

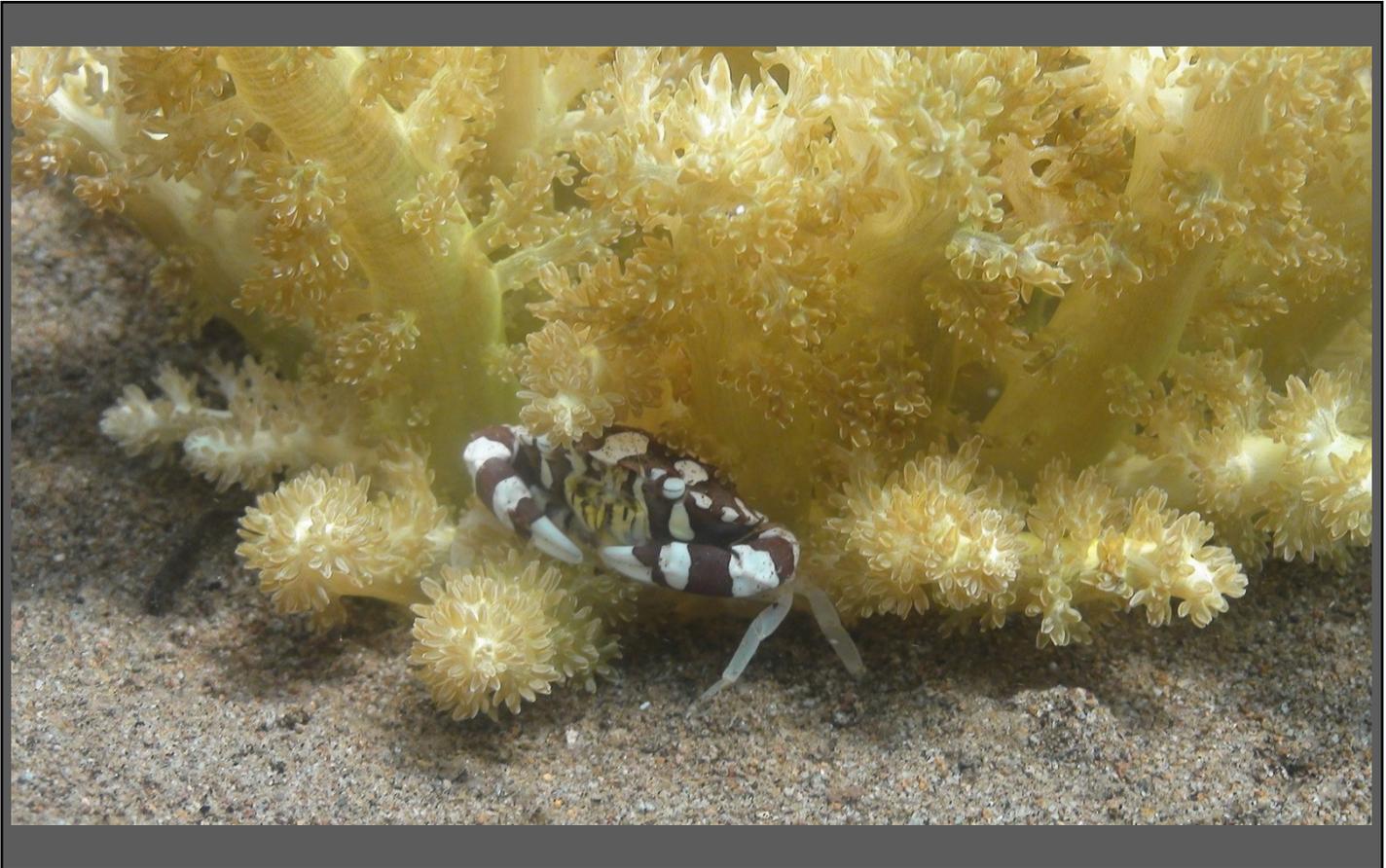
LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 5
MAY 2010



Photographer: DonCosta Seawell
Camera: Olympus C-8080 with a Inuo Stobe f/2.4, 1/30, 11mm
Medium: Digital
Location: Dumagete, Philippines
Subject: Banded Crab

REMINDER: May 11, 2010, Meeting Photo Contest

BY SHARLENE JOHNSON

On May 11, 2010, at the General Membership Meeting, LABUE will host its second annual photography contest. 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 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

Continued on page 3

Inside this issue:

Feature Article:	2
LABUE VISITS COZUMEL	
President's Message	2
Dive/Camp Weekend	3
Catalina Island	3
Discover Scuba	4
Member's Corner	5
Cozumel Photos	5
Upcoming Events	6
Map & Directions To Meeting Location	6
Discover Scuba Flyer	7
Discover Scuba App.	8
Membership App.	9

