



# UASC Wreck Checker

**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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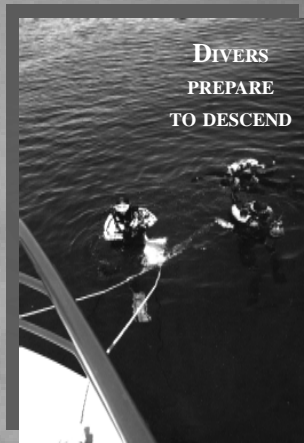
## 2004 Shipwreck Survey Work Begins!

UASC DIVER  
TOM PAKENAS ON  
"VAL'S WRECK"



PROPELLER  
BLADE

(PHOTOS BY CRIS KOHL)



DIVERS  
PREPARE  
TO DESCEND

With warm sunlight in the air, but a water temperature of only 42 degrees at depth in 65 feet of Lake Michigan off Chicago, nine scuba divers on Sat., June 5, 2004, surveyed the unidentified shipwreck nicknamed *Val's Wreck*. Charter boat Captain **Hank Fiene's** generosity, Co-Captain **Pete Chval's** assistance and UASC Dive Coordinator **Scott Reimer's** hard work to prepare this trip (which he himself could not go on due to a prior commitment) helped make for a successful day.

This is the embedded wooden shipwreck believed to have been a large tugboat. The wreck rises only about four feet off the lake bottom in two places: at the stern and at a section of what appears to be a portion of the bow lying about 50 feet off the port side. The only piece of equipment left on the wreck (hence the belief that it was scuttled) is a four-foot-wide, four-bladed propeller and shaft. Strewn on this wreck, as well as outside it, is garbage dateable to the 1930's (see photos, page 2).

Diving participants were **Mike Beeks, Chris Bobkowski, Dan Fiedler, Joan Forsberg, Claire Gadbois, Jim Jarecki, Cris Kohl, John Loftus and Tom Pakenas**. *WELL DONE!*

### In This Issue:

Shipwreck Survey Work Begins! ..... Pages 1, 2  
 Future Guest Speakers at UASC Meetings ..... Page 1  
 UASC News & Past Guest Speakers ..... Pages 2, 3  
 Calendar of Maritime Events/New UASC'ers .. Page 4  
 Book Review & Great Lakes News ..... Page 5  
 Goals & Membership Information ..... Page 6

The public is invited to attend the free meetings of the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago, which are held from 7 to 9 PM on the last Wednesday of the month in one of the Education Rooms of Chicago's John G. Shedd Aquarium. Enter at the Education Entrance on the northwest side of the Shedd facing Monroe Harbor. For info, call (630) 293-4020. **SEE YOU THERE!**

### Upcoming Guest Speakers



THE U-505

**Wed., June 30, 2004**

Mr. **Keith Gill**, curator of the captured World War II German *U-505* submarine at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, will share with us this sub's history and the plans for its future.

**Wed., July 28, 2004**

Mr. **Wayne Sapulski**, author of "Lighthouses of Lake Michigan, Past and Present," will speak about Chicago and other Lake Michigan lighthouses.



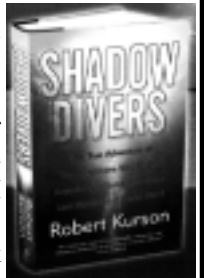
**Wed., Aug. 25, 2004**

Mr. **Paul Somers** will share his knowledge of Chicago's & Lake Michigan's roles in training World War II Navy pilots and the ships used (based on his 2003 book.)



**Wed., Sept. 29, 2004**

Mr. **Robert Kurson** will tell the true story of legendary divers John Chatterton and Richie Kohler solving the mystery of the sunken *U-Who?* WWII German submarine. Based on his new book (reviewed on page 5).



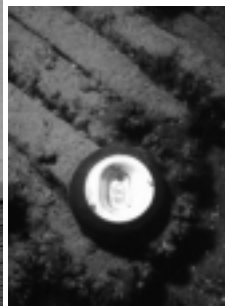
**Wed., October 27, 2004**

Historian **Henry Barkhausen**, who wrote his first maritime book in 1947, will tell us all about centerboards on Great Lakes ships.

