

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

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

Vol. 14, No. 3

Summer, 2003

**MARITIME CHICAGO 2003 and UASC!**



*Tall Ships!*

**View the Tall Ships Which Came to Chicago This Summer!**

Twenty-two Tall Ships visited Chicago in 2003 -- the largest fleet of Tall Ships in our harbor in over 100 years! Thrill to the excitement of these exotic visitors -- some of which have sailed across the oceans of the world! -- and marvel at what can be learned about Maritime History, particularly the role that Tall Ships played in the development of the Great Lakes' largest and liveliest city!

(PHOTOS BY CRIS KOHL © 2003 BY SEAWOLF COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)



*Maritime History!*

**Appreciate Tales of Lake Michigan's Original Tall Ships -- and Mystery Ships, too!**

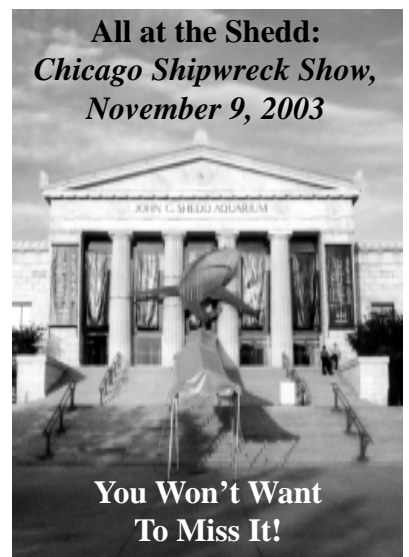
There are dozens of known shipwreck sites off Chicago -- many are identified vessels whose histories have been well-documented and whose sites have been appreciated by scuba divers for quite some time -- while others are unidentified "mystery ships" awaiting the discovery of that one significant clue which will unlock the secrets of their names and their histories.



*Shipwreck Exploration!*

**Explore a NEW Shipwreck off Chicago!**

Sit back and enjoy the fascinating story of the 1928 car-and-passenger ferry, the 200-foot-long *The Straits of Mackinac*, and how this vessel became a shipwreck site off Chicago on April 10, 2003. Let us take you on an underwater exploration of this historic ship, detailing what sub-aquatic explorers see when they take the plunge into Lake Michigan's waters. (Photo: UASC member **Tom Pakenas** inside the engine room while diving with Chicago Dive Charters).



**All at the Shedd: Chicago Shipwreck Show, November 9, 2003**

**You Won't Want To Miss It!**

**All This AND MORE at UASC's Annual Ships and Shipwrecks Show!**

The annual **Ships and Shipwrecks Show**, presented by the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago at the Shedd Aquarium's Phelps Auditorium in Chicago, will cover all of these topics -- Great Lakes Maritime History, Tall Ships (then AND now!), diving *The Straits of Mackinac*, and more! Sunday, November 9, 2003. You have a choice of two showings: 3 PM and 6 PM. Tickets \$15.00 each. Check our website ([www.chicagosite.org/uasc.htm](http://www.chicagosite.org/uasc.htm)) for more information!

**Just When We Thought They Stopped Making Them...**

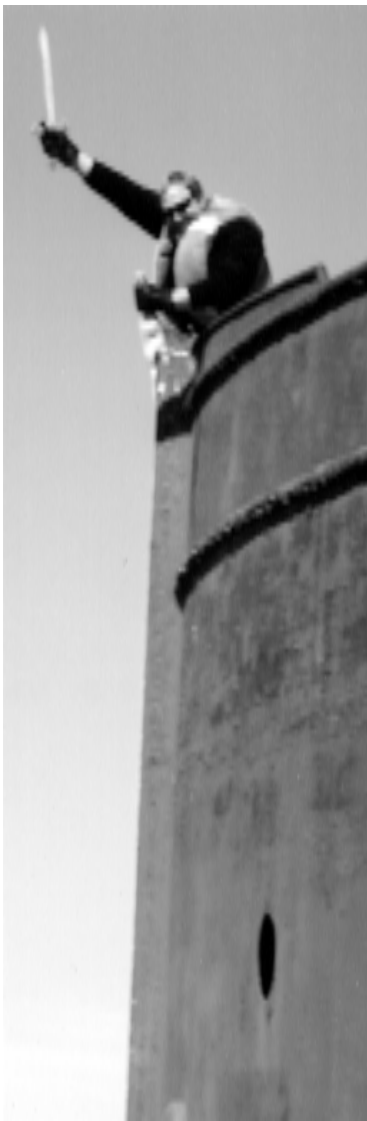
**A New NATURAL Shipwreck Off Chicago!**

An unmanned, 200'-long barge filled with 64,000 bushels of wheat and towed by the tug, *John Selvic*, from Milwaukee to Chicago in rough (4-to-6-footers) water, lost a forward hatch, took on water, shifted its cargo, and foundered in 120' of Lake Michigan five miles off Waukegan, IL, on Friday, Aug. 8, 2003. Within a week, at least one charter boat was taking divers to this new site.

