

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

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

Vol. 13, No. 1

Winter, 2002

**Shipwreck Show Planned for Shedd: April 7, 2002**

Ticket sales will commence on Friday, March 1, 2002, for the UASC's annual presentations highlighting the results of the past dive season's discoveries, research and surveys. Several multi-media presentations will be offered to the public.

The main presentation will relate the stories of **World War II U.S. Navy airplanes** which practiced aircraft landings onto ships on Lake Michigan. Find out how many of these planes came to rest on the lake bottom. Listen to WW II pilots and other veterans tell their tales of training missions on Chicago's lake. See the discovery of storied fighter planes after they remained lost for 60 years.

Other presentations include:

**Bob Gadbois** will present the story of the much-sought and recently-found Lake Michigan shipwreck, *Chicora*, which went missing with all hands during a winter storm in January, 1895.

**Tony Kiefer** has a compelling tale to tell about a 1909 tragedy aboard an early City of Chicago **water intake crib**.

**John Loftus** will show the results of his underwater survey of the bulk steamer, *George F. Williams*, built in 1889 at West Bay City, Michigan, and abandoned off Hammond, Indiana, in 1913.

And popular performer **Lee Murdock**, through his songs, will tell the tale of many a lost Great Lakes sailor.

Bring the entire family and enjoy an afternoon or evening of underwater discovery that takes place right in your own front yard. We have stories spanning Chicago's history with tales of bravery, hardship and daring.

This program is for both underwater enthusiasts and those who just love to see what is at the bottom of Lake Michigan!

**TIME:** Choose between the 3:00 to 5:00 PM presentation and the 6:00 to 8:00 PM repeat performance.

**DATE:** Sunday, April 7, 2002

**PLACE:** Phelps Auditorium, John G. Shedd Aquarium  
1200 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois

**COST:** \$15.00 each. The Shedd Reservation Department can be reached at (312) 692-3333 (give the name of the show, the date, and your choice of which presentation time). **SEE YOU THERE!**

**Support the UASC and its activities while deriving benefit for your own business. Become a Wreck Checker newsletter advertiser! Contact Cris Kohl, Newsletter Editor, at (630) 293-4020**

**UASC 2002 Meeting Schedule**

Meetings take place the last Wednesday of every month (unless listed otherwise below). Meetings begin at 6:45 p.m. at the Shedd Aquarium. Enter through the side door, located on the north side of the building, facing Monroe Harbor. There is no meeting in December.

**February 27**

**March 27**

**April 24**

**May 29**

**June 26**

**July 31**

**August 28**

**September 25**

**October 30**

**November 27**

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(PHOTO BY JIM JARECKI)

## TWO Meetings: TWO Renowned Guest Speakers !

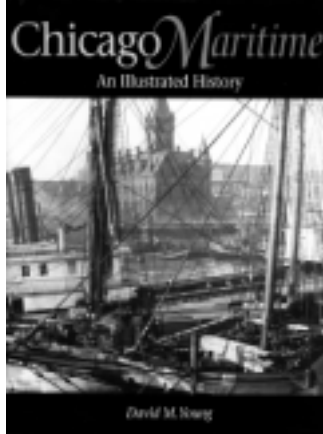
We were extremely fortunate at our last two UASC meetings to have as very informative guest speakers two well-known, published historians from the Chicago area.

At our final meeting of 2001 on November 28th, **Dr. Theodore Karamanski**, an associate professor of History at Loyola University--Chicago, talked about various aspects of Chicago's maritime history, particularly the beginnings of the famous "Christmas Tree Ship" custom at this port. He also signed copies of his most recent books, *Schooner Passage, Sailing Ships and the Lake Michigan Frontier* (2000) and *Maritime Chicago* (2000), which he co-authored with Deane Tank Sr. as part of Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" series of books.

