

# UASC Wreck Checker

**News and Views of the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago**

P.O. Box 11752, Chicago, IL 60611 Telephone: (708) 636-5819 Fax: (708) 636-5847

Website: <http://www.chicagosite.org/uasc.htm>

Vol. 15, No. 1

Winter, 2004

## UASC Guest Speakers!

How do the following images of 1) the *Eastland*, 2) Chicago's 2nd Palmer House Hotel, and 3) the *U-505*, represent our **guest speakers** for March, May, and June, 2004? Turn to page 3 to find out! (CRIS KOHL COLLECTION)



March 31, 2004 meeting



May 26, 2004 meeting



June 30, 2004 meeting

## The 12th St. Wreck: Survey Work Begins!



Even the biting chill of strong winds off Lake Michigan on December 27, 2003, failed to keep UASC members, hungry for a shipwreck fix, from taking the first detailed look, photos, video and measurements of the unidentified wooden vessel embedded in the rocks and sand of Chicago's popular summer spot called 12th Street Beach just behind the Adler Planetarium in the Museum Campus. Sunny but very cold and deserted in winter, the site was experiencing its lowest water level in the past year, so it was an opportunity that could not be missed.

Unfortunately, about one-third of the ship, its stern end, lies under the concrete breakwall which was built a number of years ago. Most of the rest of the wreck is embedded. Only the top of the centerboard box and the very tops of some corroded frames and double hull planking of both the port and starboard sides remain visible at low water.

The length of the vessel, as far as could be measured beneath the concrete overhang which covers the stern third of the wreck, is about 75 feet, meaning that the overall length was in the neighborhood of 120 feet. This vessel was possibly scuttled here to help stop erosion of the small island upon which the Adler Planetarium was built in the 1920's.

Participants were **Roger Barsky, Chet Childs, Tom Fairbairn, Bob & Claire Gadbois, Jim Jarecki, Tony Kiefer, Cris Kohl and John Loftus. WELL DONE!**

*More information about this wreck is forthcoming.*

*Above: 12th Street Beach, site of an unidentified shipwreck, contrasts with Chicago's vertical skyline. Below: Jim Jarecki & Claire Gadbois measure the double hull's port side. (PHOTOS BY CRIS KOHL)*



### In This Issue:

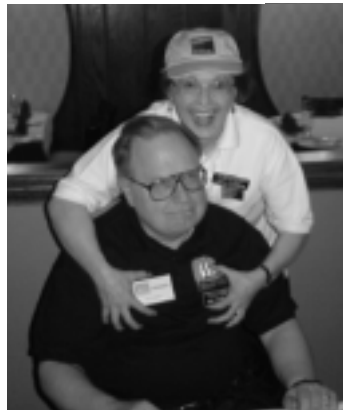
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### CPR Class Offered to UASC: 9-noon, Sat., March 20, 2004!

UASC member **Celeste Pearson** has generously volunteered to teach UASC members the certified CPR course because it is important for scuba diving safety as well as for general emergency situations, and has opened up her and **Keith's** home at 1015 South Madison in LaGrange, IL (tel. 708-579-0619) . If you have never taken the course, or if it's been a couple of years since you took it, sign up now! Cost is only \$10.00/person. Call (630) 293-4020. *See you there!*



(GREAT LAKES SHIPWRECK FESTIVAL PHOTO BY ROGER BROWN)



(GHOST SHIPS FESTIVAL PHOTOS BY KEITH PEARSON)



### UASC's Presence at Two Great Lakes Shows

Above: UASC members **Roger Brown, Chet Childs, Jim Jarecki** and **Scott Reimer** took our travelling display/booth to Farmington Hills, Michigan, for this year's **Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival** on Feb. 21st. Right: The 5th annual **Ghost Ships Festival** was held on March 6th at a new venue in Milwaukee, reportedly a vast improvement over its previous locations! Hundreds of people attended, including many UASC members. Those pictured: **Bob & Claire Gadbois, John Loftus** at the UASC display/booth, and, far right, a demented **Chet Childs** rolling in money (did he sell his video presentation on *The Straits of Mackinac*?)



