

The Scuba Scoop

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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- 9th



Master Brat Chef Sommers at work



-while kids enjoy the nice pool



Inside....

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Saginaw Bay Dive

Whitestar Dive

New Diver

also selected short subjects

Space reserved for Sina's picture

Remember Our Troops!



Line forming now!

AAGTWHBA....

The traditional SUE July picnic was held at the Piazza Picnic Palace with our gracious hosts Tony and Carol. And A Great Time Was Had By All! (Not that the Scoop would try to claim credit for the abbreviation, but Bill Atkins was in fact its source. UrEd's first thought was the BA stood for Bill Atkins..) Good turnout; new folks and ones we haven't seen for awhile. Beautiful pool for anyone wanting to get wet before eating. Of course the brats were the main course, with a wide variety of dishes brought by the members. Seconds were taken. Then-



Surprise! Happy Birthday to Mike!

After folks had finished eating, Tony and Carol surprised Mike Fabish with a birthday cake! He had

just a little difficulty in blowing out all the candles... After finding a place to still hold a piece of cake, we stretched out a bit and talked to let things settle.



Relaxed table



Tony and Carol checking needs



Happy group is us!

Special Dive Video-

This guy is into everything! Check out Mike at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eo86KKsNJTc>
Nice going, Mike! (changing my shorts now-UrEd)

New Dive Site; New Dive Buddies

-by Mike Fabish

When my wife Kim attended a bridal shower in Oregon, OH, it gave me the chance to visit White Star Quarry (www.whitestarquarry.com) in nearby Gibsonburg. Since it was only about 20 miles away, I hoped to make the quick trip to check it out. At the very least, I would scope out the facility for future excursions, but I threw my dive gear in the van, just in case, and hit the road.

The county park the quarry is part of was very impressive. Not only is there the quarry with lots of dive sites, full service air fills/rentals, but also a full beach and campground to round out the package. The day was sunny and about 80 F and the water looked clear. Only one problem; the county does not allow solo diving. So, with divers everywhere, I chose an area near the crusher pit/tunnel to see if I could find other divers to “tag along” with to get a quick dive in. I was in luck; I came across 3 divers, still dressed in their wet suits enjoying their surface interval from their first dive. I introduced myself, asked if they were going back in any time soon, and would it be OK if I joined them? They said they were planning to start their 2nd dive in 30-40 minutes and welcomed me to be a part of it.



Norris , Vernon, Mike, Gary

In our group shot, from left to right, they are: Norris Medley, Vernon Beard, myself, and Gary McGee. They had taken the less than one hour drive from Detroit to do some diving. Gary and Vernon are seasoned divers; Norris the newest diver in the group. Gary and I hit the crusher pit and tunnel (the deepest dive in the quarry; hitting 71') while Vernon and Norris explored the opening where we would emerge. We then continued my “guided tour” and surfaced 37 minutes later.



Mike at the spiral staircase



Gary posing for Mike

I didn't have very long after the dive to get to know my new dive buddies (I had to get back to retrieve Kim from the shower) but learned that Gary (I think Vernon and Norris, too) is a member of the National

Association of Black Scuba Divers (NABS) and part of M.A.S.K.; the Michigan African-American Scuba Klub and is certified in Adv O/W, Cave and Tri-mix diving. We talked briefly about Michigan dive sites, exchanged business cards, and I invited them to check out our website and to keep the Munising dive trip in mind if they wanted to head north in August. With that, we took our group photo, and I started back very happy to have made the trip, the dive, and new friends.



Norris and Vernon



Tunnel Exit at Whitestar

“Mystery of the Green Sea Turtle” -by Mike

Early in the morning on July 4, I met Tony Piazza at his place north of Au Gres to go diving in Saginaw Bay. The skies were clear, the water was flat, and a beautiful day to dive. Our goal was to use coordinates we had to dive the Annadobbins, and then investigate a buoy in the channel. Once at the wreck coordinates, we made a 73’ dive in 44 F water where we thought we saw something on the bottom, but did not find the wreck. However, the water was very clear (50’ vis) and we had a good dive anyway.



