

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

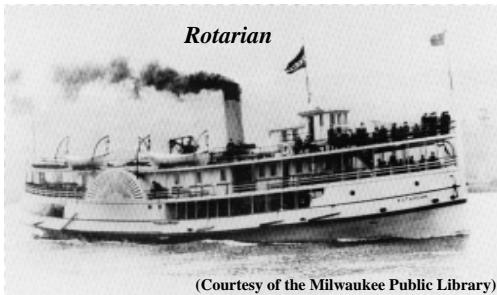
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# 2005 Underwater Survey Projects



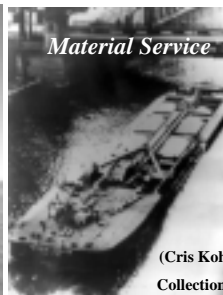
*Rotarian*

(Courtesy of the Milwaukee Public Library)



*The Straits of Mackinac*

(Photo by Cris Kohl)



*Material Service*

(Cris Kohl Collection)



*Iowa*

(Cris Kohl Collection)

UASC will be working on these, and other, shipwrecks off Chicago this summer, finalizing survey work and underwater sketching, photography and videography. The May 4th UASC meeting will enlighten our members, old and new, about the work which still remains to be done on these historic vessels.

The wooden steamer, *Rotarian* (nicknamed "Al Capone's Ship" because the gangster supposedly frequented the vessel when it was operating as a "restaurant" in its final years -- although definite proof of his visits remains elusive) was built in 1889 as the *A. Wehrle, Jr.* at Sandusky, Ohio. In its old age, the ship sank at its dock in Chicago and was finally raised, towed out and scuttled in 84 feet of water in 1931. 1930's beer bottles remain (please leave them on the site).

The steel ship named *The Straits of Mackinac* (the word "The" is actually part of its name) was built in 1928 in the Detroit area for use as a ferry in the Straits of Mackinac fleet in those days before the Mackinac Bridge (pre-1957). This ship, lying inactive for many years, was cleaned up and sunk in 78 feet of water off Chicago on April 10, 2003, as the largest ship ever scuttled to create a dive site in the Great Lakes.

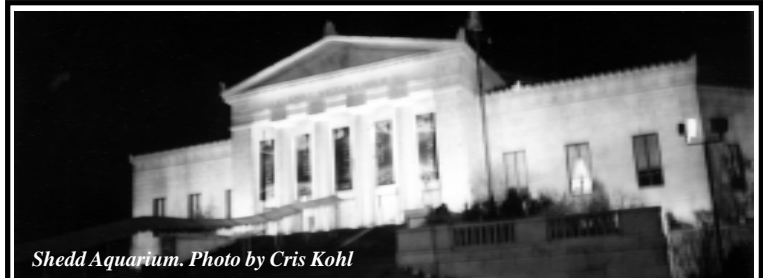
The *Material Service* barge, 240 feet long and built in 1929 at Sturgeon Bay, WI, sank in a tragic accident about 2,000 feet northeast of the Calumet Harbor Light in 38 feet of water on July 29, 1936, with the loss of its sand cargo and 15 of the 22 workers who were on board.

The steamer *Iowa* lies broken up about four miles off Navy Pier, between two cribs. Launched as the *Menominee* in 1872 at Manitowoc, WI, this ship replaced one of the steamers destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Rebuilt and renamed *Iowa* in 1896, this 202-foot-long vessel was crushed by ice off Chicago harbor on February 4, 1915, with the crew and the one passenger walking to shore on the ice.

Contact **Scott Reimer** at 847-561-2272 for some exciting work this year!

