
THE SCUBA SCOOP

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Club Minutes

- D. Sommers read the treasury report. Motion passed as accepted.
- Our next meeting will be VIP Night at the compressor on 2850 Bay Rd. It's right next to the Auto Zone. The driveway is dirt and Don said that there were some large pot holes so take caution when driving back to the compressor. We will be starting earlier at 6:00. All tanks must be in hydro for VIPs. Air cards will be provided for purchase.
- Don Cunningham said that Rick sent the filter and oil for our compressor. We will send a thank you card and small gift for his generosity. The compressor schedule will be released next month.
- The Saginaw zoo will be opening on the 20th. We will be getting a schedule out soon for cleaning the windows. We are always looking for new volunteers. Mike will be sending out an email for the cleaning. Be sure to have a suction device with a handle to help keep contact with the window. We will also be scheduling a mock emergency



Underwater Crucifix draws Hundreds to Petosky

Unbeknownst to many, Lake Michigan is home to the only underwater crucifix in freshwater on record. And, for the first time in several years, it's visible to the public eye.

The 11-foot statue, onto which a 5-foot-5-inch figure of Jesus Christ is attached, is located about 260 yards from the shore of the town of Petoskey, in Northern Michigan.

On Saturday March 9th, hundreds of people waited in the cold to spot the crucifix through a hole carved in the five feet of ice, below 22 feet of water, WPBN reports.

The story behind the statue's final resting place at the bottom of Lake Michigan stretches back to 1956, when a 15-year-old farm boy died in an accident in the eastern town of Bad Axe, according to Inside Edition. His grieving family decided to purchase the 1,850-pound crucifix from Italy for \$2,500 as a way to

situation for the requirement of the zoo.

- Our first fun dive will be on May 21 at Haithco around 6:00.

memorialize him. However, when it arrived, the family refused it because the cross broke during transfer. The cross then made its way north to Little Traverse Bay, near Petoskey, in 1962, after being sold in an insurance sale to a diving club. It was ordered to be lowered into Lake Michigan in memory of a diver who lost his life in nearby Torch Lake. Eventually, it became known as a symbol for remembrance of all those who lost their lives at sea. The first public viewing of the crucifix was held in 1986, and a record 2,021 people was set in 2015 to view the historic landmark. However, due to weather conditions, it has not been safe enough for crowds to come back and visit until this past weekend. We will be sinking a plaque this spring/summer at the cross for our dive club.



Diving Highlight

From Mike Michaels

Well, we are just coming to the end of our second week in Roatan. So I thought I would take a few minutes and update you on what's happened so far ... The diving ... WOW!!!! As of today we have completed 22 dives ... mostly 2/day with a couple of days we took off and just rested and played tourist. One day we took the water taxi from West End to La Roca ... had lunch there and sat in chairs on the beach & balcony watching the boats go by and enjoying the cool breezes while sipping a couple of cervisa's (cold beer). Walked the beach a bit and then took the water taxi back. A second day off we visited the new northern dive center opened just this year by Roatan Divers. These are the people we have been diving with and I couldn't compliment them enough the way we have been treated. The new dive center is about three miles north of West End at Sandy Bay. Spent most of the afternoon talking to the shop manager who we know well and she asked if we would like to spend some days diving with her shop. Well, of course we would. It is in an absolutely beautiful location ... and being further north she promised she would try to get us on the Odyssey wreck. Something I was really keen to do. Natasha said she would talk to Saaya (Roatan Dive Shop owner) and try to set something up.

As it turned out Roatan Divers is SOOOOOO SUCCESSFUL that it not only worked out for us but for them as well. We had done about a dozen or so dives out of the main West End shop. All of them were great. The last four were simply OUTSTANDING. Lar & I have been here before so they already know us well. Each day they were struggling to find "new" dive sites for us to go. But, with all the other divers ... many of the new, students, or pretty much amateur it got progressively harder and harder for them to "accommodate" Lar & myself. We were left almost all to ourselves on all of the dives as they know we are as good or better than their dive masters. So we always, more or less, did tail end Charlie and followed the other 2-4 divers that the divemaster shepherd about ... poking heads up crevices and crannies and taking a lot of photos & video ... and then catching up with the rest from time to time. That too played an important part in the opportunity to dive out of the Sandy Bay resort dive center.

Roatan Divers transferred all of our dive gear up to Sandy Bay site, and the owner of Roatan Divers, Saaya, picked us up each morning for the last four day in the morning and personally drove us up there and arranged for us to be picked up after we were done each day. Our being gone took a lot of strain off the main shop ... and we got to help out the Sandy Bay shop by helping them as well.

I mentioned the Odyssey wreck. That was a good and a bad dive. She lies in about 120 feet of water and this wreck is open enough to penetrate the inside. Which we did!!! Pretty cool. A great wreck to explore. The negatives ... another dive boat was buoyed and tied off when we got there and it had a ton of people diving. I think it was one of "adventure" classes offered by PADI or someone. Because they were all over the wreck and stringing lines about it. (This wreck is an easy and safe penetration dive and

lines are not really required ... so they were doing this as a wreck learning class.) Besides stirring up the inside at times so bad it was difficult to see, they also blocked doors, hallways, stairs, and other narrow parts inside the wreck and it was difficult to pass by them. Also, the general visibility of the wreck was only so-so ... not nearly as good as the El Aguila Wreck which we dove earlier out of West End. El Aguila (The Eagle) is bottomed out at just over 120' in depth and it was a great dive ... my second time on it. But, the El Aguila Wreck is so busted up as to be impenetrable except for just a few places a short way in. So I'm just going to have to suffer and come back and do the Odyssey wreck again next year.

