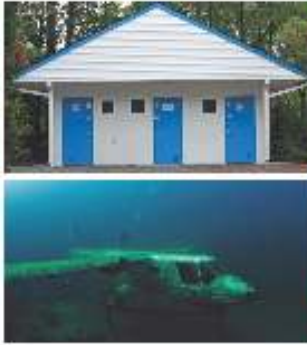


Summit XIX



2009 Freeport, Grand Bahama Island



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NABS 19th Annual Summit 2009

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**Aquatic Voyagers Scuba Club of New York
Atlantic Rangers**

**Michigan African-American Scuba Klub
Underwater Adventure Seekers
2009 NABS' Officer Candidates**

NABS Summit Committee

**Rufus Meyers, Chairman
Charlene Buchanan
Carlyn R. Cole
Vicki Hardy
Clifton Hicks
Martha Role
Kim Terrell**



Message from the 2009 Summit Committee

Greetings and welcome to Freeport, Grand Bahama! Welcome to an opportunity to immerse yourself into the local culture and understand why “It is better in the Bahamas.”

Considering the continued downturn in the economy worldwide, the National Association of Black Scuba Divers appreciates, and does not take lightly, your investment and commitment to ensure that NABS continues the tradition of having an Annual Dive Summit during which we can enjoy diving, fellowship, exploration and education together. The NABS Summit Committee has worked endlessly to ensure that NABS provides you with a value-added Summit for your hard-earned dollars.

This year marks NABS’ nineteenth Annual Dive Summit and first in Freeport, Grand Bahama. NABS is excited about hosting all of you in Freeport given the richness of the Island’s culture and the beauty of its people and environment. On NABS’ and my behalf, I want to thank some special people who have made it possible for NABS to bring the Summit to Freeport. First, I am greatly indebted to Keith Cooper, my brother and confidant, for being the major impetus for NABS coming to Grand Bahama Island. I also thank his co-workers at UNEXSO for their support and generosity. I thank Rose Marie Wildgoose, affectionately known as “Ms. Paddy,” and Fritz Thompson, owner of Simply Native restaurant, for their gracious support and hospitality. I pay great homage to Carmel Churchill and Stephanie Clarke, with the Our Lucaya hotels, and Terrence Roberts and his staff at the Bahamas’ Ministry of Tourism for their significant and generous contributions and support. And to my Summit Committee members and the NABS family: Thanks to ya’ll; we are going to have a ball!

God Bless You,

Rufus Meyers

The Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority

**Proudly Salutes the
National Association of Black Scuba Divers'**

YOUTH OF THE YEAR
Ms. Latifah Neblett-Burrell
Richmond, Virginia



Anthony Scott
Chief Executive Officer

Valena Dixon
Vice President,
Community Relations and Marketing

Joan Seldon,
Assistant Director of Resident Services

The
Michigan AFRICAN-American SCUBA Klub

**Congratulates
The National Association of Black SCUBA Divers
On Their
Nineteenth Annual SCUBA Summit
In
Freeport, Bahamas**



**Marshall Dickerson, President Michael Maxwell, Vice President
Frances Simmons, Treasurer Damion Morse, Secretary**

**From all of us at M.A.S.K remember while diving:
Take nothing but pictures,
Leave nothing but bubbles,
And kill nothing but time.**

***** DIVE SAFELY *****

The Aquatic Voyagers Scuba Club of New York



Supports and Congratulates
The

National Association of Black Scuba Divers

19th Annual Scuba Diving Summit - Freeport, Grand Bahamas



AVSC Executive Board



2009 NABS President's Meeting - Washington, D.C.



"AVSC...Always ahead of the tide."

From the President's Pen



This year 2009 is quickly coming to an end. By the time you read this, we will be at our 20th Annual NABS Summit in the Grand Bahamas. As I look back over the years at my first NABS Summit in the Grand Caymans, I have been hooked on NABS ever since. In fact, if it had not been for NABS, I would not have met all the local divers in the Detroit area – that I personally know and for sure the divers throughout the USA and the world. It is truly a labor of love.

