



BENEATH THE SEA HONORS EVELYN BARTRAM DUDAS AS THEIR 2019 NORTHEAST DIVING PIONEER

Evelyn Bartram Dudas was born a farmers daughter in Westtown township , West Chester, PA. It is of interest to note that Evie, as those who love her call her, is the 5th Bartram generation to have a business on Bartrams Lane, Dudas Diving Duds doing retail for the last 49 years. And Evelyn Dudas was the 1st woman to dive the Andrea Doria in June 1967, 11 years after its sinking.



Evie began diving with the Mainline Scuba Club in 1964. On her 5th ocean diving day, October 1965 she was aboard the Sea Ranger ,Belmar NJ, Captained by owner Joe Galliccio, destination the recently sunk Stolt Dagali. On board were Big John Dudas and Little John Pletenic, stowaways . Those boys came up with so much treasure that day , Evie says she wanted to be a pirate too! That meeting with Big John And Little John was the start of many things not just diving with the winter time divers. Organized by George Hoffman and Mike Decamp, fares were \$6.00/ day in the winter and \$9.00 summer.

Evie asked to join the 2nd years exploration to the Andrea Doria from the Viking Starlite , Capt Paul was able to drop a hook into the stern port docking wing. Overnight the boat swung and had to relocate. Big John Dudas single-handedly repositioned the grapple to the bridge port docking wing. Looking in the bridge windows he spotted a binnacle complete with a brass cover in front of the main steering station. He looked over at Evie and motioned: Never tell or it will never be yours!!!



The next morning John and Evie made their way down to the intact bridge. Evie followed the line, found the bridge doorway and slid behind the wooden steering wheel at 205 feet, to watch John struggle with removing the brass cover. He proceeded to remove the fluid filled compass. Big John rolled the 27 pound compass into his goody bag around his wrist. They were the last two divers in the wheelhouse. Today it lies on the bottom at 250 feet.

Jan 21 1968 Evie was bent, paralyzed in the water 50 miles off shore in a Northeaster while diving from the Jess Lou, Freeport ,NY. This only ten days after being taped on "To Tell the Truth".

Today Evie still dives, takes trips around the world to all those exotic places you want to go. But if you listen to her speak, you will hear her voice get brighter and watch her stand taller and look penetratingly into your eyes when she speaks of the big wrecks in cold North Atlantic waters and of the men and women who go down into these cold deep dark places in search of treasure.

Evelyn is a member of the Women's Divers Hall of Fame inaugural class of 2000
Philadelphia chapter of the Explorers Club
NAUI instructor# 8672,
Charter member of DEMA attended every DEMA A Boston Sea Rover
NSS/CDS member,
SSI Platinum Pro 5000 awardee Historical Diving Society USA member John Bartram Association Member
Program Manager of Keystone Divers Assn
2006 BTS Diver of the year award for the first woman to dive the Andrea Doria.

