

2011 NABS Club Of The Year

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers



VOLUME 17, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2012

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Photographer: Robert Simmons
Camera: Canon S95 Digital Point and Shoot
Location: The Lembah Straits, Indonesia
Subject: "Weird Crustacean-Type Critter"

This can be your photograph!! Submit your photograph for consideration for "Photo of the Month" to dewing@proskauer.com

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KELP PRESERVATION

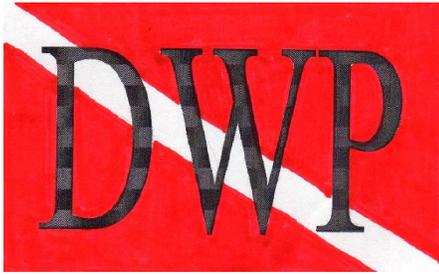
Join us at the Natural History Museum on Tuesday, August 14th in welcoming Michael Quill who will be presenting a special program on **LA Waterkeeper's** (formerly *Santa Monica Baykeeper's*) **Kelp Project**. Since establishing the program in 1997, volunteer divers have made over 400 dives off the shores of Malibu and Palos Verdes restoring and monitoring the kelp forest habitat to progressively return bleak urchin barrens into thriving kelp forest communities that support more than 800 species. Don't miss this informative presentation. Bring a friend and enjoy some great refreshments and a chance to win a valuable door prize. We look forward to seeing you there.

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

VOYAGE TO FREEDOM-SEARCH FOR THE GUERRERO

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 8

BY KENNETH STEWART, DIVING WITH A PURPOSE PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Six days before Christmas, 1827, after a grueling Trans-Atlantic voyage, forty-one (41) captive Africans met their watery deaths on the reef off of Key Largo, Florida. Proud people, destined to be sold into slavery, predeceased their five hundred and twenty (520) shackled brothers and sisters, known then as cargo, as the Spanish pirate ship Guerrero wrecked in shallows en route to Cuba, where wealthy plantation owners waited to buy them.

From July 9th through July 12th, 2012, twenty-two (22) divers from the National Association of Black Scuba

Divers came from all over America willingly encumbered, not by chains, but by burdensome equipment, descending to the ocean's bottom on a different kind of voyage: a voyage of discovery to explore, map and document the possible final resting place of the slave ship Guerrero. The expedition took place off the coast of Key Largo, Florida.

Almost two hundred (200) years after the Guerrero wrecked, dedicated divers, archeologists and historians united to uncover and preserve secrets buried under shifting sands. An entire program was born of this endeavor. I am a member of the National Association of Black Scuba Divers (NABS) and I learned of the wreck in large part as a result of the research and writing of historian Gail Swanson in her book "Slave Ship Guerrero and the documentary *"The Guerrero Project"*. Undeterred by a lack of funding and resources available through the National Park Ser-

vice, I appealed to fellow NABS divers around the country, attracting highly qualified volunteers to assist in the historical documentation and preservation of the Guerrero and other intact shipwrecks. These contribute valuable information about our nation's rich maritime cultural heritage.

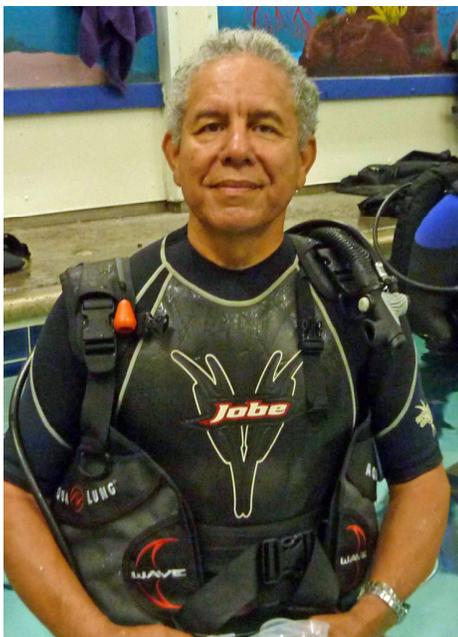
Diving With a Purpose (DWP) has been instrumental in training young people and adults in preparation for this expedition as they uncover the ocean's secrets. Technically, DWP's instruction is in accordance with the highest standards of the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) and employs rigorous education in underwater archeology. Equally important, DWP's work compels us to consider historical events from new perspectives.

