

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

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COZUMEL TRIP NOW OPEN

Reservations are now being accepted for LABUE'S 2010 club trip to the world famous dive destination of Cozumel, Mexico on the Yucatan Peninsula. LABUE will be returning to Cozumel from April 21-28, 2010. It has been 10 years since the club last visited the island. It was a spectacular week with world class diving and first class socializing as only LABUE can do it. Cozumel is considered one of the top dive sites in the world and legitimately boasts of its many outstanding dive opportunities. Members will be offered lodging between the recently renovated Fiesta Americana Hotel and the all inclusive Cozumel Palace. The pricing options for the trip, including single supplement rates are included in the informational newsletter recently sent to all club members. Because our group travels from various parts of the country, airfare is not included in either option. At this time air rates are very low and it is suggested that anyone planning to participate should confirm his/her rates ASAP. Many in the club have already purchased round trip fares for \$422.50. These low fares will certainly change as the travel dates are approached. Cozumel offers spectacular diving and weather during April and the club anticipates another fantastic trip. This dive mecca is very popular this time of year and rooms are currently available on a first come first served basis.

As always, a \$400 non-refundable deposit will secure a reservation. The deposit may be mailed to LABUE, PO Box 90069, LA, 90009 or personally delivered to the home of Bob Simmons, 3978 S. Cloverdale Ave, LA, 90008. Diving with a large number of fellow club members and friends is a special opportunity. Cozumel represents an opportunity to combine first class diving with first class camaraderie. Whenever LABUE members get together it is always something special. Don't miss out...



President's Message by Bob Simmons

At this time of the year, time always seems to pass so quickly. Where did 2009 go? Despite the country's very real economic woes, so far we have all made it through and should be thankful.

For me, 2009 has been special in that it is my last year serving you as President of this great organization. Although I will continue as a Board member, I will no longer be responsible for the day to day decision making for our club. I have been President since 1996 and have been blessed to work with very talented people on the various Boards during that time. However, no matter how talented the Board members have been, it is the club members whom have made LABUE everything it is today. I have always felt that I had the support of the membership in most everything we have been involved in and I am sure that support will continue with Richard Rice as President. In order for any organization to survive, change must occur and new leadership must be identified and given a chance to develop,

preferably in an orderly manner. By stepping down now, our transition process to this new leadership can begin in a non stressed environment. Of all of our activities, the times I have always enjoyed most were the many club trips we have had since 1996. I am glad that we will be going back to Cozumel next Spring as it is both affordable and fun for divers and non divers alike. I look forward to seeing all of you there. In closing my last article as President, I consider it an honor to have been able to serve you for such a long period of time. Thanks to everyone for your support. I look forward to many more years of friendships and good times with you all!!!



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

Beach Dive by Debora Ewing

Shaw's Cove (Laguna). On Sunday, January 3, 2010, LABUE's first dive of the year will take place. Debora Ewing will give the dive briefing at 9:00 a.m. Lately, the conditions at this site have been excellent. Beach diving has always been very popular among club members. It is affordable and the social aspects cannot be beat. This site is great for all skill levels with its sandy beach entry and underwater rocky reef. If you plan to join the group, make sure you let me know so that if the dive is cancelled for any reason I know to contact you. My phone number is (909) 240-7022.

I look forward to seeing you on this dive.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Robert Simmons (323) 292-8960	Vice President Francois Desamours (310) 412-8128
Treasurer Richard Rice (323) 299-3798	Secretary Debora Ewing (310) 284-4556
Sharlene Johnson (310) 915-3931	DonCosta Seawell (909) 593-1877

COMMITTEES

Membership Bettye Linares (661) 729-6626	Ways & Means Debora Ewing (310) 284-4556
Beach Dive Debora Ewing (310) 284-4556	Boat Dive DonCosta Seawell (909) 593-1877
Dive Training & Safety Vacant	Publicity & Internet Francois Desamours (310) 412-8128

Ad/Spec/Tech
Vacant

Phone: (323) 292-8960
 Fax: (310) 337-1542
 Email: info@labue.org
 Web Site: www.labue.org