Tony suiting up on beautiful Saginaw Bay

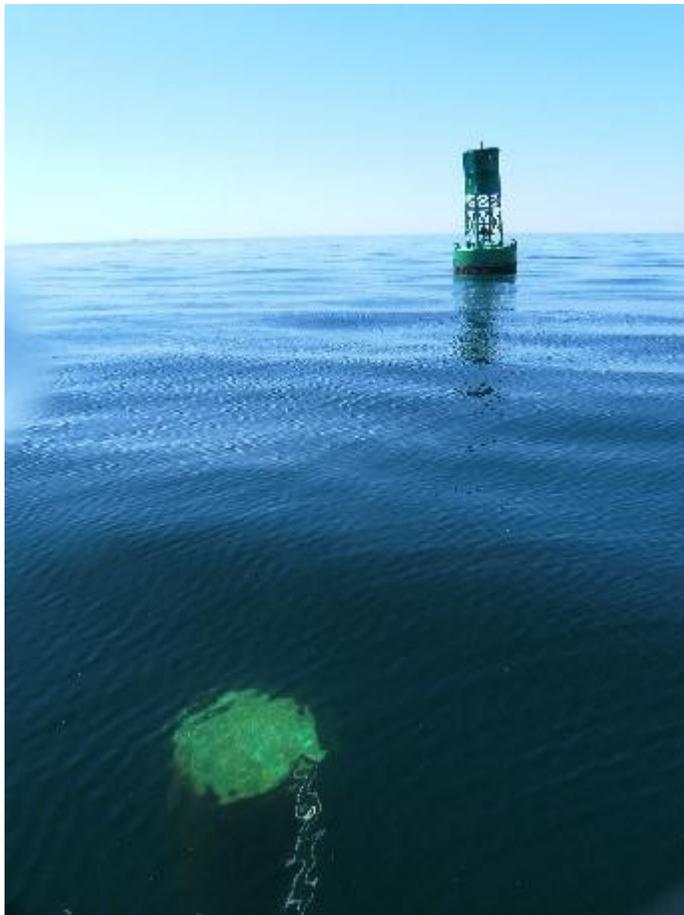
Then we went to see the “Green Sea Turtle”. Tony had discovered it the day before while boating near the #1 buoy to Charity Island. He saw a round green object under the water just NW of the green marker buoy, which his brother-in-law aptly dubbed a “green sea turtle”. Tony dove in (no gear) to investigate, and thought it might be a column all the way to the bottom, with the top of it just 2-3’ under the surface. It made him curious, and knowing that we would be diving the next day, we made it a dive site to explore further.

Once there, Tony was able to jump in and tie off to it, (approx 5’ below the surface; he could stand on it) and we began our dive. The vis wasn’t as good as the previous dive; only 10-15’.



Green thing alongside..

Turns out that it was a can buoy, approx 30" in dia., about 20' long, tapered at the bottom, and attached with chain to an anchor block on the bottom (49°,48 F).



But, for one reason or another, it had established neutral buoyancy below the surface. The chain had

slack in it and was not holding it down at that level, but it did not float well enough to break the surface as a marker. We can only speculate that it used to be the buoy marker (it is marked Charity 1 on its side) but now replaced with the much larger buoy near it. Why it's still there is the real mystery. We also discovered tons of extra chain from the can, maybe 40-50 in length, coiled, tied and stacked on the anchor block.



The Charity Chain...

Another mystery? Tony plans to contact the Coast Guard to see if he can get an explanation. It could be a hazard to keeled sailboats or deep draft craft if they were to get too close to the floating buoy.



Tony with the discovery

All in all, it was a great day on the bay and diving. My thanks go to Tony for supplying his boat and Carol a wonderful lunch afterward! What could be better?! -Mike

SUE in a Family Way

SUE was recently contacted by Jennifer Emmendorfer; you may recall Jennifer was the coordinator for Hartley Nature Center and was responsible for allowing us to have our uw pumpking carve in their pond last year. Jennifer has moved on to a new job this year, and has the task of placing international kids in area homes for a student year. As it turned out, she had a young lady who stated she was a scuba diver! Jennifer wondered if any club members would be interested in sponsoring her. Mike put out a query to members, and Scot and Sherri Thompson immediately accepted! So Scot and Sherri are the new sponsoring parents, but I'm thinking this young lady will also be a ward of the club! This will be **Sina** (no last name at this time); 15yo from Germany. Thanks Scot, Sherri, and Max, und Willkommen Sina! FYI, Jennifer has 2 young guys who are divers looking for placement also. If you would consider accepting a student in your home, contact the SCOOP.

Zoo Time Again

Three new volunteers on the zoo windows detail! Phil Shaver, Mike Fabish, and Mark Russell all expressed interest in uw window cleaning in July. As it were, Mike and Mark were both available on the same day so Phil got put on hold till next call. No doubt due to the extreme heat this summer, the windows were in bad shape. And of course the water had severe plant growth that grabbed and clung to the divers. It was a nice day; for cleaning and attendance. Mike and Mark entertained a lot of kids! The zoo doesn't fully realize the fun those kids have with a diver giving them a high-five through the window..



