

# The Scuba Scoop

VOLUME 51, Issue 2

Feb 2009

50 yrs+

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>  
ELECTIONS!**



*Inside....*

*Ric Mixer Presentation  
Ice Dive Dave  
Warm Dive Mike  
Frankenmuth Ice Sculpting  
Announcements*

*also selected short subjects*

**More spark in this issue with no extra charge...**



It's the Mix!

(English Language Version)

**Remember Our Troops!**

## Mixer Visits, Presents, Joins SUE

Renowned diver, explorer, and adventurer **Ric Mixer** kicked off SUE's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year with a terrific shipwreck presentation at the January club meeting. Extra chairs had to be brought in to seat the high attendance of members and guests. Ric is well known in this area for his underwater videos exploring Great Lakes shipwrecks, in particular the Edmund Fitzgerald. He presented to the club the stories of about six wrecks; and his research on them. He showed videos and pictures; history of tragic events. He emphasized one of the most important things to keep is the accounts by the survivors, and the relatives of those lost.



Ric beginning his shipwreck presentation



List of wrecks discussed; from the Morrell to the Escanaba

Ric got into scuba diving, and then wreck exploring, back when the Jupiter burned and sank in Bay City. At the time, he was a cameraman for a local TV studio. He was not allowed to get close, while another

cameraman was. Ric found out the other guy was a scuba diver, and had the 'in' with the police. Sure!



Story of the CG buoy tender Hollyhock

Another topic Ric touched on was the large number of ships that were built in Bay City, and where they ended up. At least one became a reef off Australia.



and New Member! Ric receiving his gold card from Pres Fabish

Visit Ric's website to find out what else he's been involved with; go to <http://airworthy.tv> Also, see <http://www.lakefury.com>

Thanks, Ric; and welcome aboard!

**The Feb mtg** will be hosting **Keith Hintz, from Dive and Glide**. Keith might bring some new gear to exhibit, discuss some up-coming charters, and possibly class offerings. Bring questions; Keith can answer what you've wondered about. Dive and Glide is our last home-town dive shop; stay in touch with a good turnout for Keith!

## First Recorded Dive of '09!

The award goes to Dave Sommers, who decided on a Saginaw Bay dive...

“Lets go diving. That’s a common refrain. Plan your dive; also another a common refrain. Most dives you plan out a week or two in advance, talk and plan. You keep an eye on the weather, then the day arrives. The other day my phone rang. The voice on the other end said “Lets go diving. Right now.” Three hours later I was in the water. There was a slight overcast and the water was dead-flat calm. It was kind of peaceful as I sat with my legs in the water watching the ice crystals form on the water. It was 22° out. We were 2 miles out into Saginaw Bay, off Linwood. A snowmobile had gone through the ice less than 8 hours earlier. The owner and his brother had to swim for it. This is a fairly common occurrence. Myself and a couple of other members of the club work with Bill Giorgis of Mike's Wrecker Service in underwater recovery. The calls are usually the result of someone losing something in the water, often a quad-runner or snowmobile through the ice. The owners are required by law to remove the items or face stiff fines by the DNR. Today Mike Garner and myself along with a half dozen Mike's employees get the call. We try to get to the site as soon as we can do so safely. Ice can shift, moving the entry hole. After meeting with the owner we head out onto the ice. In this case we had rough GPS coordinates. They were sketchy “Maybe within 500 yards” is what we were told. The owner said a portion of the shanty they were towing was still above water. After hauling our equipment onto the ice with quads and snow machines to the general location we start to look. After 30 minutes we find a black spot and check it out. Sure enough, tracks run across the snow; then stop. There is broken ice that has refrozen and a black piece of fabric, about the size of a coat, frozen in the ice. An ice fishermen say that's not it, because they have just pulled a guy out that went through on a quad. Hmm -- 2 different machines. We decide to check the quad. As we walk towards it there is constant ice cracking underfoot. Mike punches a spud through about an inch of ice. We mark this one and leave it. There is not enough ice to get it out. Back to the snowmobile. We have about 4 inches of ice to work on. After years of doing this we have a system. I get my dive gear ready and secure my safety lines. A couple of other guys cut a large hole in secure ice with a chain saw while others rig the lifting device. Sort of a small crane. The hole will allow me

