

LABUE NEWS

Los Angeles Black Underwater Explorers

SEPTEMBER 2005

Volume 10 Issue 9



GRAND CAYMANS-2006

The final details have been finalized and, as announced previously, LABUE will hold its 10th annual club trip in Grand Cayman Island from April 20-28, 2006. The trip is now officially open and cash deposits of \$400 are being accepted to reserve a spot. The price begins at \$— and will depend on the options selected.

LABUE will spend 8 days and 7 nights on Grand Cayman Island, the largest of the three islands comprising the Cayman Island chain. The club will be housed at the Sunset House Hotel, the only resort in the Cayman Islands designed by divers, operated by divers, for divers. It is also the only hotel in the Cayman Islands which has its own coral reef with modern and ancient shipwrecks in shallow water right off shore. The package includes roundtrip airfare from Los Angeles, 7 nights accommodations (double occupancy), 5 days of 2-tank dives, unlimited shore diving, daily breakfasts and transfers.

The Cayman Islands are consistently rated among the top 10 dive destinations in the world, where underwater visibility is regularly in the 75-150ft range and can reach over 200ft. These islands have a huge variety of sea life and corals as well as some of the best wall diving in the world. Water temperature is reliably in the low 80's. With the availability of unlimited shore diving right on the premises, some divers will easily complete 20 dives or more during the 6 potential dive days.

The terms of the trip are included in the attached flyer. Anyone interested must submit a signed application along with a \$400 check. As with LABUE's previous trips, \$250 of the deposit is non refundable. Different from previous trips, there will be a limited number of spaces sold and the group size will not exceed 30 divers. Once a suitable number is reached, the trip will close. If you are interested in joining in on what will be an exciting week, it is advisable to act immediately and submit the application today!!!



President's Message

Well, next year's club trip to the Cayman Islands is finally open. All the prices have been confirmed and for as little as \$1850, club members will be able to enjoy 8 days of memorable diving in one of the best locations in the world.

Fortunate enough to having been to these islands several times, I know first hand how good the diving can be. The thrilling sensation of diving along endless vertical walls which descend to seemingly bottomless blue holes is breathtaking. Books on the Caymans partially try to describe what is really impossible to describe. Spectacular sums it up!

People on club trips have come to expect several things. But one expectation which LABUE cannot satisfy is the desire by some to have a more experienced dive buddy assigned to them because they don't have enough dive experience to feel comfortable. In the past, some relatively inexpe-

rienced divers have gone on club trips anticipating that the club would 'take of them' in terms of providing a more experienced buddy. While LABUE does have individuals who frequently offer to dive with new divers and help them reach a level of independence, most of them are not willing, and rightfully so, to give up some of their dive enjoyment on an expensive dive trip for this purpose. All divers need to be the same type of buddy they would like to pair up with. Ideally, all divers should feel comfortable diving with someone with skills similar to theirs. If they don't, improvements must be made...prior to going to the Caymans.



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

Beach Diving by Debora Ewing
ANOTHER SOLD OUT "DIVE N CAMP WEEKEND"! Just a quick *reminder* to inform everyone that the activities for the Dive N Camp weekend, which include the September beach dive have been ***sold out*** for some time now. Consistent with LABUE's policy, only persons who have paid for a LABUE event will be able to participate. November's beach dive will take place at Shaws Cove which offers a good beach dive for both the novice and the skilled diver. This site has lots of marine life out in the open water and also features a variety of creatures hiding in the cracks and crevices of the rocky reef. More information will be coming as we get closer to the month of November. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding any of the above-mentioned events at (213) 229-5190.

