

# THE SCUBA SCOOP

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[www.saginawunderwaterexplorers.org](http://www.saginawunderwaterexplorers.org)

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## **2024 Board:**

President	Tony Piazza	989-751-0361
Vice President	Bill Kirksey	989-878-5115
Secretary	Carol Piazza	989-751-1285
Treasurer	Dave Sommers	989-751-8517
Compressor Chair	Terry Lisk	989-777-1956
Member-at-Large	Mike Fabish	989-295-2627
Newsletter Editor	Joel Garner	

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## ***President's Letter***

Greetings, members and friends of the Saginaw Underwater Explorers!

I am very proud to be writing this letter as your new President and appreciate the trust and support from everyone. I hope that this new edition of The Scuba Scoop is the beginning of an exciting new year for our club and the sport of scuba diving. I want to thank Joel Garner, grandson of founding member John Garner, for accepting the position as our Newsletter Editor. I look forward to working with him in publishing our quarterly newsletter.

I also want to thank our outgoing board members, Mike Fabish, Mark Russell, Justin Fabish and Don Stork, for their years of service and appreciate any assistance they might offer in the future. I wish to welcome our new officers, Bill Kirksey (Vice President), Carol Piazza (Secretary), Dave Sommers (Treasurer), Mike Fabish (Member at Large), Terry Lisk (Compressor Chair) and Joel Garner (Newsletter Editor) who will help guide the club for the next year.

We are off to a great start for 2024! The June charter for the Straits of Mackinac dive and the July charter for the Alpena Thunder Bay dive are both full. I'm looking into other opportunities for this summer including another charter in Alpena for shallow dives which would involve our younger and newer divers and am working on a trip to Whitefish Point. Please let me know if any of you have other ideas and we will post them on the website.

I am very excited for our club celebrating its 65th anniversary this year. We are planning a celebration on my beach for our August, Saturday afternoon, meeting (date to be announced).

Our next general meeting is the VIP night on May 14th to be held at the compressor site starting at 6:00 PM. Come on out and enjoy some friendship, dive chat and pizza on me. Remember, all tanks for VIPs must be in hydro and empty.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Piazza  
President

## About the Editor

My name is Joel Garner. I attend Tawas Area Middle School and I am in the 8th grade. I live in Tawas City with my parents, John and Cathie Garner and my older brother. I obtained my SCUBA certification in 2022.

One of my favorite SCUBA experiences was the 2023 Underwater Pumpkin Carve at Clear Lake State Park hosted by Underwater Antics. I carved a devil which took 2nd place (my brother took first place)! My other hobbies and interests include after school activities such as: MathCounts, Sailing, Theater (I recently played Sherlock in the play Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular), Skating, Camping, Biking, and Reading. Most recently, I joined a ROV class through Heritage Coast Sailing and 4H. For the past 3 years, I have also been volunteering at the Knights of Columbus every Monday night (Friday nights during Lent.)

In December of 2023, I donated my hair to a charity in Michigan who provides wigs to children with cancer. I look forward to meeting and diving with all of you!



Clear Water Lake October 2023



Joel with his grandfather and founding member, John Garner Sr.

Photo taken: May 2016

Iosco County's Source for Local News

### DINING, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

#### Local teen donates to Children With Hair Loss, after growing out locks for two years



*Courtesy photos*  
Sharing shots from before, during and after the process – as displayed above, from left – Tawas City resident Joel Garner, 13, recently donated his hair to a charity which provides wigs to children with cancer. The eighth grade student, who attends Tawas Area Middle School, is the son of Cathie and John Garner. Having grown out his locks for two years with the intent to donate it, Joel selected the Michigan-based nonprofit, Children With Hair Loss ([childrenwithhairloss.org](http://childrenwithhairloss.org)), as the recipient. His hair was cut by Melissa Street, of Melissa Elaine's Salon Suite in Tawas City, with the contribution amounting to five braids of hair measuring 12-14 inches each.

## Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival

Tony and Carol Piazza attended the 42 annual Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival presented by Ford Seashore and Sea Lancers Scuba Diving Club on February 24, 2024.



Tony and Carol Piazza with Saginaw's own, Ric Mixer.



Tony Piazza with the legendary shipwreck hunter, Dave Trotter.




Tony Piazza with Stephanie Gandulla and Cassandra Sadler, maritime archeologists with NOAA.

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## Mark Your Calendar


The next meeting will take place on May 14, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Meet at the compressor site.

 We will hold our annual tank visual inspection night (VIP).

 Tanks must be empty with a current hydro.

 Air cards will be available for sale.

 Enjoy pizza and fellowship!

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## NOAA: Discovery of Ironton

The Discovery of Ironton Armed with the location of Ohio and further research into the weather and wind conditions from the night of the fatal collision, the team defined the area to search, and BEN and RV Storm worked in tandem mapping the lakebed. As the project came to its final days, the team had successfully mapped a large section of the search area, but Ironton remained undiscovered. The researchers expanded the search area. Persistence and determination were rewarded when the sonar returned an image from the lakebed of an unmistakable shipwreck-and one that matched the description of Ironton. The sonar images provided great detail, but the team had more work to do in order to confirm the identity of the discovered wreck.

The following month, archaeologists from Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary teamed up with the Great Lakes Water Studies Institute at Northwestern Michigan College to explore the discovery. Utilizing an underwater robot or remotely operated vehicle (ROV) from aboard RV Storm, the team sought to confirm the ship's identity through video images. As the team excitedly watched the footage from the ROV, there was no mistake: Ironton had been found. In June 2021, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Ocean Exploration Trust returned to the site to carry out a more thorough investigation of Ironton. Conducting ROV operations aboard U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Mobile Bay, the research team partnered with the University of North Carolina Wilmington's Undersea Vehicle Program to collect high-resolution video and further document the wreck. Resting upright and incredibly well preserved by Lake Huron's cold freshwater, Ironton looks almost ready to load cargo.

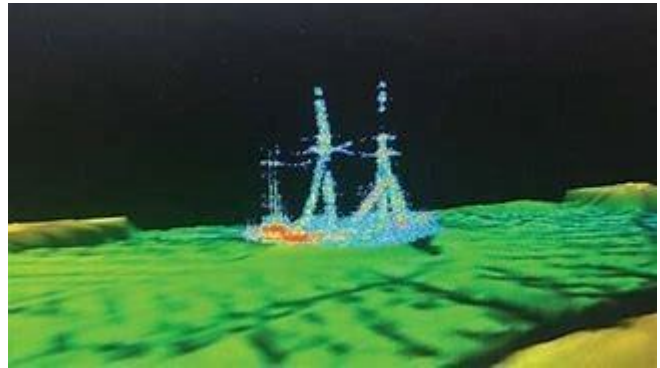


Image of the schooner-barge Ironton as it sits on the lake floor today. This image is a point cloud extracted from water column returns from multibeam sonar. Image: Ocean Exploration Trust/NOAA



*"You might want to make yourself comfortable. I may be down there for awhile."*

**If you enjoyed this issue of *The Scuba Scoop*, and would like to be included in the quarterly email, contact Carol Piazza at:**

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