

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

AUGUST 2004

“1999 NABS Club of the Year”

Volume 9 Issue 8



THE GOOD TIMES ROLLED!

Everybody who was ‘somebody’ showed up dressed to kill! Cotton Club singers and show-girls, hip cats, a Harlem pimp, “numbers” runners, flappers, bootleggers, and a few people from modern day Los Angeles were on hand to soak up the atmosphere in LABUE’s version of a 1930’s juke joint. The aroma of soul food in the kitchen and the sounds of soul music on the juke box filled the air as the joint filled to capacity from the fruits of over 100 tickets sold resulting in another great success story in a long line of club fund raisers.

Everyone raved over the “nightclub” that the decorating committee worked six hours to create which centered on an incredible, life-size, juke joint stage-scene mural painted by LABUE’s own in-house artist/diver, Carlos Spivey. The caterer did an excellent job with plates so large and seven-course servings so generous that return trips to the kitchen were unnecessary. And LABUE owes a debt of gratitude to the singers who showcased their talents and put on a show well worth the price of admission. Door prizes, raffle prizes, LABUE Bingo, cards and dominoes filled the gaps and kept the evening flowing smoothly until the dance floor closed down at just a little past midnight and the last guests reluctantly slipped out the back door and past through the weeds on their way home.

From the Fish Fry to the Luau to the Jamaica Fest to the Juke Joint, L.A.B.U.E. spells fun any time, any place, any era. It doesn’t matter who or what you are. When LABUE gets ready to party the word goes out...And, like the song says..“Hey everybody! let’s have some fun. You only live once and when you’re dead you’re done so LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL”.



President’s Message

LABUE has done it again!!! Each time I think we have done as well as can be done, we outdo ourselves! This time it was the Juke Joint, where you had to go ‘round back, pass the weeds, to the back door to get in. Catered by Chef Marilyn’s and with Bill Clinton, Anita Hill and Opulence providing the entertainment, the ‘joint rocked. Daphne King, chairperson of the event, did a fantastic job and spent tireless hours making sure that no detail was left unturned. She was very ably supported by Sharlene Johnson, Steve Scruggs, Donna Wilson, Debora Ewing, Darryl Gross, Denise Barker, Richard Rice, Bettye Linares, Johnnie Davis, Melvin Davis, Doris Barber, Pam McField and of course, Carlos Spivey. Speaking of Carlos, his vivid 9’ X 12’ mural depicting a juke joint scene was the hit of the evening and the photographic centerpiece of the event.

What a talent! A tenured professor at Loyola Marymount University, and having BA and MA degrees from UCLA, Carlos is a man of many talents. However, his real talent is as an artist. He donated the time it required to paint this very spectacular mural.

Thanks Carlos! LABUE has a lot of unknown talent. When it all comes together, we are tough to beat. I want to thank everyone who contributed to making the Juke Joint such a success. For those who missed it, you really missed out!!!

Bob Simmons



Beach Dive

The next club beach dive is scheduled for Sunday, August 1 at Deer Creek in Malibu. George Linares will give the dive briefing at 8:00am. The Beach Dive 'regulars' always have a great time when they get together and dive (and then have lunch, of course). LABUE was originally founded based on regular beach dives. Although the club has expanded its breadth of activities, the beach dives remain an important, and impressive, part of the program. These dives also represent an economical opportunity to practice dive skills and to learn from some of the club's best divers. If you have not participated in one of the club beach dives, you don't know what you are missing. Contact George or Bettye Linares at (661) 547-4010 to sign up. Although these dives are free, Bettye and George need to know whom to contact if the conditions force the group to relocate to another location.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Robert Simmons (323) 292-8960	Vice President Donna Wilson (310) 337-1541
Treasurer Richard Rice (323) 299-3798	Secretary Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190
Denise Barker (562) 423-4974	George Linares (661) 941-1516
Steve Scruggs (310) 876-1260	

