

News and Views of the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago

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

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Fall, 2002

Underwater Survey Work off Chicago in 2002



Members of the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago were busy during the summer months, particularly in June and July when the water visibility in southern Lake Michigan was the best it has been in years, being mostly between 40' and 60'. This series of photos shows the main projects which UASC worked on this year. From left to right: Dive Coordinator **Scott Reimer** organizes underwater survey equipment while **Dan Kasberger** and **Don Doherty** head the boat out to a shipwreck site; **Scott Reimer** examines one of the numerous underwater clay mounds, some rising six feet above the lake floor off Chicago, making finding shipwrecks tricky; **John Loftus** measures the fallen rudder of the scuttled steamer, *Rotarian*, in 80' of water eight miles off Chicago (the *Rotarian*, originally built as the *A. Wehrle, Jr.* in 1889 at Sandusky, Ohio, was scuttled in Lake Michigan on Sept. 28, 1931); Past UASC President **Tony Kiefer** carefully measures the four-bladed propeller, the most conspicuous nautical object on the site, of the unidentified vessel, a wooden 130'-long wooden tug apparently scuttled with a load of 1930's garbage in about 68' of water nicknamed "*Val's Wreck*" (that romantic devil **Keith Pearson** reportedly gave the GPS coordinates of this wreck to past UASC President **Valerie Olson Van Heest** for her birthday, hence the nickname); many items such as teapots, cups, plates and thousands of shards (many of German descent from the old Palmer House Hotel), as well as a porcelain sink, make this a fascinating site. To take part in 2003's underwater survey work, contact **Scott Reimer!** (FIRST 4 PHOTOS BY CRIS KOHL, LAST 2 BY BOB GADBOIS.)

CHANGE OF DATE of November Meeting!

The November meeting of UASC will take place on Wednesday, November 20, 2002, so as not to conflict with Thanksgiving Day plans. There is no meeting in December.

Porthole for a Future Shipwreck Saved!



UASC member **Keith Pearson** shocked everyone into stunned silence at the annual "President's Night" Banquet of the Illinois Council of Skin & Scuba Divers on Oct. 19, 2002, by buying at auction for \$100.00 a porthole from the soon-to-be-scuttled-as-a-divesite ex-ferry *Straits of Mackinac*, making it very clear that his intent is to lock the porthole back ONTO the ship AFTER it becomes Chicago's newest

shipwreck site! The bidding stopped cold-turkey as soon as Keith made that statement and his bid, and the artifact is his--until the *Straits of Mackinac* goes to the bottom. THANK YOU, Keith, for saving a part of this historic vessel for diving. (PHOTO BY CRIS KOHL.)

All the portholes are being auctioned off to raise needed funds for this ship's scuttling (see p. 2). *The Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago* recently contributed \$750.00 to this project.

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

In This Issue:

- Underwater Survey Work, Keith's Porthole Page 1
- Preparing the *Straits of Mackinac* for Sinking .. Page 2
- Calendar of Upcoming Maritime Events Page 3
- Jeff Gray and Robert Ballard in Lake Huron Page 4
- Potpourri Page 5
- Membership Information Page 6

This AP article was reprinted from the Chicago Tribune, Sunday, Nov. 3, 2002.



The Straits of Mackinac ferry, made obsolete by a bridge between Michigan's two peninsulas, is to be sunk in Lake Michigan.

The ferry, built in 1911, was used to transport cars and passengers across the 20-mile-long strait between the two Michigan peninsulas. The ferry was built by Mackinac Island Ferry Co. and was used to transport cars and passengers across the 20-mile-long strait between the two Michigan peninsulas. The ferry was built by Mackinac Island Ferry Co. and was used to transport cars and passengers across the 20-mile-long strait between the two Michigan peninsulas.