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

LABUE VISITS COZUMEL

BY BOB SIMMONS

It had been 10 years since our last club trip to Cozumel. During that time the economy had taken its toll on Mexico and a major hurricane severely damaged Cozumel several years ago. The economy is slowly recovering but one thing is certain...**the diving is back!!!** The opportunity for sensational diving among the beautiful coral reefs and walls, considered to be among the best in the world and all the attendant sea life is as good as ever. Sixteen LABUE members spent from April 21-28 enjoying a week of drift diving in the warm (80-84 degrees), clear (visibility frequently exceeding 100') and calm waters of this idyllic destination.

Because we no longer had to transfer in Cancun, we were able to fly directly into Cozumel from the US mainland, significantly easing the strain of travel. After being transferred to the Fiesta Americana Hotel, we settled in for a lazy

week of diving, enjoying the cuisine at a variety of local restaurants, touring the island on mopeds, relaxing and exercising the mind with games like chess



and dominoes. The weather was perfect with the temperature being in the mid 80 degree range and no daytime rain during our stay. The lone storm occurred at night and provided a brilliant lighting show for which the Caribbean is famous. After my morning dives, I generally spent my afternoons simply

relaxing on the hotel's beach, sipping margaritas and daiquiris while lounging under palapas enjoying the beautiful Caribbean waters.

The diving was all it was advertised to be. Our private boat had a capacity for twice as many divers which gave everyone plenty of space to move around as well as have easy entries and exits. Our divers were able to witness a wide variety of sea creatures including seahorses, sharks (the good kind),

turtles, barracuda, grouper, rock fish, scorpion fish, tuna, yellow tale, rays, flounder, angle fish, very large lobsters, crabs, octopi, shrimp, and hundreds of schooling fish. In short we saw just about everything the Caribbean has to offer. In addition, the coral settings were amazing with unusual formations featuring colorful, healthy soft and hard coral, deep walls, swim throughs, and mini underwater caverns. Add in a lazy current which allowed all of us to effortlessly drift along and you had a perfect dive setting. Many of us were able to exceed 60 minutes in bottom time on several occasions.

The social aspect is always a major component of our trips. Our group shared many adventures and enjoyed each other's company in and out of the water. Cozumel is once again a great dive destination and I am glad LABUE had a chance to experience this beautiful underwater fantasy once again.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY RICHARD RICE

WE ARE BACK AND READY FOR A BUSY MONTH OF DIVE ACTIVITIES! 16 LABUE members and guests just returned from another great LABUE warm water diving vacation to the Mexican Island of Cozumel, enjoying great weather and spectacular diving. The LABUE Trip Planning Committee has already started working on researching potential destinations for our 2011 trip.

If you have any recommendations, make them known to any of the Committee members who include Artie Williams, Charles Heath, Tina Houston, Pat & Cliff Williams, and Randy Tillery. Cozumel was only the beginning of another full season of dive activities with LABUE. May is already here and its time to gear up for a busy month. Our monthly beach dive is scheduled for May 2nd at Leo Carillo State

Beach. May 5th is Chamber Night at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach. Discover Scuba is scheduled for May 8th at Pacific Wilderness dive shop in San Pedro and LABUE members are encouraged to invite their non-diving friends, coworkers, and relatives to participate in this informative event. LABUE is actively seeking new members and this popular LABUE program

Continued on page 4



DIVE/CAMP WEEKEND

BY RANDY TILLERY

We have a Dive/Camp weekend planned for September 24-26, 2010. The location for this event is Leo Carrillo State Beach (SB) just north of Malibu. There are two camping areas, one along the beach and another inland in an adjacent canyon. We're on the canyon side. LABUE reserved (4) tent campsites that can accommodate up to 4 tents, 8 persons and 2 vehicles per site. Additional parking for additional vehicles is available. We have plenty of room for up to 32 campers. Each site has a fire pit, picnic table and restrooms with showers close by. Giant sycamore trees cover a majority, if not all, campsites. Dogs are permitted

but must be kept on leashes no longer than 6 feet long and in a tent or enclosed vehicles overnight. There's a well stocked camp store in case you forget or want to buy anything and a campground host if you have any questions. The park has 1.5 miles of beach for swimming, surfing, fishing and diving. The beach also has tide pools, caves and reefs for you beachcombers. Bring your bikes and hiking boots because you can do that there too.

