

The Scuba Scoop

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Feb 2011 50 more

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 8th



Inside....

Drummond Speaker

Ice Divers

Kittiwake

Wreckage Ashore

also selected short subjects



Meet the Author! Jill Brumwell greeted by Tony P. and Dave S.
Jill spoke about Drummand Island at our January meeting

January dive- Ice, of course



Remember Our Troops!



OUE! See inside....

January Meeting; First, TCOB-



Pres Fabish opens meeting for business

January's meeting started with some thoughts for the year; where to dive? Pool swims were discussed, but the exorbitant cost of renting a pool tended to sink that thought. The club is still considering options. We might at least get in an open public swim even if we can't use gear. Also planned are the club's monthly dives, and possibly some road trips.

As of the Jan meeting, 9 former members still were behind on their dues. Don't let it slip by...

Nominations were opened for the February election of officers. Scot Thompson will be on the ballot for secretary. If no other challengers come out, the present board will stand.

And with that, Don Cunningham was invited to introduce our guest speaker.



Don C. introducing our speaker, author Jill Brumwell

Tales of Drummond Island

Jill Brumwell grew up on the island, and decided to write a book on her experiences and the history of the island. An article about her appeared in a publication known as 'Great Lakes Mariner', where it was noticed by Don. He contacted her, and she agreed to come to our meeting. She has a number of books to her credit now, and plans to write another. She acknowledged that the club might be more interested in the shipwrecks, but the history she related was well received by the audience. Beside the regular members, many guests were also present for the talk.

Jill has a vivid memory of her early days, and dug into the island's history before that. Her mother was considered the historian of the island, and she has carried on the task. She noted that Drummond Island almost became a part of Canada in the treaty with England, except for some extreme drawing of boundary lines around the island. 'Drummond' was named after a prominent Englishman at the time. In her unofficial role as historian, Jill has collected many old photographs of island scenes, which she discussed and passed around the room.



Jill relating a story about the stone quarries on the island



An early question...



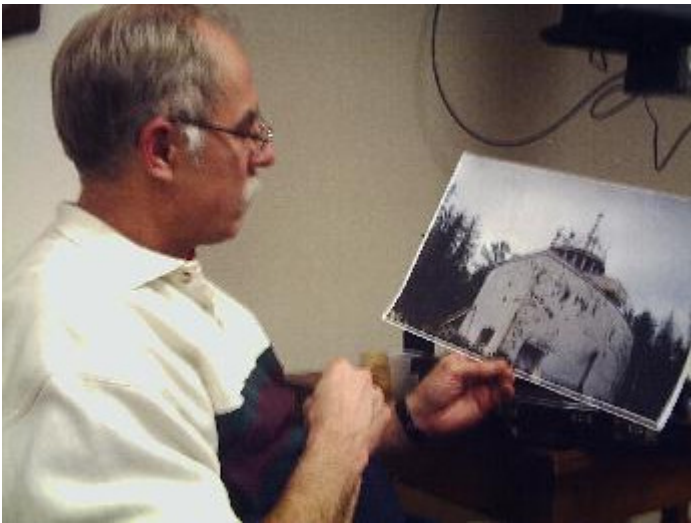
Picture of the motor vessel "Drummond", named after the island

through the summer, and covered all inquiries. Very interesting talk; she had our attention throughout! Thank you, Jill Brumwell!

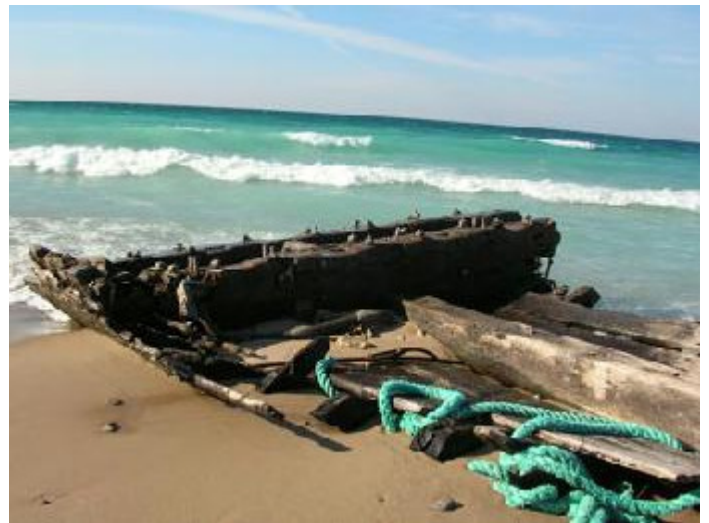
2010 Shipwreck Discoveries!

