

# Lao Boat Racing Festival San Diego September 10, 2016



*A CULTURAL CELEBRATION THAT  
CONNECTS THE COMMUNITIES*



## Message from the Chairman of the Board of Directors

On behalf of the Lao Community Cultural Center and Lao community of San Diego, I am delighted and honored to welcome you to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lao Boat Racing Festival. LCCC is proud and privileged to host the event this year, an event initiated by the Mekong Boat Racing Club as an effort to revive this tradition. We plan to continue to celebrate this national festival every year into the future as an expression of our cultural identity as well as an opportunity to bring people of all walks of life to unwind and have fun together.

Laos, known for its rich traditions, designates a special festival for each month of the year. However, Lao Boat Racing Festival is unique and one of a kind. Unlike any other, it represents many aspects of Lao culture. A Lao boat racing is not simply a sport activity; it is a festive event that evokes the spirit of the river, Naga, and goes beyond winning. While victory is important to the paddlers, the community spirit and the celebratory vibes accompanied it take the center stage of the entire event. Boat racing festivals represent a jubilation Lao people express at the end of the rice harvest season around October-November. The paddlers and their entire cohorts go to the extreme to express their jubilation and light-heartedness. They would dress in weird and provoking clothes, putting on make ups, dance to the beats of the drums up and down the street along the Mekong River, and chant in unison mischievous rhymes, usually inappropriate beyond boundary of the boat racing festival.

The boat racing fever that eluded the Lao community for over 30 years has now come back to San Diego. We are excited and proud to revive it as another community celebration. Let us together rejoice and embrace it. The fact that this cultural celebration comes to life is a testament to the concerted effort and determination of the Lao American community to uphold our Lao heritage, bring our community together, as well as enrich the culturally diverse community of San Diego. LCCC is grateful for the hard work and dedication of our community members and volunteers, who organize this festival for us to enjoy. We are equally thankful to our paddlers, sponsors, organizations and businesses, whose support makes the event a success. With your continued generous support, the boat racing festival will always remain alive as a true Lao tradition in San Diego. I hope you enjoy the day and thank you again for your support. Hope to see you again next year.

Warmest regards,

*Bounsieng*

Dr. Bounlieng Phommasouvanh, Chair  
Board of Directors, LCCC



# Jao Pha Ya

*“WE ROW AS 1”*



Team Jao Pha Ya is returning once again to defend their Lao Boat Racing Championship title. Rise to fame from the neighborhood of Southeast San Diego, team Jao Pha Ya is a fierce boat race competitor known to the Lao community.



# LCCC Angels



The Angels will once again be representing the Lao Community Cultural Center (LCCC) in the 2016 Boun Suang Heua Festival of San Diego. LCCC's main goal is to unify, educate, preserve, and share our cultural traditions with the new generations and public within San Diego County. What better way to accomplish this mission than to bring strong, motivated ladies together in an event that promotes a much loved and celebrated Lao tradition? Even though the team is made up of new and veteran rowers, the ladies know the key to a successful race is working together as a team. Go Angels! Flap your wings synchronously!

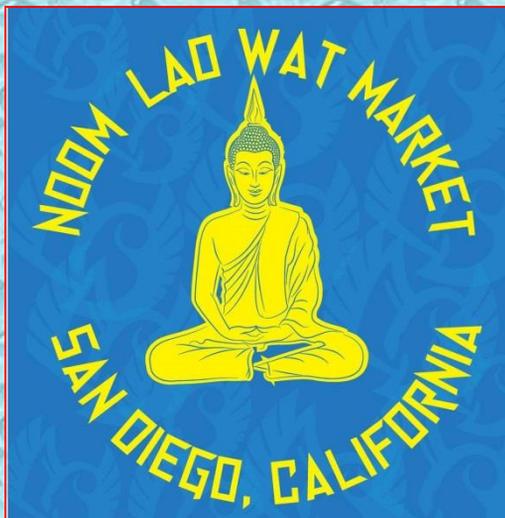
# Sea Devils



The Lao San Diego Soccer Club (Sea Devils) is dedicated to promote physical and mental wellness through the game of soccer, other sports, and recreational, social and cultural activities. The club accomplishes this through engaging, assisting and cooperating with the Lao Community to help preserve and promote Lao culture, tradition and heritage. As a result, the club promotes friendship, activities, and community involvement.



# Wat Lao Buddharam



Wat Lao Buddharam is represented by Team Noom Lao Wat Market who originally got together because of each member had grown and seen this temple since we were kids. This temple became our guidance center for our youth in San Diego. We are dedicated and proud to enter, represent and win on behalf of Wat Lao Buddharam (aka Wat Market). It is our turn to give back to the temple and our community. We know the competition will be fierce, but we have our eyes on the Championship trophy this year. Thank you and may Buddha bless all of you.

# Lao Soccer (LSDSC)



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## Motorboat



Team Motorboat is back and ready for some fun in the sun! With a crew of veterans mixed with fresh faces, we are excited to meet the challenge and help our community to preserve such a prestigious Lao Boat Racing Heritage. 24 strong sophisticated women of various cultures, ages, and background. We have 2 things in common that makes us The Perfect Team - our love for food and our craving for winning. We are a team because we respect, trust, care for each other and our community. We are so proud of our community coming together to help our friends and family who's willing to devote their time out of their busy schedule to make this event all possible. We must continue to unite as one to support our brothers and sisters. There are still lots of work left to do and more cultural experiences to share. It is an honor to be part of this event! Thank you MBRC, LCCC and all who help to make this event all possible. Community over all!

