

THE SCUBA SCOOP

Volume 65 • Issue 2 • Summer 2024



www.saginawunderwaterexplorers.org

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President's Letter

Greetings Members,

I am so excited about this year's dive season in Michigan. The club started out with a great turnout at the spring meeting and annual VIP held at our compressor site. Not only did we have five of the club's officers in attendance (related photo within), but several former officers and a new member, Marc Ellis, who has joined. Assisting with the VIPs was former club President and Compressor Chair Don Cunningham and former VP Mark Russell. Participation from all members is what makes a club strong.

I knew that we were going to have an active dive season, having 25 tanks VIPd and filling two dive charters in a matter of weeks. All who attended the dive charters had a great time, visiting a total of eight shipwrecks. The charter companies were outstanding including Nautical North Family Adventures out of Mackinaw City (check out their glass bottom boat tours out of Cheboygan) and Great Lakes Dive Charters out of Alpena. I am hoping to continue our club's relationship with these fine companies.

I'm looking forward to our annual Petoskey dive trip to clean the crucifix with the typical side trip over to the Kueke in Lake Charlevoix scheduled for September and, of course, our annual summer picnic celebrating the club's 65th year which is being held at my house on Lake Huron in Tawas on August 17th with a possible early morning dive on the Anna Dobbins (a separate e-mail will be sent out confirming date and time).

As always, summers in Michigan fly by so let's make the most out of the remaining weeks that we have and appreciate the blessings we all have been given to enjoy family, friends and the great outdoors including Michigan's significant maritime history and diving opportunities.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony Piazza, President

Tawas Area Youth Win Underwater Robotics Regional Competition

A team of area youth, organized by Heritage Coast Sailing and Rowing and Iosco County 4-H, received first place overall in this year's Great Lakes Regional Mate ROV (underwater robotics) competition held May 11, 2024, at the NOAA Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center in Alpena. The team, competing in the Scout Division, also received first place in Mission Task and second place for its Marketing program. For months, they worked tirelessly in designing and constructing their robot and creating their presentation and display board. During the competition, they presented their project to a panel of judges and demonstrated their ROV's capabilities in a marine training tank under strict time restraints. The team included our own Newsletter Editor Joel Garner (far right in first photo and center in second photo at the controls poolside). President Tony Piazza was one of the coaches.



(Photo credit NOAA Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary)



(Photo credit NOAA Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary)



(Iosco County News, May 22, 2024)





ANNUAL VIP NIGHT

Together with the spring meeting, the club hosted its annual VIP inspection night on May 13th at the compressor site in Saginaw. We had a great turnout (maybe for the free pizza☺). Five of our club officers were present including President Tony Piazza, VP Bill Kirksey, Treasurer Dave Sommers, Newsletter Editor Joel Garner and Compressor Chair Terry Lisk along with several volunteers who help with the VIP process. We inspected 25 tanks and topped them all off with air for the anticipated busy dive season.



Mark Your Calendar

The Annual Summer Picnic is scheduled for August 17, 2024. Watch your email for further information.



SUE DIVE CHARTER STRAITS OF MACKINAC

Although the weather in the Straits on the weekend of June 22 and 23rd was not hot and sunny, the visibility at 105' below the surface was great! Several members of SUE and a few guests chartered the Huron Explorer out of Mackinaw City for a two-day adventure. The vessel, operated by Nautical North Family Adventures, is a 28' Baha with an excellent captain and crew -- Captain Bosco, Divemaster Rita and support crew Walter.

Dive members Tony Piazza, Bill Kirksey, Mike Fabish and Justin Fabish dove in bottom temperatures reaching 40° and visibility of approximately 30-50'. We visited the Dolphin, Maitland, William Young and Stalker.



Mike & Justin



Tony



Tony, Justin, Mike and Bill
The end of a great weekend!



Bill



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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ALPENA'S THUNDER BAY DIVE CHARTER

I have never seen Thunder Bay as flat as it was on July 13th when SUE divers started out for their second charter of the season. Diving with Great Lakes Dive Charter on her 28' Marinette, Kate Lee with Captain Travis Smith, the club's President Tony and VP Bill along with several guests took to the waters of the Thunder Bay Underwater Preserve for a beautiful day on the water. The sun was shining and the bay was like glass. Visibility was 60+' with a bottom temperature of around 45-50°.

Dives included the E.B. Ward and the Montana.
(We'll shoot for two days next time.)



Bill enjoying some bottom time!



The end of a great day of diving for Bill and Tony.

