

SeaDevil NEWS

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Published by **SeaDevil DIVERS**

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Mailed Circulation 281

Hey SeaDevils!

Well the summer is upon us and with it, the DIVE SEASON! Yeah!

We are feverishly at work trying to make all the arrangements to hold classes, host trips and develop more diving opportunities for Central Virginia divers. Please review the travel section and the "Club Notes" section inside. We would greatly appreciate any support you can provide to help with these club projects, running a trip (even if only a single day of diving), or developing an event around diving, and we will do all in our power to support you.

This past month's DEW Scuba was one of the best yet! **Ed Clark** of the Virginia Wildlife Center entertained and enlightened us with great pictures of Cay Sal. His photo tips were extremely valuable, a free photo clinic. His presentation was engaging and everyone enjoyed his good humor and generosity. We are truly fortunate to have Ed's support and look forward to having him provide a return engagement sometime in the fall.

Attending DEW Scuba were some of the members of the returning Freeport trip. What a great time! Even with botched reservations this was one of the best and smoothest trip ever. **James Mayson** couldn't stand missing a Freeport trip and made special arrangements to join us from his new home in Atlanta. He even made it to Theo's wreck! Congratulations James on both counts!

Betsy Cassady and **Sue Smith** joined us from the Valley. **Lars Reinhart**, **Joe Elder**, **Tammy Johnson**, **Charlie Bole** and **Page Vlasis** joined newcomers to Freeport, **John Evans** and **Mary Lou Hayden** for great diving and great times. UNEXSO really provides us with the greatest facilities and, with our own boat, the freedom

to plan and operate our own diving: a terrific combination!

Congratulations to **Mary Lou Hayden** who completed her Open Water certification with flying colors!

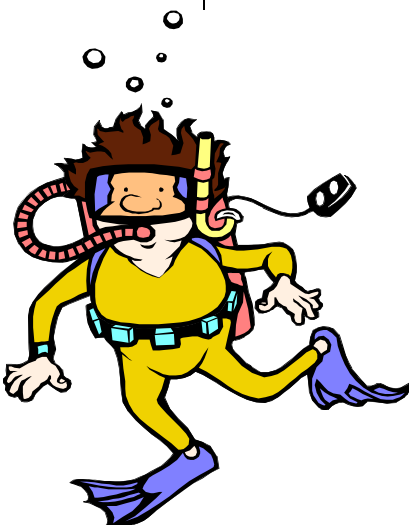
Additional congratulations to **Michael Marks**, PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor! Mike has spent considerable time and effort building his experience and diving education, we welcome him to the instructor ranks and wish the greatest possible success in his diving career. We are all fortunate as Mike has become a considerable asset to our diving community.

Joe Elder and I attended a meeting of the Dive Quarter's Dive Club this past month and were treated to an excellent presentation by **John Broadwater**, Director of Marine Sanctuaries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). John heads up the service's work on the civil war wreck of the Monitor, the first site chosen for protection under the Marine Sanctuaries Act. John is considered to be "Mr. Monitor" having led all the previous expeditions to the site. His presentation regarding the history and significance of the wreck as well as the challenging considerations for visiting the wreck on scuba was fascinating. John will be leading an expedition this summer for more work on the wreck and we hope that he will be able to visit us at DEW Scuba late this fall.

Our Speaker for this month's DEW Scuba is still unnamed, but we're working on it. So, come and be surprised! ...and just have a good time!

See ya' there.....

--Chip



CHECK IT OUT!

➤ Class Information & Schedule

➤ Dive Trips

➤ Recent Happenings

➤ DEW Scuba

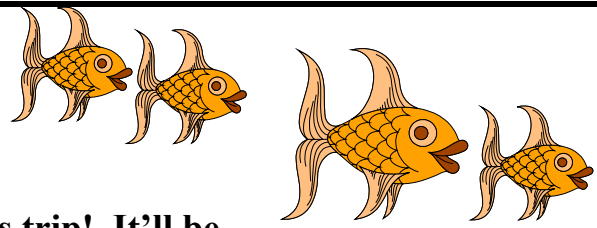
➤ Special Features

➤ Dive Tips

➤ Web Site

Dive Trips

“We Schedule, We Go!”