It could only take a storm- sink a ship, uncover a ship... Two shipwrecks were discovered in 2010 off NW lower Michigan. A fierce October storm actually blew old wreckage onto the beach at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park. What makes this different than the usual remains blown ashore is the size! Experts believe the ship is either the St. Nicholas or the General Taylor, which were wooden boats built in the 1853 and 1848 respect. It might be difficult to ID it exactly, but it has been at the bottom of Lake Michigan for about 150 yrs!

The fact that it came ashore at Sleeping Bear National Park makes it a protected artifact. It is on display for people to view without the threat of tampering.



Young man in the audience studying the "freighter" house



"In closing..." lots of things to talk about yet, but no more time

Jill finished by opening it up to questions; there were many! Some folks were familiar with the island, and could ask specific questions. Jill still lives there



(photos by Kerry Kelly; from the Homestead Resort website)

And yet another 150yo wreck discovered; in July of 2010. This would be the Westmoreland, which sunk in Dec 1854. Departed Chicago bound for Buffalo, it was filled with passengers and possibly gold and liquor.

The ship sat out one storm near Millwaukee, then ran into a second between the Manitou Islands. It suffered severe damage, and was blown east toward the Sleeping Bear shoreline. It sank before reaching there; 34 passengers made it in lifeboats while 17 perished. The Westmoreland was only one year old on that trip, and was designed to withstand the storms of Lake Michigan. It was 200 feet long with large arches on either side of the hull to strengthen and stabilize it. Ross Richardson of Lake Ann, Michigan who has been searching for many years, found the shipwreck this past summer. He eventually located the ship using sonar equipment and verified its location when he completed a deep-water dive. The ship was found flat on the lake floor, fully intact. Ship artifacts, such as tools and equipment, were lying on the deck. It was noted that Richardson had to perform a “deep” dive.



Ross Richardson; discoverer of the ‘Westmoreland’

-Both stories and photos from the Homestead Resort website; visit <http://thehomesteadresort.com>

Dive News; First of 2011(?)

Unless someone has snuck off to some warm water, the first club members to dive this year would be Mike Fabish, Mike Garner, and Greg Prenzler. Members of Saginaw County’s Dive Team, they did an ice dive on Haithco Lake the second week of January. Other club members also participated, working as tenders. Mike Fabish was the first one in, and reported seeing no fish, much less a crayfish.



Mike Fabish almost ready; Mike Garner next



Fabish finished; waits as safety diver for Mike Garner

Election of officers this meeting!

You’ll want to come to the Feb club meeting to exercise your constitutional right to vote!
Don’t forget your voter’s registration card...



Garner rolling in...

Fair and Balanced, the Warm Water Report (Special article for Bill G., Tony P., and Mike F.)

Another former navy ship becomes an artificial reef in the Caribbean; divers invited! **USS Kittiwake-**



Jan 5, 2011- With expert planning, a controlled scuttling of the USS Kittiwake, a former submarine tender, was performed off the Grand Cayman Island. The sinking was transmitted live, although few people around here were aware of it.

If the SCOOP was working with a higher budget, you could just click on these photos and watch some great videos. Instead, visit the website for daily reports and pictures:

<http://www.kittiwakecayman.com>



(all photos from the website)

SUE, meet OUE

OUE is the Ontario Underwater Explorers; we have a sister club! (or is SUE the sister?...)

The OUE is planning a big swap, possibly in April. More details will come with the next SCOOP, but consider possibly getting a group together to go. On that note, SUE should consider the possibility of their own swap in the spring. **Dive and Glide** has already shown interest, and we should make some plans. Last year's swap in the parking lot had some sales, but no crowd. We need fanfare!

Scuba Scoop

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*FOR SALE/WANTED

Ray Essenmacher has scuba gear for sale;
Contact raymedic930@hotmail.com



TO: Preferred Customer



A Moment for Linda-

This is Linda Atkins PT Cruiser after being rear-ended by a driver apparently playing solitaire while driving... Linda is still under dr's care, but no broken bones at this point. Give Linda your well-wishes. And Linda, feel free to let the SCOOP know of any TLC infractions from Bill!

S.U.E. 2011 Planner

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

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