Shedd Aquarium

### UASC Meetings Remaining in 2004!

Our meetings are held at the **John G. Shedd Aquarium** just off Lakeshore Drive on the scenic Chicago waterfront on the last Wednesday of every month (2nd last in November), beginning at 7 PM until 9 PM in one of the instruction rooms at the northwest entrance (the Education side door facing Monroe Harbor). Metered street parking is available (quarters only, 50¢ an hour). There is no meeting in the month of December. We are currently establishing unfinished, as well as new, survey work goals and shipwreck research for the year. **Join us! The public is welcome!**



Winter view of Chicago from the Shedd

(PHOTOS BY CRIS KOHL)

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- Great Lakes Wreck Diving

# Guest Speakers at Recent UASC Meetings



Accomplished amateur archaeologist **Karin Sinniger**, our guest speaker at the January, 2004, meeting. (PHOTO BY CRIS KOHL)

The first two meetings of 2004 began thunderously!

UASC's **Karin Sinniger**, a tech diver, freelance writer, world traveller, attorney and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of London, told us about several exciting topics, including her recent work with Australian archaeologist Jeremy Green.

**Dr. Ulrich Danckers**, retired radiologist living in Chicago since 1962 and a longtime collector of Chicago history, talked about our city's early maritime history, the first settlers and the first vessels. A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to both presenters for taking the time and effort to speak to our audience!



Guest speaker and co-author of *Early Chicago*, **Ulrich Danckers**, center, with UASC President **Cris Kohl**, left, and Past President **Jim Jarecki** in Feb. (PHOTO BY ROGER BROWN)



## Upcoming UASC Guest Speakers!



### Coming to the March 31, 2004, Meeting

The *Eastland* disaster, with over 800 people lost, is the worst in Great Lakes Maritime History. Guest speaker **Dave Nelson**, long-time *Eastland* researcher and archives collector, seen with wreck survivor Libby Hruby in 2003, will tell us about that 1915 disaster. (PHOTO ON RIGHT BY CRIS KOHL)



### Our Guest Speaker at the May 26, 2004, Meeting

**Scott Demel**, Field Museum archaeologist, will tell about discoveries made during recent museum parking lot digging (similar to our Palmer House shards on "Val's Wreck," left), and maybe info on the 12th St. Wreck. (PHOTO BY CRIS KOHL)



### Speaking at the June 30, 2004, UASC Meeting

**Keith Gill**, curator of the WWII German *U-505* submarine at Chicago's Museum of Sci & Ind, will share the sub's history & future. (PHOTOS BY CRIS KOHL)

## UASC Thumbnail Information

**Don Doherty** and **Pete Chval** made a presentation on Jan. 17th, 2004, in Lake Bluff at the Great Lakes Yacht Club on "Chicago Shipwrecks." *Great job!*

A big "**THANKS**" to **Tony Kiefer** for having a New Year's Eve Party disguised as a UASC Executive Board meeting at his place on Friday, January 2nd, 2004.

UASC member **Larry Boucha** is recovering well from some serious neck/backbone surgery recently. *Get well soon! See you in the water, Larry!*

### Christmas with the Bolsheviks



Left: Joining the combined LOUP/UASC/Skyline group for a Christmas meal and party at Chicago's Burnham Harbor Yacht Club on Dec. 5, 2003, were visiting Russian underwater archaeologists **Jim Jarekovski**, **Scott Reimerski**, **Keith "Vladimir" Pearsonovich** and **Cris Kohlotov**. (PHOTO BY JOAN FORSBERG)

### UASC in 2nd Chicago Maritime Festival

On Feb. 28th, 2004, the 2nd annual Chicago Maritime Festival wowed visitors to the Chicago Historical Society building. UASC members **John & Ruth Loftus** (right), **Joan Forsberg**, **Dan Kasberger** and **Bob Gadbois** (below, *Bob shooting video*) helped out. **Chet Childs**



worked AV; **Joan Forsberg**, **Jim Jarecki**, **Dan Kasberger**, **Tom & Chris Kastle**, **Tony Kiefer** and **Cris Kohl** presented. **THANKS** to ALL!



(PHOTOS BY CRIS KOHL)

# Calendar of Events



Compiled on March 12, 2004.

