



Bottom Times

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

www.BayAreaDivers.net

January, 2012

[Visit Us On The Internet](#)

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

Craig Whitaker
craigwhitaker@accesstoledo.com

Treasurer

Ann Stephenson
ann.stephenson@sbcglobal.net

Trustee - 1 Year

Dave LaGrange
flynfuzz@woh.rr.com

Trustee - 2 Year

Dave Utz
dutz@neo.rr.com

Trustee - 3 Year

Maggie Ott
maggie@bayareadivers.net

Webmaster

Mike Wachter
Wachter@ErieWrecks.com

Highest Outgoing Officer

Nancy Dellisanti - Past Secr.
nod1@buckeye-express.com

Shipwrecks & Scuba Chair

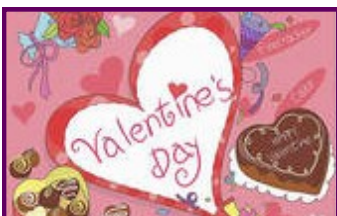
Ron Smith
hickoryknoll@wildblue.net

Newsletter Editor

Dave LaGrange
flynfuzz@woh.rr.com

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, January 26th
@
Chet & Matt's Pizza
Sandusky, OH



UNPROVOKED ATTACK ON HELPLESS STINGRAY SENDS B.A.D. MEMBER TO THE HOSPITAL



An afternoon outing in the Gulf of Mexico resulted in a mad dash for shore and a trip to the hospital for one B.A.D. member.

While taking a boat ride with **Jim and Linda Wilson** off of Punta Gorda, Florida, **Dean and Diane Zeigler** had a close encounter of the 4th kind.

During the boat ride a critter leapt out of the water, brushed by Diane and punched Dean in the stomach.

Jim and Linda think the critter was a stingray, measuring 19 inches across.

Dean thinks it was a fish with hook in its mouth.

Either way, Dean wound up in the emergency room with a hole in his

belly that looks like he has been shot by a .22 caliber bullet.

Good news is that Dean is fine. Bad news is he now has an excuse to keep on those few extra pounds. Seems he thinks his extra girth saved him.

Dean now has a new distinguishing feature -- two belly buttons!!

There's been no report on what happened to the stingray.

NOTE: The story was submitted by Mike & Georg. But I just had to include some of my own 2 cents worth ! Sorry !

~ Dave LaGrange

DEEP THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

~ From The Visibility Newsletter ~

Stingrays are sometimes called the 'birds of the deep sea.'

Other times called 'flattened out sharks.'

Does this mean Dean can claim he was bit by a shark??



January B.A.D. Meeting

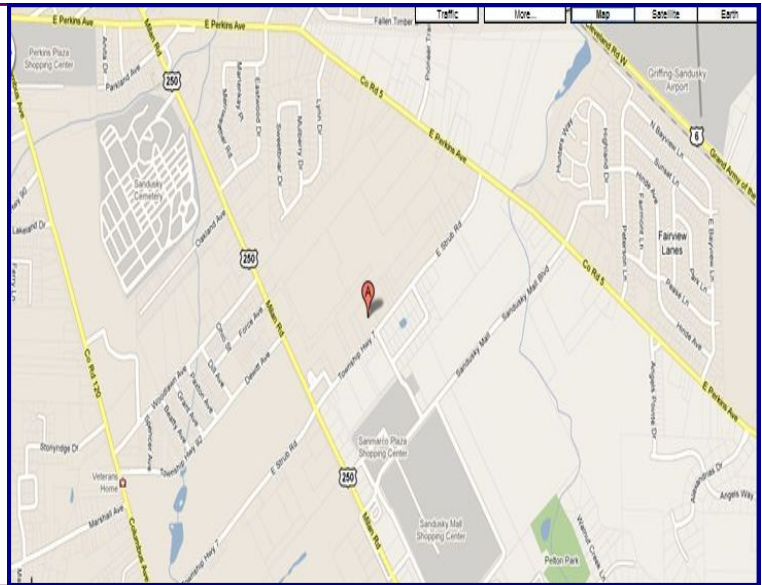
January B.A.D. Meeting

The January B.A.D. meeting will be on **Thursday, January 26th** at Chet & Matt's Pizza on East Strub Road in Sandusky.

Everyone stroll's in between 6:00 and 6:30 for bite to eat. The meeting is called to order around 7:30. Once the meeting is concluded, our guest speaker will present the program.

This month, the guest speaker is **Jeff Davis**. Jeff's presentation will detail the differences between a disabled diver a fully functioning diver, from weighting to hand usage. The presentation will also cover the benefits diving offers the disabled individual. Jeff will also talk about the Ability Center in Toledo, and how the same teaching techniques are used for everyone.

This will be very informal, more like a group discussion. Hope to see everyone there.



WWII Era Dive Bomber Found Off Jupiter, FL

~ Story from the Palm Beach Post News ~

The mystery surrounding a downed World War II-era plane found at the bottom of the ocean has been partially solved. The aircraft, upside down and mostly intact, is indeed a Curtiss SB2C Helldiver as originally suspected, said Randy Jordan, the diver who discovered the plane Tuesday while diving at a depth of about 185 feet four miles off Jupiter.



