

UP AND DOWN THE ANCHOR LINE

KEYSTONE DIVERS ASSOCIATION



Volume 296

June 2011

Next KDA Meeting:

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

Bernie Chowdhury, CHT

India's Andaman Islands!

Meeting @ 7 PM; Speaker @ 8 PM!

The Andamans consist of over 300 relatively unexplored islands located in the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea to the west of Myanmar (formerly, Burma) and close to Phuket, Thailand. Virgin rainforests, reefs and caves await. The water is warm and clear, with plentiful marine life. Geologically, the Islands are subject to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and the occasional tsunami. Politically, the Islands have been used as prison colonies as early as 1789, first by the Government of Bengal, then by the British, and, finally, by the Japanese, who occupied the territory during the Second World War. These Islands are also home to five indigenous tribes, including a primitive, very aggressive people, the Sentinelese, whose first friendly contact with outsiders came only as recently as 1991. All of this combines to provide the intrepid traveler with very fertile ground – and water – in which to explore. **Bernie Chowdhury**, DAN, NAUI, PADI and TDI Instructor, a popular and engaging speaker who has presented at dive shows, shops and clubs throughout the US, & in eight foreign countries, is a favorite with the KDA! He is best known for his critically acclaimed, international top-selling book, *The Last Dive*, (non-fiction, HarperCollins, 2000) which has been published in eleven languages and an audio version. An e-book release is pending. He was the founder and co-publisher for nine years of immersed international diving magazine & has been editor of *Historical Diver* and also the Canadian-based *DIVER* magazines. He has published numerous articles in various magazines. He has worn many hats during his 27 years in diving, including: Recreational and technical instructor, expedition organizer, industry consultant, and documentary co-producer, to name a few. Bernie has been a Fellow of the Explorers Club since 1995 and has led and/or participated in ground-breaking expeditions in both wreck and cave diving. He has been a board-certified hyperbaric medical technologist (CHT) since 2004 and remains active in several capacities in the hyperbaric medical field. Bernie was named Beneath the Sea's 2001 Diver of the Year for Education. He is an active technical diving instructor, teaching courses up to and including Advanced Trimix; and also Advanced Wreck (Penetration).

GREAT NEWS MEMBERS: Ask about all of the terrific KDA Member Specials on selected diving gear and accessories @ DDD!



Buster says:

Splurge on a new suit, invest in a tank!

DudasDiving.com

Will help YOU break the bank!

Here it is...already in progress...

DIVE SEASON 2011!

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

Last KDA Meeting: May 4, 2011!

Our scheduled presentation, *The Future of our Underwater Past*, was left in the computer of Pat Clyne, so **Peter E. Hessquire**, ever the opportunist that he is, and being as how Mike Dudas HAD dug up a 1985 publicity photo of him, decided to wow us with some slides (*you remember THEM, don't you?*) of the *Atocha* from that era in honor of Pat Clyne's new book, *The Atocha Odyssey*. (*Why not drop by DDD and pick up a copy!*) So back to 1985 we went, the year that Mel Fisher uncovered the Motherlode off the Florida Keys and Peter got to spend a few weeks helping out. Everybody wanted a piece of the action then – but only the investors received that 1,200% on their investment! Always traveling in groups for protection from buccaneers, the *Atocha* was part of a convoy of sailing vessels returning to Spain loaded with treasure from Mexico and the New World when she sunk in a hurricane that September of 1622. Unfortunately a 2nd hurricane scattered the wreckage some 9 ½ nautical miles along the sea floor making the task of recovery a “needle in the haystack” operation. Replicating a castle with a high, cumbersome bow and stern, these galleons were handy for fending off pirates, but lousy for sailing against the wind. She left Havana too late to avoid the storms and broke her belly on a reef and sunk – 265 people perished and 5 who had tied themselves into the mast survived to tell the tale. And so began the search. From the site of the wreck there are only 3 of the Marqueses Keys visible, thus the description from the survivors which threw them off – there were really many more islands there. A good indicator of a wreck would be a pile of ballast stone – round river stone from the ships origin. Another landmark would be pottery. Olive jars were the 55-gallon drum of the day. The neck of these earthenware jugs is the most telling place of origin. And speaking of necks, the lovely chain worn around that of the Queen of Spain in her portrait gives a whole new meaning to the term “treasure chest.” Many of the passengers wore their gold in the form of huge chains – so they wouldn't be taxed – only gold bars were taxed. These made for great tax evasion, but lousy as life preservers. The first traces of the *Atocha* were found in 1971. They drug that magnetometer over many, many miles of ocean in search of the iron in the wreck; however, 99 out of 100 hits were bombs from a FL WWII bombing range! In 1985 when the stash of silver ingots, timbers and gold bars was found, they filed an admiralty arrest of the wreck; that is where the court determines who owns and who has a right to the wreck. Based on the archeologists' findings and theories, it looks like Mel Fisher was the winner this time! And based on this revisit to Peter's 1985 adventure, it looks like we were, too! **Andrew Nagle** captured the 50-50 (*and, thanks, donated it back to the club!*) **SEA U 6-1-11 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, June 1, 2011

