

# The Scuba Scoop

VOLUME 50, Issue 11

Nov 2008

50 bar

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-10<sup>th</sup>**



*Inside....*

*Pumpkin Carve report  
Club Dive; Haithco  
Petoskey Dive  
Business Notice  
Batschelder Contact  
Tony Crewing  
also selected short subjects*

(English Language Version)

***Remember Our Troops!***



Our hosts, Kim and Linda; Krystal Lake Owners & Operators



Our dedicated fans and unbiased judges! Alexis and Nicole

## '08 Great Annual Club Pumpkin Carve

Without question, the turnout for this year's underwater pumpkin carve was the best ever! Again held at the Krystal Lake Campground, just under 10 carvers showed up. This included some current members, some old members, and at least one who is so impressed by our events he is about to join the club! Greg Prenzler set the scene; he and his family had been camping there and OK'd the event with owners Kim and Linda. He also spread the word to the other campers, so the morning of the carve we had a lot of excited spectators. The wx was perfect; nice bright day, and fairly decent vis so you were sure you weren't carving your hand instead of the pumpkin. Competition was fierce as always, and Mike Fabish took 1<sup>st</sup> place with his detailed shark-looking pumpkin. Mike wins a free membership for '09; congratulations, Mike! After carving, some took the time to explore, visiting the hopper and the boat.



Mike F. assisting Dave S. with gear; pumpkin swimming away



Entry display. ( Mike F.'s cannibal pumpkin eliminated two...)



Camping audience gathers on beach



Jim Jesselaitis with two?



The Carvers! Everyone a winner!

**It's BILL!**- Nov 6, 6:30 PM West Branch District Library presents "Saginaw River Shipbuilders: Their Legacy to Divers" Discourse by Bill Atkins, diver, explorer, author, and historian on Great Lakes Shipwrecks. Lots of underwater photos. *Group trip?*

## SCOOP Bonus Page!



-Petoskey Post Card...

(contr by CP)

### SUE Return to Petoskey

The weather forecast for the weekend of October 18 was delightful. A great fall weekend. Winds were to be light and gradually picking up. Eight divers from the Saginaw area headed for Little Traverse Bay in Petoskey. Among the divers were six members of the Saginaw Underwater Explorers along with two friends. Club members were Mike Fabish, Jim Jesselaitis, Scott Thompson, Tim Hasting, Dave Sommers and Greg Prenzler. Joining the group were Mike Prenzler, Greg's nephew and Rick Hardy a Grand Blanc diver and friend of Greg.

The story actually begins on August 12, 1962 when a crucifix was placed in Little Traverse Bay, about 1,200 feet off the break wall in Petoskey. It was intended as a memorial to all fatal diving accidents. On November 1, 1964 members of the Saginaw Underwater Explorers placed a plaque at the crucifix. More were added over the years. A photo of the plaque can be seen on the website history page, November 2, 1964. In 1986 the crucifix was moved closer to shore. Not all of the plaques were moved with it. In the summer of 2007 Mike and Justin Fabish found a mention of the crucifix in a diving book and went to look for it. The marble statue had a large amount of marine growth on it. Over the winter club members discussed making a trip and cleaning the crucifix. Last May, club members ventured north and spent two days scrubbing the growth off. Emmet County historian and Sheriff diver Dennis Jessick provided valuable information and support. There is a link to a video of the crucifix cleaning on the photo page of our website. Over the summer discussion turned to a fall trip to Petoskey and an attempt to locate the original site and perhaps locating our plaque. Jessick was able to provide charts of the original location. Before heading north on Friday, October 17, Greg Prenzler presented his wife with two bouquets of roses. It was their wedding anniversary. Greg towed his trailer and Tim Hastings brought along his boat. The group camped at the Petoskey State Park, splitting the sleeping arrangements between the trailer and a rustic cabin in the park. Saturday morning dawned with below freezing temperatures, calm wind and heavy fog. Tims boat held all 8 divers who had dressed on shore. It was less than 1,000 yards to the coordinates of the old crucifix site. The crucifix had been placed on the edge of a drop off in about 60 feet of water.

At the coordinates it was almost 100 feet deep. An adjustment was made to dive along the drop off. The first group of divers, Fabish, Hardy and both Prenzler's headed easterly along the bottom. The bottom was clear and sandy with no vegetation. Visibility was about 50 feet and the divers spread out along the drop off. They did not locate the crucifix site but found the transom of a boat. The next group of Hastings, Thompson, Jesselaitis and Sommers headed westerly. The diving was easy but with little to see, mostly sand and a steep drop off. Nothing was located. Between both groups, about 800 yards of the drop off area was searched. While the original site was not located, the obvious position for the crucifix was eliminated. It was felt that the entire sand bank / drop-off had probably moved over the past 46 years. Another search in deeper water may be needed. The old plaques may be lost forever in the shifting sands. After a shore lunch and swap-out of tanks the group motored to the crucifix. Since it wasn't buoyed it took a while to locate the site only a few hundred yards from shore. The boat anchor was attached to a mooring chain on the bottom. All 8 divers were able to get time in to clean the crucifix and plaques with scrub brushes. Visibility was still about 50 feet and with a depth of only 20 feet several divers were able to get in over an hour underwater.

Greg Prenzler demonstrated his outdoor cooking skills Saturday evening. Jesselaitis brought along some venison tenderloins and potatoes for the grill. Everyone had plenty to eat on a cold, star filled night. Many stories were told around the blazing campfire.

