

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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Summer, 2004

Meet and Hear our Guest Speakers, September 29th and October 27th



PHOTO BY BETH KELLY

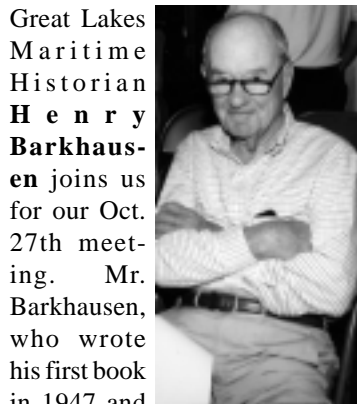


PHOTO BY CRIS KOHL

Bestselling author **Robert Kurson**, joins us at 7 PM on Wed., Sept. 29, 2004, to tell us about his book, *Shadow Divers*, the tale of two divers' relentless quest to identify a WWII U-boat sunk in deep water off New Jersey. **BRING A FRIEND TO THIS ONE!** NOTE: Books will not be available at the meeting; please bring your own book to get it signed.

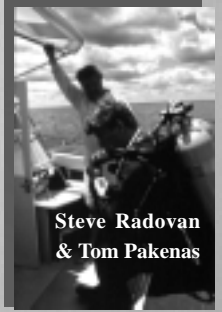
Great Lakes Maritime Historian **Henry Barkhausen** joins us for our Oct. 27th meeting. Mr. Barkhausen, who wrote his first book in 1947 and who is one of the founders of the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History, will tell us about centerboards on Great Lakes schooners. **BRING A PAL TO THIS ONE!**

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!

2004 Shipwreck Surveys Update!

Shipwreck survey work has continued throughout the summer, but it has been challenging. With storms and unseasonably cool weather adversely affecting Lake Michigan, and with two of our very active members' boats out of commission, we have been delayed. **John Loftus** and **Jim Jarecki** have occasionally been able to get out to the wrecks of the *Material Service* and the *David Dows* on John's boat, with one or two other divers, but the visibility has been limiting. We still need to do a bit more work on *The Straits of Mackinac* and "Val's Wreck."



Steve Radovan & Tom Pakenas

(PHOTOS BY CRIS KOHL © 2004 BY SEAWOLF COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)

UASC members **Tom Pakenas** (in photo) and **Cris Kohl** recently explored (thanks to historian and wreckhunter **Steve Radovan**) the schooner, *Rouse Simmons*, the legendary "Christmas Tree Ship," in 165 feet of water off Two Rivers, Wisconsin. The ship sank with all hands and trees in November, 1912.

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AGLMH Annual Conference, Sept. 17-18, 2004: Manitowoc This Year!



The annual meeting and conference of the **Association for Great Lakes Maritime History** took place this year at Manitowoc, Wisconsin, on September 17 and 18, 2004, and several members of the UASC attended this excellent forum with interesting presentations. *From left to right:* The Wisconsin Maritime Museum at Manitowoc features a World War II submarine, the *Cobia* -- many submarines were built at Manitowoc during the war. **Cris Kohl** and Great Lakes historian **Frederick Stonehouse** chatted a lot over dinner -- Fred was the evening speaker (and he also wrote the foreword to Cris' 1987 book, *Shipwreck Tales: The St. Clair River*). **Jim Jarecki** and **Brendan Bailod** talked about shipwrecks. Historian **Patrick Labadie** discussed maritime history with (sorry!) an unidentified attendee, while **Jim Jarecki** and **Joan Forsberg**, in the background, talked about the UASC. Next year's conference will be held at Tobermory, Ontario. (PHOTOS BY CRIS KOHL AND/OR JOAN FORSBERG)

A Finely Aged Dragon Toy!

The Maritime Museum in Manitowoc exhibits a Great Lakes rarity -- a schooner's figurehead, in this case, the unique dragon from the *James R. Bentley*. But why, WHY, on earth is it exhibited in the children's area?



Congratulations!

