

2011 NABS Club Of The Year

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 9
SEPTEMBER 2012



Photographer: Quinal Johnson
Camera: Olympus Stylus Tough 8010
Location: Isla de la Juventud, Cuba
Subject: Large Blue Angelfish

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HEAL THE BAY

Join us at the Natural History Museum on Tuesday, September 11th for a special program presented by *Heal the Bay*. *Heal the Bay* is a nonprofit environmental organization dedicated to making Southern California coastal waters and watersheds, including Santa Monica Bay, safe, healthy and clean using research, education, community action and advocacy to pursue their mission. They will be a sponsor of September 15th Coastal Cleanup Day activities featured in this issue. Bring a friend to this informative presentation; enjoy some great refreshments and a chance to win a valuable door prize. We look forward to seeing you there.

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

CATALINA ISLAND BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

BY BETTYE LINARES

Just prior to the Memorial Day weekend, May 24 & 25, I took advantage of a special Catalina Express promotion that allowed me to sail to Catalina Island for free to celebrate my birthday. George and I stayed overnight at the Seaport Village Inn in Avalon. If you're not overly fussy about accommodations, the Seaport Village Inn is very affordable. Breakfast was included as well as transport to and from the Catalina Express terminal; and the Inn is within walking distance to Casino Point. George and I, along with our dive buddy Mike Dillard, enjoyed a day at Casino Point. Although the morning was overcast, the fellas were able to get into the water for a dive. The winds picked up and the sea conditions became choppy resulting in low visibility. After the dive, we relaxed for the duration of the morning and part of the afternoon on the chaise lounges provided at Descanso Beach (for a price, of course). We all agreed they have the

best hamburgers and chicken sandwiches on the island, the mojitos were not bad either. The food and beverages were modestly priced and the staff was very accommodating. Nearing the end of our stay, we caught a mid-day Catalina Express return to the mainland and said our "so longs" to Mike. We had a very nice short stay on the island and plan to go back in September for George's birthday celebration. Everyone is welcome to join us in September at Catalina for some great diving and island fun.

From now until April 2013, Catalina Express will help you celebrate your birthday on Catalina Island with a free "Express Pass". You can view details of this special birthday promotion on the Catalina Express website (<http://catalinaexpress.com/>).



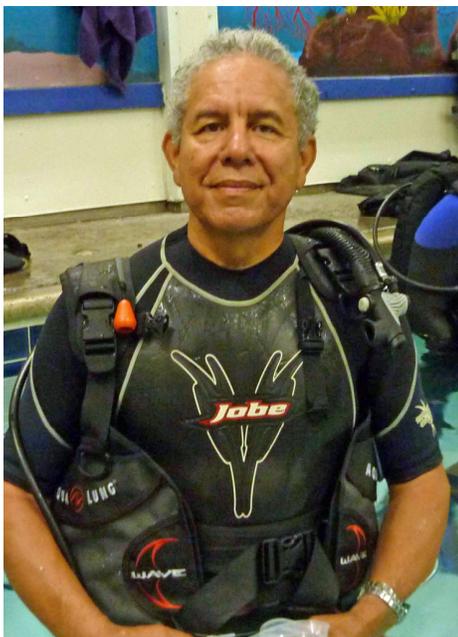
SAVE THE DATE FOR BE THE ONE RUN

LABUE members, family, and friends are invited to join the LABUE Team for "**Be The One Run**" taking place on Saturday November 17th in Long Beach. Participants in this annual event raise money and encourage donors supporting the **Be The Match Registry** uniting communities nationwide to help patients with diseases like leukemia and lymphoma. Last year, LABUE raised over \$1700 in donations. The event features a 5K run/walk for both adults and youth. To register, go to the Be The Match Registry website (www.marlow.org) and select the select the "Get Involved" tab.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY RICHARD RICE



