

# der Scuba Scoop

VOLUME 53, Issue 10 (Multi-Language Version)

Oct 2011

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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- 11<sup>th</sup>

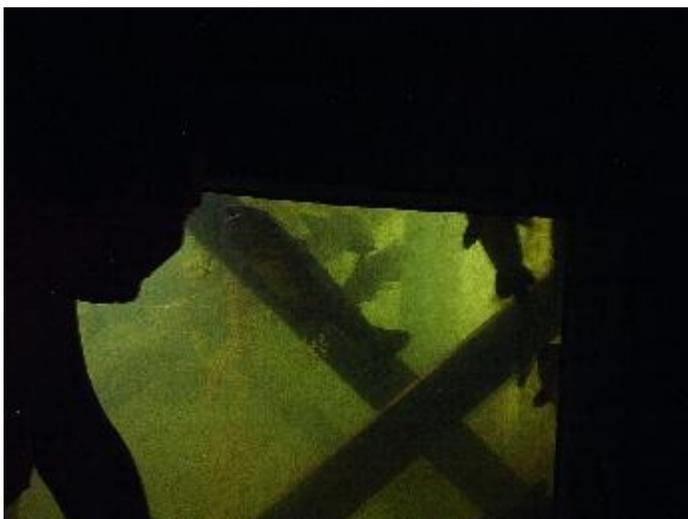


*Inside....*

*Otter Lake Dive  
Munising Dive?  
Milestone  
Zoo Dive*

*also selected short subjects*

**Remember Our Troops!**



Ben observing the fish through the zoo uw windows



Nice legs- you too, Dave



die hubsche Taucher, Sina

## September Seconds

Last month's meeting related the great time enjoyed by members who traveled to Munising in August for a weekend of diving. Details of the story had to wait for this month. As promised, this SCOOP contains the complete story, with pictures. Also discussed was the club's upcoming underwater pumpkin carve at the Children's Zoo. Plan on showing up before 2pm; that's Oct 30 (Sun). We may have to clean some weeds out of the way to be seen.

Und stellte der Sept Treffen Sie uns auf Sina, die Austauschschüler aus Deutschland. Sina wird von den Mitgliedern Scot und Sherri Thompson gesponsert und ist ein voll zertifizierter Taucher sich. In der Tat kam sie hier gerade rechtzeitig, um in der Munising Expedition teil. Der Verein wählte sie eine Vollmitgliedschaft in der Sitzung, und ist sehr froh, sie an Bord zu haben. Willkommen, Sina!

## An August weekend in Munising

By: Dave Sommers and Mike Fabish.

August 26 was a clear Friday that saw several local explorers headed north to the land of Hiawatha. The explorers, as in Saginaw Underwater Explorers were heading to Munising for a weekend diving in the Alger Underwater Preserve and checking the sights along the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. The group included Mike Fabish, Greg Prenzler, Dave and Edith Sommers, Tim Hastings, Bill Atkins, Scot Thompson and his German exchange student Sina Porrmann. Tony Piazza and his wife Carol were to meet the group in Munising. With a three-vehicle convoy, that included Tim's and Dave's boat, the group departed about 8 am.

After a fuel and lunch break in St. Ignace we headed to the Terrace Motel where everyone took a brief break and readied equipment. The boats were in the water for a short trip to Murray Bay and a dive on the Bermuda, a 130-foot wooden schooner in about 20 feet of water. It sank October 15, 1870



On the Bermuda



Bermuda



The Glass Bottom Boat runs a regular tour of several of the shipwrecks in the area. They ask that divers stay free of the wrecks during the scheduled tours, and have notices for the divers posted on the buoy marking the wrecks. At least the Bermuda had it. Unknown to us they had added a sunset cruise, which wasn't posted. Partway through our dive Tim surfaced to see the Glass Bottom Boat and Edith frantically waving him over. He then went down and motioned for everyone to surface. While this disrupted the dive, the staff of the boat gave all of the divers a free air fill.