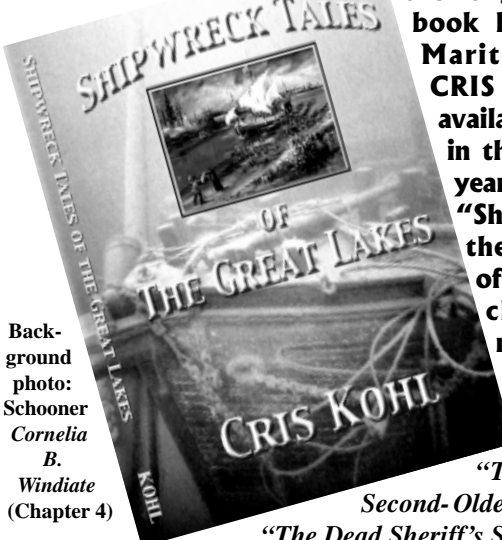
Aging Like Fine Wine!
Roger Brown (left) celebrated a milestone birthday at the July UASC meeting and everyone there enjoyed Scott Reimer. *Happy Birthday, Roger!*

More Fine Wine!
Chet Childs (right, with young celebrant **Joan Forsberg**) enjoys another UASC cake, again by Scott "Feed The Millions" Reimer, at Chet's recent milestone birthday at the August meeting.



Congratulations!

Its time has finally come...



Background photo: Schooner *Cornelia B. Windiate* (Chapter 4)

On November 4, 2004, the long-awaited tenth book by Great Lakes Maritime Historian **CRIS KOHL** will be available. Two years in the research, one year in the writing, "**Shipwreck Tales of the Great Lakes**" offers 13 exciting chapters about mystery, murder and mayhem on our inland seas, including:

"The Great Lakes' Second- Oldest Shipwreck"

"The Dead Sheriff's Secrets"

"The Shipwreck Which Helped Build Chicago"

"The Dead Captain's Secrets" "Leviathans of the Lakes"

"The Challenge of Shipwreck Identification"

"The Captain's Jinx" "The Hard Luck Whaleback"

"Return from the Dead--Two Raised Shipwrecks" ...and more!

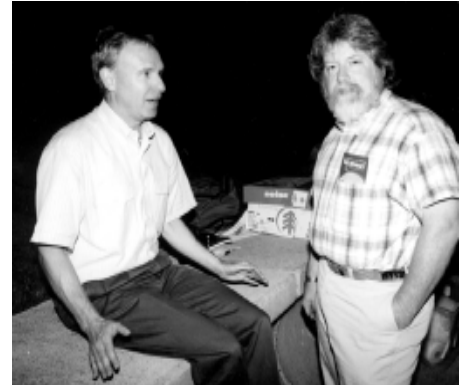
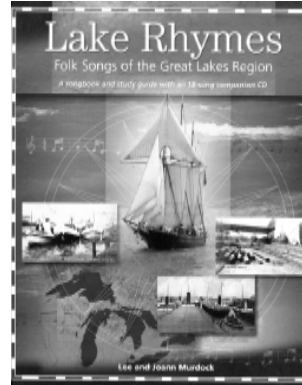
286 pages. 6" x 9" hardcover. Gold foil embossing. Color dust jacket. Special sepia endpapers. 120 color photos. 150 black-and white photos. Many drawings and maps. Bibliography. Index. \$26.95 U.S.



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CREDIT CARD ORDERS ACCEPTED



This Fine Wine Has Aged Really Well!

UASC members **Lee and Joann Murdock** have just released a combination package -- a songbook with a study guide for students AND a companion CD with 18 songs on it. *Lake Rhymes, Folk Songs of the Great Lakes Region* contains archival photographs, maps, drawings, music and lyrics to many songs. It also has underwater images from **Keith Pearson's** and **Jim Gentile's** video freeze-frames. Even the usually self-controlled UASC Past President **Tony Kiefer** -- seated in the photo with Lee Murdock -- exhibited overwhelming excitement, unprecedented behaviour for the normally reserved Mr. Kiefer. If it makes Tony's motor run like that (see photo), it HAS to be a good book! (PHOTO BY CRIS KOHL)

A Final Drop or Two of Fine Wine!

