

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

June 2009

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PHILIPPINES CLOSES

LABUE will rock the Atlantis Resort Puerto Galera in The Philippine Islands from October 24-31, 2009. So far 26 members and friends have signed up to take part in what will be the club's greatest trip yet. The club has far exceeded the goal of 15 divers established last year. A few other divers want to go but have been holding back on their deposit for a number of reasons, including financial uncertainty due to the current economic climate. Unfortunately, with the trip just 4 months away, it is time to close the trip and make final preparations. June 15 has been established as the official cutoff date for signing up for this trip. Anyone submitting a registration form and payment by that date will be included in the group.

LABUE will enjoy spectacular diving in the pristine waters that have made the Philippines a must-do dive destination. For those interested, a post trip extension including 5 additional nights in Hong Kong and Macau, China, two of the hottest spots in Asia...full of history, mega shopping and Las Vegas style casino action... has been arranged.

The Atlantis Resort in Puerto Galera is an all inclusive resort 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.

The Resort has a full service spa on site and is 3 minutes from a local gym. It also serves as the hub of many tours and activities for non-divers including snorkeling, beach activities, jet skiing, hiking, visiting local villages and lots more. The on site restaurant is well known for its great local and international cuisine.

The Philippines represents a great value for the US dollar. However, to take advantage of it interested travelers will have to contact Bob Simmons, 323 292-8960 by June 15!!! Don't hesitate...



President's Message by Bob Simmons

Well, summer is finally here and many of us are gearing up for summer activities and trips. Don't forget scuba diving! We all went through a lot to get certified and reach whatever advanced levels we chose to conquer. However, like everything else, things tend to slide and the next thing you know, you have not been in the water for several months or even years!!!

I ask all of you to recall the 'why' you chose to learn to dive. What was the reason or motivation for your taking the time and meeting the financial obligations required to participate in our sport? We all had a 'why' even though it may have been subconscious. Maybe we wanted to enjoy the tropical waters and colorful fish of the Caribbean and South Pacific. Maybe we wanted to enjoy the beautiful kelp formations off the Southern California coast. Maybe we wanted to enjoy the camaraderie of spending fun times with fellow club members. Maybe it was just the solitude that

we all can feel when we are underwater, in our own little world. But, whatever the reason, we all had that 'why' which motivated us to dive. While many of us continue to dive regularly and are constantly having our 'why' reinforced, some of us have not been in the water for a while and need to be rejuvenated. If you fall into that category, simply think back to what it was that made you live out your dream in the first place. Boat diving, beach diving, exotic trips to remote locations (aka The Philippines) are all right there for you. All you have to do is reach out. Summer is here so get out that gear and take that 'giant stride' to relive your dream. The pool is open...



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

Beach Dives by Debora Ewing

.Big Corona Breakwater (Corona Del Mar). On Sunday, June 21, 2009 LABUE's Fathers' Day Dive/Picnic will take place. George Linares will give the dive briefings at 8:00 a.m. and again at 10:30a.m. We plan to enjoy our picnic lunch at the beach immediately following the diving. The parking fee is approximately \$10.00 per vehicle. Bring your lunch, family and friends and enjoy a day at the beach with your fellow club members. If you plan to join the group, make sure you let me know so that if the dive is cancelled for any reason I know to contact you. My phone number is (909) 240-7022.

NABS Summit

The National Association of Black Scuba Divers has announced that its 2009 Summit will be held in Freeport, Grand Bahama Island from November 4-8, 2009. The Bahamas have long been a favorite dive location featuring a wide variety of species and interesting coral. The Summit offers an opportunity for divers from across the country to socialize together once each year. The NABS website: www.nabsdivers.org has additional information and details.

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) 953-1877

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	

Boat Dives

As a reminder, LABUE is attempting to act as a clearing house of information regarding LABUE divers participating in upcoming dives on various boats. The concept is simple. Any LABUE diver planning to dive on a particular date should submit the pertinent details regarding the dive for distribution to all club members. It is hoped that divers looking for other club divers to dive with will contact each other and make the experience that much more enjoyable. Information regarding upcoming dives scheduled by club divers looking for buddies should be e-mailed to DonCosta Seawell: doncosta1@msn.com

Membership Renewal

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 revenue represents the major source of club funds. 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.

Special 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. A nominating Committee will be appointed and a slate of candidates will be developed. 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.

Next Club Meeting

The next club meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 9. 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 remain in a 'diving' frame of mind. The meetings are always interesting and fun. Among other items discussed, the latest information regarding the club trip to the Philippines will be presented. Plan now to attend.

Discover Scuba

On Saturday, May 9, LABUE hosted another in a long series of Discover Scuba sessions at Pacific Wilderness in San Pedro. Instructor George Linares and his wife, Bettye, coordinated the event which is designed to give non divers a chance to experience a real dive experience in a confined and safe swimming pool environment. Once again the demand for this event was so high that Discover Scuba II has been scheduled for August 9, 2009. George and Bettye, supported by several club members will again expose potential divers to the wonders of the underwater world. All members are urged to inform their friends about the August 9 date and refer them to Bettye at (661) 729-6626 for additional information and to confirm their participation. LABUE'S Discover Scuba program has had a rich history of successfully introducing scuba diving to many, many people and is well worth the \$15.00 fee.

Photo of the Month

With the advent of digital technology, many club members have taken up underwater photography. Taking pictures underwater offers unique opportunities and definite challenges to photographers, both novice and professional. In recognition of the growing popularity of underwater photography, LABUE will feature the 'Photo Of The Month' in the club newsletter. Anyone interested in sharing those special underwater photos should submit them via e-mail to Bob Simmons at LABUE-BOB@aol.com. To make it fun and to keep things fair and reflective of actual photographic skills, all photos should be submitted 'as is' without the use of computer aided touch ups or enhancements.