

# UP AND DOWN THE ANCHOR LINE

## KEYSTONE DIVERS ASSOCIATION



Volume 295

May 2011

*Next KDA Meeting:*

**Wednesday, May 4, 2011**

**Peter E. Hessquire**

*The Future of  
Our Underwater Past*

**Meeting @ 7 PM; Speaker @ 8 PM!**

*"Is Deep Water Salvage Truly in Deep Water?"*

Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the world's most famous shipwreck, RMS TITANIC. Collections of the incredible artifacts salvaged from her wreck have toured the world and enthralled millions. Yet the efforts spearheaded by the US State Dept and NOAA seek passage of a treaty "protecting" the disintegrating TITANIC site from further artifact recovery.

After spending millions of dollars and deploying state of the art technology, a US company finds and recovers 500,000 Spanish silver coins from deep international waters, only to be ordered to "return" the treasure to the King of Spain.

UNESCO--the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization--has passed an international convention outlawing any buying, selling or trading of "underwater cultural heritage" (shipwreck artifacts to you and I), instead proclaiming everything of value lying undiscovered underwater to be government property. Wreck divers and shipwreck salvors are condemned as "the destroyers of our past".

How do such asinine proposals become law and what can be done by divers and explorers to ensure our right to continue to search for and recover historic shipwrecks? Wreck diver and maritime attorney Peter Hess takes us to the front lines of deep water exploration and discovery--and the inevitable battles over the future of our underwater past.

**GREAT NEWS MEMBERS: Come by Dudas Diving Duds and ask about all of the terrific KDA Member Specials on selected diving gear and accessories!**



**Buster says:**

**VIP your tanks, overhaul your regs!**

**Visit [DudasDiving.com](http://DudasDiving.com)**

**and buy some fins for your legs!**

*Here it is...rounding the corner...*

**DIVE SEASON 2011!**

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

To order a Truk video, visit Mike's Gerken's website:  
<http://www.evolutionunderwater.com/>.

**Last KDA Meeting: April 6, 2011!**

One hundred forty-four miles of barrier reef due north of New Guinea, considered the Gibraltar of the Pacific – with air strips constructed by Trukese slave labor, this collection of roads, trenches, bunkers and caves looking out on the Japanese Imperial Fleet at anchor is Truk Lagoon acquired thru the League of Nations by the Japanese after WWI. Now in WWII, the US had won the nearby Marshall Islands in battle and was assembling forces in preparation for a raid on Truk, so the Japanese set about moving their giant battleships, aircraft carriers, and landing craft out of the Lagoon. But before they could move any of their support craft, in 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 support ships sent to the bottom of the lagoon. More than 65 years later the Shipwrecks of Truk have become a Mecca for sport divers. **Mike Gerken** who lived and worked in Truk Lagoon 2003 until 2008 as crew member of the *Truk Aggressor* and later the captain of the *Truk Odyssey* has amassed one of the largest collections of underwater video, archival film and still images ever assembled. He spent four years producing this documentary on Truk Lagoon and an hour sharing it with us! Virtually no current, but very deep, makes for a technical dive dreamland! It's a full-cycle display: #5 beer bottles and urinals in this virtual underwater museum as the removal of the many relics and artifacts enriched in marine life is illegal – they WILL check your luggage when you leave the country. At 160' and the deck at 130' the bridge and telegraph of the *Nippo Maru* are quite prominent with battle tanks at the ready and the anti tank guns still have their tires! The *Rio de Janiero Maru* had been a Japanese diesel passenger cruise ship before taken by the Japanese Army – her last stop was Rio! She lies from 35' - 110' just waiting to have her engine room explored. Filmed during the 2007 DDD tour, EBD was seen cruising the *Amagisan Maru* in 140' – 200' of clear blue water; a set of fins marked "Jeb" clearly occupied the foreground. Rodney and Susie Dudas Cairn were seen scooting the entire 385' stem to stern of the \$million wreck, the *San Francisco Maru*; an impressive sight as they moved quickly over equipment on the 160' deck and munitions below – she lies in 210 feet. If you still want to explore the wrecks of Truk and aren't technical, there are plenty of shallow wrecks as well, they just won't be called on by TEAM DDD. Mike's documentary brings the historical significance to light and ties in the actual battles to the wrecks the divers are exploring. In the USS Tang Rescue, the most daring rescue of WWII, 22 downed pilots and crew adrift in rubber rafts precariously close to the reefs were rescued by the sub – which later sailed back to Hawaii. Kingfisher seaplanes, flying precariously close to the Japs, were also used in rescue – with so many men on one wing (oh, I have that problem, too) she was damaged and unable to fly – so she was sent to the bottom after all were safely on board the Tang so as not to fall into enemy hands. The more than 500 planes of the US forces took out 95% of the Japanese merchant fleet and 6 warships. In the weeks before the Japanese had moved the warships out of the area for protection and in fact the history books had put little emphasis on this battle because they did not score many war ships. However, in the grand scheme of things, this WAS the ultimate battle because those warships couldn't operate at all without their supply ships of the merchant fleet! Thanks to Kimeo, the Blue Lagoon has the best real museum. **Mike Gerken** 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. **Patti Pittock** captured the 100-100 (*that's when you win back to back 50-50's*). **SEA U 5-4-11 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, May 4, 2011**  
**Peter E. Hessquire**  
*The Future of our Underwater Past*  
**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 WRECK DIVERS TAKE BACK THE KDA !!!*\*\*\*

