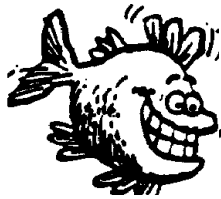


UP AND DOWN THE ANCHOR LINE

KEYSTONE DIVERS ASSOCIATION



Volume 310

August 2012

Next KDA Meeting:

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Dinner @ 7:00 P.M.; Speaker @ 8:00 P.M.

Barnaby's, West Chester, PA

Off-Beat Bonaire (South & East Coast)

with Jason Hirsh

Last KDA Meeting: July 11, 2012!

It was a sharing evening of images taken by Evelyn and I (plus Simon's whaleshark video) direct from the recent *Dudas Diving Duds* expedition on board *Dive Damai I* to Raja Ampat and the Cenderawasih Bay National Park, West Papua, Indonesia. Leaving Sorong, Indonesia, about as far west as one can get on the island of West Papua and about one degree south of the equator, our boat traveled north to the Raja Ampat Islands of Gam, Waigeo and Wayag, just on the north side of the equator. West Papua is the west side of the island that embraces Papua, New Guinea (the entire east side). It is just above Australia and due south of Japan. Underwater, World Heritage-class giant coral heads abound along with sponges, soft corals & countless colorful species of fish & critters just waiting to be 'discovered' by the divers hurling headfirst off the skiffs into this rarely seen part of the planet! Heading back toward Sorong, on a beautiful starry nite with rather rough surf conditions, we answered a last-minute call to go back millions of years to witness a 900-lb soon-to-be extinct leatherback turtle lay her eggs in the sand of the remote Indonesian beach where 15-30 years before she, too, had emerged from her leather-like shell, taking her first swim in the brown seaweed laden surface of the sea. The WWII wrecks 'The Junk Pile' and the Japanese tanker, *Shinwa Maru* in Manokwari Harbor were next on the docket for the gleeful wreck divers. Next stop was Cenderawasih Bay - *Cenderawasih* means "bird of paradise" in Indonesian, but they remained aloof as there was no time for land excursions on this mission as we had limited time to motor down into the bay to where the bamboo-poled fishing *begans* tethered to the sea floor awaited with their world-famous freeloaders in tow, the WHALE SHARKS! They turn lights on at nite to attract the fish and the next morning (or whenever bait is available) the whale sharks appear - we spent the afternoon with two adults (35-40 feet long) and their baby (around 20 feet long) and the next morning several more joined us. No tourists, no other boats, just the whale sharks and the 10 of us with our cameras: Evelyn Dudas, Norman Lynch, Jeb Schneider, Patti Pittock, Mark Smith, Kathy Woehl, Geri Murphy, Barbara Mainville, Dr. Maida Taylor and Ed Kelly. Raja Ampat means "the four kings," a name dating back to the 15th century when the Sultanate of Tidore - one of the Muslim sultanates in the original Maluku west of Halmahera - appointed four local "rajas" in Misool, Salawati, Batanta and Waigeo. A side trip to Bali on the way home made us feel like those four kings! Did I tell you we saw Mike Richardson at the airport in Singapore as he had been vacationing in Bali the week before?? And what a coincidence, **Mike Richardson** won the 50-50 and donated it back to the KDA so did Tim Urbanski last month. Thanks!

Jason Hirsh will present "off-beat" diving on Bonaire - that would be the south and east coast. And for you avid wreck divers and even those too timid to venture to the 'other side' of Bonaire, Jason will present a brief historical background of the *Windjammer* and then a pictorial overview of the wreck both before and after its collapse. *Windjammer* is the wreck of the *Mairi Bhan*, a 239-foot bark, built in Scotland in 1874 and sunk off Bonaire in 1912. She was out of Trinidad with a load of tar bound for who knows where! Discovered in 1968, she sits in over 200 feet of water just off the Bopec oil terminal.

Now retired from the Department of Defense, Jason spends seven months a year in Bonaire and the remainder in New Jersey where he's been diving for 24 years - 20 of those years as an instructor. Certified to dive through advanced tri mix and semi closed rebreathers, he was until recently an Instructor Certifier with SSI. He remains an Instructor Trainer with TDI and SDI and an Open Water Instructor with PADI. In his other spare time, he is a factory trained technician for Draeger, Scubapro, Sherwood, US Diver and Apeks.

