

The

SCUBA SCOOP

the official newsletter of the
Saginaw Underwater Explorers
Serving the Tri-Cities since 1958

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Club Dues

\$20.00 per year, due January

Meetings

7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at Saginaw Twp. **Fire Station #2** located at 3211 McCarty Rd. near the U.P.S. building. **NOTE: THIS IS A CHANGE only for Mar. - Apr. - May.**

Next Meeting

May 11th

ATTENTION!!

PLEASE NOTE: CHANGE OF MEETING LOCATION. For the next meeting ONLY, we will be meeting at ANOTHER LOCATION - SAGINAW TOWNSHIP FIRE STATION #2. See address in the masthead. See you there.

At Our Last Meeting

If you've ever done duty in the Navy or served on any ship, you'll understand the feelings I experienced trying to FIND the meeting area last month. "Down the hall, around the bend, out into the main garage then a right turn down the steps and finally into the dungeon ah basement." Once there, everything flowed okay. Prior to our meeting the various Club inspectors VIPed some

55 tanks!! Quite an effort in service to the members. Thanks a lot gentlemen. *Remember:* our next meeting will be the last regularly scheduled "prior to the Club meeting VIP tank inspections" for the year. IF you don't take advantage of it now, then you'll have to contact one of our members who offers this service on a "one-on-one" basis. Please be sure and "bleed" the pressure down to near 100 psi and arrive at the meeting hall early, prior to the meeting, we recommend 6:30 PM. This way the regular meeting will not be delayed.

The Club is happy to report that since the Film Festival we now have added 8 new members to our ranks. I do not have all the biographical particulars, so you'll have to show up and meet and welcome our new members. One of our new members reported that he had made a short but interesting dive on a shallow ship sunk in Thunder

Bay out of Alpena recently. He mentioned that his "dry suit" wasn't!! So the dive was a quick one!

On another note, our president just recently had the member list updated. IF your last name appears on the following list, this will be **the last Scoop**, you'll receive for this Club year. Sometimes I know it is easy to forget to pay some bills, so just in case this slipped your mind, I thought a gentle reminder was in order. IF you're interested in maintaining your membership in S.U.E. please remit your fee to our new Treasurer A.S.A.P.

Acha - Beauregard - Boggs - Cieszlak, John
- Dill - Dolan - Dutch - Durocher - Giorgis - Herr -
Lalko - Morrison - Mudd - Sheets - Shawn -
Sheridan - Tucker - Vincent - Voelker.

Also...after a proposal by Mike Kowalski, the Club decided to help support the establishment, in Bay City, of the Saginaw Valley Naval Ship Museum. This includes their efforts to help prepare the slip and bring the U.S.S. Charles F. Adams, a DDG (Guided Missile Destroyer) home to berth. Many were built right in Bay City. We donated \$ 25.00 for this cause. IF you'd like to join them as an individual Member...you can do so for only \$ 15.00/year and you'll receive an official DDG ship's cap. Mike will have brochures at our next meeting if anyone is interested.

On the Diving Scene:

The last pool-swim of the year was a slight disappointment. It seems only 10 members came. Tho the water was fine. Afterwards, my "inside" sources reported (all we editors have them you know!) that some 3 of the guys present, retired to help John Badour's new son-in-law-to-be, celebrate at his bachelor party. Last Sunday (5/2) some of our brave members made a daring rescue! Well maybe we could more correctly call it an "assistance"! While kayaking out of Port Austin

these 3 stalwarts of the outdoors scene [Tom Fritz, John Garner & Howard Durocher] helped a maiden in distress. Seems a lady had trouble staying up on her jet ski. She had fallen off and couldn't "re-align" the watery steed. John in holding to the machine to stabilize it so the lass wouldn't fall off again; found himself "hydro-planing" in a kayak in short order!! Un-be-knowst to him, they actually will hydro-plane when you put enough power behind (or in this case, in front of one). It seems the lady decided that if she ever got on it again she wasn't going to let her slow down enough to fall off anymore. She (& John) were off to the races "in a flash" according to my source! And who ever said kayaking wasn't any fun?? I'm offering quite a reward for any pics of this amazing event. IN advance, (Saturday 5/8) by the time you read this Tom Fritz, Don Stork and Don Cunningham will be diving down in Lake Fenton to prepare for the upcoming N.C. dive trip. Which brings me to a special **NEWS FLASH!!**