### In This Issue:

2005 Underwater Survey Projects .....	Page 1
Recent UASC Activities and Attendances .....	Page 2
Starting the Great 2005 UASC Guest Speaker Series! .....	Page 3
Calendar of Great Lakes/Maritime Events .....	Page 4
President's Corner .....	Page 4
Potpourri of Misc. UASC/Great Lakes/Maritime News .....	Page 5
2005 Membership/Renewal Information .....	Page 6



*Shedd Aquarium. Photo by Cris Kohl*

### UASC Meetings in 2005!

#### **NOTE: April 27th meeting postponed to May 4th**

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 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 surveying a new shipwreck discovery, plus finishing survey and artwork goals on other sites, as well as doing shipwreck research. **Join us! The public is welcome!**

#### The remaining 2005 UASC Meeting Dates:



*Sunset over Chicago's skyline, view from Lake Michigan. Photo by Dan Kasberger*

May 4	May 25	June 29
July 27	August 31	September 28
October 26	November 30	

## Recent UASC Activities and Attendances



Now, about that Maritime Museum long overdue and needed for Chicago. The final in a series of public input meetings to help determine the future use of the small island airport formerly known as Meigs Field occurred at the stately South Shore Culture Center on Lake Michigan in mid-March, 2005. UASC members **Howard Openlander, Keith Pearson** and **Cris Kohl**, as well as UASC supporter and OW-U Silent Auction organizer **George "Buffalo Bill" Muszynski**, were part of this well-attended meeting. Although heavy with airport proponents, talks produced smiles and nods of approval at recommendations of building **THE BEST & LARGEST EVER Great Lakes Maritime Museum and Resource Center here in Chicago** at this ideal Lake Michigan location. (PHOTOS BY CRIS KOHL)



The 3rd annual **Chicago Maritime Festival** on Feb. 26, 2005, once again successfully drew many people anxious to find out more about Great Lakes history, and music lovers who enjoy maritime tunes. UASC members took active part in numerous areas: **Jim Jarecki** worked as Emcee in the Auditorium, introducing a wide variety of speakers including **Scott Alexander** of Chicago's Towers Productions, who talked about last year's production of "The Christmas Tree Ship" for the Weather Channel, while UASC'er **Dan Kasberger** captured the show in images (above, left). Right, UASC member **Tom Kastle** (seen with presenter **Scott Alexander**) helped organized the show. **Ted Karamanski**, a past UASC guest speaker, also presented (middle). UASC presenters were **Chet Childs, Dan Kasberger, Lee Murdock, Tom & Chris Kastle, and Cris Kohl and Joan Forsberg**. UASC's **Bob Gadbois** and **Chet Childs** worked AV. (PHOTOS BY CRIS KOHL)



### UASC at "Our World--Underwater," January 13-17, 2005

Various UASC members helped out at Chicago's 35th annual "Our World--Underwater" Show on Jan. 13-17, 2005. **Larry and Nancy Boucha** (above left) made presentations at both the Friday Evening and the Saturday Evening Film Festivals. **Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg** were also presenters. Booth personnel over the five-day show period included two dozen UASC members -- to whom we say a heartfelt "THANK YOU"! Pictured above are **Tony Kiefer, Gene Hasiak, Chris Kastle, Keith Pearson** and **Diane Gulczynski**. (PHOTOS BY CRIS KOHL)

### UASC's Resident Artiste

UASC member **Michael Angelo Gagliardi** (known simply as "Michael Angelo") has been making quite a name for himself as an artist of note, drawing mostly shipwrecks as they appear underwater. His Great Lakes collection has grown so much that he had his own booth selling his artwork at the Milwaukee Ghost Ships Festival on Feb. 19, 2005. Right, Michael Angelo's drawing of the steeple compound engine of the wreck of the *Conestoga* as it rises above the waters of the St. Lawrence River. Contact him at 773-282-7114, or e-mail MA9001@aol.com



### UASC Members Find CPR and O2 Courses Valuable!

Numerous UASC members recently took advantage of CPR and O2 courses set up by **Chet Childs**, UASC's Safety Chairman. The ten who took the CPR/First Aid course offered from 9 AM to 12:30 PM on Sat., March 19, 2005, and taught by UASC member **Hank Fiene** with **Mike Pasternak** as his assistant, were **Roger Barsky, John Bell, Chet Childs, Bob & Claire Gadbois, Jim Jarecki, Dan Kasberger, John Loftus, John Parker, and Peter Schneider**. The following Saturday, March 26, 2005, six members were trained in O2 (taught by UASC member **Nancy Boucha** of Scuba Systems dive shop): **Roger Barsky, John Bell, Dan Fiedler, Bob & Claire Gadbois** and **Cheryl Wickstrom**. We THANK all the instructors, organizers and trainees wholeheartedly.