June 24- July 1, '98 - Bonaire, NA. “Don’t miss this trip! It’ll be terrific!”-Chip

Take a trip with Tony Feldmesser to scuba diving’s “Garden of the Caribbean”. Accommodations at the Sand Dollar, six days of two tank boat dives and unlimited shore diving. \$660 plus airfare of \$585 (may vary). Booked through Charlottesville Scuba Center. Contact Tony 295-6227. E-mail amf@cstone.net



June 20-21, '98 Virginia Beach

Wreck Diving - Advanced Certification Required,. We Leave Saturday morning at 8:30 am. Two afternoon boat dives, the Lukenbach and the Powell. Dive Sunday morning on the

York and at 1800 Line. \$175 including hotel (dbl occ), 4 boat dives, tanks, air, and weights as needed. Contact Joe Elder 975-1542

July 25-26, '98 Virginia Beach Wreck Diving - Advanced Certification Required,. We Leave Saturday morning at 8:30 am. Two afternoon boat dives, the Schooner and the Triangle Wrecks. Dive Sunday morning on the Morgan and the Kern.

August 22-23, '98 Virginia Beach Wreck Diving - Advanced Certification Required,. We Leave Saturday morning at 8:30 am. Two afternoon boat dives and two morning dives on Sunday.

August 27-31, '98. Freeport, Grand Bahama. Cap off your summer with three days of diving and a day of sun on the beach. Airfare from Richmond, Accommodations and 9 Boat Dives! Open Water Certification Dives and Advanced Open Water Course available. \$727. Air, Transfers, Hotel & 9 dives.

September 19-20, '98 Virginia Beach Wreck Diving - Advanced Certification Required,. We Leave Saturday morning at 8:30 am. Two afternoon boat dives and two morning dives on Sunday.

October '98 - Bonaire - Lions Dive Bonaire & BonBini Divers \$749 plus air. Michael Marks and Joe Elder are leading a small trip that is currently sold out, but they are accepting wait listed. Call Mike 966-6859 Daytime

October '98 (formative) Utila, Bay Islands, Honduras

November 26-30, '98 THANKSGIVING!! Freeport, Grand Bahama. After that great turkey dinner, relax on the flight to Grand Bahama! Inclusive of airfare from Richmond, accommodations and 9 boat dives! Open Water Certification Dives and Advanced Open Water Course available.

Wanted! Trip Leaders & Organizers

As I'm sure you all can imagine, there are more opportunities to travel and dive than any one or two people can possibly do. We need help!

If you're interested in putting together a trip whether its to some high profile overseas destination, the eastern seaboard for some fantastic wreck diving, or just to go to one of the really great quarries this summer, please give me a call.

Working together we can have a lot of fun and provide each other with diving opportunities we could not have otherwise.

Chip Earle 804-984-4489
Email: chip@SeaDevilDivers.com



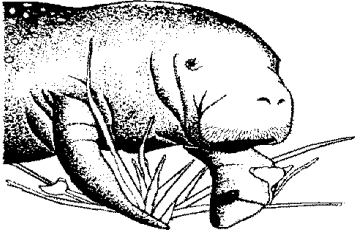
Want help with dive travel?
Keely Vienne, Rescue Diver
296-9000

Looking for more information on our trips? ...

You will find complete trip details and links to the dive operators, hotels, island information and much more when you DIVE INTO THE WEB at

<http://www.SeaDevilDivers.com>

Captive Manatees Returned to the Wild



MIAMI (Reuters) - Three of Florida's gentle, giant, manatees were released from captivity this past month into the

Everglades and researchers hope to monitor the endangered trio's progress using a new satellite tracking system.

A spokeswoman at the Miami Seaquarium said the three were loaded into slings and onto a truck for their trip from the Seaquarium, near downtown Miami, to Coot Bay in the Everglades National Park, where they were released.

Nine-year-old Aurora, her brother Foster, 5, and four-year-old Noah had been living in the Seaquarium, a local water theme park that also cares for injured animals. Foster and Aurora were born in captivity, but Noah was rescued and brought to the Seaquarium for care.

Veterinarians tagged the three who will be monitored via a new satellite tracking system as they move through the Everglades.