Due to an unforeseen event, 2 positions have suddenly come open for anyone wishing to go on THIS YEAR'S N.C. DIVE TRIP! The departure date is Next Thursday - May 13th. IF you are interested you MUST CONTACT Val Geidans OR Mike Kowalski IMMEDIATELY!! Call either for details. See the phone #s in the Masthead on the front page

"Goings On" - Events

Ron & Judy will be hosting this year's July Picnic meeting at their home on the lake July 10 or 11th IF the weather is bad on that Saturday. If the Club members wish to do so and many come, we will hold our regular Club meeting at the same time and NOT have another on the regular date (the 13th) of that month.

The Club is proposing another matter that may necessitate your input. If you deem it

Cold Water Diver's Dive Site Notes

North End of Lake Fenton

--- <http://members.aol.com/cldwdiver> ---

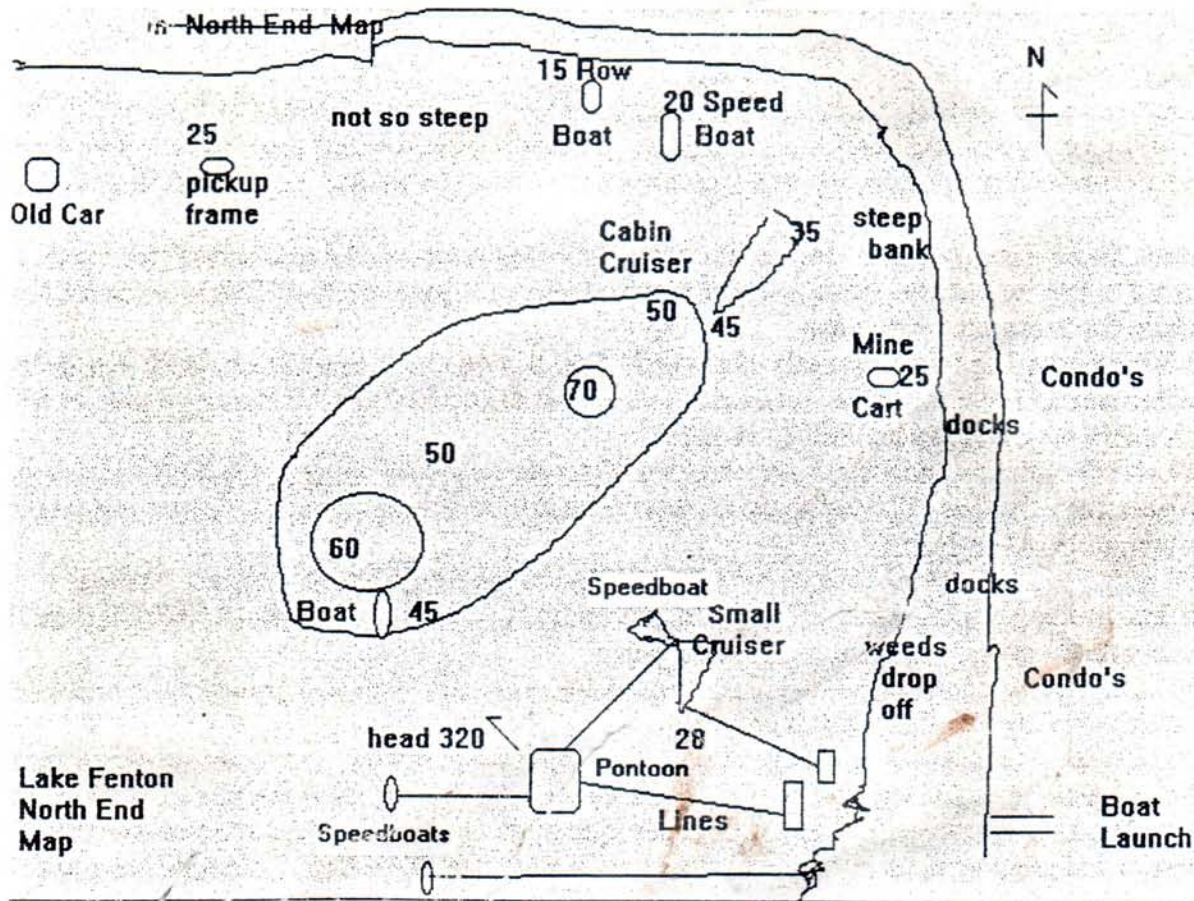
Directions: Take US-23 south of Flint to Thompson rd exit. East (left) to Torrey Rd., South (right) to Wiggins Rd.(school), East (left) past the lake to the Fire Station, Turn South (right) to go past the Fire Station onto the dirt road on the right. Go straight to the Private Boat Landing. \$3.00 parking and they have a bathroom in the basement of the house at the top of the hill.