### UASC Refreshments Coordinator Seeks Help!

UASC meetings have been spiced up considerably (at least the foreplay part between 6:30 and 7 PM) with the presence of snacks. But we need help in getting these munchies to each meeting. Please contact **Todd Hitzeman** at [tnhitzeman@hitzemanfuneral.com](mailto:tnhitzeman@hitzemanfuneral.com) if you can help for at least one meeting.

### Our President's Kidney Stones

UASC President **Jim Jarecki** missed the March, 2005 meeting (and a whole lot more!) because of painful kidney stones. As he wrote to ye editor, "My gall bladder experience last year was no big deal, but kidney stones really suck...." Get well soon and hurry back. UASC needs you! **Ghost Ships Festival**



UASC had a booth and many members worked there and some presented while attending the 6th annual Ghost Ships Festival in Milwaukee on Feb. 19, 2005. Left, **Pat & Jim Stayer** organized the great afterglow party in one of the hotel's lounge areas. (PHOTO BY CRIS KOHL)

# Starting the Great 2005 Guest Speaker Series!

## January



Our Jan. 26, 2005, guest speaker was **Harry Zych**, the man who located the nearby remains of two of the most historic and tragic sidewheel steamer shipwrecks in the Great Lakes -- the *Lady Elgin*, sunk in a collision with over 400 lives lost on Sept. 8, 1860, and the *Seabird*, which burned on April 9, 1868, with only 3 survivors. Remembered for his legal fights in claiming ownership of these wrecks, as well as for the resulting conflicts with UASC in the early 1990's, Harry and UASC have both mellowed and would like for the artifacts from those shipwrecks to find a home on permanent exhibit to the public. **THANK YOU, Harry!** (PHOTOS BY CRIS KOHL)

## February



**Kris Habermehl** (above right, with UASC President Jim Jarecki), CBS Channel 2's Chicago traffic helicopter man, presented exciting aerial video of the Lake Michigan and Calumet River ships and shorelines at the Feb. 23, 2005, meeting. His consuming passion for and knowledge of Great Lakes shipping were obvious. **THANK YOU, Kris!**

## March



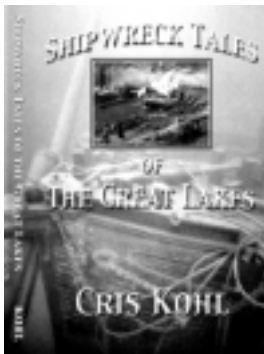
UASC Past Presidents **Keith Pearson** and **Tony Kiefer** taught members many things at the March 30th, 2005, meeting. Keith talked about ship construction and the many things divers see when they explore a shipwreck (accompanied by a 5-page handout), while Tony used actual tools and a two-page handout to show aspects of Underwater Survey Methodology. **THANK YOU, Keith and Tony!** (PHOTOS BY CRIS KOHL)

**FUTURE guest speakers at UASC meetings:** Bill Wheeler from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (at the May 25th meeting); Stephen Nash, the Field Museum Dendrochronologist (he ages wood) at the June 29th meeting. Others: Workers from the National Archives (Great Lakes), and more.

## Shipwreck Tales of the Great Lakes by Cris Kohl

Reviewed by **Thomas Pakenas**

When I reveal that I am a Great Lakes diver, the most common reaction I receive from the general public is disbelief that there is anything worth seeing at the bottom of our inland seas. Author, diver, and historian, Cris Kohl, takes the usual refrain, "There are over 1,000 shipwrecks which have been located to date" and puts a story to the tragedies and names on the unfortunates, drawing the uninitiated into more than a dozen of the more compelling stories behind the numbers.



