



Bottom Times

Newsletter of the Bay Area Divers, North Central Ohio Dive Club

December, 2010

[Visit Us On Yahoo Groups](#)

Club Officers

President

Jim Wilson
jim.linda.wilson@gmail.com

First Vice President

Dale Musser
sealevelscuba@buckeye-express.com

Co-Program Chair

Jacques Girouard
jacquesgir@aol.com

Marty Leonard

mrtyleonard@msn.com

Recording Secretary & Corresponding Secretary

Nancy Dellisanti
nod1@buckeye-express.com

Treasurer

Ann Stephenson
ann.stephenson@sbcglobal.net

Trustee - 1 Year

Dave LaGrange
flynfuzz@woh.rr.com

Trustee - 2 Year

Dave Utz
duitz@neo.rr.com

Trustee - 3 Year

Maggie Ott
maggie@bayareadivers.net

Webmaster

Scott Lang
Scott@Bayareadivers.net

Highest Outgoing Officer

Doug Dellisanti - Past Pres.
dougd@matrixautomation.com

Shipwrecks & Scuba Chair

Ron Smith
hickoryknoll@wildblue.net

Newsletter Editor

Dave LaGrange
flynfuzz@woh.rr.com

CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 18th, 2010

**Ron & Kathy Smith's
Home**

Details on Page 6



Shipwrecks & Scuba — Yet Another Success !

Borrowed From the December Issue of The LEWD Visibility

by Annette Soule

Isn't it amazing when a plan, and a LOT of hard work, come together? The annual Shipwrecks & Scuba conference was nothing short of fantastic! We can't say enough about how fortunate we are to have an event of this magnitude and quality in our own back yard!

The morning conference kicked off with **Jill Heinerth's** in-depth, and incredibly honest, detailed assessment of rebreather brands and features. One eye opener to take away is that 2% of all rebreather purchasers will die within 5 years on average. This is not a simple technology to be taken for granted—it's complex, and extensive planning and preparation is required for every dive.

Afternoon seminars began with **Sue Smith's** dives on the U.S.S. Monitor. This vessel was built as the Union's response to fight the Confederate's "Monster." This unique ship featured a revolving turret capable of a 360 degree firing range. She was built in an incredible 118 days, but her low draft prevented her from navigating the open ocean. She was lost in 1862 while under way to North Carolina. It took approximately 2 hours to sink as the crew watched from a rescuing vessel. She turtled as she sank and today is under threat of severe deterioration. A number of artifacts have been found, which remain on the wreck today, but will likely vanish beneath the silt. The heavy current digs at the bottom beneath her, and her unsupported back will likely break—which will cause her to deteriorate much faster. The once 'tough old bird' is in desperate need of help; however, attempts to secure funding to retrieve and preserve this historic vessel and her artifacts have not been successful.

Georgann Wachter next presented Sidewheel Treasure & Tragedy, and recalled events surrounding Walk in the Water (a 135' sidewheeler with an underpowered engine), the Erie (200 lives lost in our first major steamboat disaster), the Anthony Wayne (exploded off Vermilion, Ohio with an unusual horizontal engine), the GP Griffith (290 lives lost, which resulted in a mass grave at a nearby beach), the Atlantic (200 or more lost, rivalry over capturing her safe, and a later rivalry over possessing her), the Northern Indiana (towed for salvage to Point Pelee), the Lady Elgin (the worst disaster with only 96 of the 398 aboard surviving), the SeaBird (which had her safe recovered, but contained only ash), and the Morning Star (whose machinery is still mostly in tact and is a unique dive). Georgann's extension research uncovered a number of interesting facts, such as the disproportionate number of sidewheelers that sank in Lake Erie. Many burned or exploded at the docks, but a number of them still lie on the lake's bottom with freight below their decks.

Dave Trotter shared his travels and dives on a number of shipwreck finds in the Hidden Depths. Among his amazing discoveries was Potter's Barge, the King Coal, the Admiral, and the oldest self-unloader in the Great Lakes—the Hennepin. The Hennepin can be found in the National Archives' listing of interesting ships. Her large A-frame structure (part of the self unloader) is a highlight of the dive. For those who think Dave has had an easy time locating wrecks, you should realize his determination in finding his targets includes running his search vessel 24 hours, rain or shine. Although many of these dives are beyond recreational limits, there was one dive featured that was shallower—and happened to be one young gal's first shipwreck dive ever! (Imagine your first wreck dive being with Dave Trotter!)