Jordan, owner of Emerald Charters, a Jupiter scuba diving company, said a cloth-like covering was found, the same kind of material that was used to cover the wings on a Curtiss Helldiver, a Navy dive bomber. He said the shape of the propellers and tail hook were also enough clues to positively identify the plane. "It's just more confirmation that this plane is a Curtiss Helldiver," Jordan said. But it's still not known who was on the plane or how it crashed into the murky ocean depths.

According to the Naval History and Heritage Command in Washington, D.C., there were three crashes off the coast of Florida in Sept. 1944 in which the planes were either lost at sea or missing. The planes were engaged in training flights and the accidents weren't because of enemy action, the Command said.

In an email sent to Jordan on Thursday by Robert S. Neyland, head of the underwater archaeology branch for the Naval History and Heritage Command, Jordan was instructed not to disturb the crash site or remove marine growth or sediment from the wreck.

"Any disturbance to a sunken Navy ship or aircraft wreck requires a permit under the Sunken Military Craft Act of 2004," Neyland wrote. Jordan, however, said he was still allowed to dive and inspect the site. "This is not for recreational divers," he said.

Jordan said he's received hundreds of calls, including those from aviation enthusiasts, other divers and even Navy SEALs since the aircraft was discovered. He said he's also been contacted by three families who believe their relatives may have been aboard the doomed flight.

Robert Chadwell, of Nashville, Tenn., said when he heard about the sunken wreck, he believed it was the Gruman TBF Avenger he was aboard as a radio operator on Dec. 21, 1943. On that afternoon, the TBF Avenger, a torpedo bomber, clipped the wing of another Navy aircraft during a training exercise, sending that second plane nosediving into the ocean somewhere between Jupiter and Hollywood. While Chadwell, who was 20 at the time, escaped without injury and paddled to shore, the three passengers on the second plane were all killed.

The pilot on the TBF Avenger successfully crashed landed his plane into the ocean.

"It wasn't pleasant," Chadwell recalled. "I wasn't going to tell my parents because I didn't want them to worry about me." After getting a brief look at the Jupiter wreck on TV, Chadwell thought it could have been his plane since it was found belly up and in good condition.

"I was in a crash around that time, so I thought it could've been my plane," Chadwell said.

Since finding the aircraft, Jordan said he's been back to the site twice for about 20 minutes on each dive. He was planning another visit this weekend to search for more clues to fully solve the mystery of how the Curtiss SB2C Helldiver, nicknamed the "*Big-Tailed Beast*" by crew members, came to rest at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. But there's another reason why Jordan is going back. "We still want to find out who was on that plane," he said.

B.A.D. Christmas Party

On the evening of Saturday, December 3rd, a number of B.A.D. members gathered at the beautiful new home of Dean & Diane Zeigler, just south of Tiffin. By my count, there were 21 people in attendance - including a jolly little elf in a red suit who looked a lot like Jim Wilson !

This was a very pleasant evening for everyone. There was plenty of food and liquid refreshments. We raffled off the dive gear that was donated to the club; everyone got something from the box of goodies.

Here's some photos.

Oh, by the way. Feel free to send me your best caption for the first photo. I would say, given the warped minds of some of our members, this photo certainly has potential for some really good captions !



What-Cha Up To ?

Jim & Linda Wilson, Mike & Georgann Wachter and Dean & Diane Ziegler are basking in the Florida sunshine.

Jim called over the weekend to let me know how terrible conditions are down there. He said the temperature of the water in the swimming pool dropped all the way down to 86 !

Ghastly !

Cindy LaRosa & Kevin McGee made a trip to Cozumel during December. A number of their photos can be seen at

http://www.greatlakeswrecks.info/photos_cozumel_1.htm

And for those who may not have heard, I will be changing jobs in about a week. I've resigned from the Tiffin Police Department, effective this Friday, the 27th. On Monday, the 30th, I will be sworn in as Chief of Police in the city of Waterville, in Lucas County.

Catherine and I have placed our house on the market, and will be moving as soon as it sells. In the mean time, I'll be commuting the 50 miles to work.

Wish me luck.

P.S. Hopefully everyone will excuse the brevity of this month's newsletter. As you can see, we have an awful lot on our plate right now.

Craig Whitaker sent this message back on January 1st.

I got in 3 dives this past weekend. **Dale Musser** took a group out on Friday at White Star and also Sunday at Gilboa.



On Saturday, I was at White Star with **Bob Rajner** who leads a group every Friday night at Portage during the summer. I now have a total of 7 dives with my dry suit. So far I have blown through 2 wrist seals, flooded one of my dry gloves under water, and increased my SAC rate average nearly two-fold ! I expend more energy getting into the suit than during the dive.

On the bright side, the quarries are not crowded during these cold months. And I can always find a convenient parking spot - 43 degrees water temperature notwithstanding. I am having a great time, and my dry suit skills and learning seem to be improving.