

# UASC Wreck Checker

News and Views of the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago

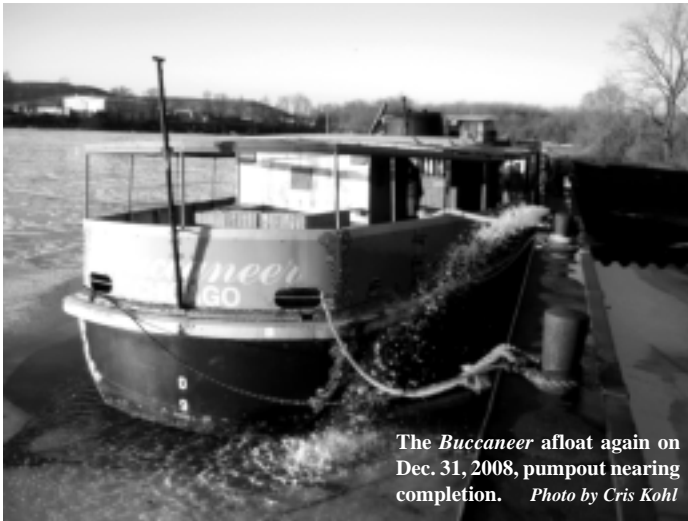
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Website: [www.uaschicago.org](http://www.uaschicago.org)

Vol. 20, No. 1

January-February, 2009

## Buccaneer Sinks at Dock!

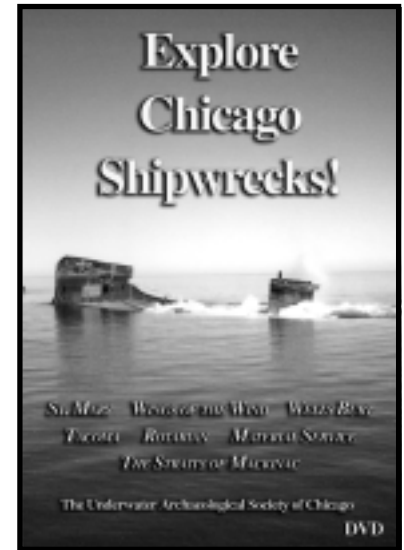


The *Buccaneer* afloat again on Dec. 31, 2008, pumpout nearing completion. Photo by Cris Kohl

The historic former Coast Guard/Chicago excursion vessel last named the *Buccaneer* sank at its dock on Dec. 31, 2008, after ice punctured the steel hull at the bow. **Hank Fiene** and **Keith Pearson** quickly arrived at the scene, pumped the water out, and patched the leak. Plans continue for the 2009 sinking of this vessel off Chicago as a new dive site.

**The Tim Early Foundation will match contributions received for the *Buccaneer* Project. Please mail any 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!**

## NEW Shipwreck DVD!



The commercial DVD about Chicago shipwrecks, the first ever produced by the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago, is finished and available!

**Ruth Loftus** coordinated the various segments of this DVD project. **Cris Kohl** designed the jacket. **Bob Gadbois** handled technical production, including the royalty-free music, and provided some narration. **Kathy Braun**, **Chet Childs**, **Bob Gadbois**, and **Cris Kohl** burned the DVDs.

The nine various segments, in order, are:  
Introduction by **Don Doherty**, narrated by Don  
*St. Mary* by **Keith Pearson**, narrated by Bob  
*Wings of the Wind* by **Joan Forsberg**,  
narrated by Joan  
*Wells Burt* by **Cris Kohl**, narrated by Cris  
*Tacoma* by **John & Ruth Loftus**, narrated by Bob  
*Rotarian* by **Keith Pearson**, narrated by Bob  
*Material Service* by **Cris Kohl**, narrated by Cris  
*The Straits of Mackinac* by **Chet Childs**,  
narrated by Chet  
"About the UASC" by **Joan Forsberg**,  
narrated by Joan

We thank these contributors for their hard work!

