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The Flipper

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Official Newsletter of the Great Lakes Aquanauts

September 2008

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Notes from Tim:

#1 Spring Mill pond picnic, I think is still on for the 13th. No plans have been made, re: food drinks ect.

Jan & I will be in Grand Rapids, so who ever is going need's to contact each other.

#2 Under water Pumpkin Carving/Potluck at Westman's is set for the 4th of Oct. Mark your calendar.

#3 Just talked to David Albright, he is doing good, & has done a little driving. We wish him well.

#4 Not much else, Jan & I are off to Hawaii, see you all soon.

Tim

2008 Meeting Schedule

Saturday September 13th. At 11:00 am Spring Mill Pond dive and picnic. (also Linda Walton's Birthday) Need to know if there is still interest in this event? And who might be the event master.

Saturday October 4th Pumpkin carving/potluck at the Westman's (details to come). Should be similar to last year.

FOR SALE

Call, or email Steve Kunder to place your ad.

O'neil Dry suit, size XXL with weights. \$250.00 Gary Morgan



Man finds dead shark in Lake Michigan Saltwater fish might have been on ice from Atlantic — or a pet

updated 12:30 a.m. ET, Sun., Aug. 31, 2008

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. - There's no telling what might turn up in Lake Michigan.

Rich Fasi of Traverse City says he found a dead 2-foot shark in the water while fishing on West Grand Traverse Bay on Wednesday.

The saltwater fish was a juvenile blacktip shark, said Mark Tonello, a fisheries biologist from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Tonello said someone might have caught the shark off the Atlantic Coast and kept it on ice while bringing it to northern Michigan.

Another possibility is that the dead shark was dumped by someone who had kept it as a pet, Tonello said.

Article supplied by : Bob Evans

Rescued sailor cited for drunken boating

Gannett Wisconsin Media

GREEN BAY — A boater rescued early Monday by a Coast Guard helicopter after treading water about 12 hours in the bay of Green Bay smelled of alcohol and was cited for operating while intoxicated, the Brown County Sheriff's Department said.

James Nelson, 56, Allouez, was taken to St. Vincent Hospital, where he was treated for dehydration.

Blood was drawn because of suspicion of intoxication, Chief Deputy John Gossage said. The results of the blood-alcohol test will not be known for a week or so, he said.

"We have to go through procedural steps based on probable cause," Gossage said.

Nelson was alone in his 23-foot sailboat at 2 p.m. Sunday. He was rescued about 2 a.m. Monday.

Nelson told rescuers that as he entered the channel just south of Long Tail Point he was dropping his mainsail and turned to lower his motor into the water. A gust of wind caused the boom to swing and knock him into the water.

The boat — with its engine running and rudder locked in place — kept moving away from him and out of reach, Nelson said.

— **Mike Hoefft/Press-Gazette**

Chuck Pickett: This guy was reportedly NOT wearing a life jacket. The secret to survival in cold water may be plenty of alcohol and keep swimming to generate heat.

REMEMBER WHEN Article reprint is from November 1988 Flipper supplied by Joanne Westman.

Goody Bag...cont.

GLA FEATURED IN "UPWELLING"

A report on the successful management of a dive accident occurring on a GLA dive in May of this year, was recently featured in "Upwelling", a Michigan Sea Grant publication. It appeared in Vol. 10, No2 Spring/Summer 1988 issue. It is printed below as it appeared in that publication.



Trained Buddies Rescue Scuba Diver

When is extensive preparation for emergencies too much preparation? "Never," says Great Lakes Aquanauts president Andy Swartz. Andy is living, walking proof of the value of immediate and proper care in a diving emergency.

May 29, 1988, could have been the last day of Andy's life, or the last day of life as he knew it. Part way up the boarding ladder following a dive on the shipwreck, *Regina*, in Lake Huron, Andy suddenly had no feeling in his left side and fell back into the water. What followed was a textbook case of how to conduct a dive rescue.

Andy's buddies immediately assisted him from the water, placed him on a backboard in the Trendelenberg position, and within five minutes were administering oxygen. As the boat headed for the dock, the captain notified proper authorities and EMS personnel were summoned.

Meanwhile, Andy improved steadily under oxygen therapy, given without interruption. When the dock was reached, an ambulance rushed Andy to a nearby hospital. The Divers' Alert Network (DAN), based at Duke University in North Carolina, advised the attending physician by phone and coordinated helicopter evacuation to the Great Lakes Institute of Hyperbaric and Diving Medicine at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo, Michigan. There, Andy was treated for an air embolism. He was released the next day, apparently free of symptoms. No aftereffects have developed since.

Reasons for Recovery

Several important factors led to Andy's complete recovery. Most essential was his buddies' preparedness. The Great Lakes Aquanauts had not had an accident in the club's 20-year history; yet club members have pursued a responsible policy of attend-

ing dive rescue classes and seminars, including those given by Sea Grant Water Safety Specialist, Lee Somers. Most of the divers with Andy had just heard a presentation by Somers at a diving workshop at Michigan State University organized by Sea Grant Extension Program Leader John Schwartz. Somers stressed the importance of the first few minutes of response to a diving accident and the correct procedures in those crucial minutes.

The dive charter had no oxygen, but trained club members were prepared with their own oxygen equipment. According to Dr. John Dircks, attending physician at the hyperbaric chamber and a well-known authority on diving medicine, administration of supplemental oxygen was an important factor in preventing permanent disability.

Accident Unavoidable

Could this accident have been avoided? This was a rare case where it probably could not have been. According to Dr. Dircks, Andy may have experienced an "undeserved air embolism," meaning that some unknown existing physical condition, not the dive profile, alcohol, or other common factors, caused the embolism.

Epilogue

Andy reports that after this close call he is asking himself some serious questions. "If I had a diving buddy in distress, could I respond as fast as my buddies did in my case? Could I get my buddy out of the water? Do I know what position to put him in? How to administer oxygen?" If it is confirmed that Andy experienced an undeserved air embolism, he will not be able to dive again, but he says, "I've signed up to take the surface portion of a dive rescue course. All divers out there — come and join me!"

Editors: Notes: I am sure it has been a busy summer for all. We have had some heavily attended events and some not so well attended. We have a dive scheduled for this month at Spring Mill Pond. We as a club need to know if there is interest in this event and should continue with plans. Also do not forget the upcoming Pumpkin carving dive and potluck at the Westman's. That is always a fun and well attended event. Welcome officially to Sabine to the club, she is a paid new member. Lets start thinking about the upcoming pizza party elections and who might step up to take on a position. Once again we need folks involved to keep this club active and ongoing.

Steve

Please send in pictures and articles, the well is getting a little low. I know there are a lot of memories that can be shared. So help me out. FLIPPER FOOD ,FLIPPER FOOD