

2027 MICHIGAN THUMB ADVENTURE: WRECKS HAPPENED: WE'RE GONNA DIVE 'EM!

5 DAYS OF MOD2 WRECK DIVING AT PORT AUSTIN, MI

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I have chartered the HoHum (a 6-pack from Below The Grade SCUBA <https://belowthegrade.com/>) to run out of Port Austin, MI for diving days 26-27-28-29-30 JULY 2027. Port Austin is the entry point for Michigan's *Thumb Area Bottomland Preserve*, which protects some of the Great Lakes' best shipwrecks, all extraordinarily well preserved in the cold, fresh water. Among other amazing wrecks, you'll get to see the Detroit Sidewheeler: a 170 year-old wooden sidewheel steamer, sitting upright on the lakebed with intact double sidewheels and engines. There is typically very little silt and great visibility, making this trip perfect for photographers and divers who want to go inside. If you haven't dived these wrecks yet, you're missing out. **NoMoFoMo!**

We will be doing 2 dives/day at MOD2 depths, concentrating on the Daniel J Morrell, the Minnedosa, the City of Detroit and the Dunderberg

Tons of high quality pix of these wrecks all over the interwebs. Just search.

This is not a money-making effort: this trip is being run strictly at cost.

Operations:

The boat will base out of Port Austin State Harbor (<https://tinyurl.com/2ya85964>). We will generally go ropes-off at 0900 and be back at dock NLT 1600, which will allow for two 100min dives and a 90 minute surface interval.

A normal day will look like this:

0700: breakfast on your own

NLT 0800: depart for Port Austin State Harbor

0810: Load boat

0900: Ropes off

1000: Dive 1

Noon: Dive 1 complete

Noon-1330: surface interval. Lunch.

1330: Dive 2

1500: Dive 2 complete

1600: Back at the dock. Drop off cylinders for fill. Ice cream.

1700: Back at the AirBnB. Mess with gear

1830: Dinner

Apré-dinner: cocktails, dive movies, Sea Hunt, trip presentations.

The Boat:

The HoHum is Coast Guard inspected 6-pack: the only boat on the Great Lakes with a diver lift and **specifically** designed for technical diving. It is solid, spacious, well-built and stable. The six diver stations have adjustable-height platforms to make donning CCRs easy, the boat has a SeaKeeper gyro stabilizer that smooths out the rolls and Starlink for hitting your Insta during the surface interval.

Lodging:

We will operate out of a 4BR AirBnB (<https://tinyurl.com/25o3tzxs>) that is a 10 minute drive from the boat. Check in 25 July, check out 31 July. There will be plenty of room to spread out, a huge back yard for staging gear and lots of parking. It's a 4BR house, so with 6 divers there will have to be some doubling up. On the upside, this place is right in the center of Port Austin, within easy walking / staggering distance to bars and restaurants.

Overnight gear storage:

Plenty of room in the common areas of the AirBnB.

Transportation:

You could fly into either Detroit or Alpena; Detroit will probably be a bit cheaper and have better flights, but Google Flights will tell you all that. You'll need a car; there will be no issue with parking in Port Austin. Google Flights and Google Maps can help if you wanna fly in from somewhere else.

Food:

Sandwiches, chips, water & snacks on the boat are included in the trip fee. Breakfast & dinner is on you.

Requirements:

- * This is a CCR only trip. You will need a normoxic trimix or better cert, and I will ask to see it.
- * If you're coming in from overseas, I strongly recommend you get trip insurance that includes medical coverage and medevac. If you're American, you're prolly OK with your normal insurance, but that's up to you.
- * You will need a DRY drysuit, drygloves & a thick undergarment. You don't necessarily **need** a heated undergarment, but you'll probably be cold if you don't have one.
- * You will need an orange & a yellow SMB with reels.
- * There is ambient light at depth, but you'll still want lights.

Gasses:

Tracy Click (owner of Below the Grade Scuba and captain of the HoHum) operates a mobile filling station and will sell us gasses and rent gear as needed. The filling station will be parked near the boat, and we will simply drop off cylinders at the end of each dive day and pick up next morning. An analyzer will be available.

Communication & Coordination:

I have set up a Whatsapp group for the trip, and I will use that to coordinate. We'll meet every night for dinner to brief the next day.

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- * Boat tickets: 5 days of diving (26-27-28-29-30 JULY 2027)
- * 6 nights lodging (check in 25 July, check out 31 July)
- * Lunch, snacks & water on the boat
- * Free use of 3L cylinders for O2 and dil
- * Free use of full AL80s for bailout, one with a deep mix and one with 50% O2
 - * Pay only to replace any gas you use.
 - * Bailouts will be rigged
- * Free use of weights.
- * Use of analyzers: both trimix and CO
- * Detailed briefings for each wreck, including laminated briefing sheets that are suitable for taking on the boat.
- * Hosted dinner the first night for briefings, releases, etc
- * World-famous TYOLU dive trip swag
- * Hand-crafted cocktails on cocktail night!
- * Dive movies and Sea Hunt viewings curated for maximum camp!

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED:

- * Transportation to and from Port Austin, to and from the boat.
- * Dinner
- * Gas that you use (the 3l cylinders & bailouts will be full when you get them; pay Tracy for fills during the week and to return them full)
- * Sorb - either bring your own, or buy it at cost (\$5/lb)

COST:

With 6 divers and only 4 rooms, there will have to be some doubling up, and the price will reflect that. Sorry!

Private room (1 slot available): \$1900

Share a room (2 slots available): \$1725

- * If diving is cancelled on any day, you will receive a refund for the boat ticket (\$166) for that day.
- * You will square up with Tracy for gasses and with me for sorb at the end of the week.
- * This cost is fixed: no fuel surcharges or stuff like that. The cost will not go up, no matter what.

PAYMENT:

AS OF 4 OCT 26, There are 2 slots available. I'll need \$500 to hold your slot, \$1000 on 1 March 2027 and the remainder not later than a week prior to the start of the trip (19 July 2027). If you cancel, I will do my best to fill your slot. If I can fill it, I will refund your deposits. If I can't fill your slot, you lose your deposits.

Payment via Zelle to **ken@blakelys.us**, or via Venmo to **@Ken-Blakely**

Reach out to me if you wanna go or need more info:

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