His newest book, *Shipwreck Tales of the Great Lakes*, will satisfy not only divers, but anyone with even a casual curiosity about the past and the appreciation of a good yarn

Mr. Kohl begins his book with the story of French explorer LaSalle and his bark, *Griffon*. A true mystery, the *Griffon* was lost in 1679 with no survivors and not a soul remaining to record the cause of the sinking or the location. After discussing the five scenarios most commonly presented as "the most viable solutions to the greatest riddle of the freshwater seas," Cris takes the reader along in exploration of the numerous locations which, at one time

or another, have claimed to be the final resting place of the *Griffon*.

Also told is a cautionary tale concerning the efforts and consequences of two instances where amazingly intact freshwater shipwrecks were raised from the deep, only to decay into piles of unrecognizable debris. Further complementing this book's compelling narrative is the inclusion of photographs of the various ships, both period and underwater, as well as reproductions of detailed sketches, newspaper clippings, and advertising materials. The photographs of the *Cornelia B. Windiate*, complete with rigging and yardarm, are enough to make a diver start booking a trip to Alpena, Michigan, pronto.

A most enjoyable counterpart to these tales of lost ships and abandoned dreams is the very entertaining story of "Cap" Streeter, whose battles with the hoity toity of Chicago are legendary. Streeter apparently never heard the phrase "you can't fight city hall," as evidenced by his forming a makeshift army of fellow squatters and confronting 600 police officers. Most amazing is the fact that the land Cap Streeter claimed, at the time a village of shanties on fill, eventually became Streeterville, some of the most expensive land in Chicago.

Thoroughly researched and handsomely illustrated, *Shipwreck Tales of the Great Lakes* is an admirable addition to Cris Kohl's body of work. I heartily recommend this book.

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# Calendar of Events



Compiled in late March, 2005.

May 7, 2005 (Sat.) -- The 7th annual "Mysteries and Histories Beneath The Inland Seas" Show, Holland, MI. Presenters: archaeologist Ralph Wilbanks ("The Discovery of the Civil War *Hunley*, and other Projects with Clive Cussler"), Joyce Hayward ("*Rouse Simmons*, The Christmas Schooner"), Dave Trotter ("Two Ships Frozen in Time: *E. P. Bridge & W.C. Gilbert*), and Michigan Shipwreck Research Associates ("The Disappearance of Flight 2501"). Knickerbocker Theatre, 86th E. 8th St., Holland, MI, 7 PM. Tickets \$12.50. For info, call **Valerie Olson Van Heest** (one of UASC's founding mothers) at 616-738-9233, or see [www.michiganshipwrecks.org](http://www.michiganshipwrecks.org)

May 21-22, 2005 (Sat.-Sun.) -- The 1st annual "Thunder Bay Shipwreck Festival" in Alpena, Michigan. Presentations, exhibits, try scuba, boat charters. Presenters: UASC's **Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg** ("Shipwreck Tales of the Great Lakes"), Joyce Hayward (*Rouse Simmons* presentation), Jim & Pat Stayer (*Dunderberg* presentation), Dave Trotter (*E. P. Bridge* presentation), and NOAA Thunder Bay Sanctuary and Preserve ("Tragedies in the Mist"). See [www.thunderbayshipwreckfestival.com](http://www.thunderbayshipwreckfestival.com) for more information.

May 21-22, 2005 (Sat.-Sun.) -- The annual "Scuba Show" at Long Beach Convention Center, California. Exhibits, presentations. Call 310-792-2333 or visit [www.saintbrendan.com/exh05\\_info/exprop05.html](http://www.saintbrendan.com/exh05_info/exprop05.html)

June 3-5, 2005 (Fri.-Sun.) -- The annual "Seaspace" Show at the Reliant Center, Houston, Texas. Presentations, exhibits, evening film show, a climbing wall, kayaking, sailing and surfing. Try scuba, snorkeling and paddle sports. Call 713-467-6675 or see [www.seaspace.org](http://www.seaspace.org)

November 5, 2005 (Sat.) -- The 18th annual "Gales of November" in Duluth, MN. Lake Superior presentations and exhibits. Dinner & special speaker.