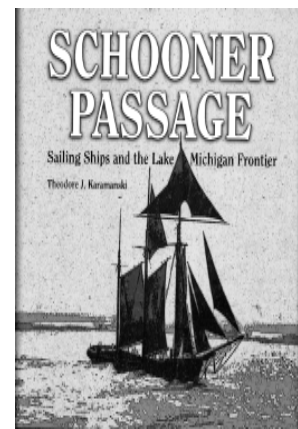
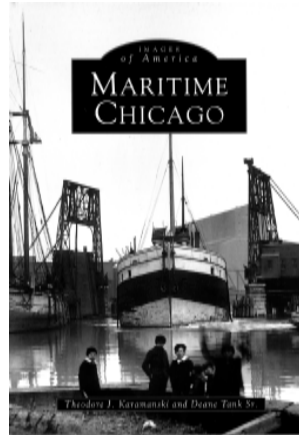
**David M. Young** is the former Transportation Editor of the *Chicago Tribune*, (an earlier book he wrote is *Chicago Transit: An Illustrated History*) and on the blustery evening of January 30, 2002, for our first meeting of the new year, he talked about certain components of his recent book, *Chicago Maritime, An Illustrated History* (2001).

He informed us of the reasons that Chicago became, in the mid-1800's, became one of the busiest ports in the world, attracting thousands of schooners, barks, sloops, and paddlewheel ships. He also spoke a bit about shipwrecks and the nebulous number of them that lie off Chicago.

We again thank both of these knowledgeable gentlemen for sharing their research and conclusions with us.



Above: "There's something fishy going on here," observed our guest speaker, **David Young** (right) at the January, 2002, UASC meeting, where he spoke about his recently-published book, *Chicago Maritime, An Illustrated History*. UASC Secretary, **Cris Kohl** (left) appears to be trying to give away one of the Shedd Aquarium's rarer specimens in gratitude for David's talk.



## UASC Wreck Checker

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## Calendar of Events

Feb. 7-9, 2002 (Fri.-Sun.)--"Aqua Fest 2002" Cleveland, OH. The 43rd annual banquet, Ohio Council of Skin & Scuba Divers, Radisson Hotel & Conference Center. Presenters: Stan Waterman, Jim & Pat Stayer, Cris Kohl,.... See [www.aquaamigos.com](http://www.aquaamigos.com) or call (440) 585-5150.

Feb. 16, 2002 (Sat.)--The 24th "Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival" in the past 25 years, conducted by the Ford Seahorses Scuba Diving Club, at Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, Dearborn, MI. Presenters: Bernie Chowdhury, David Trotter, Lee Murdock, and others. See [www.fordseahorses.org](http://www.fordseahorses.org). **UASC will have a booth there. Volunteers are needed!**

Feb. 23, 2002 (Sat.)--**Medic First Aid class**, U. of IL at Chicago, IEEI Rm. 106, 1855 W. Taylor St., Chicago, IL 60612. PADI course + book = \$75? Contact: Chet Childs, (847) 507-2912 cell.

Feb. 27, 2002 (Wed.)--UASC regular monthly meeting, Shedd Aquarium, North Education entrance, 6:45 PM. Scheduled speaker: DAN (Divers Alert Network) Instructor Trainer **Kimberly Walker**, who is also a CPR Instructor Trainer and NAUI Course Director.

March 2, 2002 (Sat.)--The 3rd annual "Dive Into The Past" show at Minneapolis, MN, 11 AM to 6 PM, sponsored by the Great Lakes Shipwreck Preservation Society. Booths and speakers. See [www.glsps.org](http://www.glsps.org) or call (763) 785-9516.

March 2 to September 2, 2002--"TITANIC, The Exhibition" at the Great Lakes Science Center, 601 Erieside Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114. Several hundred recovered artifacts from the world's most famous shipwreck, including 50 never before exhibited. Call (216) 694-2000 for further information. UASC member Cris Kohl will be doing a presentation there at 2PM, Sat., April 13, 2002.