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

LABUE Charter Dive by Steve Scruggs

New faces and new experiences were abound as thirty-one members and friends enjoyed three dives on the front side of Catalina Island. In balmy sixty-eight degree water teeming with thick kelp, octopus, lobster, sea lions and thousands of fish, the dive sites proved satisfactory for every skill level. The 2005 LABUE club charter dive sold out faster than any charter in club history and there was a reason for that, fresh blood. Not for the sharks, but for the heart of what LABUE is all about, expanding the sport of SCUBA diving in a shared atmosphere. If this was your first time on a boat dive, you were not alone. If you only have a few dives to your credit, you were not alone. If you had never been on The Great Escape, you were not alone. This shared fellowship contributed to a decreased stress level and a relaxed atmosphere of enjoyment and learning for new divers stepping out into the dive community for the first time. Something for everybody and everybody for something. I saw new divers diving with their instructors, both LABUE members. I saw people diving with recently serviced equipment and their dive buddy was the dive shop technician that serviced it, both LABUE members. I saw a professional Dive Master at each gate, both LABUE members. But most of all, I saw friends diving with friends, all LABUE members. If you are a new diver and you were concerned about joining the right club? You found it.

RLS & ASSOCIATES

**ROBERT L. SIMMONS
LABUE MEMBER**

FINANCIAL SERVICES

**4082 S. CLOVERDALE AVE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90008
323-292-8960**

Dive Camp Weekend Sold Out

This year's Dive Camp Weekend is completely sold out. Due to the large demand, LABUE was able to secure space for a couple of additional campers. However, those spots were sold immediately and there is no more room. From Friday, September 30 through Sunday, October 2, 2005, LABUE's second Dive and Camp Weekend will take place at Refugio (Santa Barbara). This event will also incorporate the regular October monthly beach dive on Saturday at Refugio, in conjunction with the planned weekend activities. Attendees will be treated to a sumptuous dinner at a nearby ranch followed by a humorous play (a murder mystery) in the local theater. Quinal Johnson is the organizer of this event. Those who attended this sold out event last year found the dive & camp weekend to be a real treat. Sitting around moonlit campfires with friends makes this getaway truly special. For those who have not made a reservation, it is too late this time. However, be ready when the event is offered again next year.

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**Grand Cayman
and**

**Festival at Sea 2006
Mexican Riviera**



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DONNA WILSON, LABUE MEMBER

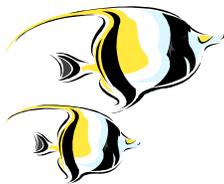
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*Travel writers
and group
leaders needed*

(310) 337-1541



**3rd Place LAUPS Winner
Photo by Donna Wilson**



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

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

13 7:00 PM – General Meeting
10 Charter Boat Dive
27 Board Meeting
30 Beach Dive and Camping

OCTOBER

11 7:00 PM – General Meeting
25 Board Meeting

NOVEMBER

05 Beach Dive—Shaw's Cove
08 7:00 PM – General Meeting
19 Boat Dive
22 Board Meeting

DECEMBER

04 Beach Dive—Divers Cove
13 7:00 PM – General Meeting

APRIL 2006

20 Annual Club Trip—Grand Cayman

Successful Fish Fry

Those who did not attend the club fish fry two weeks ago really missed out on a fun event. Although the Ways and Means Committee required that 50 tickets be sold to achieve the club goal, over 80 members and friends attended this beachside affair.

The day started with a few of the beach divers making a couple of dives. Despite the red tide situation of the past few months, the divers lucked out and had excellent visibility and calm seas. They were easily the hungriest of all the attendees.

The food prepared by **Louisiana Catfish** was delicious and plentiful . . . **very plentiful**. Their organization skills were evident as everyone was served very efficiently and according to the announced schedule.



The meal was topped off with generous portions of lemon cake, watermelon and sweet potato pie. Although there was no formal program, everyone had a great time simply socializing with fellow members and their guests. The perfect weather was enjoyed by all and complimented the beautiful setting. All in all, it was a case of beautiful people getting together and having simple fun.

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Saturday, September 24, 2005 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 29, 2005 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.



Site: Lancaster, CA

Call: (661) 729-6626