Diving at Leo Carrillo State Beach, on the north beach, includes rocky bot-

toms and kelp beds no further than 25 yards from the beach shore at Sequit Point. Further south, there is El Matador, Zuma, and Westward Beach which are known for their Pismo clams and sand dollar beds, but most often have large surf. Point Dume is among the preferred diving locations due to its submarine canyon and better than average visibility however, this dive

site is only for the experienced due to the strong current indigenous to the area. As we get closer to the date, we'll make a determination as to the area we'll go diving.

"Point Dume is among the preferred diving locations due to its submarine canyon..."

Regardless of whether you go for the diving, the camping, the beach or the camaraderie, this will be a fun and relaxing weekend for you and your family. Check-in is after 2pm on Friday 24th and check-out is 12pm Sunday. Please note that gates to the park close at 10 p.m. and open at 8 a.m. daily. The cost for camping will be determined by the number of camper participants. Each site is collectively \$35.00 per day.

Directions: The park is located 25 miles north of Santa Monica on Pacific Coast Highway (Highway One).



CATALINA WEEKEND

BY DEBORA EWING

On Saturday, June 19, 2010 LABUE's Fathers' Day Dive Weekend will take place. I will give the dive briefing and the time is yet to be determined. This year several divers from out of state clubs plan to join us. I plan to arrive on the island on Friday, June 18 and will depart on Sunday, June 20. I will be travelling on the 12:15p.m. boat from downtown Long Beach (June 18) and returning on Sunday on the 11:45 a.m. boat back to downtown Long Beach (June 20). Bob Simmons has negotiated a group rate for our group at the Seaport Village Inn (Phone: 310.510.0344). Mention the Group Code

LABUE and receive \$50 off your two night's stay. The Seaport Village package includes a daily breakfast, transportation to and from the dock to the hotel and also transportation to Casino Point (along with your dive gear).

Everyone should bring all dive gear needed. Tanks and weights are easily rented on the island. The phone number to Catalina Dive Shop is (310) 510-0330 for all other gear rentals.

Please let me know if you plan to attend so that I can include you in all of the planned activities. I will need your name, cell phone number and arrival date.

MAY PHOTO CONTEST

Continued from page 1

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 June 2010, LABUE Newsletter write-up of the contest.

Photographers who are unable to attend the May meeting may still participate by e-mailing their submissions to prclyn@sbcglobal.net by Sunday, May 9, 2010, 12:00 PM (noon) PST. All e-mailed submissions will be printed without editing or cropping in a 5"x7" size for the competition. Contest is not limited to club members.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 2

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 5

is an excellent way to introduce them to the exciting sport of scuba diving. Don't forget the May 11 LABUE General Meeting at the Museum of Natural History featuring our 2nd Annual LABUE Photo Contest. We encourage all members to attend and participate by submitting their photos or by casting their votes for the photos they like best. The Scuba Show is being held at the Long Beach Convention Center on May 15th & 16th. LABUE Members are always welcome to attend our monthly LABUE Board of Directors Meeting scheduled for May 25th.

I mentioned in a previous newsletter the concerns and challenges we have had in retaining members and attracting new members. LABUE membership has declined significantly over the last few years. This situation is not unique to our organization. In the latest NABS (*National Association of Black Scuba Divers*) news-

letter, NABS President Zel Head discusses similar challenges faced by NABS. This issue was highlighted as part of discussions at the NABS Presidents' Meeting held last month in Dallas, Texas. Much of the discussions related to results from a recent NABS membership survey intended to be used as part of their strategic planning process. Attendees recognized that NABS growth has significantly slowed in recent

"Discover Scuba continues to be a successful way to introduce new people to the sport as well as attract new members."

years. Most alarming was NABS age demographic results identifying that only 4.1% of NABS membership is under 40 years of age, 32.1% between 40 and 50 years, and 63.5% over 50. The NABS organizational demographic is rapidly maturing. I believe that these results are generally reflected in LABUE's membership and it is very clear that LABUE cannot continue to exist as a viable dive club into the future if

this trend persists. Despite our 14+ years of success as an active and well organized dive club with a respected national reputation and valuable presence in the L.A. African America community; LABUE is in danger of quietly fading away if we do not attract younger members to participate and lead LABUE into the future.

While it is easy to point to issues such as the economy and the time commitment and expense involved in training for SCUBA and mastering its skills, it is clear that LABUE needs to do a better job of keeping our members actively diving and making the changes necessary to attract younger divers. This year we have mounted an ongoing effort to reconnect with past and present LABUE members to encourage them to join us in club dives and other planned activities. Discover Scuba continues to be a successful way to introduce new people to the sport as well as attract new members. Joe Windolph is actively researching opportunities for LABUE to edu-

cate and encourage youth to consider SCUBA as a future sport. Each current member can also play a vital role in the effort to build our membership and attract younger members. We all have children, nieces, nephews, grand children, and friends that we can share our love of diving with. Looking for a unique birthday, graduation, or Christmas gift for a young relative? Consider giving them SCUBA diving lessons. Is your annual diving activity now reduced to one day of diving from a cruise ship? Consider lending or donating your dive gear to a young person being certified to ease their dive expense.

