

# Lao Boat Racing Festival

## San Diego

September 23, 2017



***A CULTURAL CELEBRATION THAT  
CONNECTS THE COMMUNITIES***



## Message from the Chairman of the Board of Directors

Once again, I have a distinct privilege to welcome you to our 4th Annual Lao Boat Racing Festival. LCCC is honored to showcase a national tradition that expresses Lao cultural heritage as well as an opportunity for the whole community to come together to share a day filled with cultural activities and excitement.

Laos is a small country of pristine fields and streams, inhabited by peace-loving and friendly people. The country is rich in traditions and cultural heritage. Not only do Lao people speak with distinct accents in different geographical regions from north to south, they usually live on the same land occupied for hundreds of years by their forefathers, who also developed cultural traditions and artistic expressions unique to their locales through music, folklores, costumes and courtship norms. Boat racing practices are no exception to this variation. Boat racing festival season ranges from mid-August in the north, October in the central region to late November in the south. It is traditionally associated with the end of Buddhist Lent, at which time the monks come out of their strict religious observance. The time variation is largely dictated by the water level of the Mekong and its tributaries. In the north the Mekong is not as wide and deep as it is further down the stream. The wider and deeper the Mekong, the stronger the current; which poses safety risks to the paddlers. In addition, boat racing festivals in different regions follow some unique cultural practices. In Luangprabang a processional display of the boat carrying the Black Lady and the boat of the Blonde Lady is observed before the actual race begins. Whereas in Meuang Khong in the south, the ceremonial tradition includes an ensemble of bronze gong players from the Khmu tribe.

While some regional variations exist, the essence of the boat racing festival remains uniform throughout the country, which is a celebratory expression of joy at the end of the planting reason and the coming of the rice harvest, as well pay homage to Naga, the river spirit. Lao boat racing is not simply a sport activity; it is a festive event that extends beyond competition. While victory weighs heavily on the minds of the racers, it pales in comparison to celebratory vibes and excitement the festival generates. All day long teams of paddlers and their entire cohorts parade up and down the street along the Mekong River. They go to the extreme in expressing their jubilation and humor by putting on weird and provoking clothes, dancing to the beats of the drums each following their own rhythm, and chanting in unison mischievous rhymes, usually inappropriate beyond boundary of the boat racing festival.

The boat racing fever is alive and here to stay in San Diego. Let us together rejoice and embrace it. On behalf of the Lao American community, I want to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to our community members and volunteers for the hard work and dedication in making this festival a joy for all us. I am equally thankful to the paddlers, sponsors, organizations and businesses, whose unwavering support makes the festival a success. With your continued support, the Lao boat racing festival will strive and become a true Lao tradition of San Diego. Enjoy the day and see you again next year!

Warmest regards,



Dr. Bounlieng Phommasouvanh, Chair  
Board of Directors, LCCC



# Lao Soccer (LSDSC)



The Lao San Diego Soccer Club 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.



## 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.

# Quad Squad



Quad Squad team is returning once again. We are very excited and ready year for this year's event. We have been participating in the Lao community throughout the years and this year is no different. We would like to send all kudos to the LCCC members who have help organized this cultural rich Lao Traditional Festival that our parents have celebrated at our homeland and now made it possible right here in San Diego. We also would like to wish all the team good luck and may the best team win. GO QUAD SQUAD!!!



The Tsunami women's team is honored to be part of the 4rd Annual San Diego Lao Boat Racing Festival. Our mission is to create a community of women who enjoy working hard, having fun and achieving extraordinary results together through diversity, integrity, teamwork and friendship. We are proud to be a contributing member to the San Diego community through the preservation and promotion of the Lao culture. More importantly, we are proud to represent the results of our mission to the youth and future of our community. Tsunami is not simply a boat racing team, we are a family that is UNITED and STRONG.

# Team Lao San Diego



Team Lao San Diego Dragon Boat originally came from Sticky Rice Power. As Team Lao San Diego, we're bonded stronger and more powerful. As an OG Team, we have our mission and goals to achieve, so we will continue battling on water to conquer our Dragon. We practice hard and to challenge. We intend to achieve our goals together through integrity, team work and commitment. We are proud to be part of the Lao Boat Racing Festival. Team Lao San Diego Dragon Boat would like to wish all the teams best wishes and have a good time. Thank you LCCC for everything.

