

2011 NABS Club Of The Year

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 12
DECEMBER 2011



Photographer: Bob Simmons
Camera: Canon S95 Point and Shoot
Camera Settings: ISO 100, F4.0, Shutter speed 1/60 sec
Location: Lembeh Straits, Indonesia
Subject: Mimic Octopus

STEAL A GIFT AT LABUE'S HOLIDAY MEETING!

Join us on December 13, 2011, for our General Membership Holiday Meeting. Back by popular demand, we will be playing the "Steal-a-Gift" game. Everyone is invited to bring a wrapped gift (limit \$25 value) and join us for an evening of fun and socializing. Sharlene Johnson and Debora Ewing will be acting as the master of ceremonies, controlling the chaos and giving out door prizes. The more people the merrier, so bring your family and friends for this festive evening. Following the game, there will be plenty of time for socializing and snacking on tasty Holiday refreshments provided by LABUE. If you missed our December 3rd Holiday Dinner, you won't want to miss our Holiday Meeting!

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LABUE SOARS AT 18TH ANNUAL COMPTON AIR FAIR

BY: RANDY TILLERY

LABUE once again participated in the annual Compton Air Fair held on Saturday, October 22nd at the Woodley Airport in Compton with an interactive LABUE scuba diving display. This was the 18th year for this exciting community event sponsored by the California Black Aviation Association (CBAA). Daryl Cullins is the current president of the CBAA and was responsible for organizing this year's event. Darryl is a scuba diver and is also a founding member of LABUE. This year's event highlighted the many achievements of



women in the various fields of aviation with a "Salute to Women in Aviation". A special guest at the event was Dr. Mae Jemison, the first woman of color in the world to go into space,

serving six years as a NASA astronaut. She flew aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavor 1992 and was NASA's first Science Mission Specialist. Another inspirational guest participating in this event was US Coast



Guard LTJG La'Shanda Holmes. A graduate of Spellman College, La'Shanda is the USCG's first Black female helicopter pilot. She is currently stationed at the USCG Air Station in Los Angeles, where she flies missions in the impressive orange USCG helicopter that we regularly see patrolling the Southern California coastline. If you ever need an USCG emergency air rescue and evacuation

to the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber, you know that you will be in good hands with La'Shanda as pilot. The pioneering Tuskegee Airmen were on hand at the Air Fair providing a valuable historical perspective to the event. The Air Fair also featured exciting exhibitions including aerobatic flights, sky diving, musical and dancing entertainment, and displays such as Boeing's flight simulator and robot demonstration. Events such as the Compton Air Fair provide an important community outreach opportunity for LABUE. You won't want to miss next year's exciting 19th Annual Compton Air Fair, October 2012.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY RICHARD RICE



Congratulations LABUE on being selected as the 2011 NABS Club of the Year. The National Association of Black Scuba Divers (NABS) announced LABUE as the recipient of this year's

award at the annual NABS Dive Summit held last month on Grand Cayman Island. LABUE member Tyrie Bivings accepted the award plaque on behalf of LABUE at the awards dinner and ceremony held on November 5, 2011. LABUE last received this award in 1999. Also on hand at this year's NABS Summit were LABUE members Stacy Wade, and Angela Marcano, NABS Western Regional Representative. Dive clubs nominated for NABS Club of the Year must meet a number of criteria including being a NABS member club in good standing and in compliance with all protocols for Charter or Affiliate club status. Each club must have in place clearly defined safe diving practices, they must have been involved in environmental awareness, cleanup, aquarium, marine habitat or related marine programs, and they must have been involved in community related events. Additional fac-

tors that are considered are involvement in on-going youth programs, regular publication and distribution of club newsletters, and hosting of a club website. As LABUE members are well aware, in 2011 we have all worked hard to more than meet these criteria. This award is a great honor and reflects continued dedicated LABUE member support and participation in our successful events and activities throughout 2011. The award also reflects the tremendous efforts of the LABUE Board of Directors to re-energize and work to build LABUE into a vibrant and self-sustaining organization that will continue to be "Dedicated to Expanding the Knowledge and Enjoyment of Scuba Diving among African Americans" into the future. A special thanks to Angela Marcano for spreading the word to NABS about our efforts and to Steve Scruggs for working to ensure that LABUE was in strict

Continued on page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 2

compliance with the NABS nomination process requirements. This is a great way to close out 2011 and is a tribute to all LABUE members, LABUE Committee participants, and to the LABUE Board of Directors.

