

# UASC Wreck Checker

News and Views of the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago

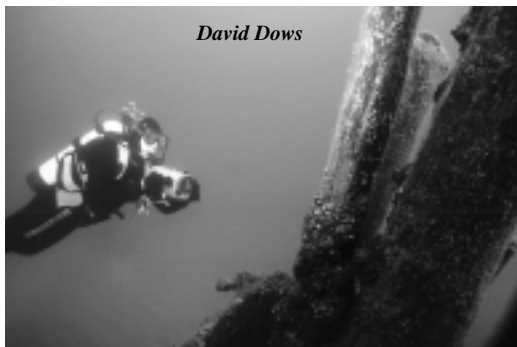
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Website: [www.uaschicago.org](http://www.uaschicago.org)

Vol. 19, No. 5

September-October, 2008

## UASC Plans Shipwreck DVD!



David Dows



Louisville



Barge No. 2

Presently in the planning stage is a commercial DVD about Chicago area shipwrecks to be produced by the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago in time for the 2009 "Our World -- Underwater" Show on February 20-22. **Ruth Loftus** is coordinating the various segments which will comprise this new DVD. **Bob Gadbois** will handle technical production. The main shipwrecks which will be included at this point in time are the tug *Tacoma* (by **John Loftus**), *The Straits of Mackinac* (by **Chet Childs**), the *St. Marys* (by **Keith Pearson**), the *Wells Burt* (by **Cris Kohl**), the *Material Service* (by **Jim Jarecki**), the *Zion Subchaser* (by **Tony Kiefer**), and others, including perhaps the *Rotarian*, the *Wings of the Wind*, the *Illinois/Holly* barge, and the wrecks pictured above. Above, l. to r.: **Joan Forsberg** videotapes some of the badly broken-up remains of the very historic *David Dows*, the largest sailing ship ever built on the Great Lakes (this 265-foot-long vessel had FIVE masts!) and lost in a storm in 1889; Joan examines the four-bladed propeller of the wooden steamer, *Louisville*, burned and sunk in 1857 with one life lost; divers explore the large, wooden remains, nearly flattened by time and nature, of *Barge No. 2*, a railroad car ferry sunk in 1906. (Photos by **Cris Kohl**)

### *Buccaneer* Nearly Cleaned Up



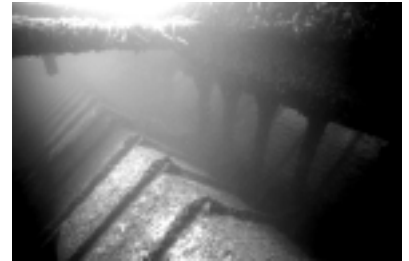
The *Buccaneer* rides high! With tons of water recently pumped out of her engine room and bilge by UASC Past President **Keith Pearson**, the old water line sits well above its former level (the top of the lower hull's white area is the former water line!) The clean-up of the old Chicago tourist ship, *Buccaneer*, (the ship with *Continued on p. 2...*

### Chicago Maritime Heritage Trail



Several sites around the Great Lakes (such as this one at Pentwater, Michigan) inspired UASC President **Joan Forsberg** to start a movement to have signs depicting various aspects of Chicago's massive maritime history to be placed along that city's waterfront. Researcher **Howard Openlander** is investigating contacts. *Photo by Cris Kohl*

### *Material Service* Shipwreck Report



The formal UASC report for the *Material Service*, lost just off the mouth of the Calumet River on July 29, 1936, with the tragic loss of 15 of the 22 men on board, is nearing publication. **Tony Kiefer** is completing the site drawing, while he, **Dan Kasberger**, and **Cris Kohl** completed some underwater photography. **Cris Kohl** has also written a 6,000-word history (an abridged version of which appeared in the latest issue of *Wreck Diving Magazine*.) *Photo by Cris Kohl*