Summer 2012 has flown by as LABUE looks forward to the years remaining activities. In addition another successful Discover Scuba II held on September 1st, I am excited to an-

nounce our participation in International Coastal Cleanup Day on September 15th. LABUE members have participated in many beach and harbor cleanups over the years; however this year's event is very special. LABUE will be joining other organizations including Heal The Bay, the Santa Monica Conservancy, the California Historical Society, and the NAACP in beach cleanups recognizing the historic Jim Crow era Santa Monica beach site known as the "Inkwell". From the 1920s to the 1950s, Santa Monica beaches were segregated. In fact, so were most Southern California beaches. The *Ink Well*, located around the western ends of Bay Street and Pico Blvd, was the only place where African Americans were allowed to swim and play. LABUE has been asked by Heal The Bay to participate in a dive cleanup under the Santa Monica pier and has been scheduled as a Sep-

tember LABUE beach dive activity. As part of the weekend's activities, there will also be a screening of the documentary film *White Wash* at Santa Monica's Main Library. *White Wash* explores the complexity of race in America through the history of African Americans involved in recreational water activities from slavery, civil rights wade-ins, to surfing in contemporary times at Southern California beach locations. After an August of unprecedented and amazing Olympics performances in sports that have long presented barriers to participation by AAs in America. I found myself mesmerized while looking at men's and women's gymnastics, swimming, cycling, volleyball in addition to the expected track & field, basketball, etc. These activities serve as a reminder that there are no longer any barriers to and serve as an opportunity for LABUE to step forward in meeting our mission to

Continued on page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 2

Expanding the Knowledge and Enjoyment of Scuba Diving among African Americans. I urge all LABUE members, relatives, friends, and coworkers to come out and support LABUE in this very special event.

Campsite signups are now being taken for our October 5-7 Dive-Camp weekend at Sycamore Canyon Campgrounds in Malibu featured in event organizer Randy Tillery's article in this issue. On track to be another fun event offering beach diving, camping, fantastic food, and LABUE camaraderie of course. LABUE normally participates with a scuba display in the Compton Air Fair in October. Unfortunately due to Compton's well publicized fiscal problems, for the first time in 18 years, the Compton Air Fair has been canceled. Compton Air Fair organizer (and LABUE founding member) Darryl Cullen's is hopeful that the Compton Air Fair will resume in 2014.

Team LABUE will again participate in the annual **Be the One Run** on November 17th in Long Beach featuring a 5K run/walk for both adults and youth... In honor of longtime LABUE member Charles Heath, we will be working to raise money and encourage bone marrow donors supporting the **Be The Match Registry** to help patients with diseases like leukemia, lymphoma, and sickle cell. December holiday activities including our very popular Holiday Dinner on December 8th followed on

December 11th by our 20th Anniversary Celebration to take place at our December membership meeting.

I am happy to announce that Keenon Adamson has volunteered to lead LABUE's Program Committee. He will be responsible for continuing our efforts to provide entertaining and informative monthly membership meeting programs. Thanks also to James Wiley who has agreed to again serve as the LABUE Elections Committee chairperson for our upcoming November elections. If you would like to recommend an activity or event that would benefit the community, our members, or help fulfill our mission, please share it with me or one of the Board members. We value your recommendations. Don't forget our upcoming **LABUE Elections**. I encourage everyone to consider directly participating in helping to continue our efforts to make LABUE a better club by running for an officer or board position. Elections will take place in November. If you are interested in lending your labor, experience, or organizational skills to LABUE as an Officer, Board Member or committee member, your participation would be more than welcomed. 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.



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.



MOST MEMORABLE LABUE MOMENTS

BY DENISE BARKER

My first LABUE meeting was with Desmond as President and we met at Mr. Que's BBQ. Then Darin was President and we met at Redondo Beach Park prior to our beach dive. Then Bob became President and really marketed the club and we were having "standing room only" at most meetings. It was good to be a part of the growth and transition to such a remarkable club.

When LABUE went to Belize we took over fifty divers with us. The resort staff and the dive staff must have went home and told their family members because the next morning there were many locals on and around the dock to send us off on our dive. When I went to town later that day, a senior Belizean woman told me she went to the dock that morning to see us because she had heard from her grandson that there was a large group of Black Divers there and she wanted to see it for her own eyes. She said that she was so proud to see the Black American Divers come to her small town to dive.

