

# UP AND DOWN THE ANCHOR LINE

## KEYSTONE DIVERS ASSOCIATION



Volume 305

March 2012

*Next KDA Meeting:*

**Wednesday, March 7, 2012**

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

**Barnaby's, West Chester, PA**

**Mike Gerken**

### *Dives the SS President Coolidge*

The *SS President Coolidge* is one of the world's most famous shipwrecks. In 2006 Mike Gerken arrived in Espirito Santo, Vanuatu to film and document the 650-foot-long WWII shipwreck the *SS President Coolidge*. He spent four months diving nearly every day collecting the most comprehensive video of this famous shipwreck ever assembled and produced his first full length documentary titled "The Wreck of the SS President Coolidge." With the use of narration, archival photos and film footage, this video documentary explores the history of the *SS President Coolidge* from her years as a luxury passenger liner to her untimely demise in the waters of Vanuatu while serving as a troop transport ship for the US military in the South Pacific during World War II. This, along with stunning present day underwater footage, demonstrates why the *SS President Coolidge* is one of the worlds most famous wreck dives. **Mike Gerken** is a boat captain, professional published underwater photographer, documentary film maker and writer who promotes his work through his company, **Evolution Underwater Imaging**. Mike has lived and worked in locations such as Truk Lagoon, Africa, Vanuatu and presently in North Carolina where he is a captain with Olympus Dive Center in Morehead City. Join Mike for his presentation on his first documentary, "The Wreck of the SS President Coolidge," that was released in 2007 and has gone on to become a 'must see' video for any wreck diving aficionado who desires to dive or who has already dived this world famous WWII shipwreck. Please visit Mike's web site at [www.evolutionunderwater.com](http://www.evolutionunderwater.com) to view video excerpts from the film and to see his portfolio of photography.

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



**Buster says:**

**Come rust and netting, salt and debris;  
Wreck diver suited & ready to be free!**

*Check out the 2012 dive schedule!  
[www.dudasdiving.com/](http://www.dudasdiving.com/)*

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

**At long last.....EVELYN DUDAS is a GRANDMOTHER!**

**On Wednesday, February 8, 2012 Suzie Dudas gave birth to a 7 lbs 7 oz, 20 inch-long baby girl named Zale Ava Dudas! Join us in wishing all the best to Suzie & Rodney and Grandma Evelyn on this most happy occasion!**

**Last KDA Meeting: February 1, 2012!**

**Brandon McWilliams – Wreck Diving the North Sea**  
Answering the call to this invitation-only expedition to dive virgin Belgian wrecks in the ever-changing volatile North Sea was the easy part! The 10 to 15-foot drop off the 180-foot-long *Cdt. Fourcault* into the 10 to 15-foot seas was the problem! In July 2009, Belgian divers put together an international expedition of CCR divers aboard the *Cdt. Fourcault* to explore and document virgin wrecks in the region. They flew to Brussels and dove out of Antwerp, the second busiest port in Europe – and one of the most ancient in the civilized world - wars, weather, and other disasters have all taken their toll, depositing countless ships on the bottom; and due to volatile weather and sea conditions, the majority of these shipwrecks have largely gone unexplored! A night club owner had this 180' vessel designed. He and his family and dog actually live on the ship – along with jet skis, a machine shop, compressors, a full service kitchen – even a helicopter on the back deck – and they take invitation only expeditions of 20 divers out whenever they feel the whim! Weather is no object – THIS boat is STEADY! Brandon felt that possibly the Historical Society was holding back on some of the best of the promised wrecks, but they did see the *SS Tubantia* torpedoed by a German sub in 1916; *SS Konigen Wilhelmina*, a Dutch paddle steamer that went down by a mine in 1916; *SS Pluto*, a WWII wreck sink in 1940; the *SS Copenhagen*, a liner of the Great Eastern Railroad company torpedoed in 1917; and other lost ocean liners, warships, and merchant ships. The dive plan was to drop up current, drift to the ball, descend into the current and down into the 63 degree water (no thermocline). After crowded deco line, coming up was pretty neat – get scooped up on the boogie board on the back of the rib, hold on – and get tugged back to the boat. They dropped over a lift/elevator that you stand on and get pulled back up on the boat (careful it doesn't hit you in the head while you are in the water!) After the one dive per day, there was always the hotwater shower and the 'all you can eat' Belgian beer! There were all KINDS of cool fish down there among the Portholes, silver, and lots and lots of dishes - Brits n' Belgians just drove home w/THEIR portholes. Massive crabs, feisty lobsters and giant cod showed up each evening in the wonderful seafood stew. **Brandon McWilliams** is a published wreck and cave photographer, and USCG licensed captain; website: **Downtoolong.com** **Tim Urbanski** won the 50-50 and donated it back to the club. **Wes Markey** won the basket of cheer to benefit the KDA. **Many, many thanks to Dr. Judy for donating Dr. Arch's booze to the cause! Sea You 3-7-12!**

