

# LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

July 2006

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## CAYMAN ISLANDS...FABULOUS

Twenty seven LABUE members recently returned from a week in the sun in Grand Cayman island, one of the world's true dive meccas. This trip was the eleventh annual club trip and the lucky attendees had a great time. The diving began immediately following our arrival at the Sunset House Hotel on Friday afternoon with many of the group taking advantage of the excellent beach diving at the hotel. Every one had a great time navigating out to the sunken mermaid, anchor and ship wreck located in 65' of water. Each morning the group was divided into two boats for two morning dives. The Cayman Islands are famous for wall diving and good buoyancy control was mandatory because, in many cases, the depth was over 1000'. The weather was perfect, the visibility was usually over 100-150' and the water temperature was normally 82 degrees. Combine this setting with all the usual Caribbean fish life and beautiful coral formations and it is easy to see why the diving was superb. A few club members took photos and videos and the hotel prepared a video of one of the dives to help everyone relive the experience. Bettye Linares was the 'social director' and regularly had a menu of activities to choose from. The most popular event was the Pirates Day beach party, in which everyone dressed in pirate outfits and reenacted a few scenes of the script from Pirates of the Caribbean. (None of the 'actors' are advised to quit their day jobs.) Lenell and Roderick won the prize for the best costumes. Another memorable moment was the evening the entire group virtually took over a local night club and dominated the dance floor until the wee hours of the morning. Next year's destination has not been decided upon but whenever it is, you can be sure that it will be a lot of fun. Start planning (ie saving) right now for next year's trip. It is expected that an announcement will be made soon and the available spots will again be limited. Treat yourself...you deserve it.



### President's Message

Over 10 years ago, Donna Wilson, a new diver and member of LABUE, agreed to become the club's Vice President. Since then she has been central to the club's growth. She developed our website, created our electronic data base, regularly laid out and published our monthly newsletter, provided and serviced our club mailing address, created the LABUE Bucks concept, regularly organized and frequently did the cooking for our summer picnics. In short, she did whatever was necessary. Although quiet and content to remain in the background, Donna has had a huge role in the recognition which we have received. She was also a Club Sponsor for many years, annually donating \$300 to the club. After 10 years she has decided it was time for a break and recently resigned from the Board. All of us owe Donna a sincere 'thank you' In accordance with our By Laws and after careful consideration, I

have appointed Francois Desamours LABUE Vice President. As Donna's replacement he will complete the remaining months of her term and will stand for reelection at the end of the year. Francois has been a very active member for the past several years including serving on the Internet and Publicity Committee. He has already began by working on updating our website as well as initiating steps to take advantage of newer software to update our data management system. I feel lucky to be working with Francois and I look forward to his contributions.

Bob Simmons



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

**Beach Dive** by Debora Ewing

*Who are the members of YOUR Beach Dive Committee?* This vital committee consists of all levels of scuba divers. Both George Linares and our newest addition to the Committee, Louis Emile are instructors. Quinal Johnson holds a Dive Master Certification and also possesses lots of diving experience diving abroad in the fresh water lakes of Europe and California's pacific ocean. Joe Windolph and Sharlene Johnson are Master Divers. Both Bettye Linares and Darryl Gross are Advanced Divers; and I hold a Teaching Assistant Certification. Johnnie Davis is our shore support person and is very reliable in rendering any assistance, if needed. All of us take a great deal of pride in planning and safely executing the club's beach dive program. There is a lot of work involved, including planning meetings as well as pre-diving all sites. A lot of work but we love every minute of it!!!

**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 (213) 229-5190
Sharlene Johnson (310) 915-3931	George Linares (661) 941-1516
Steve Scruggs (310) 876-1260	

**COMMITTEES**

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

**Boat Dive Activity** by Steve Scruggs

We can all remember when a boat dive rarely cost more than \$80 to any destination in Southern California. But unfortunately, due to the rise in gas prices, retail prices ranging up \$140, as they are for LABUE's July 22nd dive to the back side of San Clemente Island, are becoming far too common. LABUE can't charter a boat every month but we can help reduce the costs as much as possible whenever we can. So here's our latest deal. LABUE will knock \$10 off the cost of any club boat dive (excluding charters). The price is further reduced if you use LABUE Bucks. That's a total of \$20 off, compliments of LABUE. So if you're interested in the July 22nd boat dive to the back side of San Clemente Island, it will be on board the Great Escape dive boat with food and air included in the cost. The boat leaves from Queen's Wharf, Berth 55 in Long Beach at 1:00am Saturday morning and space is limited so sign up early. Contact me for additional information and to confirm your reservation for this exciting dive day. Wishing you safe diving.

**Next Meeting**

The next club meeting will be on Tuesday July 11 at the Museum of Natural History. Our guest speaker will be Kurt Lieber an activist in Orange County since 1981. He first started out by volunteering with the Marine Forest Society who were doing underwater experiments in kelp and habitat restoration projects. He then went on to assist with animal rehabilitation of sick and injured pinipeds and birds with Friends of the Sea Lion and Pacific Wildlife Project, respectively. From 1992 on, he has volunteered and been a crewmember with an international organization, Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. Kurt is also on the SSCS Board of Directors. SSCS works mostly in international waters actively interfering with and documenting illegal actions undertaken by commercial fishing operations. During his time with Sea Shepherd he got to work extensively with Captain Paul Watson, the founder and president. It was through this tutelage that Kurt got the idea to form an organization that would address the needs of the Southern California marine ecosystem. He started the Ocean Defenders Alliance (ODA) with the intent of removing abandoned commercial fishing gear. This "ghost" gear continues to harm and kill marine wildlife long after it is discarded on the bottom of our beautiful underwater habitat. This informative meeting will begin at 7pm. Plan now to attend.

