

# The Scuba Scoop

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AUG 2001

50c

The Official Newsletter of the  
**Saginaw Underwater Explorers**  
-Serving the Tri-Cities since 1958

<http://community.mlive.com/cc/sue>



**Club Meetings-**  
7:30pm on the 2d Tues  
of each month. Held at  
Sag. Twp. Fire Station #1  
on Shattuck Rd

**Officers-**  
**President:**  
Mike Kowalski 892 2028  
**Vice-President:**  
Dale Purchase 791 1707  
**Secretary:**  
Tom VanDenBoom 686 3176  
**Treasurer:**  
Terry Lisk 777 1956  
**Compressor Chair:**  
Don Cunningham 7994385  
**Board Member at Large:**  
Joe Jablonski 893 7970  
**Editor:**  
Don Storck 642 8436  
**Dive Coordinator/Ambassador:**  
Tom Fritz 771 3649

**Club Dues-**  
\$20 per year  
**This Meeting:**  
August 14  
**Next Meeting:**  
September 11

*In This Issue...*

*Club 2d '01 Picnic!*  
*Ballard Update*  
*Dive Reports*  
*E/M Scoop*  
*Events*

*and selected short  
subjects*

## AUGUST CLUB PICNIC!

About 20 SUE members enjoyed the July picnic, and extend their thanks to the Van Den Booms!. This month's meeting is an invitational picnic at Lake Geidans. The gracious Geidans hosts will offer their hospitality; they just ask that you show up. If you'd like to come a little early (around 6), you're welcome to swim, dive, or fish. There will be a drawing for some dive equipment, so make sure to get your name in the hat. Certainly you'd come for the Brats! Recall that Lk. Geidans can be located just south of Swan Creek Rd. on River Rd. (south of Shields)

## E/M SCOOP

Your edition of the **Scuba Scoop** can now be sent to you via e-mail. To sign up, just send an e/m to [dstorck@hotmail.com](mailto:dstorck@hotmail.com) with the word 'subscribe' in the subject line.

## BALLARD NEWS -

The latest news on Robert Ballard's expedition to the Thunder Bay area is that he is proposing a remote camera system on some of the wrecks. The monitors will be located in his Institute for Exploration at Mystic Aquarium. His claim is that it will give non-divers a view of the wrecks; of course, it will also view divers. Ballard's expedition was performed by the vessel Lake Guardian, and covered 342 of the 448 sq mi in the sanctuary. The region is known as shipwreck alley, containing wrecks caused by rocky shoals with fog and gale conditions. 20 known wrecks were pinpointed; 3 new wrecks were found, with the possibility of 10-12 others to confirm. Check [www.mysticaquarium.org](http://www.mysticaquarium.org)

Compressor Chair Don Cunningham would like you to be aware he has air cards available, and you can call him anytime at 799 4385

## DIVE NEWS –

Dale Purchase hosted a July trip to the Mary Alice B and the Regina; faithful readers will recall it was a June dive there that your editor lost a fin. At the time, Dale confidently said "Oh, well; we'll come back and find it..." I'm here to tell you now that Dale wasn't down 10 mins and had found my fin! Thanx, Dale! With Dale and myself were Don Cunningham and Mike Peterson. (See Mike's version of the trip in the 'Guest View' column.)

John Ruthig, Dave Sommers and Ken Kruska made three dives in Thunder Bay on July 10. The lake was almost flat for the first two dives. The first was on the Grecian and a few hours later the Montana. There was about 30 feet of visibility. The third dive was on the Flint. Thunder and lightning almost scared us off the Flint but it passed within a half hour with the waves kicking up to about 2 feet

Your editor was treated to an ocean dive this last week by my always grateful daughter. Surprise of surprises; it was out of the Olympus Dive Center of Morehead City, NC. Now I understand the stories contributed by you Olympus veterans! Actually, it was the perfect day for a dive; bright sun with calm seas. I buddied up with Ulla Savage, an experienced NC diver. At 8:30am, we were over the *Atlas*. This was apparently a tanker that was torpedoed by a U-boat during WWII, sunk in 120'. Water temp was 76'; vis was about 25', and we saw lots of debris. Mostly. The second dive was on the *Ashkhabad*, a Russian tanker also having the misfortune of meeting a U-boat. The wreck was about 60' down, and we had a lot more bottom time. The wreck is pretty much laid open on white sand. Both wrecks had fish populations, and it was my first mingling with sharks and barracudas. I also learned salt water burns your eyes, and there was no thermocline. The water was warm all the way down! Great experience! (thanx, Carolyn!)

More Morehead City news- July 21. Divers on the boat Midnight Express (Olympus Dive Center) were just finishing diving the *Carbisea* when they encountered a great white shark. This was confirmed by the dive master, and a picture is available. No casualties occurred, but it did cause some panic. Complete story on request.

