

Celebrating 25 Years

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 7
JULY 2017



Photographer: Sympharosa Williams
Subject: Fish
Location: Palencia, Belize
Camera: Canon G16 with an Inon D2000 strobe



IMPORTANT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING CHANGES

Effective in July, LABUE's monthly General Membership Meetings at California Museum of Natural History at Exposition Park are being replaced by membership meetings scheduled concurrent with annual events and activities. Our next General Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday October 7th as part of our annual Dive N' Camp Weekend. We hope you can join us for a fun and exciting time at the Sycamore Canyon Campsite, Pt. Mugu State Park.

Join our LABUE Meetup Group dive community at www.Meetup.com/LABUEDIVERS/ providing an easy way to keep up to date on all of our 2017 dive events and activities.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY: RICHARD RICE



Get ready for change as LABUE celebrates its 25th year and evolves to continue supporting our mission to promote SCUBA Diving in the Los Angeles/Southern California African-American communities.

2016 was a very challenging year for LABUE as we attempt to come to terms with the growing impact of changing age demographics on LABUE's mission. Since becoming LABUE President in 2010, my primary goal has been to increase the number of younger divers in our active membership base and introduce new leadership to continue the mission of LABUE as our older members, club leaders, and dive instructors become less active or retire from diving. While our membership numbers have been fairly stable for the last several years with paid membership of about 50+ each year and good participation in annual club warm water dive trips, events, and activities, we have found it very challenging to attract and recruit younger members vital to the future of LABUE. We have been fortunate to have members in their 50's, 60's and 70's that are still active divers supporting our club dive trips, activities, and events.

Beginning last year, we began to see a significant decline in our monthly general membership meeting attendance, as well as decreasing participation in regular local beach dives and boat dives. We believe that this is the direct result of an aging member-

ship base preferring warm water dive trips and social events. Over the last few years, strategies for recruitment of younger members have been an ongoing topic of discussions by LABUE's Board of Directors, at our monthly General Membership Meetings, and during formal membership discussions held during our annual Warm Water Dive Vacations. We are not alone in these membership concerns. Recruitment of younger divers was also an important topic addressed at the NABS President's meeting held April 7-9th in Atlanta where participants discussed proposed strategies for attracting Millennials. NABS has identified that about 80% of current NABS members are over the age of 55, which is also reflective of LABUE membership.

For more than a year we have been investigating and visiting other Southern California dive clubs in an attempt to identify strategies that may be effective in attracting Millennials. Our investigations have concluded that there is no easy solution to our membership concerns. Once active and thriving So Cal dive clubs now are semi-active with only a handful of aging Baby Boomer members who dive infrequently, with no significant strategies in place to recruit *Millennials*. There are some new clubs founded and run by *Millennials* whose members decided to form new clubs rather than join existing established dive clubs.

While LABUE continues to serve our current *Baby Boomer* and *Gen X* membership base, we need to continue to work on recognizing and catering to the needs of the millennial generation if LABUE and other dive clubs are to survive. LABUE's Board of Directors is taking action to address the current impact of these membership issues on club activities and ongoing operation of LABUE. This process includes the following:

LABUE Bylaws Review: LABUE elections have been on hold pending bylaws review and possible revisions

to streamline LABUE organization and operation to make it easier for a reduced leadership team and membership resources to run the club while still supporting LABUE's mission.

Monthly General Membership Meetings: LABUE's monthly general membership meetings at California Museum of Natural History at Exposition Park are being replaced by membership meetings scheduled concurrent with annual events and activities such as Dive n' Camp Weekend, Holiday Dinners, dive trips, and social events.

Social Media Outreach: Social media is a vital tool for reaching new divers and LABUE will continue to support our current social media outreach including internet website (www.labue.org), Facebook page (www.facebook.com/LABUEDIVERS), and Meetup Group (www.Meetup.com/LABUEDIVERS).

Discover SCUBA and SCUBA Certification: We will continue to schedule and host Free Discover SCUBA classes. We will continue to offer LABUE's SCUBA Scholarship Program which pays the costs for Open Water I SCUBA certification for those who are selected.

LABUE Outreach, Activities, and Social Events: LABUE will continue its support of the local SCUBA diving community as a sponsor of the annual **Chamber Day/Evening** fundraising event. LABUE will continue to promote participation member participation in community outreach events such as the **Avalon Harbor Cleanup**, **Coastal Cleanup Day**, and **Be the Match 5kWalk+Run**, raising money and enhancing public awareness of the need for bone marrow donors. LABUE will continue to organize our annual **Dive N'Camp Weekend** and promote **Catalina Island** dive day trips and weekend getaways. LABUE will continue to host social events such as our annual **LABUE Holiday Dinner** providing a year-end celebration and recognition of our members.

Continued on page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 2

Warm Water Dive Vacations:

Since 1997, LABUE members have enjoyed affordable annual club sponsored warm water dive vacations that have included some of the world's most popular dive destinations. LABUE will continue to organize and host annual **Warm Water Dive Vacations**.

