

# UASC Wreck Checker

News and Views of the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago

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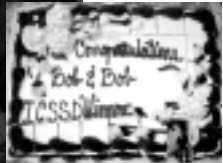
November-December, 2008

## UASC Members Receive AWARDS!

Two members of the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago were honored with awards recently by the Illinois Council of Skin and Scuba Diving, while a third became the very first recipient of the brand new award named "The Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago Award."



At the annual ICSSD "Presidents Night," held on October 11, 2008, **Bob Gadbois** received the ICSSD's 2008 "Humanitarian of the Year" Award (*at left*) for all the work he has done for UASC, ICSSD, and other groups for years. **Bob Rushman**, who joined the UASC in February, 2008, enthusiastically jumped in head first and volunteered to organize the massive *Buccaneer* clean-up, which basically took all summer and fall. For this, he became ICSSD's 2008 "Diver of the Year." He gets to display the huge trophy (*at left*) for a year, plus he received a smaller one which he can keep. UASC is proud of both Bobs, and honored them with a cake at the October meeting!



UASC President **Joan Forsberg** created a new annual award (*at right*), to be given by the President to someone for "years of leadership and dedication." Past President **Jim Jarecki** received this award for all his contributions to the UASC since 1999. (*Photos by Cris Kohl*)



### UASC Shipwreck Report

The formal UASC report on the *Material Service*, a modern and uniquely designed motorized barge 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, will be published in 2009, the first UASC wreck report in 14 years.

### Mark Your Calendars!

January 28 February 25 March 25  
April 29 May 27 June 24



July 29 August 26  
September 30  
October 28 November 18

Our UASC meetings (dates for 2009 are given above) are held at the Helix Building, 310 S. Racine Ave., at Jackson Blvd., in Chicago, on the last Wednesday of every month (2nd last in November), beginning at 6:30 PM until about 9 PM. There is free parking available in the Helix parking lots, the main lot being on the west side of the building, and the other one located across the street to the north of the main lot. Meetings are held on either the 6th floor or the 8th floor -- an elevator is available and location signs are posted at the Helix entranceway. We discuss shipwrecks off Chicago and UASC projects in progress, plus we have exciting guest speakers.

*Join us! The public is welcome!*

### UASC's DVD Project

The commercial DVD about Chicago shipwrecks, the first ever produced by the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago, is nearly complete, thanks to the contributions of two dozen people and the hard work, above and beyond the normal call of duty, of a handful of UASC members.

**Ruth Loftus** coordinated the various segments which comprise this DVD project. **Cris Kohl** designed the jacket. **Bob Gadbois** handled technical production and also provided narration for parts of the DVD.

The various segments, in order, are:

Introduction, by **Don Doherty**

The *St. Mary*, by **Keith Pearson**

The *Wings of the Wind* by **Joan Forsberg**

The *Wells Burt* by **Cris Kohl**

The *Tacoma* by **John & Ruth Loftus**

The *Rotarian* by **Keith Pearson**

The *Material Service* by **Cris Kohl**

The *Straits of Mackinac* by **Chet Childs**

"About the UASC" by **Joan Forsberg**

This 40-minute DVD will be commercially available for \$15 at UASC meetings and upcoming shows this winter.

### UASC 2009 Elections

The November UASC election for 2009 re-elected the following officers:

President:	<b>Joan Forsberg</b>
Vice President:	<b>Dean Nolan</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Bob Gadbois</b>
Secretary:	<b>John Bell</b>

2009 UASC Chairpersons also remain the same: **Roger Brown & Scott Reimer** for Membership Data Base, **Cris Kohl** for Newsletter Editor, **Jim Jarecki** for Archivist, **Claire Gadbois** for ICSSD Representative, and **Tony Kiefer** for Capital Development.

### The *Buccaneer* Project

The historic former Coast Guard/Chicago excursion vessel last named the *Buccaneer*, despite being cleaned up by UASC volunteers this past summer and fall, was not able to be scuttled as a new dive site off Chicago this year, so the ship has been closed up to ride out the winter. Hopes are high for '09! *At right*, member **Claire Yashar** shows her *Buccaneer* survey work drawings at a recent UASC meeting. *Photo by Cris Kohl*



### Chicago Maritime Trail

To promote an awareness of the importance of Chicago's Maritime History, UASC President **Joan Forsberg** has started a movement to place permanent maritime history signs along parts of Chicago's waterfront. UASC Researcher and Local Historian **Howard Openlander** has assisted and will continue to work on this important project.