...but wait, there's more !

Shipwrecks & Scuba — The Story Continues

Jill Heinerth, recipient in the Women Divers Hall of Fame and underwater documentary videographer, finished the afternoon seminars by challenging us with the unknown and “Surviving and Thriving in the Underwater World.”

Jill cut her teeth on Great Lakes diving in Tobermory and expanded her dive skills to that of a hybrid career as artist, photographer, diver, explorer, and

adventurer. Jill informed us she simply volunteered and worked hard until people noticed, which opened many doors to opportunity and unique experiences. Her projects with National Geographic led to her work as film producer.

Jill took us on her around-the-world dive filming adventures. During our travels with Jill, we were also introduced to her philosophies on diving and life:

- #1 Nothing is impossible. Jill and her dive team were often tasked with asking unconventional sources for help and asking for the impossible. She also found the old adage “asking forgiveness is easier than asking for permission” to be true. She mentioned that, in order to encourage your kids, let them scare themselves and shared a story where she, at a young age, was caught with the neighbor kids lowering themselves by rope into a pit they had dug. (This pretty much cinched her as having an adventurous spirit!)
- #2 If you do not chase fear, you will spend the rest of your life running from it. Making her way through narrow restrictions regardless of how difficult it was to pull herself through was one among many challenges Jill has overcome to get the job done. She sometimes led the way for the rest of her team. Under the topic of risk assessment, Jill advises: “a certain level of fear protects us from complacency.”
- #3 Nobody ever had practice at something that’s never been done before. When faced with trying to videotape what is probably the world’s deepest cave system, Jill shared that she often thrives in environments where most cave divers turn and walk away. Long hikes and hauling heavy gear were just a couple of the requirements to get to the location, not to mention the less than desirable water quality when they arrived at the dive site.
- #4 Every idea has value. How do you see where you can’t see? That was the dilemma facing the dive team. This challenge was met with an idea to create ground-breaking technology never used before. A device was built to ping the cave



2010 Presenters (L to R): Jim Wilson, Tom Farnquist, Sue Smith, Jill Heinerth, David Mekker, David Trotter, Roger Roth, Georgann Wachter

walls in 32 directions in order to map the cave system where visibility made for near impossible dive conditions. Did I say near impossible? The team received a ‘gift’ of body bags, along with a sarcastic note to ‘clean up the cave when they’ve finished’ to drive home the point that others were convinced it was impossible. In the end, the team succeeded in what they set out to

accomplish—and built a new technology in the process, which continues to be used by NASA today and may some day be used to map oceans in other worlds.

Jill mentioned that the only constant is change itself, and explained they’d been granted funding to dive the caves of the Antarctic before they even knew whether they existed! (Talk about your reputation speaking for itself!) New information often gave them opportunities to attempt something that might have seemed insane the day before. The filter feeder fish that flourished in this ice land burrowed thumb-sized holes into the walls to avoid the heavy currents that flowed through these ice tunnels. Jill and her dive team used these thumb holes to pull themselves up the ice walls to exit their dive, despite heavy current that had made it difficult to exit previously.

Among the many lessons Jill shared, was a strong message that survivors must be willing to get within a hair’s edge of complete success and surrender. Despite the many close calls and scares she’s faced, there was still a point that she and her dive team would not cross—that realization that you cannot beat mother nature, and that you need to know when to say “not today.” Each of us need to assess our own level of risk and take responsibility for our choices. This thought concluded with Jill’s wish: “May you all fail brilliantly in life!”

Jill then previewed her next project: “We are water.” This latest project will be an independent documentary that she will be filming around the world and will likely premier at Sundance. The core message is that we are all ambassadors of our planet. This lesson in water literacy needs to be communicated as we may one day be fighting wars over fresh water, rather than oil. Disturbing footage of oil spills and our garbage leftover and washing up on beaches are a powerful reminder of the long-term damage we are causing the planet. We look forward to Jill’s next film.

... there’s still more ...

Shipwrecks & Scuba (cont.)

The evening keynotes included the touching presentations of **Dave Mekkler's** Alvin Clark story, which featured Joyce Hayward's narration (the former Mystery Ship at 19 Fathoms that was raised with no preservation plan and eventually deteriorated on shore despite the efforts of one man to save her), and **Tom Farnquist's** Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald (the families of those lost fought long and hard to raise the bell, which became the centerpiece of the memorial that stands at the



Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum today.)

