

# The Scuba Scoop

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*(English Language Version)*

**Sep 2010**

**50 yrs+**

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

-Serving the Tri-Cities since 1958!

<http://www.saginawunderwaterexplorers.org>

Club Meetings- Held at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday of each month,  
at the Thomas Twp. Fire Station on the corner of Dice and Thomas.

**This Meeting-14<sup>th</sup>**  
(back at Tms Twp fire barn)



Picnic Site; first to navigate the back roads- Tim Hastings!



Mr. Talented- Bill Atkins practicing for a pumpkin...

- And he who hesitates....



*Inside....*

- SUE Picnic 2010
  - SUE Otter Lake?
  - SUE Munising Dive
  - Zoo windows
- also selected short subjects**

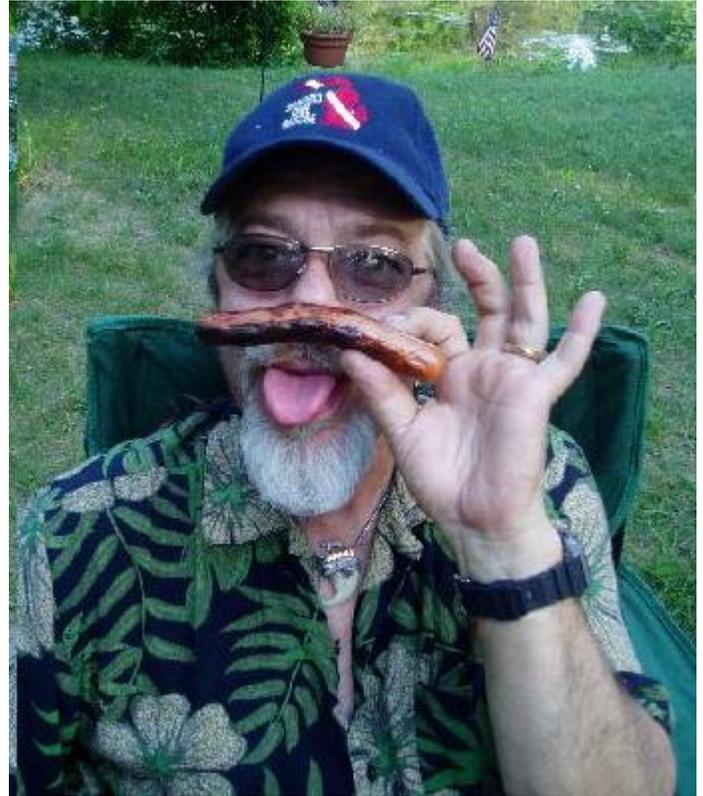
**Remember Our Troops!**

## August Meeting- Kick Back;

Somewhat less than 95 people found their way up north for the SUE 2010 club picnic. And not all had a GPS. Ah, the brats; roasting on a charcoal fire in the deep woods. Along with the fine food brought by the members and great weather, folks enjoyed a meal and a relaxing time together. Lots of discussion!



Pre-food in-depth discussion time



I don't know him....



Finally; the food line... official sampler on left.



Post-food discussion; Munising plans (later story)



Special recipe SUE brats-



Irresistible!



Lost & Found items- claim by detailed description →

## Splash Dive at Otter Lake?

The SCOOP received no info on any members going to Otter lake this month for the club get-wet dive; here's an archived photo just for the thought....



Chris Dupuis in Otter Lake a few months back

## Club Dive at Munising

*Although no business items were discussed at the August meeting, there was planning for an upcoming long 4-day weekend dive in Munising. Five members went, and had a great time. Here's the story as related by Dave Sommers*

Munising Dive Trip by Dave Sommers

Five members of the Saginaw Underwater Explorers spent an extended weekend in August diving the wrecks of Lake Superior's Alger Underwater Preserve near Munising.

Members Mike Fabish, Greg Prenzler, Tim Hasting, Scott Thompson and Dave Sommers left early on a Friday morning with Tim's 24 foot boat in tow.

After checking into the Terrace Motel, overcast skies didn't prevent our group from launching the boat for a quick, late afternoon, dive on the Bermuda.

The Bermuda is a shallow wreck in Grand Island's Murray Bay. The 150 foot wooden schooner sank in the spring of 1870. The top deck is just 12 feet below the water's surface where the wreck has remained sitting upright for over 140 years. Three hatches gave access to the cargo hold, along with two companionways and the large cabin trunk near the stern. The water was a warm 68°

Saturday morning presented a light rain and fog. After a leisurely breakfast and a little shopping for batteries we headed back out. There was a stiff breeze from the northwest.

Before we went out we ran across a family at the dive shop from Swartz Creek. They couldn't find a charter for their newly certified son. Mike volunteered to loan them a dive flag so they could dive the piers near the Munising

High School. During the conversation they learned we were from Saginaw. Dad, Jack Ammerman, said he had the Scoop emailed to him and read it every month.

The first dive was on the Smith Moore, which is an early example of the wooden steam barge. Grand Island provided shelter from the wind and waves. This is the most famous shipwreck in the Pictured Rocks area. The Smith Moore was lost in the Munising East Channel on July 13, 1889 as the result of damages suffered in a collision out in Lake Superior. It sits in about 85 feet of water between Sand Point Grand Island.

Visibility was somewhat limited to about 20 feet but it was a nice dive and you didn't feel the thermocline until just a few feet above the deck. There were numerous hatches in the deck and a broken mast stump that. On the fantail a spindled railing was still intact along with engine components.