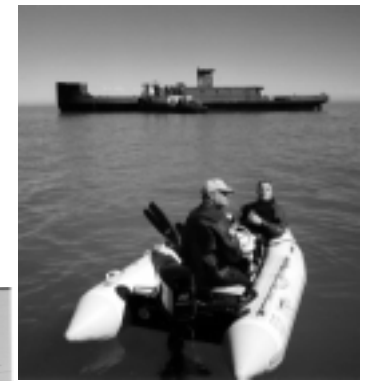
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# How UASC Members Helped Sink *The Straits of Mackinac!*



A small army of UASC members helped sink *The Straits of Mackinac* both before and on April 10, 2003, the day the ship actually went to the bottom of Lake Michigan. *Clockwise from upper left:* **Keith Pearson**, besides clutching a chicken and raising a sword, checked the ship during the winter to make sure she wasn't sinking, provided a boat and set up the unique video camera system below deck so he could record the ship's engine room slowly filling with water. **Scott Reimer** wore the gas mask while removing paint containing lead from below deck (photo by Don Doherty, all others by Cris Kohl). UASC President **Chet Childs** shot video of the ship. **Tom Pakenas** went diving to remove the cables which connected the ship to the concrete-filled barrels used as anchors. **Hank Fiene** provided a couple of large boats, but he himself used his inflatable as a safety boat to maneuver around the site of the sinking quickly. **Jim Jarecki** installed signs on deck and dumped the anchors. *Not pictured:* **Tony Kiefer** helped engineer the sinking and almost lost a leg while keeping Keith's boat from sinking. **Pete Chval** captained the *Kohana* and helped with much post-sinking work. **Joe Oliver** helped install signs and do other prep work. **Don Doherty, Erik Matuzak, John & Ruth Loftus, Cris Kohl** and undoubtedly other members I have missed (I apologize) all helped prep the ship before the sinking. **THANKS** to everyone who helped with this project!



**Correction**  
In our last newsletter, we forgot that UASC members **Bernie & Jerry Bloom** also attended the Ghost Ships Festival in Milwaukee last March. Sorry 'bout that!

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## A New Memorial to Commemorate the *Eastland* Disaster

On July 24, 2003, an *Eastland* Disaster Commemoration was held near the Clark Street Bridge over the Chicago River where the tragedy occurred 88 years ago. A new historic marker (to replace one which was stolen several years ago) was also dedicated. Honored guest was 98-year-old **Libby Hruby**, one of three known survivors still alive today (and the only one living in Chicago -- in fact, she still lives in the house where she lived with her parents when she, at age 10, survived the *Eastland* sinking!) The 800+ lives lost when the excursion steamer *Eastland* capsized made this the worst disaster in Great Lakes Maritime History.

*Right: Eastland survivor Libby Hruby poses with the new historic marker.*

(PHOTO BY CRIS KOHL)



Playboy gave us "The Blondes of Sweden." Playgirl provided "Men of the NFL." Now WE proudly present...

# The Boats of UASC!



We couldn't do any of our underwater survey work were it not for the members who volunteer their boats for UASC projects. Counterclockwise from upper left: **Dutch Treat** owned by **John & Ruth Loftus**; **Kohana** and her master, **Hank Fiene**; **Count Your Blessings**, owned by a Past President of UASC, **Don Doherty**; **SeaCur** and her owner **Capt. Dan Kasberger** (this vessel may be for sale, as Captain Dan reportedly purchased another boat); and **Keith Pearson's Chicago Marine Towing Vessel R5**. **THANK YOU ALL!** (Photos by Cris Kohl.)



## UASC Thumbnail Info



**Forever Meatloaf**  
UASC member **Joan Forsberg** unveiled her new book, **Diver's Guide to the Kitchen**, at the recent "Our World--Underwater" Show in Chicago. **Stan Waterman**, one of the book's many celebrity contributors, congratulates Joan. (Cris Kohl photo).

