

The Scuba Scoop

VOLUME 45, Issue 9

SEPT 2003

50 pesos

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: Oct 14

Sept meeting: 9th

Inside....

- *August Guest Update*
- *Letter from the Prez*
- *New DOTY Plaque*
- *Club Carve Plan*
- *03 Calendar*
- *(no) Dive News*

*and selected short
subjects*

* Support Our Troops!*

Dick Palmer; Our Forefather

Special guest at the Aug club meeting was Dick Palmer; one of the founders of the Saginaw Underwater Explorers. Dick got into SCUBA diving around 1955 with a group of friends. He spoke on the equipment they used back then, their dive sites, and the early club. Dick shared a photo album of their experiences, which is a treasure of the early days.

California seems to be where SCUBA first became popular, and much of Dick's equipment was ordered from there. He had a full rubber dry suit, a double hose (that's a single stage regulator) supply, and a 72cuft tank. In fact, their rule of thumb was that with a 72cuft tank, you couldn't stay down long enough to get in trouble. The group acquired an air compressor, which they kept in Dick's garage. They built filters in it themselves to accommodate filling their tanks. They even salvaged a sunken boat from the Saginaw river which they used as the club's dive boat.

What began as Dick itemizing his equipment soon turned into him asking about what was used today. He had never seen a dive computer that tells you how long you were down, how deep, and when to get out! The idea of a BC with an 'octopus', and numerous gauges was something impressive.

As Saginaw's first group of divers, they were called on by the sheriff's dept for body recovery in the Saginaw river. Dick remembers the river as dangerous; dirty, dark, lots of junk, wire, and a strong current in the channel. Alpena was another popular site for wreck diving, but the weather conditions were too uncertain. Heavy waves could build up in hours, and ruin any dive plans. Closer to Saginaw, Higgins Lake was a good dive; Dick remembers the Detroit Point where there is a steep drop-off down to 100'.

Dick and his friends started a class to teach others scuba diving at the old YMCA, located at Michigan and Ames. In fact, some of our present members learned there. It was this organization then that formally started as the Saginaw Underwater Explorers.

**** This Just In...****

In honor of **Dick Palmer's** early contributions to diving and the Saginaw Underwater Explorers, the SUE board has unanimously approved lifetime membership with full benefits to him. Congratulations, Dick!



Dick Palmer showing his photo album



Dick describing a dive



Val and Don discussing the album with Dick

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I THOUGHT THAT I WOULD TAKE A LITTLE TIME TO WRITE THIS FOR EVERYONE AS IT IS HARD TO GET WITH EVERYONE AT ONCE. OUR MEMBERSHIP IS NOW OVER 50 AND WE ARE HOPING TO HAVE MORE TURNOUTS TO THE MEETINGS STARTING AGAIN THIS FALL. I AM SO PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF THIS CLUB. THINK ABOUT IT, HOW MANY CLUBS IN MICHIGAN CAN SAY THAT THEY HAVE BEEN AROUND SINCE 1958? AT OUR LAST MEETING WE HAD ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS WHO WAS ABLE TO SHED SOME LIGHT ON HOW IT ALL STARTED AND TO ME IT WAS SO REVITALIZING. I HAVE ALSO BEEN TALKING TO SEVERAL OTHER PEOPLE THAT HAVE TRIED TO GET A DIVE CLUB GOING AND IT WILL RUN GOOD FOR A SHORT WHILE THEN FALL OFF AND END. WHAT KEEPS US GOING? I HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT IT IS BECAUSE WE ALL SHARE A TRUE LOVE OF THE SPORT AND HAVE LEARNED THE BENEFITS OF HAVING A CLUB WITH THE RESOURCES THAT WE HAVE.

WE HAVE THE POSSIBILITY TO DO ALMOST ANYTHING THAT WE WANT. WE HAVE MEMBERS THAT RANGE FROM SO MANY DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND WAYS OF LIFE. IF WE WERE TO PULL ALL OF OUR ABILITIES INTO ONE PROJECT THE POSSIBILITIES WOULD BE LIMITLESS. WE HAVE ALL READ ABOUT SOME OF THE OTHER DIVE CLUBS IN OTHER STATES GETTING A SHIP TO PREP AND SINK AS A NEW SITE IN LAKE MICHIGAN, AND NOW THEY ARE WORKING ON THEIR SECOND. WHAT WOULD STOP US? I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO KNOW.