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Burial at sea for old ferry

Group of divers to sink vessel off Navy Pier

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Much Work, Red Tape, involved in Sinking a Ship



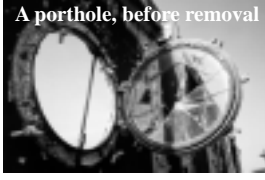
Organizers welcome EPA inspectors, August 1, 2002



Below deck in one of the crews' cabins.



Bow windlass and view of deck towards stern



A porthole, before removal

The Straits of Mackinac, docked these past few months at the Cargill wharf on the Calumet River, has seen much action, physical and legal. Several individuals and scuba clubs' members have prepared this vessel, mostly scraping lead paint, cleaning off oil, stopping a volunteer from removing the four-bladed propeller, and cutting holes in the steel for her scuttling off Chicago, while trained workers removed her asbestos. EPA inspectors finally gave their OK, and all other agencies have also approved. But will she go down in Nov., 2002, or in May, 2003? (PHOTOS BY CRIS KOHL, © SEAWOLF COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)



Bow hawsepipes and bitts

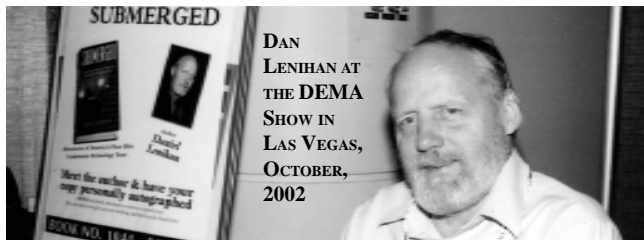
Calendar of Events

November 2, 2002 (Sat.)--The 7th annual "Shipwrecks Remembered" Show, McMorran Auditorium, Port Huron, MI. NEW: A full afternoon and evening of presentations and exhibits. Presenters include **Joyce Hayward** ("The *Alvin Clark* Story"), Daryl Ertel ("The *Judge Hart* Survey" and "The *William Young* Wreck"), marine artist Bob McGreevy on "The Work of Frank Kirby," and Out of the Blue Productions doing presentations on "Whalebacks" and "The Wreck of the *Cayuga*." UASC member **Cris Kohl** will do two presentations: "Shipwreck Tales: The St. Clair River" (based on his 1987 book of the same title) and "Harbor Inferno: The *Noronic* Disaster." 810-359-8660.

November 9, 2002 (Sat.)-- The 15th annual "Gales of November" Show, Duluth, MN. All-day speakers, exhibit hall, tour research vessels, keynote address by **Dennis Hale**, sole survivor of the 1966 *Daniel J. Morrell* sinking in Lake Huron. Contact Mary George, 218-727-2497, info@LSMMA.com, web: www.LSMMA.com

November 16, 2002 (Sat.)--The 20th Annual "Shipwrecks and Scuba" Banquet and Show, Holiday Inn, Sandusky, OH. Booths, exhibits and presentations. Presenters **Daniel Lenihan** (author of the books "Submerged," "Shipwrecks of Isle Royale National Park," and, with actor Gene Hackman, the

PHOTO BY CRIS KOHL



novel "The Loss of the *Perdido Star*"), **Jim & Pat Stayer** with **Mirek Standowicz** (first person to dive to the wreck of the *Carl D. Bradley* in 380 feet of water in Lake Michigan) and UASC members **Bob Gadbois** presenting "They Call Me Jack" (Lake Michigan's Sunken WWII Planes) and **Joan Forsberg & Cris Kohl** doing "Wreck Diving the Hawaiian Islands." Call **Joyce Hayward** at 419-483-3074 for ticket or further information.

November 20, 2002 (Wed.)--Final UASC Meeting of the year. Don't be afraid to come to this one--we elected the 2003 slate of officers at the heavily-populated October meeting. Discuss Plans for 2003.

Nov. 30, 2002 (Sat.)-11th annual **Christmas Ship Concert. Lee Murdock & the Blue Water Band.** Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, IL. 773-728-6000 or www.oldtownschool.org.

