urged to attend. Contact Debora Ewing for information of the available Catalina Express Shuttles and to let her know you are planning to attend so she can add your name to the reservation list for lunch.



President's Message by Bob Simmons

Even though we have not yet departed for our upcoming trip to The Philippines and China, the Board has began looking into next year's club trip. As has been the custom following trips in the October-November timeframe, 2010's location will be to a much closer destination in or around the Caribbean Sea. Although the dates are still undecided, we will probably travel in our normal time frame of the last half of April. Consistent with previous years, the trip will probably be open for deposits in the middle of October. Since we will not be traveling as far, the cost is expected to be very affordable. After 14 years of club trips to very exotic destinations, including some repeat sites (BVI's, Belize) we have traveled to many of the best dive spots available. Nevertheless, there are still excellent places we have not selected as the site of a club trip.

We are currently focusing on famous dive destinations in The Baha-

mas, Cozumel and Costa Rica. Roatan with it's world renown dolphin encounters, is another possible spot. Be assured that whichever location is finally selected, the decision will be made with the best interests of divers in mind along with the best possible value for the dollar.

I always get excited about our club trips because they have always been a tremendous experience for club members to enjoy themselves and each other. Often times we make our own fun. But no matter what, they have always been cherished lifetime experiences. Stand by for more information...



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

Next Meeting

The next club General Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2009, at the Museum of Natural History located on Exposition Blvd across from USC. As always, the meetings are a great place to catch up on club activities and renew old acquaintances. They are always fun and informative. Door prizes will be awarded to lucky attendees and, of course, there will be refreshments. The meeting will begin at 7:00pm. See you there.



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) 593-1877

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Ad/Spec/Tech Vacant	
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Beach Dive by Debora Ewing

On Saturday, September 26, 2009, LABUE divers will ferry across the sea to one of California's most renowned dive sites...Casino Point on Catalina Island. Sharlene Johnson will give the dive briefing (the time will be determined once the Catalina Express schedule is known). Following the two morning dives, lunch will take place at Antonios Pizzeria next door to the ice cream shop. This dive will be the perfect opportunity for those going on LABUE's club trip to the Philippines to make sure their gear and themselves are in tip top shape. If you plan to join the group, make sure you let me know so that if there are any changes I know to contact you. LABUE will be offering discounted Catalina Express tickets in the amount of \$55.75 per adult and \$46.25 per child. To take advantage of this reduced fare, the boat tickets must be paid in full in advance. Once the tickets are paid for, vouchers to be given to the check-in counter personnel at the Catalina Express terminal will be issued to each participant. These vouchers may be picked up at the September club meeting or via other special arrangements. Please mail ticket payments to LABUE, P.O. Box 90069, Los Angeles, CA 90009. My phone number is (909) 240-7022. For years, this particular club function has been very popular among club members and is always a social highlight for those in attendance. It is inexpensive and offers the potential for fantastic diving. I look forward to seeing you there.



Special Club 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. The Nominating Committee, consisting of Bob Simmons and Johnnie Davis, will develop a slate of candidates. There will be several vacancies on the Board, including the positions of President and Vice President. Members interested in running for one of the club offices should review the By-Laws for the required qualifications. This election is an opportunity for interested members to get involved in the decision making process of the club. Please contact Bob Simmons, 323 292-8960 for additional information.

Safety Tip...Free-Flowing Regulator

Should your regulator free-flow while in the water, it is suggested that the following steps be tried: (1) Realize that **any** regulator can free-flow and they are designed to fail "open." (2) Once a reg starts free-flowing, it will continue to do so unless **you** do something. It won't stop on its own. (3) If you cannot immediately get it to stop, you need to go on someone's alternate air and/or begin an immediate ascent to the surface. (4) You can breathe off a free-flowing reg if necessary. (You can even practice this action by using the reg's purge button.) (5) Smack the reg into your palm to dislodge anything that might be inside. (6) Face the regulator mouthpiece straight down which frequently stops the free-flow. (7) You can also seal up the mouthpiece with your hand while facing it down to try to get it to stop. (8) Don't waste too much time as you're depleting your air supply rapidly. (9) If you do get it to stop while at depth, look at your air and decide if you have enough to continue the dive or if you should ascend and abort. Free-flows happen and it's not the end of the world...as long as you deal with it promptly. The biggest thing to remember is that your air supply is quickly going away. Get back to the boat and give the reg a good going through to make sure the free-flow won't be a recurring problem.

SPOTLIGHT

By Debora Ewing

INTERVIEW OF TYRIE BIVINGS

1. **Where were you born?** Fresno, California
2. **Where do you live now?** Pasco, Washington
3. **What influenced you to get into diving?** My interest in scuba diving came as a result of a job assignment I took in 1996. My contracting job assignment was located on a remote island in remote mid-pacific (Johnston Atoll/Island). The island was one-half mile wide and two miles long. There was not much recreation so, being the adventurous person that I am, I took a PADI Open-Water course and the rest, as they say is history.
4. **What is your most memorable dive?** The dive that comes to mind was a Saturday morning drift dive back in 1996 or 1997 (well it started out that way then the current stopped) on Johnston Atoll. We entered the water from shore and shortly thereafter encountered several manta rays in about 45 feet of water. They were so graceful and majestic as they swam around us probably feeding on the plankton. We watched them circle our group a few times then all of a sudden one of the rays turned and came right toward me as I hovered in the water. I watched in amazement as it past right over me and all I could see was the white underside of its wings. I thought "this thing is going to hug me" but the manta ray just gracefully turned and then I watched it swim away into the shadows of the ocean.
5. **What would you like to see LABUE do more of?** Well that's hard to say since I do not live in the LA area. But if I did live there, I would like to lead a committee within LABUE that focuses on the next generation of young African-American scuba divers, marine scientists, marine archaeologists, underwater explores and maybe underwater treasure hunters.
6. **What college or colleges have you attended?**
Howard University (Alumni 1984) and Fresno City College (Alumni 1978)
7. **What is your occupation away from diving?** I am an Architectural Designer and I work for a large engineering, procurement and construction company.

INTERVIEW OF TYRIE BIVINGS...cont.

8. How did you get into this field? **My college degree is in Architecture.**
9. What other hobbies do you enjoy? **I enjoy traveling, hiking and metal detecting for coins and prospecting.**
10. If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be? **I would find a Caribbean island (its hard to choose one) where we could enjoy island life, friendly beautiful people, the ocean breezes, sunrises and sunsets; and no worries**
11. What famous person do people tell you that you favor most? **Well, I do not think I look like anyone but ordinary me.**
12. Tell me something that LABUE's membership would be surprised to know about you? **Okay another hard question but does anyone remember the movie a Brother From Another Planet? Well that was me...no just joking....**

**Reminders:**

- ** **General Membership Meeting—09/08/09**
- ** **Casino Point Dive—09/26/09**
- ** **Philippines/China—10/24/09**