Roger Roth presented the incredible Underwater Images prize-winning photos and videos that took home fabulous trips. There were a number of silent auction trips available as well at great deals—including the trip to Anthony's Keys in Roatan, Honduras that **Dave Soule** won!

Bay Area Diver's annual achievements awards were presented to **Niagara Divers** (group) and **Jack Papes** (individual).



The M.A.S.T. 50/50 raffle drawing drew no surprised looks when our own **Bernie Atkins'** number was drawn to take home the winnings. **Mike Wachter** won the BAD membership raffle for the Edmund Fitzgerald beer (and unsuccessfully offered to trade Bernie for the ca\$h.)

The hard-working Shipwrecks & Scuba team once again pulled together a fun and informative event.

Thanks to Bay Area Divers, volunteers, sponsors and speakers !
- Mike Wachter

October Meeting Report

We met at our regular meeting place, Chet & Matt's Restaurant in Sandusky and about 20 members attended. Following our business meeting, our speaker was **David Kelch** who is an Associate Professor and Extension Specialist and with the **Ohio State University's Sea Grant College Program**.

The Ohio Sea Grant program is a cooperative effort funded by the National Oceanic Administration, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and other government agencies. The Ohio Sea Grant Program uses a combination of research, education, and outreach projects to address critical environmental and economic issues affecting Ohio and the Great Lakes Region.

Dave gave us a timely and informative presentation regarding the toxic algae concerns that have plagued Ohio's Grand Lake Saint Marys and also caused concerns in the western basin of Lake Erie. We had an interesting and animated conversation with Dave, following his formal presentation. Dave experience being a diver definitely added another dimension to his presentation. Although he has spoken to much larger audiences, he enjoyed our group much more than most, because as Dave pointed out, we are sincerely interested in what's going on with water quality of the waters in Ohio and the Great Lakes.

Dave's work includes the sport and commercial fisheries, eco-tourism, marinas and the boating industry, shipwreck protection and scuba diving, and outreach education programming regarding sport fishery related issues. Our thanks goes to Dave Kelch for giving us this nice program and we will have him back in the future, because he is well versed on a variety of subjects that interest divers.

- Jim

New BAD Members

Ever the recruiter, Ann Stephenson signed up several new members during this year's Shipwrecks & Scuba. Here is a little information on two of our newest members.

.....

Jay Lenhart & Neil McGee

Neil and I have been dive buddies from the beginning and have a similar dive history/story. We have been diving since 2008 when we got our open water certification through PADI.

We recently became Master Scuba Divers and just started our Divemaster course through PADI in association with Uncle Joe's Scuba in Pittsburgh.

Most of our diving has been at Gilboa Quarry, where we also enjoy the rustic camping. We have limited diving experience at Whitestar and B n' B Quarries as well.

We oddly enough haven't done much diving in the Pittsburgh area. We have dove several sites around the Flint Michigan area over the years as well.

We are members of MAST, BAD, the Ohio Quarry Divers and recently joined OCSSDI. We also keep up with our DAN memberships as well.

And for those who believe it best to start 'em out when they're young . . .

Got a text from Patrx @ 11 AM with a beautiful picture of Baby Heschel - 7 lbs, 11 oz. 20 inches long.

We have another new member !!!
- Ann

A "CARE Package" for Eric Ziegler

Hi All BAD/LEWD folks:

With a successful Shipwrecks and Scuba behind us, many of us are looking forward to lots of festivities in December.

During the Shipwrecks & Scuba event, many of us got to sign a card to **Eric Ziegler**, who is serving with the Marine Corps in Afghanistan. A number of us have gotten to know Eric over the years. When he's had time away from school, work and his Marine Corps Reserve duties, he has come out to dive the lake. **Dean and Dianne Ziegler** have always brought their boat up to the Club dives. And many of us have been lucky enough to dive with them, and with Eric.

As Eric was notified last spring that he would be deployed, he was unable to finish his final semester at Kent State. He was busy all summer at Marine Corps training. So he had no time to dive before deploying to Afghanistan. We all think so highly of Eric and his family, I thought it would be nice to send a care package or two over to him.