### UASC Co-Founder Published!

**Valerie Olson Van Heest**, co-founder and Past President of UASC and now living in Michigan, where she is active in shipwreck research, has an article titled "Searching for a Steamer" (about the **H. C. Akeley**, located in deep Lake Michigan water in 2001 and at first believed to be the long-lost steamer **Chicora**) in the July/August, 2003 issue of **Michigan History** magazine. **Congratulations!**



**Deep Wreck**  
UASC member **Cris Kohl** recently took part in **Joyce Hayward's** two-week survey of the schooner **Cornelia B. Windiate**, which disappeared with all hands in 1875 and lies in 180' of Lake Huron water. (Windiate photo taken by Cris Kohl.)

### Successful Surgeries

UASC members who recently underwent surgeries of various types (**John & Ruth Loftus** and **Jim Jarecki**) are all reportedly doing well. Good work! See you in the water!

### "Deep Sea Detectives"

The History Channel's new **shipwreck series** (Tuesdays at 7 and 11 PM) will feature Lake Huron shipwrecks (and perhaps a bit of **Cris Kohl**) on Sept. 9th.

### Not a Deep Wreck

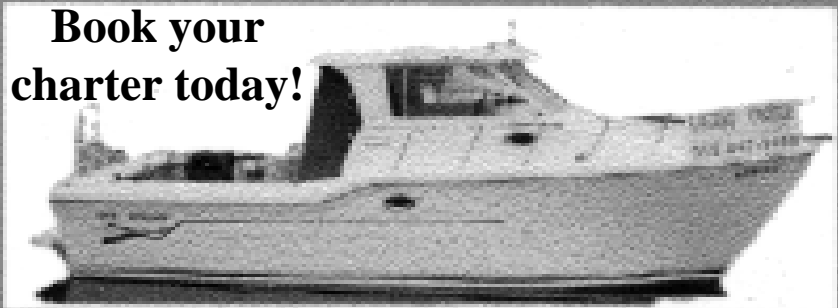
**Jim Jarecki** (right), a Past President of UASC, and several other members took advantage of Lake Michigan's low water level (as well as an evening when we had a UASC meeting but no guest speaker: June 25, 2003) to walk from the Shedd Aquarium to the 12th Street Beach and measure a wooden shipwreck there. It appears to have been a centerboard schooner about 150' long, and may have been one of the several vessels stranded in the May, 1894 storm. (Cris Kohl Photo).



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# Calendar of Events



September 3-24, 2003--**Apostle Islands Lighthouse Celebration**. Information: 1-800-779-4487, or [www.lighthousecelebration.com](http://www.lighthousecelebration.com).

September 18-20, 2003 (Thurs.-Sat.)--The Annual Meeting of the **Association for Great Lakes Maritime History**, hosted by the Great Lakes Historical Society, Vermilion, Ohio.

September 19-November 2, 2003--**Marine Heritage Festival 2003**, Exhibition at the Huron County Museum, 110 North St., Goderich, Ontario, Canada. Information: 1-800-280-7637, or [www.shipwreckwexford.ca](http://www.shipwreckwexford.ca).

October 8-11, 2003 (Wed.-Sat.)--The 27th annual **DEMA** (Diving Equipment and Marketing Association) Show, held this year in Miami Beach, Florida, for Diving Industry Professionals. Go to [www.dema.org](http://www.dema.org) for info.

October 9-12, 2003 (Thurs.-Sun.)--The 8th annual "**Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival**," Thunder Bay Recreation Center, Alpena, Michigan. Exhibits, vendor booths, lighthouse tours, presentations and entertainment. See [www.lighthousefestival.org](http://www.lighthousefestival.org), or call 989-595-3600 or 989-354-5743 for info.

October 25, 2003 (Sat.)--The annual "**Presidents' Night**" Dinner of the Illinois Council of Skin & Scuba Divers, Inc. Annual dinner/dance/raffle. Prices: \$33.00/person to Sept. 30, 2003; \$38.00/person after Sept. 30th. Guiseppe's in Des Plaines, IL. Contact Scott Reimer for tickets, 847-788-0417.

November 8, 2003 (Sat.)--The 16th annual "**Gales of November**" Show, Duluth, Minnesota. Presentations, booths and displays. Call 218-727-2497.