## upcoming KDA events & special stuff

Next KDA Meeting:

**Wednesday, March 7, 2012**  
**\* SS President Coolidge \***  
**Dive Vanuatu with Mike Gerken**

\*\*\* ALL DIVE REPORTS WELCOME -  
COLD OR WARM WATER!!!\*\*\*

The 2012 Dive Schedule is ready!  
Keep checking that website:  
[www.Dudasdiving.com!](http://www.Dudasdiving.com)

### **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.

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

➤ The official KDA Web address:  
<http://www.dudasdiving.com/keystone-divers/>

## At long last.....EVELYN DUDAS is a GRANDMOTHER!!!!!!!

On Wednesday, February 8, 2012 Suzie Dudas gave birth to a 7 lbs 7 oz, 20 inch-long baby girl named Zale Ava Dudas! Join us in wishing all the best to Suzie & Rodney and Grandma Evelyn on this most happy occasion!



### **Peter Hess, 1959-2012**

As you may know by now, our good friend Peter Hess, a long-time friend to Dudas Diving Duds who presented often at The Keystone Divers Association, passed away suddenly on January 12, 2012. He will be missed dearly by all of us, but mostly by his beloved son Benjamin.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Benjamin Hess College Fund, and may be mailed to: M&T Bank, Fairfax, 2301 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803. Please make the check payable to M&T Bank and please mention the Benjamin Hess College Fund in the memo.

### **Meeting Place: 1<sup>st</sup> 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): \_\_\_\_\_

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, March 7, 2012** Barnaby's; Mike Gerken presents: The SS President Coolidge -- Dive Vanuatu with Mike Gerken. Meeting @ 7 PM Presentation @ 8 PM!

**Wednesday, April 4, 2012** Barnaby's; Meeting @ 7 PM Presentation @ 8 PM! Tom Maddox, a TITANIC speaker!

**Wednesday, May 2, 2012** Barnaby's; Meeting @ 7 PM Presentation @ 8 PM! Another great speaker!

## ***DIVER'S ED***

ScubaDiver @ UMLY .....Mondays starting March 5, 2012

ScubaDiver @ West Chester YMCA ..... Sundays starting March 18,2012

ScubaDiver @ West Chester YMCA .....Tuesdays starting April 3, 2012

ScubaDiver @ UMLY .....Mondays starting April 16, 2012

CPR/First Response ..... Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Rescue.....Thursday, March 15. 2012

Nitrox @ DDD..... Wednesday March 14, 2012

Advanced Class..... Sat. & Sun. May 19&20, 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>

### **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 - 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! Next trip: April 16-21, Call EBD to sign up!

## ***DIVE TRAVEL & EVENTS***

**Boston Sea Rovers, CoCo Key Hotel & Water Resort.....March 10- 11, 2012**

**Beneath the Sea, Meadowlands Exposition Center, Secaucus, NJ.....March 23 – 25, 2012**

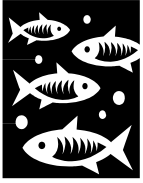
**Curacao @Lions Dive Beach Resort .....May 5 – 12, 2012**

**Kasawari, Lembah Strait ..... May 23- 28, 2012**

**Raja Ampat Islands, West Papua, Indonesia .....2 spots left - GET EM! .....May 29-June 11, 2012**

**St Lawrence Seaway .....Sept. 1-3, 2012**

**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 left that says "Dive Travel Insurance!"* Traveling on your own? We can help you with your travel plans. Call for details.



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

## FIRST CLASS

NEXT Meeting : March 7, 2012!

Barnaby's with Mike Gerken

*The Keystone Diver's Association*  
*presents:*



# ❖ Dive Vanuatu

# SS President Coolidge

## w/Mike Gerken

## Wednesday, March 7, 2012

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



# ❖ Barnaby's of America

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

Welcome back to Barnaby's for another year of fantastic, informative armchair adventures presented by YOUR dive club, the Keystone Divers Association in association with Dudas Diving Duds.