This 40-minute DVD is available for \$15 at upcoming shows this winter. Current (2009) UASC members receive a 20% discount (which makes the price \$12 for them), available at UASC meetings. If ordering through the mail, please add \$2.00 for shipping (\$17.00 each; \$14.00 each for UASC members). Mail check, payable to "UASC," to:

UASC,  
P.O. Box 11752,  
Chicago, IL 60611

## UASC to Celebrate 20 Years in 2009!

The Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago turns 20 years old this year, and some special events are planned, along with the completion of several projects. Special events include a picnic/shore dive on the wreck of the wooden steamer *George W. Morley* (stranded and burned in 1897 at Evanston) and a long wreck diving weekend at Washington Island in Door County (more details to follow). Projects include:

**The *Buccaneer* Project:** See above.

**Chicago Maritime Trail Project:**

To promote awareness of the importance of Chicago's Maritime History, UASC President **Joan Forsberg** and **Howard Openlander** hope to place permanent maritime history signs along Chicago's waterfront.

**Material Service Shipwreck Report:**

The formal, detailed UASC report on the tragic 1936 wreck of the *Material Service* just off Calumet Harbor will be published in 2009.

**Slate of 2009 UASC Officers who are planning this year's events:**

President: **Joan Forsberg** Vice President: **Dean Nolan**  
Treasurer: **Bob Gadbois** Secretary: **John Bell**

JOIN US FOR FUN IN 2009!

## Upcoming Guest Speakers

Commercial Videographer **Kathy Braun** will present a video update on the *Buccaneer* Project, and Author/Historian **Cris Kohl** will talk about "Shipwrecks off Lake Shore Drive" at the Feb. 25th UASC meeting.

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.

SEE YOU THERE!

## Mark Your Calendars!

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 at left) 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: A Brief Review of 2008

The Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago had an active 2008, as lively above the water line as below it. The following information relates the activities at each meeting, as well as beyond:

**January, 2008:** Guest speaker Maritime Historian **Fred Neuschel** talked about Lake Michigan lumber shipping. New President **Joan Forsberg** unveiled plans for the year.

**February, 2008:** Past President **Cris Kohl** presented "Tall Ships Chicago: Then and Now," a 2004 UASC presentation. (Co-presenter, Past President **Jim Jarecki**, was ill.) Cris received the OW-U Achievement Award -- the first of five UASC members to receive major awards this year! UASC had a booth at OW-U and the Chicago Maritime Fest.

**March, 2008:** Guest speaker and UASC member **Brendon Baillo** talked about the long-lost **Griffon**, the first ship on the upper Great Lakes, and he displayed portions of his archival Great Lakes collection.

**April, 2008:** UASC member **Larry Boucha** presented early underwater video of the **Wells Burt** wreck off Chicago, plus footage of the deep Lake Superior wreck of the **Gunilda**. Nine UASC divers explore Bonne Terre Mine in Missouri.

**May, 2008:** Guest Speaker **Jim Gentile**, local dive boat charter captain, related plans to clean up and sink the historical ship, the **Buccaneer**, off Chicago, and suggested UASC could be involved with the clean-up for a few weekends.

**June, 2008:** Guest speaker and UASC member **Keith Pearson** showed two UASC presentations from the early 1990's, about the **St. Mary** and the **Rotarian**, both Chicago shipwrecks. **Cris Kohl** talked about the oldest wreck discovered to date in the Great Lakes (the **Ontario**, lost in 1780, found in May, 2008, in about 400 feet of Lake Ontario water). 20 UASC members and guests spent three days touring the land and diving the wrecks at **Door County, WI**.

**July, 2008:** Guest speaker **Patrick Hammer**, owner of two dive shops and the Our World--Underwater Show, spoke about the challenges of scuttling a large ship to create a new dive site (he scuttled **The Straits of Mackinac** in 2003). UASC members, under **Bob Rushman**, began the clean-up of the **Buccaneer**. The Tim Early Foundation (Pat Hammer) offered to match **Buccaneer** donations to \$1,000.00 max. **Hank Fiene** took UASC u/w photographers to the **Material Service** wreck.

**August, 2008:** Guest speaker **Doug Gossage**, dive shop owner and shipwreck hunter, showed and explained the use of sidescan sonar. More work on the **Buccaneer** clean-up.

