

# UASC Wreck Checker

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

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January-February, 2008

## UASC Prepares for an Active 2008! Join Us!



Left: Below deck inside the *Material Service* wreck. Right: Joan Forsberg examines one of the two *Material Service* propellers. Underwater Photos by Cris Kohl. Above: The *Material Service* in the Sanitary Canal, 1930's. Cris Kohl Collection

The Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago (UASC) will be working mostly on one specific shipwreck to complete the survey of that sunken craft so that an official REPORT can be published by this year's end. That wreck is the *Material Service* barge, which is 240 feet long, was built in 1929 at Sturgeon Bay, WI, and 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, sadly, 15 of the 22 workers who were on board. UASC hopes to finalize survey work and underwater sketching, photography, videography, and research.

Second in priority for UASC work this summer are several other shipwrecks off Chicago, including:

The wooden steamer, *Iowa*, lies broken up in 40 feet of water 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, the *Navarino*, 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.

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. **BE SURE TO JOIN THE FUN THIS YEAR!**

### Mark Your Calendars!

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

Chicago sunset from Lake Michigan. Photo by Dan Kasberger

### UASC Meetings in 2008!

Our meetings (dates given above) are held on the 6th Floor of the Helix Photo Building, 310 Racine Ave. at Jackson Blvd., Chicago, on the last Wednesday of every month (2nd last in November), beginning at 6:30 PM until 9 PM. Free parking is available in the Helix parking lots, the main one being on the west side of the building, and the other one located across the street from the main lot. We discuss, among other things, shipwrecks off Chicago, plus we have exciting guest speakers. There is no December meeting.

**Join us! The public is welcome!**

### Cris Kohl & Jim Jarecki UASC's Feb. 27th Meeting Speakers

Cris Kohl and Jim Jarecki, both Past Presidents, will be the featured speakers at our February 27th meeting, starting at 6:30 PM on the 6th floor (yes, there is an elevator!) of the Helix Photo Building at 310 Racine Ave., at Jackson Blvd. They will present "Tall Ships Chicago: Then and Now," about sailing craft, plus information about steamer shipwrecks off Chicago. The public is invited. **SEE YOU THERE!**



Photo by Pat Stayer

Photo by Cris Kohl

### The Passing of the Torch, '07-'08

All members of the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago give their highest praise for, and most sincere **THANK YOU** to, outgoing President **Jim Jarecki**, for standing steadfastly at the helm of our organization through the many calms and storms during the past three years.

We also thank incoming President (last year's Vice President) **Joan Forsberg** for stepping up to take over this challenging task. "I want to get people diving," is Joan's 2008 Resolution for our organization. Plan to have some underwater fun in UASC in '08!



Photo by Cris Kohl

# A Brief Review of 2007

The Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago had an active 2007, albeit more lively above the water line than below it. The following information relates the activities at each meeting, as well as beyond:



John Loftus presents



Val, Cris & Joan



Howard Openlander

**January, 2007:** UASC member **Liz Jurkacek** outlined survey procedures (complete with handouts, charts, diagrams and sample forms) and state funding for our survey work.

**February, 2007:** UASC member **Cris Kohl** talked about researching Great Lakes shipwrecks. **Joan Forsberg** brought great food for the 30 members (including 8 new ones) there. **March, 2007:** UASC members **Bob & Claire Gadbois** outlined the sometimes painstaking work in creating a 30-second piece of video for a shipwreck presentation.

**April, 2007:** UASC members **John & Ruth Loftus** did a presentation on the wreck of (Railroad Ferry) *Barge No. 2*, and **John Bell** discussed software for creating montages.

**May, 2007:** UASC member **Cris Kohl** led a discussion on proposed legislation in Michigan to solicit diver "donations" for the maintenance of the underwater preserves there.

**June, 2007:** UASC member **Tony Kiefer** showed the Zion Mystery Wreck presentation and photomosaic techniques.

**July, 2007:** **Joan Forsberg** ran the meeting and arranged for UASC co-founder **Valerie Olson van Heest** to talk about the group's early days and Val's projects since then.

