

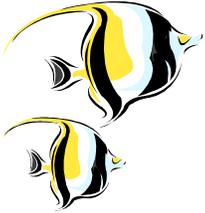
# LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

JANUARY 2005

"1999 NABS Club of the Year"

Volume 10 Issue 1



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME



The start of 2005 means different things to many people. For some, it is the time to set those New Year's Resolutions. For some, it is the time to review the progress made in 2004. For some, it is the time to plan the future. For LABUE members, it is the time to renew your membership.

Bettye Linares, Chairperson of the Membership Committee, reminds all club buddies that membership renewal period starts this month. The basic dues structure remains the same: \$30 individual, \$45 family, \$300 Lifetime. She also reminds all members that those renewing prior to April 1, 2005 will receive \$10 in LABUE BUCKS, the official club currency. These 'bucks' can be used for many club activities, including Boat Dives, as well as for club apparel and other items as may be identified by the Board. In addition, members renewing prior to April 1 remain in good standing and are eligible for club price discounts on boat dives and other activities.

Although not excessive, LABUE does require funds to continue to operate successfully. The club's current major expense is the \$90 monthly fee which covers security and cleanup at our meeting location in the Museum Of Natural History. Additional significant expenses include printing costs, website maintenance fees and subsidies for boat dives and other club programs. The combination of club fund raisers, membership dues and the sale of Business Sponsor Packages combine to give the club the operating revenue needed.

The \$30 to renew may not seem like much; but it is critical to the club's success. Many members receive LABUE Bucks and discounts on club activities which total far more than the \$30 dues fee. For these members, membership is essentially free. Right now is the time to renew...while the subject is fresh on your mind. Mail your check along with a completed application to LABUE, 10736 Jefferson Blvd, #428, Culver City, 90230. Thank you for your continued support.

### President's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! 2005 has arrived and I am looking forward to enjoying another year of sharing fun activities with my LABUE buddies. Last year was a fantastic year for our club, highlighted by both our summer Jook Joint and our fall dive trip to Fiji. In between we had time to get involved in several beach and boat dives, conduct a Discover Scuba Class, participate in both the Catalina Cleanup program and Chamber Night which raised funds for the Catalina Chamber, and to enjoy an outstanding lineup of speakers at our monthly general membership meetings. As the new year begins, your Board is working hard to improve the club in every way possible. Consistent with the spirit of the club survey conducted a few years ago, we remain very open to all positive suggestions.

Last year saw a significant in-

crease in the number of members volunteering to help make our club even more effective. I hope to continue in this vein. Don't be surprised if you are asked to help out in some way during the coming year. LABUE is only as good as its members and their willingness to share their time and expertise.

I hope each and every one of you have a great 2005, both in and out of the water. Be safe, be productive, make a difference and stick to those resolutions! Once again, HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Bob Simmons



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

## Beach Dives

Our next LABUE Beach Dive is scheduled for Sunday, February 6, 2005 at Malaga Cove which is located in beautiful Palos Verdes. Lamont Johnson will give the dive briefing at 8:30 a.m. Malaga Cove features a rocky beach entry/exit with lots of eel grass for sea creatures such as lobsters to hide in. This is a very shallow dive site which makes it great for practicing skills such as navigation. The parking is free. Keep in mind that there are no facilities located at this site. As always, immediately following the dive we will have lunch at a local restaurant. Please call or e-mail me to sign up for this dive at (213) 229-5190. The Beach Dive Committee looks forward to seeing you there!

Debora Ewing

## Catalina Clean Up

LABUE will once again be participating in the Catalina CleanUp. This annual event, created to help support the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber, is also designed to give divers a chance to improve the environment at Catalina Island by making dives to retrieve trash and other debris which has been dumped into the harbor. It is the only opportunity for divers to actually dive in Catalina Harbor...normally off limits because of the anchored boats. The date is February 19, 2005. The cost is \$30 if paid prior to January 31 or \$40 if paid on the day of the dive. All profits from the cleanup go directly to the support of the Chamber. The Registration fee includes a t-shirt, door prize ticket, discount coupons for various Catalina merchants and a coupon for discount travel to the event on Catalina Express. LABUE is also a sponsor for anyone wishing to make a donation to the chamber. All members contributing at least a \$10 donation will be awarded a special Safety Pin from Quinal Johnson, club coordinator for LABUE participation. Participants should check in at the dive location between 8 and 10am. Divers usually take the Catalina Express over to the island, make one or two cleanup dives and then return later in the afternoon. Prizes are awarded for a variety of 'finds.' Over 500 divers from across the Western United States usually join in this very worthwhile effort. The Chamber is always there for us all in case of emergencies. However, the LA County only provides about half of the funds needed for its operations. LABUE is proud to be part of the effort to augment these funds. Your participation is invited. For more information, please contact Quinal Johnson at (562) 929-4977).

