

# LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers



VOLUME 16, ISSUE 6  
JUNE 2011

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Photographer: Bryant Turner  
Location: Hurghada, Egypt  
Subject: Lion Fish

Camera: Lumix DMC-TZ5  
Housing: Panasonic

### CAYMANIA!!

If you missed the recent LABUE warm water dive vacation to Grand Cayman Island's East End, you won't want to miss our June 14<sup>th</sup> General Membership meeting featuring a Caribbean social and Cayman Island-East End picture party. Enjoy flavors of the West Indies with exotic refreshments. Bring your ideas and recommendations for future LABUE dive vacation destinations to share with members of our Trip Planning Committee. If you are lucky, you may even win a door prize. The Lakers are out of the NBA playoffs and there are only re-runs on TV; so get out of the house and join us for a fun evening. We hope to see you all there.

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

## LABUE At the Grand Cayman: East End

BY: DONCOSTA SEAWELL AND PATRICIA WILLIAMS

This year, the LABUE club trip was to the East End of Grand Cayman Island. The host resort was The Reef Resort located on the North-East End of the island. We had the fortune of being upgraded to the first floor one bedroom suites. They were very well equipped and it was quite nice being able to walk right out of the units and onto the white sandy beach. So this time was definitely a Grand Cayman Caribbean charm. Fifteen LABUE members, including fourteen divers were in attendance on this trip. LABUE members from as far as Alabama, Michigan and New York were among the group. The weather was good, only a little overnight rain. The food was awesome and the diving was great. Attending this year was Miles Maxey and



Brenda Kitchen from Ann Arbor, Michigan; Quinal Johnson and Sheryl Corke from Huntsville, Alabama; Salim Jordan from Sydney, Australia; Paula White from Brooklyn, New York; Clifton and Patricia Williams from San Diego; as well as Artie Williams III, Richard Rice, Denise Barker, Eric and Myra Shepherd, Dangil Jones and DonCosta Seawell from the greater Los Angeles area.

Diving was handled by Tortuga Divers located at the Morrill's Condos, just a few steps across the beach. LABUE had a dedicated, well-equipped, 22 foot dive boat staffed by a

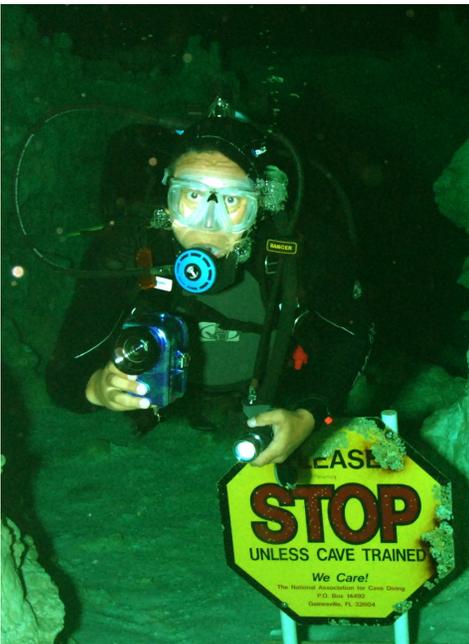
captain and two divemasters. The diving was nothing short of spectacular! One of our favorites was "Ironshore Drop-off" that reminded us of "Devil's Throat" in Cozumel, in that you start out on a vibrant reef at about 40 feet, descend into some tunnels and tight swim-throughs, weaving and meandering in and around increasingly deeper coral formations, until one drops through a sort of twisting chute that eventually emptied into blue water at just over 100 feet, facing a wall of multi-colored coral with a large variety of schooling and non-schooling fish and many photo ops. Another site that could only be described with one word: "Wow!" was "The Maze". With many swim-throughs in the fissures and caves, these will lead the diver into semi-darkness and out into the beautiful



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY RICHARD RICE



**Kudos and thanks to the LABUE Dive Trip Planning Committee** for their efforts planning, promoting, and running the successful LABUE warm water dive vacation to Grand Cayman

Island- East End, April 30 – May 7. This was the first trip organized by the newly created LABUE committee that included Tina Houston, Artie Williams, Pat & Cliff Williams, Randy Tillery, and the late Charles Heath. Their efforts included regular conference calls and meetings over the many months, as well as member surveys to determine favored destinations and acceptable trip pricing. Artie even scheduled a brief personal vacation to the resort last December to check out the accommodations and dive operations. The established trip pricing of \$1167 per person for 7 nights at the Reef Resort, including breakfasts, ten 2-tank dives, airport transfers, and club registration fees, proved to be a great value for this usually pricey destination.

