

# The Scuba Scoop

VOLUME 48, Issue 11

Nov 2006

50 treats

The Official Newsletter of the  
**Saginaw Underwater Explorers**

-Serving the Tri-Cities since 1958!

<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:**  
Don Cunningham 799 4385

**Vice President:**  
Terry Lisk 777 1956

**Secretary:**  
Charles Storck 781 5677

**Treasurer:**  
Mike Kowalski 892 2028

**Compressor Chair:**  
Tom VanDenBoom 686 3176

**Board Member at Large:**  
Mike Fabish 781 6167

**Editor:**  
Don Storck 642 8436

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

**next meeting:** Dec 12

**This Meeting- 14<sup>th</sup>**



The Artists of the Pumpkin Carve-  
Justin F, Mike F, Bill A, Don S, Chas S

***Inside....***

*UW Pumpkin Carve  
Hart Lake  
Time to Fold'em?*

*also selected short  
subjects*

***Remember Our Troops!***

(English Language Version)

## Annual(well; almost) Club Underwater Pumpkin Carve Contest and Gathering-

The u/w pumpkin carve was planned with some grandiose ideas this year, and although not everything transpired it was still a memorable event. First, there was the question of location- Otter lake or Haithco. Haithco was chosen because it was closer, and perhaps we could draw some publicity. Also, the original idea of extending an open invitation to others fell through due to an extra insurance charge. An excellent day was selected; Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> with bright sun (although it did nothing for the water temp-about 45).



Gathering of the faithful...



Sun, Sand, Vis, ...

The beach area was the carve site; it offered a clear bottom although not deep. The cold water also kept the visibility clear, even when stirred. Did I mention it was cold? As usual at the pumpkin carves offering high-value prizes, an unbiased judge is always in demand. Bill Atkins was thoughtful enough to bring his nephew

Andrew who was immediately put to work...



Judge Andrew selecting 1<sup>st</sup> place... wait; from behind?



And the winner- Bill Atkins! (fine runner up to the left)

Congratulations to Bill Atkins for his detailed carving. It was really fortunate his underwater Dremel tool kept working in that cold water....

### First Snow Dive!

Here are a few pictures from Charley. He went up to Hart Lake with the Dive n Glide group last month, and encountered snow already. Good pics!



Hart Lake shore

Hart lake is located up by Gaylord, at Waters. More-



**Tarps were a good idea in gearing up**



**Good bottom shot; minnow or trout?**

### **Critical Proposal- Club Demise?**

It is common knowledge that club activities are falling apart, and attendance at meetings is down to a handful of regulars. With that in mind, longtime member Bill Atkins made a proposal at the Oct meeting that the club disband. Here is Bill's statement, and it will be discussed at the Nov meeting. Do you consider this an important issue? Enough to attend?

An open letter to the members of  
**Saginaw Underwater Explorers Dive Club**  
from Bill Atkins

First, a little background about my history with the club: I began diving about 1968 with borrowed gear and little instruction. When air fills began to get difficult to find without a "certification", I took the classes at Underwater Specialist from Dick Batchelder in 1970. I first joined the club at Dale Purchase's invitation in 1971. I was new to the sport and desperate for a dive buddy. I was thrilled with my acceptance to the group and was

taken under the wing of several experienced members such as Dale Purchase, John Garner, Fred LaClair and Bob Yarger. The diving was great, often and full of adventure.

At that time, the club was in transition. There were many members who began diving while the sport was in its infancy. Among them were two distinct groups. Group 1 never upgraded their skills & equipment. These were "Divers" in the past tense who continued to be members and supporters of the club, mainly for the many parties that were thrown. In group 2 were the very active, diehard divers who relied on the club for contacts, air fills and continual upgrading of skills, be it formal or via experience. The club had begun to have a reputation around the state as just a "party group". Hey, the parties were great, but that's not what the club's constitutional function was supposed to be.

