

2011 NABS Club Of The Year

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2014



Photographer: Bob Simmons
Camera: Cannon S95
Location: Maldives
Subject: Carpe Vita Live-Aboard Dive Boat

FALL IS HERE: MEET UP WITH LABUE

Join us on Tuesday, October 14th for our General Membership meeting featuring a special presentation by Bob Simmons on his recent dive trip to the Maldives. With summer over, you won't want to miss the remaining 2014 LABUE activities and events including our monthly meetings, regular beach dives, Dive-Camp Weekend, LABUE Photo Contest, Be the Match Run/Walk, LABUE Holiday Dinner, and upcoming LABUE Elections. We would like to see you at this fun meeting. Catch up with old friends and meet new members. You can look forward to some delicious meeting refreshments and door prizes, along with LABUE updates and friendly member fellowship.

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

NOAA - New Corals "Threatened"

BY STEPHEN SCRUGGS

As of 2006, twenty-two species of coral have been protected under the Endangered Species Act including 'elkhorn' and 'staghorn'. Fifteen on this most recent list of endangered species occur in the Indo-Pacific and five occur in the Caribbean. None are found in Hawaii.

The decision to add the twenty new species of threatened coral to the existing list was based on an unprecedented list of specific rules outlined in the Endangered Species Act. These rules are designed to conserve and recover those corals around the world deemed most in need of protection and are the most extensive set of rules ever undertaken by NOAA. Under the old rules, sixty-six species were listed as a mix of 'threatened' and 'endangered'. The next step for NOAA is to take a more proactive role

with businesses, communities and partners to gain a better understanding of how they will be impacted by these rules.

Coral reefs are critical to the health of marine ecosystems and they face severe threats. Coral reefs world-wide have declined significantly – some individual species have declined by at least ninety percent. Healthy coral reefs provide shoreline protection for coastal communities and habitat for a variety of species, including commercially important fish. These benefits are lost when corals are degraded. As part of this rule-making process, NOAA identified a number of threats to coral ecosystems, some of the most serious of which are: impacts related to climate change (rising ocean temperatures, ocean acidification and disease), ecological effects of fishing,

and poor land-use practices.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY: RICHARD RICE



Drug and Gun Smuggling in St. Martin with LABUE? Over the years, LABUE members have participated in dozens of exciting personal adventure vacations, in addition to our LABUE sponsored annual Warm Water Dive Vacations and NABS Dive Summits. From diving the cenotes in Cancun to swimming with sharks in Tahiti, experiencing the wonders of Indonesia and the Maldives, to diving the volcanic caldera of Santorini, Greece; LABUE members have done it all, with amaz-

ing stories to tell.

October 2013, I was captain of a 47 ft. bareboat charter sailboat on an exciting Water Babies Sailing Club (www.wbsc.org) trip to the Caribbean islands of St Martin, St. Barts, and Anguilla. My crew included LABUE members **Symphorosa Williams, Tina Houston, Steve Scruggs, Sone Seere Wilson, Denise Barker, Stacy Wade,** and Discover Scuba graduate **Henry Jones**. As one of

three sailboats in our flotilla, everyone enjoyed sailing the beautiful turquoise waters of these islands enjoying picturesque towns, unique cultures, and savory cuisines. Symphorosa was



responsible for researching and arranging our SCUBA diving activities during the trip and we enjoyed dive sites on St Barts and on the French

and Dutch sides of St Martin, featuring colorful coral, wrecks, and abundant sea life. We spent a week enjoying these wonderful islands.

Evening was approaching as we all reflected on a memorable week of great sailing, diving, and dining as we motored back to Simpson Bay, St Martin, hours ahead of the other two boats in our flotilla. We looked forward to our last night on the boats and a quiet dinner on shore before

checking into a hotel and returning home. Out of nowhere, we noticed a stealth looking St Martin Coast Guard

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President's Message

Continued from Page 2

patrol boat closely following us as we entered the harbor. After several minutes eyeing us, we heard from the patrol boat; "Captain! Cut your engine, we are taking command of your vessel". Several armed Coast Guard sailors boarded our boat requesting our passports and boat documentation.

Upon seeing the handsome young muscular sailors, Denise immediately took out her camera and started tak-



ing pictures. "No photographs madam", demanded their young captain. In a courteous and professional manner, he explained that they would be conducting a routine search of the boat for drugs and guns. After asking us if we were smuggling any contraband, they performed a thorough inspection of the boat and its contents, including our luggage. After completing their search and determining that we were not dangerous international gun and drug smugglers, their serious demeanor changed as they succumbed to the charms of our *LABUE Dive Divas*. They remained on the boat for some time, chatting with us and posing for photos with my female crewmembers. The friendly sailors even took pictures with their personal cameras posing with our crew.

Reflecting on the experience, my female crew all agreed that it was the highlight of the trip for them, and probably the highlight of the day for our new St Martin Coast Guard friends. Got a story to tell? LABUE News Editor Debora Ewing is always looking for interesting and entertaining articles for publication. Let's hear your story.