Ongoing negotiation with the hotel by Tina and Artie resulted in upgrading the original standard rooms to

spacious one bedroom ocean front condominiums for all. After satisfying their contribution commitment to the LABUE annual budget, careful committee budgeting resulted in a substantial surplus available for trip T-shirts and hosted meals during the trip. Tina did an excellent job coordinating with the resort and issuing notices, reminders, and updates to everyone prior to the trip. Once on the island, the committee member's efforts continued. Pat was responsible for managing the surplus trip funds and used her negotiation skills to arrange three hosted dinners for the participants who enjoyed dining at three of the best restaurants on the East End. Artie worked closely with Sheryl Corke over the last few months to research locations for a surprise birthday party dinner celebration for LABUE lifetime member Quinal Johnson, hosted by Sheryl. The fifteen trip participants were thrilled

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Continued from page 2*

when they realized that most meals during the trip were included at no additional cost. Artie did a great job working with the dive operator to ensure that we enjoyed a sampling of the excellent diving available on this side of the island. Through his efforts, we were able to add an 11<sup>th</sup> dive for only \$15 for each diver, in addition to a Stingray City dive and free dive shop T-shirt.

This trip proved to be an enjoyable vacation and great value for all who participated; and a learning experience for all Dive Trip Planning Committee members. Their continuing efforts will include requesting formal feedback on the trip from those who went, as well as preparation of LABUE trip planning guidelines to make future trips better and to make trip planning easier.

If you are interested in lending your labor and organizational skills to the Dive Trip Planning Committee or any other LABUE committee, your participation would be more than welcomed. Let me know if you are interested, planning for our 2012 warm water dive vacation will begin soon.

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.



## Grand Cayman

*Continued from page 2*

blue wall. An abundant supply of brain coral, black coral fans and deep-water gorgonian fans just add to this impressive site. The Maze had so many twists, turns, ins and outs that we began to feel more like mice seeking cheese than scuba-divers. This was definitely not for the claustrophobic.



We typically took two dives in the morning, returning about lunch time to chat, sip and chew at the Rusty Pelican that offered two-for-one drinks during the daily happy hour. Mid-week we were treated to a trip to "Stingray City" in the afternoon after two morning dives. In 2006, this dive featured a lemon colored moray eel that crashed the party. Sure enough he showed up again, but with more refined table manners. Divers were provided fresh water rinse tanks after each two-tank dive trip and lockers to store diving gear. For the photographers, this was an added blessing. At the end of the last dive, each diver received a complimentary Tortuga Divers' T-shirt, a really classy touch.

With a small shopping plaza right across the street, many of us elected



to stock up with a few groceries to save on food costs. The resort provided a great all-you-can eat BBQ buffet on Monday night. Due to the Committee's great (Richard called it

"poor") money management, the members were provided club-sponsored dinners at "Vivine's Kitchen", a delightful Caribbean eatery normally frequented by the locals; at "Over the Edge", an ocean-front seafood bistro where we celebrated Miles' birthday; and at "Tukka's", operated by an ex-patriot Australian, where we celebrated Richard's birthday. As if that was not enough, we were also treated to a surprise birthday party that was catered by Cheryl for Q on one of the nights that we didn't dine out. That was the occasion for each of us to sport our Cayman 2011 LABUE T-shirts.

Thank you to all of you who joined us this year for another memorable LABUE club trip.



## BOAT DIVING?

**Boat divers:** Should you schedule a boat dive and want LABUE members to join you, please post your dive details on LABUE's website, www.LABUE.org, under the "Dive Postings" tab at the top center of the homepage. Please allow sufficient time between the posting and the actual dive to permit divers who may be interested in the boat dive to respond to the posting by scheduling the dive with the boat operator.



## LABUE THIRD ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

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On July 12, 2011, at the General Membership meeting, LABUE will host its Third Annual photography contest. This year's categories are "Sea life", "Diver", and "Surface" photographs. "Sea life" incorporates all life native to underwater. "Diver" shots are all photographs taken underwater where a diver or divers are the primary or secondary focus. "Surface" photographs are all photographs taken above water.

Submissions are not limited to photographs taken at LABUE events or functions. Photographers may submit three entries per category for judging by all members present. Submissions are to be no larger than 8-1/2" x 11"



photographs and are to be marked on the back with the photographer's name. Photographs may be edited, such as cropping and color correction, with the use of a digital photo editing program; 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, of any photo editing program. Any photographs which do not fall within the guidelines presented will be displayed for the viewing pleasure of the members in attendance, but will

not be included in the judging.

Prizes will be given to first, second, and third place in each category. All winning photographs will be included in the August 2011, LABUE Newsletter write-up of the contest.