Depth: 10 - 70 ft.

There are many sites to see here, but it can be **Extremely Busy** with boats on summer weekends. It is very likely they will ignore your dive flag! Boats park along the north shore for "tail-gate" parties. **The Dive Shop** (810/732-3900) runs many of their open water exams here, so the area has had any hazards removed.

- Pontoon Boat / Dive Platform - Just to the right of the boat launch and at the base of the initial drop off is a 4 ft **Big Post** with a guide line attached leading to the pontoon boat. This is used as a dive platform for Scuba training classes.
- Two Speedboats Together - From the north end of the pontoon boat, there is a guideline to the two speedboats. There is also another guide line to these boats attached to a 1.5 foot high post, at 18 ft depth, north of the Big Post about 40-50 feet.
- Mid-Lake Speedboat - From the Southwest end of the pontoon boat, there is a guideline heading west. I am guessing it is about 100 feet from the pontoon and is 35 ft deep. This is a 16 foot runabout that was sunk in 1998 for divers.
- South Side Speedboat - Head South from the Big Post to the first set of Xmas trees. There is a guideline heading South-west. I am guessing it is about 200 feet from the tree and is 35 ft deep. This is a 18 foot runabout that was sunk in 1998 for divers.
- Mine Cart - Follow the bank north at 25ft to reach the mine cart. This will almost always attract fish if you are the first divers of the day to go by it.
- North End Deep Cruiser - At a max of 50 feet it isn't that deep, but this is how we refer to it. About a 5-10 minute swim to this wreck, once you know where it is. This wreck is the hull of an old cabin cruiser. The cabin parts lay in a pile on the deep side of the wreck. The stern is the shallow end. The bottom is dark mud here, so many people like to take a light to this wreck, especially on cloudy days. **Option 1:** Descend from the Mine Cart to to 35 feet and follow along the slope until you find the cabin cruiser. If you reach the steep north bank you have missed it. If you miss it, search back and forth at 35 ft depth. **Option 2:** Ascend from the Mine Cart to 18 ft depth and follow the bank to a **Big, Long, Straight Log** pointing straight down the bank. Take a heading on it and descend straight to 35 ft. You should hit the side of the cruiser.
- North End Speedboats - Two smaller speedboats at a depth of 25 feet. Just the hulls are left, as they have been here a long time. About 2 - 3 minutes from Deep Cruiser.
- 1971 Pickup - Descend from the North End Speedboats to 25 ft depth and follow the bank. About a 3-4 minutes swim from the speedboats. History: this pickup was purchased in the fall of 1970. The owner wanted to go ice fishing in early 1971 and drove it out onto the ice to fish. You can guess the rest. The cabin is now rusted and fallen in and someone has salvaged the engine. In 1984 I was able to sit in the cabin and pretend to steer the truck.
- Model A Truck Frame - Stay at 25 foot depth and follow the bank. About 3 minute swim from the pickup. Frame is upside down, barely recognizable as a Model A, but that is what I have been told it is.