### Upcoming Guest Speakers

Author/Historian **David Young** will be our guest speaker at the Jan. 28th UASC meeting, talking about Chicago's maritime history, plus his work as co-editor of the Chicago Maritime Society's new book, *A Treasury of Chicago Maritime History*. Dive Historian/Dive Shop Owner **Dan Johnson**, who recently opened the Lockwood Pioneer Diving Museum in Rockford, IL, will be our guest speaker at the March 25th UASC meeting.



**Largest Group in Years at the annual UASC/LOUP Christmas Party, Dec. 6, 2008!**

A holiday group of 39 people took part in the joint annual Christmas Party of two organizations, the League of Underwater Photographers (LOUP) and the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago (UASC) at the Burnham Harbor Yacht Club on the shores of Lake Michigan in Chicago on Saturday evening, December 6, 2008. Among the revellers were (above, left to right) **Kat Bell, Howard and Gwen Openlander, Gene Hasiak, Bob Gadbois** (foreground), **Karen and Dean Nolan, Mr. & Mrs. John Gerty, Claire Gadbois, Diane Gulczynski, Ruth and John Loftus, John Bell, Tom Kastle**, and those famous, two-fisted red wine drinkers, **Nancy Boucha and Joan Forsberg**. The traditional "Mini-Our-World-Underwater" Show followed the excellent dinner, with brief 5-to-10 minute photographic or video presentations by **Larry Boucha, Bob Gadbois, Nancy Boucha, Chet Childs, Lynn Funkhouser, and Cris Kohl**, among others. We thank **Lynn Funkhouser** of LOUP for organizing this relaxing, delightful evening!

*Photos by Cris Kohl*

### TEN RUMORS About the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago At Year's End!

There is absolutely no truth to any of the following rumors about the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago (UASC):

1. That the UASC requested a federal bailout of \$73.12.
2. That Hank Fiene and Jim Gentile offered to sell "the recently restored 1925 luxury yacht named the *Buccaneer*" to Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich for use as a getaway boat.
3. That New York publishing giant Random House paid the UASC a \$500,000.00 advance for the publishing rights to the *Material Service Shipwreck Report*.
4. That UASC Past President Keith Pearson threw his shoes at Chicago Mayor Richard Daley to protest the city's shameful lack of a maritime museum.
5. That re-elected UASC President Joan Forsberg tried to sell Bob Gadbois' seat to the highest bidder.

6. That Cris Kohl is frantically working on a new book called *Barack Obama's 100 Favorite Great Lakes Shipwrecks*.
7. That the UASC has made arrangements with the city of Chicago to install parking meters, charging \$6.00 an hour, on all Chicago-area shipwrecks, including on the *Lady Elgin* (bring lots of quarters, Harry!)
8. That the UASC will spearhead a campaign to make scuba diving an Olympic sport if Chicago wins its bid to hold the games in 2016.
9. That the bumper sticker on the back of John Bell's boat trailer reads, "Pirates Stole My Yacht."
10. That the UASC has arranged a series of Guest Speakers in 2009 which include Governor Sarah Palin (on "The Influences and Impact of Alaska's Shipwrecks on US Foreign Policy with Russia and the World") and Senator John McCain (on "How I Survived the Sinking of the *Griffon*.")



At the September meeting, UASC members sang a sea shanty (with additional personalized lyrics written by **Joan Forsberg**) videotaped by **Chet Childs** (above, left), copies to be sent as thanks to **Tom and Chris Kastle** for their many years of involvement with the UASC. *Photos by Cris Kohl*

### Full House at Ricobene's Post-Meeting Get-Together

Wonderfully decked out in classic Christmas decorations, Ricobene's Restaurant, the traditional post-meeting destination of UASC members, was particularly well-attended in November after the final



meeting of the year. Guest speakers **Jim and Pat Stayer** (at left) even joined us for some end-of-the-year, good fellowship cheer at the place where the REAL business of the UASC gets accomplished. *Photos by Cris Kohl*



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**Our September, 2008 Meeting:  
Capt. Dale Bennett**

Co-owner of the 42-foot-long M/V Enterprise, a popular Chicagoland charter boat, **Capt. Dale Bennett** regaled us with some of his Lake Michigan shipwreck diving experiences since 1973. A regular contributor to Midwest Scuba Diving Magazine, Dale is offering a \$100 reward for information that leads to diveable, new shipwrecks found between Highland Park, IL, and Racine, WI.