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>President</b> Robert Simmons (323) 292-8960	<b>Vice President</b> Donna Wilson (310) 337-1541
<b>Treasurer</b> Richard Rice (323) 299-3798	<b>Secretary</b> Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190
Sharlene Johnson (310) 915-3931	George Linares (661) 941-1516
Steve Scruggs (310) 876-1260	

### COMMITTEES

<b>Membership</b> Bettye Linares (661) 946-1516	<b>Fundraising</b> Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190
<b>Beach Dive</b> Debora Ewing (213) 229-5190	<b>Boat Dive</b> Steve Scruggs (310) 876-1260
<b>Dive Training &amp; Safety</b> George Linares (661) 946-1516	<b>Publicity &amp; Internet</b> Francois Desamours (310) 412-8128
<b>Technical Diving</b> Quinal Johnson (562) 929-4977	
Phone: (323) 292-8960	
Fax: (310) 337-1542	
Email: info@labue.org	
Web Site: www.labue.org	

## 2005 BOAT DIVES

Happy new diving year! It's time to mark your calendars for a new season of LABUE boat dives and make your resolutions to "Dive in 2005." The new 2005 boat dive schedule will be available for distribution at our January 11th club meeting and it promises to offer more variety and excitement than any boat dive schedule from years past.

LABUE is a dive club so get yourself and our equipment in shape to do more of what you joined this club to do. By the way, if there are any sites you would like me to try to schedule, please let me know.  
Steve Scruggs

## Next Meeting

The next LABUE club meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 11th** at the Natural Museum of History, 900 West Exposition Boulevard in Los Angeles, across from USC. This month's program will feature a presentation by **The British Virgin Islands Tourist Board**. Sherrell Harrigan and Reynaldo Chinnery will give you an insight into what to expect in Tortola and provide more information regarding diving in the BVIs.

The outer islands' reefs offer a diversity and density of life and underwater terrain found no place else in the Caribbean. 29 dive destinations, 60 islands and cays, 50 plus regularly dived sites, unspoiled reefs, a plethora of wrecks (including the Wreck of the Rhone, one of the world's most renowned sites), are reasons to venture deep into the spectacular aquarium of the British Virgin Islands. Our scattering of islands, cays and rock cover are places to head for if you are looking for true diving excitement. Add the vibrant local culture, the relaxed Tortola towns such as Road Town and Spanish Town; tourist hotspots such as Quito's, Bomba Shack and Pusser's and the idyllic beauty of our neighboring islands and you have a holiday experience not to miss.

Bring your questions and be prepared to experience the excitement of Tortola. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.



### **Giving Members What They Want**

Happy New Year! It is now 2005! For many of us the beginning of the new year is a time for resolutions, change or improvements in one form or another. Many of us will resolve to dive more, lose weight, etc.

It is also that time of year in which LABUE makes its yearly plans, set it's budget accordingly and identifies it's goals. In the past we've polled our members to find out exactly what they want. I'd like to take this time to invite each of you to drop me a line or two to let me know if there is anything more you'd like to see from LABUE (i.e., type of fundraisers, types of dives, etc.)

I will keep track of the responses, tally them up and bring them to the Board. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. My e-mail address is as follows: [dewing@mayerbrownrow.com](mailto:dewing@mayerbrownrow.com).

Debora Ewing

### **LABUE Goes to Tortola**

In less than four months, LABUE will have its ninth annual club trip. This year the destination is Tortola, in the beautiful British Virgin Islands. From April 20 to 28, divers and non-divers alike will enjoy spectacular Caribbean surroundings while lodging at a first class ocean front resort.

The group will stay at the recently renovated Prospect Reef Resort, conveniently located a short walk from the main town of the island. Because The Prospect Reef Resort features a variety of room selections, members have the opportunity to structure the cost of the trip to meet their needs. The Resort offers a large swimming pool and Jacuzzi, tennis courts, a nautilus fitness center, water sports, refrigerators or mini-bars and daily trips to various beaches. St. Thomas is a 30 minute ferry ride away.

The most impressive aspect of visiting the BVI's is the diving and the Prospect Reef Resort is ideally located to some of the world's best dive sites. Foremost among these sites is the Wreck of the RMS Rhone which sank in a hurricane in 1867. The Rhone is the most dived and frequently photographed wreck in the world! Don't miss out again. Contact Donna for the current prices and to reserve your spot.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

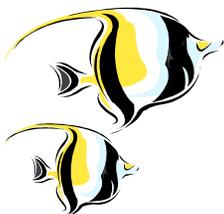
I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you the very best in 2005. The membership committee has a number of activities scheduled for 2005, all designed to increase participation in the club. As a reminder, the membership renewal period begins this month. For those members renewing prior to April 1, 2005, \$10 in LABUE Bucks will again be distributed. Please remember to complete a new application form as the information will be used to update our data base.

I also remind everyone to periodically visit the club's website ([www.LABUE.org](http://www.LABUE.org)) for a list of individuals to contact regarding various club functions and activities, as well as to keep current with club news. Refer your friends to this website as well. Thank you for your continued support, especially our 'life-members' who have made the ultimate commitment to LABUE. I would love to hear from you regarding your dive progress during the past year. In the meantime, HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone.

Bettye Linares



**Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers  
10736 Jefferson Blvd., #428  
Culver City, CA 90230**



<b><u>Reminders:</u></b>	<p><b>** General Membership Meeting—1/11/05</b></p> <p><b>** Renewal Period Begins—1/1/05</b></p> <p><b>** Group Beach Dive—2/6/05</b></p>
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