We are already working hard on our event and activities calendar for next year. Our Ways & Means Committee is developing our 2012 Annual Budget. Our Internet Committee has just rolled out the new LABUE Facebook Page. The LABUE Trip Planning Committee announced last month our 2012 warm water dive vacation destination as Bonaire and Curacao, May 5th – 15th . Discover Scuba and Scuba Refresher sessions are in the process of being scheduled for 2012. We are also working on our Beach Dive schedule; as well as our regular annual activities and events including Chamber Night, Dive-Camp Weekend, and community events such as the Compton Air Fair. 2012 is a LABUE Election year and the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer will be open as well as our Board Member positions. LABUE still needs your help and I encourage everyone to do your share to continue with our efforts to build LABUE by running for an officer or board position. Turn your ideas for LABUE into reality by becoming a LABUE Officer or Board Member!

If you would like to recommend an activity or event that would benefit the community, our members, or help fulfill our mission next year, please share it with me or one of the Board members. We value your recommendations. If you are interested in lending your labor, experience, or organizational skills to LABUE , 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.

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 12

Diving the Volcanic Caldera of Santorini, Greece

BY: RICHARD RICE

PHOTOS BY: SYMPHROSA WILLIAMS & RICHARD RICE

This summer, I had the opportunity to dive a truly unique dive spot while on a sailing adventure to the picturesque Cyclades Islands of Greece. The volcanic caldera of Santorini provided an unusual departure from the lush tropical reef diving that I normally enjoy at tropical dive destinations. Santorini is actually a



set of islands composed of the remnants of a huge ancient volcano. Thira, Thirassia, and Kameni are the main islands. A favorite haunt of the *rich & famous* and cruise ships, the picturesque travel photos we see of Santorini are actually towns and



villages on Thira that line the 1000 ft. high cliffs that are the remnants rim of the volcano. LABUE member Randy Tillery organized the dive with *Santorini Dive Center* on Thira. Randy and I were joined by current and former LABUE members, NABS divers, and friends including Pat Williams, Stacy Wade, Symphrosa Williams, Ruth Cauthen, Melvina Edwards, George Lythcott, Bill Nelson, Lauretta Robinson, and Kristy Kelly. After a short boat ride on a picture perfect day, we geared up and en-

tered the 72 degree crystal clear azure blue waters off of Thirassia. Although most people believe that of the Greek waters to be abundant in sea life because of its ancient maritime history, sea life in most of the Mediterranean is actually pretty sparse when compared to California and Caribbean dive destinations. There are no coral reefs; and geography, along with fishing by humans since the dawn of civilization has contributed to a noticeable scarcity of fish. You can pay up to \$80 for a good fish dinner in Greek restaurants since most fish and other seafood is imported.

The great volcanic eruptions that shook the island over many centuries have created magnificent underwater scenery. Our dive featured numerous volcanic geological structures, boulders, rock slabs, volcanic vent tubes,



and swim-thrus. Even though there was not an abundance of marine fauna and flora, we did see some unique sea life that we had never encountered. Diving is strictly controlled and restricted in Greece, as well as most of the Mediterranean, because of the abundant archeological sites that are still being discovered and surveyed. The Mediterranean is also rich in ancient shipwrecks. Diving must be done with a government licensed dive operation or as part of a licensed dive club. Independent diving is prohibited because of the fear of recovery and theft of ancient artifacts that can be easily found in these waters. A limited number of these sites are open to recreational divers and I hope to include some of them on my next visit to Greece.