December 5, 2002 (Thurs.)--Wisconsin Marine Historical Society's 22nd annual **Christmas Tree Ship Holiday Dinner**, Milwaukee Yacht Club, music by **Tom & Chris Kastle.** 414-286-3074.

December 6, 2002 (Fri.)--Annual LOUP/UASC/Scuba Systems Dive Club **Christmas Party** at the Columbia Yacht Club ship *Abegweit*. Contact **Scott Reimer** at 847-788-0417 or e-mail at streimer@interaccess.com.

December 7, 2002 (Sat.)--Annual **Marine Mart** at Harbor Hill Marina, Detroit, MI. Organized by the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, Belle Isle, Detroit. 10 AM-3 PM. Call 313-852-4051 Wed.-Sun.

January 31-Feb. 1, 2003 (Fri.-Sat.)--The annual "Strictly Sail" show, Navy Pier, Chicago. Presentations, including by UASC members **Tom & Chris Kastle** and **Cris Kohl.** Contact 773-774-7216 or email: kastle@enteract.com.

February 8, 2003 (Sat.)--Winter Banquet of the **Neptune Nimrods** (the oldest scuba diving club in Wisconsin, estblshd. in 1958), Rock Garden Supper Club, Green Bay, WI. Keynote speaker: UASC member **Cris Kohl.** Open to the public. Contact Tom Hurley at 920-434-7975, or at tuff714@hotmail.com.

February 22, 2003 (Sat.)--The usually annual "Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival," offered by the Ford Seahorses Scuba Diving Club, at Ford Community and Performing Arts Center, Dearborn, MI. The only presenter we know of for sure is UASC member **Bob Gadbois** doing "They Call Me Jack"

(Lake Michigan's Sunken WWII Planes). Check www.fordseahorses.org for future postings. **UASC will have a booth there. Volunteers are needed!**

February 28-March 2, 2003 (Fri.-Sun.)--**Chicago Maritime Festival** at the Chicago Historical Society, Clark St. at North Ave., Chicago, IL. Sat. Seminars & Workshops; presentation by UASC members **Tom & Chris Kastle** and **Cris Kohl.** Contact 773-774-7216 or email: kastle@enteract.com. Website: www.chicagomaritimefestival.org.

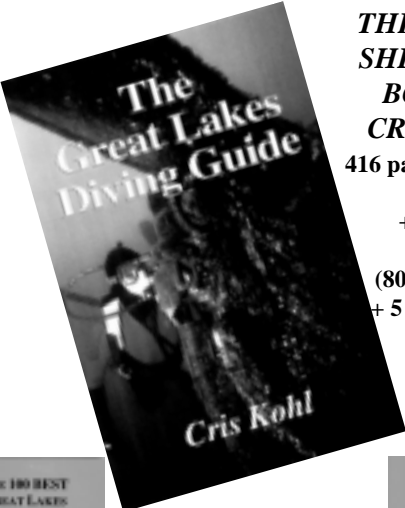
March 8-9, 2003 (Sat.-Sun.)--The 49th annual **Boston Sea Rovers' Underwater Clinic**, Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA. The "Longest Continuously Running Dive Show in the World." Exhibits, presentations, workshops, film show. Contact 203-856-3702 or 401-782-8408.

March 15-16, 2003 (Sat. & Sun.)--The 4th annual "Ghost Ships Festival," Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, 5311 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee, WI, organized by the Great Lakes Shipwreck Research Foundation. Saturday 9 AM to 7 PM, Sunday 9 AM to noon. Hotel 414-481-2400 (ask for Ghost Ships discount). www.ghost-ships.org. Presenters will include UASC's **Bob Gadbois** and **Cris Kohl.** \$20 in advance, \$25 at door. **UASC will have a booth there. Volunteers are needed!**

March 28-30, 2003 (Fri.-Sun.)-- The 27th annual "Beneath The Sea" New York City show at the Meadowlands Exposition Center, Secaucus, NJ. Exhibits, workshops, seminars, evening film show. www.BeneathTheSea.Org.

