

# LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

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## 2006—HAPPY NEW YEAR!



LABUE is pleased to welcome all club members to another year of fun, safe diving and enjoyable activities. It is hard to believe but this year begins the club's eleventh year of operating under the current format. It has been 10 years since a few members made a commitment to take LABUE to an even higher level and greatly expand the dive and social opportunities offered to everyone. While many members have come and gone, the club has endured, which is a testimony to those members who have been involved during the entire span.

This year promises to be even bigger and better than any year before. LABUE's purpose is to dive and both the Beach and Boat Dive committees have planned several coordinated events for 2006. There will be at least two weekends in which participants will have an opportunity for both beach and boat dives. Debora Ewing and Steve Scruggs, Chairpersons of the respective committees are working closely together to help to maximize the enjoyment level for everyone. As in the past couple of years, plans are underway for another dive-camp weekend. These camping outings have been a lot of fun and have allowed attendees an opportunity to get to know each other that much better.

The highlight of the year will be the club trip to the Cayman Islands in April. We have been blessed enough to have visited some of the best warm water dive locations in the world having had successful trips to The British Virgin Islands (twice), Cozumel, Belize, Utila, Dominica, Hawaii, Jamaica and Fiji.

Many more activities are being planned. Everything revolves around membership participation and the Board will continue to offer the types of activities which the members request. The rest is up to the membership. Happy New Year and Happy Diving!!!



### President's Message

As we begin our 'second' 10-year stint in 2006, there is much for all of us to be thankful for. Despite all the trials and tribulations which we all perceive ourselves to be subjected to, we made it and are blessed enough to be able to enjoy the beautiful underwater world as well as social camaraderie among a great group of members. The new year is also a reminder that it is dues renewal time. The foundation of our financial stability continues to be the \$30 annual membership dues. As I have said many times, the \$30 may not seem like much, but these renewal funds are critical to our remaining financially viable. The popular LABUE Bucks program will continue again this year. As a reminder the first 50 members renewing prior to April 1 will receive a \$10 LABUE Buck Certificate. This certificate can be used on all LABUE merchandise, boat dives and other selected activi-

ties. Our expenses have been dramatically reduced on the past few years. However, we still have to pay rent to the Museum of Natural History for the monthly use of their facility for our General Membership meeting. The hosting fee for our website and several other smaller expenses make up the bulk of our expense budget. Do your share to help us continue to be the best dive club in the City. Bettye Linares, Chairperson of the Membership Committee, reminds everyone that \$30 is a small amount to pay for everything that LABUE offers.



Bob Simmons

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

**Beach Diving** by Debora Ewing

On Saturday, January 7, we held our first beach dive of the year. We started off the year with a record number of folks to show up for the Redondo Beach festivities including George Linares, Cash Tanner, Chance Tanner, Don Costa Seawell, Darryl Gross, Brandi Wilson, Cliff Williams, Johnnie Davis, Sharlene Johnson, Shannon Tanner, Pat Williams, Lamont Johnson, Bettye Linares, Quinal Johnson, Mike Dillard and myself. Some of our divers practiced Deep Diving into Redondo Beach's Submarine Canyon in a low visibility situation. All of the divers benefited from a true California surf dive as the sets were constant. This site is on our calendar each year so that our divers can perfect his or her entry/exit technique. A diver who perfects these skills is a much better diver. After the dive, for a change of pace, the place to meet for a delicious lunch was "Old Tonys" located on the pier of Redondo Beach. We had a great day.

**Next Meeting**

The next club general membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10 at the Museum Of Natural History located on Exposition Blvd across from USC. Instructor Jerry Del Rosario will be our guest speaker and will provide us with simple, do it yourself maintenance procedures to help keep our dive equipment in top shape. Jerry, a member of the staff of Reef Seekers Dive Company, is a regular at LABUE events and is extremely knowledgeable. The meeting will begin at 7pm and will be very informative. Plan now to attend.

**Discover Scuba**

George Linares, Board Member and Chairperson of the Dive Safety and Training Committee has announced that the next Discover Scuba program will be held on Saturday, March 25 at Pacific Wilderness. This very popular program is an opportunity for attendees, who are considering learning how to dive, get a feeling of what it is like to put on the scuba equipment and actually experience underwater diving in the very controlled environment of the pool at Pacific Wilderness. Flyers and more information will be available at upcoming membership meetings. Cost for this program will be \$15.

**Sponsor Program**

When LABUE was first reorganized 10 years ago, there was a need for startup funding. We had absolutely nothing and it would have been far more difficult to get started without financial help. To that end, the club started the Club Sponsorship Program in which local business and other interested parties were invited to become a formal supporter of LABUE at a cost of \$300 per year. The program was an immediate success with up to seven businesses supporting the club in any given year. Two local dive shops, Reef Seekers Dive Company on Wilshire Blvd in Beverly Hills and Pacific Wilderness on Pacific Ave in San Pedro have been sponsors since the program's inception and deserve special recognition for their contributions, both financial and otherwise. However, as the club has matured, it has finally reached the point in which external funding is no longer a necessity. The Board has determined that LABUE can support itself through its own programs and activities. With this thought in mind, the Board decided to discontinue the Sponsorship Program in its current format. LABUE thanks all businesses and individuals who have been so generous over the years. Even though the Sponsorship Program has ceased to exist, the club's advertising program remains in place. Anyone wishing to advertise their business may continue to do so, subject to the club's rules and policies. The rate of \$50 for a quarter page in a monthly newsletter remains unchanged. A special rate of \$300 is available for business or individuals whom wish to advertise in all twelve issues during 2006.

Again, the Board wishes to express its sincerest appreciation for those businesses, particularly Reef Seekers and Pacific Wilderness, who have help us so generously when it was really needed. As always, LABUE will continue to recommend these two outstanding dive shops to anyone asking for a referral.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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