



Four Lakes Scuba Club Newsletter

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This Month's Meeting

Wednesday, April 11th, 7:30 PM
Babe's - 5614 Schroeder Road

Speaker: Tamara Thomsen
"The Wreck of the Railroad Car Ferry *Milwaukee*"

At 3PM on 22 October 1929, two days before Black Thursday set off the U.S. stock market crash and the Great Depression, the railroad car ferry *Milwaukee* pulled away from the Grand Trunk slip in Milwaukee, lowered her sea gate, and set out on her afternoon run across Lake Michigan with her hold full of freight cars. Although a tremendous storm was raging on the Lake, and other vessels had cancelled their trips because of the gale, her Master, Capt. Robert "Bad Weather" McKay kept to the railroad's schedule. The ship never made Grand Haven, Michigan. Days later, bodies of some of her crewmen and lifeboats were picked from the water, and a note in a message case was found on a Michigan beach.

The car ferry *Milwaukee* rests in 125 feet of water. She has long been a favorite dive site in the Milwaukee area and featured in television shows and documentaries. Wisconsin Historical Society completed the first comprehensive archaeological survey of the *Milwaukee*, which resulted in the nomination of the shipwreck to the National Register of Historic Places. Join Wisconsin Historical Society's Maritime Archaeologist, Tamara Thomsen for an in depth look at the car ferry *Milwaukee's* history. Discover what others have overlooked and misreported pertaining to her loss, and learn what really happened in the final hours of this great ship.

Upcoming Dives: Take A Stake In Our Waters 2018

Get ready for our annual clean-up dives in the Madison area! Mark your calendars with the following dates:

- April 28th, Yahara River
- May 12, Lake Waubesa at Christy's Landing
- May 13, Lake Kegonsa
- May 19, Lake Monona
- May 20th, Lake Mendota
- June 3rd annual picnic at Lake Mendota - Mendota County Park, Madison

You won't want to miss these events! Shore support is needed as well, so bring your non-diving friends. More details to come!



President's Message

The warm weather is coming! We have local dives scheduled. We'll need divers and shore people to volunteer at each dive. Thanks in advance for helping with these events.

We also are working on our program schedule for the rest of the year. If you have something to share, please let a board member know or simply join us an hour before the regular meeting time at Babe's!

Four Lakes Scuba Club Officers

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Your Article Could Be Here!

We are always looking for contributions to the newsletter! Please send your trip reports, articles, photos, etc. to news@fourlakesscubaclub.org.