Here is my idea for the BAD party on Dec 18th. Feel free to bring items to send to Eric if you would like to participate in sending a care package. I will have a box to collect the items at these parties and would be happy to send them off in the mail to Eric. The boxes may not get to Eric before Christmas. But I am sure they will be much appreciated.

It would be nice if you wanted to include a letter, note or card to say hi to Eric. Tell him what got for him, a funny story or about your last dive for 2010, or your best dive of 2010.

Here are some Ideas of items to get for Eric, from his sister Jen

Red Twizzlers	Instant Oatmeal
Peanut M&M's	Baby wipes
Any Kind of Protein Bar	Gum
Can Tuna in Water – Pop top or send a can opener	Hard Candy
Powder drink mixes, Fruit punch is a favorite of Eric's	Cotton Socks
NutraGrain bars	Odor Eaters size 12

Eric loves to read. Some of his interests include running, diving and travel. They also get almost no news, So if you have a favorite periodical or magazine, or what a great time to get rid of those paperback novels you have been meaning to read !

I don't want to hog all the fun. If you want to write to Eric yourself and send him your own package, feel free. Here is his contact info:

CPL Ziegler, Eric, D.
3 / 25 K. Co.
Unit 44560
FPOAP 96427-4560

Jen also directed me to a Website for more ideas <http://operationmilitarypride.org/>

Click on care package information for Ideas of what to send: If you have small kids or Grandkids have them Draw some pictures. Make sure if you have something that is liquid, that could melt or is scented please put them in a secure zip lock bag. Please do not wrap any items as all items have to be recorded on a box content sheet with weights.

- Ann Stephenson

Dive Gear STILL For Sale !

An acquaintance of mine from Put-in-Bay has some dive equipment he wants to sell. His name is Bob Petro. Bob's phone number is **440-759-5739**.

He bought the equipment brand new, but wasn't able to use it a lot. The dive shop where he purchased the gear is now out of business.

Bob has the following equipment for sale:

US Divers Buoyancy Compensator; a Cousteau model
Gauge
Regulator (high flow)
Compass
Aluminum 80 Air Tank

Greetings From Charlie & Eva Kramer

Dear Jim & Bay Area Divers:

Greetings!

I have been out of diving for more than 10 years and I thank the Bay Area Divers for our lifetime membership and continuing to mail me the Bottom Times newsletter.

I was certified in 1970 and my last dives were in July of 1998 at Portage Quarry with the BAD club. In my dive book, I have 773 dives with 568 bottom time hours. Brag, brag, brag !

In the 1990s, two hip replacements and a broken patella (knee) robbed me of many months of diving.

This December, I'll be 89 but age cannot erase memories of my diving. I have many photos.

It makes me glad to know how active the BAD people are!

Eva and I wish you all happy and safe diving.

Best Wishes, - Charlie

Finding Shipwrecks Uplifting Experience

By Melissa Tait, The Record staff

KITCHENER — While the Titanic is probably the world's most famous shipwreck, our own backyard — more specifically the Great Lakes — holds some incredible sunken stories.

Scuba diver and shipwreck enthusiast Jim Kennard was at The Museum on Saturday speaking as part of the Titanic speaker series.

Using side-scanning sonar — a sophisticated form of underwater radar — Kennard has shone a light into the cold darkness of the shipping graves at the bottom of the massive lakes.

One light shined a bit brighter than the rest when Kennard, and his partner Dan Scoville, discovered a wreck in May 2008 off the southern shore.

In 1780 the HMS Ontario, a 22-gun British warship carrying 122 people including about 30 Canadian crew members, sank in Lake Ontario during the American Revolution.

Kennard remembered how his “heart was in is throat” when a final pass of the torpedo-like sonar passed within six metres of the ship's 228-year-old main masts.

It was the oldest shipwreck discovered on the Great Lakes, and a TV production company is now working with Kennard and Scoville to tell the story.

Kennard has found over 200 wrecks using side-scanning technology in and around the Great Lakes, but he said this discovery was different.

“We knew it was a war grave,” Kennard said.

He said there was “silent reverence” instead of high-fives when the ship was discovered.

Kennard shared a lot of high-fives over 35 years of shipwreck hunting, beginning in the early '70s when he built the first non-commercial side-scanning sonar technology available within 800 kilometres of his home in Rochester, New York.

The sonar is towed by a boat or submarine, and shoots pulses perpendicular to the ground instead of down toward

the ground like traditional sonar. This creates an image of the sea floor that is remarkably clear, but it's not a perfect technology.