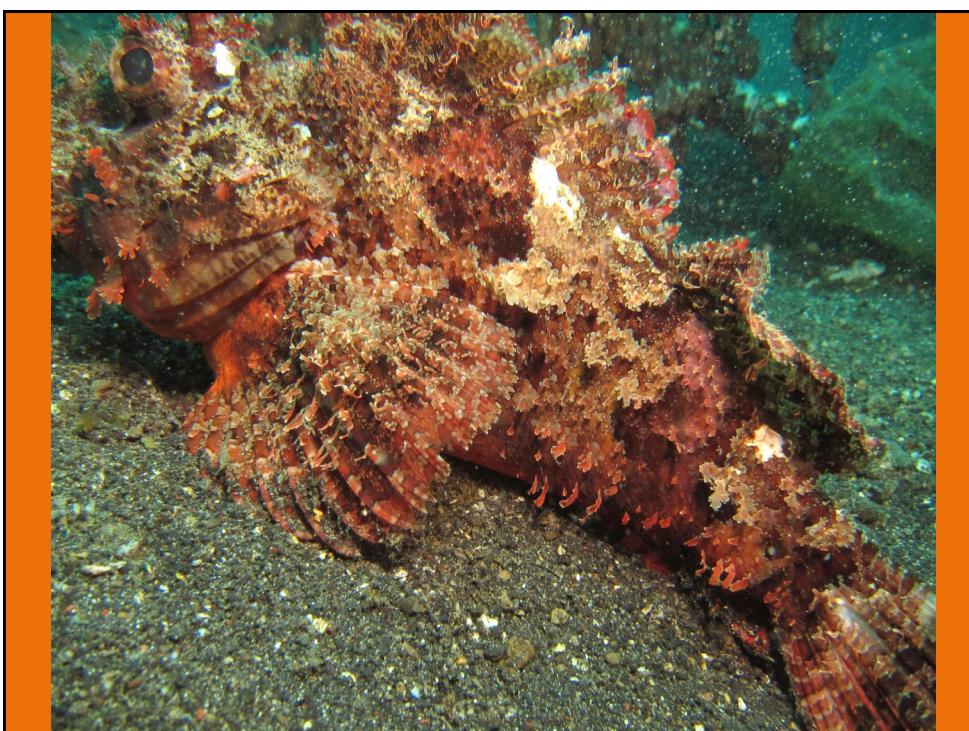
INDONESIA...WOW!!!

By: BOB SIMMONS

Brenda Kitchen, Miles Maxie, Eric Shepherd, Salim Jordan, Luster Ingram, David Robinson and myself recently ventured to the world famous dive locations of Northern Sulawesi and Lembeh Straits in Indonesia. The diving could be described in one word...SPECTACULAR! Since these waters contain over 4500 species of sea life (triple the number of species in the Caribbean), we expected unusual sightings...which we got. The 84-87 degree waters were a photographer's paradise with **every** dive offering a variety of unusual creatures. We often found ourselves split apart while looking at different critters all at the same time!

Our 21 dives over 7 days of diving included deep walls, beautiful soft and hard coral reefs, muck diving and even a Japanese WW11 wreck. Our goal was to maximize bottom time, which generally exceeded 60 minutes, so as to spend as much time as possible enjoying this underwater paradise. The best visibility we had was 90' diving an infinitely deep wall on our first day. Typically the vis ranged from 40-60'. The deepest dive was to the bottom of the Japanese Ship wreck at 107'. The photo opps were endless, particularly when muck diving. The term 'muck diving' refers to diving above a very soft and silty sand bottom. The number of beautiful and colorful critters we found was amazing. It was a real challenge of everyone's buoyancy control skills to get as close to the bottom as possible without causing temporary 'black out.' A few of the 1500 photos I took are displayed with this article.

On land, our two resorts were both first class. The best resort was like a very large live aboard, containing 9 bungalows very compactly arranged just a few steps from the main lodge's dining and relaxation areas as well as from the dive staging areas, camera room and boats. Since dive sites in the Lembeh Straits were generally 2-5 minutes from the resort, we geared up in a very large staging room adjacent to the boat and 5 minutes or so later we were in the water. We were greeted with hot towels as we emerged from the water followed by snacks and then returned to the resort after each dive. With virtually no travel time, there was plenty of time for relaxing between dives. As expected, the service from the dive crew and hotel staff was impeccable. It is safe to say that everyone in the group had a fabulous time diving in this diver wonderland. We will go back!



