

The Scuba Scoop

VOLUME 46, Issue 10

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50 beads

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-
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Board Member at Large:
Don Cunningham 799 4385
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Don Storck 642 8436

Club Dues-
\$25 per year

next meeting: Nov 9

This Meeting- 12th



Inside....

*Carving Pumpkins Dive
Straits Dive; Guest
Why a Mask?
Gam!
1st Female Instructor
Dive News?*

*also selected short
subjects*

* Support Our Troops!*

Remember 9-11

Underwater Pumpkin Carve Party Plans

Octoberfest!; time to find your nearest pumpkin road sales and procure the cutest one for the annual SUE pumpkin carve contest/social event. The actual day will be determined at the club meeting, but you should plan on the weekend of 23-24. If the weather holds up like it has, we may not have to break ice to dive. The dive site will again be King's Lake in Hemlock(see map).

The rules are as in the past; no prior markings/cuts on your pumpkin, although it should be previously cleaned. Carving is done entirely submerged using a dive knife, although other utensils have been accepted. Judging will be based on originality, talent, and the personalities of biased judges.

Valuable prizes, gourmet food, fellowship, and the respect of your peers are only part of the rewards.

By virtue of my authority as editor and announcer, I will present each participant an official UWPCD* certificate to be added to your other certifications.

Straits Dive -guest article by Jill

The weekend of Sept. 25 and 26 my dive shop (American Dive Zone, Grand Rapids) did a trip up to the Straits of Mack.

There were 18 of us divers on the 'Diver's Den' (a 42 foot dive boat, made in Wisconsin in 1977-it's a great boat to dive off. Plenty of room to gear up, a parlor that's out of the elements, a great platform and ladder to get in and out)- it's the sister dive boat to the Intrepid.

Weather was unbelievably warm- shorts and Tshirts. We departed at 9 a.m. and headed out for the Sandusky.

There was already a dive boat on it so we cruised over to the Maitland and did our first dive there. Seas were mostly 2 footers; occasional 3's. Down on the wreck vis was great and current was not a factor. The thermocline was below 60 feet so the dive was really warm. Even below the thermocline I don't think temps got below 54. There are tons of zebra mussels covering everything.

We did the whole wreck, and the thing next to it (I think it used to be a salvage boat for the Maitland).

Next we did the Sandusky. Conditions were great!

I love all the wooden dead eyes, the anchors, and I did the "I'm King of the World" (from Titanic) on the bow of the wreck and another diver took my picture.

We went to shore to drop off some people, get air fills at Larry's dive shop, got some lunch then boarded the boat to go do the William Young.

Larry's other dive boat was stranded in Mack City; we headed over to pick up their divers so we could all do the Young- then we had an overheating issue on our boat . So, that was the end of our dive day.

On Sunday, we did the William Young first. What an awesome wreck. The captain's wheel is down there intact on the deck. It's cargo was coal . . .there's lots of coal. The boat is in great condition. It's around 120 feet so we were definitely loading some N's.

Then we did a little wreck in the channel called the Stalker. It was a quick dive. It's a nice wreck- not as nice as the Sandusky.

Then, off to the stern of the Cedarville. My buddy and I dropped down. There was some (not much) current. Vis was pretty good. We cruised over the top of the crane/boom all the way along to the big crack in the hull. Neither of us are penetration divers so we just looked around. On the way back we peeked into all the wheel house windows (nobody was home).

It was an awesome weekend. I got a sunburn and everything. Who would have guessed that we would have such awesome weather on the topside!

(ed's note- Jill is a diver from the western side of the state; look for more reports from there. Thanks, Jill!)

And more credit to Jill-

Jill was the only reader correctly answering last month's question; "What is the term for a gathering of ships at sea where they heave to so that the crews may exchange news"? The correct answer is of course a GAM.

The question now is, given such a comely clue how could the rest of you not get it? For shame, sailor! Very good, Jill!

?Dive Mask-

Last month's article on why things are magnified through your mask invited another question by some inquisitive divers; why is the mask necessary to see anyway? The answer follows from the same property discussed previously, the refractive index of air and water. Light rays passing from air into your eye (normal for humans) are focused back onto your retina. However, when your eye is in direct contact with water (normal for fish), light rays passing from water into your eye are bent at a different angle, and end up behind your retina. The image is there, but badly blurred. When you have some free dive time, instead of a mask, cup your hands over your eyes and blow some air up into them. This will work instead of a mask, but your arms get really tired....

Dive History Lesson-

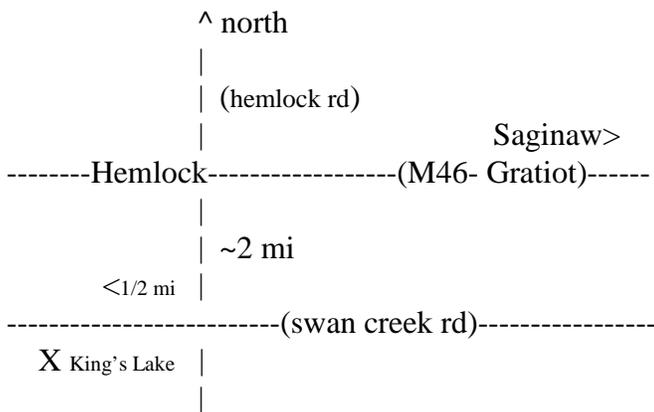
In 1955, a woman by the name of Dottie Frazier enrolled in the Los Angeles County Underwater Instructors Certification Course. This apparently became NAUI. Dottie faced a real challenge; being about 5ft tall and weighing 90lb, the gear was almost bigger than she was. The men in the class believed she had no business being there, and shunned her. Their wives hated her. But she did finish the course, and became the first female scuba instructor in the nation. She even became a hardhat diver in 1960, and worked for an insurance company investigating boat sinkings. Dottie is about 83 today, with 20 grandchildren. Maybe not diving, but still active.
 (source- Bill Jones, the Scuba Guy)

Remaining '04 Schedule...

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    Nov   9 Club Meeting
    Dec  14 Club Meeting
      TBD- Xmas party
    
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Map to Pumpkin Carve... ----->



Beautiful, pristine King's Lake, site of the '04 underwater pumpkin carve. Calm waters, 15 ft avg depth, relatively warm. You'll want to bring your camera with your knife.

Night Dive Report-

Due to the request for confidentiality, the divers attending and receiving their night dive certification will not have their names published.

TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT RENEWING

Scuba Scoop

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