The *S. S. Badger* over the Labor Day weekend was where **Cris Kohl** and **Joan Forsberg** gave shipwreck presentations--while crossing Lake Michigan --and no one got upset! In fact, the crowds of 65 and 75 people respectively for the two presentations enjoyed themselves, as did the presenters!



S.S. Badger at Manitowoc (CRIS KOHL PHOTO)

What a Great Summer of Guest Speakers!



Keith Gill at the June 30, 2004, Meeting

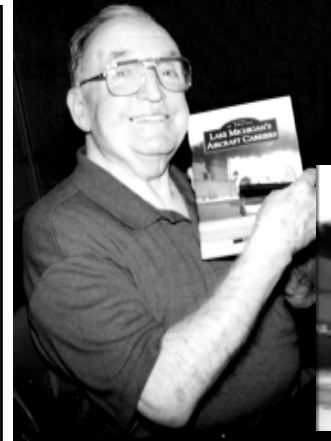


Chicago has one of only five German U-boats in the world on museum exhibit -- the *U-505*, captured at the end of WWII. U-boat curator **Keith Gill** of the Museum of Science and Industry fascinated us with information, including the submarine's dramatic history and plans to house it in a roofed building (the sub has already been moved inside a foundation, as we saw in astounding time-lapse video!) and why the *UC-97*--sunk off Chicago in 1921--will never join the *U-505*. Keith wrote a chapter in *Hunt and Kill*, the book about the *U-505*. **THANK YOU**, Keith! (PHOTO BY CRIS KOHL)



Wayne (and wife Jennifer) Sapulski at the July 28, 2004, Meeting

The author of one of the best lighthouse books (*Lighthouses of Lake Michigan, Past and Present*) ever produced anywhere, **Wayne** presented his high quality slides of Great Lakes lighthouses and highlights of their varied histories, focusing on many Lake Michigan and Chicago area lighthouses. **THANK YOU**, Wayne & Jennifer, for driving in from the Detroit area. (PHOTOS BY CRIS KOHL)



Paul Somers at the August 25, 2004, Meeting

Paul M. Somers, from Champaign, Illinois, joined us with history tales and amusing anecdotes in his slide presentation on the two Lake Michigan aircraft carriers (converted from Great Lakes passenger excursion paddlewheelers), the *Sable* and the *Wolverine*, used as trainers during WWII on Lake Michigan just off Chicago. Alumni include former President George Bush (senior). Paul wrote the very entertaining book, *Lake Michigan's Aircraft Carriers*, about this topic. **THANK YOU**, Paul, for sharing your many interesting stories. (PHOTO BY CRIS KOHL)



Scott "Feed The Millions" Reimer with his food cart and world map.



Long time no see, Joe Oliver!



Our usual summer, post-meeting lakeside bash, complete with pizza and fireworks from Navy Pier!



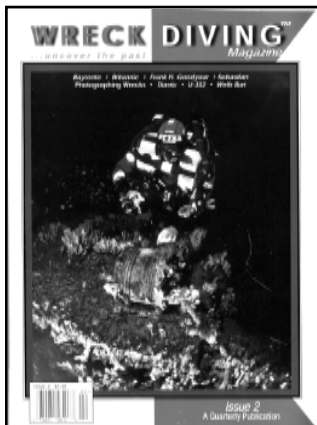
"Hey, does anybody want to take home some breakfast?"

If Only More Parking Meters Were Available!

We have had excellent turnouts at our recent UASC meetings at the Shedd Aquarium, despite the crowds there for the wonderful Navy Pier summer fireworks at 9:30 on Wednesday nights giving us competition galore for parking spaces. Our guest speakers -- **Keith Gill** in June and **Wayne Sapulski** and his wife, **Jennifer**, in July -- truly enjoyed these unique fireworks over Lake Michigan (it rained in August -- sorry, Paul!) Parking problems & crowds? We'll just have to grin & bear it!

Magazine Article About A Chicago Shipwreck!

The Summer, 2004, issue of *Wreck Diving Magazine* contained UASC President **Cris Kohl's** 8-page article titled "Chicago's Tragic Schooner, The *Wells Burt*." The detailed article contained descriptions of the *Burt's* 12 accidents before she finally sank, and a court case resulting from the salvage of the *Burt's* cargo. If you haven't subscribed yet to this new publication, now would be a good time! Telephone (864) 244-9861, or visit www.WreckDivingMag.com



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Calendar of Events



Compiled in September, 2004.