Bernie Chowdhury

Adventures of India's Andaman Islands

Barnaby's in West Chester

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.

*** *THE ADVENTURE DIVERS RE-TAKE THE KDA!!!****

➤ **KDA Email address:**
mail@dudasdiving.com (610) 436-0176

➤ **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 – been to the park yet? \$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!

The 2011 Dive Schedule is being updated all the time! Please check the website: Dudasdiving.com!

Meeting Place: MOST 1st Wednesday's: 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 *NORMALLY* 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, June 1 Barnaby's; featuring Bernie Chowdhury and his Andaman Island Adventures.
Meeting @ 7 PM Presentation @ 8 PM!

Wednesday, July 6 Barnaby's; Meeting @ 7 PM Presentation @ 8 PM!

Wednesday, August 3 Barnaby's; Meeting @ 7 PM Presentation @ 8 PM!

DIVER'S ED

ScubaDiver @ UMLY	Mondays –June 6, 2011
Dutch Springs	June 11& 12,2011
Advanced	June 11&12,2011
Dry Suit.....	July 5, 2011
ScubaDiver @ West Chester YMCA	Tuesdays –July 5, 2011
ScubaDiver @ UMLY	Mondays –July 25, 2011
Nitrox @ DDD.....	Wednesday June 8, 2011
CPR/First Response	Wednesday, June 15, 2011
Rescue.....	Thursday June16,2011
Divemaster	Call for details
❖ <i>Other Specialty Diver Classes being scheduled – call DDD (610) 436-0176! Private & semi-private lessons upon request!</i>	

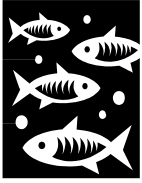
The KDA has gone virtual on FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/KeystoneDivers>

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!. Call EBD to sign up!

DIVE TRAVEL & EVENTS

Bonaire w/Capt. Don's Habitat	June 18-26
Key Largo.....	August. 4-8
St. Lawrence Seaway w/Seaway Vision.....	September 10 & 11
Little Cayman Beach Resort.....	September 17-24
Grenada....50 th Anniversary of the sinking of the Bianca C.....	October 2011
Tobago w/Blue Waters Inn	January 21-28, 2012
Kasawari, Lembeh Strait	May 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 : June 1, 2011 - Barnaby's



*The Keystone Diver's Association
presents:*

Bernie Chowdhury ❖
Andaman Island Adventures!

Wednesday, June 1
Meeting @ 7 Speaker @ 8 PM

The Andamans consist of over 300 relatively unexplored islands located in the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea to the west of Myanmar (formerly, Burma) and close to Phuket, Thailand. Virgin rainforests, reefs and caves await. The water is warm and clear, with plentiful marine life. Geologically, the Islands are subject to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and the occasional tsunami. Politically, the Islands have been used as prison colonies as early as 1789, first by the Government of Bengal, then by the British, and, finally, by the Japanese, who occupied the territory during the Second World War. These Islands are also home to five indigenous tribes, including a primitive, very aggressive people, the Sentinelese, whose first friendly contact with outsiders came only as recently as 1991. All of this combines to provide the intrepid traveler with very fertile ground – and water – in which to explore.

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

Dive season is finally underway! Stop by and meet your fellow divers and get some ideas about where you might want to dive next; could be a cave in Florida, a wreck off New Jersey or perhaps pondering a palm tree in Palau!