**September, 2008:** Guest speaker **Capt. Dale Bennett**, a charter boat operator, shared many of his Lake Michigan shipwreck diving experiences. UASC member **Brendon Baillo** received one of the two major awards given annually by the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History. More weekend work on the **Buccaneer** clean-up. UASC's first shipwreck DVD project began, coordinated by **Ruth Loftus**.

**October, 2008:** Milwaukee Maritime Historian/Author **Art Chavez** talked about railroad car ferries on Lake Michigan, particularly the wreck of the **Milwaukee**. UASC members **Bob Rushman** and **Bob Gadbois** received, respectively, the "2008 Diver of the Year Award" and the "2008 Humanitarian Award" from the Illinois Skin and Scuba Diving Council.

**November, 2008:** Maritime Historians/Authors/Underwater Videographers **Jim and Pat Stayer** did a presentation on the deep Lake Huron wreck of the schooner **Dunderberg**, lost in 1868. UASC Past President **Jim Jarecki** became the first recipient of the annual "UASC Award." *Photos by Cris Kohl*



UASC atop a Door County lighthouse

UASC picnic time

Dan Kasberger on the Material Service wreck



UASC at Bonne Terre Mine, MO



Below: At a typical UASC meeting



Bob Rushman in the **Buccaneer**



## UASC New Year's Eve Party

Gracious host and hostess, **John and Kat Bell**, offered their home in Oak Park as the site of a fabulous New Year's Eve party which was very well attended by various members of the UASC. A good time was had by all, as can be seen in these photos! We thank John and Kat heartily. *Photos by Cris Kohl*



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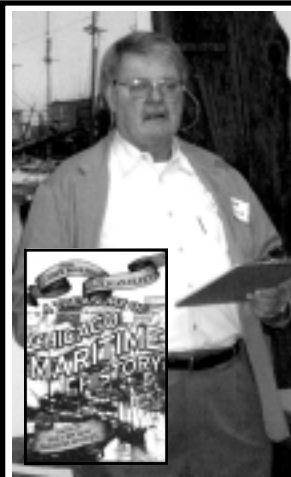
www.WindyCityDiving.net

## Calendar of Events

Compiled in early February, 2009



- Feb. 11, 2009 (Wed.) -- UASC CPR class, 6-9 PM, taught by **Sam Frank**, at **Chet Childs'**, 1024 Ferdinand Ave., Forest Park, IL. Call 847-507-2919.
- 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)
- Feb. 15, 2009 (Sun.) -- 2 PM, **Don Doherty** presents UASC's program, "From Crib to Grave," written by **Tony Kiefer**, to mark the 100th anniversary of the Chicago crib disaster. In the chapel at Mt. Greenwood. Call 708-932-5737.
- Feb. 19, 2009 (Thurs.) -- 7 PM, **ICSSD Club Appreciation Night** at Mr. Beef & Pizza, just north of Algonquin Rd. on Elmhurst Rd.
- 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 Dean Nolan at (773) 550-2737!** See [www.ourworldunderwater.com](http://www.ourworldunderwater.com)
- February 25, 2009 (Wed.) -- **UASC meeting**, 6:30 PM. Speakers: **Kathy Braun** (*Buccaneer* Project documentary video update) and **Cris Kohl** ("Shipwrecks off Lake Shore Drive"). Topics of discussion include how we will celebrate the UASC's 20th anniversary this year (e.g. picnics, wreck diving, projects...)
- February 28, 2009 (Sat.) -- 7th annual "**Chicago Maritime Festival**," 10 AM to 4:30 PM, plus evening concert, Chicago Historical Museum. UASC presenters include **Dan Kasberger** ("More Nautical Expressions We Use Every Day"), **Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg** ("The Shipwrecked Whalebacks"), and **various UASC members** doing "How to be an Underwater Shipwreck Detective, For Kids and Adults." **UASC will have a booth at this show from 10 to 4:30, and we need volunteers! Call Dean Nolan at (773) 550-2737!** See [www.chicagomaritimefestival.org](http://www.chicagomaritimefestival.org) for more show information.
- February 28, 2009 (Sat.) -- Annual "**Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival**," sponsors: the Ford Seahorses Dive Club and the Dossin Maritime Museum, Detroit area. See [www.shipwreckfestival.org](http://www.shipwreckfestival.org) for more show information.
- 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 55th 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. Presenters include **Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg** ("Shipwreck Tales of the Great Lakes") and **MSRA**. **UASC will have a booth at this show and we need volunteers! Call Dean Nolan at (773) 550-2737!** See [www.ghostships.org](http://www.ghostships.org) for more show information.
- March 25, 2009 (Wed.) -- **UASC meeting**, 6:30 PM, Helix Building, Chicago. Guest speaker: **Dan Johnson**, dive shop owner and curator of the newly-opened **Lockwood Pioneer Diving Museum** in Rockford, IL.