Joanie, Mike, Rick(mgr), Doug, Mark



Mark and Mike arrive by wagon at the entry rocks

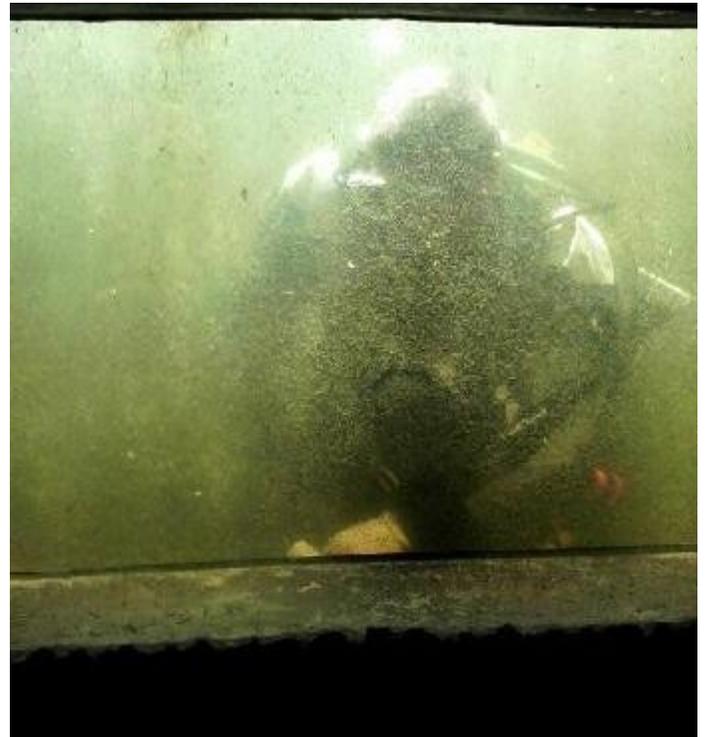


That's Mike scraping; note the two black circles

-Those two black circles are an invention of Mike's. Mike heard about using a toilet plunger to attach yourself to the window, so he figured two would be twice as good. He bought two from the dollar store, added a handle across them, and success! (pat. Pend.)



Better view of Mike's method; scrubbing phase



Mark approaching target window



Mark in the middle of vegetation



Post-clean; entertain the kids

Duffy?

UrEd might have the name wrong, but does anyone remember someone by the name of Duffy who used to run a dive shop east(?) of Flint? Terry Lisk recently met him; he remembers the club and he told Terry he'd like to make contact with old friends. Please ask Terry for more info.

Also; Laurie Lisk has a kitten that she will only allow to a good home...

New Diver!

Mark Przybylski survived his first, no visibility, dry suit, full face mask dive. Mark recently got his certification, and his friends talked him into doing a Saginaw River Braille dive.



Mark; pre-Saginaw River...

Munising Dive

It's a definite go; approximately 10 divers have made reservations for the club dive in two weeks in Munising. Get more info at the meeting, and the SCOOP will wait for the stories and photos.

August Compressor Schedule

-Please refer to the SUE website for this month's schedule.

Shipwreck Search (-from Det Free Press)

Something Click! lurks at possible wreck site

By PEGGY WALSH-SARNECKI
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Work to determine whether a finding on the floor of Lake Michigan is the legendary Griffon, the first European sailing ship on the Great Lakes, struck a promising find this summer with the discovery of a larger structure in the sands under what could be a ship's bowsprit — a spar projecting from the front of the ship.

But there is much more work to be done before researchers will know whether this is the famous wreck, said Ken Vrana, director of the Center for Maritime and Underwater Resource Management in Laingsburg, which is leading the research.

"We can't say conclusively whether that's a cultural feature, or underlying geology," Vrana said.

The Griffon disappeared in 1679, carrying furs that were to help finance the expedition of René-Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle. La Salle went on to explore the Mississippi River and much of the land in the Louisiana Purchase. The ship's whereabouts acquired an iconic status among shipwreck hunters.

Steve Libert, a Virginia resident who has a summer home in Charlevoix, discovered the site that could be the Griffon. After years of legal wrangling, Libert reached an agreement with the State of Michigan to do further research on the site, including noninvasive tests, such as sonar scans and advanced bottom profiling.

Cora the Copy Girl at Picnic?



Anyone even notice Cora in the pool?

Scuba Scoop

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S.U.E. 2011 Planner

Piazza Appraisals

<http://piazzaappraisal.com/>

Lisk Title Service

<http://www.lisktitle.com/>



Magma Gems

<http://magmagems.midland&state>

Aug 9 Club Mtg
Sep 13 Club Mtg
Oct 11 Club Mtg
TBA- Pumpkin Carve
Nov 8 Club Mtg
Dec 13? Club Mtg?
TBA Christmas Party

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