

The Scuba Scoop

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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:
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Vice-President:
Terry Lisk 777 1956
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Mike Kowalski 892 2028
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Don Cunningham 799 4385
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Don Storck 642 8436

Club Dues-
\$25 per year

next meeting: Dec 14

This Meeting- 9th

**Have A Great
Thanksgiving!**

** Support Our Troops! **

Remember 9-11

Inside....

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Blackbeard!; N.C. News
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UW P-Carve Winner; pg 5
Convenient Dues Form*

*also selected short
subjects*

Annual Dues

November and December are your opportunity months for low club dues; \$20. Remember starting in January, dues will be \$25. For you math fans, that's a 25% increase. For you beer aficionados, that is half a cheap case. Delay is costly; the treasurer does not accept hard luck stories.

Blackbeard Artifacts!

Morehead City, NC; (October)- Magnetometer surveys in 1999 and 2001 of the site where Blackbeard's pirate ship is suspected to be on the bottom showed metallic objects; possibly a canon or rigging. Divers from the 'Queen Anne's Revenge' Project are planning current dives to determine if the wreck has suffered any hurricane damage. The divers plan to remove about a foot deep layer of sand over a 20-square foot area to get to the actual layer where the detected artifacts rest. This area is on the northwest side of the actual shipwreck.

The last time the QAR Project group dove the site was in 2000, after the 1999 hurricanes. At that time, they did recover some artifacts uncovered by the storms, but their intent is documenting and mapping; not to bring anything up at this time.

The QAR Project group is a group of archeologists, funded by a grant from the 'Save America's Treasures' branch of the National Park Service. The grant is for \$350,000 and runs out at the end of this year; there are no plans to sustain full time employees. This dive expedition will be done using existing staff from the QAR, the state Underwater Archeology Unit, and the N.C. Maritime Museum.

Beside the 'what', archeologists want to know 'where'. A big concern right now is that the storms may have blown sand away, uncovering objects. Active ocean currents then either move objects, or carry them away altogether. These could be items that would help paint a more detailed picture of Blackbeard.

Civil War Ship; Wreck

Corolla, NC- Originally named the "Stars and Stripes", the "Metropolis" sunk over 120 years ago. Built in 1861, the ship was originally part of the union fleet; then after the war it was refitted for freight and passenger service. It traveled between New York and South America. On its final voyage in 1878, it struck the shoals off the coast of Corolla, and sunk with a loss of 85 lives. Of a crew of

245, two-thirds were saved.

The wreck can be located about 3 mi south of the Currituck Beach lighthouse, in 15 ft of water. The ship's hull, boiler, and a crane are still visible.

A memorial marker for the ship has recently gone up on N.C. 12, telling the story of the Metropolis.

Sunset-Side Stories by Jill

In a recent weekend I invited my friend Lisa, from the East side (of Michigan) over for a dive weekend.

Friday @ 5 p.m. a few of us met at my house and headed up to the dive site to meet a few more scuba divers for an evening dive. Buddy groups as follows:

Jill and Adam, Henderson and Lisa, Kirk and Ray

The dive site: Baptist Lake, in South Eastern Newaygo County. Dive Attractions: about 50 yards out is a platform (sunken raft-metal deck with plastic 55 gallon barrels underneath) in 14 feet of water. There is a line that goes straight out (20 yards or so) from the platform, to the bow of a sunken speedboat in 25 feet of water; off the stern of the speed boat is a line that continues straight out (about 350'), going down a very gradual decline to (what I'm told is another speed boat) in 61 feet of water("the deep boat").

From the platform there is another line that goes off to the right, to a row boat in 22 feet of water, and then off the stern of the row boat is about 350 feet of line going to another tiny row boat in 24 feet of water ("the far boat"). There are plenty of weeds along the 350 feet of line heading to the last row boat . . . so there are tons of fish to see (pike, perch, 'gills, bass).