November 8, 2003 (Sat.)--The 8th annual "**Shipwrecks Remembered**" Show, McMorran Auditorium, Port Huron, Michigan. Presentations, booths and displays. Presenters include UASC members **Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg**, plus **Jim & Pat Stayer** and others. For more information, call 810-359-8660.

November 9, 2003 (Sun.)--The annual **Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago Shipwreck Show at the Shedd**. Several presentations including "The Sinking of *The Straits of Mackinac*" off Chicago. Call (312) 692-3333.

November 15, 2003 (Sat.)--The 21st annual "**Shipwrecks and Scuba**" Show, Holiday Inn, Sandusky, Ohio. Presentations, seminars, booths and exhibits. Presenters include UASC members **Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg**. Call 419-483-3074 for more information.

November 29, 2003 (Sat.)--The 12th annual **Lee Murdock Christmas Ship Concert**, Maple Street Chapel, Lombard, IL. 7:30 PM. \$15.00/person. 630-964-4871.

January 7-11, 2004--**Society of Historical Archaeology (SHA)** Annual Conference, St. Louis. Also the SHA Underwater Archaeology Section, Annual Conference (same time and place). See [www.sha.org/mt2004.htm](http://www.sha.org/mt2004.htm)

February 21, 2004--The 26th "**Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival**", Dearborn, Michigan. Organized by the Ford Seahorses Scuba Diving Club. Exhibits, presentations, film show. See [www.fordseahorses.org](http://www.fordseahorses.org) for info.

March 6, 2004 (Sat.) -- The 5th annual "**Ghost Ships Festival**," Four Points Sheraton conference Center, Howell Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Exhibits, presentations, raffle. See [www.ghost-ships.org](http://www.ghost-ships.org).

March 6-7, 2004 (Sat.-Sun.) --The 50th 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)

March 26-28, 2004 (Fri.-Sun.) -- The 28th annual "**Beneath The Sea**" New York City Show, Secaucus, NJ. See [www.BeneathTheSea.org](http://www.BeneathTheSea.org) for info.

April 23-25, 2004 (Fri.-Sun.) -- The 34th annual "**Our World--Underwater**," the annual Chicago Scuba Show. Donald E. Stephens Convention Center.

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>

**DIVER'S GUIDE TO THE KITCHEN**  
JOAN FORSBERG

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

**SHIPWRECK TALES OF THE GREAT LAKES**  
CRIS KOHL

"**Diver's Guide to the Kitchen**" (available now) and "**Shipwreck Tales of the Great Lakes**" (available November, 2003)

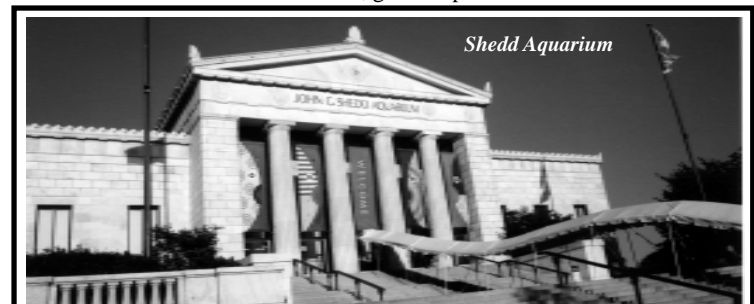


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Shedd Aquarium

## UASC Meetings Remaining in 2003

Our meetings are held at the **John C. Shedd Aquarium** just off Lakeshore Drive on the scenic Chicago waterfront on the last Wednesday of every month (unless otherwise noted), beginning at 7 PM at the northwest entrance (the Education side door facing Monroe Harbor) of the **Shedd**. There is no meeting in December.

### UASC Meeting Dates:

**August 27**  
**September 24**  
**October 29**  
**November 19**



The Tall Ship Bounty off Chicago, July 30, 2003. Photos by Cris Kohl

The public is invited to our meetings. **SEE YOU THERE!**

# POTPOURRI

Marine archaeologists believe they may have located more of the timbers from the *Mary Rose*, the Tudor warship which sank near Portsmouth, England, in 1545. Much of this shipwreck was excavated in 1982 and is displayed in Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard, but the bow and forecastle sections were missing. Divers using "underwater vacuum cleaners" to remove silt located and identified the jagged edge of a large beam which experts say could be a section of the bowcastle, the fortified front of Henry VIII's flagship. Constructed between 1509 and 1511, the *Mary Rose*, one of the first ships capable of firing broadside, sank accidentally during a battle with the French fleet in 1545. *Mary Rose* is the only 16th-century warship on display in the world.

