

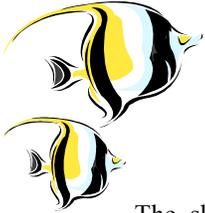
# LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

DECEMBER 2004

"1999 NABS Club of the Year"

Volume 9 Issue 12



## AD/SPEC/TECH!!!

The skill and experience levels of the members of our club vary widely. After nine years, many of the club's long term divers have seen their skills improve tremendously. At the same time, LABUE continues to attract new divers whom are in the relatively early stages of dive skills development. The problem is to make LABUE attractive to both types of divers and to offer both types of divers an opportunity to make the types of dives consistent with their skill level, training and desires. Under the direction of Chairman Quinal Johnson and Co-chairs XL Washington and Mike Dillard, the Adventure/Specialty/Technical Committee (ie... Ad/Spec/Tech) is working to schedule dives which require higher skill levels and experience. The level of skill and experience required will be determined by the particular dive being planned. Some dives will be deeper, some will penetrate wrecks, some will require the use of mixed gases, some will be in strong currents, etc. In general, these types of dives require additional training and significant experience. The Board is preparing an amendment to the club Bylaws which will rename the former Technical Committee to the Ad/Spec/Tech Committee, reflecting on the broader types of dives being planned. This committee will be offering several training classes over the next year designed to help divers improve their skill levels. In time, LABUE may schedule trips to particular destinations in which all participants will be required to possess certain levels of very advanced experience. The classes being planned are designed to help in this process. As the classes are offered, consider enrolling so that when the time arrives, you will be qualified to participate. More information will be available soon. However, the key to becoming a top notch diver and joining a very select group will be training **and** experience. Contact Quinal for more information.



### President's Message

Once again, we have reached the end of another very successful year. It seems like it was only yesterday that the Board was planning the activities for 2004. LABUE can boast of having had a number of successful activities, highlighted by our Juke Joint last July, Fiji in September and the increasing participation in our expanding boat and beach dive program. Many of you can remember when we averaged 3-5 members for a beach dive. This year we seemed to average from 10-15 divers, winter or summer. 2004 also saw the largest number of boat dives ever scheduled by LABUE, including a couple of sold out charters. We completed our first full year at our new meeting location, the Natural History Museum. We also joined the electronic world by distributing our club newsletter via e-mail. Our club apparel line has been expanded. We have also seen the largest number of members to ever

step forward to help in a variety of areas. Importantly, we will end the year with the our treasury being at about the same level as it was at the start of the year. All in all we should consider ourselves very blessed to be a part of such a dynamic organization.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank all of you for your support in making 2004 such a good year. Enjoy the Holiday Season. Have fun but remember to be safe. Happy Holidays from all the Board!!!



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

**The Benefits of Beach Diving** by Debora Ewing

Participating in the monthly beach dives offered by LABUE not only gets a diver in better shape for diving but also serves to keep diving skills sharp. Once a diver has mastered the technique of California surf entries and exits he/she will feel that diving most warm water destinations is "a piece of cake". On some of our warm water dive vacations, some members are disappointed at times because most divers who have invested significant sums are not willing to spend too much time training others. Members are expected to be competent divers on our club warm water trips. Our beach dives are different. At these dives one can be assured that experienced divers will be on hand to answer questions or assist the new divers. For all divers who might welcome an opportunity to dive with someone having more experience, the beach dive program is a perfect opportunity. Don't wait for a warm water trip to develop and practice your dive skills. I welcome all LABUE divers to take advantage of our monthly planned beach dives which usually happen on the first Saturday or Sunday of the month. Scheduled dives are located in the calendar section of our monthly newsletter. If you're interested in participating on any given dive, please contact me at (213) 229-5190 to sign up. The 2005 Beach Dive Committee members are as follows: Bettye and George Linares, Quinal Johnson, Johnnie Davis, Sharlene Johnson, Pam McField, Darryl Gross and myself. We look forward to seeing you at the next beach dive. The entire Beach Dive Committee wishes you a safe and happy Holiday Season!!!

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Beach Dive Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190	Boat Dive Steve Scruggs (310) 876-1260
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Ad/Spec/Tech Quinal Johnson (323) 292-8960	
Fax: Email:	(310) 337-1542 info@labue.org

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

**Next Meeting**

Although we will not be having our regular Holiday Gala this year, everyone is welcome to come join your fellow members and friends for a special evening filled with memories of the years past, hopes for the years ahead and plenty of holiday cheer for the days upon us. Wear something from your past dive trips while savoring food and spices from around the world as we exchange gifts and share good tidings and pictures at our next club meeting to be held on Tuesday December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Museum of Natural History on Exposition Blvd across from the USC campus. All members are encouraged to participate in the gift exchange by bringing a Holiday Stocking filled with dive related items to be exchanged with your fellow divers (See Holiday Gift Exchange on Page Three). There will be plenty of refreshments, Christmas music and good cheer to go around. Wear that wrap you picked up in Fiji or that t-shirt you bought in Cozumel but most importantly, wear a smile and have fun. Happy Holidays!

