

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

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LABUE DIVES THE PHILIPPINES

The Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers has announced that they will head to the Philippine Islands for the 2009 club trip. From October 24-31, 2009, LABUE will enjoy spectacular diving in the pristine waters that have made the Philippines a must-do dive destination.

For 8 days and 7 nights the club will be housed at the Atlantis Resort in Puerto Galera. This all inclusive resort is located a short 70 mile ride south of Manila 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.

In addition to excellent diving in some of the most pristine waters and reefs in the world, the Atlantis Resort is very close to outstanding 'muck diving' sites in which all sorts of pretty, macro critters are readily visible. It is not unusual to see several different species of small creatures on the same dive. The Atlantis Resort has a full service spa on site and is 3 minutes from a local gym. It also serves as the hub of many activities for the snorkler and non-diver alike. The on site restaurant is well known for its great food featuring both local and international cuisine.

Ernie Arellano of Scuba Travel Ventures will be the guest speaker at the October 14 club meeting and will discuss the club's package and present videos and brochures describing what to expect on this grand trip. The meeting begins at 7:00 pm and will be held at the Museum of Natural History on Exposition Blvd across from USC. The trip will open at this meeting. A \$400 non-refundable deposit will hold a reservation.



President's Message by Bob Simmons

Our 2009 club trip to the Philippines will open at the next club meeting on Tuesday, October 14. The Board considered Palau, Indonesia and the Philippines as possible destinations. In the end, since all three locations featured excellent diving, the deciding factor was the cost. The airfare to the Philippines is less than half of the airfare to the other two locales. In today's tough economic times, the Board felt it was a must to consider the final price of the trip in the decision-making process. Pricing information will be presented at Tuesday's meeting. I am sure everyone will be surprised at how inexpensive this trip will be.

The Atlantis Resort has an excellent dive operation on site, with boats carrying no more than 6 divers, equipment storage facilities, a large camera and equipment work room with individual work stations, and most dive locations are within 15 minutes of the resort. After having visited Fiji (twice) and Australia in the past two years, it is hard to

imagine that the Philippines offers more species of fish than these areas and the Caribbean combined! Most unusual are the large numbers of beautiful macro creatures usually seen in photographs but not in person. Beautiful reefs or muck diving, it is your choice.

Those who traveled to Australia last year will fondly remember the great time we all had following the live-aboard touring Cairns and Sydney. With that in mind, the recommended optional add-on trip will be to Hong Kong, China. Since the recommended air route will take us thru China, it is a perfect opportunity to see yet another culture. This will be the greatest trip LABUE has undertaken. Come fly with us!!!



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

Beach Dives by Debora Ewing

The next LABUE beach dive will take place at El Matador Beach (Malibu) on November 2, 2008. Louis Emile will give the dive briefing at a time to be determined within the next couple of weeks. El Matador is a very popular site for a variety of reasons. The site is very shallow and is appropriate for all skill levels. It is also one of the prettiest and most scenic sites in all of California and is frequently used as the backdrop for models being photographed. Over the years, a wide variety of sea life has been encountered at El Matador and it has always been a very interesting underwater exploration. The beach divers schedule dives all year around. However, the arrival of fall signals that the good weather we have been experiencing will not last forever. Nevertheless, as of this moment the weather promises to be excellent for the El Matador beach dive. Contact me for the latest information regarding the dive time and to let me know that you plan to attend.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Charter Boat Dive

LABUE recently held its annual Charter Boat Dive aboard The Great Escape, one of the premier boats in Southern California. This was the 8th straight year in which the club has chartered this boat and offered it to club members at a substantial discount. It is also an opportunity for the club to raise money for its normal operations as unsold spots are sold to non-members at a profitable rate. Even though the weather varied from sunny to cool, all club members had a great time diving as many as three dives. Eighteen members participated and enjoyed very good dive conditions. Highlights of the day included the sighting of giant black sea bass, lobster, large schools of fish, rays and beautiful kelp formations. The boat dives also gave everyone the opportunity to practice their navigation skills as all dives were unguided and it was up to the divers to find their way back to the boat. As usual, the camaraderie made the day as club members always seem to have a good time whenever they get together. Coupled with good food and smooth sailing, the day was a definite success.

Discover Scuba 2

The club held it's second Discover Scuba program of the year last month. Once again, it was well attended and another group of potential divers found out first hand what it was like to try on all the equipment and actually blow a few bubbles in the safe confines of the swimming pool at Pacific Wilderness in San Pedro. LABUE instructor George Linares again led the group in a brief discussion of scuba concepts and an explanation of what a certification program would consist of. Bettye Linares took care of the details and was aided by DonCosta Seawell and Johnnie Davis. These sessions have proven to be very popular and will continue to be scheduled on a regular basis.



Compton Air Fair

For the past several years, the Black Aviators club based in Compton has held an air fair designed to expose the youth in the community to something that many of them never see...Black pilots flying their own private airplanes. This year LABUE was invited to join with the aviators and other groups to broaden the exposure. Bob Simmons, Richard Rice, Debora Ewing, Sharlene Johnson hosted the club booth and offered the largely unknown world of scuba diving to several interested attendees of the fair. One of the club goals is to expose more of the youth in the community to scuba diving and participation in this fair not only went toward satisfying this goal but was very rewarding as well, both for the attendees and for the club members who attended. One of the highlights was the opportunity to chat with members of the original Tuskegee Airmen. These true legends of World War II are becoming fewer and fewer and it was an honor to listen to some of their stories. LABUE plans to make participation in this fair an annual event in an effort to expose more youth to a whole new world.

Next Club Meeting

The next club meeting will feature Ernie Arellano, owner of Scuba Travel Ventures, and the travel wholesaler who is coordinating the 2009 club trip to The Philippine Islands. Ernie did an excellent job on our Australian Live-aboard last year as well as our Belize trip earlier this year. Those who had the opportunity to spend a few extra days in Cairns and Sydney recognize the outstanding job Ernie did in arranging the hotel and related tours and sighting trips in both places. He will also be coordinating an optional side trip to Hong Kong, China following our dive adventure. Ernie will be discussing the advantages of diving the Philippines and will tell attendees what to expect. The Atlantis Resort is reknown for it's dive program and it's proximity to some of the best diving in the Philippines. Pricing information will be available at this meeting and the trip will officially be open for \$400 deposits. The meeting will be held at the Museum of Natural History on Exposition Blvd across from USC and will begin at 7:00pm.

LABUE At The Compton Air Fair



Reminders:

- ** **General Membership Meeting—10/14/08**
- ** **Philippines Trip Opens—10/14/08**
- ** **Elections Of Officers—12/9/08**