Friday, Lar and I leave this hotel and move over to Tobri Divers on the south side of Island just north of the airport. We will spend our last five days diving there. So we should come back with about thirty dives from this trip and a ton of imagery (stills and video). Mostly, we will come home with so many fond memories of the great days we have had here!!!!

Do so much wish that some of you could have been here with us. It was not all diving and the weather and the views and the "down time" count just as much. Meanwhile, everyone take care and be safe. I'll be back around March 14th depending on airline connections.

Here are some links for videos:

Odessey Video

https://1drv.ms/v/s!AtGIXq0Cf3kig69K9fU8DT_opfMqMw

Litas Hole Dive

https://1drv.ms/v/s!AtGIXq0Cf3kig69EaMLJvN3Z_GcLUg

Bill Kirksey sent me an email with a link for an excel spreadsheet for Optimal Buoyancy Computer.

Here is the link:

<https://www.scubaboard.com/community/threads/optimal-buoyancy-computer.576321/>

The link didn't work very well for an iPad but it should work great on a computer, which I will try tomorrow.

Thank you, Bill!

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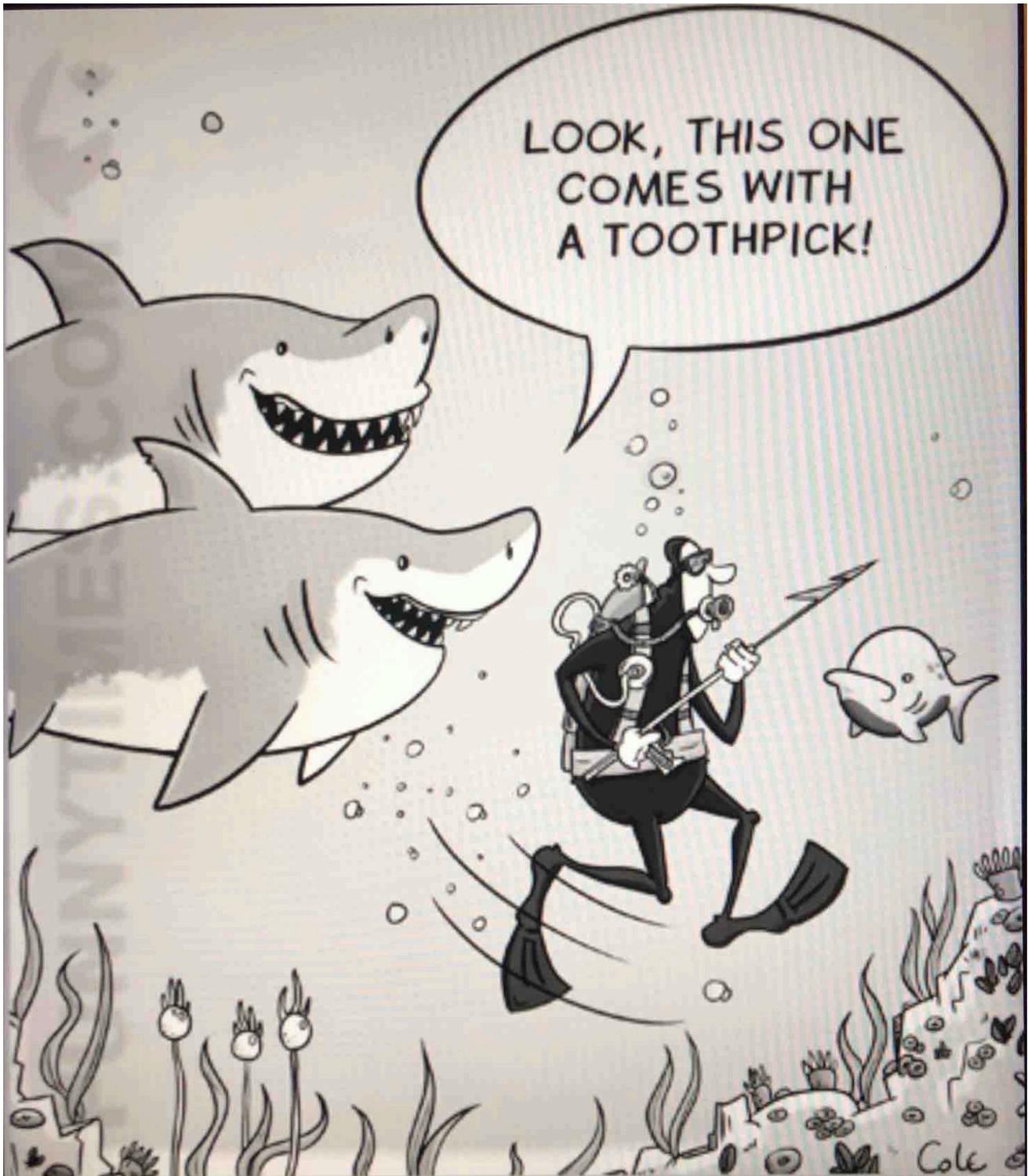
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Motivated Seller...Health Issues Following is a link to
more pictures of the boat.

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If interested, contact John Garner by phone or text at
[989-274-3991](tel:989-274-3991) or email: salnjohn06@gmail.com.



*Sherman's Lagoon cartoons are no longer free so I will find some other cartoons.