**Come To Our Remaining 2008 UASC Meetings:**    **Sept. 24**    **Oct. 29**    **Nov. 19**

Our meetings (dates given above) are held on the 8th Floor of the Helix Building (an elevator is available), 310 S. Racine Ave. at Jackson Blvd., Chicago, on the last Wednesday of every month (2nd last in November), beginning at 6:30 PM until 9 PM. Free parking is available in the Helix parking lots, the main one being on the west side of the building, and the other one located across the street from the main lot. We discuss shipwrecks off Chicago and UASC projects in progress, plus we have exciting guest speakers. There is no December meeting. *Join us! The public is welcome!*



...Continued from page 1

**Buccaneer Clean-Up Sees the Light at the End of the Tunnel!**

a colorful past, beginning with its launch as the Coast Guard ship *Dexter* in 1925 at Bay City, Michigan -- an expanded history by **Cris Kohl** was recently published in the *Shipwrecks!* newsletter), made great strides recently.

Above, l. to r.: **Kathy Braun** videotapes survey work; **Scott "Feed-The-Millions" Reimer** hands **Dean Nolan** and others on the *Buccaneer* another boatload of coffee and doughnuts (*THANK YOU, Scott*, for the food and also for not drowning when you became the only person, so far, to fall into the water around the *Buccaneer!*); **Ruth Loftus** and **Claire Yashar** work on survey measurements; **Don Doherty** scrapes the paint and debris out of the gunwhale drains; garbage destined for the dumpster on shore was piled up in midship on several occasions.



Left: **Joan Forsberg** and project organizer **Bob Rushman** wear rubber gloves and old clothing to clean up the very oily engine room. Right: "The Dirty (one third of a) Dozen" boys, **Bob Rushman**, **Cris Kohl**, **Dean Nolan**, and **Scott Reimer**, on shore after cleaning the *Buccaneer's* engine room. Photos by **Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg**

Much has been accomplished by all the volunteers, and we thank them wholeheartedly for their help.

But we need a bit more help! We can finish the job with one or two more days if enough people come out, starting on Saturday, September 27, 2008. Contact **Bob Rushman** at home (815) 933-4515 or cell, (815) 954-7878, or **Cris Kohl** at (630) 293-4020.



**AGLMH 2008 Annual Conference: Muskegon, Michigan**




Attendees at the 2008 AGLMH Conference were given grand tours of the museum ships *LST 393* and the US submarine *Silversides*, both World War II veterans. Emcee and Newsletter Editor **Bob O'Donnell** and AGLMH President **Chris Gilchrist** flank this year's award recipients, **Joyce Hayward** and **Brendon Bailod**, at an evening banquet where the keynote speaker, **Brad Krueger**, talked about the work of surveying the recently discovered Lake Erie wreck of the sidewheeler, *General Anthony Wayne*.

Photos by **Cris Kohl**

Over 50 members attended the annual conference of the **Association for Great Lakes Maritime History**, held on Sept. 4-6, 2008, at Muskegon, MI, this year. **The Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago** is an Institutional Member of the AGLMH.

Events included the Museum Director's Roundtable (theme this year: "Challenges of Historic Ship Preservation") held on board the World War II ship museum, *LST-393*. Presentations at the Great Lakes Naval Memorial and Museum included "St. Joseph Maritime History Awareness Program" by **Ken Pott**, "The *St. Marys Challenger*" by **Chris Winters** (based on his new book about that ship), and a roundtable discussion about research opportunities on the internet.

The 39th Annual  
  
**Our World-Underwater**

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**Novice to Technical to Tri-Mix**

### Our July '08 Meeting: Patrick Hammer

Pat Hammer, owner of Scuba Emporium dive shop and Chicago's annual "Our World--Underwater" Show, gave an informative talk about "How to Sink A Ship -- And Still Stay Married." Patrick was in charge of scuttling *The Straits of Mackinac* as a new dive site in 2002-2003, and shared his vast experience. His long-suffering wife, Sherry, occasionally shared her significant thoughts from her audience chair. All of this info will help with the *Buccaneer Project*.



Pat generously offered to have the Tim Early Foundation match any contributions we receive for the *Buccaneer Project*, to a max of \$1,000.00. Mail donations with a "Buccaneer Project" note enclosed, to: Tim Early Foundation, Attn.: Patrick Hammer, Scuba Emporium, 16336 S. 104th Ave., Orland Park, IL 60467

We thank Pat for his talk and his generosity!

