

The Scuba Scoop

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priceless

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 – Location Changed!!!



Dufty memorabilia- SUE members visit

Inside....

Meeting Change!
Underwater Landscaping
Petoskey Dive
Dufty Visit
Traditional Oct UWPC

also selected short subjects



2011 UWPC winner! (almost lost his hand in there)

Remember Our Troops!

Halt! Priority Read!

Our November meeting is properly scheduled for the 8th; no change there. However the 8th is also election day, and the Thomas Township fire station is a polling location so we will be **moving the meeting location to Timbers Bar & Grill**, 6415 State in Saginaw. This is the same location as the Christmas party.

Speaking of;

SUE CHRISTMAS PARTY

It's Christmas time again and the annual Saginaw Underwater Explorers party is set for Saturday December 3rd at 6 pm at The Timbers Bar and Grill located at 6415 State St. Saginaw Michigan.

Social hour, Great food and maybe some door prizes.

Anyone with donations please let me know.

RSVP by November 25,
piazza.anthony@sbcglobal.net, 989-751-0361

-Your social director Tony Piazza VP

October Fun Dive

Originally planned for an evening at Haithco, the 'fun' dive was switched to an afternoon at the Saginaw Children's zoo. Based on reports by the previous month's window cleaners, Ben B. and UrEd, the grass had grown exceptionally thick through the hot summer, and posed a real obstacle getting through. The October underwater pumpkin carve was already planned for the zoo. It was determined that so we didn't lose any carver's in the hostile environment, it would behoove us to cut the grass! With no previous experience at underwater grass cutting, a good number of SUE members showed up on a cold miserable day last week to give it a try. It actually turned out good. The colder water had knocked the growth back, and the green stuff succumbed. We even cleaned the windows in preparation for the zoo visitors to observe our pumpkin carving (follow-up story).



Grass cutters assemble; ready tools
Mike F., Brian K., Tim H., Scot T., Ben B., & 2 civilians...



UW landscapers prepare to attack grass



and, successful finish!

A lot of planning went into this project; UrEd brought a sickle, Mike F. brought a machete, someone had hedge clippers... Tim Hastings probably had the best. Tim had a broom rake which Mike used with good results, and Tim used an extended handle tree saw that pulled in gobs of grass. Looking at the photos, you can see the deck we worked from. This is where we decided to start the pumpkin carve out from also. All members participating in this project qualified for underwater grass control certification.

Dufty Museum Visit

Terry Lisk recently made contact with Fred(?) Dufty, known by earlier club members as a prolific diver with numerous findings that he has on display. Terry inquired about a visit from club members to talk to him and perhaps see some of his collection. An announcement was made during the club meeting in October that Terry had confirmed an invitation for us, and an offer was also made for carpooling. (Mr. Dufty lives in the SE corner of the state.) The trip down was two weekends ago, and a number of club members spent an enjoyable afternoon hosted by him.



Mr. Dufty with a part of his personal collection (by Atkins)

October dive weekend

By Dave Sommers

Who would expect the end of October to be a mild and beautiful weekend to dive? Four members of the Saginaw Underwater Explorers found it so. Heavy winds and gale warnings earlier in the week made the weekend of October 22 and 23 not look like a promising venture.

Dave and Edith Sommers were the advance scouts. They had planned on doing some bicycling in the Petoskey area and would report on the condition of Lake Michigan Friday afternoon. As the sun set Dave reported back to Saginaw that there were 5 MPH winds and 6" waves. This started things in motion. Dave's second weather report at sunrise Saturday was for dead flat water at Petoskey.

Tony and Carol Piazza headed to Tawas to grab their boat for the trip north. Since Greg Prenzler works third shift he needed a little shuteye allowing Mike Fabish to attend choir practice. (Mike has quite the voice and has sung professionally). Dave and Edith got in a quick bike ride to Harbor Springs.

Tony and Carol arrived in Petoskey with their boat as Dave and Edith finished their ride. The boat was loaded and launched, just awaiting Greg and Mike.

The wind picked up a bit as the group got underway. It was just a short ride to the Underwater Crucifix,



Terry L., Leo D., Tom V., Tim H., Mike K., Ben B., Mr. Dufty Obviously enjoying themselves. (photo by Atkins?)

November meeting at Timbers!

which was buoyed in about 20' of water. It could have been a shore dive but a boat sure makes it easier. The club has unofficially adopted the Crucifix and tries to do a cleaning of it at least once a year.

The foursome spent about 45 minutes cleaning the Crucifix of accumulated marine growth.