MEMBER'S CORNER**Tralalalala La LABUE**

BY: S. SCRUGGS
(To the tune of "Deck The Halls")

Line the deck with bells and holly
Falalalalala LABUE
Grab your gear and let's be jolly
Falalalalala LABUE
Don your fins and grab your snorkels
Falalalalala LABUE
Trim the deck and close the port-holes.
Falalalalala LABUE

Find a bay and drop your anchor.
Falalalala la LABUE
Tap the keg and fill your tankard.
Falalalala la LABUE
Peel the shrimp and boil the lobster.
Falalalalala LABUE
Slice the limes and shuck the oysters.
Falalalalala LABUE

Belch your gas and pull your pants up.
Falalalalalala LABUE
Dive on in and give a thumbs up.
Falalalalalala LABUE
Puke your guts out, call the dive.
Falalalalalala LABUE
Swear off drinking before five (5:00).
Falalalala La La La
Laaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa.

Merry Christmas!

LABUE ON FACEBOOK!

By: S. SCRUGGS

Only one year has passed since we were celebrating the introduction of our new and improved LABUE website including the addition of a dive discussion forum. Website technology has helped put www.labue.org into the fast lane of the information super highway and bring the world to our doorstep. Now LABUE's new Facebook page will enhance all the informational benefits of our website and our monthly newsletter by making our club even more accessible to the world. If you're like me, you're hesitant to put your personal information onto Facebook. But if you're like me, you'll find that you can reap all the benefits of Facebook while revealing a

It's Time for "Steal a Gift"!

At the December 13, 2011, General Meeting we will play our annual Steal a Gift Game. Everyone is invited to bring a wrapped gift (limit \$25 value) and join the Program Committee for an evening of fun and socializing. This year Sharlene will be acting as the master of ceremonies while she controls the chaos and Debora gives out door prizes. The more people the merrier so bring your family and friends. Following the game there will be plenty of time for socializing and snacking on holiday goodies provided by LABUE. ***In fairness to all participants, please bring a gift that you wouldn't mind receiving yourself.*** The Program Committee looks forward to seeing you there!

**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.

**DIVER NEWS**

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Know of any member Certification announcements?

Please notify Debora Ewing at dewing@proskauer.com

newsletter to learn more about the new Facebook technology and how it will help to make LABUE more accessible to the world and how the world will be even more accessible to LABUE.



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.



LABUE SCUBA CLUB WINTER SPECIAL

**\$65 SUN - THURS
\$75 FRI & SAT**

VALID JANUARY 1ST - 31ST, 2012

MINIMUM 10 ROOM NIGHTS REQUIRED.
TAX NOT INCLUDED. BASED ON
AVAILABILITY. HOLIDAYS & SPECIAL
EVENT DATES MAY NOT APPLY

*ADD \$25 AND CHOOSE ANY 2 OF THE FOLLOWING:

- WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION IN OUR FUSE LOUNGE
- SCUBA GIFT BASKET IN EACH GUEST ROOM
- SPLIT OF WINE IN EACH GUEST ROOM
- BREAKFAST FOR TWO



ADDITIONAL FEATURES:

- * HEATED SWIMMING POOL AND SPA
- * FITNESS CENTER
- * COMPLIMENTARY WIFI
- * COMPLIMENTARY PARKING
- * ON-SITE DINING & ROOM SERVICE
- * MASSAGE SERVICES AVAILABLE
- * IN-ROOM COFFEEMAKER
- * REFRIGERATOR
- * IPOD® DOCKING STATION
- * 37' LCD FLAT SCREEN TV



* CARMEL MISSION INN IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 2 MILES NORTH OF POINT LOBOS AND 1 MILE NORTH OF THE FAMED MONASTERY BEACH.

Let us help make your next diving trip, an AMAZING one!



FOR BOOKINGS OR INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:



Hana Nishiguchi - Sales Manager
hana@carmelmissioninn.com
800-348-9090 ext 358

3665 Rio Rd
CARMEL, CA 93923
WWW.CARMELMISSIONINN.COM

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 2011

December 13, 2011 -- General Meeting - 7:00 PM -

Don't forget your wrapped gift!!

No December Board Meeting

HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY AND A SAFE NEW YEAR!