Researchers chose the Everglades because water in the giant wetlands remain relatively warm throughout the year. As the manatees were raised in captivity, veterinarians feared they might not know to swim south if the waters became cooler.

The Florida manatee also known as a "sea cow" is a gentle, leathery mammal that averages 10 feet in length and 1,000 pounds in weight. Experts have long been concerned about the species survival because it reproduces slowly and dozens are killed each year by speeding boats as they surface in canals, rivers and lagoons.

Fewer than 3,000 manatees are believed to be living in Florida waters. They are classified as an endangered species.

Reefs Deteriorate Amid Asia Diving Boom



By Chris McCall
PULAU PERHENTIAN
KECIL, Malaysia (Reuters) - Scuba divers have swarmed to Asia's crystal clear waters in

the 1990s, but scientists warn that the region's stunning coral reefs face a catastrophic decline.

Malaysia's Perhentian islands now have nine dive centers taking tourists to see fan coral, trigger fish, puffer

fish and other marine life of the Perhentian marine park. Most of the centers have opened in the past few years.

"Before we didn't know what was down there. The fishermen put their anchors just anywhere," said islander Mohammad Hasbullah Deraman, who is being trained as a divemaster at one dive center.

Not all of Southeast Asia's reefs have fared as well at human hands. Fishing with dynamite, cyanide and dragnets has left many devastated. Runoff from septic tanks encourages the growth of algae, which can destroy a coral reef.

Asia's reefs are declining faster than those in any other part of the world, say marine scientists, who hope the current diving boom will be part of a cure, not one more plague.

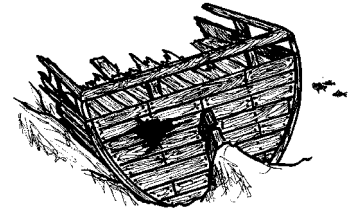
"We have the highest diversity of marine life in the world in Southeast Asia and we have the highest bulk of coral reef area in the world. We also have the highest rate of degradation," said John McManus, project manager of Reef Base, a database on marine ecosystems in Manila.

"If people do not keep up efforts to make it unacceptable for divers to break coral, then they will break coral," McManus said. On the other hand, he said, by bringing economic benefits and making local people value their reefs, the diving boom could be a savior for some.

Underwater Archeology Class Review

By: Jeffrey A. Charleston

My buddy and I attended the Wreck-A-Wreck program at Guppy Gulch last month sponsored by MAHS, the Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society.



The program included a presentation on marine archeology and opportunities for recreational divers to volunteer on local projects, through MAHS and otherwise. It described phases of an archeological project and basic underwater site survey techniques. Explained the use of a marked reference line for measuring and mapping a site, and key items to look for in identifying a wreck. Introduced Maryland's form for describing an archeological site. Program's intent was to expand divers' awareness of marine archeology and help end the us v. them attitude on both sides by getting divers interested in site mapping, investigation, and recording wrecks (preferably before retrieving artifacts, but at least while preserving knowledge of important artifacts' location in the wreck). (cont. next page)

In water, participants got to record/map one of the "wrecks" in the quarry and fill out the site registration form. A useful exercise in mapping a site, or simply in increasing awareness of key features/orientation/structure

of a wreck. Not a bad program for wreck divers as a good sketch map of that favorite lobster hole or artifact pile might help you find it again next season...

Overall, a nice few hours of fun to shake off the winter's cobwebs and start thinking about real wrecks again. Some gossip about maybe setting up a similar program in Virginia, and perhaps running a charter out of Ocean City to map the China wreck and get some data to finally figure out who she really is. Remember this program for next year!

For more information on MAHS or their archeology course which can lead to a PADI or NAUI specialty certification, contact Tom Berkey at (703) 978-4429 (H) or email berkey@dc.net

Sea Horses Dwindling In Wild, U.S. Aquarium Says



CHICAGO (Reuters) -- Chicago's Shedd Aquarium said it would be putting on the world's most diverse

display of sea horses with the message that the creatures' numbers in the wild were dwindling.

"The collecting pressure is heavier than the population can sustain," Shedd curator James Anderson said.

Chinese folk medicines made from sea horses are used to treat respiratory problems, heart disease and sexual impotence, while the fish are imported into many Western countries as pets. Sea horses are a family of small fishes whose elongated head and snout suggest those of a horse.