2014 is an election year for LABUE, with LABUE Officer and LA-

BUE Board of Directors positions to be determined next fall. If you are interested in determining the direction and future growth of LABUE, I invite you to seriously consider running for an officer or board position during next fall's elections. 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 2014 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.

LABUE DIVE/CAMP WEEKEND IS ON! October 10-12, 2014

LABUE is hosting another Dive/Camp weekend October 10-12 2014. Sign up now and reserve your camping spot. The location for this event is once again at Leo Carrillo State Beach just north of Malibu. Every year we have a lot of people and a great time.

The cost of LABUE's Dive/Camp Weekend is only \$15.00 per adult camper if you arrive Saturday morning and depart Sunday afternoon. The total cost will be \$30.00 per adult camper if you arrive on Friday. Youths under 18 years camp for free. That's right, free. So, take your kids camping before the end of the year. Ample parking is available at \$12.00 per day; however each campsite can only accommodate 2 vehicles so if you want a spot, you have to come early. Additional vehicles will be able to park in the campground general parking area nearby. If you plan to bring a Recreational Vehicle (RV) or Travel Trailer, please let us know at

the time you sign up.

Leo Carrillo State Park is a beautiful camping location within walking distance of the beach with heavily shaded trees. Bring your running shoes, bring your hiking boots, bring your bikes or bring a beach chair. There are many activities you can do. Our Saturday afternoon/evening potluck is a highlight for many attendees. Cook up your favorite food and bring it with you or cook it up at any one of our three campsites reserved for us.

For those who sign up for diving, we'll brief Saturday morning and take off for our dive by 10am. There's an abundance of dive locations and we'll adjust depending on weather and current conditions. Remember to sign up early so we can get a head count of divers and camping participants.

For additional information and to sign up, contact Randy Tillery at rtillery@gmail.com. Send your payment in to LABUE P.O. Box 90069, Los Angeles, California, 90009.



Member's Corner: Why I Became a Board Member

BY RANDY TILLERY



the club for so many years had been limited I felt.

I wanted to do more but I didn't think I had the time. I didn't think I could add additional responsibilities to my already busy work schedule. So, I thought. Fortunately, coincidentally, I was at a point in my professional and personal life where I did have time to contribute to the sport and to the organization that I cared about.

I've been an active LABUE club member for approximately 17 years. I've travelled all over the world with LABUE. I've been involved in a number of LABUE sponsored activities. I'm definitely an active member. Well, one day I was approached by a Board member and he suggested that if I really wanted to contribute to LABUE then I should consider applying for a "board position." Up to that point, my responsibilities with

You know when you're doing an activity you really care about, it's not really work. Kind of, you know what I mean.

Ultimately, I felt I could contribute more to the Club's operation and mission if I was in more of a participatory position. One where I could listen and contribute ideas. You've heard the expression, "Don't complain about something that you're not contributing to." Not saying I was doing that. I'm just saying I wanted to be in the dis-

cussion and be a part of the direction that LABUE is going. Since becoming a board member, I've learned a great deal as to the considerations and contributions fellow LABUE members have made and continue to make "behind the scenes" towards LABUE's success. I've shared my experiences and expertise as a diver and have hopefully helped move the club in a positive direction. I do however; see a need for the emergence of new and veteran club members with new ideas and contributing talents to get involved who haven't been before. Come forward and share yourself with us on an organizational level. There are so many scuba related activities that you can do, help plan, organize, or make your own that would help facilitate LABUE's mission.



THE LOBSTERS ARE HERE!!!

Hey LABUE hunters, it's time to renew your California sports fishing license, obtain a spiny lobster report card, and dust off your "bug bag" and measuring device. California's Spiny Lobster season opened on September 27th and runs through March 18, 2015. If you have any questions on the current spiny lobster sport fishing regulations, you can obtain the California Ocean Fishing regulation booklet at your local dive shop or sporting goods store, or online at www.dfg.ca.gov/regulations

BE THE MATCH WALK/RUN NOVEMBER 22ND

Don't forget to join LABUE in raising money for Be the Match. Long onto bethematchwalkrun.org and select the "location" tab under register. Then select "Long Beach, November 22, 2014". Go to "Get started" and then "I want to join a team" and look for LABUE. We look forward to seeing you there!

LABUE FEATURED ON COMMUNITY TV/RADIO SHOW

If you missed the Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers, featured on the *Community With Me* TV/Radio show hosted by Melissa Sandfield on July 30th, you can view and share with others the complete interview of LABUE President, Richard Rice, on YouTube at: http://youtu.be/AMYmtj_F6CI

DIVER NEWS

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Jesse Bradshaw
Cheryl Brock
James Wiley

New Lifetime Member

Roderic Buck

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Know of any member Certification announcements? Please notify Debora Ewing at [dewing@proskauer.com](mailto:dewing@proskauer.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](mailto: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.