From the LABUE Newsletter Staff

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Richard Rice
(323) 299-3798

Vice President

Tina Houston
(213) 359-2131

Treasurer

Open

Secretary

Open

Members at Large

Lamont Johnson
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Steve Scruggs
(310) 795-0851

DonCosta Seawell
(909) 593-1877

Patricia Williams
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Internet Administrator

Francois Desamours
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COMMITTEES

Membership
Tina Houston (Interim)
(213) 359-2131

Ways & Means
Debora Ewing
(310) 284-4556

Beach Dive
Joe Windolph
(818) 209-2504

Boat Dive
DonCosta Seawell
(909) 593-1877

Dive Events &
Trip Planning
Tina Houston (Interim)
(213) 359-2131

Dive Training & Safety
George Linares (Interim)

Website Editor

Steve Scruggs
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Program Committee
Open

Technical Dive Committee
Open

Youth Committee
Joe Windolph
(818) 209-2504

Newsletter Staff:
Richard Rice - Publisher
Debora Ewing - Editor
(310) 284-4556
Sharlene Johnson -
Production Manager
Staff Writers -
Steve Scruggs
Dangil Jones

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.



Contact Us:

PO Box 90069, Los Angeles, CA 90009

Phone/Fax: (323) 299-3798

Email: info@labue.org

Web Site: www.labue.org

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



LABUE HEADS TO BONAIRE & CURACAO ISLANDS

May 5th – May 15th, 2012

The LABUE Trip Planning Committee and the LABUE Board have selected Bonaire & Curacao Islands as the destination for LABUE's 2012 warm water dive vacation, May 5th - May 15th, 2012. LABUE will be staying at The Plaza Resort Bonaire is an ideal dive location featuring 1600 feet of pristine white sand beach, 152 oceanfront suites, two pools, and two restaurants. It also includes a gym, spa, and a centrally located oceanside beach bar. Bonaire diving takes the diving experience to a new level. They have an array of Frogfish including the lipstick frogfish. Five different species of turtles and the Hilma Hooker, a 236 ft. freighter rests in 90 ft. of water on top of a sandy bottom. Bonaire voted 2011 Top Overall Diving 9th consecutive year. It also took 1st place for Top Health of Marine



Environment 2011 and Top Shore Diving 2011 by Divers' Magazine choice Awards. The 1st all-inclusive Resort (May 5-12, 2012) is in Bonaire at Bonaire Plaza Resort - Starting at \$1375pp (dbl occ). You can enjoy an inclusive dive package offering 11 boat dives with unlimited shore, 6 day vehicle rental with full insurance, tax, service charge and 7 nights in a standard Laguna suite, 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 dinners, and yes, drinks! The 2nd all-inclusive Resort (May 12-15, 2012) is in Curacao at Breezes Curacao Resort - Starting at \$703pp (dbl occ). Also for your enjoyment is an inclusive dive package offering 4 boat dives with unlimited shore diving, 3 nights



in a standard room, 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 3 dinners. The resort sits on 1500 ft. of pure white sand and crystal clear waters that have beckoned scuba divers from around the world. It remains a largely undiscovered gem in the Caribbean. The resort is adjacent to a pristine Undersea National Park. Additionally, there is always something to keep your kids thrilled, while you slip away for a little excitement of your own at the largest casino in Curaçao, which just happens to

be located right on the premises. The cost for 10 days for all of the above, club fee, marine park fees, and having fun are approximately **\$2078pp (dbl occ)**. What a reasonable price...

For registration, deposit information or questions, please contact
Tina Houston at Dyvingluvly@sbcglobal.net

2012 TRIP ANNOUNCEMENT

DEPOSITS are NOW being accepted

Bonaire Plaza Resort/Breezes Curacao Resort



Netherlands Antilles Registration Form

May 5-May 12, 2012 (1st Package 7-day) or
May 5-May 15, 2012 (2nd Package 10-day)

Pricing Information

The Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers (LABUE) has scheduled its 2012 club dive trip to Bonaire and Curacao – Netherlands Antilles from May 5th - May 15th, 2012. This form is to be completed by everyone participating in what will be another exciting LABUE Dive Vacation. Please check **ALL** of the options applicable. 1st Package includes all-inclusive 8 days and 7 nights in studio rooms at Bonaire Plaza Resort, hotel taxes, 11 dives, unlimited shore diving, with rental car, marine park fee, airport transfers and LABUE fee. 2nd package includes all of the above including Breezes Curacao Resort, which is also all-inclusive 4 days and 3 nights in standard rooms, 4 dives, unlimited shore diving [other room options are available upon request]. **Each traveler is required to secure his/her own airfare from the USA to Curacao, however Mario Cabading from Scuba Travel Ventures can secure your airline reservations at an reasonable rate by contacting him via email at mario@stv.travel**