April 5, 2003 (Sat.)--The 3rd annual "Great Lakes in Depth" show, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada. 9 AM to 5 PM. Speakers include Scarlett Janusas, Dr. David Sawatzky, Mary & Randal McDonald, Mar Smith & Andrew Hibbert, Kimberly Monk, and Jim Hopkins. Call 519-432-1727 for info, or email: donmcleod@sympatico.ca.


April 25-27, 2003 (Fri.-Sun.)--The 33rd annual "Our World--Underwater" show at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont (Chicago), IL, tel: 847-696-2208. Exhibits, workshops, seminars, film shows. Presenters to be determined. 250+ exhibitors. Over 12,000 anticipated attendance. Accommodations at the Hyatt-Regency O'Hare next door, tel. 847-696-1234 (ask for special Our World U/W rate). www.ourworldunderwater.org.




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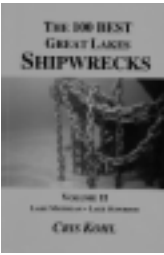
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Jeff Gray, Robert Ballard, and Lake Huron's New NOAA Sanctuary

(PHOTOS BY CRIS KOHL © 2002 BY SEAWOLF COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)



Jeff Gray and Tall Ship Madeline



R/V Connecticut at Alpena, MI



Launching Argus



Dr. Robert Ballard



Dr. Robert Ballard, Pat Labadie (background) and Jeff Gray (right) study a shipwreck.

Many of our UASC members will remember the underwater archaeology workshops set up by **Jeff Gray** (far left, with one of the Tall Ships visiting Alpena, MI, in August, 2002, an event he helped organize, and again on far right in the electronics room of the *Connecticut* with **Dr. Robert Ballard**, **Pat Labadie**, and others) in the days when he was Wisconsin's state underwater archaeologist. In the summer of 2002, Jeff took the job of Sanctuary Manager of the the new **NOAA Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary** at Alpena, MI. Congratulations to Jeff, and to his colleagues, **Russ & Deneice Green**, who, as Wisconsin's new state underwater archaeologists, will continue the excellent work.

Dr. Robert Ballard, most famous as the man who found the *Titanic* in 1985, spent 11 days in Sept., 2002, on his 76'-long research vessel, *R/V Connecticut*, doing exploratory and u/w video work on shipwrecks in the waters of Lake Huron's Thunder Bay using very high-tech electronics and submersibles like the *Argus* and *Little Hercules*. Dr. Ballard hopes to run underwater video cameras on guy wires on Thunder Bay shipwrecks to provide direct educational feeds to thousands of school children across the nation, similar to his successful Monterey Bay project.

UASC member **Cris Kohl** was invited by NOAA to come aboard, and he presented a 20-minute rough cut of his three hours of videotape, including an exclusive interview with **Dr. Ballard**, at the October 29th, 2002, UASC meeting.

Accidental Shipwreck Find!

In August, 2002, a depressed young woman apparently flung herself and her baby daughter off the Mackinac Bridge. State police searched, and **Tom Farnquist** and the vessel *David Boyd* (both of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society) did a sidescan sonar search. No bodies were found, but a previously unknown shipwreck site was!

Registration numbers engraved in a hatch's main beam proved the vessel to be the three-masted schooner, *William Young* (139' x 26' x 12'), built in Ohio in 1863, and foundered in a storm with no lives lost



(PHOTOS BY CRIS KOHL © 2002 BY SEAWOLF COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)

on Oct. 5, 1891. The wreck lies one mile east of the Mackinac Bridge in 118' of water, upright and complete with wheel, windlass, chain, bow anchors, capstan, stove, and all 18 lower deadeyes still in place, 9 on each of the port and starboard railings.

We thank scuba instructor **Mark Kistner** (pictured with the ship's wheel above and yes, he's diving without a hood or gloves! They grow them tough up at Mackinac!) for letting us view his excellent underwater videotape of this shipwreck at the Sept. 25th, 2002, UASC meeting.