Photo by Cris Kohl

### Our August '08 Meeting: Doug Gossage



Doug Gossage, owner of Goose's Scuba Shack in Chicagoland, has been an independent owner and operator of marine survey equipment since 1998, working in Lake Michigan as well as for NOAA under a Remote Sensing Survey Lease in the Florida Keys.

Doug shared with us not only his vast knowledge of how sidescan sonar works, but also his many sonar images of Lake Michigan shipwrecks, including some new ones--to which he generously provided us with GPS coordinates!

We thank Doug for joining us as a guest speaker at our August meeting.

Photo by Cris Kohl

**Sept. 24th UASC Meeting:** Longtime Chicagoland charterboat operator **Capt. Dale Bennett** will share some of his shipwreck adventures! *See you there!*

## Calendar of Events

Compiled in September, 2008



October 4, 2008 (Sat.) -- GRAND OPENING of the **Lockwood Pioneer Diving Museum**, 7307 N. Alpine Rd., Loves Park (Rockford), IL. Presentations by (Sat. AM): **Brad Friend, Brendon Baillod, Paul Ehorn**. (Sat. PM): **Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg, Dave Trotter, Bob Marx**. Evening Banquet Speaker: **Bob Marx**. Call 815-633-6969 or visit [www.lockwoodmuseum.com](http://www.lockwoodmuseum.com).

October 11, 2008 (Sat.)--**ICSSD** President's Night. Claire Gadbois has tickets.

October 25, 2008 (Sat.) -- 4th annual Maritime History & U/W Archaeology Conference, Milwaukee, WI. See [www.wuaa.org](http://www.wuaa.org) for more information.

October 29, 2008 (Wed.) -- UASC meeting, 6:30 PM.

November 7-8, 2008 (Fri.-Sat.) -- The 21st annual "**Gales of November**" Show, Duluth, MN. See [www.LSMMA.com](http://www.LSMMA.com) or call 218-727-2497 for information.

November 19, 2008 (Wed.) -- UASC meeting, 6:30 PM. **Elections** for 2009! November 22, 2008 (Sat.) -- **SPECIAL 25th annual "Shipwrecks and Scuba"** Show, Huron, OH. Presentations (Theme--*Deep Wrecks*: **Mike & Georgann Wachter, Rick Kruzal, Tom Wilson, Dave Trotter, Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg**), exhibits, workshop, evening dinner, and keynote speakers (**Jim Kennard and Dave Trotter**). See [www.bayareadivers.net](http://www.bayareadivers.net) for more info.

Nov. 27, 2008 (Thurs.) -- Thanksgiving Day (no meeting the night before).

February 20-22, 2009 (Fri.-Sun.) -- The 39th annual "**Our World--Underwater**" Show in Chicago. Seminar presentations, exhibits, workshops, Friday Evening Film Festival, a different Saturday Evening Film Festival, much more! Many Great Lakes presentations! See [www.ourworldunderwater.com](http://www.ourworldunderwater.com)

February 28, 2009 (Sat.) -- 7th annual "**Chicago Maritime Festival**," 10 AM to 4:30 PM, Chicago Historical Museum. [www.chicagomaritimefestival.org](http://www.chicagomaritimefestival.org)

February 28, 2009 (Sat.) -- Annual "**Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival**," spon-

sor: the Ford Seahorses Dive Club, Detroit area. [www.shipwreckfestival.org](http://www.shipwreckfestival.org). February 28, 2009 (Sat.) -- The 10th annual "**Dive Into The Past**" Show, 9 AM to 6 PM, Minneapolis, MN, organized by the Great Lakes Shipwreck Preservation Society. See [www.glsps.org](http://www.glsps.org) for more information.