OPTIONS	Plaza Resort	Breezes	NOTES
Double Occupancy Diver	\$1375 ____	\$703 ____	
Double Occupancy Non-Diver	\$1350 ____	\$510 ____	For snorkelers, there is a \$10 fee that is not included in the prices listed.
Single Occupancy Diver	\$1675 ____	\$958 ____	
Single Occupancy Non-Diver	\$1650 ____	\$765 ____	For snorkelers, there is a \$10 fee that is not included in the prices listed.
Dive ONLY Package (w/o Hotel)	\$ 475 ____	\$194 ____	Includes LABUE fee (airport transfers are not included with this option) which has already been factored into the hotel package prices listed above.

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Other Telephone: _____

E-Mail _____

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Membership Requirements: The prices quoted in this form apply to divers who are members of LABUE, LABUE Sister Clubs, and members of NABS affiliated dive club only. The prices quoted also apply to non-divers. For those LABUE members who have not paid their dues, their trip invoice will include an additional membership renewal fee. DIVERS ONLY who are not LABUE or LABUE Sister club members and who are not members of a NABS affiliated dive club will be charged an additional \$50 non-member fee. Individuals wishing to participate in this trip are welcome to join LABUE and may do so by completing a LABUE Membership Application (available on-line at www.labue.org) and submitting it along with this Registration Form and \$30 annual membership dues.

Package Rates: The final package price will depend on varying individual selections. Once this Form is completed and a **\$400 deposit received (\$200 deposit for non-divers and dive only package participants)**, the quoted rates in effect at that time will be guaranteed. The rates quoted in this Form are guaranteed until **February 5, 2011**. Individuals submitting their deposits subsequent to that date will be subject to rates in effect at that time. After **February 5, 2011**, every effort will be made to renew LABUE's contracts with the tour operators at the original prices, however, there may be changes. To ensure the lowest possible guaranteed price, individuals are advised to confirm their reservations immediately.

Payment: To confirm your reservation, everyone must submit a **signed Reservation Form** and a minimum **deposit of \$400 (\$200 deposit for non-divers and dive only package participants)**. The final payment is due **February 27, 2012**. Your reservation is subject to cancellation if the final payment is not made on or before **February 27, 2012**. The initial deposit must be paid to LABUE via a personal check, cashier's check, money order, PayPal or cash. When using PayPal, please add 3% percent to your payment to cover the PayPal fee charged to LABUE. When paying by *PayPal*, send payment(s) to: paypal_membership@labue.org

Diver Requirements: Divers participating in LABUE organized Dive Vacations must be certified by a recognized SCUBA diving certification agency (NAUI, PADI, SSI, etc.). In addition, divers must have current dive insurance (Divers Alert Network (DAN) or equivalent Dive Insurance). LABUE requires that you provide the following information as part of your Registration:

SCUBA Diving Certification Agency: _____ C-Card Number: _____

Certification level: OW, AOW, Other:

Dive Club Affiliation: (LABUE, LABUE Sister Club, NABS Club, Other):

IMPORTANT NOTE: Current SCUBA diving insurance is required for participation in LABUE Dive Vacations.

Dive Insurance Carrier:

Policy/Member Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Date of last dive: _____ Deepest dive: _____ Dive Buddy's Name: _____

Cancellation Policy: Requests for cancellation **MUST BE** in writing and mailed to The Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers, P.O. Box 90069, Los Angeles, California 90009. **A \$50 fee will be charged for cancellation before December 31, 2011; cancellation January 1 – April 4, 2012 a \$200 fee will be charged; and April 5, 2012 and after, 100% cancellation fee applies (NO REFUND).** No refunds will be given to "no shows" on the date of departure or for any unused portion of the package. It is **strongly recommended** that you purchase Travelers Insurance to minimize the loss in the event of an unexpected cancellation.