A favorite destination of KDA divers, the island of Bonaire is ringed by a coral reef which is easily accessible from the shore along the Western and Southern sides. The entire coastline of the island has been declared a marine sanctuary, preserving local fish life and the diving habits of shore divers like **Jason Hirsh**. Let's extend a warm welcome to Jason and his tales & photographs from Bonaire. *Sea ya 8-1-12!*



Buster says:

**Whether rural coral or
decks on a wreck;
Let your best quest begin
at Dudas Diving Duds!**

*Check out the 2012 dive schedule!
www.dudasdiving.com!
Mike@dudasdiving.com
(610) 436-0176!*

upcoming KDA events & special stuff

Next KDA Meeting:

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

*** Jason Hirsh ***

**“Off-beat Bonaire”
(south and east coast)**

Attention KDA members!!

KDA members will receive a discounted rate of \$3/fill, a savings of \$2 off the regular DDD air fill rates of \$5.

A message from Mike Gherkin:

Shark finning for shark fin soup is a status symbol to the growing middle class in China. Please visit SHARKDEFENDERS.COM and sign the petition at STOPSHARKFINNING.NET to help eliminate the demand and save our apex predators that are so integral to the marine environment.

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

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

Bart Malone says: PLEASE write your congressman! Keep NOAA at bay and out of your bug bag! Help fight the big battle – the government is using our money to fight US! They want to extend the economic limit from three to 300 miles off shore, and when that happens, you will probably need a permit to dive.

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

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 2012 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): _____

Saint Lawrence Seaway Sept. 1-3, 2012

The St. Lawrence River offers some of the best freshwater diving in the world

Wreck dives, drift dives, you'll find them all here. Factor in water temperatures rising beyond 75° at peak season and great visibility (thank you zebra mussels!), a trip to the 1000 Islands Region is a sure bet to satisfy divers of varying levels of experience and preferences. This year we will be going up for the 3 day Labor day weekend. We will be staying at a local hotel/motel, double occupancy rooms can be reserved by us or on your own. The trip includes lunches and 3 dives per day! \$300.00 pp (dive boat only). Call the shop to sign up.

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, August 1, 2012 Barnaby's; Meeting @ 7 PM Presentation @ 8 PM! Jason Hirsh: Off-Beat Bonaire!!

Wednesday, September 5, 2012 Barnaby's; Meeting @ 7 PM Presentation @ 8 PM! Another GREAT speaker!

Wednesday, October 3, 2012 Barnaby's; Meeting @ 7 PM Presentation @ 8 PM!! October.....already!!!!???

DIVER'S ED

Scubadiver @ West Chester YMCA Tuesdays – August 7, 2012

Scubadiver @ UMLY Mondays – August 27, 2012

CPR/First Response Wednesday, August 22, 2012

Rescue Tuesday August 7, 2012

Nitrox Wednesday August 15, 2012

Dry Suit Tuesday August 14, 2012

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>

DIVE TRAVEL & EVENTS

Key Largo August 2-6, 2012

St. Lawrence Seaway September 1-3, 2012

Cozumel October 6-13, 2012

Bonaire November 17-24, 2012

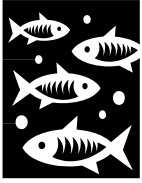
Ginnie Springs December 30, 2012 – January 5, 2013

Roatan January 19-26, 2013

DAN Trip Insurance: Cover Your Dive or Dream Vacation! *Go to the DDD website (dudasdiving.com) and click "Travel Diving," look for the link on the bottom that says "Dive Travel Insurance!"* Traveling on your own? We can help you with your travel plans. Call for details.

EBD GOES TO NORTH FLORIDA several times a year!

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



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

FIRST CLASS

NEXT Meeting : August 1, 2012!

Barnaby's: Jason Hirsh: Bonaire

The Keystone Diver's Association
presents:



❖ Jason Hirsh: Off-Beat Bonaire!

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Dinner @ 7:00; Speaker @ 8:00 PM



❖ Barnaby's of America

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

Join us as we explore Off-beat Bonaire (south & east coast) with our host, Jason Hirsh! The island of Bonaire is ringed by a coral reef which is easily accessible from the shore along the Western and Southern sides. The entire coastline of the island has been declared a marine sanctuary, preserving local fish life and the diving habits of shore divers like Jason Hirsh. Let's extend a warm welcome to Jason Hirsh and his tales & photographs from Bonaire.