Let me know your thoughts on strategies and recommendations that might attract younger members and in identifying LABUE resources and activities needed to make this effort a success. Give me a call or send me an email (ricere2004@yahoo.com) to share your ideas on how to make LABUE a better dive club and to let me know how you can help us in these efforts.

DISCOVER SCUBA REMINDER:

BY: SHARLENE JOHNSON

LABUE'S spring Discover Scuba will be taking place on Saturday, May 8, 2010, 9:00 a.m., at the Pacific Wilderness dive shop located in San Pedro. LABUE members are encouraged to invite their non-diving friends, co-worker, and relatives to come learn more about scuba diving. Participants will have a

brief classroom session then have an opportunity try out scuba equipment on a shallow dive under the close supervision of a dive instructor. They will experience what it is like to breathe underwater, providing a preview of the underwater world available only thru scuba diving. Participants must be able

to swim and must be 10 years of age or older. Each participant must also complete and sign the Discover Scuba liability waiver before entering the water. A parent or guardians signature is required for participants under the age of 18. The cost of the program is \$15 and includes all equipment necessary.

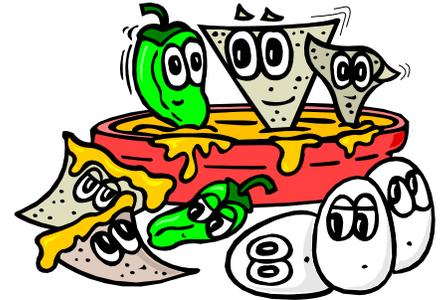
Participants only need to bring their swim suits, towel, sandals/flip-flops, drinking water, and a light snack. Interested parties may contact George Linares at glinares1@verizon.net or 661 729-6626) for registration details. See page 8 of the newsletter for the application.

MEMBER'S CORNER:

Shar's Red Hot Spicccccccccccccc Nachos!

BY SHARLEN CAMPBELL

- 1 bag **Tortilla Chips** (of your choice)
- 1 lb. sharp cheddar cheese grated (or mild or medium, your choice)
- 1 lb. lean ground beef or ground turkey (or your choice)
- 1 white onion (medium or large, your choice)
- 1 tblspn EVO (aka "Extra Virgin Olive Oil")
- 1-2 garlic clove(s) (your choice)
- 1-2 teaspn(s) Red Crushed Pepper (or as much or as little as you can stand!)
- 1 jar Tostitos Salsa (preferably hot, or your choice)
- 1 tub of sour cream
- 1 avocado smashed up (or guacamole in the pre-prepared tub)
- 1 - 9 x 2 x 13 baking pan
- 1 - oven



Directions: Preheat oven to 350 - 375 degrees. Chop onion and garlic to desired size (I like it chunky). Sauté chopped onions and garlic w/EVO until onions are soft and glassy looking. Add ground meat and cook until done. After the meat is done, mix in the Tostitos Salsa with the Red Crushed Pepper. Let sit, preferably overnight to really let the flavors mix with one another. If you've let it marinate overnight, you'll need to reheat the meat mixture before layering in the baking pan. Otherwise, layer bottom of baking pan as follows: tortilla chips, cheese, meat mixture, cheese, tortilla chips, cheese, meat mixture, cheese

Bake in the oven until cheese melts and the chips are crispy. Then serve with sour cream and guacamole or avocado. Enjoy! Pair with Dos Equis Amber or Corona. Don't forget the limes.

COZUMEL PHOTOS

TAKEN BY: RICHARD RICE



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.