I was new to the club so I stayed in the background, but only for a short while. At Dale's insistence, I became a board member and strong supporter of group 2. I can still remember John Garner being so disgusted with the direction the club was going, he used a stop watch to time the portion of the meetings devoted to partying vs. diving. Needless to say, friction mounted between groups. We knew that for the club to survive, Group 2 needed to take control and steer a course back to the core function of promoting education and safe diving in the community. The transition was swift, but not without hard feelings, harsh words and lost members.

The end result was a vibrant "new" club that quickly came to the forefront of the statewide diving community as a real bunch of "go getters". Many of us became photographers and videographers as "picking & grinning" (artifact collecting) was basically outlawed in 1980. As photographers, models and program presenters, our club members developed a great reputation as conservators of our Great Lakes heritage. Ironically, we had also begun to be regarded a "serious deep tech divers" club which caused some new divers to be a bit intimidated and shy away from our group. Wow, what a change!

So, here we are, about 25 years later. Membership is waning. Turnout for meetings is disheartening, comradery of the past is gone and few are diving, or at least not sharing their experiences with the rest of us. We tried to increase our community presence and membership through film shows and other events, to no avail. The general attitude of the public is "why should I participate when I can see all that stuff on TV?." It seems the strong sense of adventure that got us all fired up about our sport is lost in our current lifestyle and media overload. I've personally seen the "cycle" several times, but never this severe! It's no one's fault. No blame should be assessed to anyone, but we need to ask ourselves, is what's left worth saving?

Our constitution deals with the sad event of disbanding. There, I've said it. Out in the open for all to hear, **DISBANDING.**

With a heavy heart, I propose a motion as follows:

**Hear ye, Hear ye! Let those loyal members who exist, with due notice in the newsletter, assemble on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2006, with the express agenda of discussing the dissolution of Saginaw Underwater Explorers Dive Club per the club's constitutional requirements. All interested parties are hereby notified of the intent of this motion and their presence to debate the merit of said motion is requested.**

**Respectfully submitted, (Bill)**

## Scuba Scoop

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**New SCUBA shop-** Keith Heintz has opened a new **Dive n Glide** on Mackinaw, just south of US 10 (just across from McD's). Stop in and say hi!

GOSCUBA!

<http://www.goscuba.net>

## For Sale

**1989 Carver Santego**; asking \$22,950. 27' with a 10' beam (OAL is 30') Twin 4.3 Mercruisers I/O (205hp) Very low hours, and meticulously cared for; completely set up for diving. Many more features! [rburkhard@charter.net](mailto:rburkhard@charter.net)



**1970 Slickcraft** 19 foot fiberglass V hull. rebuilt lower unit, new inboard gas tank, skis, ladder, tubes. 115 horse V four cylinder Evenrude outboard. all new seats. new tires on trailer. \$2000.00 or best call Rick Beyett (989) 892-6287

## S.U.E. '06 Event Planner

Counting down...

Nov 14 Club Mtg  
Dec 12 Club Mtg  
TBA Christmas Party

## For Sale (cont)

**Bayliner- 1988**, 28', 460 Ford V8 w/ trailer. Set up for diving. \$15900. Call Mike at 989 892 2028

**Whitefish Bay property** for sale on Whitefish Bay, 2 miles north of Paradise. Listed for \$109,900. L Michele Whitaker" <[emwhitak@hotmail.com](mailto:emwhitak@hotmail.com)>.

Check <http://www.macmasterrealty.com/paradise>

**Ladies Dry Suit** size small: Complete with heavy one piece wooly, head wear, three sets of heavy gloves and fins. Asking \$100.00 for the whole set OBO. Call (231) 935-4217 or email [rburkhard@charter.net](mailto:rburkhard@charter.net)

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**Compaq LJ300 Printer** - Like new and used very little. Has new print cartridges installed. The print cartridges are worth more than double the asking price of \$15. Call 989-872-4247 if interested. - Mike

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