Roommates: After the initial registration sign-up period (January 15, 2012), each individual traveler will be assigned a roommate, unless two travelers specify that they will be rooming with each other and both have already paid the \$400 deposit. If you wish to have a particular roommate, it is **imperative** that the deposits for both individuals be made early in the reservation process. No one individual will be allowed to 'hold a room' unless \$800 in deposits for two individuals have been made. Roommate assignments will be determined by a combination of factors including the date the initial deposit was received. Single person supplement rates are available for individuals not wishing to have a roommate. You will be kept informed via periodic E-mails of individuals whom have signed up for the trip, as well as room availability. Keeping in mind that the Spring is a prime travel time in Bonaire/Curacao, it is anticipated that the currently available rooms at the hotels will eventually be sold out prior to the club trip.

Responsibility: LABUE and its Officers act only in the capacity of coordinator for the trip participants and are not liable for injury, damage or loss occasioned by neglect or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the tour, or any hotel proprietor, dive operator or other persons supplying services or materials in connection with the tour. LABUE and its Officers do not accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond its control. Furthermore, LABUE and its Officers acknowledge that there are risks inherent in scuba diving and they cannot be held liable for any injuries or death.

Name: _____ Requested Roommate _____

I read and understand the Terms and Conditions of this 3-page document and agree to comply with each of them in their entirety.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 13 of the LABUE BY-LAWS:

Article 13 currently reads:

"Article 13 – LIABILITY WAIVERS

Although it is the expressed desire of LABUE to promote safe aquatic activities, all participants in LABUE activities recognize that scuba diving is a hazardous sport and can result in serious injury up to and including death. LABUE, its Board, its Officers, members, friends, associates or sponsors do not accept any responsibility whatsoever for an individual's personal loss, injury or death. All members must sign a membership application, which provides a general liability waiver. In addition, beach and boat dive liability waivers shall be signed prior to each beach and boat dive. These waivers hold LABUE and its representatives harmless from any and all damages or injuries incurred by individuals while participating in LABUE activities. All members are required to obtain Divers Alert Network insurance or other comparable insurance when participating in a multiday LABUE dive trip."

The Proposed Amendment modifies Article 13 to read as follows:

"Article 13 – SAFE DIVING PRACTICES and LIABILITY WAIVERS

Although it is the expressed desire of LABUE to promote safe aquatic activities, all participants in LABUE activities recognize that scuba diving is a hazardous sport and can result in serious injury and death. LABUE, its Board, its Officers, members, friends, associates or sponsors do not accept any responsibility whatsoever for an individual's personal loss, injury or death. When participating in LABUE-sponsored beach and boat diving activities, prior to each beach and/or boat dive, each participant must sign a general liability waiver. These waivers hold LABUE and its representatives harmless from any and all damages or injuries incurred by individuals while participating in LABUE activities. All members are required to have Divers Alert Network insurance or other comparable insurance in place and current when participating in a multiday LABUE dive trip.

Each LABUE Member is required to adhere to the following SAFE DIVING PRACTICES whenever participating in LABUE-sponsored diving activities:

I will never skin or scuba dive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and I should never dive in conditions in which I do not feel comfortable or that exceed my physical ability.

I will never dive alone or with a person with whom I have not thoroughly discussed a dive plan; each of us has reviewed the other's diving equipment and emergency procedures before the dive; and each recognizes that buddy teams of three or more divers are not recommended by NAUI Standards and Procedures.

I will always dive with: a buoyancy compensator that has a power inflation system; a regulator system which includes a depth gauge, a submersible pressure gauge, a timing device, and an alternate or redundant air source.

I will adjust my weight system to maintain neutral buoyancy with no air in my buoyancy compensator at the surface of the water and position a weight belt to keep the quick-release buckle at the front, centered and accessible or keep integrated weight release equipment clear and accessible

I will surface with at least 300-500psi in my scuba cylinder(s) and will never stay underwater until my breathing gas supply is exhausted.

Regardless of the type of breathing gas I am using, I will make all dives "no decompression dives," and will be proficient in the use of a dive table and/or dive computer.

I understand that care must be exercised at all times whenever entering or exiting the beach through the surf zone, scuba diving or snorkeling/swimming zones.

I am responsible for knowing and adhering to all fish and game regulations relating to any fish or game that I take.

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: _____
 Warm Water Beach Boat

Agency Certification

Diving Preferences: Beach Dives Boat Dives Warm Water Dives

Amount: \$30.00 Individual Membership New Renewal

\$45.00 Family Membership New Renewal

\$300.00 Lifetime Individual

\$450.00 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: _____