

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

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WE NEED YOU!!!

For the first time in fourteen years, LABUE will be having a major change in Board Officers and Committee Memberships. As has been previously noted, Bob Simmons (President) and Francois Desamours (Vice President) will not be candidates for re-election to the Board. In addition, it is expected that several positions will be available on LABUE's various committees. While the nomination committee is currently putting together a slate of candidates for the November 2009 Special Elections, now is a good time to remind everyone that in order to be a club officer, one must have served on a committee for at least two years. There were several reasons for this rule being implemented many years ago but it is generally designed to ensure that the Board of Directors is comprised of long time members with experience and familiarity of club matters and procedures. The rule also allows individual committee members to display their talents and enthusiasm. With the upcoming 'changing of the guard' the club is seeking interested members to join one of the committees to help the club grow and to possibly prepare themselves to serve on the Board in the future. The list of committees and the current chairs is listed on page 2 of this newsletter. Anyone interested in learning more about a particular committee or joining one of the committees should contact either the committee chair or Bob Simmons. In order for LABUE to remain viable and 'on the top,' it is necessary to continuously improve on old ideas and create new ideas. With several new members joining the Board and Committees, LABUE has a perfect opportunity to refine its mission and develop new ideas and programs. All members are encouraged to consider the present time as the right time to get more involved in LABUE. We need you and look forward to your continued support and contributions.



President's Message by Bob Simmons

Once again our club has put together another fantastic dive vacation to The Philippine Islands and Hong Kong & Macau, China. In October of this year, 24 members and friends will get together to enjoy the wonders of a part of the world which few people are blessed to experience. This trip will be our first venture into Asia and everyone is excited about the excellent diving we will experience as well as discovering an entirely different culture. For 14 years, our club has been traveling to exotic lands. In addition to the regular Caribbean islands, a number of us have been fortunate enough to visit Fiji (twice), Australia, and now The Philippines and China. One of the things which makes our trips so enjoyable is that we are able to share our experiences with friends having similar interests. While not everyone is a scuba diver, all attendees have prioritized their lives in a way which allows for the enjoyment that occasional travel brings. It is no secret that we only

get one chance to go through life. It is up to us to make the most of it in whichever way we choose. While I am not advising or suggesting that experiencing as much of our planet as possible is the only way to enjoy or get the most out of life, I am suggesting that despite all the turmoil surrounding us and the current economic climate, I believe that it is still important for each of us to take a little time out from the 'struggles' to enjoy ourselves doing whatever it is we like. For those of you who can truly say that they are enjoying life to the fullest, my congratulations. To the others, you still have plenty of time but not as much as you had before reading this article.



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, August 11, 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

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	
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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 most easily 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.



Power Point Projector

LABUE has had many slide presentations over the past 14 years. However with the coming of the digital age, more and more presenters are relying on power point projectors to project the desired image on the screen. The Board made a decision to have a series of ongoing fundraisers to raise the funds needed for the purchase. The formerly successful Ad Sales Program has been reinstated. Individuals desiring to advertise their business, entertainment event or other worthwhile cause may do so through the purchase of an ad. A quarter page ad will cost \$15, a half page ad will cost \$20 and a full page ad will cost \$30. In addition, the club will sell sodas and water at the local beach dives and conduct occasional raffles at the Club Meetings. A donation box will also be located close to the sign-in sheet at the monthly meetings as well. Once the goal is achieved and a projector is purchased, the fund raising efforts will cease. Members will be kept fully informed on the progress of LABUE's 'Power Point Projector Fund.'

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.



SPOTLIGHT

By Debora Ewing

INTERVIEW OF CLIFTON WILLIAMS**1. What influenced you to get into diving?**

Two things influenced my desire to get into the sport of diving. The first thing was a desire to see the pure beauty of the sea and its' life and the second influence was to do something different, something out of the ordinary.

I was on a work assignment in Cuba for several weeks, years ago. I found that there was little to do recreational wise, after a day of work, on Guantanamo Bay. I meet up with some other workers who were stationed there on long assignments. Their outside activities centered around water. One weekend we all went on a picnic. Part of the activities was to snorkel. I tried snorkeling out. WOW, I was simply amazed at the beauty. Looking down, the view was gorgeous. The ocean life in Cuba was simple amazing. The reef, the array of colored fish, I was simple taken by it all. With that exposure, I asked myself, "If it is this beautiful, looking down from the surface, how would it look, viewing from below – from the fish perspective". A few years passed before I took the step, to take scuba lessons, but I did. My future wife and I were talking about our interest, and low and behold she had the desire to scuba dive also. To make a long story short, we decided to take scuba lessons. We did and we have been diving ever since.

2. What do you enjoy most about LABUE?

The professionalism and the concern for safety on each LABUE dive are of utmost importance. The lasting friendships that I have established have been a blessing. The variety of dive trips available both local and away are great. The pure comfort level that I have when I am with the club members is an enjoyable aspect of LABUE.

3. Is there anything you would like LABUE to offer more of?

More short trips. Weekend dive trips to Central and Northern California, or maybe a short trip just south of the border.

4. What is your most memorable dive?

Diving gives you the opportunity to give out an "ah" on many occasions. My best "ah" came while diving in Tortola British Virgin Islands. This was on a LABUE club trip. This was a deep dive, that took up down to some gorgeous reefs, with brilliant and bright colors. This dive took us through a cave. We were at about 110 feet at this point. Existing out of the cave, we exited to an area that had the most brilliant blues that I had ever seen. With the sun shining from above these blues blended in shades. In the distance they blended into the dark richness of the abyss. This was a true "ah" for me.

5. What is your occupation away from diving?

My occupation, away from diving, is a Senior Network Engineer. I do design, engineering and testing work, for the US Navy.

6. How did you get into this field?

I got into this field by making the decision that I wanted to do something that had a future, was exciting and could be rewarding. After graduating from college, I went into retailing and worked at the supervisory and management level for a number of years. I eventually had a long talk with myself, and soul searched and realized that retail was not for me. I went back to school and took some computer classes. I have now been working with computers, in one-form-or-another since 1979 – 30 years wow.

7. What other hobbies do you enjoy?

Other hobbies that I enjoy are music, art, biking, working out (fitness), walking, running, fishing, reading, wood working, and gardening.

8. What famous person do people tell you that you favor most?

I really don't remember anyone saying that I look like anyone famous. In college there was a student name "Sam" that people always mistake us for one another.

9. What is your favorite food?

Chicken – fried, baked, barbequed, rotisserie, stewed, breaded, plain or on a skew. I can eat it seven days a week.

10. Where were you born?

In the city that brought you the Motown sound, Detroit Michigan.

12. Tell me something that LABUE's membership would be surprised to know about you?

In my younger years, I was commissioned to paint specific art pieces/subject matter.

**Reminders:**

- ** **General Membership Meeting—08/11/09**
- ** **Casino Point—09/26/09**
- ** **Philippines/China—10/24/09**