

2011 NABS Club Of The Year

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

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JULY 2016



Photographer: Kathy Rice
Camera: Cellphone
Subject: Sea Life
Location: Long Beach Aquarium

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SUMMER DIVE VACATION SEASON IS HERE

As the summer vacation season comes into full swing, don't forget to join us on Tuesday, July 12th, for our General Membership meeting at the Natural History Museum, 2nd floor Learning Classroom. Get the latest updates on upcoming beach dives, boat dives, FREE Rocks-Rips-Reefs training, and our FREE summer Discover Scuba II. Catch up with old friends and meet new members. Enjoy our delicious meeting refreshments, door prizes, and friendly member fellowship. Don't forget to join our Meetup Group dive community at www.Meetup.com/LABUEDIVERS/, providing an easy way to keep up to date on all of our 2016 dive events and activities.

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

May 4th Chamber Day Events Raise \$109,650



Once again LABUE members showed their support of the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber by participating in Chamber Evening at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach on May 4th. LABUE members joined more than 400 other supporters dining in the Aquariums' Great Hall, hoping to win some of the \$30,000 in raffle prizes awarded at the combined Chamber Day & Eve events. Unfortunately our members in attendance struck out as winners this year. LABUE is a long time

supporter and has sponsored a table at this annual event for more than a dozen years.

The Chamber Day and Chamber Evening events were created to help raise the funds needed to operate this critical facility. The County of Los Angeles provides about half of the funding needed to properly operate and maintain the Chamber. The remaining funds must be raised from private sources such as this event.



This year's final tally of \$109,650 was raised from the dive events and Chamber Evening for the continued operation and improvement of your Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber! The facility has been in operation for 42 years and has evaluated and treated over 1100 divers during that period. Next year's Chamber Day & Evening events will be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2017.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY: RICHARD RICE



Dive Travel and Vacation Season is in full swing as LABUE members embark on their summer vacation adventures. Our LABUE Warm Water Dive Vacation to Saba is still months away, but our members are not waiting to enjoy a summer of travel and diving fun. It's been nearly two decades since LABUE members participated in the first of what was to be many annual Warm Water Dive Vacations at some of the most popular destinations

in the world. It all started in 1997 as a small group of five travelers, including LABUE members Bob Simmons, Donna Wilson, and LABUE Lifetime Member Lori Morrish, traveled to Jamaica for some island fun and diving. This was the first official LABUE Warm Water Dive Vacation.

In late May of this year, fifteen LABUE members and friends returned to Jamaica to enjoy this island paradise. Pat Williams and DonCosta Seawell organized the trip that included LABUE members DonCosta, Pat & Cliff Williams, Richard & Kathy Rice, Starletta Dupois, and Symphorosa Williams. Our accommodations were the new luxurious all-inclusive Moon Palace Grand Hotel, located in Ocho Rios, featured this season in episodes of the TV reality show Real Housewives

of Atlanta.

Joined by our new friend and new diver, Lisa Moody, LABUE divers enjoyed snorkeling and diving the colorful local reefs and swim-thrus, an underwater collection of Romanesque statues sunk as a dive attraction, and a navy mine sweeper shipwreck which



was sunk to create an artificial reef. As usual, Jamaica did not disappoint above the water, providing endless activities in addition to diving. We enjoyed horseback riding, cliff diving,

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 2

golf, zip lining, a guided tour of Kingston including the Bob Marley museum, swimming with the dolphins, rafting on the Martha Brae river, and even a lively local soca music festival in Ocho Rios. We all enjoyed delicious meals offered at the Moon Palace's eight restaurants and cafes, including a sumptuous private traditional Jamaican feast prepared especially for our group's "white night" dinner.

Do you have any dive vacation adventures to share? LABUE members are encouraged to share their vacation stories with the LABUE News. Just contact me or newsletter editor Debora Ewing to share your story. As an update to our ongoing discussion addressing effective strategies to boost our recruitment of Millennials in order to build the next generation of SCUBA divers and LABUE's future leaders; I want to share some findings reported in the Business Section of the May 25th issue of the Los Angeles Times. Data from the Pew Research Center indicates that for the



first time on record, living with parents is the most common arrangement for those 18 - 34 years old. Nearly one third live with parents. The employment and economic challenges facing this age demographic presents a potential barrier to their active participation in some recreational sports activities such as SCUBA diving. We are hopeful that LABUE programs such as our free Discover Scuba, OW1 Certification Scholarships, LABUE DVD & Dive Guide Lending Library, and active Beach Dive schedule offer an inexpensive way for millennials to get involved in the sport. We welcome your ideas and strategies on how to improve our efforts to recruit more millennials into LABUE.

