

# The Scuba Scoop

VOLUME 49, Issue 12

Dec 2007

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

-Serving the Tri-Cities since 1958!

<http://www.saginawunderwaterexplorers.org>



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:  
Tony Piazza 790 1385

Secretary:  
Charles Storck 781 5677

Treasurer:  
Mike Fabish 781 6167

Compressor Chair:  
Tom VanDenBoom 686 3176

Board Member at Large:  
Bill Atkins 684 5847

Editor:  
Don Storck 642 8436

Club Dues-  
\$25 per year

next meeting?: Jan 8 08

**This Meeting- 11<sup>th</sup>**  
(Again @ SagTwp FS #1)



Christmas party stars; Ellie and Alex

**Inside....**

*Christmas Party  
Texas Clipper  
EOY; Dues Time  
also selected short  
subjects*



***Remember Our Troops!***

(English Language Version)

## SUE '07 Christmas Party Highlights

SUE members got a jump on the season by attending the annual Christmas party early in the month, with a better-than-last-year showing. Held at the 'Timbers ' in Saginaw, the club had a nice room set off from the main dining room. Attendees began showing up just before 6 to be greeted by Tony Piazza and his lovely wife Carol, and had a chance to socialize before getting into the meal.



Initial story sharing session



Main table, but note where the waitress is taking orders first...

A fine variety of food was offered on an officially printed SUE menu. After the serious eating part of the evening was completed, Tony took over as master-of-ceremonies and passed out raffle tickets. This event had numerous winners, and everybody likes to win. Even Ur Ed won! To be noted, your forever honest editor was the only winner that was asked by Tony to show his ticket for confirmation...



VIP table



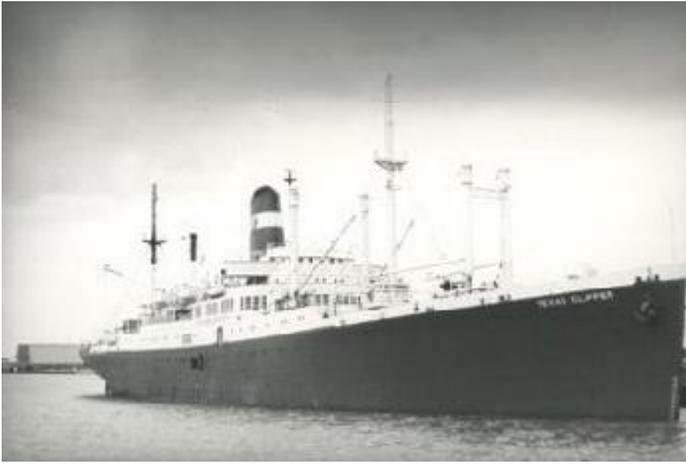
After just winning 1<sup>st</sup> prize, Laurie L. draws next winner



To close, Best of Holidays until next year!

**The SUE club** has survived another year, and it's time to look to the coming year. With the fine attendance at the party, let's equal that at the meeting this coming Tues. '08 pool swims should be on the table. Also remember your dues are up, and this is your early chance at the discount rate. Treas. Fabish is looking forward to seeing you there.

**Reefing: The Texas Clipper**



The Texas Clipper in finer days



The Texas Clipper's last days

Originally planned for Mar'07, the Texas State Park System has scuttled 'The Texas Clipper' off San Padre Island as an artificial reef.

The Texas Clipper was originally commissioned as the U.S.S. Queens in 1944, a troop transport ship during World War II. She ferried fresh troops into battle and shuttled the wounded from Iwo Jima. She was also part of the American occupation at Sasebo, Japan. She was decommissioned in 1946. From 1946 to 1958, she was commissioned the S.S. Excambion and served as one of the post-war cruise ships for American Export Lines. As a cruise liner, she sailed to ports throughout the Mediterranean Sea.

The U.S.T.S. Texas Clipper was commissioned as the first Texas Maritime Training Academy ship and served sea cadets at Texas A&M University at Galveston from 1965 to 1996. She spent summers at sea and provided an ocean-going campus for about 200 students at a time. The Reef Program has been actively working on the Texas Clipper project since 1998. Plans now call for reefing the ship on the sandy bottom of the Gulf of Mexico 17 miles off the south Texas coast. She will be more than a typical artificial reef and will become a world class diving destination. She will be the Texas Clipper, a proud Aggie training vessel, a cruise liner and a proud battle-tested Naval Ship. She will rest proudly and gracefully off the Texas coast and serve the diving and fishing community for many more decades. She will be there as an oasis for marine life in an otherwise vast expanse of the mostly flat sand and mud bottom of the open Gulf.

The Texas Clipper is a multilevel dive, meaning experienced, open-water certified divers can explore the sun deck, navigation deck and the promenade at 65 to 70 feet. Penetration divers, experienced with overhead

environments, can tackle interior spaces. Sitting at about 130' depth, much of the wreck is more than 70' above the bottom. One expert states that 'The Texas Clipper' can be compared to a large museum, requiring scuba divers to make several trips to fully appreciate it because of the size. "The ship is so large you can dive a hundred times and still not see everything," (source- Texas Clipper website;



<http://www.thetexasclipper.com>

The Texas Clipper begins a new day as an artificial reef; 11-17-07 (Ed Note: to Dale P.; the Scoop knows it's only a matter of time till you're on it, if you haven't already. Please send back story)



Dive Team activity last month- search near the Center St Bridge

# Scuba Scoop

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## Saginaw Underwater Explorers '08 Quick Renewal Form

Last Name:.....  
First Name, Init.....  
Address.....  
City.....  
State, Zip.....  
e/m Address.....  
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 Cnty, other.  
Date Passed.....  
Current Health.....  
Other pertinent information.....  
.....  
Received on.....  
By....., SUE Official

**That time of the year** has come again, when the SCOOP offices will be officially closed for the holidays. The staff and management, from the copy girl to the stockholders, wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Be Safe.

## Wanted

1/2" Tank valve .  
Contact Mary Poma 771 3649

## For Sale

**1970 Slickcraft** 19 foot fiberglass Rick Beyett (989) 892-6287  
**Bayliner- 1988**, 28', 460 Ford V8 w/ trailer. Set up for diving. \$15900. Call Mike at 989 892 2028  
**Whitefish Bay** still for sale/rent. Call Michele at 906-492-3553. <emwhitak@hotmail.com>.

Policy and Disclaimer:  
Items listed in For Sale/Wanted will continue to be listed for one year unless the "Scoop" is notified otherwise.  
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