November 5, 2005 (Sat.) (tentative date) -- The 10th annual "Shipwrecks Remembered" Show in Port Huron, Michigan. Presentations and exhibits.

November 12, 2005 (Sat.) -- The 22nd annual "Shipwrecks and Scuba" Show in Sandusky, Ohio. Presentations, exhibits, workshop, evening dinner & special speaker.

Feb. 18, 2006 (Sat.) (tentative date) -- Chicago's 4th annual "Chicago Maritime Festival" at the Chicago Historical Society, Clark Street at North Avenue, Chicago, with presentations, exhibits, music and an evening seafarers' concert. **If you live anywhere at all near Chicago, DON'T MISS THIS SHOW!**

Feb. 24-26, 2006 (Fri.-Sun.) -- Chicago's 36th annual "Our World--Underwater" Show. New date! A Three-Day Show! Same Great Location! Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, IL. **If you live anywhere at all near Chicago, DON'T MISS THIS SHOW!** See [www.ourworldunderwater.com](http://www.ourworldunderwater.com).

March 5-6, 2006 (Sat.-Sun.) -- The 51st annual "Boston Sea Rovers Underwater Clinic," Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA. Exhibits, workshops, daytime presentations, evening film festival. The longest continuously running Dive Show in the world. Visit [www.bostonsearovers.com](http://www.bostonsearovers.com)

March 24-26, 2006 (Fri.-Sun.) -- The big 30th annual "Beneath The Sea" New York City Show, Secaucus, NJ. Exhibits, workshops, presentations, film festival. See [www.beneaththesea.org](http://www.beneaththesea.org)

March 24-26, 2006 (Fri.-Sun.) -- 7th annual "Ghost Ships Festival," Milwaukee, WI. Exhibits and presentations.

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)**

## President's Corner

I am very pleased to welcome our many new members into the UASC this year. Please don't hesitate to write or call me or any of the officers with any questions or comments that you have. The UASC is OUR Society and we all have a say and can influence what the group does. I strongly encourage everyone to get involved and help shape the future of this great organization.

The survey dive season is about to begin, so make sure that your dive gear has been properly maintained and is ready for another safe and productive year. The UASC recently offered CPR,

Emergency First Responder and also the DAN O2 Provider course. I strongly encourage everyone who plans to participate in UASC dives this year to make sure you are up to date in all of the safety related courses. If enough people are still wanting to take these courses, we will offer them again this summer. Diving insurance is also something that everyone participating in UASC dives should have. Affordable insurance is available through DAN, the Divers Alert Network.

A new addition to our meetings this year is the premeeting refreshments and social time beginning at 6:30pm. This is a great opportunity to get to know each other and also to take care of personal business before the business meeting begins at 7pm. So far this is working very well but we need more volunteers to take a turn bringing refreshments for the meeting. Todd Hitzeman is coordinating this, so if you are willing to help, please contact him at [\\_tnhitzeman@hitzemanfuneral.com\\_](mailto:_tnhitzeman@hitzemanfuneral.com_) (mailto:tnhitzeman@hitzemanfuneral.com) or call him at 708-485-2000.

In this issue of the "Wreck Checker" is the first installment of a new column called Toolkit. This column will feature how-to information for basic underwater archaeological techniques. I'm sure everyone will find this column to be interesting and educational.

