

# The Scuba Scoop

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MAY 2003

50c

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:**  
(CEO) Don Cunningham 7994385  
Don Storck 642 8436

**Club Dues-**  
\$25 per year

**Next Meeting:**  
June 10

**MAY meeting:** Tues 13

Club Social w/ Florida Guests

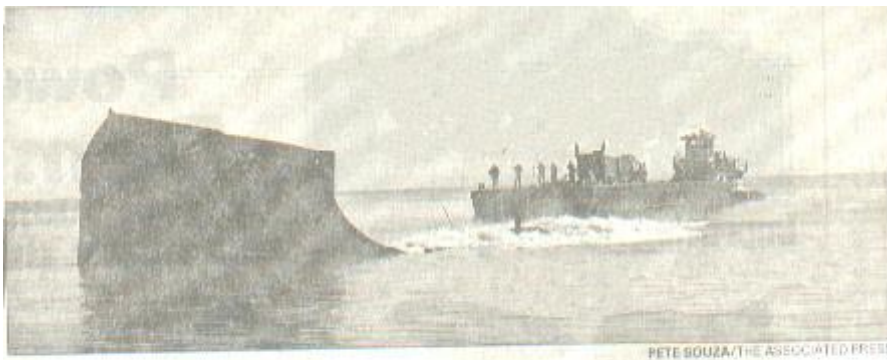
\*Support Your Troops!\*  
Good Luck on the  
Mission and Safe Return!

**And we have proven  
to be victorious!**

*Inside....*

*'Mackinac' Sunk  
VIP checks; 6:30!  
Cunningham resigns  
Constitution Proposal  
Book Review  
'03 Calendar  
← Dale Visits*

*and selected short  
subjects*



PETE SOUZA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### LAKE MICHIGAN REEF

The 75-year-old Straits of Mackinac ferry, used to haul vehicles and passengers across the waterway of the same name, sinks Thursday in Lake Michigan, 10 miles off Navy Pier in Chicago. A barge crew monitors the sinking. Recreational divers will use the sunken vessel for exploration.

## New Reef In Lake Michigan

(above photo by Pete Souza, AP)

Due to the efforts of many cooperating sport divers, the former car ferry “Straits of Mackinac” was finally sunk on Apr 10, 2003. It will be used as an artificial reef for divers.

The ferry had been dry-docked in Kewaunee, Wisconsin for many years, and a Green Bay dive club, the Neptune Nimrods began a project to sink it as a recreational dive site. Last year ('02) the Kewaunee marina was sold, and the new owner demanded the ferry be removed within 30 days. Costs to relocate were on the order of \$10-20 thousand, and the Neptune dive club was forced to offer the ‘Mackinac’ to any other group interested. The original thought was to sink it in the area of its namesake, but no groups showed interest. Ownership was finally given to a Chicago group led by Pat Hammer, owner of the Scuba Emporium in Orland Park, IL and president of Chicago’s ‘Our World Underwater’. The ‘Mackinac’ was finally towed to a Chicago dock, and a fund-raising campaign to sink her went into effect.

Volunteers were also sought. Before sinking, the ferry had to be cleaned, stripped of some items, and OK’d by the Coast Guard. It should be noted that a major contributor was Dick Long of San Diego’s Diving Unlimited International, a maker of dry suits. He is also a promoter of “ships to reefs”, and heads an organization to that end.

The target sinking date was Aug '02, then October. The target date was not met, and the ‘Mackinac’ had to wait through the winter. She was finally sunk last month, and can be found about 9 mi east of Chicago’s Navy Pier in 80’ of Lake Michigan water.

More information can be found at

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/1444/straits.htm>

<http://home.new.rr.com/sinkthestraits/home.html>

<http://www.ourworldunderwater.com>

<http://www.geocities.com/svandenbosch/OryFWWheeler.html>

[http://www.sdoceans.org/ship\\_reefs.htm](http://www.sdoceans.org/ship_reefs.htm)

(Isn’t Tawas ready for a new reef? –ed)



The ‘Straits of Mackinac’; dry-docked in Kewaunee, WI (photo by Jeff Rogers)

## Florida Relocatee Dale Purchase

and his wife came back for a brief visit last month. Dale is finally getting settled in his new quarters in Melbourne, and has had the time to get some warm water diving in. He made a trip to the Keys where he dove the Bibbs, the Spiegel Grove, and the HydroAtlantic (180’). Of course he had to mention the water temp on the surface was 79; and at depth was 75. Isn’t this the same dive location that Mike P., Mike K., Don C., went on in Florida? (waiting to hear from- John Ruthig...)