Saturday morning was clear with a freshening breeze, tossing white caps on Munising Bay. We decided that it would be too rough to head out to the Smith Moore and headed back to the Bermuda, where we got chased off once again by the tour boats. Trying to dodge the weather, we headed to the west side of Grand Island but the weather was worse. Dave, Tony, Scot and Sina decided the weather was too rough for a fun dive out of the 19' boat and headed to the Grand Island dock to check out the island. The other group met up with us and decided to head out to the Hettler.



Herman Hettler

around the wreck to see. But it was still fun to see and I built one of our new SUE Signature Rock Towers on the keel beam before surfacing (see pic).



The Tower...

It became a new “thing to do” on each wreck/site we visited (with rocks available), just for fun. Bill and Tim found a different section of the Hettler that still had the big fluke anchor and part of the stern. Greg & I saw it after their dive from the surface.

Sunday started early, with fog still on the lake. The first divers were on the Smith Moore by 9 am. The ship rests in about 80 feet. It is a wooden steam barge that sank in 1889. The visibility was only about 10 feet so it wasn't the best of the dives, but fun nevertheless.



Hettler anchor?

The Herman Hettler was easy to find, it was buoyed and you can see it from the surface. The water was a bit rough when going there but calmed down to mostly flat by the time we ended our tow dives. I was paired with Greg, and Bill and Tim dove as buddies. The Hettler is in about 20'-24' feet, and there's not much there other than the main keel and sides of the boat. There was a lot of parts and hardware strew



Smith Moore



More Smith Moore.... (sorry)

While on the wreck, Pete Lindquest, dean of the Munising dive area, pulled up with a charter. While his group was down we had a nice chat.

Our next destination was the Selvick. A 70' long steel tugboat that was intentionally sunk in the preserve in 1996 in about 45-60 feet of water.



The Selvick

It was a great dive on an intact ship. There was plenty to see and a lot of open spaces. The water was around 68° which made for a nice warm dive, even for those in wet suits.

Tony needed to return to Saginaw so we dropped him off at the Munising boat launch and had lunch. With the day still young, the group decided to head about 20 miles to the Kiowa. Edith came along for a boat ride.

The dive on the Kiowa became an adventure. We started out with both boats heading out for the 22 mile ride where the Kiowa was supposed to be. I had GPS coordinates from one of the wreck books. About half way there, it was determined that Dave did not have enough gas on board to make the trip and back,

so Scot joined the Satisfaction with Greg, Tim, Bill and I, and the 5 of us continued on. Dave, Edith and Sina turned back and did a great sightseeing tour along the Pictured Rocks and Miners Castle.



The Kiowa



Kiowa

We were told the Kiowa was visible from the surface. We knew the wreck was dynamited and scattered over the bottom. At the coordinates, nothing was visible so we dropped a marker and started circles around it. The captain of the Wreck Express (local charter operator) told us it was between the 1st and 2nd staircase on 12 Mile Beach and that lined up about where we were. We found some “shadows” approx 1/4 mile to the east that showed large structures on the fish finder. We marked that location and continued the circles, finding more shadows to the east, but they did not mark the fish finder as much. We returned to the first sighting, I did a quick strip to my boxers did a free dive, and discovered it was a wreck;

must be the Kiowa. We suited up and made the dive. Greg, Scot and I were first in, but it was just a small area and didn't take long. During the dive, I lost track of my buddies while taking pics and vids, and when I couldn't locate them, I figured they headed east to the other shadows. I set a heading on my compass and finned out after them.

I did not find them, but I found the huge debris field on the Kiowa, stretching out as far as I could see. I surfaced (only 23') to let Bill and Tim know what was over there, but they were not on the boat; they had joined the rest of us. I started taking more pics and vids to show them what I found when I returned to the boat, so we could move the boat for the second dive.

Long story short, we all ended up on the main wreck Kiowa, and I reset my GPS with the actual coordinates for a return trip, keeping the bow section as a 2nd location. The wreck is huge and you could spend many dives there looking. One of the main attractions was the mid-ship engine with about 50' of propeller shaft reaching back until it broke off, and just beyond the rudder system for the Kiowa. There were structures 8'-10' high off the bottom and a section where you could see the backbone and ribs of the ship. Bill was entranced with the amount of brass fittings and pieces gleaming in the water. There was too much to list, so I took lots of pics & vids. It was a great dive.