If you are interested in lending your labor, experience, or organizational skills to LABUE on any of our committees, your participation would be more than welcomed. If you would like to recommend an activity or event that would benefit the community, our members, or help fulfill our 2016 mission, please share your ideas with me or one of the Board members. We value your recommendations. 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.



Congratulations to LABUE member Josh Windolph on your graduation and good luck at Cal State Northridge!



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

New and Renewing Members:

- Choca Lee Mathieu
- Brenda Kitchen and Miles Maxey
- Bob Simmons
- Beverley Pyne

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 Know of any member Certification announcements? Please notify Debora Ewing at dewing@proskauer.com  
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DISCOVER SCUBA II - SAVE THE DATE: JULY 30, 2016

We are holding Discover SCUBA II on July 30th at Pacific Wilderness dive shop in San Pedro. The public is invited to participate in one of LABUE's most popular activities, which is designed to introduce adults and young people to the exciting sport of SCUBA diving. Participants will learn about SCUBA during a brief classroom session followed by an oppor-

tunity try out SCUBA equipment on an optional shallow dive in a swimming pool under the close supervision of a dive instructor. A refundable \$20 deposit is required for registration. Enrollment is limited. For additional details and registration information, email LABUE at labue@sbcglobal.net or call George Linares at 661-729-6626.



The Best Underwater Compact Cameras for 2016

Are you thinking about buying a new underwater digital camera setup or upgrading your current equipment? Backscatter Underwater Video & Photo Store has published their latest underwater camera reviews, updated in March 2016! They reviewed dozens of the current options and picked the best cameras suited for underwater photography. Check out the latest reviews and recommendations detailed in the Backscatter UW Camera Review: <http://www.backscatter.com/>



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's 2016 Warm Water Dive Vacation SABA
"Unspoiled Queen of the Caribbean"
November 13 – 20, 2016



The LABUE Board is pleased to announce that the Caribbean island of Saba has been selected for our 2016 Warm Water Dive vacation, November 13-20, 2016! Never heard of Saba? LABUE has never traveled to Saba and many divers are not familiar with this unique Caribbean destination. Saba is known as the "Unspoiled Queen of the Caribbean" and offers unquestionably the best world-class SCUBA diving in the Caribbean. Learn a little about Saba and you will understand why Saba is like no other Caribbean destination. Check out the following for a taste of what you will experience in Saba:

SOLD OUT!!

Saba Tourism Board website: www.sabatourism.com

Saba Videos: www.youtube.com/watch?v=8D8wOkc42Zs and
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dgj8LDu7iuQ

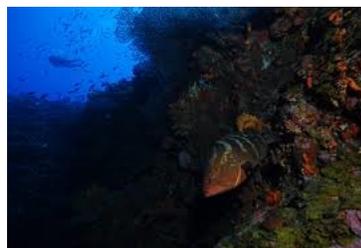
DATES: November 13 – 20, 2016

DIVER COST: \$1400.00 Including hotel (double occupancy)+ferry to Saba+welcome&farewell banquets+daily breakfasts + dive package (11 dives).

NON-DIVER COST: \$750.00 Including hotel (double occupancy) + ferry to Saba +welcome&farewellbanquets + daily breakfasts.

DEPOSIT: \$200.00

CONTACT: labue @sbglobal.net





Scuba diving is something to be shared and the **Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers** would like to introduce you to ...

DISCOVER SCUBA II



This DISCOVER SCUBA Program is designed to briefly introduce individuals to 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. Featured components are:

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

WHEN: Saturday, July 30, 2016 @ 9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M.

WHERE: PACIFIC WILDERNESS 1719 So Pacific Ave.; San Pedro 90731

**COST: FREE to LABUE Members, LABUE Meetup Group Members and referrals.
Refundable \$20.00 advance deposit is required to register**

To sign-up call George Linares at 661 729 6626

LOS ANGELES BLACK UNDERWATER EXPLORERS

SCUBA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

PURPOSE: In agreement with and support of LABUE's Mission to *Expand the Knowledge and Enjoyment of SCUBA Diving* in our community, LABUE awards **Discover Scuba Program** and **Open Water I SCUBA Certification** Scholarships. The SCUBA certification scholarships (**Charles Heath Memorial Scholarship and Artie Williams Memorial Scholarship**) are named for two long time club members who exemplified consistent dedication and support of LABUE, and love of the sport of SCUBA Diving.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:

Discover Scuba - Up to ten (10) LABUE Discover Scuba Program Scholarships may be awarded each year in the form of refund of the paid Discover Scuba fee upon participation and completion of a scheduled LABUE Discover Scuba class.

Open Water I SCUBA Certification – Up to two (2) Open Water I SCUBA Certification Scholarships may be awarded each year in the form of reimbursement of costs, up to \$400, for successful completion of a recognized Open Water I SCUBA certification course offered by any qualified dive shop or SCUBA instructor. The scholarships also include a one year LABUE membership.