COMMITTEES

Membership Bettye Linares (661) 946-1516	Fundraising James Wiley (310) 477-2389
Beach Dive Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190	Boat Dive Steve Scruggs (310) 876-1260
Dive Training & Safety George Linares (661) 946-1516	Publicity & Internet Donna Wilson (310) 337-1541
Technical Diving Quinal Johnson	
Phone: (323) 292-8960 Fax: (310) 337-1542 Email: info@labue.org Web Site: www.labue.org	

CLUB CHARTER BOAT DIVE by Steve Scruggs

This year LABUE has sponsored a half charter on the Bottom Scratcher and two full charters on the Island Time and the Sea Bass which are small boats. Now it's time for the Great Escape with room to stretch out and bunks that sleep thirty-four divers. We'll have a full galley serving great meals, a TV monitor with LABUE videos, hot showers and three great dives at Catalina that will appeal to all skill levels for one low price that includes food and air (bring tanks/weights). We even put it on a date that will live in infamy so you won't forget, September 11th, so mark your calendar today. You're a new diver and you're a little nervous about diving with strangers? It's LABUE's boat. You've never been on a dive boat before and you're not sure you'll know what to do and how to act? It's LABUE's boat. You just got certified and you're afraid no one will want to dive with a new diver? It's LABUE's boat!!!! This boat is chartered for LABUE members to address the concerns of the membership and to guarantee every member is comfortable and has a good time. THESE are the benefits you joined LABUE for. THIS is the dive boat you want to be on. Details will follow in the next newsletter but call me if you have questions at 310-334-0567 or 323-815-0099.

Dive & Camp Weekend

LABUE will host its first **DIVE & CAMP WEEKEND** – October 15, 16, 17 at Refugio State Park & Beach (near Santa Barbara). Refugio is a beautiful beach with excellent picnic grounds and restrooms with shower facilities. There's an itinerary planned for the entire weekend that will appeal to divers and non-divers alike. Beach diving is currently planned for Saturday and Sunday mornings. Emphasis on this adventure is on 'dive & camp'. Therefore, there will also be a 'Pitch-A-Tent' seminar to take place on Saturday, August 28, 2004 (10:00am) at the Del Aire Park in Hawthorne. Here you can ask 'Mr. Campman' – Quinal Johnson, all your questions about camping – equipment needed, the costs involved for this weekend, as well as what's on the menu. Mr Campman will discuss how to camp *easy* and have fun at the same time. Buddies who are not campers are absolutely welcome. These participants will need to make separate housing arrangements at one of several facilities located in the vicinity. Flyers with details will be distributed at the upcoming club meeting. There is a \$35.00 per person registration fee. LABUE BUCKS may be used for this event. Registrations should be submitted to Bettye Linares by Sept. 8. 'First-timers', fear not - this planned weekend will 'not' be like 'boot-camp'! *Try something different for a change.* Life is short – enjoy it! Contact Bettye for additional information (661) 941-1516.

Next Meeting

The next LABUE club meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 10 at the Natural Museum of History, 900 W. Exposition Blvd in Los Angeles, across of USC. This month's program will be centered around a multi-media slide and video presentation featuring photographs of club activities from the past couple of years. Debora Ewing, Steve Scruggs and Richard Rice have been going the club archives to put together a highlight of recent activities. The club has done so much. It is fun to look back. Plan now to attend what will be a very entertaining and informative meeting. The meeting will begin at 7:00pm.

Club Elections

Every two years LABUE has its elections of Board members and Officers. James Wiley will again be chairman of the Nominating Committee. Nomination Forms will be distributed at the August General Membership Meeting. Anyone desiring to run for an office should submit the nomination form to James by September 30, 2004. The applicants will be reviewed for eligibility (see Bylaws on line) and the qualifying candidates shall be announced at the October General Membership Meeting. The elections will take place at the November General Membership Meeting. Nominations will not be accepted from the floor. For further information, contact James at (310) 477-2389.