The search for the Guerrero effort is being supported by NABS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY RICHARD RICE



LABUE's Trip Planning Committee comes through again! I am pleased to announce that based on our Trip Planning Committee's recommendations, the LABUE Board has approved our

warm water dive vacations for 2013 and 2014. We will be going to the "all inclusive" *Sipidan Water Village* on the island of Mabul, Malaysia in the Fall of 2013; and to the South Pacific islands of Palau and Truk in the Fall of 2014. Mabul is one of the riches single destinations for exotic small marine life anywhere. Sipidan is considered one of the top five diving destinations in the world. Palau is every diver's dream destination with over 1300 types of fish and other exotic sea life inhabiting the coral lagoon and adjacent islands. Truk is a wreck diver's paradise steeped in World War II history with the remains of the Japanese warship fleet resting on the lagoon's bottom ready for exploration by lucky LABUE divers. Trip Planning Committee members including TPC chairperson Tina Houston, Artie Williams, Patricia Williams, Randy Tillery, and Stacy Wade have been busy researching dive va-

cation destinations and accommodations since last year and have put together vacation packages for the selected locations that take into account our member's preferred destinations and budgets based on feedback collected in the comprehensive member dive vacation survey conducted last year. The destinations selected for 2013 and 2014 not only provide some of the best diving in the world, they offer divers and non-divers alike the opportunity to visit the island's attractions, interact with the friendly local populations and to experience their rich culture and traditions. Take a look at the details in Tina Houston's trip announcement articles in this issue. The official trip flyers and registration information on these exciting tropical dive vacations will be available soon.

If you missed the July 7th showing of the documentary movie *White Wash* at

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 2



the California African American Museum at Exposition Park, you have another opportunity to view this excellent film.

White Wash explores the complexity of race in America through the eyes of the ocean via the history of African Americans and water culture from slavery, civil rights wade-ins, to surfing in contemporary times at Southern California beach locations. *White Wash* is now available for viewing on *Netflix* and can be purchased on *Amazon.com*. LABUE was a proud sponsor of this event that included displays by Heal the Bay, The Los Angeles County Lifeguards, the Black Surfers Collective, the Black Surfing Association, and LABUE. Due to the large demand, a second showing was added to this event that also included a lively panel discussion that featured the film's director, Ted Woods, historians, artists, educators, and Black surfers. A special thanks to DonCosta Seawell and Pat and Clif Williams for staffing the LABUE display and providing SCUBA diving information to the dozens of interested



attendees stopping by the LABUE display.

I am very pleased to welcome Stacy Wade and Randy Tillery to LABUE's Board as at large members. Both Stacy and Randy are long time LABUE members. In addition to serving as active members of our Trip Planning Committee, Stacy has been, responsible for establishing our very successful Facebook page and serves as LABUE's Facebook Editor; Randy has been responsible for organizing our annual Dive-Camp Weekends.

If you would like to recommend an activity or event that would benefit the community, our members, or help fulfill our mission, please share it with me or one of the Board members. We value your recommendations. Don't forget our upcoming *LABUE Elections*. I encourage everyone to consider directly participating



in helping to continue our efforts to make LABUE a better club by running for an officer or board position. Elections will take place in November. If you are interested in lending your labor, experience, or organizational skills to LABUE as an Officer, Board Member or committee member, your participation would be more than welcomed. Give me a call or send me an email (labue@sbcglobal.net) to share your

ideas and thoughts on how to make LABUE a better dive club and to let me know how you can help us in these efforts.



