

The Scuba Scoop

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50 euros

The Official Newsletter of the
Saginaw Underwater Explorers

-Serving the Tri-Cities since 1958!

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

<http://www.saginawunderwaterexplorers.com>



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

Officers-
President:
Mike Peterson 792 3664
Vice-President:
Val Geldans 792 7077
Secretary:
Fred LaClair 777 3318
Treasurer:
Tom VanDenBoom 686 3176
Compressor Chair:
Joe Jablonski 893 7970
Board Member at Large:
Larry Davidson 781 0307
Editor:
Don Storck 642 8436

Club Dues-
\$25 per year

next meeting: Sept 9

August meeting: 12th

Late Notice:

The Straits Underwater
Preserve is having their
Treasure Hunt Sunday
August 10, with a program
on Saturday August 9.
(800) 338-6660

Support Our Troops!

Inside....

*(this issue dedicated to
scuba pioneer Dick
Palmer)*

- **Exclusive! Interview with
Original Club Member*
- **Special Guest Speaker*
- **Dive News; Tobermory*
- **Club Meeting*
- **03 Calendar*
- **Supplement Page*
 - 03 Club Roster
 - Color Photos

*and selected short
subjects*

A Big Step Into The Past...

In an edition of last month's Saginaw News, there was a small article that the SN had run as "trivia"; culled from an Aug 3, 1958 edition of the SN. What caught your humble SCOOP ed's attention was the opening line; "Four Saginaw Divers...!" Without any names, the article related how these divers discovered the wreck of the **Kuka** in Lake Charlevoix. The Kuka was apparently a floating gambling/dance hall; sinking in 1928. The divers discovered the wreck at 50', reporting it in good condition. Let me emphasize this was **1958!** (Ques- When was SUE started?)

Follow-up I: Accessing through microfilm the original '58 copy of the SN at the library, your humble ed found the names of the four divers; to credit them accordingly, they were Don McLellan, Bill Ellis, Henry Brom, and Dick Palmer. The next obvious question is where are these guys today? How to tell?

Follow-up II: aka, Let your fingers do the walking... By calling all the names in the tx book; finally success! Dick Palmer's gracious wife Arda th answered, and immediately turned the phone over to him. He had not seen the article, but was more than happy to talk about the dive; recalling more as we talked. I knew there was too much information to get over the phone, so Dick agreed to meet with me at his house.

What a pleasure!

Follow-up III: It turns out Dick is the last of the group. These were the guys that started the sport of scuba diving in the Saginaw area. Mike Nelson had to learn scuba diving from them! Originally working out of the old "Y", they taught scuba diving and started a club that was known as the **Saginaw Underwater Explorers**. Dick was the treasurer back then. As a group, they covered a lot of ground in their diving. Tawas was popular; Thunder Bay depended a lot on the wx conditions, Torch Lake, Crystal Lake, Lake Charlevoix, Otter Lake, the Saginaw River... Dick says that as young divers, one challenge they kept seeking was who would be the first to dive 200ft!

Follow-up IV: Dick shared many stories with me; too many to write here. He also has a photo album showing his and the other guys experiences then. (A couple of the photos are included here.) Because there is no way the SCOOP can do justice to the wealth of information and experience Dick Palmer has, I asked

him if he would be willing to talk to the club, and he agreed! The final follow-up is for you, the members of S.U.E. If you've put off going to any meetings in the past, this is the one you should attend! **Dick Palmer** will share stories with you, tell you about diving before the "rules", their equipment, recoveries done by his group, close calls, and why he enjoyed the sport so much. **Dick Palmer** is coming to your club meeting to meet and talk to you! Ask him a question!.



Dick Palmer and Bill Ellis at the first compressor.
Note the sign on the door! A point for each thing you recognize!
(e/SCOOP recipients will get a larger version)



Dick Palmer(?) in underwater photo circa late '50s. Note the double hose "aqualung"

Dive News

Tobermory Testimonial by Chris Dauer-
Over the weekend of July 12, Mike Peterson, Tim Berch, and myself went diving in Tobermory with a group of divers from the tri-city area. We dove 3 days for a total of 10 dives. The first day was 2 dives on the 'Forest City', 1 dive on the 'James C. King', and 1 dive on the 'Sweepstakes' & 'City of Grand Rapids'. The second day we did 2 dives on the 'Niagra II', 1 dive on the 'Caroline Rose', and 1 dive on the Sweepstakes & City of Grand Rapids. The third day was 2 dives on the Arabia. The first two days were overcast with some great dives; the third day was a beautiful sunny day to finish off a great dive on an awesome shipwreck. The Arabia was very intact; it was easy to visualize this ship on the water. This was personally my first charter dive, my first shipwreck dives, and my deepest all time dives. I had several dives to 80+ feet with my deepest dive being 100 feet (Arabia). Here are some pics-

More info on these wrecks:

The Sweepstakes

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/gary.nancy/shipwrecks/sweepstakes.html>

The City of Grand Rapids

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/gary.nancy/shipwrecks/cgrapids.html>

James C. King

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/gary.nancy/shipwrecks/king.html>

The Arabia

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/gary.nancy/shipwrecks/arabia.html>

The Forest City

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/gary.nancy/shipwrecks/forestcity.html>

Niagra II

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/gary.nancy/shipwrecks/niagara.html>

Caroline Rose

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/gary.nancy/shipwrecks/rose.html>

-Chris



Mike, Tim, & Chris at Tobermory



Mike P in water off dive boat



Tobermory, Canada

'03 EVENT CALENDAR

August	12	Club Meeting
September	9	Club Meeting
October	14	Club Meeting
	TBD	Pumpkin Dive
November	11	Club Meeting
December	9	Club Meeting
	TBD	Christmas Party

FYI- New e/m addr for Dale Purchase. Write Dale at prchs3@wmconnect.com
(and be sure to see Dale's new residence on back page)

Scuba Scoop

Don Storck
3273 N. Raucholz
Hemlock, MI
48626



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Write the editor at dwestorck@alpha.delta.edu, or the return address above.

Following Classified Space Now Accepting Items; send to dstorck@hotmail.com

For Sale

Tank Sale! 3 Al 80's at \$35 each. 2 sets of double steel 72's w/ manifolds and tank straps; \$150 each. These won't be offered long! TX the Ranger at 893 1080 for info.

'88 Chevy Van to haul your dive gear; runs good!
Doree LaClair 799-8424

'88 Ranger! Great Buy! By appointment only-
dstorck@ 6428436



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



And you're invited! Exclusive view of Dale Purchase's new residence(upper left), courtesy of NASA. The Ruthigs are also shown...

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.

I. Scene at the 'Forest City'



II. Piece of the 'Forest City'