Last words from Team Lao San Diego Dragon Boat "Go Team! Sou Kao, Sou Kao!!"

## PHO1 Power



Pho1 Power, formerly Sweet Rice women's team, is joining forces once again to participate in this fun traditional 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Lao Boat Race Festival hosted by our very talented LCCC.

We are an International Camaraderie Tenacious Sweet bunch with a few fresh beautiful faces that will light up the room; Or in this case will light up the water! 😊

Our commitment to perform at the highest level with smiling faces from start to finish is what our Pho1 Power ladies represents (let's have fun)! And we share one common passion; we love to eat Pho1 aka PhoLicious. 😊 #OneHeart #OneBeat #OnePower . Go Team!

Thank you LCCC for all you do!

# Jao Pha Ya

*“WE ROW AS 1”*



Team Jao Pha Ya is returning once again. 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. We like to be out for fun in the sun!



# Angels



Team Angels is honored to be part of the 4th annual Lao Boat Racing Festival in San Diego. We are indeed privileged to partake in an event that promotes a much loved and celebrated Lao tradition. The bond between the Angels grows stronger and stronger as the ladies continue to nurture their friendship and share their appreciation of the Lao culture (especially food!) outside of practices. 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!

# Team gAdam



gAdam's team won the boat racing against the king's team and became a king himself on the date - the end of lent. Since then, Lao people (Ai Lao) have had boat racing festival to honor the King, Gam Ga Dam.



# LezBhonest



We strive to go outside of the mold, of what society believes women can do. Through strength, perseverance, and dedication-we stand united as a core group of women. The LezBhonest Dragon Boat team is committed to bringing together the LGBTQIA Lao communities and other ethnicity as one.

# QDragon



Raging in the Mission Bay San Diego since 2007, the QDragon team has been introducing the dragon boat sport to people with diverse backgrounds. The core members of the Qdragon team consist of engineers from Qualcomm. Each year, QDragon brings together experienced and novice paddlers to compete in local and regional races.

## 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!

# GREEN WAVE

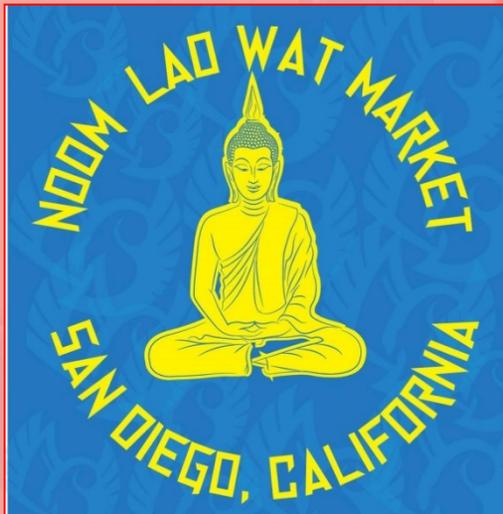


## Our Bio

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



# Noom Lao Wat Market



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.

# Samakhom Huck-Phaeng



Fresno Samakhom Huck Phaeng. We are representing the Lao Fresno Community



## LV 92111



People say “good friends come and go, best ones stay forever”. The saying holds true for the Linda Vista (LV) boys. It has been over 30 years since we became friends and most of us are still here in San Diego with strong friendship bond. Today, these childhood friends reunite in support of common good, which is to preserve our rich boat racing festival tradition while cherishing the ever lasting friendship among the LV boys. Lao and proud!!



# 北京大學

PEKING UNIVERSITY



Peking University (PKU) in Beijing is consistently regarded as the most prestigious university in China. 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) is a big happy family of over 200 PKU alumni. The PKU dragon boat team was founded in 2015. We have been competing in the 6th SD International Dragon Boat Race, the 2016 and 2017 Long Beach Dragon Boat Festival, the 2016 Lao Boat Racing Festival, and the 2017 SD Dragon Boat Festival! Here we are, keep challenging ourselves, enjoying dragon boating and San Diego!



## Team Lao United



Distance was not a barrier. Representing Georgia and Florida, Team Lao United joins the Lao community of Southern California to celebrate the 2017 Lao Boat Racing Festival and bring out-of-state talents to showcase what Lao boat racing Festival is all about.

# 2016 Memories



# 2016 Memories



# Lao Boat Racing Festival SPONSORS and DONORS

## Wat Lao Buddharam, San Diego



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