I have had so many fun and memorable trips/times with LABUE. I am looking forward to another 20 years of traveling with the club.

MABUL MALAYSIA 2013 TRIP ANNOUNCEMENT

BY TINA HOUSTON

The LABUE Trip Planning Committee and the LABUE Board have selected Mabul Malaysia, as the destination for LABUE's 2013 warm water dive vacation in September 14 - 21, 2013. LABUE will be staying at the exhilarating Sipidan-Kapalai Dive Resort, only a few minutes by boat, but a full world away from the islands of Sipadan and Mabul. Surrounded completely by crystal clear waters teeming with marine life sitting on its sturdy stilts on the shallow sandbanks of the Ligitan Reefs. Planned and built in full style as an airy, comfortable, sunny water village with no land in sight, it boasts a mile-long sandbank of powdery white sand where one can sunbathe at complete leisure while gazing out to the miles of brilliant turquoise stretching into the horizon offering the purest image of natural serenity.

Dive spots are extremely close and can be reached in just a few minutes by speedboat and some of them, actually, just by swimming from the dive center pier. For those who are ready to explore more than the tiny marvels of Kapalai's macro life, can, in just a few minutes, dive in Sipadan (where big fish and turtles abound) or in Mabul (where silky and muddy bottoms offer different and

equally pleasant experiences and opportunities to the lovers of "muck diving"). With a combination of sun and water in a unique and serene setting with friendly staff, Sipadan-Kapalai is an ideal destination for divers and non-divers alike seeking a great holiday experience.

Starting at \$2,200.00pp (dbl occ) for divers, and \$1,775.00pp (dbl occ) for non-divers. You can enjoy an all-inclusive resort offering 7 nights Chalet accommodations w/private sundeck, taxes, round-trip land and boat transfers from Tawau Airport, all food and beverages while at resort (excluding alcoholic, juice and/or carbonated soft drinks). Dive Package includes: 3 boat dives per day (Sipadan, Mabul or Kapalai Island), unlimited house reef diving, LABUE fee and Sipadan permit fee. The cost for 8 days for all of the above, club fee, Sipadan permit fee, and having a grand Ole time is approximately \$2,200.00pp (dbl. occ). Early Registration Incentive: Deposit and registration forms RECEIVED by September 30, 2012, will be eligible for the \$50.00 discount. For registration, deposit information or questions, please contact Tina Houston at Dyvinglively@sbcglobal.net

SEPTEMBER 15, 2012 BEACH DIVE: Dive the Santa Monica Pier on Coastal Cleanup Day

On Saturday, September 15th, as part of the annual international Coastal Cleanup Day activities; Heal the Bay joins forces with the Santa Monica Conservancy, the California Historical Society, and the NAACP to clean up the beach in recognition of the historic Jim Crow-Era African American beach site sometimes known as the "Inkwell" in Santa Monica. These organizations will also sponsor a screening of the documentary film, "White Wash" on Sunday, September 16 at Santa Monica's Main Public Library. *White Wash* explores the complexity of race in America through the history of African Americans involved in recreational water activities from slavery, civil rights wade-ins, to surfing in contemporary times at Southern California beach locations.

LABUE will be participating in beach cleanup activities along with the other organizations and has been invited by Heal The Bay to dive the Santa Monica pier as part of the cleanup. LABUE invites divers and non-divers to join us for the Coastal Cleanup Day activities on September 15th and the *White Wash* documentary film screening on September 16th. Contact Joe Windolph (joseph.windolph@gmail.com) for additional details.