We thank Dale for his interesting talk!



Photo by Cris Kohl

**Our October, 2008 Meeting:  
Art Chavez**

Milwaukee maritime historian, railroad car ferry expert, and author, **Art Chavez** is the 2004 recipient of the Barkhausen Award, presented annually by the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History, for his research on, and writings about, Lake Michigan car ferries. Art has appeared on the History Channel's "Deep Sea Detectives" series, and he is the author of two books about Lake Michigan car ferries.

We thank Art for joining us as a guest speaker at this meeting, and his talk on Lake Michigan car ferries.

Photo by Cris Kohl



**Our November, 2008 Meeting:  
Jim and Pat Stayer**

**Jim & Pat Stayer** are longtime Great Lakes maritime historians, authors, and underwater videographers. They located many shipwrecks in lower Lake Huron and helped to establish Michigan's Sanilac Shores Underwater Preserve. They produce high definition underwater video presentations about Great Lakes and saltwater topics.

Their presentation to us was about the wreck of the schooner *Dunderberg*, lost in a collision on Lake Huron in 1868. The underwater videography was absolutely stunning!

We thank Jim and Pat for joining us.

Photo by Cris Kohl



**Calendar of Events**

Compiled in mid-December, 2008



Dec. 31, 2008 (Wed.) -- UASC New Year's Eve Party at **John and Kat Bell's** residence in Oak Park, a Chicago suburb. Contact John at (708) 366-0273 or e-mail him at JBell@uic.edu

Feb. 7, 2009 (Sat.) -- Annual Banquet of the Neptune's Nimrods of Green Bay, the oldest dive club in Wisconsin (51 years). Speaker: Ken Merryman of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society, MN. Jim Baye: (920) 436-0791.

Feb. 14, 2009 (Sat.) -- Workshop: "An Introduction to Document and Photograph Preservation, 10-11:30 AM. \$10. Nat. Archives, Great Lakes, 7358 S. Pulaski Rd, Chicago. (773) 948-9001 or email [chicago.archives@nara.gov](mailto:chicago.archives@nara.gov)

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, including several by UASC members. **UASC will have a booth at this show, and we need volunteers! Call Joan at (630) 293-4020!** 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. UASC presenters include **Dan Kasberger, Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg.** [www.chicagomaritimefestival.org](http://www.chicagomaritimefestival.org)

February 28, 2009 (Sat.) -- Annual "**Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival**," sponsor: 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. **UASC will have a booth at this show, and we need volunteers! Call Joan at (630) 293-4020!** See [www.ghostships.org](http://www.ghostships.org)

**Help Create A Chicago Dive Site!**

The **Tim Early Foundation** will match any contributions we receive for the **Buccaneer Project**, to a max of \$1,000.00. Please 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 you and Pat for your generosity!

An article in the Dec., 2008, issue of *Great Lakes Boating* magazine: "The World Beneath" by **Joan Forsberg**, photos by **Cris Kohl** -- all about the UASC!

\* \* \* \* \*

Several UASC members (namely **Brendon Baillod, Kimm Stabelfeldt, Cris Kohl and Joan Forsberg**) took part in the Grand Opening of the **Lockwood Pioneer Diving Museum** in Loves Park (Rockford), IL, on October 4, 2008, with a variety of Great Lakes Maritime History presentations.

\* \* \* \* \*

UASC Past President **Jim Jarecki** took orders for sharp, new UASC shirts at the October and November meetings, and they should be available soon.

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### 2009 MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CHICAGO

#### UASC MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

- Opportunities for volunteer participation
- Six UASC newsletters (bimonthly in 2009)
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

### UASC Wreck Checker

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#### 2009 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

#### 2009 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  
 Archivist ..... **Jim Jarecki**, (219) 923-7420. jimjarecki@aol.com  
 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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