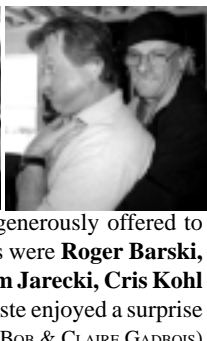
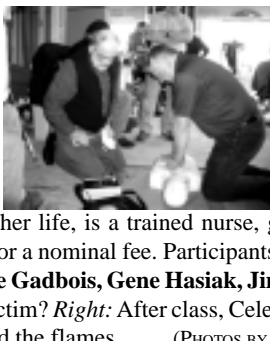
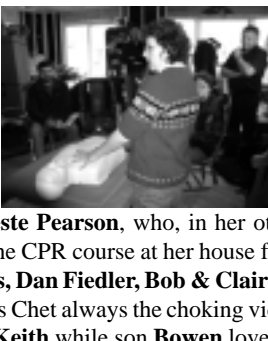




Clockwise from upper left: UASC member **Hank Fiene's** new 47' dive charter boat, **R. V. Chicago**, wowed 9 UASC divers who cruised quickly to the unidentified wreck nicknamed **Val's Wreck** and moved ahead with the survey, drawings and photomosaic work. Jim Jarecki gives the "O.K." sign in the water, while Hank gives the "O.K." sign on board. The wreck, a large, apparently-scuttled tugboat, sits in 65 feet of water, littered with city garbage (like a coffee sign, milk bottles, and an art-deco ashtray) probably dumped unwittingly on and around the wreck in the 1930's. Misty Chicago greeted the returning divers. (PHOTOS BY CRIS KOHL)



### CPR: Ten UASC Members Took the Course in March. Thank you, Celeste!



UASC Past President **Celeste Pearson**, who, in her other life, is a trained nurse, generously offered to teach 10 UASC members the CPR course at her house for a nominal fee. Participants were **Roger Barski, Roger Brown, Chet Childs, Dan Fiedler, Bob & Claire Gadbois, Gene Hasiak, Jim Jarecki, Cris Kohl** and **Scott Reimer**. Why was Chet always the choking victim? *Right:* After class, Celeste enjoyed a surprise birthday cake from hubby **Keith** while son **Bowen** loved the flames. (PHOTOS BY BOB & CLAIRE GADBOIS)

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### And Milwaukee Thanks You, Too!

THANK YOU to the UASC booth personnel at the Ghost Ships Festival on March 6, 2004: **Roger Brown, Chet Childs, Bob & Claire Gadbois, Diane Gulczynski, Gene Hasiak, Liz Jurkacek, John & Ruth Loftus** and **Keith Pearson**.

### Magazine Articles of UASC Interest

Spring issues of two well-known magazines featured interesting items. The April, 2004, issue of *Rodale's Scuba Diving* magazine contained UASC President **Cris Kohl's** 8-page article titled "10 Great Wrecks of the Great Lakes," along with several underwater photos, featuring a half-page image of Joyce Hayward diving the schooner *Wells Burt* off Chi-



cago on the title page. The May, 2004, issue of *Lakeland Boating* magazine carried an article called "Under the Radar" by Bill Keefe, subtitled "An Illinois company retrieves long-lost plane wrecks from the Great Lakes," about the work of **A & T Recovery**, which has given several shipwreck locations to the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago for surveying. **CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH!**



# Guest Speakers at Recent UASC Meetings

## Dave Nelson at the March 31, 2004, Meeting



The *Eastland* disaster, with over 800 people losing their lives when that steel steamship tipped over in Chicago harbor on July 24, 1915, is the worst loss in Great Lakes Maritime History. **Dave Nelson**, a long-time *Eastland* researcher and archives collector, shared with us that story and his connections to it. His grandfather, a welder in 1915, was one of the first people at the scene of this accident, and he used a torch to cut holes into the overturned steel hull (despite the captain's protests!) in order to facilitate the rescue of many people trapped inside. Our guest speaker showed a very informative videotape of a television show which he produced about the *Eastland* disaster, and he passed around some archival materials, such as a silver sugar bowl from the *Eastland*. Caught up in the emotion of this story, Mr. Nelson long ago began acquiring *Eastland* and related items. Many of those unique pieces of Chicago's history from the Nelson *Eastland* collection are presently on exhibit at the Wheaton History Center (telephone 630-682-9472). **THANK YOU, Dave!** (PHOTO BY CRIS KOHL)



## Mikel Esher (at Chicago's 12th St. Wreck) our April 28, 2004, Speaker

UASC member **Mikel Esher**, a student at Indiana University's Aquatic Science program, gave a fascinating slide show about his participation in the survey of the barque, *Frolic*, a drug-smuggling ship lost off California's Mendocino coast on July 26, 1850 (and featured on a "Deep Sea Detectives" TV show). **THANK YOU, Mike!** (PHOTO BY JIM JARECKI)



