Skin-Diving Gains In Popularity

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Underwater Explorers Offering Movie To Expand Program

Purchase of an air compressor to provide safe air for divers in the Saginaw area at a low cost is the aim of the Saginaw Underwater Explorers, a YMCA affiliate group.

Club members are hoping to raise the necessary funds for the compressor at a showing of the award-winning movie, "The Silent World," at 8 p.m. Friday at North Intermediate School, 1101 North Bond. Tickets are available at the YM, Morley's, Shea's Allsports and at the door.

Organized in January 1959, the Underwater Explorers group has grown from a dozen to 3 members. The club is working to encourage safe diving practices among all skin and scuba divers and to increase the sport through such group activities as club dives, treasure hunts, wreck diving and spearfishing contests. Several husband and wife teams are in the group.

Underwater movies and speakers are offered at the regular meetings. The club uses the YM pool once a week to aid members in maintaining diving condition and to try out new equipment.

Members promote safety by checking new diving equipment and purity of air used in scuba equipment. They also keep up to date on progress in diving medicine and legislation and teach life-saving techniques and artificial respiration. A monthly bulletin keeps members informed on all club activities and new diving information.

Club members instruct a year-around course in skin and scuba diving at the YM. They are called upon to perform a range of tasks from unplugging swimming pool drains to recovering bodies in drowning accidents. Members have fished for motors, fishing tackle, eye glasses and guns lost underwater.

Several members have made dives of more than 180 feet and others have descended more than 100 feet into such lakes as Torch and Higgins.

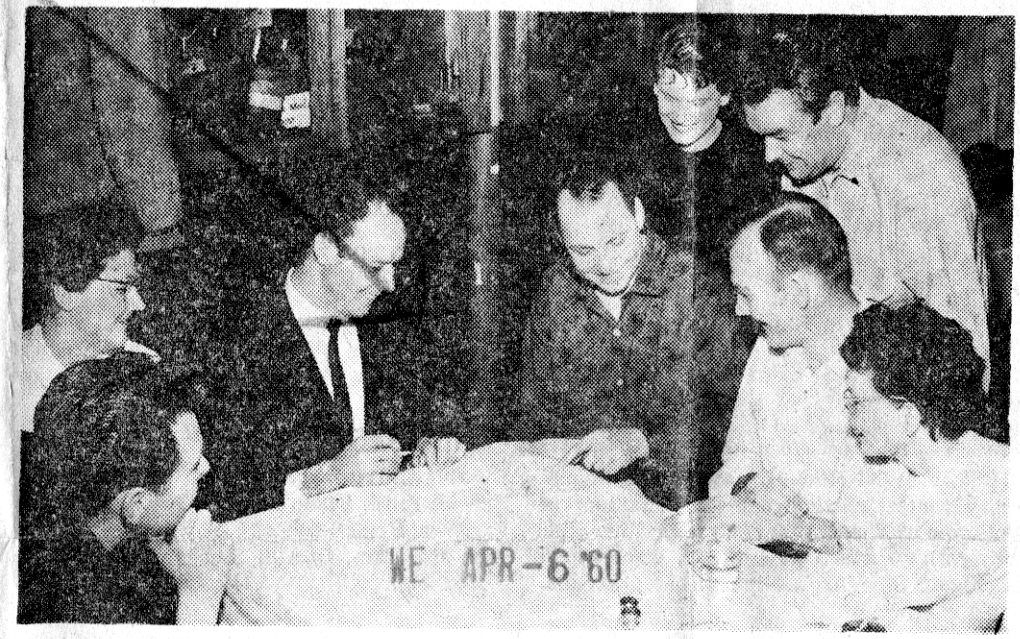
Explorers have been particularly interested in wreck diving and have searched wrecks located in such spots as Ludington, Traverse Bay, Lake Charlevoix, Lake Huron, Alpena, Harbor Beach and Saginaw Bay. They are planning to dive on wrecks located in Lake Superior this summer.

Members, armed with spears, have captured some large rough fish, including carp and suckers ranging from 20 to 35 pounds.

Club members come from all walks of life — doctors, housewives, company executives, truck drivers, farmers, artists, students and salesmen—all with an interest in the underwater world. Members range in age from 16 to 50.

The club is open to men and women over 16 who can demonstrate swimming ability and an interest in diving. Meetings take place the second Thursday of each month.

Club officials include: President, Don C. McLellan; vice-president, George B. Morley; treasurer, Lyman Curtis; secretary, Joann Crampton; directors, John Pritchett, Walter I Thomas, Fred Davis, Al Christian and Lester Gilson.



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HOW DEEP IS IT?—The Saginaw Underwater Explorers spend many hours studying maps of bodies of water which they want to explore. Pictured in study are (clockwise around table): Harold Hartl, Mrs. Barbara Muir, Fred Davis of Bay City, Bruce A. Beckert, Lester Gilson and Mrs. Joann Crampton; and (standing): Mrs. Emily Walts and Walter I. Thomas. (Saginaw News Photo)