March 6, 2002 (Tues.)--Sea Ducers Scuba Club meeting, Marquette Park Field house, 67th & Kedzie, Chicago, IL, 7 PM. Scheduled speaker: **Dr. Mike Jessup**, Marine Biologist. Contact Dennis N., Recording Secretary, at [djn1217@core.com](mailto:djn1217@core.com).

March 9, 2002 (Sat.)--The 6th annual "Great Lakes Underwater" Show, 8:30-4:30, 106 Lanigan Hall, SUNY, Oswego, NY. Register by March 1, 2002. Displays and presenters. Call (315) 343-7990 or visit [www.dreamscape.com/pchurch/scuba/glu](http://www.dreamscape.com/pchurch/scuba/glu).

March 16, 2002 (Sat.)--The 3rd annual "Ghost Ships Festival," Milwaukee, WI, 10 AM to 9 PM, Clarion Hotel & Conference Center. Films, exhibits, workshops and seminars devoted to Great Lakes shipwrecks and maritime history. See [www.ghost-ships.org](http://www.ghost-ships.org). **UASC will have a booth there. Volunteers are needed!**

March 23 & 24, 2002 (Sat. & Sun.)--DAN Oxygen Provider course. Instructor: **Jim Gentile** at (708) 703-1008 cell. U of IL at Chicago, IEEI Rm. 106, 1855 W. Taylor St., Chicago, IL. 8 AM. Contact: Chet Childs: (847) 507-2919 cell.

April 7, 2002 (Sun.)--Annual **UASC Shedd Show**. John G. Shedd Aquarium, Phelps Auditorium, 1200 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL. Two shows (repeat performances): 3 and 6 PM. Tickets \$15.00 each. Call (312) 692-3333 (give name of show, date, and showtime choice). NOTE: Ticket does NOT include admission to the Oceanarium Exhibit.

April 26-28, 2002 (Fri.-Sun.)--The 32nd annual "Our World--Underwater" Show at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont (Chicago), IL. Exhibits, seminars, workshops, film festivals. See [www.ourworldunderwater.com](http://www.ourworldunderwater.com). **UASC will have a booth there. Volunteers are needed!**

July 6-7 (Sat. and Sun.)--**Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum**, Whitefish Point, Michigan. Tom & Chris Kastle and Cris Kohl.

November 2, 2002 (Sat.)--The 7th annual "Shipwrecks Remembered" Show, McMorran Auditorium, Port Huron, MI. NEW: A full afternoon of presentations/workshops, as well as evening presentations and exhibits. Call (810) 359-8660 for further information.

(PHOTO BY CRIS KOHL)



UASC's outgoing (2001) President, **Tony Kiefer** (left) received a plaque at our January, 2002, general meeting from incoming (2002) President **Don Doherty** (right). The plaque reads, "Presented to Tony Kiefer, In Grateful Recognition for the Leadership and Achievements as President, 2001, Underwater Archeological Society of Chicago." **CONGRATULATIONS, Tony!** And **THANK YOU** for your contributions to UASC last year and your continuing active involvement this year.

**Don Doherty** is no stranger to hard work for UASC. He has been active with the organization for ten years, mainly in the production of the organization's newsletter. **WELCOME, DON**, as UASC President for 2002!

As many of us in UASC are well aware, Tony has been fanatical in his attempt to positively identify the remains in shallow water of a decommissioned Navy subchaser one mile north of the Zion (Illinois) Power Plant. No one is more aware of Tony's quest than Past President and present UASC Archivist **Jim Jarecki**. After UASC's January meeting, when half the attendees socialized at Ricobene's Restaurant, thoughtful Jim gave Tony a surprise gift: an 18-inch-long, assemble-it-yourself model of the "SC96" motorized sub-chaser, complete with remote control and fingertip command.

"I don't know how he [Jim] could have known that I would probably like this!" beamed a surprised Tony, who definitely plans to spend some time this winter assembling the lookalike model of his life's pursuit.

"I'm not President [of UASC] any more, so now I have time to play!" claimed Tony.