Henderson, Lisa, Adam and I discussed that we wanted to make it out to the deep boat . . . cuz none of us had seen it yet. Ray and Kirk are going to just look around with no definite agenda in mind. Ray is towing a surface dive flag for his buddy group and I am towing my dive flag for us. There are recreational boaters on the lake . . . tubing, knee boarding, fishing, etc. We all signal "O.K." and descend. Adam and I get to the platform and while we are waiting for Lisa and Henderson to show up we each take turns doing Mask Drill (lift the edge of the mask until the mask floods, then exhale with your nose to push the water out). Meanwhile, nobody shows up so Adam and I head out to the first speed boat in 24 feet of water. We check our pressure gauges and tell each other how much air we have. Then we signal to head out to the deep boat. At 33 feet (depth) things are getting kinda cold(in the high 40's) and pretty dark. I hand over the flag duties to Adam so that I can shine the dive light on the line in

front of us. We are swimming, and swimming, and swimming, and swimming. It's getting darker and colder. The texture of the bottom changes from sandy/silt to silty/black/muck. It is so silty that we can't even tell where the bottom is. There is absolutely no light reflection-the light just gets absorbed by the black silt. And the water has suspended silt in it. So the particles not on the lake bottom look like a foggy cloud all around us.

Because we can't tell where the bottom is . . . we have no "horizon" or point of reference. It's hard to maintain balance or neutral buoyancy because you don't know if you're moving up or down in the water column. By now I'm cold and not thrilled about diving in pea soup so I tell Adam that I'm cold and to head back to the speed boat in 24 feet of water. As we're making our way back, we are both ascending and don't know it until we're up at 25 feet (probably 10-15 feet off the bottom). It's here that Henderson and Lisa show up out of the pea soup. They followed Adam and I for the rest of the dive.

We headed out to the far boat (24 feet of water, temp. at 24 feet is in the 50's-balmy in comparison to where we have just come from) and there in the sandy/silty bottom, right next to the row boat is someone's weight pouch that they have lost. So I picked it up (2 lbs.) and put it into one of Adam's pockets. Then as I was looking at the bottom for more treasure I found another one just like it and stuffed that in Adam's pocket too. I like finding people's dive gear that they have lost!! The last time I dove in this lake we found \$11.00-that was really great.

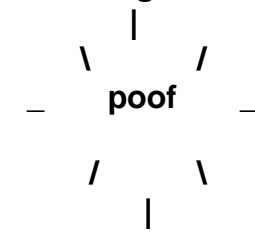
To wrap up the dive I signal to Adam that I want to go up into the shallow(15 feet) weeds and look for fish. He signals o.k. and we head up and see a 2 foot pike, 15 inch bass, a bunch of small gills and the smallest perch I've ever seen!!!

All in all a good dive . . . but we still didn't achieve the objective of making it out to the deep boat.
(cont'd next month! Stay tuned for more stories by Jill!)

Library User?

Are you reading this issue of the SCOOP in a library? If so, would you please take a minute and let the SCOOP staff know what library? Is the issue found in a convenient place? Are past issues included in the same area? Any other comments are welcome. Addresses are found on the back page. Thank You!

Remaining '04 Schedule...



- Nov 9 Club Meeting
- Discuss Christmas Party
- '05 Pool Swims
- Dec 14 Club Meeting
- TBD- Xmas party

**Your club needs your input to plan the coming year!
Make it happen!**

cut out and submit



**Saginaw Underwater Explorers
'05 Quick Renewal Form**

Last Name:.....
First Name, Init......
Address.....
City.....
State, Zip.....
Date Submitted.....
Occupation.....
Age..... **Sex**....M F.....(circle one)
Telephone No......
Marital Status; Spouse' name if applicable.....

Scuba Rating, or Professional Instruction Completed
 SSI, PADI, NAUI, YMCA, SCIP, FSDA, LA Cty, other.
Date Passed.....
Current Health.....
Other pertinent information.....

Received on.....
By....., SUE Official

Scuba Scoop

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1. John Deere Belly Mower \$65 (NOW \$50)
Don at 642 8436

Wanted

SCOOP editor for 2005. Salary commensurate to abilities.

This space for notes-

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.