Experts have estimated that ocean populations of sea horses have declined by half in recent years because of overfishing, primarily along Asian coastlines.

Shedd's "Sea Horse Symphony" exhibition features 20 different species, ranging from the inch-tall dwarf sea horse to the 12-inch-tall pot-bellied sea horse. The exhibit begins Mother's Day. Anderson said this was ironic because male sea horses and not females become "pregnant" with young.

Check out CNN Interactive at <http://cnn.com>



Leatherbacks Return to New England

Late in the spring, around the same time that the human snowbirds return to New England from their summer homes, another large mammal arrives on the scene from southern waters. It's the leatherback sea turtle, an endangered, giant sea turtle that grows to upwards of 1,500 pounds.

Leatherbacks are a deep, almost-black color, with a freckling of pinkish-white spots and a tough leathery shell-like carapace. They spend most of their time far out to sea, and science knows very little about their lives.

Scientists like Dr. Molly Lutcavage of the New England Aquarium who have made it their mission to understand the biology of these unusual reptiles must rely on the assistance of fisherman to get information on leatherback sightings. Unfortunately, fishermen and mariners who do see these creatures sometimes find them entangled in fishing gear-which may be one of the great problems contributing to the decline of this species.

This year, Lutcavage has struck up partnerships with several New England fishermen in hopes of finding live Leatherbacks to track. She and her colleagues' plan is to place satellite tags on leatherback turtles to follow their movements and understand how their migration paths intersect with fishing areas. "If we understand more about leatherback migration routes, we'll be in a better position to implement measures to reduce entanglements.," Lutcavage said.

In 1980, scientists surveyed nesting sites worldwide and estimated that there were some 115,000 Leatherbacks alive. But based on 1995 surveys of nesting sites, they estimated populations to be only at about 35,000. Declines are attributed to a number of factors, including loss of nesting habitat, poaching of nests, deaths due to ingestion of marine debris, ship strikes, and entanglement and drowning in high seas drift net and longline fishing gear. Lutcavage hopes that her work will help save this species.

Droplet: Heart rates in diving sea turtles like the leatherback can drop to only a few beats per minute while they're resting on the sea bottom. Leatherbacks are deep divers, capable of dives to over 2,000 feet.



New England Aquarium
<http://www.neaq.org>

Class Info & Schedule



To register for any class or to inquire about any facet of the training, please contact Chip at 296-0455 or Email: chip@SeaDevilDivers.com

PADI Open Water Scuba Diver: This entry level program is designed to develop a competent recreational diver. The program consists of 5 classroom modules and 5 confined water (pool) modules after which certification is awarded upon completing 4 Open Water training dives. These dives are usually done on the weekend at one of the local quarries although they can also be accomplished on one of our local or Caribbean dive trips. It is also possible to arrange a referral to another PADI instructor at a dive destination of the student's choice. The program costs \$300 and includes all course materials, confined water dives, equipment rental and certification fees. The cost of the Open Water dives depends, of course, on where they are done. Students need to provide mask, fins, and snorkel.

ACAC June 12th

Open to the Community
Chip Earle 984-4489

Boars Head Sports Club June 9th

Members & Guests Only
Janet Hope 972-2235

Farmington CC June 10th

Members & Guests Only
Greg Slavin 296-5661

PADI Advanced Open Water: This class provides a sampler of five specialty areas of diving. The core dives include navigation, night and deep diving. Two other dives are selected from among numerous specialties including multilevel, computer, naturalist, peak buoyancy, search & recovery, photography, boat, etc. The course fee which includes the book, C-card and instruction, is \$150 locally or \$100 if done as part of one

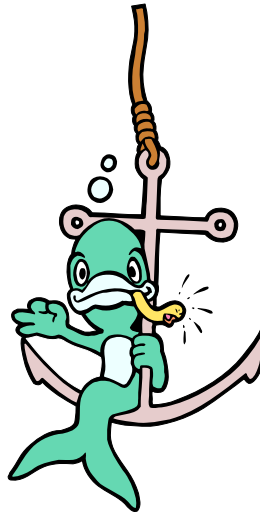
of our Caribbean trips. The cost of equipment and the cost of the dives are not included.

