

Four Lakes Scuba Club Newsletter

Volume 42

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September 2019

This Month's Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 11
7:30 PM

Babe's - 5614 Schroeder Road

Speaker: Cassandra Johnson

Cassandra Johnson was certified as an Open Water Diver over 21 years ago. She quickly fell in love with Scuba Diving. As a PADI Master Instructor, she enjoys sharing her passion with Breeze-way Bubbles Scuba students and travel family. Travel is an important facet in her and Don's life and they find great joy in



organizing trips around the world. The Four Lakes Scuba Club is another way she has loved to stay connected with the local dive community. When she isn't scuba diving, Cassandra enjoys sharing time with her Siamese cats, riding horses, volunteering and being anywhere near nature.

Presentation

For over a decade, Cassandra has wanted to organize a trip to the Villa on Dunbar Rock in Guanaja Honduras. In April, the Breeze-way Bubbles Scuba travel group made their journey there. The resort was amazing and they had some great underwater moments as well. This Wednesday she will be telling us more about this incredible experience. Please join us to hear more!



Phoenix Party 2019

This year's Phoenix Party will be on **Saturday, October 5** at club members Danny and Betsy's house. From Madison, it is best to take Airport Road about 4 miles to Toepfer Road. Turn north and they are at the end of the road. Please park on the street.

The party will start at 4:00pm and pizza making will begin around 5:00pm. Donations of firewood for the bonfire are welcome!

The club will provide pizza ingredients. Please bring:

- A side dish to share (salad, desserts, etc.)
- A lawn chair
- Beverages
- Any anchors you may have found this year
- Warm clothing

Hope to see you all there!



Pilot Island Shipwrecks

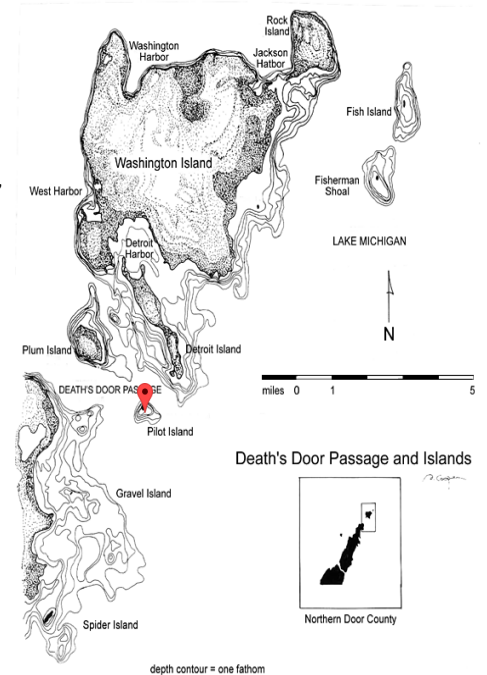
By Ellen Evans

Pilot Island is the site of at least 10 shipwrecks. Which is not a surprise since it is located at the entrance to Death's Door Passage. All of them are sailing vessels. Steamers seemed to be able to get themselves out of the dangerous currents.

The most interesting site for scuba divers is on the north west side of the island where there are three wrecks piled on top of each other. The Forest ran aground in a south west gale on the night of October 28, 1891. A sudden wind shift drove the J. E. Gilmore into the shallows on October 17, 1892. Another gale on October 28 finished her off. The A. P. Nichols sought refuge in the lee of Plum Island that same night. She dropped her anchor but was still blown into Pilot Island. Nearly touching the Forest's bow. The sailors of the Gilmore and the Nichols were saved by the light house crew and spent the night together gratefully reliving their rescue. The remains of these wrecks have been positively identified by the Wisconsin State Historical Society.

John and I visited this site with a dive charter several years ago. The day was sunny, and the winds were calm when the dive teams entered the water. It was hard to make sense of the site with the remains of three shipwrecks mixed together. The class we took on schooner construction through the Wisconsin Underwater Archeology Association helped us

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sort it out. We spent a little over an hour exploring the site. After we returned to what I thought was our entry point I signaled my buddy, asking if he thought this was where the anchor line had been. He agreed. We made a slow safe ascent watching for any boat traffic that might be passing above. When we surfaced, we could see our boat a short distance away waiting for us. The other dive teams were already aboard. While we were examining the wrecks the wind had changed direction and a storm was blowing in. The anchor had come loose, and the boat had drifted. This really brought home to us the risks of navigating through Death's Door. Here we were with modern weather forecasting, radar, and radios, yet we were caught by surprise by a sudden storm. Due to the skill of our captain, we made it safely back to harbor.

To learn more about shipwrecks in Door County and the rest of Wisconsin check out [Diver's Guide to Wisconsin](#) by Steve Harrington. It was published in 1991 but it is still a very practical, concise and useful book. These web sites are also interesting: [Wisconsinshipwrecks.org](#) [Wisconsinhistory.org](#) and [www.WUAA.org](#).

Support Families of the Conception Tragedy



On September 2, 2019, 34 people died aboard a liveaboard dive ship off the coast of California. DAN has set up a donation page to help families of the victims. 100% of the funds will go to the families. Please consider making a donation [here](#).

Four Lakes Scuba Club Officers

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The Mystery of Eddie and Gladys

By Lisa Vorburger

At this year's D.E.F.(Dive, Eat, Float) event, one of our club members, Ellen Evans, found an interesting item amongst the debris that was collected while diving in Red Granite Quarry. It was an antique metal medallion fastened onto a necklace chain. The medallion was casted with the *R.C Roehl & Co.* logo on the back and was dated from 1946 with the inscription "Eddie loves Gladys". Wow! This piece was 75 years old and was in amazing condition for having been in the quarry for several years.

As we all admired this one-of-a-kind piece, we began to wonder... Who were Eddie and Gladys? Where did they get this medallion? And, when and how did it find its way into the depths of Red Granite Quarry? All very intriguing questions. So, there began our adventure to find these two love birds so that we could return this lost treasure back to its rightful owner.

Task one was to dig up more information on the medallion itself. It was cast for *R.C. Roehl & Co.* which was a distributor of coin operated amusement equipment located out of Milwaukee, WI. They also operated Roehl's Playland Arcade located in downtown Milwaukee. It appeared that the medallion was a token that could be purchased from one of their coin machines.



Next began our search for Eddie and Gladys. Since the medallion could have been bought from any number of people, our best chance was to look locally in hopes of finding the couple. With the token being almost 75 years old, we had expectations that Eddie and Gladys may have already passed away, as they themselves would have been in their 90s, if not older. Club member Randy Lee, being a resident in the Redgranite area, happened to find the site of an Edward and Gladys Secora at the St. Marks Cemetery in Redgranite. Now that we had our first lead, the hunt was on to find their next of kin to see if any of them recognized the medallion. With this finding Randy reached out to the local newspaper with our findings, and they were going to run our story in the local newsletter.

As we waited for the article to be run, Lisa Vorburger, our social media editor, headed to the interweb to track down additional family members. Facebook posts were made in hopes that our story would go viral... but in the end an online obituary was found of the son of an Edward and Gladys Secora. The additional names listed in the obituary is what led to our first contact with the family. With luck, multiple members of the Secora family posted comments on our facebook page confirming that they were the family members of Edward and Gladys from the Redgranite area, and a couple of the family members confirmed that they recalled their grandparents having many of these tokens in their possession. Success!!

In conversing with the family, it is believed that Eddie and Gladys probably tossed the coin into the quarry many years ago as you would have tossed a coin into a wishing well. Through the newspaper article we were able to get in contact with a local family member, whom we mailed the memento to. They are going to return it to Eddie and Gladys' living children.