

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.

NO meeting this month- Party Dec 1!



Inside....

- A. *Mikes Minutes*
- B. *Pumpkin Carve Video*
- C. *Au Sable Dive*
- D. *Otter Lake Revisit*
- E. *Westmoreland Story*

also selected short subjects



-capture from Dave Sommers' pumpkin video



-capture from Charlie Storck's Au Sable video

Remember Our Troops!



President's Message

Saginaw Underwater Explorers!

First, all members please join me in welcoming Robert (Rob) Quartermain back to the Saginaw Underwater Explorers.

Rob was a SUE member before he moved to Ohio, and has now returned to St Charles and the club. Rob is a Master diver with PADI and has a company that specializes in exotic dive site trips; check out www.deepbluefantasea.com.

He is also an avid Ohio Quarry diver and is looking to get groups together for some fun at White Star, Portage or Gilboa this coming spring. They are all just a short drive away with lots of new opportunities and loads of fun!

Second, please remember to get your RSVP to Tony ASAP; piazza.anthony@sbcglobal.net or 989-751-0361 for the annual SUE Christmas party: Dec 1, 6pm at Timbers Bar & Grill on State @ Midland in Saginaw. We look forward to seeing all of you there again this year; a great time is guaranteed! There will be a presentation from Dave Sommers, great food, wonderful fellowship, prizes, and even some Christmas carols. For those who have never been there, we order from a special menu and everybody takes care of their own tab. Reminder: because it is a group event, there will already be a gratuity on your bill, so figure that in when tipping.

There has been no response to doing a SUE ice dive this year as of yet. If you 'd like to do that, or maybe try it for the first time, let me know and we'll see if there is enough interest to plan and event

I will gather info and best nights of the week for SVSU open pool swims for the club this winter. It's great opportunity to get together, get wet, try new gear, hone skills and whatever else interests you. I will also try to gather more info about Bonne Terre Mine, a possible destination for SUE this

winter/spring. Check out

<http://www.2dive.com/btm.htm> to see if you'd like to add this location to your dive log!

Lots of fun was had at our pumpkin carving at the Saginaw Zoo this year. The crowd enjoyed what we had to offer, and we will become even more involved with the zoo next year (see below). Next year, we feel it would be better to start the event a little later: maybe 2 pm to allow even more time for the crowds to gather.

As mentioned, we will be setting up a monthly window cleaning schedule for the Zoo next year, starting in May and through October. Many of you have expressed interest of wanting to help with this, but it always seemed to be a last minute request by the zoo. This way you can plan which month you'd like to help and plan accordingly. Depending on the seasonal growth, it may require more than one visit in the warm months of summer. In the spring, we will also be helping with weed control with chemicals donated by a friend of Chris Wilder.

The Ford Seahorses Great Lakes Shipwreck show is at Washtenaw Community College Mar 2, 2013. See more at www.shipwreckfestival.org. While never having been there myself, I have it on good authority that this is a great show and something a group of us may want to attend. Let's keep this in mind for a day trip!

Renewal invoices have been sent out; remember that if you renew your membership on or before the first SUE meeting of 2013 (Jan 8, 2013) you save \$5 off the \$25 annual membership; renewals only \$20 for current members paid before Jan 8, 2013

Lastly, a reminder that the SUE Christmas Party will take the place of our regular Dec meeting again this year; there will be no meeting Dec 11. See you at the party!

Stay wet, stay safe! -Mike

-Winner!

Dave Sommers correctly identified the diver in last month's SCOOP, and has won the bottle! Another contest will be found later in this issue.

Pumpkin Video

Dave Sommers compiled a video of our UW pumpkin carve at the zoo, and posted it on the internet. Folks unfamiliar with the event might even learn some techniques, if not even try it themselves. Here is the link- <http://youtu.be/BU3aaEMSC4> and here are a few scenes from it...



How to pick nose underwater

Au Sable Learning Experience

Former club member Charlie Storck recently did a solo dive in the Au Sable river, where he also made a video. He also ran into a problem.... Here's his story-

“OK So I almost killed myself on this dive. After getting the pics I came up to find my camera got loose from its tether. It floats and I saw it about 80 feet away. So I went after it. It was easier to go underwater then on top so I dropped down and went. About half way there my regulator went in to free flow (air shooting out). I have experience with this and did not panic. Juggled reg but needed to stop the flow as I was

getting short. Played with it for about a minute but lost at least 1000 PSI and was getting out of breath playing with it. Came up and found myself hyperventilating. Not Good. Can't catch breath and out in water trying to move. Really sucked all my energy and just could not catch my breath. Aborted camera retrieval and rolled over on back heading for nearest shore. The river tour paddle boat was in the way so I made it to the paddle boat at which time my arms were numb. It was docked at the shore. BC inflated; I had to swim about 60 ft to the boat while hyperventilating. Held on and called for help as I was totally going numb from lack of CO2. The boat people helped me around the boat to the shore where I recovered from the hyperventilation. I only had about 10 feet to go before I could plant my feet. I was just too exhausted. It only took about 5 minutes once standing before I felt ok. In free flow I went from 1800 PSI to about 800 PSI in what seemed to be less then two minutes. I really was not worried when the free flow started as I was at about the 12 ft depth mark.