Freeport, Grand Bahama **August 27-31**
Chip Earle 984-4489

PADI Medic First Aid: This is a very good all around first aid course including CPR with particular emphasis on diving related injuries.

PADI Rescue Diver: This course instructs the student on how to handle and assist in handling dive emergency situations. It sets the stage for PADI leadership training by incrementally encouraging the diver to take responsibility for others in the group and for the diving environment

PADI Divemaster: Full professional qualification with the world's largest certification agency. Class forming for spring. Please call for more information. Begin the self-study portion today!



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The Bahamas: A Novice's Reflection

By: Mary Lou Hayden, April, 1998



After many years of observing coral reefs, colorful fishes and mammals from the surface while on snorkel, it was time to enter my second half century by learning to scuba dive.

With a weekend of classroom and pool practice with ever patient instructor, John Hutchens, I joined SeaDevil Divers to complete my Open Water Certification in the lovely waters of the Bahamas. No one could have prepared me for what lay ahead: camaraderie, encouragement, support, challenge, exhilaration and success!

New to the group, I was introduced en route to my travel mates and roomie, Tammy, by tour guide extraordinaire, Chip Earle. As they relaxed, I flipped through pages of the Open Water Dive Manual. While such obsession wasn't necessary, it refreshed my memory and stirred my anticipation! We arrived in the early morning hours and after a short night of sleep at the hotel, we checked in with UNEXSO.

The first dive was uneventful - except trying to find negative buoyancy so I could descend and to re-acclimate to breathing through the regulator. I passed all required maneuvers without difficulty, although I felt most uncoordinated trying to control movement in the water. However, I proudly returned to the boat with 700psi remaining.

My second dive ...well... I mistook the exhalation port of Chip's octopus for the regulator mouthpiece and inhaled salt water big time. My immediate instinct was to get the heck out of there! I started to bolt but the long arm of the law (Chip) calmly held my BCD and thrust my regulator with free flowing air in front of my mouth. Almost immediately my anxiety was quelled. Actually, I felt so calm after the episode that I was ready to complete the tired diver tow to finish my skill requirements. However, Chip wisely chose to take me on a relaxing dive through the coral beds before finishing with the drag maneuver.

Once back on boat, I learned the story of "little man", that inner person that has visited with novice and experienced divers alike. I must admit I learned a lot from the experience and will NEVER again not carefully study my buddy's equipment before diving. The two dives the next day went quite well.

After that fourth dive, the entire group congratulated me when Chip announced me as a Certified PADI Diver! I was exhilarated by the personal triumph and felt the warmth of being accepted into a great fraternity! I had enjoyed Chip's sharing his knowledge of the corals, plants and creatures. Having improved my buoyancy and

control of limbs and fins, I relished in the coral canyons and even slipped through a narrow passage without kicking up the sand.

Senses are heightened when diving. Entering the water with my buddy after the rest of the group had descended to the reef, I floated down through a fountain of air bubbles rising from their exhaled air. This surreal sensation was one of the most elegant experiences of my life. Does one ever lose the awe of floating in water? ...of streamlining in Shark Junction where 5-7 foot reef sharks sharpen one's awareness? While diving is slow and relaxed, there is a sense of fatigue and satisfaction at the end of the day's diving.

The boat ride back to the dive shop always includes anecdotes of experiences and observations made during the dive. I came to learn that the trip is not complete without a little partying; a Khalik gold, the local brew, and the company of friends.

On Monday, we released all that deep tissue nitrogen before we clambered aboard our Laker Airlines jet, with a day of relaxation, reflection, shopping, adventures, and motor bike drag racing.

There are so many different wonderful memories of the trip. I just wish I would win the lottery so I can join the many trips planned in the future. Who knows, maybe this novice will someday have enough experience and dive credentials to calm another diver whose "little man" makes an unexpected appearance!

An Open Letter to all SeaDevils

By James D. Mayson

I'm writing to say good-bye to all my friends whom I have enjoyed diving with over the past two years and those I have met at our DEW Scuba meetings. I'm moving to Atlanta to attend law school in the fall and may not have a chance to say good-bye to each person. So I thought I would write to everyone through our newsletter.