➤ **KDA Email address:**  
[mail@dudasdiving.com](mailto:mail@dudasdiving.com)

➤ **The official KDA Web address:**  
[www.dudasdiving.com/keystone-divers](http://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!

There's a new dive schedule out there for 2011! Please check the website: [Dudasdiving.com](http://Dudasdiving.com)!

#### **Meeting Place: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday: 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, May 4 Barnaby's; featuring Peter E. Hessquire "The Future of Our Underwater Past"  
Meeting @ 7 PM Presentation @ 8 PM!

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

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

## DIVER'S ED

Scubadiver @ West Chester YMCA .....	Sundays May 15, 2011
Scubadiver @ West Chester YMCA .....	Tuesdays May 24, 2011
Scubadiver @ UMLY .....	Mondays -June 6, 2011
Nitrox @ DDD.....	Wednesday May 11, 2011
CPR/First Response .....	Thursday May 12, 2011
Rescue Diver.....	Wednesday May 25, 2011
Dutch Springs .....	June 11 &12, 2011
Divemaster.....	Call for details

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

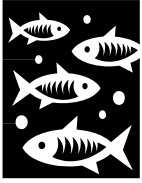
The KDA has gone virtual on FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/KeystoneDivers>

### **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!. Call EBD to sign up!

## DIVE TRAVEL & EVENTS

Cozumel w/Fiesta Americana...(SOLD OUT) .....	May 14 – 21
Bonaire w/Capt. Don's Habitat .....	June 18-26
St. Lawrence Seaway w/Seaway Vision.....	September 10 & 11
Little Cayman Beach Resort.....	September 10 & 11
Grenada....50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sinking of the Bianca C.....	October 2011
Key Largo.....	August 2-8
Tobago w/Blue Waters Inn .....	January 21-28, 2012
Kasawari, Lembah Strait .....	May 18, 2012
Raja Ampat Islands, West Papua, Indonesia.....SOLD OUT.....	Memorial Day, 2012

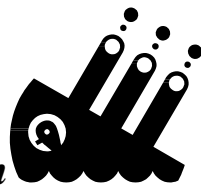


Keystone Divers' Association  
c/o Dudas Diving Duds, Inc.  
104 Bartram's Lane  
West Chester, PA 19382  
(610) 436-0176

## FIRST CLASS

NEXT Meeting : May 4, 2011 - Barnaby's

*The Keystone Diver's Association*



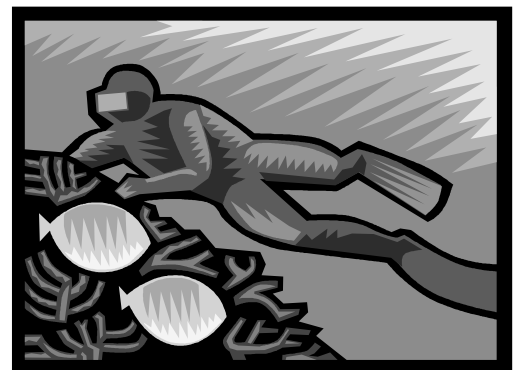
*presents:*

**Peter E. Hessquire** ❖

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**❖ 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!