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

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 IL Council of Skin & Scuba Divers, 6:30 PM at (new location!) Brunetti's Italian Cuisine, 9022 31st St., Brookfield, IL (708-485-1731), on 31st near Brookfield Zoo. Dinner dance, awards, fantastic raffle. Don't forget to bring Toys for Tots.

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. Website: www.uhms-glc.ca

Special Price for UASC Members!

Since UASC is not producing a new Shipwreck Show at the Shedd this year, we recommend our members and supporters attend the following:

November 4, 2004 (Thurs.) 6 to 9 PM -- **An Evening of Diving and Dining at the Shedd!** The evening begins with a cocktail hour and a chance to view the Shedd's Exhibits. A fabulous dinner will then be served in the Shedd's Soundings Restaurant, followed by two presentations by UASC's **Cris Kohl** and **Jim Jarecki**--a report on our recent underwater survey activities, plus a formal presentation called "**Tall Ships Chicago -- Then and Now!**" which ties together the Tall Ships' visit to Chicago in 2003 and the tall ships submerged off Chicago's waters. Advance registration is required. Limited space. Fee: \$65 (**\$50 for Shedd and UASC members!** Special pro-rated UASC memberships are presently available by calling 630-293-4020.) Please support this combined UASC/Shedd project! **Call (312) 692-3333 today to book your Evening of Diving and Dining at the Shedd!**

November, 2004 could also be a good time to catch those fabulous Great Lakes Shipwreck Shows that have been produced annually for years, but which you never got around to attending yet. Go for these three:

November 6, 2004 (Sat.) -- The 17th annual "**Gales of November**" Show, Duluth, Minnesota. Presentations, booths and displays. Presenters include Frederick Stonehouse, Ken Merryman & Jerry Eliason, Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg, and others. Call 218-727-2497 or visit www.LSMMA.com

November 13, 2004 (Sat.) -- The 21st annual "**Shipwrecks and Scuba**" Show, Holiday Inn, Sandusky, Ohio. Workshop (9-11:30; \$20) by Patrick Labadie: "Learning About Shipwrecks." Afternoon presentations (1:30-4 PM, \$8): presentations by Steve Lewis, Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg, Dave Trotter and Mirek Standowicz. Booths and exhibits open at 3:30 PM. Evening Dinner & Presentations (6:30-9?; \$28): Kevin McMurray on the *Empress of Ireland*, plus Dave Trotter. Call 419-483-3074 for tickets or for more info.

November 20, 2004 (Sat.) -- The 9th annual "**Shipwrecks Remembered**" Show at Port Huron, Michigan. Presentations, booths and displays. Begins at 3 PM until 9:30 PM. Presenters: Mike & Georgann Wachter, Robert McGreevy, Mirek Standowicz, Joyce Hayward, Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg, Tim Juhl and Jim & Pat Stayer. For more info, 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 atten-

WELCOME! NEW MEMBERS in UASC

We welcome the recent new members to the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago (THANKS to **Bob Gadbois** and **Roger Brown** for their updated information; please contact them if your name is missing):

John Argento Anne C. Hayes Gwen Openlander Mark E. Zahorik

dance: over 60,000. Everything will be under one roof -- no more 1-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. **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

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

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

NOTE: This is a 2006 date! March 24-26, 2006 -- 7th **Ghost Ships Festival**

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

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Is This a Money Game or a *Griffon* Claim?