to get into the water to secure the machine and also a hole to pull the machine out. The water is not bad, about 8 feet of visibility and about 10 feet deep. I swim towards the machine and see it fairly quickly. It is only 30 feet or so from where I entered. It is floating with the nose on the bottom and the tail about 6 feet off the bottom. The shanty and sled are floating and pulling the tail up. I want to make sure I don't get under the snowmobile nor entangle my safety line or tow line. I keep a wide berth and attach the towline to the nose. A quick look around for any personnel effects that may be on the bottom or that may have floated to the surface yields nothing. I follow my safety line back to the surface, where I am pulled out. The guys on the surface pull the machine to the hole then attach the electric winch to the tow rope. With a little juggling the snowmobile surfaces and is eventually hauled onto the ice. The equipment is packed. My tank valve has a coating of ice and my safety line is frozen solid. You have to be careful not to break equipment in this cold weather. The snowmobile is loaded onto a sled and hauled back to shore. All in all a successful dive. A note on planning your dive. Some of the diving we do has been planned out years in advance. We talk about it and think about it so there is a dive plan, we just never know the time or location. I always bring my equipment home to dry out. I repack my drysuit after dusting with talc and waxing the zipper. All of my equipment is packed and put into bags. When the next call comes, I grab my bags and everything is ready, nothing is forgotten.”  
Safe diving. - Dave Sommers



Rigging for lifting the snow machine out of the hole

## Frankenmuth Invitational...

January also saw a select few SUE members (along with the dive team) invited to Frankenmuth to participate in the annual ice carving festivities. The event was held late in the evening on a Saturday, and lasted a good portion of the night. This special occasion was held in the Cass river, just east of town. Note fine cuts in the ice...



Mike Garner helping Dave suit up for ice entry



Manny Trevino waiting as Mike Garner gets adjustments



Bill Giorgis about to tend Dave



Prize-winning channel sculpted! vehicle extra...CW from left, that's UrEd, Mannie, Dave Sommers, Bill Giorgis



Snow machine recovered... Bill, Mike, & Dave



-The little engine that could... right up the bank!

### Contrast- Warm Water Diving...

Mike Coyer also put in a January dive; he just returned from Cozumel! They can't even spell ice down there. Water temp was 79deg , and vis was 150ft! Mike was there for a week, and is planning a return trip soon. (Tony?) Mike shares some fantastic shots to help you think warmer...



Vis from the bottom!



Vis at the bottom!



Turtle's-eye vis of Mike on the bottom...

### Here's Mike-

“ Having spent a week in lovely Cozumel in January, I cannot help but to return this spring. What a great time. The diving there is UNBELIEVABLE.

We will be in Cozumel, Mexico from May 2 - 9, 2009. During the trip we will be staying at the Fiesta Americana resort. The resort is south of town on the waterfront with its own private beach. There are two restaurants on site, two swimming pools, bar, etc. Our group will have a private boat. We will depart the dock from our hotel when "we" desire and dive the sites "we" wish to. This is not a "cattle boat". The owner is a personal friend of mine from Cadillac Michigan, who has been organizing trips to Cozumel for 18 years and now lives in Cozumel during the winter operating a charter service.

You WILL have an unbelievable time diving with us. Visibility averaged 150 ft during our last trip and the water was 79 degrees from top to bottom. (Not exactly Michigan dive conditions.) The details for the trip are as follows:

#### Included:

1. 7 days & nights at the Fiesta Americana Resort (waterfront and private beach)
2. 5 days of 2-tank boat diving (on our own private charter boat)
3. Night Diving - A minimum of 1 - 2 night dives will be done for those interested.
4. Rental vehicle- We will be renting a vehicle for our group to travel to and from the topside sights YOU wish to see while on the island.
5. Transfers / transportation to and from the airport to our destination

#### Cost:

Diver: \$995 + air

Non-diver \$655 + air

Based on my experience in Cozumel, with the resort and dive operator, I am confident that this will be the trip of a lifetime.

Please feel free to call me with questions or for general information at (989) 737-2115 or email me at

[mcoyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mcoyer@sbcglobal.net)

Safe Diving, **Mike**

# Scuba Scoop

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## DIVEANDGLIDE

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## Instruction Offered

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## Compressed Air Supplies & Eqpt.

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## Announcements-

**Pool Swims '09 -CANCELLED!**  
**Elections this meeting!**

### 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. Anniversary Planner

Feb 10 Club Mtg(elections) - DiveandGlide	Aug 11 Club Mtg
Mar 10 Club Mtg	Sep 8 Club Mtg
Apr 14 Club Mtg	Oct 13 Club Mtg TBA- Pumpkin Carve
May 12 Club Mtg	Nov 10 Club Mtg
Jun 9 Club Mtg	Dec 8 Club Mtg TBA Christmas Party
Jul 14 Club Mtg TBA Picnic ?	

## \*FOR SALE/WANTED/PERSONALS\*

-NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS

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.