Sunday dawned overcast and windy. The forecast was for 25 knot winds and it looked like the weatherman had it right. The decision was made to head for the Keuka in Lake Charlevoix. Shortly after noon the group arrived at the boat launch in Charlevoix and was delighted to notice the wreck still had a mooring buoy on it. The Keuka was a 172 foot three masted schooner barge. It was built in 1889. It is about 25 feet to the deck and lies on a flat sand bottom. The winds howling and the white caps were picking up on the trip out. The wreck lies about one-half mile from shore. The wreck is wide open with hundreds of bass. Everyone had a chance to explore the wreck that has been rumored to have once been a speakeasy. The entire group agreed it was a great weekend for diving!

(contr by Dave Sommers) (Photos by Scot Thompson)



Dave Sommers cleaning plaque at Petoskey



Mike Prenzler and Greg Prenzler cleaning the Petoskey crucifix

**Business Item-**

In an effort to increase membership, the board of directors and the general membership at the October meeting voted to offer a \$5.00 discount to past non current members for the 2009 renewal period. This offer is a onetime special that is contrary to the dues provision stated in the constitution and requires notice to the members and a vote. This is notice to all members that:

“For the 2009 renewal/welcome back to past members, dues shall be \$25.00 with a \$5.00 discount if paid by the January 13, 2009, meeting.”

Discussion and vote on this matter will take place at the November general meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Tony Piazza  
 Vice President

**Recently received at SCOOP HQ:**

**From: compairsupply@att.net**

Hello, was surfing the web and ran across a news letter from 2006 with a note from Bill Atkins . You talk about a name from the past . Yes this is Dick Batchelder from the old Dive Shop in Flint and it has been a long time since I have been your way. I have Compressed Air Supplies & Eqmt. 800 Old Griffin Rd # 3, Dania, FL 33004, Phone 954-929-4462.

We're on the South side of the Ft Lauderdale Airport. We service a lot of the dive shops here and in the Islands. I run the Business with my 3 son;s, Dan, Sean & Ryan. My email: r.batchelder@att.net . If you are in contact with Bill or any of the other divers Please say hello for me. Is the Club still active?? Keep Wet.

Regards, Dick

*And greetings to you from Michigan, Dick! Great to hear from you; stay in touch! -S.U.E.*

**Haithco; Lightning Strikes Twice!**

Without any warning, a bolt of lightning again came down from the clear skies on the day of the club Haithco dive, and struck UrEd's tank, effectively removing most of the air from it... UrEd was in long enough to just get wet. Mike Fabish, Jim Jesselaitis, and Scot Thompson. discovered the line to the boats was broken, and repaired it. They stayed in so long, the sun set, it became dark, and they had to turn lights on to find the surface.



First one in; Mike F.



then Scot T.



then Jim J.



then... Night!

**V.P. Piazza  
 Shanghaied  
 in the  
 Caribbean  
 -forced to crew**



wait, whose toe is that? ->

When asked to crew, your Vice President, Tony Piazza, and his wife Carol trekked to Miami to sail in the annual Columbus Day Regatta. Boarding the Tiki II, a 41' Morgan, we raced from Miami to Elliot Key on Saturday, October 11th, in light winds. That night, we moored in the Keys with over 600 boats for the annual event. Sunday was a day to remember -- 20 mph winds pushed the boat past its hull speed, up to 7.3 knots If anyone needs a crew for their sail, I'm available!

-Tony Piazza

## Scuba Scoop

Don Storck  
3273 N. Raucholz  
Hemlock, MI  
48626



### FREE E-SCOOP

Give a friend a gift subscription to the SCOOP. For a free e-subscription; just send e-mail to [dstorck@hotmail.com](mailto:dstorck@hotmail.com)

### DIVEANDGLIDE

MOVED to 220 Washington; Bay City!  
Call toll-free **877-DIVE-747**

### Adventure Scuba & Snorkel Center, Inc.

40001 Grand River Avenue  
Novi MI 48375 | [www.goscuba.net](http://www.goscuba.net) |

### Compressed Air Supplies & Eqpt.

800 Old Griffin Rd # 3, Dania, FL 33004  
Phone 954-929-4462. -Dick Batchelder

## For Sale

**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

**Numerous neoprene suits;** contact Kim Porath at [Kimporath@aol.com](mailto:Kimporath@aol.com) for information

### Trivia Answer Corner-

1. What was the name of the forerunner of S.U.E.?  
The AQUAFINS! pre-'58
2. What is the significance of the van on the cover?  
It's Dale Purchase's old dive van; for sale again!

\*Trivia winner of the \$\$ gift certificate has been notified directly by Cora the copy girl.



## S.U.E. '08 Event Planner

Nov: 11- Club Mtg,  
Dec: 9- Club Mtg, 13- Xmas party(Timbers)

### 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

## Wanted

**1/2" Tank valve .**

Contact Mary Poma 771 3649

**Zipper;** for Harvey drysuit. Preferably waterproof. -Don [dstorck@hotmail.com](mailto:dstorck@hotmail.com)

**Wooden Bows and arrows,** also older quivers. Those for carrying arrows. Thanx, Val [magmagems@yahoo.com](mailto:magmagems@yahoo.com)

## Instruction Offered

Dive training classes; Special discounts to SUE members and public safety divers. Contact Mike Coyer (PADI Instr) at [mcoyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mcoyer@sbcglobal.net)

### 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.