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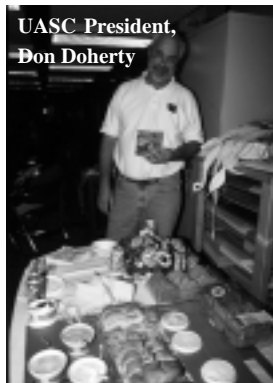
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POTPOURRI

CONGRATULATIONS! UASC President **Don Doherty** celebrated a milestone birthday, reaching an age attained only by a few Califor-



UASC President, Don Doherty



Chris & Tom Kastle

nia redwoods. To console Don at the Oct. 29th UASC meeting, **Scott "Feed the Millions" Reimer** imported a huge cargo of food while Great Lakes troubadours **Tom & Chris Kastle** sang cheerful songs like "Black Dog of Lake Erie." Actually, that tune was for Halloween, and we thank **Tom** and **Chris** for entertaining the troops at that well-attended meeting. If you weren't there, you missed a good one!

* * * * *

UASC has purchased the 11-part video series, 1 hour each, from the **Maritime Archaeological and History Society**, Washington, DC, on the topics of 1. Intro Pt. I, 2. Intro Pt. II, 3. Archival Research, 4. Ship Architecture, 5. Position Fixing & Search Methods, 6. Surveying, Recording & Mapping, 7. Photography & Videography, 8. Conservation, 9. Law & Ethics, 10. Project Planning & Reports, 11. Field School Tasks & Procedures. Readers may recall that these were recommended by UASC member **Karen Sinniger** early in the year, and they are EXCELLENT! These videotapes, one at a time, may be borrowed by UASC members for one month only, and the sign-out book must be signed. Contact UASC President **Don Doherty** for info.

* * * * *

The **UASC Officers** for the year **2003**, as decided at the October 29th, 2002, meeting, -- President: **Chet Childs**, Vice President: **Don Doherty**, Treasurer: **Bob Gadbois**, Secretary: **Cris Kohl**. **Chairpersons** remained the same. Congratulations to all of these volunteers!

* * * * *

UASC President **Don Doherty** apprised us of recent Great Lakes newspaper articles: The **Chicago Tribune** of Oct. 27, 2002, carried illuminating **storm-and-shipwreck** analyses/charts, and the Oct. 27, 2002, issue of the same newspaper published an article on the **S. S. Badger**, one of the few large carferries left on the Great Lakes, crossing Lake Michigan between Manitowoc, WI and Ludington, MI.

* * * * *

Our deepest sympathy to UASC member **Liz Jurkacek**, whose father passed away on November 8, 2002.

Jan Miller, Director of Michigan Shipwreck Research Associates of Holland, MI, views a photo mosaic of the wreck of the **Sligo** in 67 feet of water in Toronto harbor shown by **Kimberly Monk**, of Toronto's Maritime Archaeological Research Initiative at the annual meeting of the **Association for Great Lakes Maritime History** at South Haven, MI, on Sept. 14, 2002 (PHOTO BY CRIS KOHL).



UASC members **Jim Jarecki** and **Cris Kohl** attended this annual meeting. UASC Past President **Valerie Olson Van Heest** and husband **Jack** gave a presentation on the **ex-Chicora/H.C. Akeley** wreck.



Shedd Aquarium

(PHOTOS BY CRIS KOHL)

UASC 2003 Meeting Schedule

Meetings take place at the **Shedd Aquarium** on the last Wednesday of every month (unless otherwise noted), beginning at 6:45 PM at the northwest entrance (the Education side door facing Monroe Harbor) of the **Shedd**. There is no meeting in December.

January 29	February 26	March 26
April 30	May 28	June 25
July 30	August 27	September 24
October 29	November 19	



View of Chicago from the Shedd

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

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

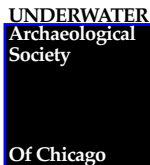
studying the effects of natural and biological forces as well as the impact of human activity on shipwrecks. It advocates responsible use of submerged cultural resources.

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.



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