We, the Members of NABS really have something going on. Without the dedication and help of each of you, NABS would not survive. Sometimes, it seems that we are not moving in the ‘right’ direction, but that is when we need the NABS Members to step up to the plate and help us out. We have an “Open Door” policy that makes it easy for our members to get in touch with us -- anytime.

I would like to take the time to thank our Board Members and Committee Chairs, without this group of hardworking NABS folks, many things would not get done. Carlyn Cole – Vice President; Vicky Orem – Treasurer; Keasha Madison – corresponding Secretary; Francine Whittington – Recording Secretary and Webmaster; Jeff Dooley – Safety Officer; Michele Dowdy – Midwest Rep; Kim Yarbrough – Southern Rep; Tina Houston – Western Rep; Norman Berhannan – Northeastern Rep; Ric Powell and Jose’ Jones Co-Founders; Rufus Meyers – Summit Committee Chair; Jimi Mack – NABS Awards Committee Chair; Ken Stewart – Youth Committee Chair; Mario Matthews – Election Committee Chair; John Sweat – NABS Facebook Chair. Of course, there are many others that are behind the scenes that make these goals a reality. Along with each member, this makes up our NABS Organization.

While here in the Bahamas enjoying the Summit – the food, the diving, friends old and new, the music, just remember we all have something to be very thankful and proud for – life itself. Until next time, enjoy each day and dive safely.

**Vernon
We are Family
__******

CONGRATULATIONS



NABS

**FOR 19 YEARS OF
CONTINUED EXCELLENCE IN DIVING!**

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Raffle Tickets will be on-sale for \$10.00 each at the 2009 NABS Summit
Cash and Checks accepted

2009 NABS Summit

Number **4 2009 NABS Summit**



Gift Certificate

The bearer of this certificate is entitled to a weeklong scuba
adventure aboard Blackbeard's!

ISSUED TO: The NABS' 2009 Summit Winning Raffle Ticket Holder

Authorized by : Beth Oliveira 800.327.0600

Valid for travel between
11/01/09—03/15/10

NABS Summit Schedule

| Wednesday, November 4 | Time | Location |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| • Board of Directors' Meeting | 11:00 - 12:00 AM | Royal Palm I |
| • Presidents' Meeting | 1:00 - 2:00 PM | Royal Palm I |
| • Aqua Corps' Meeting | 3:00 - 4:00 PM | Royal Palm I |
| • NABS Foundation Meeting | 4:00 - 5:00 PM | Royal Palm I |
| • Registration | 4:00 - 6:00 PM | Royal Beach Club 1053 |
| • Election Voting | 4:00 - 6:00 PM | Royal Beach Club 1053 |
| • "Show Your Colors" Dinner* | 7:30 - 11:30 PM | Salon III & IV |
| • Night Cap Rendezvous | 11:45 PM - 12:00 AM | Prop Club |

***Wear your dive club's or NABS' attire**

| Thursday, November 5 | Time | Location |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|
| • Breakfast | 6:30 - 11:00 AM | Willy Broadleaf |
| • NABS Morning Dive | 7:30 - 12:00 AM | UNEXSO |
| • NABS Exercise Rendezvous | 8:30 - 11:30 AM | Fitness Center |
| • Dolphin Dive | 8:30 - 11:30 AM | UNEXSO |
| • Island Tours | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM | Radisson Lobby |
| • NABS Afternoon Dive | 1:00 - 5:30 PM | UNEXSO |
| • Shark Dive | 8:30 - 11:30 AM | UNEXSO |
| • NABS Swimming Lesson | 3:00 - 4:30 PM | Radisson Infinity Pool |
| • Diving With a Purpose | 4:00 - 5:00 PM | Royal Palm I |
| • Happy Hour | 5:00 - 6:00 PM | Prop Club |
| • Bahamian Soiree* | 6:30 - 10:00 PM | Count Basie Square at Port Lucaya Marketplace |
| • NABS Casino Night | 10:00 - 11:00 PM | Casino at the Radisson |
| • NABS Party | 10:00 - 12:00 AM | Prop Club |

***Jeans N' and Junkanoo Night (wear your jeans)**

All locations are at the Radisson unless otherwise indicated.
Schedule is subject to change.

