

The Scuba Scoop

VOLUME 50, Issue 6

June 2008 50!

The Official Newsletter of the
Saginaw Underwater Explorers

-Serving the Tri-Cities since 1958!

<http://www.saginawunderwaterexplorers.org>

Club Meetings- Held at 7:30pm on the second Tuesday of each month,
at the Thomas Twp. Fire Station on the corner of Dice and Thomas.

This Meeting- 10th



(above) Visitor- John Garner, (cap), is one of SUE founders

(below) Prenzler at Petoskey; see story inside (photo by DAS)



Inside....

*Last Meeting
Petoskey Dive
Haithco Dive
Zoo Dive
Constitution Revisions
e/m Bonus Section!*

also selected short subjects

(English Language Version)

Remember Our Troops!

May Meeting Minutes-

Cold wind greeted SUE members showing up at the main Thomas Township F.D. station to get air tanks VIP'd. Checking started about 6:30, and continued at least an hour before Pres. Fabish called the business meeting. Mike discussed the upcoming dive at Petoskey, and passed out maps to the location (see later story). Mike also noted the proposed club dive at Haithco; close for convenience (more later). There was also some discussion on a money item in the finances (no; not the Scoop expenses). The question should be resolved at this meeting. Another important item for this month's meeting is proposed changes in the SUE constitution. Members of the board have been working on updating the constitution, and Mike passed out copies with the proposed changes. You as a member can discuss these proposals at this club meeting, and if there are no further changes, the revisions will be voted on at the July meeting. As a member, you should take the time to read the proposed changes. You can request a copy by e/m, or request a hard copy from Mike. On a final positive note, the SUE had a number of new members join at the May meeting. Welcome aboard!

The May dive was at Haithco park; not a big turnout, but a nice day to dive. Four divers went in the water. Greg Prenzler brought a potential new member (Mike?), Mark Laux, UrEd, and his dog all got wet. Tom Fritz backed us up from shore, and prevented the park manager from closing the gate on us. UrEd found a set of car keys somebody lost over the pier; they can be claimed by describing them.



Mark in; Greg and Mike to go at Haithco



"Ooops; must've missed this before..."



VIP Ops Center



Tim, Jeff, barter tanks



Mike conducting business



Dave signing up new members

Splash Dives-

The June dive is planned for the 17th, at Krystal Lake. Recall this is the old Vassar gravel pit, and items of interest are the hopper, a boat, and a safe. Make a new discovery, and get SCOOP notoriety.

Petoskey Expedition

Six club members made the trek to Petoskey, leaving Saginaw on Fri the 17 for the weekend. Originally planned by Mike Fabish, the group included Justin Fabish, Greg Prenzler, Jeff Millemon, Dave Sommers, and Don Storck.. The plan was to clean up a memorial site containing a crucifix and numerous plaques. (see related story by D. Sommers)

Mike had made previous contact with Sgt. Dennis Jessick, of the Emmet County Sheriff's Dept. Denny had his own involvement with the site, and went way out of his way to assist us. We owe him big Thanks!



Saturday am recon-

This is the parking lot above the dive site where we met with Denny as to how to get in. Denny offered to take us out in his inflatable, which turned out to be the easiest way. First, he took the boat out and marked the location. Then the group met him at the marina, got suited up, and were chauffeured out.



Placing the marker over the site

In the photo above, the inflatable (center) can just be seen beyond the breakers dropping a marker over the crucifix. Those innocent looking breakers beat the crap out of us on the swim in. Note also the cloud building up in the back; rain and strong winds prevented an afternoon dive. The memorials are about

20ft down at this location; the bright sun and very clear water made for great vis.



SUE group with Denny about to embark to dive site (by CP)



Greg and Don scraping and scrubbing (by DAS)



Justin scraping and scrubbing (by DAS)



The way in- swim to breakers, walk on rocks, climb wall (byCP)



Jeff looking for that loose rock... (by CP)



Dave conquering rock climbing in SCUBA (by CP)

After scaling the obstacles to the parking lot, the group got dressed and went out for lunch. By this time, high winds and rain had set in, and the pm dive was cancelled. Denny took us to the Sheriff Dept.,

and showed us a 4” thick binder where he had collected information on the memorial. Enough to write a book...



Post-dive activity in parking lot above site



Sgt. Dennis Jessick, our host -and he thanked us for coming!