**Dates for several 2005 Events and Shows have already been established and are listed below. Please avoid booking your event on days already scheduled with another event (some weekends fill up fast!)**

March 19-21, 2004 (Fri.-Sun.) -- "ScubaFest 2004," the annual show of the Ohio Skin & Scuba Diving Council. Wyndham Dublin Hotel, 600 Metro Place N., Dublin (suburban Columbus), Ohio. Sat. night Banquet Speakers: authors/videographers Jim & Pat Stayer. See [www.scubafest.org](http://www.scubafest.org)

March 26-28, 2004 (Fri.-Sun.) -- The 28th annual "Beneath The Sea" New York City Show, Secaucus, NJ. Exhibits, workshops, presentations, film festival. Presenters include Bret Gilliam, Dick Anderson, Jonathan Bird, Leonardo Blanco, Robert Marx, Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg, Dennis Gagnon, Jim & Pat Stayer, Peter Venoutsos, Rick Allen, Bernie Chowdhury, Tom Mount, Kevin Murray, Capt. Dan Crowell,....See [www.beneaththesea.org](http://www.beneaththesea.org)

March 27, 2004 (Sat.) -- The 10th annual "Shipwrecks" Show by the Niagara Divers' Assoc., at Welland, Ontario, Canada. Presenters include Joyce Hayward doing "The *Cornelia B. Windiate* Project," Dave Trotter with "The Steamship *Frank H. Goodyear*," Frank Mays (*Carl D. Bradley* survivor) with "If We Make It 'Til Daylight," & others. See [www.vaxxine.com/nda](http://www.vaxxine.com/nda)

April 11, 2004 (Sun.) -- Easter Sunday.

April 23-25, 2004 (Fri.-Sun.) -- The 34th annual "Our World--Underwater," the annual Chicago Scuba Show. Donald E. Stephens Convention Center. Exhibits, presentations, workshops, film festivals. Emcee: Ralph White. UASC presenters: Nancy Boucha, Chet Childs, Joan Forsberg, Bob Gadbois, Jim Jarecki & Cris Kohl. **If you live anywhere at all near Chicago, DON'T MISS THIS SHOW!** See [www.ourworldunderwater.com](http://www.ourworldunderwater.com) for information.

May 14-16, 2004 (Fri.- Sun.) -- The annual "Ocean-Festival 2004," the Dive & Adventure Sports Expo in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. See [www.oceanfest.com](http://www.oceanfest.com)

May 22-23, 2004 (Sat.-Sun.) -- The 17th annual "Scuba Show 2004," Long Beach, California. See [www.saintbrendan.com](http://www.saintbrendan.com) for more information.

May 31, 2004 (Mon.) -- Memorial Day.

June 5, 2004 (Sat.) -- **Marine Flea Market**, at the Port Huron (Michigan) Seaway Terminal. 9 AM to 2 PM. Artifacts, pictures, books, postcards, art-work.... For info, call T.J. Gaffney at 810-982-0891, ext. 16.

June 5-6, 2004 (Sat.-Sun.) -- The 36th annual "Seaspace" Show, Houston, Texas. Featured: Howard & Michelle Hall. See [www.seaspace.org](http://www.seaspace.org) for info.

July 4, 2004 (Sun.) -- Independence Day.

September 6, 2004 (Mon.) -- Labor Day.

September 17-18, 2004 (Fri.-Sat.) (tentative) -- The Annual Meeting of the **Association For Great Lakes Maritime History**, held this year at Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Business meeting is on the Friday, with the speakers program on the Saturday. Contact Bob O'Donnell at 920-469-3460 or email: [odonnell521@aol.com](mailto:odonnell521@aol.com) for info.

October 13-16, 2004 (Wed.-Sat.) -- Annual scuba industry **DEMA Show** (Diving Equipment and Marketing Assoc.), in Houston, Texas, in 2004. Show attendance, Miami, October, 2003: 15,037.

TENTATIVE (a fall date) -- The annual **Shipwreck Show at the Shedd (Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago)**. Presentations about Lake Michigan shipwrecks. **If you live anywhere at all near Chicago, DON'T MISS THIS SHOW!** For further info, see the UASC website at <http://www.chicagosite.org/uasc.htm> or call (312) 692-3333.

November 6, 2004 (Sat.) -- The 17th annual "Gales of November" Show, Duluth, Minnesota. Presentations, booths and displays. Call 218-727-2497.

November 13, 2004 (Sat.) -- The 21st annual "Shipwrecks and Scuba" Show, Holiday Inn, Sandusky, Ohio. Presentations, seminars, booths and exhibits. Separate and different afternoon and evening shows (evening's includes dinner). Call 419-483-3074 for further information.

November 20, 2004 (Sat.) (tentative date) -- The 9th annual "Shipwrecks Remembered" Show at Port Huron, Michigan. Presentations, booths and displays. For more information, call 810-359-8660.