LABUE'S 4TH ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

BY STEPHEN SCRUGGS

"If you saw a SCUBA diver drowning and you could either save him or photograph the event, what kind of film would you use." That's a bad joke. But it directly pertains to the subject of photography and the LABUE photo contest deadline coming up on midnight August 17th. The contest is open to members and non-members alike with your choice of three categories, "Sealife", "Diver" or "Surface". Please visit the club website at labue.org under "Latest News & Information" to view a complete list of the contest rules. When you've made your selection you can submit up to three photographs for each category to the LABUE website editor, Stephen Scruggs at scruggs2424@bellsouth.net. Voting will begin on August 24th. Good luck!

DIVER NEWS

Renewals and New Members

Ivan I Solovieff
Etta Pulce
Delissa Ables
Charles Moss
Carlton Jordan

Know of any member
Certification announcements?
Please notify Debora Ewing at
dewing@proskauer.com

VOYAGE TO FREEDOM

Continued from page 2

Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) and the Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Society.

One week after celebrating our country's liberty from British control with fireworks and ice cream, metic-

part of an upcoming television documentary on marine underwater archaeology. The public television series, "*Changing Seas*," which will feature this episode, is an original

ENTER YOUR PHOTOS IN LABUE'S 4TH ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

LABUE is now accepting entries for our **4th Annual Photo Contest**. The LABUE Photo Contest is open to members and non-members; however, photographs submitted by non-members must be taken at LABUE sponsored events, dive activities, or dive vacations. Photos submitted by members are not limited to those taken at LABUE events or activities. The deadline for submitting photos is midnight, August 17th.

This year's photo categories are "**Sealife**", "**Diver**", and "**Surface**". "Sealife" photographs incorporate all life native to underwater. "Diver" shots are all photographs taken underwater where a diver or divers are the primary or secondary focus. "Surface" photographs are all photographs taken above water. Photographers may submit three entries per category for the on line voting to begin on August 24th. All photographs submitted must be in a JPEG photo format and may be edited, such as cropping and color correction with the use of digital photo editing programs; however, they may not be manipulated, such as by adding or deleting subject matter, or by digitally correcting specific flaws in photographs by the use of image healing tools using a photo editing program. Any photographs which do not fall within the guidelines presented will not be included in the voting.

Show off your photographic talent for a chance to win some great prizes. Submit your best photos today to LABUE Website Editor Steve Scruggs (scruggs2424@bellsouth.net) **before the August 17th midnight deadline. Voting will begin on August 24th.**



ulous divers document and safeguard pieces of our nation's history which led inexorably to freedoms of a different kind and journeys only just begun. Results of the expedition may bring to light the last days of the Guerrero and bring closure to this historic story.

The search for the Guerrero will be

production of WPBT2, which serves the South Florida region. The program featuring the Guerrero is scheduled to air in South Florida in June 2013, and will likely air nationally at the end of 2013. **Check your local PBS station listings for specific local air dates and times.**

BOAT DIVING?

If you decide to sign up for a boat dive and you want a LABUE dive buddy, please contact DonCosta Seawell at 909-593-1877 or doncosta1@msn.com with your trip details and he will convey that information to the club so that anyone who desires to join you will be aware.



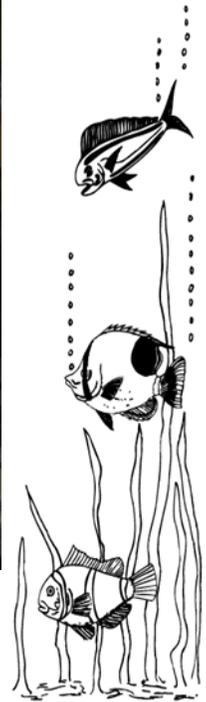
LABUE's Most Memorable Moments

BY QUINAL JOHNSON

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Some of the most memorable moments for me in LABUE, were the Beach Diving Campouts. I remember the first night after returning from the barbecue and playhouse. We tried to sit around the campfire, but it started to rain. Everyone came into my tent and passed around a couple bottles of wine I had and listened to the different adventures in my life. We all laughed and had fun that night, this is one of those real memories to keep! Another time was the drama between Bettye and George about George losing the tent from the top of the car! Although we laughed and joked about it, we all had pity for George, because we knew our dive sister, Bettye was not going to let him forget this.