Most of you have been active LABUE members responsible for the success and impact LABUE has had for the last 25 years. Your feedback and recommendations regarding the direction the LABUE Board of Directors is taking LABUE to continue with our mission is welcome and encouraged.

Join me in celebrating LABUE's 25th Anniversary throughout 2017. We encourage you to support your dedicated LABUE Officers and Board of Directors in meeting the challenges of 2017 with your active participation in 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 2017 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.

DIVER NEWS

New and Renewing Members:

Denise Barker
 Beverley Pyne
 James Wiley
 Cheryl Brock
 George and Bettye Linares

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

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FREE DISCOVER SCUBA II - AUGUST 26th

Spread the word about Discover SCUBA, one of LABUE's most popular activities, designed to introduce adults and young people to the exciting sport of SCUBA diving. Last month, we completed Discover SCUBA I where participants learned about SCUBA during a brief classroom session followed by the opportunity try out SCUBA equipment on an optional shallow dive in a swimming pool under the close supervision of a dive instructor. LABUE offers this learning experience free of charge to the public as part of LABUE's ongoing mission to promote the sport in our communities. Dive Instructor George Linares and Bettye Linares have been instrumental in organizing and conducting LABUE's Discover SCUBA training for nearly 15 years.

If you missed our Discover SCUBA I on June 10th, we are holding Discover SCUBA II on Saturday August 26th at Pacific Wilderness dive shop in San Pedro. Let your relatives, friends, and coworkers know about this upcoming free opportunity to explore the world of SCUBA. 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 dive instructor George Linares at 661 729-6626.

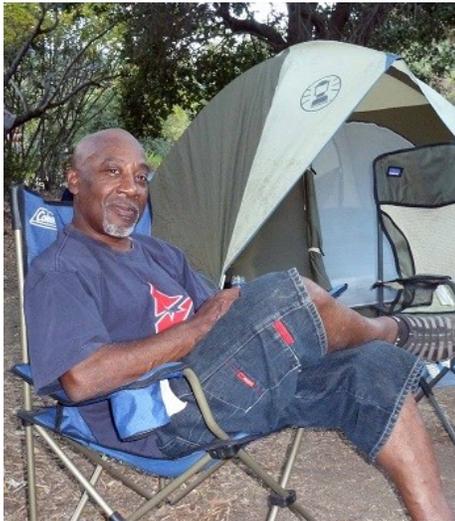


LABUE LENDING LIBRARY: DIVE VIDEOS & TRAVEL GUIDES

LABUE members are invited to take advantage of our LABUE Lending Library including DVDs and dive destination travel guides. Planning a dive vacation? Why spend money on an expensive dive travel video or travel guide when you can borrow one from the LABUE Lending Library?

Our DVD Lending Library that includes a variety of educational and informative topics. LABUE members are invited to and encouraged to submit a list of those dive DVDs and Travel Guides you may own and wouldn't mind sharing with your fellow members. We will include them on our list of available materials. If you are interested in borrowing any of the materials in LABUE's Lending Library or sharing dive DVDs or related educational materials that you may own with other LABUE members, contact us at labue@sbcglobal.net.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



LABUE'S DIVE 'N' CAMP WEEKEND & MEMBERSHIP MEETING

LABUE's Dive 'n' Camp Weekend will be held October 6-8, 2017 at Sycamore Canyon Campground, Pt Mugu State Park. You won't want to miss this exciting annual end-of-summer LABUE event featuring a LABUE general membership meeting, beach diving, a fabulous outdoor dining feast, and campfire camaraderie while camping at this beautiful beach side location.

If you can't join us for camping or diving, we're still looking forward to you joining us on Saturday October 7th for our general membership meeting and potluck social event. We will be providing you with upcoming LABUE activities, dive trips, and treasurer's report updates. You will also enjoy one of the best potluck dinner and campfire gatherings you've ever experienced. Regardless of whether you go for the diving, the camping, the membership meeting, the beach or the camaraderie, this will be an informative, fun, and relaxing weekend for you, friends, and your family.

Camp-master Randy Tillery will be providing additional details and updates as the date approaches. If you are interested in assisting Randy in organizing this event, contact him at rtillery@gmail.com.



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.

EXPLORE THE WORLD OF SCUBA WITH LABUE ON FACEBOOK

Take a look at LABUE on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LABUEDIVERS. We are providing an exciting source of amazing dive related videos, beautiful photos, dive destination reviews, informative articles, dive equipment evaluations, and helpful SCUBA diving tips. Check it out, you won't be disappointed. Feel free to post your comments.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO RENEW YOUR LABUE & NABS MEMBERSHIP

It's not too late to renew your LABUE and National Association of Black SCUBA Divers (NABS) memberships. Take advantage of LABUE member benefits and support the goals of our national association by joining or renewing your membership.

Just complete the attached 2017 LABUE Membership Application on page 8 and forward it to LABUE, PO Box 90069, LA 90009, along with your annual dues of \$30 (\$45 for Family Memberships). You may also renew through PayPal at paypal_membership@labue.org. To join or renew your NABS membership, just complete the attached 2017 NABS Membership Application on page 6 and mail it to NABS President, Jeff Dooley, PO Box 60354, Phoenix, AZ 85082.