## Dr. Scott Demel at May 26, 2004, Meeting

**Dr. Demel**, Field Museum archaeologist, told about discoveries made during recent museum parking lot diggings. His Powerpoint presentation snared everyone's attention immediately, but his other audiovisual assistance really took the audience's breath away: about three dozen of the bottles and pieces of china which, with Dr. Demel's descriptions, clearly showed

that there are, indeed, many "secrets in shards." These pieces included old hotel china shards (in the 1904 to 1917 range) from the Sherman, Congress, Blackstone and Palmer House Hotels, cobalt blue inkwells and medicine bottles, post-1900 white glass, ginger beer and whiskey pint bottles, wine and condiment bottles, "Eau de quinine" hair tonic, dairy bottles (both milk and cream), glass insulators, jugs and crocks, metal baggage claim tags, buttons, spoons, horseshoes, animal bones (from hotel kitchens), a Chicago police badge, a 2.5-foot-wide heavy statue of four lions, and even a diamond and platinum ring. The Field Museum exhibit of these pieces is drawing large crowds! Incidentally, all of these items pre-dated our garbage finds on *Val's Wreck* off Chicago, so the search goes on! Meanwhile, **THANK YOU, Dr. Demel.** (PHOTO BY CRIS KOHL)



## Membership Drive On!

The 2004 UASC Membership Drive zoomed full throttle at "Our World -- Underwater," the annual Chicago scuba show on April 23-25, 2004, with about 20 new members joining! **THANKS** go to the booth personnel: **Chet Childs, Dan Fiedler, Mike Fiedler, Joan Forsberg, Diane Gulczynski,**

**Gene Hasiak, Jim Jarecki, Jon Jedliskowski, Liz Jurkacek, Tom & Chris Kastle, Cris Kohl, John & Ruth Loftus, Keith & Celeste Pearson, Scott Reimer & Tom Wolos.** Pictured are Chet Childs, Scott Reimer, Diane Gulczynski and Jim Jarecki dismantling the booth after the show. (PHOTO BY CRIS KOHL)

## Record UASC Involvement at OW-U!

Chicago's "Our World--Underwater" on April 23-25, 2004 saw more UASC members than ever, not only attending the show, but also actively taking part in it! **Larry Boucha, Roger Brown** and **Bob Gadbois** busily worked AV as usual, with both Larry and Bob also doing seminar presentations (Larry as a last-minute replacement for a no-show!) Many other UASC presenters graced the seminar rooms: **Nancy Boucha, Chet Childs, Joan Forsberg** (who is also the Room Chairman of the Shipwreck Room), **Jim Jarecki** and **Cris Kohl**, while **Dave Wetherald** emceed parts of the Saturday Film Festival. **GREAT JOB ALL!**

## But Will that Audience Want To Hear about Shipwrecks?

UASC members **Joan Forsberg** and **Cris Kohl** will present slide shows about shipwrecks on board the trans-Lake Michigan passenger & car ferry *Badger* this summer. On Fri., Sept. 3, 2004, during the 4-hour crossing from Manitowoc, WI to Ludington, MI, Cris will show "TITANIC, The Great Lakes Connections," and on the next day's return crossing, Cris & Joan will do "Shipwreck Tales of the Great Lakes" as part of Lake Michigan Carferry Service's summer-long "Cruise & Learn" program of guest speakers featuring Great Lakes topics.

## Condolences

In the recent past, the mothers of two UASC members, **Dan Kasberger** and **Claire Gadbois**, passed away. Our deepest sympathy for your losses.

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# Calendar of Events



Compiled in early June, 2004.

**Dates for several 2005 and 2006 Events and Shows have already been established and are listed below.**

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

July 15, 2004 (Thurs.) -- 7:30 PM meeting of SSAS (South Suburban Archaeological Society), The Irwin Center, 18120 S. Highland Ave., Homewood, IL. "Presentations by Members of SSAS." 708-460-8413.

July 17, 2004 (Sat.) -- **ErieQuest Marine Heritage Festival** at the Leamington (ON, Canada) Municipal Marina. A full day of activities, featuring a concert by Great Lakes folk singer **Lee Murdock**. Call 519-326-6599

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

September 17-18, 2004 (Fri.-Sat.) -- 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.

October 23, 2004 (Sat.) -- **President's Night Dinner** of the Illinois Council of Skin & Scuba Divers, 6:30 PM at Guiseppe's Ristorante, 1062 Lee St.,

Des Plaines, IL.