## Our January, 2009 Meeting: David M. Young

**David M. Young** has been writing about Chicago for a long time. A former writer and transportation editor for the *Chicago Tribune*, he is the author of the books *Chicago Transit: An Illustrated History* and *Chicago Maritime, An Illustrated History*, and he co-edited, along with Rita Frese, the recent anthology assembled for the Chicago Maritime Society titled *From Lumber Hookers to the Hooligan Fleet, A Treasury of Chicago Maritime History*, published in 2008. He shared with us various aspects of Chicago Maritime History, plus the challenges of editing this recent anthology. We thank David for joining us!

Photo by Cris Kohl

- March 27-29, 2009 (Fri.-Sun.) -- The annual New York City Scuba Show, "**Beneath The Sea**," at the Meadowlands, Secaucus, NJ. UASC members **Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg** will do three new presentations: "Deep Wrecks of the Great Lakes," "The Shipwrecked Whalebacks," and "Great Lakes Shipwrecks of the World Wars." See [www.beneaththesea.org](http://www.beneaththesea.org) for more show information.
- April 18-19, 2009 (Sat.-Sun.) -- The annual **GLHS/MAST Nautical Archaeology Workshop** (Basic Training), Vermilion, OH. See [www.inlandseas.org](http://www.inlandseas.org) or telephone 440-967-3467 ext. 6 for more information.
- April 25, 2009 (Sat.) -- The annual "**Mysteries and Histories Beneath the Inland Seas**" Show, 7-9:30 PM. Holland, MI. Sponsored by MSRA (Michigan Shipwrecks Research Associates). Presenters: **MSRA, Dave Trotter, Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg**. See [www.michiganshipwrecks.org](http://www.michiganshipwrecks.org) for more information.
- April 29, 2009 (Wed.) -- **UASC meeting**, 6:30 PM, Helix Building, Chicago.
- May 9, 2009 (Sat.) -- **Nat. Archives (Chicago) Spring Workshop**: "Using Court Records to Find Local and Family History." 10-11:30 AM. Cost: \$10. Call 773-949-9001 or email [chicago.archives@nara.gov](mailto:chicago.archives@nara.gov)
- May 27, 2009 (Wed.) -- **UASC meeting**, 6:30 PM, Helix Building, Chicago.
- June 7, 2009 (Sun.) -- tentative date for **George W. Morley** wreck shore dive and picnic, Evanston, IL.
- June 24, 2009 (Wed.) -- **UASC meeting**, 6:30 PM, Helix Building, Chicago.
- July 29, 2009 (Wed.) -- **UASC meeting**, 6:30 PM, Helix Building, Chicago.
- August 26, 2009 (Wed.) -- **UASC meeting**, 6:30 PM, Helix Building, Chicago.
- September 4-7, 2009 (Fri.-Mon.) -- Labor Day weekend. **UASC's Washington Island, WI, trip**, using members' accommodations & boats! Details to follow.
- Sept. 30, 2009 (Wed.) -- **UASC meeting**, 6:30 PM, Helix Building, Chicago.
- mid-October (Sat.) -- **ICSSD Presidents Night**.
- October 28, 2009 (Wed.) -- **UASC meeting**, 6:30 PM, Helix Building, Chicago.
- Nov. 18, 2009 (Wed.) -- **UASC meeting**, 6:30 PM, Helix Building, Chicago.
- December 5, 2009 (Sat.) -- tentative date: annual **LOUP/UASC Christmas Party**.



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#### 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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**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 ... **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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