AWARD ELIGIBILITY: Those eligible for the **Discover Scuba Program** scholarships include selected members of the general public as determined by the LABUE Board of Directors. This may include individuals as well as members of organizations including schools, scouting programs, sports clubs, fraternal organization, professional organizations, social organizations, etc.. Those eligible to apply for the **Open Water I Certification** scholarships include paid LABUE Members who are not SCUBA certified; and family members of paid LABUE Members (including spouses, children, parents, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren, aunts and uncles). Members of the general public who have completed any recent or past LABUE Discover Scuba Program are also eligible.

AWARD REQUIREMENTS: Requirements for award of the **Discover Scuba Program** Scholarships will be determined by the LABUE Board of Directors. Applicants for the **Open Water I Certification** Scholarships must have completed their Open Water I certification during the same calendar year in which the Scholarship is awarded and they must demonstrate their efforts to support LABUE's mission and club, programs, events, and activities as evidenced by any of the following:

- Active attendance and participation in LABUE meetings, programs, events, and activities
- Active participation as a member of a LABUE committee
- Contribution of photos, articles, graphics, and other information to the LABUE News newsletter, LABUE website, LABUE Facebook page, LABUE Blog, or other media.
- Preparation of research paper or school project on topics related to SCUBA diving or other related marine topics including biology, marine ecology, marine technology; or historical topics related to diving such as WWII wreck dive sites or the search for sunken slave ships.

Applications for the Open Water I SCUBA Certification Scholarships shall be submitted by November 1st of each year.

SELECTION: Award of **Discover Scuba Program** scholarships will be determined by the LABUE Board of Directors in advance of each scheduled Discover Scuba Program date. Review of Award Eligibility, compliance with Award Requirements for each **Open Water I SCUBA Certification** scholarship applicant, and award selection will be made by the LABUE Board of Directors before the date of the December LABUE General Membership Meeting each year.

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 2016

- July 9, 2016 -- LA County ADP Start Date
- July 12, 2016 -- LABUE General Membership Meeting - 7:00 PM
- July 26, 2016 -- LABUE Board Meeting
- July 30, 2016 -- Discover Scuba II - Pacific Wilderness Dive Shop
- August 9, 2016 -- LABUE General Membership Meeting - 7:00 PM
- August 23, 2016 -- LABUE Board Meeting
- October 7-8, 2016 -- LABUE Dive-Camp Weekend
- November 13-20, 2016 -- Saba Dive Trip

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Richard Rice
(323) 299-3798

Vice President

Tina Houston
(213) 359-2131

Treasurer

DonCosta Seawell
(909) 593-1877

Secretary

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Daphne King
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Steve Scruggs
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Joe Windolph
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Ways & Means
Debora Ewing
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Boat Dive
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Dive Training & Safety
George Linares (Interim)

Internet Administrator
Francois Desamours
(703) 463-6857

Website Editor
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Program Committee
Keenon Adamson

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 2nd floor Education Classroom at the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles.

NEW MEETING LOCATION!

Due to construction in the museum, we will be meeting in the Education Classroom on the 2nd floor. See the attached map for directions from the parking lot.

- Members should park at the bottom of the ramp leading to our below ground level of the car park.
- There is a green wall at the bottom of the ramp. On the right side of the wall is a door. Go through the door. The outside area of our cafeteria will be on the right.
- Continue straight ahead. Walk by the glass entrance pavilion on the ground level, and turn right at the far edge of the pavilion. There is a ground level door going into the museum. Go in.
- The hallway has 2 elevators on the left. Take either one to the 2nd floor.
- Turn right after you get out of the elevator.
- Turn right at the T-intersection. The Dino lab is on the left.
- Go through the double doors into the Education department and walk straight ahead.
- The door to the Education Classroom will be on your left.



Contact Us:

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

In consideration to the many LABUE members who are unable to download large files on their computer, we will be limiting the number of photographs included in our newsletter. To accommodate our many excellent photographers, we will begin posting additional photographs on the LABUE website for your viewing pleasure.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For the Year 2016

General Information:

Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Fax: _____ Referred By: _____

E-Mail: _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number: _____

Certification Information:

Year First Certified: _____ No. of Dives: _____

Date of Last Dive: _____ Warm Water Beach Boat

Certification Agency: _____

Diving Preferences: Beach Dives Boat Dives Warm Water Dives

Membership Category:

Amount: \$30.00 for Individual Membership New Renewal

\$45.00 for Family Membership New Renewal

\$300.00 for Lifetime Individual \$450.00 for 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 risks 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 its members and officers from any and all 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: _____