Photographers who are unable to attend the July meeting may still participate by e-mailing their submissions to [ricere2004@yahoo.com](mailto:ricere2004@yahoo.com) by Sunday, June 26, 2011, 12:00 PM (noon) PST. All e-mailed submissions will be printed without editing or cropping in a 5"x7" size for the competition. The Contest is not limited to club members.

We will award 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). In addition, one raffle ticket will be provided to everyone who submits a photo for the contest. There will be a number of great prizes given away which include a Canon photo quality inkjet printer, a library of marine life DVDs, gift cards, and LABUE Bucks.

## DWP VII: The Search for the Guerrero

BY: STEPHEN SCRUGGS

The seventh session of 'Diving With a Purpose' (DWP) was completed on May 7<sup>th</sup> in Biscayne National Park, Florida. Twenty-two divers took part in a seven day training session designed to teach underwater archeological skills to volunteer divers from around the country. The NOAA funded program grew from the search for the sunken slave ship Guerrero, made famous in a book written by Gail Swanson and a documentary film produced by Karuna Eberl chronicling the debate on the exact location of the wreck site believed to lie among over one hundred ship wrecks inside the boundaries of the Biscayne National Park.

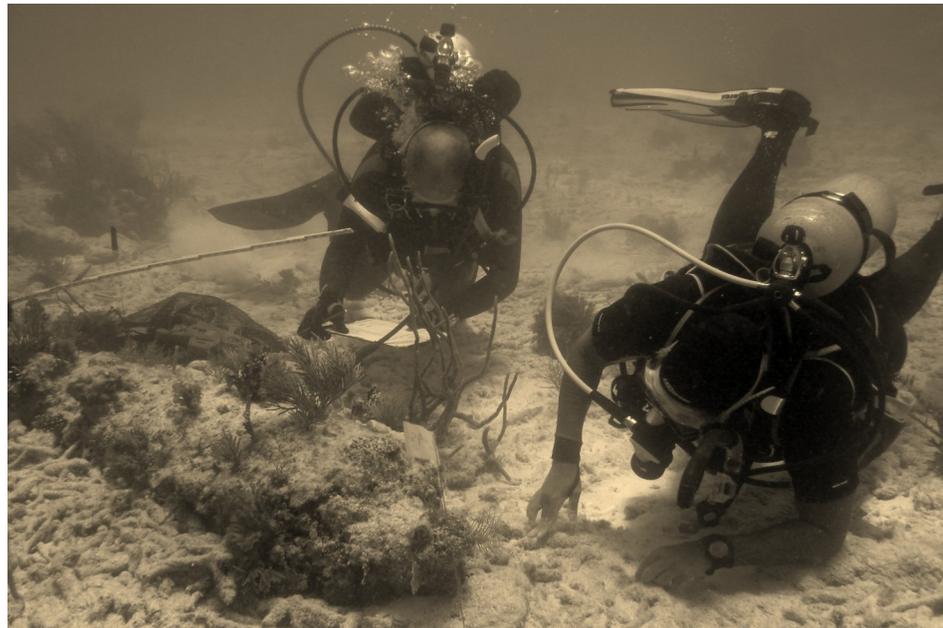
The program has evolved over the years to become certified as a PADI Specialty Course offering developmental skills that include trilateration mapping and creation of in-situ drawings used to accurately document wreck sites for future evaluation by trained archeologists. There are over one hundred fast-deteriorating ship wrecks inside Biscayne National Park, with only one park archeologist and no park budget to document these wrecks. DWP divers are dedicated unpaid volunteers providing a critical service to the National Park Service in the hope of preserving history that is in danger of being lost to natural and man-made destructive elements. Over twenty-two divers participated in DWP VII this year which was shortened from two weeks to one week due to government budget cuts. Among the participants whose names you might recognize were NABS founder Dr. Jose Jones and former LABUE member Ruth Caughen, who served as a DWP Assistant Instructor.

The intense weeklong course consisted of class on Monday, diving on

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**DWP VII**

*Continued from page 4*



Tuesday and Wednesday, class on Thursday and diving on Friday, with a closing half-day of class on Saturday. In the classroom we discussed, developed and reviewed the skills we practiced in the water which served to produce the computer generated drawings that preserve history just as it sits in as little as eight feet of water. One class can usually map two wreck sites in one week. One dive can easily exceed an hour, with two dives completed per day. The work can be tedious but the rewards can be priceless when we consider what we are trying to accomplish.

As the search for the Guerrero grows more complex each year due to weather and politics, DWP has been approached to expand its search to other parts of the globe for other ships. News of this unique group of volunteers who have honed their special skills over seven years has spread as far as South Africa,

where that government has expressed interest in documenting its own history using this well trained team of volunteer underwater DWP archeologists. One fact lost in our dark history is that there was more than one slave ship that sank with its precious living cargo and thanks to Ken Stuart, the founder of DWP, these hallowed sites of unmarked graves may someday be consecrated.