DIVER NEWS

Renewing Members

- Randy Tillery
- James Wiley
- George & Bettye Linares
- Mike Dillard
- Ivan Solovieff

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



SAVE THE DATE FOR LABUE DIVE/CAMP WEEKEND-OCT 5-7

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 9

Hey there LABUE, The Dive/Camp weekend is October 5-7, 2012 at Sycamore Canyon Campgrounds at Point Mugu State Park in Malibu. It has miles of ocean shoreline, sandy beaches and rugged hills. There is also more than 70 miles of hiking trails. In addition to the unique ocean and hiking opportunities, the scheduled Fall dates allow us to experience the annual Monarch butterfly migration. We'll dive Saturday morning, potluck in the afternoon and camp Saturday night. If you can't come for the weekend, just come for the day.

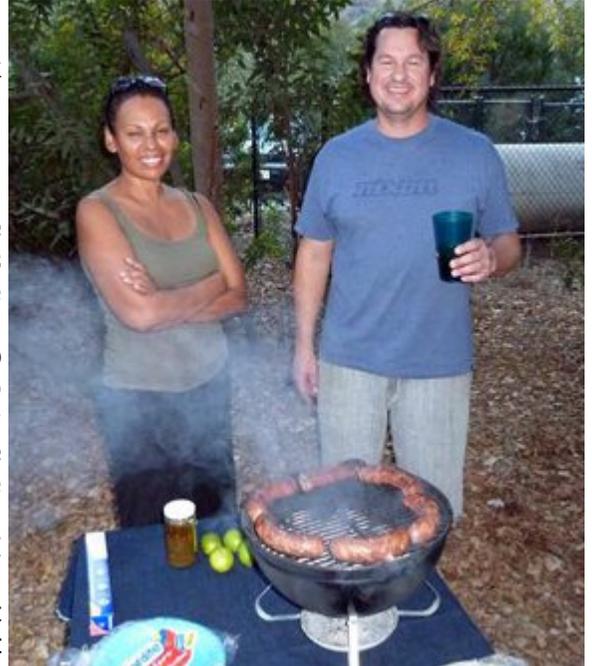
Check-in is after 2pm on Friday (if you choose to start that day) and checkout is 12pm Sunday. Please note that the gates to the park close at 10 p.m. and open at 8 a.m. daily. Directions: The park entrance is located 15 miles south of Oxnard or 35 miles north of Santa Monica on the inland side of Pacific Coast Highway (Highway One).

The cost of LABUE's Dive/Camp Weekend is just \$15.00 per person if you arrive Saturday morning and depart Sunday afternoon. The cost will be \$30.00 per person if you arrive on Friday. Parking is available at \$12.00 per day of which you would pay upon entering the campgrounds; Each campsite can accommodate 3 vehicles. After all parking spaces have been filled, additional vehicles will be able to park in the campground overflow 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. The 4 campsites reserved will accommodate 32 campers and 12 vehicles. Restrooms are close by and showers are token operated. Each site has a picnic table and fire ring.

If you want to join us and don't have camping equipment, LABUE has a limited number of tents and chairs available to rent. Easy-to-set-up, 2-person tents plus 2 camp chairs are available for just \$15.00 for the weekend. Contact Richard Rice at ricere2004@yahoo.com.

To better organize our diving and camping activities, we ask that you **sign up** as soon as possible by sending your money in to LABUE and/or contacting Randy Tillery or Richard Rice letting us know that you'll be in attendance. Regardless of whether you come for the diving, the camping, the beach, or the camaraderie, this will be a fun and relaxing weekend for you and your family.

For more information contact Randy Tillery at (rtillery@gmail.com). To reserve a spot, contact Richard Rice, Debora Ewing, or Randy Tillery.