Calendar of Events

AUGUST

- 01 Beach Dive—Deer Creek (Malibu)
- 01 Festival at Sea – Hawaiian Islands
- 10 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 24 06:30 PM – Board Meeting

SEPTEMBER

- 14 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 11 Club Charter—Great Escape Boat Dive
- 28 6:30 PM – Board Meeting
- 30 Club Trip to Fiji

OCTOBER

- 12 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 15 Beach Dive—Refugio Santa Barbara Campout Dive
- 26 6:30 PM – Board Meeting

NOVEMBER

- 06 Beach Dive—Shaw’s Cove
- 09 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 23 6:30 PM – Board Meeting

DECEMBER

- 05 Beach Dive—Redondo
- 11 Holiday Gala & Awards Banquet
- 14 7:00 PM – General Meeting

California’s Oil Rig Diving by Debora Ewing

On July 10 LABUE held the first dive planned by the Ad/Spec/Tech Committee aboard the Sea Bass boat which is located at the 22nd Street Landing in San Pedro. The participating LABUE divers were XL Washington, George Linares, Steve Scruggs, Carlos Spivey, Darryl Gross, Sharlene Johnson, Richard Rice, Charles Heath and myself. This was truly an adventurous dive for the advanced diver. After a detailed safety briefing from the boat’s crew, the divers jumped into the water for a short surface swim to the rig. Although each of the three oil rigs that we dove contained an abundance of life, the ocean’s floor lay several hundred feet beneath us. Good buoyancy control was a must. Due to the strong currents and potential depths, divers had to pay attention to where they were in the water during the entire dive. This site was a photographer’s paradise! There were many seals in the area and sheephead, garibaldi, and huge schools of fish swarmed the reef. The entire structures are covered with sea creatures including gigantic scallops. Mussels and various species of star fish were also in abundance. The Ad/Spec/Tech Committee, chaired by Quinal Johnson, was created to offer dives which appeal to LABUE’s more advanced divers and which require a higher skill level to perform. This committee’s work is an example of LABUE continuing to provide something for everyone. More dives of this nature are being planned. Don’t miss the next one!

JOOK JOINT



Tortola

LABUE's annual club trip for 2005 will be held on the island of Tortola in the fabulous British Virgin Islands. The BVI's consist of 60+ islands, islets and cays of virtually untouched splendor. Experience world class warm water diving at a reasonable rate. The reefs surrounding these islands are simply fantastic and a joy to dive. The highlight of the trip will be diving the wreck of the Rhone, the most famous, most photographed and most frequently dived shipwreck in the world! (Remember "The Deep"?). The Prospect Reef Resort will be the headquarters for 8 days and 7 nights. This Resort is a first rate facility with all the amenities including tennis, swimming pool, fitness center, Jacuzzi and refrigerators or mini-bars. St Thomas with its world famous shopping and beaches is just a 30 minute ferry ride away. Pending air confirmation, the probable dates will be April 20-28 of 2005. Once air fares are available, the total price will be announced and the trip will be opened for signups.

Carlos Spivey

Carlos Spivey has been a Tenured track Professor at Loyola Marymount University since 1998. A renaissance man in the true sense of the word. Carlos has achieved national and international recognition as an animator, artist, dancer, stunt man and educator.

He has worked both commercially (full time for Disney Television) and independently as an animator.

As an undergraduate student he attended UCLA on a full athletic gymnastics scholarship, and completed both his undergraduate and graduate degrees there.

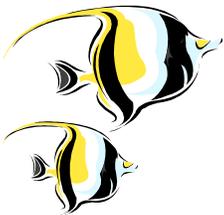
Carlos has done everything from choreography for Debbie Allen to stunt work



in major Hollywood films, creating his own greeting card line (Sky Dancers). He has completed several animated films. His first film, "Mama Seed Tree" won a Focus Award in 1990 and has been shown in film festivals around the world.

In 1995 he implemented the Animation In The Community Program. Carlos recently received his second Cultural Affairs Grant for an animated project called "The World is a Drum".

**Los Angeles Black
Underwater Explorers
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<u>Reminders:</u>	<p>** General Membership Meeting—8/10/2004</p> <p>** Club Charter Boat Dive—9/11/2004</p> <p>** Group Beach Dive—8/1/2004</p>
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