**Jim Jarecki**, UASC President



(PHOTO BY JOAN FORSBERG)

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# POTPOURRI

## A Blast from the Past

Early in UASC's history, 13 years ago back in August of 1992, a team of intrepid divers rose to the task of surveying the enormous underwater lumberyard known as the wreck of the schooner-barge *Goshawk* in Lake Huron. Located in 1990 by **A&T Recovery** in 50 feet of water, the 180-foot long *Goshawk* (nearly as long as *The Straits of Mackinac* ferry!) foundered on June 16, 1920, with no lives lost. The Coast Guard allowed the team, including **Valerie Olson, Keith Pearson, Joe Oliver, Cris Kohl, Bill Atkins**, and others, to stay for four days at their Tawas, MI, station while two boats took divers to the site. Valerie produced an excellent site drawing, and UASC produced its last published wreck report. (PHOTOS BY, OR SET UP BY, CRIS KOHL)



The newest book by UASC member and Past President **Cris Kohl, *Shipwreck Tales of the Great Lakes*** (reviewed by **Tom Pakenas** elsewhere in this issue), has been declared a FINALIST for the nationwide "Book of the Year" by Foreword Magazine. The winner will be announced at the prestigious "BookExpo" in New York City on June 3, 2005.

On Friday, April 1, 2005, the **Door County Maritime Museum** offered its members a sneak preview of the soon-to-be-opened-to-the-public exhibit titled "From Sails to Steam, Early Water Passage to & from Door County." On Saturday, April 2, 2005, **Marinette Marine** in Marinette, Wisconsin, launched the new, 240-foot-long U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Mackinaw*, which will eventually replace the present ship (which is 290 feet long) of the same name and function, but which was built in 1944 and which, for the past five years, has delivered over 1,000 Christmas Trees each year to Navy Pier for needy families in Chicago just prior to Christmas. It is not known yet if the new *Mackinaw*, which will have increased duties over the old *Mackinaw* once it is commissioned (both ice-breaking and buoy-tending, for one), will be able to continue the Christmas Tree Ship tradition revived by the old *Mackinaw* back in December, 2000.

## Chicago's Newest (and Tragic) Shipwreck!

An unnamed, 290-foot-long steel barge hauling 13,000 barrels containing 500,000 gallons of clarified slurry oil from the Exxon-Mobil refinery in Joliet to Cicero on the heavily industrialized Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal exploded on Wednesday, January 19, 2005, killing a 29-year-old man, one of four men on



board, and shooting flames over 100 feet into the air with black smoke belching over suburban Chicago. The accident, which occurred near I-55 and Cicero Ave., was believed started when the boiler exploded. The barge sank with only the tip of one end exposed, blocking shipping traffic in the canal. The towing tugboat, the *Lisa E.*, was not heavily damaged. The victim's body was found two weeks after the explosion. Due to its unfortunate location menacing canal shipping, the barge, owned by Egan Marine Corp. of Lemont, IL, was removed and scrapped. The canal would not have been a good place to dive anyhow. (PHOTO BY CRIS KOHL)

## Another Artifact To be Returned to Shipwreck!

UASC members **Joan Forsberg** and **Cris Kohl** (right) recently made a \$100 donation to the Tim Early Foundation to acquire one of the "Linen Locker" doors from the 1928 ferry *The Straits of Mackinac* which was scuttled to create a new dive site off Chicago on April 10, 2003. The door, removed prior to the scuttling, will be re-attached to the shipwreck underwater with help from charterboat operator **Hank Fiene**. This door will join UASC member **Keith Pearson's** porthole, which he also purchased for \$100 and re-attached to the ship. (PHOTO SET-UP BY CRIS KOHL)



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

ENCLOSED ARE MY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

- Individual Membership \$45.00
Family Membership \$60.00
Affiliate Membership \$15.00 (receive UASC mailings)

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Name:

Address

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Phone: home work

Fax No. E-Mail Address

MAIL TO: The Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago, P.O. Box 11752, Chicago, IL 60611

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

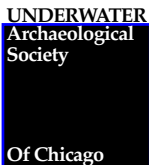
Please circle your areas of interest: boating wreck diving shipwreck surveying researching maritime history learning u/w archaeological techniques u/w still photography u/w videography UASC exhibits shipwreck show membership recruiting public relations Other:

UASC Wreck Checker

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Table listing 2005 UASC Officers and Chairpersons with names and contact information. Includes roles like President/Archivist, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretaries, Membership, etc.

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