March 7-8, 2009 (Sat.-Sun.) -- The 56th annual "**Boston Sea Rovers Clinic**." Presentations, Exhibits, Film Festival. See [www.BostonSeaRovers.com](http://www.BostonSeaRovers.com)

March 20-21, 2009 (Fri.-Sat.) -- The 10th annual "**Ghost Ships Festival**," Milwaukee, WI. See [www.ghostships.org](http://www.ghostships.org)

March 27-29, 2009 (Fri.-Sun.) -- The 34th annual "**Beneath The Sea**" New York City Scuba Show. See [www.beneaththesea.org](http://www.beneaththesea.org)

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Longtime UASC members and professional musicians **Tom and Chris Kastle**, who often performed at our UASC meetings, are leaving Chicago. Tom is moving to the Madison, WI, area, while Chris starts as Education Director of the St. Augustine, Florida, Lighthouse Museum, on Oct. 8, 2008. *We thank them for all their contributions to UASC and we wish both of them FAIR WINDS!*

\* \* \* \* \*

The Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago sincerely **THANKS Paul Schutt**, the owner of Chicago's Helix Camera Company, for allowing us to hold our monthly meetings in the spacious room on the eighth floor.

\* \* \* \* \*

The **Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago**, with 101 paid members to date, has reached its largest membership since the early 1990's! It is also the largest dive group in Chicagoland among all the organizations belonging to the ICSSD (Illinois Council of Skin and Scuba Diving).

\* \* \* \* \*

UASC Past President **Jim Jarecki** is researching the production of quality UASC polo shirts, complete with our logo. Stay tuned for availability and prices.



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### 2008 MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CHICAGO

#### UASC MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

- Opportunities for volunteer participation
- Six UASC newsletters (bimonthly in 2008)
- Participation at regular meetings
- Invitations to special events

#### ENCLOSED ARE MY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

- Individual Membership \$45.00
- Family Membership \$60.00
- Affiliate Membership \$15.00  
(receive UASC mailings)

YES, I WANT TO JOIN THE UASC!  PLEASE RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP!

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: home \_\_\_\_\_ work \_\_\_\_\_

Fax No. \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: The Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago, P.O. Box 11752, Chicago, IL 60611**

*Members cannot participate in dive activities if membership is not current.*

Please circle your areas of interest: Boating Wreck diving Shipwreck Surveying Researching maritime history learning u/w Archaeological techniques u/w still Photography u/w Videography Exhibits Shows Shipwreck Drawing Membership recruiting Public Relations Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### UASC Wreck Checker

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#### 2008 UASC Officers:

President ..... **Joan Forsberg**, (630) 293-4020. jaforsberg@aol.com  
 Vice-President ... **Dean Nolan**, (773) 550-2737. deannolan@sbcglobal.net  
 Treasurer ..... **Bob Gadbois**, (773) 883-1601. bobclarg@worldnet.att.net  
 Secretary ..... **John Bell**, (708) 366-0273. JBell@uic.edu

#### 2008 UASC Chairpersons:

Membership Data Base ... **Roger Brown**, (847) 392-0619 & **Scott Reimer**, (847) 788-0417  
 Newsletter Editor ..... **Cris Kohl**, (630) 293-4020. criskohl@aol.com  
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 ICSSD Rep. .... **Claire Gadbois**, (773) 883-1601. bobclarg@worldnet.att.net  
 Capital Development ..... **Tony Kiefer**, (847) 296-3218. tkiefer@wowway.com

**MISSION STATEMENT** — The Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago (UASC) is a volunteer, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the study and preservation of Illinois' shipwrecks and other underwater cultural resources.

The UASC conducts shipwreck site surveys which employ field drawings, underwater photography and videotape. Field survey work is augmented by academic historical research. The Society attempts

to preserve sites by studying the effects of natural and biological forces as well as the impact of human activity on shipwrecks. It advocates responsible use of submerged cultural resources.

Membership is open to everyone. The Society presents the opportunity to meet, work together, and socialize with others who share similar avocational interests. It allows members to apply their diving or other skills to group projects that produce site maps, published surveys,

technical drawings, and educational programs.

The UASC shares the results of its work with the community through publications, museum exhibits, and presentations to all interested public and private groups.

Through its work, the Society hopes to add to the body of archaeological data available to local historians and maritime enthusiasts of future generations. It also seeks to enhance the enjoyment and value of local sport diving.

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