

UP AND DOWN THE ANCHOR LINE

KEYSTONE DIVERS ASSOCIATION



Volume 293

MARCH 2011

Meeting:

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Michael Gerken

Truk Lagoon

Meeting @ 7 PM; Speaker @ 8 PM!

On the early morning of February 17th, 1944, at the height of the war in the Pacific, United States Naval forces launched a daring air raid codenamed "Operation Hailstone" on the Japanese military stronghold of Truk Lagoon in Micronesia. As a result of the raid more than 270 Japanese planes were destroyed and 50 ships sent to the bottom of the lagoon. More than 65 years later the Shipwrecks of Truk have become a Mecca for sport divers. They travel from around the world to witness first-hand these underwater relics both steeped in history and enriched with magnificent marine life that is a wonder to behold.

From 2003 until 2008 **Mike Gerken** lived and worked in Truk Lagoon as crew member of the *Truk Aggressor* and later the captain of the *Truk Odyssey* in Truk Lagoon and amassed one of the largest collections of underwater video, archival film and still images ever assembled and spent four years producing this documentary on Truk Lagoon. Join us as he talks about the documentary and shows excerpts from the film with a discussion with the membership to follow.

Visit Mike's website: <http://www.evolutionunderwater.com/>
See excerpts from the documentary and order a copy for yourself:

Mike has since returned to Morehead City, North Carolina and rejoined with Olympus Dive Center in April of 2009. He captains the 48' *Midnight Express* run by Olympus Dive Center along with shooting famous shipwrecks of the Outer Banks, known as the Graveyard of the Atlantic, & teaching photo courses in his free time.

Buster says:

**Overhaul your regs, VIP your tanks,
Visit DudasDiving.com
And join the ranks!**

There it is...around the next corner...

DIVE SEASON 2011!

Mike@dudasdiving.com (610) 436-0176!



Last KDA Meeting: March 2, 2011!

The Dominican Republic has it all, white sand beaches, coral reefs, caves, wrecks, and Humpback Whales! Every year over 5000 Humpback Whales travel from Massachusetts, Maine, Newfoundland and Greenland to the Silver Banks about 80 miles North of Puerto Plata. Here on the other side of the island shared with Haiti and almost to Puerto Rico, from February to the beginning of May the whales play, mate, and give birth. Only THIS year Becky Kagan and crew showed up at the *Sundancer II* with 32 cases of photographic equipment and rebreathers! They had to get special permission to use rebreathers. Most folks just bring a snorkel and fins to swim around the pinnacles of coral reaching up to the surface to play hide and seek in the "playground" with the 20- 40- or 60-foot whales and their babes, as the whales don't like scuba divers or any free-diving in these shallow waters. Because of the navigational hazard these pinnacles create, there are many, many wrecks to peer down upon as well. And interestingly enough, these whales all know to return to their respective origins – just like the *snowbirds* that come to Florida every winter! A whale breaches three times when it is so motivated, so you have two tries at getting your camera set for the action! It is great to be in the water with the females and their new calves, but avoid the rowdy males as they prepare to mate – it's pretty exciting stuff for a 40-ton female whale, but rather hazardous for a mere mortal on snorkel! Becky said you can feel the whale song vibrate when you are on the boat, but even more spectacular – she used the whale song as the soundtrack for her slideshow which included some terrific shots of her sneaking up on a sleeping whale – the adult 'submarines' surface every 20-30 minutes to breathe, but the babes pop up every two minutes! They left the lush mountainous north and headed for the arid Mexico-like south – loading up their 32 cases of photographic equipment in a not-so-roomy rental van and followed the donkeys down the road for the cave diving portion. Apparently they don't do much C-card checking at the caves – they observed groups of 9 openwater divers at a time in rental suits who kept disappearing inside! These are very, very large, beautiful freshwater caves (salt water much further in) with lots of air pockets - most only 7' deep down to 40' sometimes! They toured several caves observing bats and some really cool crystal formations – none of THESE in Mexico; it's easy diving with no flow! Because of dripping water you'll need booties, no sneakers – it's VERY slippery. You will find very good, cheap food, but BYO T.P. and if a scuba outing is desired, opt for the 30-minute ride offshore where conditions are still great – much better than Mexico – it's all fished out inshore. We just saw the out-takes; you can only imagine how cool the actual film presentation will be when it runs on *Discovery 3D!* **Becky Kagan Schott**, an award winning Photojournalist for major news networks including CBS and Fox News using HD and 3-D technology, is the owner of *Liquid Productions, LLC*, a full-service video production company. **Patti Pittock** captured the 50-50. **SEA EWE 4-6-11 at Barnaby's!!**

**Sign up for a dive or trip yet? Dudas Diving Duds
(610) 436-0176 Mail@DudasDiving.com**

upcoming KDA events & special stuff

Next KDA Meeting:

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Mike Gerken

**With his FABULOUS 4-year in the making
Truk Lagoon Documentary @ Barnaby's
Meeting @ 7 PM; Speaker @ 8 PM!**

Attention KDA members! Special Announcement!

As of January 1, Dudas Diving Duds will no longer be offering free air to KDA members. Unfortunately the cost of running our compressor has grown too high. We will be offering KDA members a discounted rate of \$3/fill, a savings of \$2 off the new air fill rates of \$5. We will honor current paid KDA members with free air until their 2010 dues expire.

➤ **KDA Email address:**
mail@dudasdiving.com

➤ **The official KDA Web address:**
www.dudasdiving.com/keystone-divers

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEW STUFF!