- Middle of the Lake Deep Cruiser - This wooden cruiser is completely intact. It went down in the *mysterious storm of 1997*, just after the Red Wings won the Stanley Cup. It has been cleaned and stripped of hazards for divers. It sits on a sand/mud bank with the bow as the shallow end. Head 320 degrees from the NW corner of the pontoon. It is at 45 feet along a sloping bank, so if you miss it search back and forth at that depth.
- South along the Bank - If you go south from the boat launch at about 20 ft depth there are a few items to see and usually more fish life, since fewer divers go this way. There are a couple piles of Christmas Trees that residents have tossed out here, that usually attract fish. There is the top to an old gas burning stove about 3.5 feet long, and any number of things more recently lost by boaters and fishermen. **Beware**, the bank slowly turns out into the middle of the lake and the boat traffic lanes.



necessary please pass along your input to Madam President. Rodale's Publishing Company (publishers of *Scuba Diver* magazine, among others) has offered the Club several services that could benefit us. They will publish S.U.E.'s activities/events and grant us other perks. They will also offer us (the Club membership) discount subscriptions to their magazine/(s-?). Rodales is asking for us to submit our Club roster for this "consideration". IF FOR ANY REASON YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NAME SUBMITTED TO THEM - YOU NEED TO CONTACT OUR PRESIDENT AND LET HER KNOW. We are not attempting to "use" our membership in any manner. Judy assures us that they have promised NOT to sell anyone's name or address information to "outside" vendors. So please let us know IF you have concerns.

1998/99 Calendar of Events:

May OPEN
June OPEN
July 10 Family Dive Picnic @ Port Sanilac -
contact Judy Burkhard
Aug. 28-29 Mackinaw City Dive Trip - call
Judy Burkhard
Sept. OPEN
Oct. SUE Pumpkin Carving Dive
Competition

"Ellett's Eclectic Corner"

[tidbits of (hopefully) helpful information for the diver!]

First Aid - To Save Your Dive.

Problem: I get pain in my ears when I'm descending due to difficulty equalizing. I blow and blow and it doesn't seem to help.

Diagnosis: Squeeze. Once you feel that pain in your ears, its already too late to start equalizing. It only takes a small pressure difference between the inside of your ear and the outside to squeeze the eustachian tube shut, preventing you from equalizing no matter how hard you blow. In fact, blowing too hard at this point can cause damage to your inner ear.

Quick Fix: Relax, ascend until you no longer feel any pain and then equalize. Resume your descent, *slowly*, making sure that you equalize continuously. If ear squeeze is a problem on every dive, you may benefit from using a decongestant before diving.

Problem: Sometimes my leg muscles start to burn or tense up painfully when swimming against a current or chasing my buddy around.

Diagnosis: Leg cramps. They occur when the muscles use up O2 faster than the blood can supply it. This produces a build-up of lactic acid that in turn causes the cramping.

Quick Fix: The most important thing to remember is NOT to panic. Stay calm and breathe deeply no matter where the cramp may be. If it's in your calves, grab the tip of your fin and pull up--stretch the muscle. To help prevent cramps, try switching your swim/kicking stroke while diving. Alternate your motions to help relax certain muscles. Usually stomach muscle cramps will pass quickly IF you relax and breathe deeply. Obviously the best way to avoid cramps is to get into good condition prior to your diving.

Happy and safe diving till next time.....
the Editor.

**The New Home of the Scuba Scoop
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