Those UASC-produced plastic slates that have shipwreck site drawings on them and can be taken with the diver underwater to aid in exploring the site are still available from local dive shops or from UASC.

There is also the possibility that UASC will reprint its previously published detailed, individual reports on the wrecks of the *David Dows*, *Wells Burt*, *Goshawk*, and *Lady Elgin*.

## Historic Chicago Fire Tug For Sale



(PHOTO: LAKE SUPERIOR MARITIME COLLECTION, UW-SUPERIOR)

Launched as the *Illinois* in 1898 after being constructed by the Chicago Ship building Company, this fire tug measured 107' in length, 24' in beam, and 13' in draft. The City of Chicago Fire Department owned and operated her until 1941 when she was sold to John J. Roen of Sturgeon Bay, WI, converted to a dieselized towing tug and renamed the *John Roen III*. The tug was shuffled among a number of owners in Wisconsin until Selvick Marine Towing Corporation of Sturgeon Bay, WI, purchased her in 1972 and, in 1974, renamed her the John M. Selvick. A self-contained bubbler system was installed in the summer of 1982 for icebreaking.

It would be a shame to let this beautiful boat be cut down or rot in abandonment when she would make such an excellent showpiece for a City of Chicago waterfront maritime museum.

## Great Lakes A Key To Terror Watch

(NOTE: This newspaper article appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*, page 8, on Tuesday, January 29, 2002. It was written by Michael Kilian of the *Tribune's* Washington Bureau).

WASHINGTON --- A major front in the war on terrorism runs right along Chicago's Lake Shore Drive.

The Great Lakes are what Rear Adm. James Hull, commander of the region's 9th Coast Guard District, likes to call the "North Coast," incorporating 1,000 miles of international boundary and more than 6,500 miles of shoreline---all connected with the Atlantic Ocean and the world beyond through the St. Lawrence Seaway.

"My jurisdiction [north to south] runs from the Boundary Waters near Duluth [Minn.] all the way down the Illinois River," Hull said. Since Sept. 11 "we've concentrated in four specific areas: The St. Lawrence Seaway System with all its locks and dams and bridges; the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair; the Soo Locks [at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.] and all its approaches; and Chicago."

There were about 50 ships on the Great Lakes at the time of the attacks. Hull's Coast Guard crews stopped, boarded and searched all of them within two days.

Security was rushed to major transportation choke points.

"Between 50 and 70 percent of our trade with Canada comes through two tunnels and over seven bridges," Hull said. "A couple of GM plants couldn't operate because they didn't have parts that were coming over the rivers and lakes at Niagara and Detroit."

Another concern was drinking water. "This is the world's

largest fresh water body," Hull said. "Thirty-two million people drink it."

In Chicago, areas around Lake Michigan water intake cribs were declared "no go" security zones and the Coast Guard began 24-hour patrols of the water filtration plants.

"When 9/11 happened we moved our assets at Washington Island [in Door County, Wis.] down to Chicago," Hull said. "We called up about 400 reserves and brought down a couple of other boats to patrol the Chicago River in concert with the police marine unit. We also brought a helicopter in from Traverse City [Mich.]."

Patrols are no longer maintained 24 hours a day, but the territory is covered periodically. Boaters who violate the security zones face possible \$10,000 fines and up to 10 years in prison.

Before the attacks, the service had stations only at Wilmette and Calumet Harbors.

Because of the terrorism threat, the Coast Guard and the governments of Illinois and Chicago have agreed to reopen the old station at the mouth of the Chicago River as a joint law-enforcement facility operated by the Coast Guard, the city police marine unit and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Hull said.

The admiral is worried about the next boating season.

"There's Venetian Night and fireworks every Saturday night and the Air and Water Show," he said. "Millions of people will be there next summer."

## Two Underwater Explorers, One Local, One International, Die

**Richard T. Race**, owner of Hydrographic Survey Company, Chicago, and Captain of the R/V *Neptune*, passed away after a long illness on February 4, 2002.