## **Guest View-** by Mike Robertson

What more could you ask for; skipping work on a perfect Friday to go diving? The Thursday night before we left, I kept thinking of all the rookie mistakes that I could make. With under 100 dives, the thought of looking so green in front of such seasoned divers was a little disheartening. But all of my anxiety started to wear off as we drove to the Lake Huron shoreline. It was hard to think about all the mistakes I could make with the topics of conversation on the van ride over. Dale Purchase's informed insights on many subjects, balanced by Don Cunningham's thoughts and opinions made for an interesting ride over. It was Don Storck's very opinionated and left wing thinking however that really added to the spice of every conversation. As we drove along, I had very little to say. In a vehicle that holds all ends of the spectrum of thought, it is hard to interject an opinion. All I could do was listen and learn, and hope that Storck's comments were just meant to stir everyone up.

The ride out to the dive site was perfect. The temperature was perfect, and the sun was gleaming across the water. In the distance, we could see several freighters and a couple of pleasure boats. Everyone seemed to relax as Dale's boat cruised out to our first dive of the day, the 'Mary Alice B.'

Gearing up, I again started to think of the many things that I could do wrong. Watching the way that these experienced divers slid into their gear the way they had so many times before, I could only think of how I must look trying to get into the water before I overheated. Finally, we were on our way down to the wreck. I was excited, because I have wanted to dive this site since I got into diving three years ago. The excitement took away from my fear the further down we got. I had almost forgotten about my inexperience until I looked at my air consumption; I was already at 2600. Not bad until I looked over at Cunningham's gauges. He was still around 3000. This is it, I know it; I am going to be ready to come up 20 minutes before he is, and I am really going to look like an out-of-shape rookie. As Don Cunningham showed me around the wreck pointing out different things that I would never have noticed on my own, my mind drifted back to my air. I knew that I was doing a good job of at least looking like I knew what I was doing, but the air thing just stuck in my head. I decided to look at Don's gauges again. This time I was around 1800, and I knew that I still had a lot left, but how was Don doing? 3000 STILL!! What is this guy doing; sucking oxygen out of the water like a fish? I can't believe this! Then it sank in... Don has two gauges; one for his pony tank. I looked at his other gauge, realizing I was doing fine. Thank God, I thought with relief. The rest of the dive was spent in relative comfort knowing that I wasn't that bad off.

The next dive the Regina, my favorite wreck, took on a whole new light. While on the surface, the waves picked up slightly; we discussed the wreck and the many stories connected with its demise. Don, as my dive partner again, took me into the depths of the wreck that I had never seen. Visibility was good, and my love for the Regina was again renewed. Don has dived this wreck enough times that he acted like a tour guide as we drifted through the interior. I learned more and saw more with him than I had in the other three dives I had done on it put together.

The ride home was just as entertaining as the trip there, bringing the day to an early close. Thank you Dale Purchase, Don Storck, and Don Cunningham for the great day. I look forward to diving with you all in the future. For all of you that don't know, don't steal a tree out of Storck's yard. And Don, if I get a subpoena, sorry I can't lie...  
-MIKE  
(Editor's note: Watch this guy for future editor!)

<b>August</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Club Meeting</b>
	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Dive Trip; Manitou</b>
	<b>24-26</b>	<b>Dive Trip; Mackinaw</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Club Meeting</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Club Meeting</b>
	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Pumpkin Dive</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Club Meeting</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Club Meeting</b>
	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Christmas Party</b>

## Scuba Scoop

Don Storck  
3273 N. Raucholz  
Hemlock, MI  
48626



### For Sale

Tim Cambell (893 1568) has a commercial dry suit (off shore) with 2 sets of insulation (light/heavy), hood, boots, finger gloves, SAS regulators with Tekna Computek dive computer, Atpac B.C., fins, 2 tanks- 72s, twin tank bands, yoke, and misc items.  
Excellent condition. All for \$2000.

Dan Palmer (689 5197) has a Nikonos V, 2 lenses, close-up framers, 2 strobes & more; \$1350 or best! Blue plastic coated weights; \$.50/lb. 25lb Pro shot belt; \$20. Small dry suit w/ woolies; \$75. Large dry suit w/ woolies; \$250.

### Wanted

Bill Atkins is looking for a small pair of lady's fins.

Don Storck (642 8436) would like to find a source for hose connectors; specifically a flexible nut for a high pressure hose....

#### Policy and Disclaimer:

Items listed in For Sale/Wanted will continue to be listed for one year unless the "Scoop" is notified otherwise. Saginaw Underwater Explorers and "The Scuba Scoop" are not responsible for anything posted here.