**August, 2007:** UASC member **Howard Openlander** talked about East Coast Maritime Museums, and **John & Ruth Loftus** presented "Schooners Versus Steamers."

**September, 2007:** **Tamara Thompson** and **Keith Meverden** (Wisconsin Hist. Soc.): survey of the *Rouse Simmons*.

**October, 2007:** Halloween Night! Maritime Historian **Fred Neuschel** spoke about part of his new book, *Lives and Legends of the Christmas Tree Ships*, and promised to return.

**November, 2007:** Maritime Historian **Tom Lutz** talked about overlooked Chicago maritime history personalities.



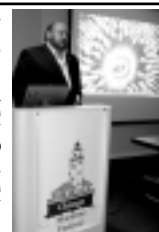
John Loftus on Oct. 31st



Ruth Loftus & Joan Forsberg on Oct. 31st



Winsome "pirate wenches" graced the 5th annual **Chicago Maritime Festival** in Feb., 2007. UASC was also active there: pictured, *left and right:* **Claire Gadbois** and **Joan Forsberg** had a turn at manning the UASC booth, UASC member **Michael Angelo Gagliardi** displayed and discussed his artwork, and **Don Doherty** and other UASC members taught kids about the parts of a ship.



In mid-Sept., 2007, members of the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago headed out to the site of the schooner, *Wells Burt*, which sank with all hands off Chicago in a violent storm on May 20, 1883. The purpose was to determine if any very noticeable changes had occurred in the 20 years since UASC first surveyed this shipwreck. No changes were noticed. This project received some media coverage -- which is scheduled to be included as a segment of a History Channel episode of "Underground Cities" on Feb. 20, 2008. Not caught by the media (except for this photographer) was the pies in the faces for **Valerie van Heest's** birthday. We THANK UASC co-founder **Dave Truitt** for taking us out in his boat. *All photos, except for one, are by Cris Kohl. The one with him in it was taken by Jim Jarecki*



Joan Forsberg & Val van Heest



Keith Pearson



pies



Joan Forsberg



Dave Truitt





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# Calendar of Events

Compiled in January, 2008.



February 2, 2008 (Sat.) -- The 1st annual "Great Lakes! Great Treasures!" Show, Flint, MI. Exhibits. Presentations by **Valerie van Heest, Ric Mixter, Dave Trotter, and Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg.** [www.sloanlongway.org](http://www.sloanlongway.org)

February 9, 2008 (Sat.) -- The 50th Anniversary Banquet of the **Neptune's Nimrods**, the oldest scuba dive club in Wisconsin. Green Bay, WI. Keynote speakers: **Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg.** Music by **Carl Behrend.**

February 15-17, 2008 (Fri.-Sun.) -- The 38th annual "Our World--Underwater" Show in Chicago. Seminar presentations, exhibits, workshops, Friday Evening Film Festival, Saturday Evening Film Festival, much more! Many Great Lakes presentations! See [www.ourworldunderwater.com](http://www.ourworldunderwater.com)

February 23, 2008 (Sat.) -- The 6th annual "Chicago Maritime Festival" at the Chicago Maritime Museum. Presentations, exhibits, and nautical music concerts. See [www.chicagomaritimefestival.org](http://www.chicagomaritimefestival.org)

March 7-8, 2008 (Fri.-Sat.) -- The 9th annual "Ghost Ships Festival," Milwaukee, WI. Presentations, exhibits, workshops. See [www.ghostships.org](http://www.ghostships.org)

March 8-9, 2008 (Sat.-Sun.) -- The 54th annual "Boston Sea Rovers Clinic." Presentations, exhibits, Film Festival. Great Lakes presenters: **Jim & Pat Stayer, Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg.** See [www.BostonSeaRovers.com](http://www.BostonSeaRovers.com)

March 15, 2008 (Sat.) -- The 12th annual "Great Lakes Underwater," Oswego, NY. Speaker: **Dennis Hale**, shipwreck survivor. Call (315) 312-3042.