“I chased a school of fish around for two hours once,” Kennard said.

“The darned thing kept moving on me.”

A retired electrical engineer, Kennard still calls shipwreck hunting a hobby, but it's a hobby that has seen his name printed in the New York Times connected with “Holy Grail” find like the HMS Ontario.

Kennard said part of the thrill of searching for the wrecks is “like being the first person on a mountain.”

“What can you do these days where you can say ‘you were the first — you're the discoverer’?” Kennard asked.

“All the mountains have been climbed, but not all the ships have been found.”

Using video and artist renditions Kennard says it's important to “write the final chapter” for the history of the ships and the lives of the people that were lost.

Titanic: The Artifact Exhibit continues until January 23rd at The Museum, featuring more than 150 artifacts raised from the famous 1912 wreck.

The Museum chief executive David Marskell said the exhibit has so far been a big draw for a variety of groups — especially on the weekends — and the group sales expected revenue has already been reached with six weeks to go.

As the holiday season approaches he suggests purchasing tickets online and specifying a time to visit to avoid lineups.

Upcoming Titanic related events include a video conference with a museum in Virginia on Dec. 18, Rick Archbold, the author of The Discovery of the Titanic, will speak on Jan. 9 and Wilfrid Laurier professor Paul Heyer, author of Titanic Legacy: Disaster as Media Event and Myth will speak Jan 15.

Charles & Katy Holbrook

Last summer, I became acquainted with a lady who works seasonally for Perry's Monument. As the season progressed and we had conversations while riding the Miller Ferryboat, we discovered that we lived in the same neighborhood. We learned we had other past interests in common and we also learned that we're both divers

Of course I told Kathie about our Bay Area Divers scuba club and a short time later, she and husband-Charlie attended the October meeting. They enjoyed Dave Kelch's program & our BAD camaraderie and Kathie & Charlie joined our club that evening! Kathie & Charlie are now at their permanent residence in southern Illinois but are looking forward to returning to Catawba Island in the spring and I expect we will be seeing them at BAD activities. So I'd like to welcome Kathie & Charlie Holbrook to our BAD club!

A footnote to all BAD members; sometimes all it takes to promote our club is talking about it! You'd be surprised at the divers living in our area who don't know that we're here and actively supporting dive related opportunities and interests !

- Jim

BAD Christmas Party
Saturday, December 18th

Hosted by Ron & Kathy Smith
12199 Twp. Rd. 148, Republic Ohio
419-483-2595

Kathy says plan on arriving around 5:30 – we can start eating by 6:00

It's a pot luck dinner so please bring something to share.

