

2011 NABS Club Of The Year

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 7

JULY 2012



Photographer: Miles Maxey
Camera: Canon S95, with FIX 0.42X fisheye lens in a FIX S95 Housing
Strobe: Inon S2000
Location: Bonaire (LABUE'S 2012 Warm Water Trip)
Subject: Richard on the Reef--Bonaire

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SLAVE SHIP MUTINY!

Join us on Tuesday, July 10th to continue our extraordinary journey exploring the topic of the search for sunken slave ships. We will be presenting the PBS documentary video, "Secrets of the Dead-Slave Ship Mutiny". Learn about the mutiny aboard the slave ship Meermin as it headed from Madagascar to South Africa in 1766; and about the current efforts by divers to locate its sunken remains 200 miles from Cape Town. Don't miss this exciting and 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

LABUE IN BONAIRE & CURAÇAO

By: Brenda Kitchen and Miles Maxey

Thirteen LABUE members traveled to Bonaire & Curaçao for this year's club trip. Salim Jordan again wins the prize for longest travel coming from Australia. New LABUE traveler Damon Saber came from Houston, Texas. Also in attendance were Johannes Kepler from Colorado; Symphorosa Williams from San Diego and the remainder of the crew from the



LA area – Randy Tillery, Richard Rice, DonCosta Seawell, Eric Shepherd, Beverley Pyne, Choca Lee Mathieu and Starletta DuPois. Oh, and from the Michigan chapter of LABUE (aka MASK) Brenda Kitchen and Miles Maxey. Randy Tillery served as our

fearless leader and we had the "three ladies" holding down the fort or resort as it were. Most of the group flew into Curaçao and had to fly into Bonaire to start our first week of diving. A few members unfortunately missed the last plane out and arrived the next morning, but we all made it in. Once we got settled in at the Plaza Bonaire Resort, which included picking up a car for the week, the divers all had to do a "check out" dive to check our weights and buoyancy before going on the first boat dive. The 18th Palm was the house reef just off the resort beach and is one of the named attractions of the Bonaire National Marine Park.

The diving in Bonaire was handled by Toucan Diving, a five-star PADI, SDI and SSI diving center. We were fortunate to dive every day with Frank and Jackson, also known as the "Lionfish Hunters", more on that later. Each day we were scheduled



for two morning dives with unlimited access for shore diving as we had cars and tanks (including free Nitrox) always available. Our diving was along the western coast of Bonaire and around Klein Bonaire (Small Bonaire).

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY RICHARD RICE



This year, we celebrate LABUE's 20th Anniversary and it's been a very busy year so far for LABUE and its members. We are already half way through 2012, with another six

months remaining and many more exciting LABUE activities and events planned. In addition to our regular local beach dives and our successful annual warm water dive vacation in May to the Caribbean islands of Bonaire and Curacao, members have traveled to dive in Colombia, Hawaii, and Lake Mead; with upcoming member trips planned for Cancun, Cozumel, and Indonesia. This month's Gold Star Dive event at Casino Point, Catalina Island on July 21st, the 4th Annual LABUE Photo Contest, Dive-Camp weekend to Sycamore Canyon in October, and our popular Holiday Dinner to be held in December complete a busy year of dive excursions and activities. This month, LABUE will also be participating as a sponsor of a special showing of the documentary movie "White Wash" at the California African American Museum at Exposition Park on July 7th. The film ex-

plores the complexity of race in America via the history of African Americans and in their involvement in the culture of ocean related sports activities.

This year, the LABUE Board has been working to expand membership, increase member participation, and cultivate new leadership to ensure the continued future success of LABUE in its mission to promote the sport of SCUBA diving in our communities. To date, our paid membership already exceeds 45 members, with 6 months remaining in the year. The issue of member recruiting and leadership development is crucial to the survival and growth of LABUE, as well as other dive clubs across the country. At the National Association of Black SCUBA Divers (NABS) President's meeting held in Las Vegas last April, this was a primary topic of discussion at the working sessions. Most NABS clubs are facing the similar challenges of