Nov. 25, 2004 (Thurs.) -- Thanksgiving Day.

February 26, 2005 (Sat.) -- The third annual "Chicago Maritime Festival" at the Chicago Historical Society, Clark Street at North Avenue, Chicago, IL. Presentations & exhibits, 10 AM - 5 PM. Evening maritime music concert, various performers. **If you live anywhere at all near Chicago, DON'T MISS THIS SHOW!** Added participants in the show this year will include singer Lee Murdock, the Shedd Aquarium, Dennis Sullivan Schooner and others.

March 5-6, 2005 (Sat.-Sun.) -- The 51st annual "Boston Sea Rovers Underwater Clinic," Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA. The longest continuously running Dive Show in the world. Visit [www.bostonsearovers.com](http://www.bostonsearovers.com)

April 22-24, 2005 (Fri.-Sun.) -- The 35th annual "Our World--Underwater," the annual Chicago Scuba Show. Donald E. Stephens Convention Center. **If you live anywhere at all near Chicago, DON'T MISS THIS SHOW!**

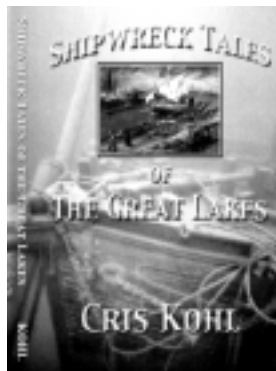
For Great Lakes Singers/Songwriters (and UASC members) **Tom & Chris Kastle's** concert schedule, go to <http://www.kastles.net/>

For Great Lakes Singer/Songwriter (and UASC member) **Lee Murdock's** concert schedule, go to <http://www.leemurdock.com>

**Information on upcoming shipwreck/maritime/scuba events should be sent as soon in advance as possible to: Cris Kohl, UASC Newsletter Editor, 10 High Lake Ave., West Chicago, IL 60185, U.S.A., telephone 630-293-4020, or email: [criskohl@aol.com](mailto:criskohl@aol.com)**



**New books from UASC members Joan Forsberg and Cris Kohl:**



**"Diver's Guide to the Kitchen" (available now) and "Shipwreck Tales of the Great Lakes" (available soon!)**



Enjoy these other excellent books, too, available in select scuba dive shops and book stores, or directly from the publisher:



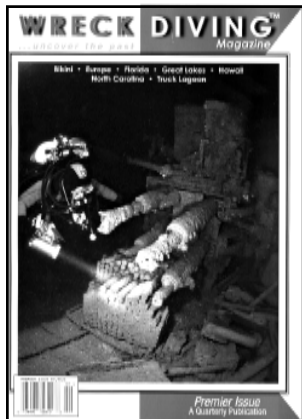
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# POTPOURRI

## New Scuba Magazine: Wreck Diving!



Starting any new business is difficult nowadays, but **Joe Porter** has had fantastic response to the premier issue of his new quarterly publication called *Wreck Diving Magazine*. This first issue features stories about "Diving Bikini's Nuclear Fleet," Truk Lagoon, and "German U-Boat Attacks off Florida Coast," as well as contributions from two UASC members: **Joan Forsberg** wrote about a Hawaiian shipwreck in "The Wreck of the Naked Lady" and **Cris Kohl** contributed

an abridged chapter (from his upcoming book) called "The Dead Captain's Secrets" about the Great Lakes wreck of the *George A. Marsh*. For more information about this new magazine (a 1-year, 4-issue subscription is \$24.95), visit [www.WreckDivingMag.com](http://www.WreckDivingMag.com)

## Charles Darwin's *Beagle* Reported Located

*From a London (England) Associated Press news report:*

British maritime historians announced on Thursday, February 26, 2004, that they may have located the *Beagle*, the ship which took Charles Darwin on the voyages of discovery and where he began formulating his theory of natural selection.

Using radar technology, historians found what they believe is the 90-foot-long *Beagle*, 18 feet beneath the mud of marshes in Essex county, east of London, England.

"We can see the outline of a dock for the ship and can make out wood and metal, which is highly suggestive that there is indeed something substantial down there, most probably the bottom of the *Beagle*," said Robert Prescott, leader of a team from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, which has spent four years investigating the site.