## 2014 LABUE Photo Contest

BY STEVE SCRUGGS

Distant trips to faraway lands, expensive cameras, underwater housings and strobes are not requirements for entering and winning the 2014 LABUE Photo Contest. A click-and-shoot camera, a smart phone or a disposable camera from your local drug store qualifies you for the thrill of competition and the sharing a visual epiphany with your friends. There's nothing more fun than sharing photos with friends unless it's sharing photos with lots of friends for a chance to win prizes.

LABUE will begin accepting entries to the 6th Annual LABUE Photo Contest on Sunday, October 12th. As proved successful in increasing LABUE member participation in last year's photo contest, voting for your favorite photos will again be conducted on-line for 2014. Voting will begin on Sunday, November 16th. 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.



Photographers may submit up to three entries per category for the on-line voting. Because it is sometimes difficult to choose from among the many excellent photos submitted, members will be allowed to vote for their three favorite photos in each category. We will count the votes and the highest number of votes is first place, the next highest second place, and the next third 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 five raffle tickets, the person coming in second place will receive three raffle tickets, and the person coming in third place will receive one ticket. Some of the valuable raffle prizes available for the winners to choose from last year include a professional digital photo equipment backpack, LABUE apparel, Oceans coffee table book and a digital photo frame. 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 one 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 to LABUE Website Editor Stephen Scruggs (scruggs2424@bellsouth.net) before the November 9th midnight deadline for entries. Voting will begin on November 16th.



### **The Magnificent Maldives: Memories of a Luxury Live Aboard Experience**

The next club meeting will be a 20 minute slide/video presentation of the recent dive trip which former LABUE president Bob Simmons and 19 other divers took to The Maldives Islands. The 'Magnificent Maldives' are a chain of islands located just south and west of India, in the Indian Ocean. While these islands boast of having it all in terms of variety of sea life, the overwhelming main attraction is the presence of huge manta rays and whale sharks. The best way to dive these islands is via a live aboard vessel.

This presentation will offer a glimpse into the total experience of diving such a primo dive destination while enjoying each other's company aboard The Carpe Vita Explorer, a 126' luxury yacht. This entertaining and informative meeting will be held at the Natural History Museum in Exposition Park on October 14, 2014, beginning at 7pm.



## 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).

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2014

- October 10-12, 2014 -- LABUE Dive and Camp Weekend
- October 14, 2014 -- LABUE General Membership Meeting - 7:00 PM
- October 28, 2014 -- LABUE Board Meeting
- November 11, 2014 -- LABUE General Membership Meeting - 7:00 PM
- November 22, 2014 -- Be the One Run/Walk
- November 25, 2014 -- LABUE Board Meeting
- December 6, 2014 -- LABUE Holiday Dinner

## 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

Patricia Williams  
(619) 459-0944

#### Members at Large

Lamont Johnson  
(310) 387-8193

Steve Scruggs  
(310) 795-0851

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  
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

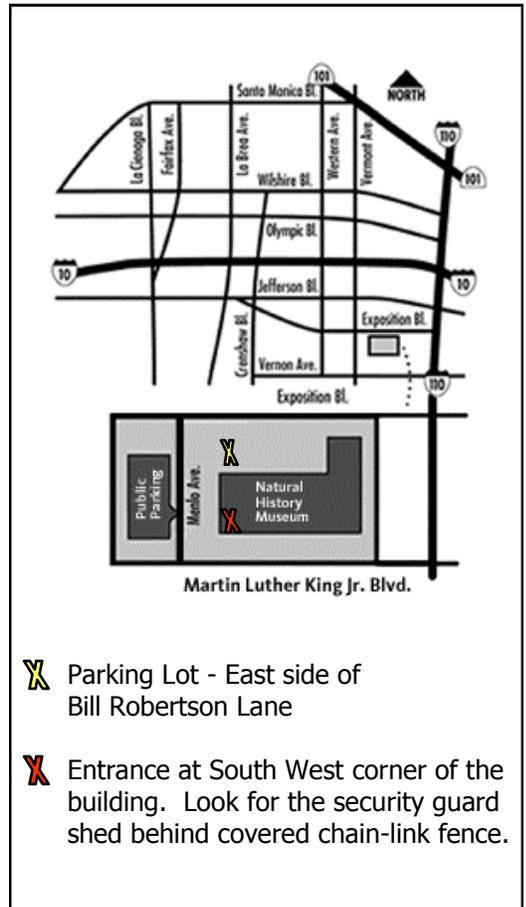
The LABUE meetings are held the second Tuesday of every Month at 7:00 PM in the Times Mirror Room at the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles.

## Directions

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

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).



**X** Parking Lot - East side of Bill Robertson Lane

**X** Entrance at South West corner of the building. Look for the 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](mailto:info@labue.org)

Web Site: [www.labue.org](http://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.**

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: \_\_\_\_\_ 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(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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: \_\_\_\_\_