## Don Cunningham comments-

This is the last month you will have to deal with my ramblings. As per the constitution I have turned in my resignation to the board. A new newsletter editor will be elected at the May meeting. Don Storck said he is willing to resume being our news editor.

It looks like the new diving season is finally upon us. Last month Mike Peterson, Terry Peterson, Mike Kowalski, and myself head to Florida. We did shore diving and some charter dives. From diving on bridges to wreck dives. Mother nature (cont next pg)

smiled on us as the weather was great. I could really tell you about some evening events but I think I'll let Mike Peterson fill in the details. I talked to Dale Purchase the other night and he and Phil Sheridan (and Phil's friends) dove the the Keys a couple of weeks ago. They dove some of the same wrecks as we did and some in deeper water namely the Northern Lights and the Hydro Atlantic. They also enjoyed good weather. Dale said he is finally getting settled in his new home. He will be visiting his daughter in California soon for a couple of weeks . He is looking forward to seeing us in August for some diving.

In closing THANK YOU for putting up with me the last couple of months. -Don Cunningham

## Legal Section:

### Proposed Constitution Change- (to be voted on at this meeting)

#### OLD WORDING ARTICLE VI SECTION 2

Officers and Directors of the club shall be elected annually at the February meeting. To assume office candidates must receive a majority of the total number of votes cast in the election and be a members in good standing. Each Director holds office for a period of one year and/ or until their successors are elected. Outgoing Directors shall work with incoming Directors to facilitate a smooth transition. Officers shall not serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office, with the exception of a member elected to fill a vacant term of office. All club properties are to be turned over to the successor.

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## Notice to SUE

“According to our constitution, I hereby resign as the Saginaw Underwater Explorers newsletter editor; as of May 1, 2003”

Donald A. Cunningham

**VIP's; This Meeting! 5 Inspectors! No Waiting!  
Starts at 6:30 @ \$1 on your card**

## Who Has Time To Read? Book Review By Mike Peterson

This year while walking through a bookstore in Mackinaw City on a break from diving, I found an excellent book. How I found it is controversial among my dive buddies.

The book is “**The Laurentian Channel**” by Christopher Knight; a fiction story about the finding of a mystery shipwreck near Cheboygan by a married couple. The story goes through many twists and turns as the couple research the uncharted wreck.

This book is an excellent read to spark your imagination with how real this event could be. Obviously, the author did his research to make this story realistic, and you relate to the dive descriptions.

If you are interested, and have trouble finding this book, call either Matt Cruz at Divers Berth or myself. -Mike

## '03 EVENT CALENDAR

### TBD: Club Show ?

May	13 TBD	Club Meeting Dive Trip?;
June	10	Club Meeting
July	8	Club Picnic & Meeting TBD- 3 Brothers
August	12	Club Meeting
September	9	Club Meeting
October	14 TBD	Club Meeting Pumpkin Dive
November	11	Club Meeting
December	9 TBD	Club Meeting Christmas Party

## Reality Check...

Last month's SCOOP was the April 1 issue! It was intended to be humorous, and nothing in it was offensive. Anything found as offensive was only offensive in your own thoughts. The April SCOOP was a big Rorshach test; did you pass or fail?

-Don

## Scuba Scoop

Don Storck  
3273 N. Raucholz  
Hemlock, MI  
48626



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**Starts at 6:30 @ \$1 on your card**

Following Classified Space Now Accepting Items; send to [dstorck@hotmail.com](mailto:dstorck@hotmail.com)

### For Sale

'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](http://www.diversberth.com)

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Write the editor at [dwestorck@alpha.delta.edu](mailto:dwestorck@alpha.delta.edu) , or [dstorck@hotmail.com](mailto:dstorck@hotmail.com) or, the return address above.

### Wanted- (ads....

#### 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.