Bonaire- June 18-24

Evelyn is going back to Bonaire in June! 9 days and 8 nights at Captain Don's Habitat. 7 boat dives and unlimited shore diving. Includes truck rental for traveling around the island. \$1099 plus air.

We're going back to the St Lawrence Seaway!

Join us September 11 and 12 for a weekend getaway to the warm waters of...Canada?

Yup, the surface of the great Lakes warms up in the summer and by September the St Lawrence is sipping that nice warm water from the surface. Come and dive some great wrecks and we are going to stop and tour Singer Castle during the surface interval.

2011 SCUBA CAMPS

Scuba Camp is a ways off, but we have just secured the dates for this summer at Malvern Prep, so if you have any juniors interested in learning how to dive this summer, SIGN 'EM UP NOW.

Either June 20-24 or July 18-22. Then you can join them for their quarry Friday!

There's a new dive schedule out there for 2011! Please check the website: Dudasdiving.com!

Meeting Place: *BARNABY'S OF AMERICA*

15 South High Street, West Chester, PA (610) 696-1400

Parking is free in the garage across High Street if you stay until 9:30! Follow Rt. 3 into town (Market St.), turn left when you get to High Street & you're there on the left! Or Follow Rt. 202 North from DE and go straight when it becomes High Street – go up about 6 blocks and it's on the right (BEFORE Gay St!)

Keystone Divers Association 2011 Membership Application

New Member

Renewal Member

(\$25/ea. - \$40 couple)

Name: _____

Phone Day: _____

Birthdate _____

Address: _____

Phone Nite: _____

Customer# _____

Certifying Agency: _____

When? _____

Occupation: _____

Certification Level: _____

Where? _____

E-Mail Address (for online newsletter): _____

The KDA meets at Barnaby's of America (top floor) the FIRST Wednesday of the month beginning at 7 PM, 15 South High Street, West Chester, PA (610) 696-1400. The speaker begins at 8 P.M.

Wednesday, April 6 - Mike Gerken of Olympus Dive Center w/excerpt from his 4-year in the making Truk Lagoon Documentary Film. Meeting @ 7 PM Speaker @ 8 PM!

Wednesday, May 4 Barnaby's; Meeting @ 7 PM Presentation @ 8 PM!

Wednesday, June 1 Barnaby's; Meeting @ 7 PM Presentation @ 8 PM!

DIVER'S ED

Scubadiver @ West Chester YMCATuesdays – April 5, 2011
Scubadiver @ UMLYMondays –April 25, 2011
Scubadiver @ West Chester YMCA.....Sundays –May 15, 2011
CPR/First Response Wednesday, April 20, 2011
Nitrox @ DDD.....Thursday April 7, 2011
Divemaster Call for details

❖ *Other Specialty Diver Classes being scheduled – call DDD (610) 436-0176! Private & semi-private lessons upon request!*

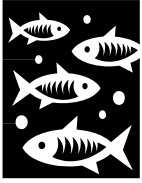
The KDA has gone virtual on FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/KeystoneDivers>

EBD GOES TO NORTH FLORIDA several times a year! Call DDD (610) 436-0176

I can do OW checkouts 12 yrs and older. Anyone wanting to start or continue overhead training or just practice Openwater - scootering too! We have housing for \$25/ nite. EBD to cook Family style meals. ANYBODY IS welcome! Even Non Divers! Water is 71 year-round and gin clear. For checkout dives you get about 60 minutes or more of Bottom time on each dive. Your awareness of great configuration is greatly increased and no waves, no blow outs, and NEVER in a hurry! So many cool people, too! April 20-26. Call EBD to sign up!

DIVE TRAVEL & EVENTS

Key Largo w/Ocean Divers – Palm Sunday Weekend.....April 15 - 19
Cozumel w/Fiesta Americana(SOLD OUT) May 14 - 21
Bonaire w/Capt. Don's HabitatJune 18 - 24
St Lawrence Seaway w/Seeway Vision..... Sept. 10&11
Little Cayman Beach Resort.....September 17-24, 2011
Grenada..... 50th Anniversary of sinking of the Bianca C..... October 2011
Tobago w/Blue Water InnJanuary 21-28, 2012
Kasawari, Lembeh StraitMay 18, 2012
Raja Ampat Islands, West Papua, Indonesia (SOLD OUT)Memorial Day, 2012

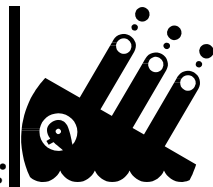


Keystone Divers' Association
c/o Dudas Diving Duds, Inc.
104 Bartram's Lane
West Chester, PA 19382
(610) 436-0176

FIRST CLASS

NEXT Meeting : April 6, 2011 - Barnaby's

The Keystone Diver's Association presents:

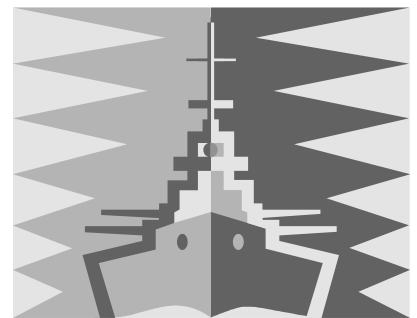


Michael Gerken * Truk Lagoon

Wednesday, April 6

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*** Barnaby's, 15 South High Street, West Chester, PA! (610) 696-1400 ***

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