March 28-30, 2008 (Fri.-Sun.) -- The 32nd annual "Beneath The Sea" New York City Scuba Show. Presentations, exhibits, workshops, evening Film Festival. See [www.beneaththesea.org](http://www.beneaththesea.org)

April 5, 2008 (Sat.) -- The 14th annual "Shipwrecks/2008" Show in Welland, Ontario. Presentations throughout the day. See [www.vaxxine.com/nda/](http://www.vaxxine.com/nda/)

April 19, 2008 (Sat.) -- A revival by the Ford Seahorses of the "Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival" Show in the Detroit area. All-day presentations plus evening program. See [www.shipwreckfestival.org](http://www.shipwreckfestival.org)

May 3, 2008 (Sat.) -- The 10th annual "Mysteries and Histories Beneath The Inland Seas" Show, Holland, MI. Presenters: archaeologist **Ralph Wilbanks, Dave Trotter, and Michigan Shipwreck Research Associates.** Knickerbocker Theatre, 86th E. 8th St., Holland, MI, 7 PM. Tickets \$15.00. For info, call 616-738-9233, or see [www.michiganshipwrecks.org](http://www.michiganshipwrecks.org)

November 22, 2008 (Sat.) -- **SPECIAL 25th annual** "Shipwrecks and Scuba" Show, Huron, OH. Presentations, exhibits, workshop, evening dinner, and keynote speaker. See [www.bayareadivers.net](http://www.bayareadivers.net) for more information.

## The First Meeting of the UASC 2008 Executive Board

**Joan Forsberg**, UASC's new 2008 President, wasted no time after the election in getting the new Executive Board together for a meeting--at her house for a special dinner on Saturday, December 15, 2007! [News Alert!: Joan's husband, **Cris Kohl**, cooked his specialty chicken dish as the main course while Joan ran the meeting.] Below, left to right: Immediate Past President **Jim Jarecki**, **Karen Nolan** (Dean's wife), Treasurer **Bob Gadbois**, Vice President **Dean Nolan**, **Kat Bell** (John's wife), and Secretary **John Bell.** *Photos by Cris Kohl*



### Historian Fred Neuschel at UASC's First 2008 Meeting

Noted Great Lakes maritime historian **Fred Neuschel**, the author of *August and Hermann Schuenemann, Tree Captains of Lake Michigan*, and, published just a few months ago, *Lives and Legends of the Christmas Tree Ships*, will be the guest speaker at the January 30th, 2008, meeting of UASC at 6:30 PM on the 6th floor of the Helix Photo Building, 310 Racine Ave., Chicago. Bring your copies of Mr. Neuschel's books and get them autographed! *Photo by Cris Kohl*



## UASC Will Participate in Shows!

We need volunteers to "man the booth" at two important shows in the month of February: the huge "Our World--Underwater" Show (with UASC members **Bob Gadbois, Larry Boucha, and Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg** doing presentations) on Feb. 15-17, 2008, at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemount, IL (Chicago), and the 6th annual **Chicago Maritime Festival** (with several members of UASC doing presentations) at the Chicago History Museum on Saturday, February 23, 2008. Opportunities to sign up for your preferred time slot(s) will be available at the January 30th UASC meeting, or you can contact any 2008 Executive Board member (see page 4).



The 38th Annual

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**UASC MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:**

- Opportunities for volunteer participation
- Six UASC newsletters (bimonthly in 2008)
- 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)

**YES, I WANT TO JOIN THE UASC!**     **PLEASE RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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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- Treasurer ..... **Bob Gadbois**, (773) 883-1601. E-mail: bobclarg@worldnet.att.net
- Secretary ..... **John Bell**, (708) 366-0273. E-mail: JBell@uic.edu

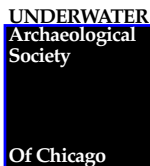
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- ICSSD Council Representative .... **Claire Gadbois**, (773) 883-1601. E-mail: bobclarg@worldnet.att.net
- Capital Development ..... **Tony Kiefer**, (847) 296-3218. E-mail: tkiefer@wowway.com

**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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