The sun was on its way down by the time the group headed south to Charlevoix. We had a place in mind to stay until Edith read an online review, the kindest of which thought they changed the sheets now-and-then. Tony and Carol knew of another place, which turned out to be luxury condos on Round Lake. Of course, way off-season and late arrival didn't hurt in getting a reduced rate. The rooms had private balconies overlooking the lake.

Sunday morning arrived very foggy, but by the time we had breakfast and got the boat loaded for the Keuka in Lake Charlevoix it was mostly gone.

The wreck proved somewhat elusive. The GPS numbers were close and we could see it on the fish finder. While we were dragging anchor to snag it we came across an underwater buoy, about 8 feet down. It was secured to the bow of the Keuka. After finally securing a line we hit the water, which was about 54°. The wreck could be seen from the surface, as the deck is in about 25 feet.

The wreck is covered in Zebra Muscles. The water was quite clear at first, probably 30' or more. The holds were open with lots of fish. It was a fun time exploring the wreck.

After returning to shore for more air and a quick snack it was off to the Elizabeth in Round Lake. This is an old cabin cruiser type of boat lying in about 45 feet of water. It is not buoyed so finding it presented another challenge. Because of heavy boat traffic during the summer and that the boat lies close to many private boat houses and is close to the channel, it is best to dive it in the off season.

Even with good GPS numbers, it took a while to find it with the fish finder. Once spotted an anchor was dropped. From a past dive, Mike said it was very dark, so the plan was for two divers to descend in an attempt to locate it. Less than 20 feet down the anchor line the wreck loomed out of the murk. The anchor had landed less than 15 feet away from it.

This wreck still has a cabin with easy penetration. There is still some glass in some of the frames. The wreck is on a clean bottom, however it has a thick coating of Zebra Muscles. It made for a nice 40-minute dive, though it was easy to silt up.



Greg Prenzler and Mike Fabish scrub growth off the Crucifix.



Fabish working on the legs.



Tony Piazza scrubs the Crucifix.



Best photo we have of Dave! It is a self portrait as he rolls in.



The Keuka offers plenty of fish to watch



Mike Fabish pokes around the Keuka.



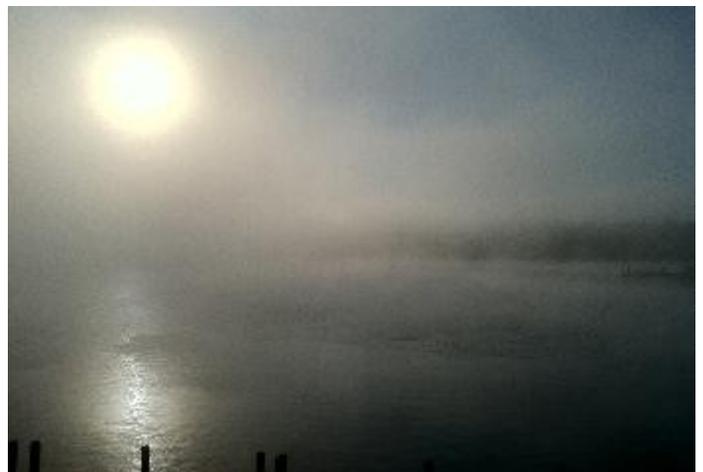
Mike Fabish inspects the Elizabeth



The Keuka deck is open near the bow. Lot of growth on the deck.

The weekend was wonderful, with great weather, a high in the mid 50's. The guys had fun diving and the girls enjoyed exploring Charlevoix. -Dave

November meeting at Timbers!



Heavy morning fog over Round Lake.

(photos courtesy of www.phototechnicians.com)

Final October Event- Pumpkin Carve!

The great annual SUE underwater pumpkin carve; this year the guests of the Saginaw Children's Zoo on their "Zoo Boo" day just before halloween. We had a partly sunny day with the air temperature about 50. Anyone get the water temp? The zoo had a great turnout of visitors, and consequently we did also. We gathered at the deck area, and a lot of folks were surprised at what we were doing. Lots of interaction with the public! We had a little challenge getting everyone carving close enough to the underwater windows to be seen by the visitors, but recall we got those windows clean to be seen!.



Dr. Slime comes to visit! Dave describing action...



Assembly of Pumpkin Sculptors; note leaves on deck



And they're off! (structure on right has the UW windows)



Excitement of fierce competition



-and here's Mike back (with the winning sculpture)!



Brian K. showing his underwater camera



Superb collection! Winner in back corner (see cover)



Last man to quit?



Scot T. crosses finish line



Cora the copy girl's pup, affectionately known as Chum...

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