*PHOTOS OF UNIDENTIFIED WRECK*

**FATHER'S DAY BEACH DIVE AND PICNIC**

On Sunday, June 19, 2011, LABUE's Father's Day Beach Dive will take place at Fisherman's Cove in Laguna Beach, California. The dive briefings will be given by Sharlene Johnson at 8:00 AM and again at 10:30 AM. After the last dive we will be heading over to Heisler Park for a picnic.

To reach Fisherman's Cove, turn south at the traffic light on Beverly Street from Pacific Coast Highway. Although the signal has a sign for Beverly Street, when you turn south you are going onto Cliff Drive. The road forks immediately on Cliff Drive. Stay to the left going onto Cliff Drive and go about 200 yards.

Parking is available at Fisherman's Cove on a first come first serve basis. Past Fisherman's Cove near Heisler Park there is parking on both sides of the street. There are parking meters (\$1 an hour) so remember to bring a lot of quarters!

Please RSVP with Sharlene at [prclyn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:prclyn@sbcglobal.net) so you can be notified of any changes in dive times or locations.

**Slave ship log entry:**  
 "10 April 1800--  
*Blacks rebellious. Crew uneasy. Our linguist says their moaning is a prayer for death, our and their own. Some try to starve themselves. Lost three this morning leaped with crazy laughter to the waiting sharks, sang as they went under."*



## MEET JOE WINDOLPH

BY: DEBORA EWING

### Meet one of the Newest Board Members, Joe Windolph:

Joe was born in April 1965 and certified to scuba dive in 1990. He is a NAUI Master Diver as well as a Teaching Assistant. Joe was born in Las Vegas Nevada and certified in Lake Mead also in Nevada. In Joe's own words: "I'm just a single Dad that is grateful to be alive today".

Joe is a true asset to LABUE. In the capacity of Teaching Assistant he regularly assists George Linares with the Discover Scuba Program as well as dive certification classes. Not only is he serving on the Board but has also agreed to take on the role of Beach Dive Committee Chair. Joe is also working with the Board on the possibility of LABUE having an active Youth Committee once again.



## DIVER NEWS

### New and Renewing Members

Keenon Adamson  
Lori Atwater  
Stanley Cooper  
Daphne King  
Tyrie Bivings  
Ivan Solovieff  
Bettye & George Linares  
Stacy Wade

Know of any member Certification announcements?

Please notify Debora Ewing at [dewing@proskauer.com](mailto:dewing@proskauer.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](http://www.labue.org) to place your order, or you may purchase items at the monthly membership meeting.

## 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](mailto:dewing@proskauer.com) as soon as possible!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2011

- June 14, 2011 -- LABUE's Meeting of the General Membership - 7:00 PM
- June 19, 2011 -- Fathers' Day Beach Dive and Picnic - Fisherman's Cove
- June 28, 2011 -- LABUE's Board Meeting - 6:00 PM

## 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  
(310) 387-8193

Steve Scruggs  
(310) 795-0851

DonCosta Seawell  
(909) 593-1877

Patricia Williams  
(619) 459-0944

Joe Windolph  
(818) 209-2504

### 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)

Internet Administrator  
Francois Desamours  
(703) 463-6857

Website Editor  
Steve Scruggs  
(310) 795-0851

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.

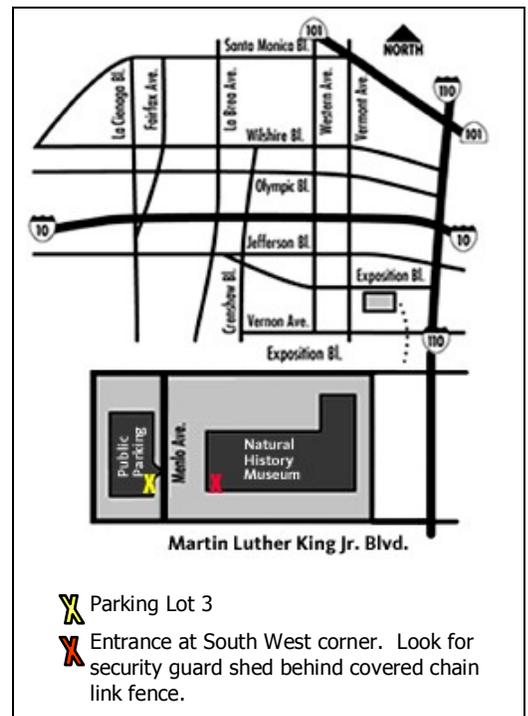
## Directions

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](http://www.nhm.org).



## Contact Us:

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