The group then headed to the Selvick, the newest wreck in the preserve. The wreck wasn't as protected from the wind and waves so we decided to dive a more sheltered Manhattan which was wooden freighter. It lies in 20'-40' of water and could be seen as soon as we splashed in. The wreck is fairly broken up. There are a large number of timbers and hull framing. The Manhattan was driven onto a reef in October of 1903. Since we had 5 divers we dove as a group of 2 and 3.

After the Manhattan we were tired and hungry. The motel had a game room and kitchen for guests along with a barbecue. Brats were soon on the grill and the beans were simmering. A great day of diving capped off by a fine dinner.

Mike and Scott decided it was great for a night dive and ventured to the old piers. Tim stood guard in his kayak as the divers explored the 10' depths around the large wooded pilings. A clear sky and nearly full moon greeted them as they surfaced.

Sunday dawned clear with a promise of blue skies. The wind was 10 – 15 mph that was supposed to die down.

We headed back out to the Smith Moore. Greg decided not to go as he was a little under the weather and had to drive home later in the day.

The Smith Moor was still under its marker buoy, and there were no other boats tied to it. Again the visibility was marginal, but familiarity with the wreck made for a better dive.

Off to the Selvik.

The Steven M. Selvick, is a 70' tug intentionally sunk in 1996 in 40'-60' of water. The pilothouse starts in 40 ft. of water, making this a great dive for all.

Divers have access to all areas of the tug. The pilothouse, galley, mess room, engine room, and crew quarters can all be penetrated.

The tug was built in 1915 in Cleveland, Ohio for the Great Lakes Towing Company. During her career she served on the construction of the Mackinac Bridge in 1957. By the time the Selvick was donated to the Alger Underwater Preserve in 1994 she had been mothballed for several years and was no longer able to sail under her own power, so it was necessary to tow the tug from Sturgeon Bay to Munising.

In order to avoid polluting the lake, hundreds of gallons of fuel oil and lubricants had to be pumped out of the tug's tanks and bilges, and the interior was steam-cleaned.

Miscellaneous equipment such as auxiliary engines and generators had to be removed to give divers safe access to the engine room. Volunteers from the local area and around the Midwest accomplished these jobs over the course of two years. Several members of the Saginaw Underwater Explorers spent several weekends helping out.

The Selvick was sunk June 1, 1996 some six miles north of Munising off Grand Island's Trout Point.

Our dive was great. The Selvick appeared out of the gloom at about 20'. The mooring line was attached to the stern with the tug listing to the port side at about a 45° angle. It was an easy swim with a lot to explore. Most of the hatches were open and the controls still moved in the pilohouse. Visibility was better at about 40'. While we were on the wreck a charter rafted off our boat and sent 4 divers in.

After the trip back in we hung our wet gear on clothes lines supplied by the motel.

Following dinner Greg headed back home with the boat in tow while the rest of the group played tourist and checked out some of the local waterfalls, which the area is famous for, along with some of the historical exhibits on Sand Point.

Monday started with the nicest weather of the weekend, of course as we were headed home. After a few more waterfalls we headed to the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum at Whitefish Point. There are a lot of exhibits on shipwrecks in the area with the most famous being the Edmund Fitzgerald. It was well worth the \$13 fee, which included admission to the museum and former lighthouse keeper's quarters and a video presentation on the Fitzgerald.

We arrived back home about 11 pm, having taken full advantage of the four day trip.

- Dave

Scot, Tim with dive boat; calm waters on Munising Bay



**NOTICE: The SCOOP is going green... There will be no more printed copies. You will have to get your copy via e/m, or online at [saginawunderwaterexplorers.org](http://saginawunderwaterexplorers.org)**



Tim assisting Greg



Scot assisting Mike



Greg, Mike just off boat



Greg climbing in; Mike swimming up



Share the road! Pictured Rocks tour boat passing



Mike relaxing on trip back on Lake Superior waters

## Zoo Windows Require Another Cleaning

The summer wx really made a mess of the pond at the Children's Zoo; the water was filled with plant growth, and the windows had a good layer of scum. Dave Sommers made the cleaning trip, and scraped till his scraper went dull. The windows are apparently acrylic, and we would welcome any suggestions on cleaning the hard film without scratching the window surface.



Dave suiting up at pond site



Jack Ryan, Jack, Jay, and Loanna. - Swartz Creek Underwater Explorers! Our pleasure to meet you folks!



Dave checking his work; you can see fish!

Unfortunately, it would appear Dave Sommers did not have any pictures of himself to contribute. The SCOOP has that covered however, as it knows Dave was back at the Children's Zoo this last week cleaning the windows again.

## September Fill Schedule:

(Call by Wed to confirm)

Sep 2-	Tom Fritz	213 8727
9-	Don Cunningham	799 4385
16-	Mike Fabish	295 2627
23-	Mike Kowalski	892 2028
30-	Fred LaClair	592 8141

## Scuba Scoop

Don Storck  
3273 N. Raucholz  
Hemlock, MI  
48626



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SUE member RIC MIXTER's book, "The Wheelsman retails for \$19.95 and is available from [www.lakefury.com](http://www.lakefury.com)"

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### S.U.E. 2010 Planner

Sep 14 Club Mtg  
Oct 12 Club Mtg ( - Pumpkin Carve 3d)  
Nov 9 Club Mtg TBA  
Dec 14 ?Club Mtg  
-Christmas Party

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

#### All Gear:

e/m [jillybeandog@prodigy.net](mailto:jillybeandog@prodigy.net)

#### All Gear:

e/m [robackit@charter.net](mailto:robackit@charter.net)



Congratulations, LtCol Murchison!

#### 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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