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 2

building active clubs, attracting younger members, and leadership development. The age demographics of the NABS officials and member club leaders (ranging from those in their 40's to some in their 80's) participating in this meeting reflected the nature of this challenge. While many of our members may feel more comfortable around those their own age, it was acknowledged that unless the next generation of divers are groomed and welcomed into leadership roles, club membership will decline as older members become less able to participate in such a physically demanding sport. Some clubs may be forced to disband if they are unable to attract the next generation of divers. Many NABS clubs located on the East Coast have active youth programs that include SCUBA certification programs that will help in their efforts to attract younger divers. While it is not practical at this time for LABUE's Youth Program to include a SCUBA certification component, it does makes sense for us to try to attract more young adults as they complete their educations, join the workforce, and begin their careers. This is the point in their lives at which they are financially able, physically active, and exploring recreational sports activities they want to try. To attract these divers, we must be able to communicate effectively to them to get them interested and actively participating in our clubs. It was recognized at the NABS meeting that while older generations prefer to communicate face to face or by email, younger people prefer to communicate electronically by texting or using social media such as Facebook and Twitter (email is too slow for many young adults!). We have already discovered this based on the responses we see on LABUE's Facebook page. We welcome any ideas or suggestions you may have to help us in these challenging member recruitment efforts.

2012 is an **LABUE Election** year and I encourage everyone to con-

sider directly participating in helping to continue our efforts to make LABUE a better club by running for an officer or board position. The positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer as well as our Board Member positions will be open for the elections that will take place in November. If you would like to recommend an activity or event that would benefit the community, our members, or help fulfill our 2012 mission, 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.

LABUE DIVES AVALON IN JULY

BY JOSEPH WINDOLPH

For the month of July the club is planning to participate in the **14th Annual Gold Star Dive** off Casino Point in Avalon. This dive will take place on *July 21st* and is a fundraiser for the Sherriff Department's "*Success through Awareness and Resistance*" program. In addition, a portion of the funds raised will go to help the Hyperbaric Chamber in Catalina. The board has also approved a reimbursement for any LABUE club member who attends. Just show the treasurer proof of participation in this event and you will be given a reimbursement of \$20. For additional information contact the L.A. County Sheriff Department at (310) 510-0174 or visit their website at www.CatalinaGoldStarDive.org. If you do plan on attending please contact Joseph Windolph at (626) 539-5636 or joseph.windolph@gmail.com so we may coordinate as a group.

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

Renewals and New Members

Mary Reed
Stacy Wade
Symphorosa Williams
David Robinson
Ron Reed

~

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



BONAIRE & CURAÇAO

Continued from page 2

The diving highlights included a wreck dive to the "Hilma Hooker," a deep dive at "The Invisibles Reef," and a night dive at "Small Wall." There were beautiful orange coral and lavender coral tubes at most of the diving locations. In addition we saw a few sea horses,



frog fish, barracudas, scorpion fish and many eels including a brown and yellow eel that Jackson handled like a snake. According to Jackson it didn't have teeth. We also saw a spotted eagle ray that was very photogenic. There were, of course, lionfish. Bonaire is attempting to control the population by allowing authorized personnel to use spear guns. On several days Frank and Jackson would bring back the biggest "catch-of-the-day" and the cooks at the restaurants would prepare it for us for lunch as an appetizer of sorts. The lionfish was very tasty if not very small in portion size. Our night dive was pretty exciting as there were large tarpon fish tagging along to

snag small fish that we illuminated with our lights. When we turned off our dive lights there was quite a bit of bioluminescence in the water. There was also the matter of getting back to the boat... (Maybe ask DonCosta about that one.)

During our stay, one of the two restaurants was closed for annual cleaning; so for the most part we ate at the Topsy Seagull which included two Lobster Nights. Despite some issues with service (think 3-4 hour dinners) and mosquitoes or no-see-ums who really feasted on Salim, DonCosta and Symphorosa, the meals as a group were always a blast. Starletta created an awesome salad that we lobbied to have placed on the menu. The ingredients included romaine lettuce, bell peppers, capers, avocados



with finely chopped mushrooms and olive oil was always a big hit and something to munch on while waiting for the main course. One night we had a BBQ on the beach with fish, chicken and ribs while being serenaded by a steel drum band. DonCosta joined the band on the congas which was great!

Ten of the crew went on to the second portion of the trip where we stayed at the Breezes Resort in Curaçao. The remaining seven divers did four boat dives there. We went to "Tugboat," "Newport", "Black Rock" and another "Small Wall." There seemed to be many more lionfish in Curaçao, but no "Lionfish Hunters." Breezes was also an all-inclusive resort that had a Casino and Spa as well. We enjoyed a very nice dinner at the Munasan Japanese Restaurant.

For appetizers we had sushi, tempura and miso soup and for dinner there were veggies, shrimp, chicken and beef. Our chef was very entertaining and fast. We ate in about an hour.

The highlight of the Curaçao trip was visiting the Museum Kurá Hulanda. The museum houses the largest African Collection in the Caribbean and is located on the site of a former slave yard and merchant's home. This UNESCO World Heritage site chronicles the Origin of Man as well as the African Slave trade and Western African Empires. We had a very enthusiastic guide take us through it all. We finished off our day with a shopping stroll through the colorful and beautiful capital city of Curaçao, Willemstad.