**Tortola in 2005**

The Board of Directors voted to have the club dive trip for 2005 on the island of Tortola a spectacular dive setting in the beautiful British Virgin Islands.

The club will be housed at the Prospect Reef Hotel, a water front resort located near the main town.

The BVI's have long been regarded as one of the most alluring and attractive dive sites in the world. The reefs are vivid, there is a wide variety of fish life and, of course, the Wreck of the Rhone, probably the most famous dive wreck in the world is located in these waters.

Join us from \$1625 for Divers and \$1250 for non-divers, double occupancy depending on room option selected

LABUE trips are always fun and very popular. Tortola will continue the tradition.

**Wreck Dive** by Steve Scruggs

Are you spoiled and tired of all the world-class diving we have right here in our own backyard at Catalina Island and ready for something new and more challenging? Well, the Ad/Spec/Tech and Boat Dive Committees have teamed up to give you exactly what you've asked for. On May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 2005, LABUE is planning a weekend trip to dive the wreck of the Yukon in San Diego.

The Yukon was intentionally sunk a few years ago and is located about 15 minutes from shore. The unpredictable conditions make this a very interesting wreck dive and definitely an adventure. Because of its popularity, we need all interested parties to step forward and put down a \$40 nonrefundable deposit toward the \$70 total cost of the dive so that we can secure the boat for that date. This dive will be a great opportunity to begin to expand your horizons in the Southern California dive community in addition to a great weekend in San Diego with friends.

Details are forthcoming but your commitment is needed now. Call me at 310-334-0567 or 323-815-0099 if you have any questions. The entire Boat Dive Committee wishes all of our fellow divers a happy and prosperous 2005!!!

**Dry Suit Class**

A Dry Suit Class will be scheduled by the Ad/Spec/Tech Committee. This class is for those interested in participating in more adventure-type dives. The class will cover the knowledge and techniques of dry suit diving with emphasis placed on operating principles, care and diving fundamentals when using a dry suit. The fee of either \$235 (beach) or \$295 (boat) will include use of a Diving Concepts dry suit in all dive sessions.

The class includes one confined water and two open water dives. Among other requirements, divers must have at least 35 dives and have an Advanced Diver Certification. Basic scuba gear and a slate and whistle will be required.

At least four club members must sign up ASAP (event to be scheduled in early 2005) in order for the class to happen. Those members interested should contact Quinal Johnson, Dive Master, at (562) 929-4977 or (562)754-2589 for additional information.

**Holiday Gift Exchange**

Back by popular demand, the Holiday Gift Exchange will again take place at the special December 14 club meeting. The idea is easy...simply purchase a dive related item(s) in the \$15-20 range, stuff them in a stocking and bring it to the meeting. Santa Bettye Linares has worked out a fun process for exchanging stockings among members.

While participation is not mandatory, everyone planning to attend the meeting is encouraged to join in the fun. Imagine the excitement shared with buddies when you've just received something you've always wanted - plus you get to decorate your home or office using your holiday 'gift' stocking. Plan to shop at either Pacific Wilderness or Reef Seekers Dive Co, the two dive shop sponsors of our club, for that special item your buddy would appreciate receiving. What better way to celebrate this year's end - than to share something special with your buddies

**Board Elections**

LABUE recently held its bi-annual Election of Officers and Board Members.

Sharlene Johnson was newly elected as an At-Large member of the Board and will take the place of Denise Barker who did not run for a third term. She will join Steve Scruggs and George Linares who were re-elected to their At-Large positions.

Bob Simmons (President), Donna Wilson (Vice President), Richard Rice (Treasurer) and Debora Ewing (Secretary) were all re-elected to their Officer positions.

Congratulations to these individuals...and Good Luck!!!

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**Club Member and Club Sponsor**

Congratulations to *Denise Barker* for winning the spa basket donated by *Pamper Your Body*.

Have a happy holiday and don't forget to register at [www.beonthego.com](http://www.beonthego.com) by December 29th for a chance to win air fare from LAX to Las Vegas.

*Happy Holidays To All!!!*

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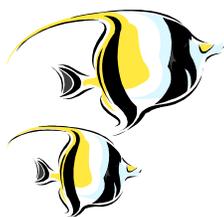
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**Reminders:**

- \*\* **General Membership Meeting—12/14/2004**
- \*\* **Dry Suit Class—TBA**
- \*\* **Wreck of The Yukon—5/14-15/2005**