

# The Scuba Scoop

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Jan 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 11th



*Inside....*

*Christmas Party Report  
Guest Speaker Scheduled  
Creek Diving  
(open Nominations this mtg...)*

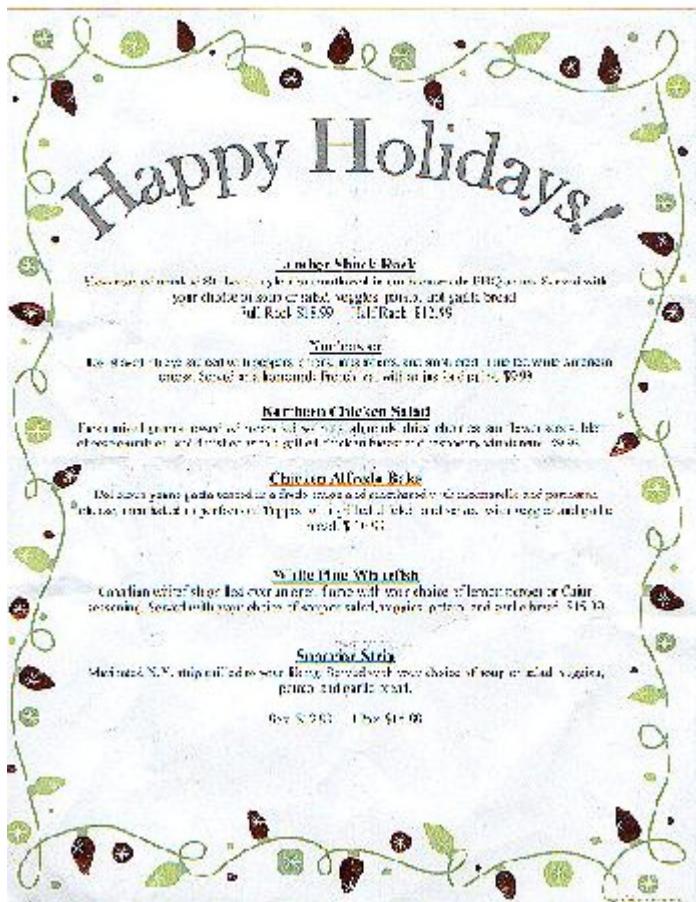
*also selected short subjects*

(English Language Version)



Distinguished guest speaker for January- Jill Brunwell

**Remember Our Troops!**



The menu!

## S.U.E. Christmas Party 2010

Hard to imagine surpassing last year's party, but we did with greater attendance, more presentations, more menu offerings, and more prizes. Good times are hard to measure!

M.C.V.P. Tony Piazza welcomed everyone, and immediately introduced a magic show by Mr. Magic Ken Kruska. Following Ken was a humorous slide show by Bill Atkins. Bill showed part I, and is saving part II for next year. The final presentation was on the club dive to Munising, given by Dave Sommers.



M.C. by Piazza



Magic by Kruska



Dive humor by Atkins



Munising rock by Sommers

-Appetizers were provided by the 'Timbers'; and consumed during the presentations. Just right for the fine dinners to follow. No photographs during the meal were allowed. Conversations continued with the meals; then M.C. Piazza took the floor for the drawings.



Nostalgic catching up



Not a party without kids...



Conversations;



Mingling;



and Gifts!

## Thanks To-

Ken Kruska- Magic show  
Bill Atkins – SCUBA spoof show; pt I  
Dave Sommers- Munising dive show  
Independent Bank(?) – coupons(?)  
Timber's – Appetizers, room & service, gift coupons  
Woody Sommers - Custom cellulose artifacts  
Tony Piazza- M.C. and organizer  
And all the fine folks attending!

## QUIZ- Win a Free Year's Subscription

-to the SCOOP, by answering a few easy questions in reference to the following photos:

1. What two SUE members would be seeking zany dive conditions at any time?
  2. Was the commercial backhoe hired to cut a hole in the ice, or provide elevator service?
  3. How come this wasn't a video clip on Katie Couric?
- Entries must be posted by midnight



Alright; here's the rest of the story by Dave Sommers-

**The thought** of a sunken water vessel that had never seen a diver and gold treasure was on my mind and the dive had been scheduled.

Unfortunately it was a construction barge that had taken on water. It was in 4 feet of water at the mouth of Cheboygan Creek along the Saginaw River on the southern border of Bay County.

There had not been a diver on it, so I guess you could call it a virgin wreck. And there was gold. It was the color of the water in the 10 inches of visibility.

Bill Giorgis had been contacted about plugging the leaks. Mike Garner and I did the diving on a bitter cold day in December.

The barge had suffered some damage and there were numerous thumb size holes in the hull. Pumps could barely stay ahead of the leaks which had temporary wooden plugs driven into them. The barge needed to be towed back to a shipyard to weld the holes so the holes needed to be plugged.

The first chore was just getting into the water. An eight-foot leap into four feet of water didn't seem prudent. Besides it was a demolition project and we didn't want to find the one remaining piece of rebar. Climbing a ladder in full gear in well below freezing weather didn't seem like a good idea either.

The excavator worked great. We were lowered into the water, and just swam out. When we finished there was no arduous climb onto a frozen hull.

The holes were marked on the deck and the tender pointed them out to the diver, who then submerged and located the hole. Once this was done an epoxy type of plumbers putty was readied and then passed to the diver. The diver then had about 20 seconds to find the hole again, stick the putty in and then hammer it in place. After the 20 seconds the putty hardened in the 33° water and became useless.