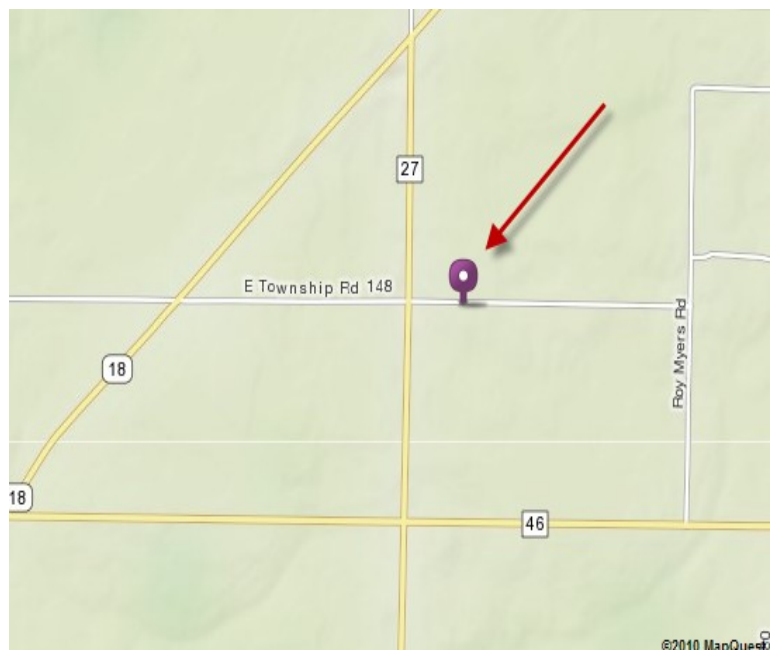
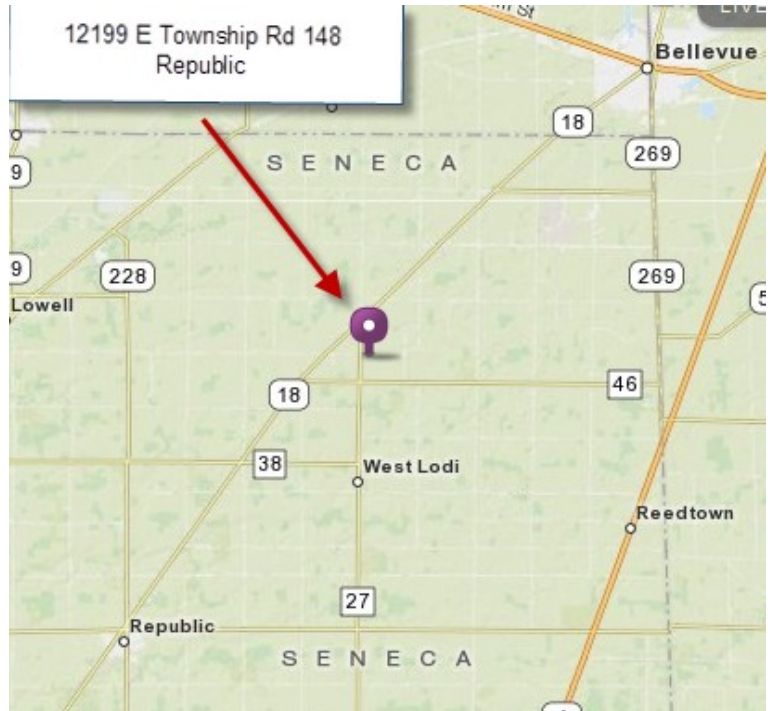
Hickory Knoll (*aka The Smith's Estate*) is off SR 18 roughly half way between Bellevue and Republic.

From Bellevue . . .

Drive south on SR 18 to Co. Rd 27. Hang a slight left onto Co. Rd. 27 to E. Twp. Rd. 148. Turn left onto TR 148 and look for Hickory Knoll.

From Republic . . .

Drive north on SR 18 to E. Twp. Rd. 148. Turn right onto E. Twp. Rd 148 and look for the Hickory Knoll sign.





An Important Reminder !!!

Its Time To Pay Your BAD 2010 Club Dues !

Its easy and oh, so cheap !

Mail your payment to:

Bay Area Divers
c/o Ann Stephenson
4314 Metropolitan Drive
Cleveland, OH 44135

BAD Individual Membership is \$20.00 or BAD Family Membership is \$25.00

One year membership to the Ohio Council of Skin & Scuba Divers is an additional \$9.00

(NOTE: Membership with the Ohio Council is not required for club membership)

If it's more convenient, you can also make payment through our Bay Area Dive Club

Website using our secure Pay-Pal link at:

www.bayareadivers.net

Bay Area Divers

DECEMBER

18th B.A.D. Christmas Party at Ron & Kathy Smith's home - Hickory Knoll - 5:30 PM (See Pg. 6)

January

27th B.A.D. Monthly Meeting : Chet & Matt's Pizza

February

12th-19th Cozumel Trip - New Wave Scuba. Contact Rod Altaus

24th B.A.D. Monthly Meeting

March

5th Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival: Washtenaw community College, Ann Arbor, MI (www.shipwreckfestival.org)

18th - 20th OCSSDI ScubaFest 2011: Crowne Plaza North, Columbus, OH (<http://scubafest.org/>)

25th -26th Ghost Ships Festival: Wyndham Milwaukee Airport & Convention Center (www.ghost-ships.org)

31st B.A.D. Monthly Meeting

April

2nd Niagra Divers Shipwrecks: Welland (www.niagaradivers.com/shipwrecks/sw2011/sw2011index.html)

28th B.A.D. Monthly Meeting

July

16th - 17th Osprey Trip to eastern Lake Erie Basin: Limit 15 people, must commit to both days, \$120 - \$190 per diver
Contact Kevin Magee. kdiveman@sbcglobal.net Cell: (216) 346-4959

If you have an event to be added to the calendar, or if the information on one of these events changes, please send me an e-mail at flynfuzz@woh.rr.com.