NABS Summit Schedule

| Friday, November 6 | Time | Location |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| • Breakfast | 6:30 - 11:00 AM | Willy Broadleaf |
| • NABS Morning Dive | 7:30 - 12:00 AM | UNEXSO |
| • NABS Exercise Rendezvous | 8:30 - 11:30 AM | Fitness Center |
| • Dolphin Dive | 8:30 - 11:30 AM | UNEXSO |
| • Island Tours | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM | Radisson Lobby |
| • Intro to Scuba Program | 2:00 - 4:00 PM | UNEXSO |
| • NABS Afternoon Dive | 1:00 - 5:30 PM | UNEXSO |
| • Shark Dive | 8:30 - 11:30 AM | UNEXSO |
| • NABS Group Picture | 5:00 - 5:15 PM | Manor House Lawn |
| • Aqua Corp Group Picture | 5:15 - 5:30 PM | Manor House Lawn |
| • Happy Hour | 5:00 - 7:00 PM | Prop Club |
| • NABS General Membership Meeting | 6:30 - 8:30 PM | Saloon III |
| • NABS Night Out* | 9:30 - 1:00 PM | Neptune Club at Port Lucaya Marketplace |

* Wear Chic Island Attire. No cover charge or drink for first 50 NABS guests wearing wrist band.

| Saturday, November 7 | Time | Location |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| • Breakfast | 6:30 - 11:00 AM | Willy Broadleaf |
| • NABS Exercise Rendezvous | 8:30 - 11:30 AM | Fitness Center |
| • NABS Morning Dive | 7:30 - 12:00 AM | UNEXSO |
| • Island Tours | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM | Radisson Lobby |
| • Intro to Scuba Program | 10:00 - 12:00 AM | UNEXSO |
| • NABS Beach Party | 12:30 - 3:30 PM | Prop Club Beach |
| ○ Fitness Challenge | | |
| ○ Bid Wisk Tournament | | |
| ○ Lunch | | |
| • Cocktail Hour | 12:30 - 3:30 PM | Prop Club |
| • Dinner Cocktails | 7:00 - 7:30 PM | Pavilion |
| • NABS Gala* | 7:30 PM – 1:00 AM | Pavilion |

*White Night – wear chic white attire.

| Sunday, November 9 | Time | Location |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| • Airport Departures | Various | Various |
| • Breakfast | 6:30 - 11:00 AM | Willy Broadleaf |
| • Bible Service | 9:00 - 10:30 AM | Royal Palm I |

All locations are at the Radisson unless otherwise indicated.

Schedule is subject to change.



Re Elect Vernon E. Beard Sr. for NABS President - 2010

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of NABS,

I come to you seeking to continuing the position of NABS' President for 1/1/2010 – 12/31/2011. As current President with the help of the NABS Board and all of the members we have accomplished the following in the past 23 months:

- Gold Card for Lifetime members - to show our appreciation of our Members
- Made it possible for our members to obtain Lifetime status via the lay-a-way plan
- Completed the 6th Youth Summit in Savannah GA with over 35 youth plus chaperons.
- Established a positive relationship with NOAA and NABS: dive training and skills in the National Preserves. NOAA helped developed the curriculum for the Youth Summit.
- Diving With a Purpose continue to do great work with National Park Service to the extent that DWP and NABS was invited and presented an award at the White House for our service.
- Continue in the NABS Tradition with Annual Summits, President Meetings in different states and at the summits, Monthly Board Meetings, newsletters, information available on the NABS Website, Open Communication with all our members
- Current NABS President, NABS Vice President, Regional Rep, Aqua Corps Member, Instructor Rating, Member of MASK Dive club.
- **We are Family ***-***-**** ...**Lets continue together!