NEWSLETTER MATERIALS AND DEADLINES (REMINDER)

Your Newsletter Committee welcomes your *original* recipes, poems, articles, etc. If you would like to submit an item to be published in the newsletter please submit your material to dewing@proskauer.com. 500 words or less would be the ideal size (or we can always do a "to be continued" type of article if space is an issue in a particular month). The cut-off date for the following month's newsletter is the 15th of the month. For example, if today is the 6th of May, material would be needed by May 15 for the June Newsletter. Otherwise, the material will be held until the following month.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2010

- May 5 -- Chamber Evening - Aquarium of the Pacific - 7:00 PM
- May 8 -- Discover Scuba - Pacific Wilderness Dive Shop - 9:00 AM
- May 11 -- LABUE's Meeting of the General Membership - Photo Contest
- May 15 & 16 -- Scuba Show - Long Beach Convention Center
- May 25 -- Board Meeting - 6:00 PM
- June 18 - 20 -- Weekend at Catalina
- September 24 - 26 -- Camp and Dive at Leo Carrillo

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Richard Rice
(323) 299-3798

Vice President
Tina Houston
(213) 359-2131

Treasurer
Denise Barker
(562) 423-4974

Secretary
Debora Ewing
(310) 284-4556

Robert Simmons
(323) 292-8960

Sharlene Johnson
(310) 833-0494

DonCosta Seawell
(909) 593-1877

COMMITTEES

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

Ways & Means
Debora Ewing
(310) 284-4556

Beach Dive
Debora Ewing
(310) 284-4556

Boat Dive
DonCosta Seawell
(909) 593-1877

Dive Training & Safety
George Linares (Interim)

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

Internet
Francois Desamours
(310) 412-8128

Program
Sharlene Johnson
(310) 833-0494

Technical Dive Committee
Open

Youth Committee
Open

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

Meetings

The LABUE meetings are held the second Tuesday of every Month at 7:00 PM in the Times Mirror Room at the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles.

Directions

The Natural History Museum is located in Exposition Park, at 900 Exposition Boulevard between Vermont Avenue and Figueroa Street.

Due to Metro line work on Exposition Blvd., and museum construction on the Exposition side of the Museum, the Museum offers some helpful tips for driving to minimize your inconvenience:

From the 110 (Harbor) Freeway, take the Martin Luther King Boulevard exit and head west towards Vermont Avenue. Turn right (north) on Menlo Avenue. Make a left into Exposition Park Lot 3.

Please visit the Museum website for more information at www.nhm.org.



Contact Us:

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

HOW ARE WE DOING? We would love to hear your comments, critiques or suggestions. Please e-mail Debora Ewing at the following e-mail address and your voice will be heard: dewing@proskauer.com



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

DISCOVER SCUBA



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. 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
 - Pool session with certified divers (optional)
 - dive shop tour

WHEN: Saturday, May 8, 2010 @ 9:00 A.M. until Noon

WHERE: PACIFIC WILDERNESS 1719 So Pacific Ave.; San Pedro 90731 (310) 833 2422

COST: \$15.00 per person

Call 661 729 6626 to sign-up

DISCOVER SCUBA
Application
May 8, 2010

Name _____ Birth Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Ph # _____ Eve Ph # _____ Cell Ph # _____

E-address _____ Referred by _____

Amount \$15.00 ** Make check payable to LABUE

(check all that are applicable)

< > I am a good swimmer < > I am comfortable in the ocean

< > I have snorkeled before

< > I am ready to enroll in a training class

< > I currently do not have any physical health and/or other condition issues
(if so, please see Program Leader)

Waiver

I _____, hereby agree to participate in the Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers' (LABUE) DISCOVER SCUBA Program and agree to abide by all club rules. I acknowledge that I am voluntarily participating with full knowledge of the potential dangers of scuba and dive-related activities. In consideration of my application acceptance, 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, defend and hold harmless LABUE and their members and officers from any liability arising out of or in connection with my participating 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 with full knowledge of its significance.

Participant's Signature

Today's Date

*Guardian's Signature

* - required guardian's signature as well as personal presence on premises during activity
for participants the minimum 10 yrs of age and under 19 yrs of age

PO BOX 90069, LOS ANGELES, CA 90009
(310) 337-1541
(310) 337-1542 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: _____ Phone No. _____

Certification Information:

Year First Certified: _____ No. of Dives _____ Date of Last Dive: _____ Warm Water Beach Boat
Agency Certification

Diving Preferences: Beach Dives Boat Dives Warm Water Dives
Amount: \$ 30.00 Individual Membership New Renewal
\$ 45.00 Family Membership New Renewal
\$ 300.00 Lifetime Individual
\$ 450.00 Lifetime Family

***Please make checks payable to: "Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers" or "LABUE"

WAIVER

I _____, hereby apply for membership in the Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers (LABUE) and agree to abide by all club rules. I acknowledge that I will be voluntarily participating in LABUE events with full knowledge of the potential dangers of scuba diving and diving related activities. In consideration of your acceptance of this application and my membership in LABUE, I agree to assume all risks of bodily injury, death or property damage, arising out of or in connection with my participation in LABUE activities. I also agree to release, indemnify, defend 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 with full knowledge of its significance.

Signature: _____ Date: _____