Christmas Social...Steal A Gift

The regularly scheduled club meeting in December will have a dramatically different format than normal. The entire business portion of the meeting will be eliminated and a holiday celebration and social event will take its place. As we do every Christmas, the December meeting is devoted to enjoying each other and kicking off the Holiday Season. For the third straight year, we will have a **Steal-A-Gift** Christmas sharing activity. For those who have never played the game, participants bring a new, wrapped gift to place under our Christmas tree. Each person, one by one, selects a gift, and opens it for all to see. Proceeding around the table, the next person has the option of opening another gift or 'stealing' a gift previously opened. As more gifts are opened, individuals can select or 'steal' a gift from anyone in the room. Just because you may luck out and initially pick the 'mini stereo speakers' or a 'gift certificate' to a good restaurant does not mean you will end up keeping it. The results are always hilarious and everyone has a good time. To keep things relatively even, we suggest that gifts be in the \$20-\$35 price range. The meeting will be held on December 8 at the Museum of Natural History beginning at 7PM. There are always extra special refreshments served, including peach cobbler pie so be sure to come hungry. The game will be fun, the food good and the camaraderie will be special as always. Plan now to join us for the special Holiday kick off event...

New Officers

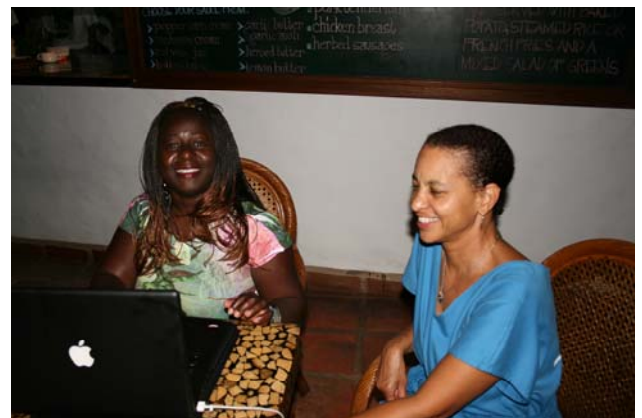
Congratulations to the individuals recently elected Board Members at the special election held in November. This election was held to replace the November 2008 elections which were postponed. The Board members were elected as follows: President, Richard Rice; Vice President, Tina Houston; Secretary, Debora Ewing; Board Members at large, Sharlene Johnson, DonCosta Seawell and Bob Simmons. Richard Rice will continue to perform the duties of Treasurer for the immediate future. The term for this Board will expire on December 31, 2009.



Clifton and Rhonda Birthdays
Philippines 2009



DonCosta and Charles
Philippines 2009



Rosa and Dangil spin the tunes
Philippines 2009

SPOTLIGHT

By Debora Ewing

INTERVIEW OF CHERYL TILLERY

1. Where were you born? **In a Naval Hospital in San Diego, California**
2. Where do you live now? **Redondo Beach, California**
3. What influenced you to get into diving? **The adventure in me, and my husband Randy**
4. When you're not diving, what do you like to do? **I enjoy watching the LAKERS, dancing, reading, camping, jogging and thanks to Don Costa –now Roller Skating.**
5. What is your favorite food? **Barbeque Baby Back Ribs-yummy**
6. What would you like to see LABUE do more of? **I'd like to see more outreach to non-divers. I guess I could help too.**
7. If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be? **I'll answer this question after I do question #8.....lol**
8. If you could do anything you wanted, whenever you wanted to, what would you do? **I'd purchase an airplane similar to "Airforce One", hire a full-time pilot (while I take pilot lessons), have the pilot fly my husband, family and me to various parts of the world to visit monumental sites and fabulous countries. First stop – Cairo, Egypt (for my mom).**
9. What famous person do people tell you that you favor most?
Uh, I've never been told I favor anyone famous.....I get stuff like "you look exactly like my cousin in Chicago".ugh
10. Tell me something that LABUE's membership would be surprised to know about you? **When I turned 45 years old, I received my M-1 license to ride a motorcycle (legally). Yipppeeee fun stuff.**



Cheryl Tillery (on the left)

MERRY CHRISTMAS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

FROM LABUE

- Reminders:**
- ** *Christmas Holiday Social—12/08/09*
 - ** *Shaws Cove Beach Dive—01/03/10*
 - ** *Cozumel—4/21-28/2010*