Because there was some ice around the barge, it was considered an under ice dive and the divers were tethered for safety.

To complicate matters the pumps happened to be discharging water where the divers needed to work, so not only were they standing in ice water, a couple of two-inch streams was constantly showering them. Gasoline engines drove the pumps so the noise level was very high, making communications almost impossible.

Mike and Dave each spent about 45 minutes in the water. The holes were plugged and the barge was later towed to Bay City for repair.

The water was a bit cool, but not completely frozen over (because the excavator had broken out a lot of it) with visibility a good 6 to 10 ----- inches.

At least it wasn't overcrowded with divers. -Dave

[Dave has also posted the club's Munising dive on YouTube; here's a link to it-]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQL4ZoNHszA>



Haul Away!...



Quiz is terminated; it's Dave Sommers and Mike Garner!

### Special Meeting, this January 11

First, be aware election of officers is approaching, and nominations will be accepted at the meeting. Also, the treasurer is looking for outstanding dues...

To start the year off with a memorable event, the club is fortunate to have a guest speaker; open invitation!

With an inside connection, Don Cunningham has arranged for Jill Brumwell, a Saginaw Township author to do a presentation for us on some of the history of Drummond Island.

Jill's grandfather built the first boat capable of carrying cars to the island, and his car was the first to drive on Drummond. They have used part of a ship and remodeled it into a cabin on the island. She also knows of area shipwrecks and the history behind them. You'll want to bring your spouse, family, and friends to support Jill as our local representative of Michigan history. She may also have some of her books there for signing.

Here's more of a preview-

## Growing up in the mid-1940s, Jill Lowe

Brumwell's home had no electricity, no television and no telephone.

When she finally got the chance to interact with a phone, "I'd pick it up, dial a (random) number and when they'd answer I'd say, 'Is Barbara home?'

"It was such fun, hearing that voice on the phone. But I called once and there really was a person there with that name."

Brumwell recently told that story to a fifth grade class at Westdale Elementary in Saginaw Township, within walking distance from her present-day home.

Some of the stories Brumwell tells, these students already know. They've read them in her third book, "Adventures With Jill, Gayle and Donny on Drummond Island" (Black Bear Press, 256 pages, \$15.95).

Brumwell's roots on Michigan's isolated Drummond Island, in Lake Huron at the eastern tip of the Upper Peninsula, go back to the 1880s, and she grew up there along with next door cousins Gayle and Donny. The book covers a year in their life, 1946, when Brumwell was in third and fourth grade. It is filled with color illustrations drawn by Sarah Irene Venable, an art teacher at Arthur Hill High School, along with Brumwell's anecdotes, a map of the island, a family recipe and present-day photos of the island.

Brumwell's first two books were "Drummond Island History: Folklore and Early People" and "Growing Up on Drummond Island," a nostalgic memoir aimed at adults and covering her early years through high school.

Two years ago, when a second grade at a Midland School latched on to the memoir, Brumwell decided to write a Drummond Island story book aimed specifically at younger readers, ages 8 through 12. In "Adventures" Brumwell talks about life in a two-room school and getting slapped with a ruler when she misspelled words. "I was not very good at spelling." She recalls listening to radio at her grandparents home "and they'd turn out the (battery generated) lights to make shows like 'The Hermit' and 'The Creaking Door' more scary."

Life on Drummond Island meant that, after 6 p.m., no grocery was open and there were not any fast food places, she tells the students, who cannot envision such a world.

The island then and still is accessible only by ferry -- or an ice "bridge" for daring car drivers during the winter months before ice-breaker ferries came on the scene.

"When I was 8, Mary (a friend) and I pretended we were twins. It added to the mystique of being from the island when visitors came to Drummond Island. We went so far as to say we were Siamese twins.

"I guess I was a naughty girl by nature."

There are stories about a doll tossed down an outhouse hole, the time she was trying to tap an oak trees rather than a maple at maple syrup time, encounters with bears and other wildlife.

As for her own writing career, Brumwell is next planning to write a historical fiction novel about how the 136-square-mile Drummond Island became United States property rather than Canadian after the War of 1812. It was, she says, a boundary dispute that lasted nearly a decade.

Brumwell's books are on sale at the Children's Book Company at the Antique Warehouse.



Drummond Islander  
<http://www.seamanfamily.net/feature2Drummond.php>

## SUE Ontario Road Trip(?)

The SCOOP recently received this invitation from the Ontario Underwater Explorers Scuba Club; sounds like an adventure!

*I'm not sure if you have heard of our club, but we are hosting our 20th Annual Scuba Swap & Sale in Toronto, April 2011. I know it's early, but I'm wondering if you would be able to send an email to your club members giving them notice of our event, or even post something in the next newsletter you are publishing. I can provide you with an article/photo/club logo if either of these options are possible. I could include a link for our event. Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing back from you.* Nicolien Veenhuizen

## Scuba Scoop

Don Storck  
3273 N. Raucholz  
Hemlock, MI  
48626



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### S.U.E OFFICERS

President: Mike Fabish 781 6167  
Vice President: Tony Piazza 751 0361  
Secretary: Scot Thompson  
Treasurer: Dave Sommers 751 8517  
Compressor Chair: Don Cunningham 799 4385  
Bd Member-at-Large: Greg Prenzler 791 3556  
Editor: Don Storck 642 8436

### S.U.E. 2011 Planner

Jan 11	Club Mtg (nominations; speaker)	
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

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

-NOW OPEN FOR 2011 BUSINESS

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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