**Club Picnic**

Join LABUE on Sunday, August 27 for the club's Summer Fish Fry. The location is Ladera Park from 1pm-5pm with food being served from 2pm-4pm. Under the direction of "Louisiana Catfish," a local caterer well known for serving tasty and delicious seafood, owner Ben King is preparing a fabulous fish fry with Red Snapper, Catfish and Shrimp with the normal condiments and beverage. This affair will be a relaxing opportunity to get together with friends on a lazy Sunday afternoon. There will be card games, dominoes, bid whist...or just enjoy the company. Tickets are now on sale for \$15 (\$5 with your LABUE Bucks). So if you plan to eat on Sunday, August 27, plan to eat at the LABUE Fish Fry, or stop by and take a plate with you.

This year we encourage and challenge the entire membership to not only join us at the Fish Fry, but to sell a few tickets as well! So don't just bring a family member...bring a friend or two to this wonderful opportunity of fellowship and friendship.

Since we are at a public park, no meals can be sold the day of the event. Therefore, to purchase your tickets early and get tickets to sell to friends, please contact Francois for more information (310) 412-8128. You can pick up tickets at the July 11 Membership meeting or mail your check to LABUE, 10736 Jefferson Boulevard, #428, Culver City, CA 90230 and we'll get the tickets to you.

# Calendar of Events

## San Diego Weekend by Steve Scruggs

For the second year in a row LABUE members met in San Diego for a full weekend of boat diving, beach diving and socializing while taking full advantage of all the benefits of club membership. The fun began on Saturday morning with a trip to the Coronado Islands onboard the Lois Ann dive boat out of Mission Bay where we were able to charter the entire boat for our own personal use at a wholesale price. Trip enthusiasm was evident in that more than a dozen divers were turned away because they did not respond before the boat was sold out. Most of the members on this trip had never dove the Coronados before and were rewarded with the experience. Far outweighing the underwater sights, our divers were given the opportunity to deal with both low water temperatures and a strong surge. The dives were quite challenging and, as a result, each participant of this stern challenge became a far better diver. The evening culminated in a gourmet dining experience provided by Dave Fennell, one of our San Diego resident club members. Dave hosted the entire club for dinner at his home. Thanks Dave.

Sunday morning offered beach diving for those still able to float after the previous night's meal and a late lunch signaled the end to another well-attended great weekend, compliments of LABUE.

## Museum Rules

Our club constantly receives new members and guests. These individuals could not possibly be aware of the conditions under which the Museum Of Natural History agreed to let us use one of its conference rooms. One of these conditions is that our attendees are not permitted to stop and enjoy the many exhibits available in the museum. The museum regularly charges an admittance fee to those wishing to view the attractions and facilities on display. Obviously attendees to our meeting do not have to pay this fee and, therefore are not entitled to roam about the premises. An honor system is in effect but LABUE doesn't want to abuse the privilege. Secondly, our meetings are to be conducted in a business meeting format, which do not permit children not old enough to appreciate the purpose of the meeting. Some of our attendees have unknowingly violated the terms of our agreement. For this reason, it is necessary to review these rules from time to time to ensure that we can continue to use this very fine facility.

## Chamber Donation

LABUE has developed several goals and objectives as a club. One of these objectives is to support the surrounding dive community in worthwhile endeavors. One such endeavor is contributing to the Catalina Island Hyperbaric Chamber. The LA County provides about half of the funds needed to keep the Chamber functioning. The remaining funds must be generated from other sources. LABUE regularly attends the annual Chamber Evening event which raises over \$100,000 for the Chamber. The club was not able to purchase a table at this year's dinner yet would still like to make a contribution to this vital facility. Therefore, members are asked to contribute a financial donation of any amount to this cause. The club is currently collecting funds from the membership and will add an additional amount which will be given to the Chamber. LABUE believes that it has a responsibility to support 'our' Chamber, just like we rely on communities around the world to support their local chamber which would be available to us should it be necessary. This donation is tax deductible and is certainly for a worthy cause. We will be collecting funds through the August General Membership Meeting and will make a presentation to the Chamber immediately following. Any contribution of any amount is appreciated.

## New Website

Francois Desamours, the new Vice President of LABUE has been working to update the club website, using the latest technologies available. The new site is at the point where it can be viewed by the membership and anyone else having access to the web. Although the site is 'Up' it is still under construction and many links are not operative at this time. Additional features will be rolled out in the very near future. In the meantime all members are invited to register on the site and begin enjoying its many useful and varied components. In the long haul, the new site will permit LABUE to take full advantage of the many electronic features now available and, thereby, become more efficient. The site address remains the same: [www.labue.org](http://www.labue.org).

## JULY

- 11 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 22 San Clemente Boat Dive
- 25 6:30 PM – Board Meeting

## July 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## August 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## AUGUST

- 5 Beach Dive
- 8 7:00 PM – General Meeting
- 22 6:30 PM – Board Meeting
- 27 FISH FRY

Thanks for serving as a Board member the past 10 years, Donna. Although you are an avid underwater photographer, you probably don't have very many photos of yourself. Enjoy...



**Reminders:**

- \*\* **General Membership Meeting—7/11/06**
- \*\* **San Clemente Boat Dive—7/22/06**
- \*\* **Club Fish Fry—8/27/06**