Dick Race, a colleague of early Great Lakes shipwreck hunters John Steele, Gene Turner and others, was known for the many Lake Michigan wrecks he located since about 1960. Because of his work, sport scuba divers in the Chicago area have many identified wrecks to explore.

Also, on the Italian island of Elba, **Jacques Mayol**, 74, the French diving legend who inspired the 1988 film "The Big Blue," was found dead by suicide in his villa on December 23, 2001.

Mayol was known as the "dolphin man" for his feats in breath-hold diving. He was the first free diver to plunge below 330 feet, in 1976, and quit in 1983 after setting a free-diving record of 345 feet at the age of 56.

# UASC Members in "Take Charge" Mode



(PHOTO BY CRIS KOHL)

Joan Forsberg, left, delights at the thought of guiding the U.S. Coast Guard ice-breaker, *Mackinac*, through Great Lakes waters. She and Cris Kohl were among the many people who took the opportunity to tour the ship during her Christmas Tree delivery project to Chicago just before Christmas.

Keith Pearson, right, a licenced Chicago boat captain in his own right, visualizes what it would be like controlling the Columbia Yacht Club ship *Abegweit*, a former Canadian ferry boat operating between Prince Edward Island and mainland Canada, at the combined League of Underwater Photographers (LOUP) and UASC Christmas Banquet on December 14, 2001.



(PHOTO BY CRIS KOHL)

## POTPOURRI

(That means "all jumbled up")

UASC was active recently making presentations to local groups: on January 24, 2002, at the North Park Nature Center, and on January 31, 2001, at Naperville (IL) High School. THANKS go to **Bob and Clair Gadbois** for their active involvement there.

Volunteers (among them **Jim Jarecki** and **Chet Childs**) helped out at the Chicago Maritime Society booth at Navy Pier for the "Strictly Sail" Show from Jan. 31 to Feb. 3, 2002.

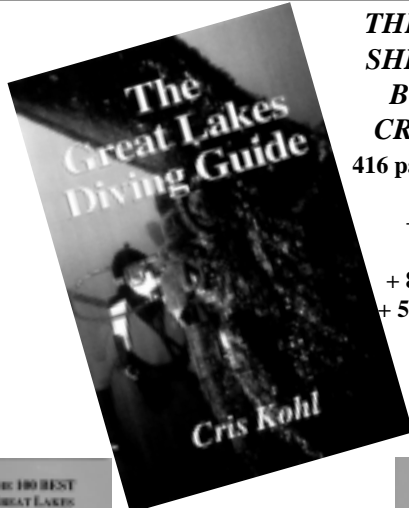
Please let me know who the other UASC members were who helped out in any of these activities.

\* \* \* \* \*

The **zebra mussel invasion** of the Great Lakes region is still alive and well, but the tide is turning somewhat on the little ocean critters which first arrived here in the late 1980's.

An Associated Press report in the [Dupage County, IL] *Daily Herald* on October 25, 2001, reported that zebra mussels in the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers were dying, possibly due to high water temperature and sediment, according to scientists.


The [Cleveland, OH] *Plain Dealer* of Friday, February 8, 2002, reported that an all-but-extinct little Great Lakes fish, last seen schooling in 1953, the **silver chub**, is reappearing in abundant numbers off Ohio, and they seem to have an unquenchable appetite for zebra mussels! The chubs, extremely sensitive to pollution, also suggest that Lake Erie is cleaning up. So far, eating zebra mussels has been detrimental to all Great Lakes fish except the **sheepshead** and the **silver chub**.




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

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Renew Your UASC Dues Today.**



**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

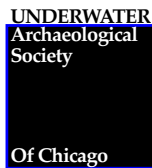
studying the effects of natural and biological forces as well as the impact of human activity on shipwrecks. It advocates responsible use of submerged cultural resources.

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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of Chicago,  
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