The trip back was gorgeous with a stunning sunset and flat seas. We pulled into the launch around 10 PM on a beautiful summer night. We decided we'd head back to the Kiowa again someday, but that it would be better to launch in Grand Marais and take the 8-9 mile trip so all boats could cover the distance and not be such a long trip. There are 3-4 more wrecks between Grand Marais and the Kiowa, including a side-wheel steamer that is accredited for causing the most lives lost in all Great Lakes wrecks, and it will be another great SUE adventure!

After a Monday morning breakfast the group went their separate ways. Greg headed back as he had to work Monday night. Dave and Edith loaded their bicycles into their boat and spent the day riding 25 miles around Grand Island. The rest of the group checked out some of the many waterfalls and scenic attractions around Munising before returning home.

It was a great diving weekend with plans underway for a return trip to the area in 2012.



Scenic spot

### **Munising Milestone**

His dive buddies may not have been aware of it at the time, but Bill Atkins' 4th dive at Munising on the Selvick was a milestone. It was his 2700th dive! Here's more Atkins' history-

“How far back?

I remember snorkeling at South Higgings lake state park. There were a couple of guys with basic scuba gear diving. They ask if I would like to "blow the rest of the tank". Wow! That was a blast! The divers were a bit pissed 'cause I got almost as much time outta the "leftovers" as they got outta the majority. I was hooked. I think it was 1968. I bought some of my own gear that summer. 72 tank, double hose reg and a ratty old wetsuit. I got all my beginning gear at garage sales, yes, dem wuz the good olde daze. I found a military surplus "Mae West" vest and thought I wuz hot stuff. I read about diving at the library and did my first several dives alone..... I know, whut the heck did ya do dat 4?? The next year I hooked up with a few guys who were ex military divers and they showed me more about the sport.

By the following summer, 1970, it was becoming harder for non certified divers to buy air. My older brother was on Okinawa for R&R and had taken a scuba course taught by the Marine Corp. He encouraged me to get certified so we could dive

together when he got out that summer. I took my class at Underwater Specialist on Corunna Rd. in Flint. My instructor was the illustrious Mr. Richard Batchelder. I did my open water dives at the North State park at Higgins lake receiving NAUI, PADI and SSI certifications. My Brother and I did a few dives that summer and I was real fired up about it. Unfortunately, that winter my brother got in a financial bind and sold all of his gear. I was pissed.

A high school friend of mine said he also took a class and ran into a guy from a SCUBA club! Way cool! I got invited to a run out to Andersen Stone pit, now called Crystal lake, for a dive. The guy from the SCUBA club turned out to be none other than our famous Dale Purchase and the club was Saginaw Underwater Explorers. I joined and have been a member ever since. 1970 was a good year for me! Over the years Dale, John Garner, Bob and John Kartz, Bob Yarger, Dave Arndt and many others have been my dive buddies and friends. I think that becoming a member of the club back then was one of the more significant events of that part of my life. Many years we would log more than 100 dives, often a majority of them far below "sport diving" limits.

During my time with the club, I have been President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Board member at large. Most positions were multiple terms. I still have a few of the Scuba Scoops that I published in the 70's... if I could only find them. I was the President during our Country's Bicentennial celebration in 1976. I have a very nice patriotic plaque commemorating that.

I could go on, but let be known that I think the Club has been a valuable asset to our community over the years and hope that the up and coming new divers continue to support the group.” Bill :-]'  
(Congratulations, and thank you Bill!)

### **Otter Lake Report**

Otter was the club's Sept fun dive, and 4 made the trip. Mike Fabish picked up UrEd and Tim Hastings; we met Ben Boyle on site. Good dive. The water was relatively clear and warmer, even down to the steel boat. As it soon turned dark, Mike practiced finding objects in the shallow waters.

### ***SUE CHRISTMAS PARTY***

*It's Christmas time again and the annual Saginaw Underwater Explorers party is set for Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:piazza.anthony@sbcglobal.net) or 989-751-0361*

*Your social director Tony Piazza VP*

### **Zoo's News**

It's been a long hot summer, and the green stuff in the zoo pond has thrived. So bad in fact that SUE was contacted by Rick asking if we could come (in Sept) and do a window scraping. New member Ben Boyle volunteered, even purchasing his own plunger. UrEd partnered with him, but neither of us had an idea of what we were getting in to.