\* \* \* \* \*

Underwater explorers about 100 miles southeast of Savannah, Georgia, believe they have located the remains of the steamer *Republic*, which sank on Oct. 25, 1865 with 20,000 \$20 gold coins intended to help pay for reconstruction of the South after the Civil War; today's value: about \$150,000,000. All 59 passengers boarded lifeboats and survived. The wreck sits in about 1,700 feet



of water. Although the wreck lies far out in international waters, the company (Odyssey Marine Explorations Inc.), which spent 12 years searching for this shipwreck, has been granted federal "admiralty arrest" of the site to make it illegal for others to lay claim to it.

\* \* \* \* \*

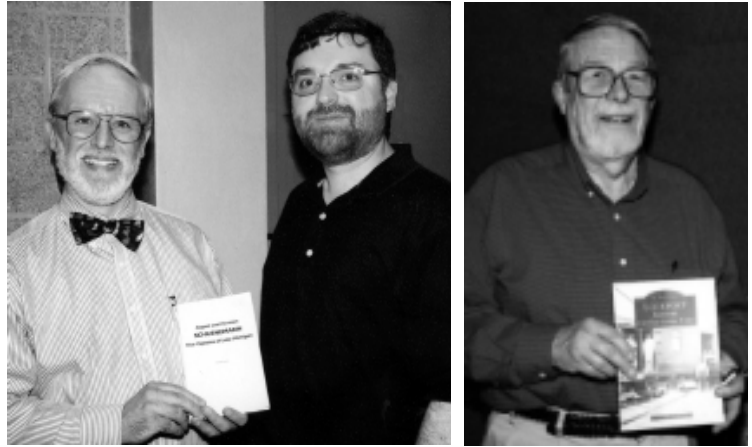
Scuba divers have discovered what seems to be the oldest shipwreck ever found in Alaska waters, the remains of a three-masted Russian sailing feighter named the *Kadi'ak*, which sank off Kodiak Island in March, 1860, seven years before the U.S.A. purchased Alaska from Russia. Located so far are a cannon, an anchor and what appears to be copper sheathing. The remains promise a wealth of cultural and historical artifacts dear to the hearts of archaeologists, but no conventional treasure, experts say. The *Kadi'ak* belonged to the Russian-American Company, active when Alaska was a Russian colony, and carried a cargo of ice bound for San Francisco when it sank. Although the wreck lies in cold Alaska waters, none of the cargo is expected to be found.

\* \* \* \* \*

The decommissioned 326-foot Canadian destroyer, *HMCS Nipigon*, was scuttled on July 26, 2003, in about 100 feet of water for the purpose of creating a new scuba dive site in the lower St. Lawrence River near Rimouski, Quebec, and within one mile of Canada's most disastrous shipwreck, the *Empress of Ireland*, which sank in a collision in 1914 with the loss of more than 1000 lives.

\* \* \* \* \*

Last and likely least in this "Potpourri" section, a film receives my strong recommendation for the best movie of the summer -- which just happens to be about shipwrecks, treasure and pirates. Don't miss Johnny Depp's excellent performance in the fabulous adventure film, "*Pirates of the Caribbean.*"



Recent UASC Guest Speakers

We were honored by the presence of notable guest speakers at our recent meetings: **Fred Neuschel** (above left with Past UASC President **Jim Jarecki**), author of *August and Herman Schuenemann, Tree Captains of Lake Michigan* (about the Christmas Tree ships) spoke on the topic of his book at our April 30th meeting; **John Lamb** (above right), author of *Lockport, Illinois, The Old Canal Town*, educated us about the main elements of his book at the May 28th meeting, and **Amy Seeley**, Marine Forecast representative with the National Weather Service at Lake Michigan (very sorry, no photo available), informed us at our July 30th meeting about the various forecasting tools and techniques that go into the marine forecast. *We THANK all of our guests wholeheartedly!* (Left photo by Cris Kohl; right photo by Jim Jarecki.)



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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

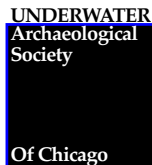
studying the effects of natural and biological forces as well as the impact of human activity on shipwrecks. It advocates responsible use of submerged cultural resources.

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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