I considered swapping out my regulators for a second dive but decided to call it quits for the day. Had D & G check out regulators. Keith D&G said the 1st stage was a little high in pressure but thinks something was sticking up after he went through them. I think what triggered it was my short breathing while trying to fix the regulator. It came on quick and unexpected. It was a bad experience but still I think I did ok considering I got to the boat by myself to anchor. It took me by surprise more so because I knew what was happening but just could not get it under control. Yup the guys on the paddle boat were nice enough to take their pontoon boat out and fetch the camera for me.”

(Glad you made it, Charlie; or we wouldn't have this video!) Here's the link to his Au Sable dive- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDUINict_0I&feature=results_video

Charlie came across some interesting things in his dive. He found a pile of barrels; sealed? Not sure what's in them, but some are labeled “_oil”. (Hoffa?) Oil or not, the real question is who dumped them? Has anyone else seen these? Here are a few pictures captured from Charlie's video.-



Barrel scene in Au Sable



-Complete with label?



Fish foraging in barrels



Odd support

Different View of Otter Lake

Club/Dive Team members Brian Kleinfeld, Greg Prenzler, Dave Sommers, Mike Fabish, and UrEd were invited by the Genesee County DT for a joint venture in Otter Lake early in the month. Divers saw the lake by being towed in teams of two behind boats. Traveling at idle speed, the divers were able to plane just off the bottom and cover a large area. Yes, they did find the steel boat, by bumping into it. Yes, Otter Lake was still cold, but warmer than the early November air.



Early Gathering at boat launch



Readying for towing



Divers ready? (by Sommers)



Take up slack; begin tow! (by Sommers)

Westmoreland Wreck

Too late for SCOOP readers to attend, but the discoverer of the Westmoreland's remains recently gave a talk on the ship at the public library in Grand Rapids. Ross Richardson started his search for the Westmoreland by research in the library. He finally discovered the wreck in July of 2010, 200ft down in Platte Bay (Manitou Passage). The Westmoreland, was a propellor steamer sinking on Dec. 7, 1854, supposedly laden with gold coins and whiskey.

Find the full excellent story online at http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/11/westmoreland_shipwreck_richard.html



No photos of the Westmoreland exist, but identical to this ship



Artist sketch of Westmoreland -Grand Rapids Press



Be the next winner-
Guess the diver
and win the special bottle!

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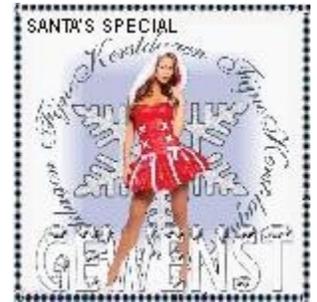


-From Cora the copygirl, and the entire SCOOP staff and management, we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

FREE E-SCOOP

Give a friend a gift subscription to the SCOOP. For a free e-subscription; just send e-mail to dstorck@hotmail.com

The **Dry Suit Repair Class** offered by Dive Rescue International is now open to all SCOOP readers (18+). Dry suit repair certification will be given upon completion. Interested? contact the SCOOP and we'll get you the application.



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Greg Prenzler 791 3556

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For Sale/Trade (one more month!)

1. Still have scuba gear for sale.! Ray Essenmacher (989) 327-4264 or doecessenmacher@gmail.com
2. Misc dive gear- contact for list: jnagel@tittabawassee.org or firecpt@tittabawassee.org
3. Dry Suit- O-S Systems Man's suit with 1/4 inch flannel liner. Men's Size Med. Color Blue. All rubber seals in perfect condition. We no longer dive, so we're parting with all equipment. \$400 OBO. email robakit@charter.net or 695-9963.

Policy and Disclaimer:

Items listed in For Sale/Wanted will continue to be listed for one year unless the "Scoop" is notified otherwise. Saginaw Underwater Explorers and "The Scuba Scoop" are not responsible for anything posted here.