I'm very encouraged by the support for scuba in Charlottesville and will certainly be monitoring SeaDevil events via the web in the future. I want to thank Chip for offering me the opportunity to experience many different dive sites but more importantly thank him for encouraging me to face a fear which I've held for years.

In 1990, I took the Open Water class in Roanoke prior to moving to Charlottesville. I never finished due to my inability to feel comfortable in [\(cont. next page\)](#) the water while attempting scuba. While we all have initial trepidation, I could not get comfortable in the water and ultimately gave up on gaining my certification.

When I met Chip he immediately put me at ease and taught me that the fear I was experiencing was normal. It was simply a way for us to be reminded via “the little man inside us” that we are mortal and must always respect that reality when diving.

After completing Chip’s Open Water Class, I became a Master Diver within six months and a Divemaster within ten. This speed and excitement was generated by his enthusiasm for diving which he passed on to me. I’m grateful for his training and friendship and will continue to enjoy diving because of the lessons he taught me.

I wish everyone the best of luck in your personal pursuits and hope that you have many opportunities to go diving.

Club Notes



Atlantic Coast Athletic Club

We are proud to announce the opening of its state-of-the-art fitness and aquatic center at Albemarle Square. The fitness facility is now in operation and the aquatics is slated to be operating by mid-July. As part of our overall aquatics program, we will be offering scuba travel and training program. Initial Open Water Scuba classes will begin at ACAC Outdoors (Four Season) and will be moved to the new facility in the Fall.

Open Water Scuba Classes: The first class begin Friday evening, June 12th. Academics will accomplished on Saturday afternoons and pool training and practice will be held on Sunday mornings.

We welcome both members and the entire Charlottesville-Albemarle community to participate in the training opportunities

Travel Club: ACAC members are encouraged to come to the first scheduled class session and helped us identify and organize those of our members who are already divers. We would love to host both social and educational meetings for a members club here at ACAC. Contact Chip Earle: 984-4489



The Boar’s Head Sports Club

Travel Club: We want to establish a travel club to perhaps run a trip later this summer or early fall. Come to the Splash Party and bring all who are interested. A formal organization meeting will be held June 9th 6:30 pm in concert with the first class session.

Splash Party: June 6th, 1-4 pm

Members and their guests are invited to join in the fun. The folks from SeaDevil will be there to assist those interested in getting an “in water” feel of what diving is about. **No experience necessary!** If you are already a diver bring your gear and enjoy the pool, too! The pros at SeaDevil will provide the air and answer questions about gear fit, selection, diving opportunities, travel, etc.

Open Water Scuba Classes: Two class sessions will be held for members and their guests. The first session begins June 9th, 6:30 pm at the club. The second session starts July 14th. Contact Janet Hope at BHSC: 972-2235



Farmington Country Club

Open Water Scuba Classes: A class session will be held for members and their guests beginning June 10th 6:30 pm at the club. Contact Greg Slavin at FCC: 296-5661

Farmington Singles Group: Why not add Scuba Travel to your annual calendar or even a evening program, or an afternoon at the pool?!?. Express your interest! Contact your newsletter editor, Ed Smith, or Chip Earle at 984-4489.

We inaugurate “Club Notes” this month hoping to stimulate the development of groups of divers who are friends outside of diving and use diving as a means to extend their relationships.

Several groups come to mind: (1) **Travel Groups**, like the group that I have been traveling with each February, or Jay Levine’s group; (2) **Water Rescue Teams** of Scottsville, Lake Monticello and CARS; (3) **Social Clubs** like Atlantic Coast Athletic Club, Boar’s Head Sports Club, Farmington Country Club and the YMCA.

We will donate space to any local, scuba related, social or community organization to advertise it’s activities, recognize member achievements, or otherwise communicate with its members and the diving community as a whole.

Please send notices, articles, or requests to me, Chip Earle at ...

SeaDevil Divers

**300 Preston Avenue, Suite 410
Charlottesville, VA 22902**

Email is really great because we can just copy into the newsletter.

Chip@SeaDevilDivers.com



Don't | Just Do it...

DEW it!

AT



Monday, June 8th - 7 PM

Come have dinner and share good times with old friends and new.

Everyone with an interest is welcome, so please bring a friend. Remember, SeaDevils...

“We DEW Scuba”



SeaDevil DIVERS

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Monday, August 10th

7 PM