October 23, 2004 (Sat.) -- **Diving & Medicine Meeting**, UHMS Great Lakes Chapter, Canada Centre for Inland Waters, Burlington, ON, Canada. Contact Ron Nishi: [glc-r.nishi@sympatico.ca](mailto:glc-r.nishi@sympatico.ca). Website: [www.uhms-glc.ca](http://www.uhms-glc.ca)

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.) -- 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.

December 10, 2004 (Fri.) -- LOUP/UASC/Skyline Holiday Party, Burnham Park Yacht Club.

January 12-16, 2005 (Wed.-Sun.) -- The **extra-special 35th annual "Our World--Underwater,"** the annual Chicago Scuba Show, is experimentally combining with the Chicagoland Outdoor Show. Anticipated total attendance: over 60,000. Everything will be under one roof -- no more l-o-n-g "gerbil trail" hikes from the exhibit area to the seminars then back again for the evening film festivals! Seminars on Saturday and Sunday (as usual), with an expanded Friday Evening Film Festival (1.5 hours long) and a gala Saturday Evening Film Festival. Donald E. Stephens Convention Center. Check out [www.ourworldunderwater.com](http://www.ourworldunderwater.com). **If you live anywhere at all near Chicago, DON'T MISS THIS SHOW!**

February 18-20, 2005 (Fri.-Sun.) -- The sixth annual "**Ghost Ships Festival**" at the Four Point Hotel, Milwaukee, WI. See [www.ghost-ships.org](http://www.ghost-ships.org)

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)

March 18-20, 2005 (Fri.-Sun.) -- The 29th annual "**Beneath The Sea**" New York City Show, Secaucus, NJ. Exhibits, workshops, presentations, film festival. See [www.beneaththesea.org](http://www.beneaththesea.org)

**NOTE:** This is a 2006 date! March 24-26, 2006 (Fri.-Sun.) -- The seventh annual "**Ghost Ships Festival**," Four Point Hotel, Milwaukee, WI

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 much in advance as possible to: Cris Kohl, UASC Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 11752, Chicago, IL 60611, U.S.A., telephone 630-293-4020, or email: [criskohl@aol.com](mailto:criskohl@aol.com)**

## NEW MEMBERS in UASC

We welcome back the old and especially the following new members to the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago in 2004 (*THANKS* to **Roger Brown** for his May, 2004 list; please contact him if your name is missing):

<b>Mike Bandza</b>	<b>Todd Hitzeman</b>	<b>Vicky Shelly</b>
<b>Gerry Bara</b>	<b>Jon Jedliskowski</b>	<b>Save Ontario Shipwrecks</b>
<b>Harlan &amp; Pamela Berk</b>	<b>Kevin Kelly</b>	<b>Maciej Skalski</b>
<b>Jeraldene Bloom</b>	<b>Cliff &amp; Lori Kroeter</b>	<b>Robert Sladek</b>
<b>Doug Clevenger</b>	<b>James Langer</b>	<b>Kozerski Slawek</b>
<b>John DeForest</b>	<b>Robert Marth</b>	<b>Glenn Sprenzel</b>
<b>Brian Dempsey</b>	<b>Dorothy McMahon</b>	<b>Michael Tapper</b>
<b>Troy Depperman,</b>	<b>Stephen Meskan</b>	<b>Andrzej Topolski</b>
<b>Roman Dzienisik</b>	<b>Howard Openlander</b>	<b>Cheryl Wickstrom</b>
<b>Dan Fiedler</b>	<b>Michael Ray</b>	<b>Tom Wolos (welcome back!)</b>
<b>Mike Fiedler</b>	<b>Randy Ruhl</b>	<b>Wesley, Miles &amp; Lance Yapor</b>
<b>Peter Fratesi (welcome back!)</b>	<b>David &amp; Marcie Sallman</b>	
<b>Dan Geske</b>	<b>Harold Schiehahn</b>	
	<b>Peter Schneider</b>	
	<b>Joe Serb</b>	