I KNOW THAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN BUSY AND NOT GOTTEN MUCH DIVING IN THIS SUMMER, BUT DON'T BE DISCOURAGED, IT IS LIKE THAT ALL OVER. AS SOME OF YOU KNOW I HAVE BEEN WORKING ON NEW IDEAS AND GETTING READY FOR THE 2004 DIVE SHOW. I PROMISE SUCCESS THIS YEAR. I DON'T CARE IF I HAVE TO CALL EVERY ONE THAT I KNOW OR BY ALL THE TICKETS MYSELF WE ARE GOING TO MAKE THIS WORK. IF WE ALL DO OUR PART WE CAN TAKE THIS CLUB TO ANOTHER LEVEL, A LEVEL THAT EVEN SUCCEEDS THOSE OF THE MEMBERS IN OUR LONG PAST.

I KNOW SOME OF THE QUESTIONS THAT ARE FLOATING AROUND. WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT HOW MANY MEMBERS THAT WE HAVE IN THE CLUB? WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT A SUCCESSFUL DIVE SHOW? I AM BUSY AND I JUST DON'T HAVE TIME TO DO A LOT OF OTHER WORK.

I WILL ANSWER THIS ONE AT A TIME. THE MORE MEMBERS THAT WE HAVE THE MORE OPPORTUNITIES THAT WE CAN SHARE IN. TAKE FOR EXAMPLE CHRIS OUR NEWER MEMBER. HIS SKILLS HAVE ALLOWED US TO HAVE AN EXCELLENT WEB SITE THAT HE PAID FOR HIMSELF AND MAINTAINS WITHOUT QUESTION. OTHER MEMBERS THAT WE HAVE TAKEN ON IN THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS HAVE MOVED FORWARD TO TAKE LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AND YET OTHERS HAVE BROUGHT THEIR RESOURCES TO BRING NEW DIVING EXPERIENCES TO US ALL. THE DIVE SHOW NOT ONLY ENCOURAGES CLUB PARTICIPATION, BUT IT IS A GREAT WAY TO WORK TOGETHER WITH ONE ANOTHER AND TO HELP EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY ON THE GREAT RESOURCES THAT WE HAVE IN ONE OF THE BEST STATES IN THE UNION. LASTLY, I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE LACK OF TIME. I UNDERSTAND THIS JUST AS WELL AS ANYONE. I WORK FULL TIME, PART TIME, AND I AM A FULL TIME STUDENT. IT IS NOT EASY. MOST OF YOU HAVE FAMILIES AND CHILDREN AND I COMMEND YOU ON PUTTING THEM FIRST. WE DO NOT SEE ENOUGH OF THAT IN OUR DAY AND AGE. ALL I AM ASKING IS FOR EVERYONE TO HELP JUST A LITTLE BY SHOWING UP TO THE MEETINGS (I KNOW THAT THIS ISN'T ALWAYS POSSIBLE), AND TO SEE ME ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP. I PROMISE IT WILL NOT TAKE YOU MORE THEN 10 MINUTES PER MONTH.

I STARTED THIS LETTER TO REMIND EVERYONE OF THE GREAT OPPORTUNITY THAT WE HAVE IN OUR GREAT GROUP AND IT KIND OF TURNED INTO SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT. I DID NOT MEAN TO PREACH AND I DON'T MEAN TO TRY TO OFFEND ANYONE. I JUST GET SO EXCITED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES THAT WE HAVE THAT I HAVE A HARD TIME CONTAINING MY EMOTION. EVERYONE KNOWS HOW TO GET A HOLD OF ME AND I ENCOURAGE ANY FEEDBACK. I PROMISE THAT I WILL NOT TAKE IT PERSONAL, THAT IS WHY I GET PAID THE BIG BUCKS TO BE YOUR PRESIDENT. I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT I AM DOING MY JOB.

I HOPE TO TALK TO EVERYONE SOON, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WHAT THE OFF SEASON HOLDS FOR THE CLUB.

SAFE DIVING, MIKE PETERSON

New Plaque

A new Diver Of The Year plaque has been designed by craftsman and all-around talented handyman Val Geidans. It was presented by Val at the August meeting to this year's DOTY, Mike Peterson.



DOTY Mike Peterson w/ new plaque

* **Pumpkin Carve** Dive Coordinator this year is Tom Fritz, and he's open for suggestions. Call Tom at 771 3649

'03 EVENT CALENDAR

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

Dive News

-Conspicuously empty

Scuba Scoop

Don Storck
3273 N. Raucholz
Hemlock, MI
48626



FREE E-SCOOP

Give a friend a gift subscription to the SCOOP. For a free e-subscription; just send e-mail to dstorck@hotmail.com with 'subscribe scoop' in the subject.

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 **SOLD!**



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

Personals

Surprise retirement party for **Joe Jablonski**, and you're invited! Plan now for Oct 4; more details to follow.

John Ruthig is finally settled in; write John at Jruthig@tampabay.rr.com



John's new dive site

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.