## UASC President Inducted into Boston Sea Rovers

**Cris Kohl**, UASC President and author of nine books on Great Lakes maritime history, was inducted into the prestigious **Boston Sea Rovers** organization on Friday, March 5, 2004 in Boston at that group's 50th annual Scuba Show. Membership into this group of 111 people, which includes Robert Ballard, Stan Waterman, Bret Gilliam, Emory Kristoff and Brian Skerry (all presenters at this year's show) cannot be bought.



Boston Sea Rovers President Dave Morton, *left*, welcomes Cris Kohl to the organization. (PHOTO BY JOAN FORSBERG)

The program booklet of the Boston Sea Rovers' 50th annual Scuba Show (the longest continuously running dive show in the world), describes Cris as "our mid-west connection." Cris hopes that this important UASC/Great Lakes connection to a very significant East Coast organization will build a bridge providing a mutual understanding of and respect for the types of diving and shipwreck management in these different geographical areas. Simultaneously, Cris will continue to work hard promoting Great Lakes shipwreck diving and conservation.

Cris and his wife, UASC member **Joan Forsberg**, premiered their newest presentation in Boston to a very receptive, standing-room-only audience: "Shipwreck Tales of the Great Lakes," based upon Cris' upcoming book about murder and mystery, the exciting and the unusual.

## Barkhausen Award Deadline Draws Near!

The 5th annual Henry N. Barkhausen Award for Original Research in Great Lakes Maritime History offers a prize of \$500. Deadline is May 1, 2004. Entry guidelines can be found at [www.aglmh.org/barkawd.html](http://www.aglmh.org/barkawd.html)

## UASC Divers Have Signed Up!

Several UASC members signed up at the February meeting to help do survey work on specific shipwrecks this spring/summer. If you haven't signed up yet, you can do so at the March 31st meeting. We will also need volunteers to research certain shipwrecks. *See you at this meeting!*

## UASC's Chet Childs Spoke & Will Speak Again!

UASC Past President **Chet Childs** did a guest presentation on "Video Editing" at his office for LOUP (the League of Underwater Photographers here in Chicago) on Friday evening, March 12th, 2004. *Super work!* Chet has also been busy re-editing his video presentation on *The Straits of Mackinac*, the largest ship ever scuttled in the Great Lakes for the purpose of creating a scuba dive site, and it lies off Chicago! Chet has been in contact with **Todd Maurina** of Wisconsin's Neptune's Nimbuds dive club, the group which initially acquired *The Straits of Mackinac* and made extensive headway in the ship's interior clean-up preparatory to sinking it off Wisconsin before Fate yanked that old vessel from their grasp and they offered it to Chicago. Chet will be presenting his finished video on *The Straits of Mackinac* at Chicago's "Our World--Underwater" on the weekend of April 23-25, 2004. *Don't miss it!*

34th Annual  
**OUR WORLD UNDERWATER**  
APRIL 23-25, 2004

Donald E. Stephens Convention Center  
5555 N. River Road ★ Rosemont, IL ★ (847) 696-2208  
and Hyatt Regency-O'Hare  
9300 Bryn Mawr Avenue ★ Rosemont, IL ★ (847) 696-1234

**THE WEEKEND AT A GLANCE:**

**Friday - April 23, 2004**  
In-Depth Seminars 8AM - 5PM  
Exhibition Hall 6PM - 10PM  
Film Festival 8PM - 9PM

**Saturday - April 24, 2004**  
In-Depth Seminars 8AM - 5PM  
Exhibition Hall 9AM - 5PM  
Mini Seminars 9AM - 4PM  
**FREE** Kid's Film Festival (Parents are welcome) 1PM - 2PM  
Film Festival 8PM - 10PM

**Sunday - April 25, 2004**  
In-Depth Seminars 9AM - 5PM  
Exhibition Hall 9AM - 4PM  
Mini Seminars 9AM - 4PM

*Check for updated information at our web site: [www.ourworldunderwater.com](http://www.ourworldunderwater.com)*

*Mark your calendars now for next year's show: April 22-24, 2005*

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[ ] 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 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 UASC exhibits annual shipwreck show membership recruiting public relations other: \_\_\_\_\_

UASC Wreck Checker

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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

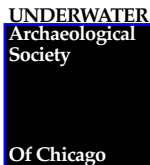
studying the effects of natural and biological forces as well as the impact of human activity on shipwrecks. It advocates responsible use of submerged cultural resources.

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.



Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago, P.O. Box 11752, Chicago, IL 60611