At least two Michigan newspapers reported in July that a claim had been made by a "treasure hunter" arguing that his discovery, about which he is keeping vague, could be among the "most significant archaeological finds" in Great Lakes history. Refusing to name the vessel ("If I did, everyone would jump out of the woodwork. ... They'll find the ship and tear it apart."), this man, from Virginia, argued that his group has "invested substantial time, money and effort" finding the ship and researching its history. The group, Great Lakes Exploration, added in court documents that "the vessel was owned by a foreign research expedition operating with the authority of ... a foreign sovereign until it became wrecked, lost and abandoned." (That certainly limits its identity!) The wreck apparently lies at or near Poverty Island Shoals in Michigan state waters of Green Bay. Michigan Historian (and scuba diver) Dr. John Halsey recently told the editor of this newsletter that the grainy underwater video of the alleged shipwreck, supplied by the claimant, "looks like a piece of lumber sticking out of the bottom of the bay." Another source stated that the find is a fish net stake stuck in the bottom. Meanwhile, the discoverer is reportedly seeking \$35 million in damages, but it is unclear from whom he expects to receive this money ("only in America"). By recent international agreement among the USA, France, England, Spain and others regarding their nation's government or military vessels sunk in foreign waters, the French government would still retain sovereignty over the wreck if it did turn out to be that of the fabled *Griffon*. Built by explorer La Salle, the *Griffon* went missing on her maiden voyage in 1679.

The Midway Project

Taras Lyssenko of A&T Recovery recently informed us about the Midway Project: exhibiting a historic, restored aircraft lost off Chicago at Midway Airport.

Schooner *David A. Wells* Relocated Off Chicago

UASC members **Liz Jurkacek**, **Keith Pearson** and **Bob Gadbois** joined **Taras Lyssenko** and **Dave Truitt** on the latter's boat in finally re-locating and videotaping the wreck alleged to be that of the schooner *David A. Wells* in about 45 feet of water off Chicago. The *Wells* sank in the violent "Alpena Storm" of Oct., 1880, with all 8 hands and an iron ore cargo. Embedded, only framing remains.



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, maximum 10 hours). There is no meeting in December. We are currently finishing survey and artwork goals, as well as shipwreck research, for the year. *Join us! The public is welcome!*

September 29 October 27 November 17



Great Lakes Shipwreck Notes

--There is no further word yet as to the identification of the newly-located wreck of an upright schooner in Lake Michigan off Holland, MI, reportedly in 200 to 230 feet of water with bowsprit & anchors in place. One possibility which has been suggested is the 1870 *Thomas Hume*, lost on May 21, 1891 with all 6 hands, but contemporary accounts described local commercial fishermen a few years after the sinking claiming to be snagging their nets on the remains of what they thought was the *Thomas Hume* lying in much shallower water.

--The newly-located barge in 106' of water off Door County's Whitefish Bay in Lake Michigan, with a cargo of building stone and found by commercial fishermen who snagged their nets on it and told diver/charterer **Jim Robinson** about it, has been identified as the *Ocean Wave*. This three-masted schooner out of Chicago foundered on Sept. 23, 1869, after hitting a log or floating wreckage or timber. Contemporary reports gave a depth of 300 feet where the ship sank, but that might have been where the vessel was when the crew abandoned her in their lifeboat and rowed to shore, leaving all their personal property on board.

--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 and who reportedly stated that he may soon go public with his underwater video "just to see what happens" has apparently changed his mind, suggesting that his existing video isn't up to presentation quality yet. Stay tuned!

--This seems to be a hot U-boat year! Chicago's *U-505* is seeing action., and with the runaway success of **Robert Kurson's** book, *Shadow Divers* (join us at the UASC meeting on Wed., Sept. 29th, for Mr. Kurson's talk) about a U-boat found off New Jersey, we can add the recent news that former Lake Erie commercial diver **Mike Fletcher** and crew found the remains of the *U-215* off Nova Scotia in 270 feet of water. Now what about our own *UC-97* in Lake Michigan?



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- Y Great Lakes Wreck Diving

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• UASC newsletters
• Participation at regular meetings
• Invitations to special events

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[] Family Membership \$60.00
[] Affiliate Membership \$15.00 (receive UASC mailings)

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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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Treasurer Bob Gadbois, (773) 883-1601. E-mail: bobclarg@att.net
Secretary Erick Matuzak, (630) 850-2810. E-mail: ematuzak@aol.com

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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

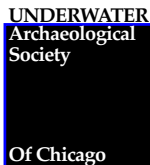
studying the effects of natural and biological forces as well as the impact of human activity on shipwrecks. It advocates responsible use of submerged cultural resources.

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