A fun time was again had by all. We were happy to make new friends as we enjoyed another great LABUE club trip. Where are we going next year?



by the "three ladies" in town), and fish with blue cheese and dressing on the side. It really was one of the best things on the menu. We would just ask for the Starletta special. The fresh baked French bread

LABUE DIVE/CAMP WEEKEND

October 5-7, 2012

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LABUE is hosting another Dive/Camp weekend October 5-7, 2012. The location for this event is Sycamore Canyon Campground in Point Mugu State Park on the west end of the Santa Monica Mountains in Malibu.

LABUE has reserved (4) campsites that can accommodate up to 4 tents per site. Each site is allowed up to 8 campers so we have plenty of room for up to 32 campers. Each site has a fire ring and a picnic table. There are restrooms with hot, (pay) showers located close by. The campground sits at the mouth of one of two main canyons in Point Mugu. Giant sycamore trees cover a majority, if not all of the campsites. Dogs are permitted but must be kept on leashes no longer than 6 feet long and in a tent or enclosed vehicle overnight. The park has 5 miles of ocean shoreline with sandy beaches, rocky bluffs, rugged hills, sand dunes and 70 miles of hiking trails. I definitely recommend bringing your bikes and hiking boots. During the fall months of October and November, aside from the falling autumn

leaves, all monarch butterflies west of the Rockies migrate to California for the fall. Fortunately for us, one of the best places to observe the arrival of the butterflies is the campground at Sycamore Canyon. As far as the diving is concerned, there are numerous scuba diving entry points within a short driving distance of the park. We'll choose the best dive location on the day of the dive.

The cost of LABUE's Dive/Camp Weekend is just \$15.00 per person if you arrive Saturday morning and depart Sunday afternoon. The cost will be \$30.00 per person if you arrive on Friday. Parking is available at \$12.00 per day. If you plan to bring a Recreational Vehicle (RV) or Travel Trailer, please let us know at the time you sign up. Check-in is after 2pm on Friday (if you choose to start that day) and checkout is 12pm Sunday. Please note that the inbound gates to the park close at 10 p.m. and open at 8 a.m. daily.

Regardless of whether you go for the diving, the camping, the beach, or the camaraderie, this weekend will be a lot of fun for you, your family, and

friends. And did I mention the potluck? Where else can you enjoy an exciting Malibu weekend for under \$40.00?

Directions to the campgrounds: (9000 West Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu, CA). From Los Angeles, take the 10 Freeway west through Santa Monica and follow PCH (Hwy 1) northwest for 32 miles through Malibu to Point Mugu State Park. Drive 3.2 miles past Yerba Buena Road and turn right into Sycamore Canyon Campground.

For more information contact Randy Tillery at (rtillery@gmail.com). To reserve a spot, contact Richard Rice, Debora Ewing, or Randy Tillery.



MEMBER'S CORNER

A Poem By Stephen Scruggs

Happy Independence Day!

You ever wonder why they say today is Independence Day?
 What am I free from anyway? Don't ask me why. I couldn't say.
 I'm free as I was yesterday so what's the big deal bout today?

It's true I have the right to choose the brand of beer and type of booze to flush the hotdogs down my gut and laze around on my fat butt.

To keep one eye on burning ribs, the other eye on splashing kids while feeding in-laws, neighbors, friends with bloodshot eyes and droopy lids. Stationed by an open flame in hellish heat this time of the day.

But I still wonder why they say today is Independence Day.
 What am I free from anyway? Don't ask me why. I couldn't say.

2012 ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

BY RICHARD RICE

LABUE is now accepting entries for our 4th Annual Photo Contest. As proved successful in increasing LABUE member participation in last year's photo contest, voting for your

focus. "Surface" photographs are all photographs taken above water. Photographers may submit three entries per category for the on line voting. Because it is sometimes difficult to



favorite photos will again be conducted on-line for 2012. This year's categories are "Sealife", "Diver", and "Surface" photographs. "Sealife" incorporates all life native to underwater. "Diver" shots are all photographs taken underwater where a diver or divers are the primary or secondary



choose from among the many excellent photos submitted, members will be allowed to vote for their 3 favorite photos in each category. We will count the votes and the highest number of votes is 1st place, the next highest 2nd place, and the next 3rd place. We will award prize raffle tickets to the first, second and third place winners in each photo category. The number of tickets an individual receives will be based on how the individual placed. The person coming in first place will receive 5 raffle tickets, the person coming in 2nd place will receive 3 raffle tickets, and the person coming in third place will receive 1 ticket. There will be some valuable raffle prizes available for the winners to choose from. All winning photographs will be displayed



on the LABUE website and in a LABUE News feature article on the contest. In addition, everyone submitting at least one photograph for the contest will receive 1 ticket for a special prize raffle.