-Motorboat

# Quad Squad



Club Established: 2010  
Current Board Members:  
Mr. Pheth Mountry----President  
Mr. Erik Sitinphom---Vice President  
Mr. Jay Sithideth-----Secretary  
Mr. Loun Hadsabout----Treasurer



Quad Squad Club is dedicated to providing Quad Squad member and families learning experiences in sports and various adventures, not just in an athletic setting but also being family oriented at the same time. The mission of Quad Squad Club is to: (i) teach our children various skills in a variety of sports (i.e. riding quads, soccer, kator, volleyball, basketball, football, bowling and fishing.) through club's clinics, community leagues and other competitions, while also developing character and sportsmanship; (ii) promote, encourage and improve the standard of recreational and amateur sports in the city of San Diego and abroad; (iii) foster the values of integrity, fair play, teamwork, mutual respect and the pursuit of excellence through hard work; (iv) develop confidence, concentration, discipline and promote physical fitness; and (v) provide a fun and enjoyment experience for every participants. Quad Squad Club also focuses on community services and also being dedicated to working with the community to promote educational opportunities, civic participation, and cultural adaptability vital to the well-being, and growth of the community, and encourage full participation of Southeast Asians in the Society.



The Tsunami women's team is honored to be part of the 3rd Annual San Diego Lao Boat Racing Festival. Our mission is to work hard, have fun and achieve great results together through diversity, integrity, teamwork and friendship.

We are proud to be contributing to our San Diego community through the preservation and promotion of the Lao culture and as importantly be trailblazers for the youth. Tsunami is not just a boat racing team, we are a family that is UNITED and STRONG."

# Sticky Rice Power



As an OG team, the Sticky Rice Power is a strong bonded team and love to race. We have been together for 6 or 7 years and we are not going anywhere. We are delighted and happy to be a part of Lao culture. Wish all the teams with good health and good heart and ready to row. Thank you to the organizer or host to put up this Lao national event.

# Sweet Rice



On August 2015, Sweet Rice women's team was created by 18 beautiful ladies that have the sweetest hearts you can imagine. They met at happy hour and decided to commit and joined forces to have fun (first and foremost). And to attempt to be synchronized on a dragon boat with one beat, one heart, one power. Go Team!

The 18 members are beautiful inside and out in their own rights: Born in different parts of the globe. We have Laotian, Vietnamese, Chinese, Cambodian, Thai, Filipino, Portuguese, Polish, and Hawaiian. All worked hard and became successful in their perspective careers with one common passion; they love to eat sweet rice. ☺

Their commitment to do their best with smiling beautiful faces from start to finish is what our Sweet Rice team represents.

# Dragon Warriors



Dragon Warriors Boat team of San Diego.

We are bunches of pretty little ladies. We are a lady, a mom, a sister, a wife, a grandma and daughter. We can paddle like a champion. We love to be part of the Lao Boat Racing Festival event.

Thank you for having us.

## 北京大學 PEKING UNIVERSITY



Peking University (PKU) in Beijing is the first modern national university in China, and has consistently enjoyed its reputation as the most prestigious university in the country. PKU's alumni are all over the world; many found their new home in America's finest city. San Diego Peking University Alumni Association (SDPKUAA), a 501(c)(3) organization, was established in 2010 with the purposes of connecting PKU alumni and serving the San Diego local communities, and has grown into a big happy family of over 200 PKU alumni, family and friends. Because of dragon boat's deep roots in the Chinese culture, and its value as a team building vehicle, SDPKUAA started to organize dragon boat practices in 2015. Our first race was the 6th Annual San Diego International Dragon Boat Race in September of 2015, where we finished 10th in place in the corporate division, and broke our own records. Some of our finest paddlers also participated in the 2016 Long Beach Dragon Boat Festival and this time brought home a medal! And, here we are, keep challenging ourselves, enjoying dragon boating and San Diego!

# Team gAdam



**gAdams are the young studs from Orange County who live and die for each other. As a team, we paddle together as one and as fast as a black bird (gAdam) fly across the finishing line, and win like a Lao legend - king Gum gAdam.**



# LezBhonest



**A diverse group of women from all cultures and ages coming together as one. Let's be honest, let's be real and grow together as one team.**

# QDragon



**QDragon is a fun-loving but competitive group of people who love to win medals while getting a good work out. So what better way to do it besides dragon boating! We practice every other week throughout the year. Join US!**

# Solar Dragons



**Since 2012, The Solar Dragons have been battling on the waters to conquer the dragon. We began our journey, competing in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual San Diego Dragon Boat Festival. In our first battle, we emerged victorious, placing second in the corporate category! Since then, Solar Dragons consistently conquered the dragon as a team.**

**The Solar Dragons Dragonboat Team formed through the Caterpillar Chinese Resource Group (CCRG). Our team seeks to bring the Solar community together through team work and friendly competition. Through this club, we have consistently drawn in young and new paddlers while maintaining a group of veteran paddlers. Our goal is to continue bringing new people to appreciate dragonboating as a sport, but also as a historical activity that the Chinese people have done for many years. As a veteran dragonboat team, we will continue to battle and fight; and we will conquer the dragon!**

# Lao Lue GREEN WAVE



## Green Wave Bio

1. To promote health and wellness activity.
2. To show support and solidarity for Laotian American community in San Diego.
3. Social participation and tradition awareness for young generations



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- **Award Master**

- **Dr. Sombath Senethong**
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*Lao Boat Racing Festival*

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