JOIN LABUE'S MEETUP COMMUNITY

Keep up with LABUE dive events and activities throughout 2017 on Meetup. Our Meetup Group continues to expand with over 150 members. By joining our Meetup Group, you will be automatically kept up to date on the latest scheduled LABUE activities and events including beach dives, boat dives, dive vacations, membership meetings, community events, and social events. Meetup is also an excellent tool for meeting and hooking up with new dive buddies. All you need to do is go to www.meetup.com/LABUEDIVERS/ and join our group. Don't be left out, join us today on Meetup.





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, August 26, 2017 @ 9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M.

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

To sign-up call George Linares at 661 729 6626



National Association of Black Scuba Divers Membership Application

To insure that your application is accurately processed, please complete each section and print all information.

New Member
 Renewal

Section I: Contact Information Renewal Members check here if this is a new address.)

First Name:		Last Name:		NABS ID:	
Address:					Apt. No.:
City:		State:	Zip:	Country:	
Home Phone:		Work Phone:		Ext.:	
E-mail Address:					
Your NABS Correspondence Preference: <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> USPS Mailing					
<i>Note: If you do not indicate your preference Email is the default.</i>					
Profession:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Accounting/Finance	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal		
<input type="checkbox"/> Advertising/Marketing/Sales	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired		
<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Customer Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Student		
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Info Sys/Technology	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		

Section II: Dive Information Non-Diver)

Current Certification Level: <input type="checkbox"/> OW <input type="checkbox"/> AOW <input type="checkbox"/> MSD <input type="checkbox"/> DM <input type="checkbox"/> INSTR		Certifying Agency: <input type="checkbox"/> PADI <input type="checkbox"/> NAUI <input type="checkbox"/> SSI <input type="checkbox"/> YMCA <input type="checkbox"/> PDIC <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		C-Card Number:	
Type of Diver: <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Technical		Number of Dives Logged: <input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1-50 <input type="checkbox"/> 51-99 <input type="checkbox"/> 100+		* Dive Insurance Carrier: <input type="checkbox"/> DAN <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ Expiration Date: ____/____/____	
* NABS recommends that all divers carry dive insurance.					

Section III: Club Information

Club Name:		Position Held:
If you don't belong to a local club, can we send your information to a club in your area: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

Section IV: Membership Dues (Dues cover a period from January 1 through December 31.)

<input type="checkbox"/> \$45 Full Membership (Certified Divers Only)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$600 Lifetime Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Non-diver Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750 Lifetime Family Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> \$65 Family Membership*	<input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ NABS Youth Educational Summit Donation
<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Student membership (full time students only)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Science & Education Committee Donation

* Please list below each family member to be covered under this application. Please note all correspondence will be directed to the name listed on the top of this application. Only certified divers are given voting rights. Divers 18 -22 must hold individual not family membership.

Name(s)	Relationship	Diver?	If diver, Certification Level/Agency	NABS ID

Relationship: SP=Spouse, CH=Child

I, _____, will support and promote the objectives of the National Association of Black Scuba Divers.

Signature

Select Payment Method: () Check or Cash () PayPal () e-commerce

Make Checks Payable to NABS

Return Application to:

NABS

ATTN: Jeffrey Dooley

P.O. 60354

Phoenix, AZ 85082

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.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Richard Rice
(323) 299-3798

Vice President
DonCosta Seawell
(909) 593-1877

Treasurer
Daphne King
(323) 819-8456

Secretary
Patricia Williams
(619) 459-0944

Members at Large
Joe Windolph
(818) 209-2504

Randy Tillery
(323) 893-0982

Stacy Wade
(301) 704-1601

Steve Scruggs
(310) 795-0851

COMMITTEES

Membership
OPEN

Ways & Means
Debora Ewing
(310) 284-4556

Beach Dive
Joe Windolph
(818) 209-2504

Boat Dive
DonCosta Seawell
(909) 593-1877

Dive Training & Safety
George Linares (Interim)

Internet Administrator
OPEN

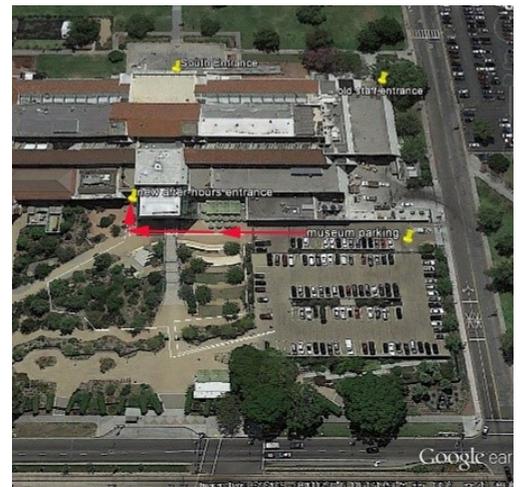
Program Committee
OPEN

Technical Dive Committee
OPEN

Website Editor
Steve Scruggs
(310) 795-0851

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



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.

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For the Year 2017

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: _____