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- Great Lakes Wreck Diving



# Book Review: *Shadow Divers* by Robert Kurson

*Wreck Diving at its Physical, Emotional and Intellectual Extremes*

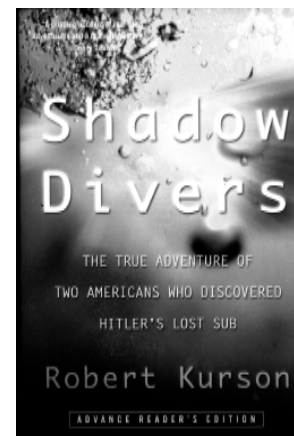
Reviewed by *Cris Kohl*

One promotion blurb for this new book describes it as "The True Adventure of Two Americans Who Risked Everything to Solve One of the Last Mysteries of World War II." Succinct but heavy, that description certainly sums up the book's plot: how a pair of the East Coast's best-known scuba divers, John Chatterton and Richie Kohler, spent many dives over many years on the deep (230 feet) wreck of an unidentified World War II German U-boat off the New Jersey coast. Along the way, storms brewed, problems plagued, friendships faltered and divers died (including the father-and-son team of Chris & Chrissy Rouse, the subjects of Bernie Choudhury's excellent book, *The Last Dive*). But with quiet self-discipline and determination, the two men advanced.

Kurson is a master of realistic dialogue -- probably because, I believe, every spoken word he relates was actually uttered by those characters. There is no need for fictional or semi-fictional dramatization, an imaginative process which is prevalent in many of today's history books. Kurson, who spent hundreds of hours interviewing the major and minor players in this tale, took the words directly from the characters themselves, even accompanying Kohler to Germany to interview U-boat survivors.

*Shadow Divers* reads like Homer's *Odyssey*, with not one but two men struggling to reach home, along with a variety of faithful (and otherwise) crewmembers and associates who drop out of the story or are sidelined one-by-one as the main characters overcome one monstrous obstacle after another towards their goal. This goal, however, grows into something much bigger than the identification of an unknown shipwreck. It becomes every man's journey through life, and therein lies the impact of this tale.

Robert Kurson, a Chicago writer for *Esquire* Magazine, has written a fascinating first book in a riveting style juggling and intertwining extremes of emotion with enlightening biographical information and the hard, cold facts of an incredible yet true tale. This book goes on sale on June 30, 2004.



CRIS KOHL PHOTO

### Joseph Medill Gone

The historic Chicago fire tug, *Joseph Medill*, slated by the Neptune's Nimrods to become the first vessel scuttled in Wisconsin waters as a scuba dive site, reportedly was nixed by the state's bureaucracy and has been sold to a private party who plans to scrap the ship.



CRIS KOHL PHOTO

### John O. Greenwood

1935-2004

The Cleveland President of Freshwater Press/author of the famous *Namesakes* series of Great Lakes books and other shipping reference works, died of cancer at his home on January 11, 2004, at the age of 68.

### Great Lakes Shipwreck Notes

- A newly-located wreck of an upright schooner lies in Lake Michigan off Holland, MI, reportedly in 200 to 230 feet of water with bowsprit & anchors in place. One possibility: the 1870 *Thomas Hume*, lost on May 21, 1891 with all 6 hands.
- A newly-located barge in 106' of water off Door County's Whitefish Bay in Lake Michigan, apparently with a stone cargo, was found by commercial fishermen who snagged their nets on it and told diver/charterer Jim Robinson about it.
- one of the tech divers who has reportedly done several dives since 2001 to the "off-limits" War of 1812 wrecks of the *Hamilton* and *Scourge* in 289' of Lake Ontario may soon go public with his underwater video "just to see what happens."



Shedd Aquarium

### UASC Meetings Remaining in 2004!

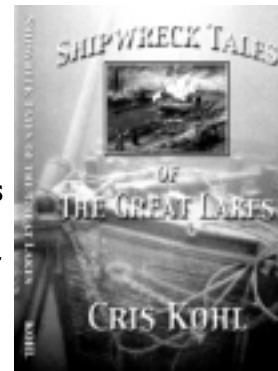
Our meetings are held at the **John G. Shedd Aquarium** just off Lakeshore Drive on the scenic Chicago waterfront on the last Wednesday of every month (2nd last in November), beginning at 7 PM until 9 PM in one of the instruction rooms at the northwest entrance (the Education side door facing Monroe 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!**



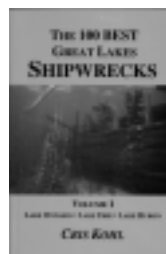
Spring ice at Chicago. Photos by Cris Kohl



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!)



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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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2004 UASC Chairpersons

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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

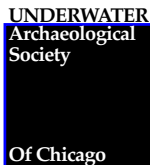
studying the effects of natural and biological forces as well as the impact of human activity on shipwrecks. It advocates responsible use of submerged cultural resources.

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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