On the night of the potluck, the members surprised us with special dishes that they would bring; we had more than enough food that night. Therefore, everyone ate too much and then we sat around the campfire just talking about everything and nothing! I miss those times. I miss the members and my friends. The next day was Sunday and before everyone else got up, I would get up early and start making breakfast for everyone before they would leave or begin to pack up their equipment. We all had breakfast together that morning. Then came the goodbyes, some long, some short but they all were heartfelt!



MABUL MALAYSIA 2013 TRIP ANNOUNCEMENT

BY TINA HOUSTON

The LABUE Trip Planning Committee and the LABUE Board have selected Mabul Malaysia, as the destination for LABUE's 2013 warm water dive vacation in Sept/Oct 2013. LABUE will be staying at Sipidan Water Village

[ALL-INCLUSIVE]. The village is located on the island of Mabul. The entire resort is built over water on stilts made of Belian Wood commonly called ironwood.

This small island surrounded by sandy beaches and perched on the northwest corner of a larger 200-hectare reef is notably known as one of the worlds best "muck-diving" sites and the Richest Marine Habitat in the World.. The reef is on the edge of a continental shelf and the seabed surrounding the reef slopes out to 75 to 100 feet deep. Mabul is arguably one of the riches single destinations for exotic small marine life anywhere in the world. Flamboyant cuttlefish, blue-ringed octopus, mimic octopus and bobtail squids are just a few of the numerous types of cephalopods found. The sight of harlequin shrimp feeding on sea stars and boxer crabs waving their tiny anemone pom-poms are just a small example of the endless species of crustaceans. The name of Sipidan is simply legendary in diving circles, conjuring images of patrolling hammerhead sharks, millions of technicolored reef fish and, above all, dozens of sea turtles swimming peacefully everywhere. This description is not far from reality: it might even actually be down played a little as Sipidan is considered one of the five top diving destinations in the world. This small rainforest-covered tropical island rising from a 700 meter abyss in the Celebes Sea is a destination the committed diver cannot miss.

The cost for this trip will start at \$2,050.00 per person double occupancy for divers and \$1350.00 for non-divers including junior room, daily meals, airport transfers, hotel fees, club fee, gratuities, and taxes. Diving will feature 3 boat dives per day and unlimited diving at Mabul Reef.

An official flyer and registration information will be out soon...

Palau & Truk Lagoon 2014 Trip Announcement

By Tina Houston

The LABUE Trip Planning Committee and the LABUE Board have selected a combined trip to Koror Palau and Truk Lagoon, Chuuk (South Pacific Micronesia), as the destinations for LABUE's 2014 warm water dive vacation Sept/Oct 2014. **Palau** is an world-renowned dive destination for those seeking adventure and big animal encounters. Scuba diving in Palau is full of excitement for new scuba divers and seasoned scuba divers alike. Grey reef sharks and white-tip reef sharks are the most common sharks found on the reefs in Palau, but scuba divers also have the chance to spot hammerheads and silvertip sharks, which are often found cruising the waters. The most famous of all dive sites in Palau is Blue Corner, where scuba divers ride the current to the wall crest and attach themselves to the rocky ledges using reef hooks. The reef hooks allow divers to remain stationary as they marvel at the large school of grey reef/ black tip reef sharks swimming effortlessly against the current right before their eyes. **Truk Lagoon** is diving into history! The turning battle of the Pacific War dealt a devastating blow to the Imperial fleet sinking over 45 ships, including armed cargo ships, huge tankers, small destroyers and a submarine. Several planes were also sent to their final resting place on the tranquil ocean floor of Truk Lagoon. These WWII wrecks were scattered across 77 square miles. Here, it offers some of the finest historical wreck diving in the world. During WWII, Japanese forces took advantage of the lagoon's sheltered location to use it as the front anchorage point for their naval forces. To dive Truk is to encounter first hand a diver's paradise. Jacques Cousteau used Truk Lagoon to introduce the world beneath the waves: the eerie virtually intact shipwrecks are known as the Ghost Fleet of Truk Lagoon.