**Together we can Head NABS
toward a higher level of success!**

However, I can't do it without your vote -

Mark your ballot -

VOTE ZEL HEAD FOR NABS PRESIDENT!



"Aim for perfection, settle for Excellence!"

Discovery Diving

World class, warm water, wreck diving in North Carolina, USA

One of the largest dive centers on the eastern seaboard is located on the waters of Historic Beaufort. We invite you to venture to the ocean floor to experience for yourself the mystery and beauty of the sunken vessels on one of our 3 exclusive dive charter boats. There are numerous W.W.II ships that fell victim to enemy vessels as well as a German Sub (The U-352), which was sunk by U.S. Forces. We have a W.W.II cruiser, ocean liners, fishing trawlers and many more are all there for you to rediscover. Several artificial reefs have been sunk to include large ships and aircraft creating new fish habitats and fresh diving experiences. Due to the proximity of the Gulf stream we have WARM CLEAR waters with temperatures in the low 80's and visibility often over 100 feet. We have large schools of pelagic fish, tropical fish, corals and a wreck (The Papoose) that is one of the premier shark dives in North America! We're a full service dive store offering sales, instruction, rental, repairs and wonderful days on the water with our competent and caring crews. We are within walking distance of restaurants, quaint shops and the Maritime Museum in the Historical District of Beaufort. And we are within paddling distance (ocean kayaks available) of the Rachel Carson Estuaries Sanctuary and the most southern outer bank of the Cape Lookout National Seashore, great for after dive outings.



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**Welcome to Freeport NABS!
Congratulations on your 19th
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The National Association of Black Scuba Divers

Mission Statement: To create a network of people and resources that provide educational experiences that enhance and promote an appreciation of diving and an awareness of the aquatic environment. This network will build unity and camaraderie to transfer the legacy to future generations.

The Organization: The National Association of Black Scuba Divers, Inc. (NABS) was founded in January 1991 by Dr. A. Jose Jones and Ric Powell. It has been a catalyst for promoting scuba diving throughout the African-American community. A national organization was needed to address the common interests of African-American divers. Membership is open to anyone regardless of race, color, ethnic origin, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

NABS was formed as a non-profit organization for the following purposes:

- To promote scuba diving, water sports skills, and environmental awareness and conservation
- To help develop educational programs that will stimulate interest and knowledge in the sport of scuba diving
- To provide scholarships for college students studying marine and environmental sciences
- To sponsor scuba trips and open water educational experiences
- To serve as a clearinghouse for scuba safety, training and technical information

Charter and affiliate clubs are comprised of people with similar interests joining together to network and share their common experiences. NABS members stand to benefit from many services that this organization can provide. Some of the benefits and services include:

- Diving with a national network of friends
- Sharing skills, experiences and advice
- Attending symposia and conferences related to diving and the marine environment
- Taking regional, national and international dive trips
- Exposure through the national media
- Opportunities to participate in dive experiences with national organizations
- Assistance in bringing awareness of the aquatic world to local youth and the local community

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Photos by Robert Beatz

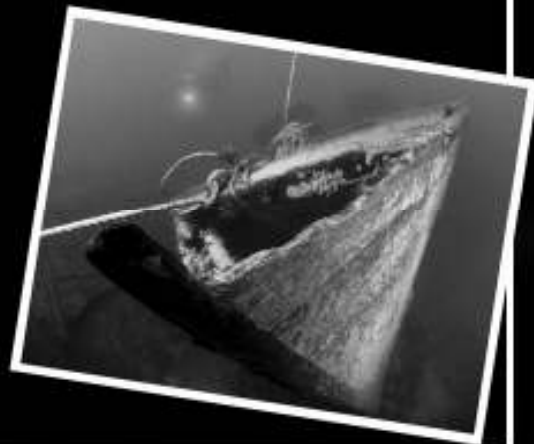
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E.K. Johnson, III, M.D.
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DIVE ITSM

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