West Gate entry. Should've been the exit too

We got into the thickest vegetation I've ever seen; it was impossible to swim through. You had to go over the top of it, and that assumed it hadn't wrapped around your legs and tried to pull you down.



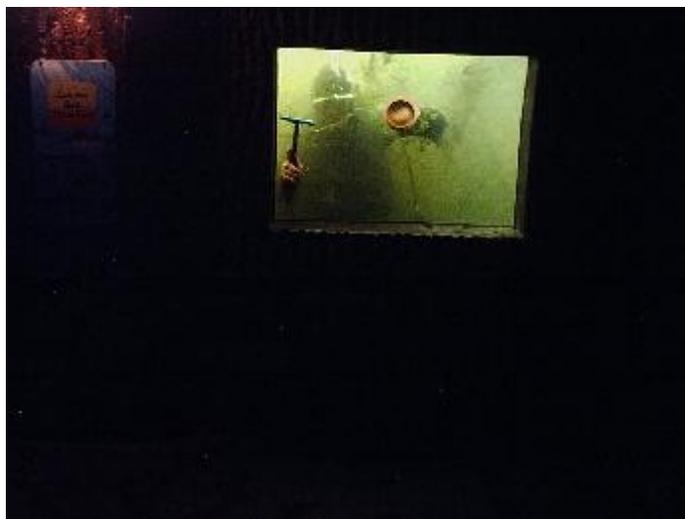
Ben going in....



and getting wrapped up in his work.



Ben; you OK down there?



View from inside



Arrrghh! Go Back!

We made the best of it, and the windows were cleaner than when we got there. It wasn't a real nice day, and by the time we were finished there were no visitors. So, we floated in our wet suits and scouted out the whole pond. The majority of the pond is at least 6' deep. Ben was our depth gauge, and he even discovered a large submerged object. We were having so much fun at this point, we did not realize no one else was in sight. Turned out due to the bad weather causing no attendance, they closed the zoo. We couldn't use the men's room to change into dry clothes, they had it locked. We couldn't exit the west gate, we were locked in. Facing up to our situation, we walked the zoo sidewalks until we found a night watchman. He might've even have been the stall sweeper, but he had the right key and he saved us!

Don Storck  
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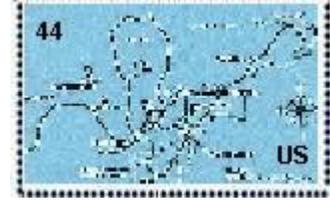
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TO: Preferred Customer

### S.U.E. 2011 Planner

Oct 11 Club Mtg  
30 Pumpkin Carve; zoo  
Nov 8 Club Mtg  
Dec 3 Christmas Party (no mtg)

**Where is Norma Jean?**  
**Closer Look Reveals New Life Size Statue**

If you think Marilyn Monroe is gone from the corner of State St. and Midland Rd. at Magma Gems, you have not looked close enough. She has been replaced with a new life size statue. Her new home is up close to the building, where she is under the watchful eye of security lights and cameras.



Frank Kuszak and Valdis Geidans pose with the new Norma Jean outside their business, Magma Gems, on the corner of Midland Rd & State St. in Saginaw Township.

"The Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" icon has been Magma Gems mascot for many years," says co-owner Frank Kuszak. "She depicts beauty and grace just like a fine piece of custom made jewelry. We hope our customers will enjoy seeing her when they enter our showroom." Valdis Geidans started Magma Gems over 30 years ago in downtown Saginaw. Since moving to the corner of State St. & Midland Rd. in Saginaw Twp the business has exploded. "We love being here as much as our loyal customers enjoy visiting us here," says co-owner Geidans. "We added a full-time Watchmaker to our staff over a year ago and that has really made us the areas only full service jeweler, with all our repairs and custom designing done in our state of the art shop. We really can do it all!"

**MAGMA GEMS** 1975 Midland Rd.,  
792-7077  
[magmagems.com](http://magmagems.com)

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