

The Scuba Scoop

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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:
Val Geldans 781 1552
Vice-President:
John Ruthig 781 1512
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Mike Peterson 792 3664
Treasurer:
Terry Lisk 777 1956
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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-
\$25 per year
This Meeting:
Oct 8
Next Meeting:
Nov 12

Wreck in Muskegon
Dive News
Pumpkin Plans
Tank Transit Tip
Calendar

and selected short
subjects

In This Issue...

Side-Scanning Leg Detector-

A shipwreck has recently been discovered 60 ft from the shore of Muskegon State Park! It has tentatively been identified as the lumber schooner "Helen of Chicago". The sailing ship, 90 ft long and 113 tons, was sunk in a great storm Nov 17, 1886. All seven aboard perished. The wreck lies in water 5-10 ft deep! A young girl discovered the wreck while swimming; her legs kept bumping into something... (Robert Ballard, how much did your Michigan expedition cost?)

Another shipwreck has also been identified, although not in this area. The steamship 'Portland' was another November casualty, sinking off the Massachusetts coast Nov 26, 1898. 190 souls were lost on it, and it became known as the "Titanic of New England". In actuality, the wreck was discovered in 1989 in the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary between Cape Ann and Cape Cod; it has only been now that it has been positively identified. The Portland was a side-paddlewheel ship, and its sinking resulted in the design change that all coastal ships were propeller driven.

More wreck news? Due to Zebra Mussels and cleanup efforts Lake Erie is becoming clear, and a prime spot for wreck diving. An estimation is that there are 1800-4000 wrecks in Lake Erie; preserved in the fresh water. The lake averages about 60 ft depth, putting the wrecks well within reach. Due to its shallow depth, storms that suddenly whip up cause terrific waves; the result being the large number of wrecks. The basin between Toledo and Cleveland is "littered" with wrecks. Find Kelley's Island on your Lake Erie map; here are a few wrecks in that vicinity: 'Adventure'; caught fire at dockside Oct 1903; towed out and scuttled.

'Exchange'; run aground by a storm Nov 1874; three other boats then struck it and sank themselves.

'F.H.Prince'; 240 ft sand carrying steamship; caught fire and sank 1911. (accessible even to snorkelers)

'Keepsake'; ran aground at night Aug 1911.

'Success'; passenger-carrying sailing ship; burned off Port Clinton (Cedar Point!) in 1946.

The Great Lakes were formed by glacial activity many years past, and there are scars to be seen on Lake Erie's bottom. There are caves cut into the rock around Green Island, and huge rocks left around Middle Island. FYI, Port Clinton is about a 4 hr car trip from Saginaw.

Dive Reports

Ooops; there are none to report. As far as the SCOOP knows, no one has gotten wet this last month. As we go to print, Dale Purchase is down in Mexico doing some cave diving. If Dale makes it back in time for the club meeting, he should have some good stories and pictures to share. Incidentally, Dale took some high quality underwater photos of the Eberward at the Straits; some of these can be seen on the club website. Nice work, Dale!

There is some talk on a clean-up dive in the Au Sable; nothing definite heard yet. Stay tuned if interested.

Pumpkin Carving coming up! Plan on two this year! A local pumpkin dive is planned for King's Lake in Hemlock on the 19th at 3pm. King's Lake is located about ½ mi west of Hemlock rd. on Swan Creek rd. Look for the flag. The second pumpkin dive will be on the 26th, in Tawas. This will be an invitational to area divers, and more in the way of a real contest. Details will be fine-tuned at the club meeting. If you can't make the meeting, contact one of the officers for the final plan.



Guest Columnist-

2002 Lighthouse Festival in Alpena, MI By: Mike Peterson

For those of you that have never heard of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival in Alpena, it is held the second weekend of October every year. Most of the lighthouses are opened up for tourists to walk through and visit. There is also a craft and information show with several speakers giving presentations. This year there was a presentation and booth set up by the Alpena Underwater Preserve. I spent quite a while talking with him about some of the diving in the area, and found out that he was from Wisconsin close to where I was living for a year. We talked about some of the great shore diving in Door County and some of the charter diving which can be done there. If you have never heard of Door County and the diving there, make sure that you get with me sometime because my wife and I got married there in 2001 and would love to go back and do some diving.

Anyway, back to the Festival. There were a lot of great things to see, especially if you are into lighthouses, but there was plenty there for lovers of maritime history as well. At the craft fair there were a lot of pictures of ships, and other sailing vessels. There was also some artifacts that were for sale that were taken with permission. The list here is short, but there was quite a bit there including a vent stack from the Normandeer, two portholes with intact glass in excellent condition from the Cedarville, a lot of block and tackle, a couple of bottles off of the Regina as well as a spoon. These items were in good shape and ready to present. My wife and I had a great time. While up there we ran into a fellow SUE member. Ron Burkhard was hard at work at his booth but we found some time to talk about diving.

I encourage anyone who might be interested to start planning for it by the middle of August. All of the hotels in the area fill up quick and we met some people that had to call six places before they found a room for the weekend and they called the last week in August. Overall it was a great time and we plan on going up again next year.



Hon Mention; Pumpkin Carve....

02 EVENT CALENDAR

November 12	Club Meeting
December 10	Club Meeting
TBD	Christmas Party

Scuba Scoop

Don Storck
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Hemlock, MI
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The SCOOP is trying to increase delivery by e-mail. Note you do not have to be a member to receive this. For a free e-subscription; just send e-mail to

dstorck@hotmail.com with the word 'subscribe' in the subject. Sign on your friends!

For Sale

Dive weights; cheap! SAS Regulator w/ oct; \$30. Al pony tank; \$30. Cave light w/extra bty + chgr; \$30. Drop marker, 255 ft of line; \$3. Back pack, boat accys, misc. Dale Purchase 791 1707

Mike Kowalski has a new Scuba Pro BC; labeled XL but really L. Has club lift, Poseidan inflator, front adj shoulder straps. \$150. Also Harveys 'Titanium' gloves (L) \$40. Still taking orders for club T-shirts; maybe other lines. Check at 8922028

Val Geidans has a new 5mm one piece wetsuit. OCEANreef therm-x suit XL; retails at \$325. For the right caller, \$165! Talk to him for details at 7927077 or 7811552

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 blue plastic coated weights; \$.50/lb. 25lb Pro shot belt; \$20. Small dry suit w/ woolies; \$75. Large dry suit w/ woolies; \$250.

For local sales convenience, remember
DIVERS BERTH 2356 Delta Rd.
667 8700 www.diversberth.com

Your ad here!

Wanted

Ron Burkhard is looking for a 40 cu ft Pony Tank. Contact him at 989 428 5177 or e/m rapturejmb@hotmail.com

Mike Peterson is looking for any size tanks; call Mike at 792 3664

ANY NEW ITEMS? ANY ITEMS THAT CAN BE DELETED?

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.

Compressor Concerns? Air Cards?

C/C Don Cunningham anytime at 799 4385