This is a combined package for 12 days which starts at \$2,025.00 per person double occupancy for divers and \$1,300.00 for non-divers including superior/moderate room, airport transfers, hotel fees, club fee, gratuities, and taxes. Diving will feature 6-7 days of 2-tank boat dives. An exact date to be determined at a later time.

An official flyer and registration information will be out later this year...

CHECK OUT THE LABUE STORE



Look great on the boat or beach with official LABUE apparel including T-shirts, Polo Shirts, and Baseball Caps.

T-shirts and Baseball Caps are in stock and are available in most sizes at \$20 each. Check out the LABUE Store at www.labue.org to place your order, or you may purchase items at the monthly membership meeting.

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Scuba diving is something to be shared and the **Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers** would like to introduce individuals eight years and older to

DISCOVER SCUBA



This DISCOVER SCUBA Program is designed to briefly introduce individuals eight years and older a new world and to help prepare non-divers for a dive training certification program (this is not a certification program). Certified divers will be available to answer questions and provide support throughout the entire Program. Participants interested in training for certification can discuss concerns with program leader. Featured components are :

- Introduction to the world of *SCUBA* and equipment review
- (optional) Pool session with certified divers (bring swimsuit, drying towel, and water)
 - (optional) dive shop tour

WHEN: Saturday, September 1, 2012 @ 9:30 A.M. until 1:30 P.M.
WHERE: PACIFIC WILDERNESS 1719 So Pacific Ave.; San Pedro 90731 (310) 833 2422
COST: \$15.00 per person in attendance (NO SIT-INS - guardians exempt)

Call 661.729.6626 to sign-up

NEWSLETTER ADS

LABUE is offering newsletter ads for nominal prices. The price structure is as follows:

- \$15 for a quarter page ad (per month);
- \$20 for a half page ad (per month);
- \$30 for a full page ad (per month).

If you're interested in purchasing an ad, please contact Debora Ewing at (310) 284-4556.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Reminder: Please e-mail your photos for the "Photo of the Month" contest. You just may see your photo on the cover of an upcoming edition of the LABUE News! Please e-mail photos for consideration to dewing@proskauer.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2012

- August 14, 2012 -- General Meeting - 7:00 PM
- August 28, 2012 -- Board Meeting
- September 1, 2012 -- Discover Scuba - 9:30 AM - Pacific Wilderness
- September 11, 2012 -- General Meeting - 7:00 PM
- September 25, 2012 -- Board Meeting
- October 5-7, 2012 -- Dive and Camp Weekend—Pt. Mugu

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	Joe Windolph (818) 209-2504	Internet Administrator Francois Desamours (703) 463-6857
President Richard Rice (323) 299-3798	COMMITTEES	Website Editor Steve Scruggs (310) 795-0851
Vice President Tina Houston (213) 359-2131	Membership Tina Houston (Interim) (213) 359-2131	Program Committee Open
Treasurer Open	Ways & Means Debora Ewing (310) 284-4556	Technical Dive Committee Open
Secretary Open	Beach Dive Joe Windolph (818) 209-2504	Youth Committee Joe Windolph (818) 209-2504
Members at Large Lamont Johnson (310) 387-8193	Boat Dive DonCosta Seawell (909) 593-1877	Newsletter Staff: Richard Rice - Publisher Debora Ewing - Editor (310) 284-4556 Sharlene Johnson - Production Manager Staff Writers - Steve Scruggs Dangil Jones
Steve Scruggs (310) 795-0851	Dive Events & Trip Planning Tina Houston (Interim) (213) 359-2131	
DonCosta Seawell (909) 593-1877	Dive Training & Safety George Linares (Interim)	
Patricia Williams (619) 459-0944		

HOW ARE WE DOING? We would love to hear your comments, critiques or suggestions. Please e-mail Debora Ewing at the following e-mail address and your voice will be heard: dewing@proskauer.com

Meetings

The LABUE meetings are held the second Tuesday of every Month at 7:00 PM in the Times Mirror Room at the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles.