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. 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 skills and a chance at winning some great prizes by submitting 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.

WHITE WASH FILM SCREENING

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Join LABUE members for the screening of the documentary movie "White Wash". This film, directed by Ted Woods, 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 sites in Santa Monica and Southern California. This film will be shown on Saturday, July 7, 2012 at the California African Museum at Exposition Park. In addition to the film screening, there will be displays of water sports, water safety, and environmental protection displays all afternoon, and will include a scuba diving display by LABUE.

In examining the history of world water culture and the history of black identity as it triumphs and evolves in the minds of black surfers, we learn about the power of transcending race as a constructive phenomenon. The story is narrated by Grammy Award winner Ben Harper, along with Tariq Trotter of the Grammy Award winning hip hop group, The Roots, who also provide the film's musical score. Contemporary interviews filmed with professional and vocational surfers and scholars are woven together with historical archival film footage. Event sponsors include the California African American Museum, Heal the Bay, and the Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers.

LABUE O2 PROVIDER \$40 REBATE OFFER

Administering oxygen is a critical part of emergency first aid medical treatment in response to a variety of dive related accidents. As part of our 2012 emphasis on dive safety awareness, our goal is that all LABUE beach dive activities include LABUE's Divers Alert Network (DAN) O2 Rescue Pack along with at least one member trained in its use. All of the dive charter boats we use have O2 kits on board as part of their standard first aid equipment. As an incentive to encourage more members to learn these vital life saving skills, the LABUE Board is offering a \$40 rebate to current paid members completing their O2 Provider Certification in 2012. Members will be entitled to a \$40 rebate when they present proof of successful completion from any recognized agency such as PADI, NAUI, or DAN. Current CPR/First Aid certification is a prerequisite to taking any O2 Provider certification class. LABUE member and NAUI Instructor George Linares is offering a special 2-day NAUI CPR/First Aid/O2 Provider certification class for only \$80.00 including all materials. Your final cost for George's class including the \$40 LABUE rebate will be only \$40. For more information on this special offer, contact George at glinares1@verizon.net.

DATE:
Saturday, July 7, 2012,
1.00 to 4.00 pm (film screening at 2 pm)

LOCATION:
California African American Museum at
Exposition Park, Los Angeles

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

- July 10, 2012 -- General Meeting - 7:00 PM
- July 14, 2012 -- Gold Star Dive - Catalina Island
- July 24, 2012 -- Board Meeting
- August 14, 2012 -- General Meeting - 7:00 PM
- August 28, 2012 -- Board Meeting
- September 1, 2012 -- Discover Scuba - 9:30 AM - Pacific Wilderness
- October 5-7, 2012 -- Dive and Camp Weekend

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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(323) 299-3798

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Tina Houston
(213) 359-2131

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Joe Windolph
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Boat Dive
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Program Committee
Open

Technical Dive Committee
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Youth Committee
Joe Windolph
(818) 209-2504

Newsletter Staff:
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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.

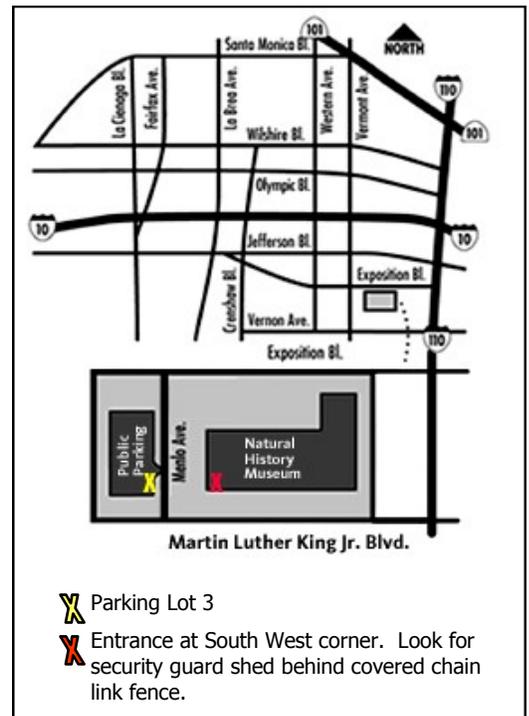
Directions

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.



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

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

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: _____