Saturday evening cook-out (by DAS)



Two in after Sunday dive

Memorial Background

The story begins in 1956 when a young man, Gerald Schipinski was killed in a hunting accident four days after his 15th birthday on his family farm near Rapson in Michigan's Thumb. His parents decided to commemorate their son's death by having a crucifix made for their son's grave.

The crucifix arrived damaged; the arms were broken, and another ordered. The family offered the broken crucifix for sale.

Ken Gray of the Superior Marine Divers Club of Wyandotte, Michigan purchased it with the original intent of establishing a memorial for scuba diver Charles Raymond who drowned in Torch Lake in 1961. Later it was dedicated to all fatal diving accidents.

In 1962(?) this crucifix was placed 1,200 feet off the break wall in Petoskey after it was repaired. It was in about 60 feet of water. Over the years numerous plaques and monuments were placed around the 1,800 crucifix.

In 1986 members of the SOME DIVE CLUB moved the crucifix to a spot closer to shore and in shallower water. It now lies about 800 yards off shore from Bayfront Park in Petoskey. It is usually buoyed during the summer months. While it can be considered a shore dive, a boat makes it a lot easier.

Members of the Little Traverse Bay Diving Club started an annual crucifix viewing the same year.

When the ice on the bay became safe, the club opened a hole in the ice to allow people to view the underwater memorial. The annual event now attracts upwards of 1,800 viewers.

Petoskey area divers try to clean the marble of marine growth twice a year. Because of unstable ice it has been a year since the memorial was cleaned.

The white marble crucifix now almost glows once again, waiting from more underwater tourists.

(-written by Dave Sommers; based on research by Denny Jessick)

Closer-to-Home Cleaning Project

A few weeks back UrEd was challenged with diving the pond in the Saginaw Children's Zoo. A tunnel exists through the center of the pond fixed with underwater windows by which the various fish living in the pond can be viewed. Unfortunately, a good amount of algae and plant life also grows in the pond, and over time, completely covers the windows. Time for spring cleaning.

Suiting up in front of moms and their little kids was easy. Scraping 1/4" of growth on a 2x2' window with a 3" scraper was tougher. And next time I'll need some good ankle weights to stabilize my scraping strokes with solid footing.

Speaking of next time, this looks like a good club activity. If anyone would like to try it, please contact me. Imagine a permanent sign down there; "maintained by SUE" and a telephone number.



"But we came to see the fish..."

(by DAS)



Another visitor this month; another SUE founder- Dale Purchase Up from Florida, stopped at the Texan for breakfast

Here's Dale showing his dive photos he took in Florida waters.

Scuba Scoop

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DIVEANDGLIDE

Valley Center Technology Park
(SW Corner of US-10/Mackinaw Road.)
Call toll-free **877-DIVE-747**

Late News Item-

The Saginaw Township Times interviewed Mike Fabish about SUE. Tony Piazza on cover. Get a copy!

S.U.E OFFICERS

President:
Mike Fabish 781 6167
Vice President:
Tony Piazza 790 1385
Secretary:
Jim Jesselaitis 249 7619
Treasurer:
Dave Sommers 751 8517
Compressor Chair:
Tom VanDenBoom 686 3176
Bd Member-at-Large:
Greg Prenzler 739 0625
Editor:
Don Storck 642 8436

S.U.E. '08 Event Planner

Jun: 10- Club Mtg, 17- dive Krystal Lake
Jul: 8- Club Mtg, 15- dive TBA
Aug: 12- Club Mtg(Tony's), 19- dive TBA
Sep: 9- Club Mtg, 16- dive TBA
Oct: 14- Club Mtg, 21- pumpkin carve(?)
Nov: 11- Club Mtg,
Dec: 9- Club Mtg, 13- Xmas party(Timbers)

For Sale

1989 Carver Santego;
27' with a 10' beam; 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

1997 Boston Whaler 15' Justice (commercial
grade) model, 1998 Shorelander trailer,
2001 75 HP Mercury (bought new in 2001)
with less than 50 hours on it \$10,500.
Anyone interested can call Pier 7 at 989-
894-9061.
-Michele Whitaker

Instruction Offered

Dive training classes; Special discounts to
SUE members and public safety divers.
Contact Mike Coyer (PADI Instr) at
mcoyer@sbcglobal.net
for course descriptions

Wanted

½" Tank valve .
Contact Mary Poma 771 3649

Zipper; for Harvey drysuit. Preferably
waterproof. Don Storck
dstorck@hotmail.com

Wooden Bows and arrows, also older quivers.
Those for carrying arrows. Thanx, Val
magmagems@yahoo.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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