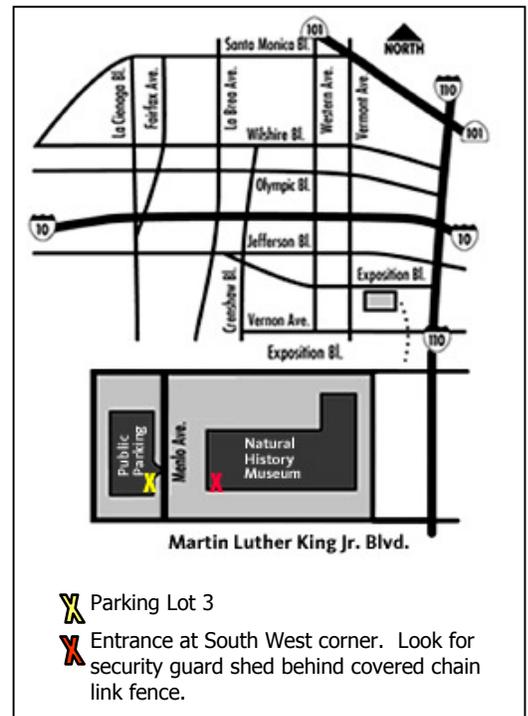
Directions

The Natural History Museum is located in Exposition Park, at 900 Exposition Boulevard between Vermont Avenue and Figueroa Street.

Due to Metro line work on Exposition Blvd., and museum construction on the Exposition side of the Museum, the Museum offers some helpful tips for driving to minimize your inconvenience:

From the 110 (Harbor) Freeway, take the Martin Luther King Boulevard exit and head west towards Vermont Avenue. Turn right (north) on Menlo Avenue. Make a left into Exposition Park Lot 3.

Please visit the Museum website for more information at www.nhm.org.



- X** Parking Lot 3
- X** Entrance at South West corner. Look for security guard shed behind covered chain link fence.

Contact Us:

PO Box 90069, Los Angeles, CA 90009
 Phone/Fax: (323) 299-3798
 Email: info@labue.org
 Web Site: www.labue.org

P.O. BOX 90069, LOS ANGELES, CA 90009

(323) 299-3798 (Phone and Fax)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For the Year _____

General Information:

Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Referred By: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Certification Information:

Year First Certified: _____ No. of Dives _____ Date of Last Dive: _____ o Warm Water o Beach o Boat

Agency Certification

Diving Preferences: o Beach Dives o Boat Dives o Warm Water Dives

Amount: \$30.00 o Individual Membership o New o Renewal

\$45.00 o Family Membership o New o Renewal

\$300.00 o Lifetime Individual

\$450.00 o Lifetime Family

Please make checks payable to: "Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers" or "LABUE"

WAIVER

I _____, hereby apply for membership in the Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers (LABUE) and agree to abide by all club rules, I acknowledge that I will be voluntarily participating in LABUE events with full knowledge of the potential dangers of scuba diving and diving related activities. In consideration of your acceptance of this application and my membership in LABUE, I agree to assume all risks of bodily injury, death or property damage, arising out of or in connection with my participation in LABUE activities. I also agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless LABUE and their members and officers from any liability arising out of or in connection with my participation in LABUE activities. I further agree that this release and indemnification is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the laws of the State of California. I have carefully read this release and fully understand its contents. I sign this release of my own free will and with full knowledge of its significance.

Signature: _____ Date: _____