Palau & Truk Lagoon 2014 Trip Announcement

By Tina Houston

The LABUE Trip Planning Committee and the LABUE Board have selected Koror Palau and Truk Lagoon, Chuuk (South Pacific Micronesia), as the destinations for LABUE's 2014 warm water dive vacation Sept/Oct 2014. Palau is an world-renowned dive destination for those seeking adventure and big animal encounters. Diving in Micronesia brings you face to face with the awe-inspiring soft coral reefs. Scuba diving in Palau is full of excitement for new scuba divers and seasoned scuba divers alike. Grey reef sharks and white-tip reef sharks are the most common sharks found on the reefs in Palau, but scuba divers also have the chance to spot hammerheads and silvertip sharks, which are often found cruising the waters. The most famous of all dive sites in Palau is Blue Corner, where scuba divers ride the current to the wall crest and attach themselves to the rocky ledges using reef hooks. The reef hooks allow divers to remain stationary as they marvel at the large school of grey reef/ black tip reef sharks swimming effortlessly against the Truk current right before their eyes. Lagoon is diving into history! The turning battle of the Pacific War dealt a devastating blow to the Imperial fleet sinking over 45 ships, including armed cargo ships, huge tankers, small destroyers and a submarine. Several planes were also sent to their final resting place on the tranquil ocean floor of Truk Lagoon. These WWII wrecks were scattered across 77 square miles. Here, it offers some of the finest historical wreck diving in the world. During WWII, Japanese forces took advantage of the lagoon's sheltered location to use it as the front anchorage point for their naval forces. To dive Truk is to encounter first hand a diver's paradise. Jacques Cousteau used Truk Lagoon to introduce the world beneath the waves: the eerie virtually intact shipwrecks are known as the Ghost Fleet of Truk Lagoon.

An official flyer and registration information will be out later this year...

CHECK OUT THE LABUE STORE



Look great on the boat or beach with official LABUE apparel including T-shirts, Polo Shirts, and Baseball Caps.

T-shirts and Baseball Caps are in stock and are available in most sizes at \$20 each. Check out the LABUE Store at www.labue.org to place your order, or you may purchase items at the monthly membership meeting.

NEWSLETTER ADS

LABUE is offering newsletter ads for nominal prices. The price structure is as follows:

- \$15 for a quarter page ad (per month);
- \$20 for a half page ad (per month);
- \$30 for a full page ad (per month).

If you're interested in purchasing an ad, please contact Debora Ewing at (310) 284-4556.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Reminder: Please e-mail your photos for the "Photo of the Month" contest. You just may see your photo on the cover of an upcoming edition of the LABUE News! Please e-mail photos for consideration to dewing@proskauer.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2012

- September 11, 2012 -- General Meeting - 7:00 PM
- September 15, 2012 -- Beach Dive - Santa Monica Pier
- September 25, 2012 -- Board Meeting
- October 5-7, 2012 -- Dive and Camp Weekend - Pt. Mugu
- October 9, 2012 -- General Meeting - 7:00 PM
- October 23, 2012 -- Board Meeting

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

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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

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Membership
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(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
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Program Committee
Keenon Adamson

Technical Dive Committee
Open

Youth Committee
Joe Windolph
(818) 209-2504

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

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

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.



X Parking Lot 3

X Entrance at South West corner. Look for 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

Web Site: www.labue.org



LABUE HEADS TO MABUL MALAYSIA Sept. 14th - Sept. 21st, 2013

The LABUE Trip Planning Committee and the LABUE Board have selected Mabul Malaysia, as the destination for LABUE's 2013 warm water dive vacation in September 14 - 21, 2013. LABUE will be staying at the exhilarating Sipidan-Kapalai Dive Resort, only a few minutes by boat, but a full world away from the islands of Sipidan and Mabul. Surrounded completely by crystal



clear waters teeming with marine life sitting on its sturdy stilts on the shallow sandbanks of the Ligitan Reefs. Planned and built in full style as an airy, comfortable, sunny water village with no land in sight, it boasts a mile-long sandbank of powdery white sand where one can sunbathe at complete leisure while gazing out to the miles of brilliant turquoise stretching into the horizon offering the purest image of natural serenity. Dive spots are extremely close and can be reached in just a few minutes by speedboat and some of them, actually, just by swimming from the dive center pier. For those who are ready to explore more than the tiny marvels of Kapalai's macro life, can, in just a few

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For registration, deposit information or questions, please contact
Tina Houston at Dyvingluvly@sbcglobal.net

2013 TRIP ANNOUNCEMENT

DEPOSITS will be accepted STARTING August 10, 2012

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: _____