

UASC Wreck Checker

News and Views of the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago

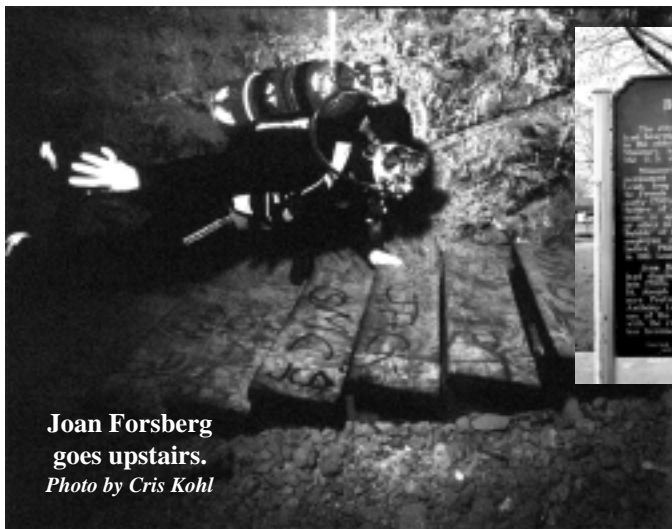
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Vol. 19, No. 3

May-June, 2008

UASC "Leadheads" Explore Deep Earth!



Joan Forsberg goes upstairs.
Photo by Cris Kohl



The grateful UASC Leadheads, l. to r.: Bob Rushman, Katie Rushman, Don Doherty, John Bell, Scott Reimer, Joan Forsberg, and Cris Kohl. Absent: Guests Dawn Kuhl and Heather Kuchowski. Photo set-up by Cris Kohl

Knowing that UASC members are constantly in pursuit of scuba diving on different submerged cultural resources, member **Don Doherty** set up a truly delightful trip to the old and famous Bonne Terre, Missouri, lead mines south of St. Louis. These historic mines opened in the 1860's and closed suddenly in 1961 when the price of lead dropped radically. Most of the tools and equipment were left in place just as they were the day the mine closed 47 years ago, so there are many submerged items of interest, including shovels, pickaxes, ore carts, cart rails, elevator structures, dynamite casings, wooden stairs, etc. The water, filtered as it is through the ground, is dramatically clear, and its temperature stays a steady 62 degrees Fahrenheit year-round. It is about a 6-hour drive from Chicago, and spending two nights there and doing a total of four dives each in the mines were (alphabetically) **John Bell, Don Doherty, Joan Forsberg, Cris Kohl**, guest **Heather Kuchowski**, guest **Dawn Kuhl, Scott Reimer, Bob Rushman**, and Bob's daughter **Katie Rushman**. Diving and dining together were memorable occasions, and we thank **Don Doherty** for having set this up for us! More photos on page 3!...

May 28 June 25
July 30 August 27
Sept. 24 Oct. 29 Nov. 19



Chicago skyline at night. Photo by Cris Kohl

Come To Our 2008 Meetings!

Our meetings (dates given above) are held on the 6th Floor (8th Floor in May and perhaps June, 2008) of the Helix Building, 310 Racine Ave. S. 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 shipwrecks off Chicago, plus we have exciting guest speakers. There is no December meeting.

Join us! The public is welcome!



Explore the Pilot Island wrecks in Death's Door! Photo by Cris Kohl

Spots Still Available for Shipwreck Diving, Door County, WI, June 27-29, 2008!

In UASC's ongoing pursuit of wreck diving happiness, President **Joan Forsberg** has set up a dive trip a little farther away than Chicago's shoreline. Scenic Door County, Wisconsin, about a 6-hour drive north of the Windy City, offers wonderful scenery and some unique shipwreck diving in the area notoriously known as "Death's Door." To sign up for two days (Sat. & Sun.) of diving, at two tanks each day and at \$211 per diver total for both days (divers must have Advanced Open Water, or equivalent, certification), contact Joan at (630) 293-4020, e-mail: jaforsberg@aol.com. So far we have 7 divers going, plus several others joining us for the land siteseeing and the partying. Join the fun!



Scenic Cave Point was the setting of a tragic Nov. shipwreck. Photo by Cris Kohl

The March '08 Meeting: Brendon Baillod

Great Lakes Maritime Historian **Brendon Baillod** joined us from his home near Madison, Wisconsin, to talk about the long-lost, and long-sought, wreck of the *Griffon*, the first ship (and the first shipwreck) on the upper Great Lakes. The vessel disappeared with all hands after leaving Green Bay in late September, 1679, and since then it has become the stuff of legend.

Brendon, a software engineer, also displayed and discussed aspects of his archival Great Lakes collection.

We thank Brendon for joining us and sharing his expertise and his unique knowledge!



Brendon Baillod with part of his Great Lakes ephemera collection at the UASC meeting in March. *Photo by Cris Kohl*

The April '08 Meeting: Larry Boucha

Larry Boucha, the longtime owner of Scuba Systems dive shop in Skokie, IL, and AV Director of Chicago's annual "Our World--Underwater" Show, educated UASC members at the April 30th meeting with his early video of the wreck of the schooner *Wells Burt*, lying in shallow water just off Chicago. He showed videos which he shot for the Emmy-Award-winning broadcast on Fox Thing in the Morning, plus for the History Channel, as well as a world premiere of his Lake Superior *Gunilda* (in 257 feet) video.

We thank Larry for enthralling us with his wonderful shipwreck videos and tales of his experiences!



Larry Boucha showed informative and entertaining video of Great Lakes shipwrecks in April. *Photo by Cris Kohl*

CMS Anthology a Maritime Winner!

The Chicago Maritime Society has assembled a fascinating anthology, published by Lake Claremont Press, titled *From Lumber Hookers to the Hooligan Fleet, A Treasury of Chicago Maritime History*.



To quote some of the liner notes from the back cover: "...this treasury of Chicago's Maritime History is a poignant, personal reminder that those who sailed before us on our sweetwater ocean were not recreational boaters; they were part of a heritage that helped turn Chicago into the nation's busiest transportation hub" and "...the unrecognized fact that Chicago owes its very existence, and much of its fame, to ships and sailors emerges as the clear theme of this exceptional collection...." **Chris Kastle** has copies available for purchase at the UASC meetings.

UASC at Ghost Ships Festival, 2008

UASC member **Michael Angelo Gagliardi** found himself unexpectedly working on a stage set in California during the time he hoped to be manning his underwater art booth at Milwaukee's 9th annual "Ghost Ship Festival" on March 7-8, 2008, so he donated his booth to UASC! We thank him, as well as **John Bell**, for taking our booth/display and setting it up at that show!

Material Service Report/Survey Work to Continue

Work will soon begin by UASC members on the completion of the survey and research on the topic of the twin diesel motor barge *Material Service*

The Wreck of the *Material Service* off Calumet Harbor, shortly after the sinking. *Cris Kohl Collection*



wreck, lost in heavy seas with 15 lives of the 22 who were on board on July 29, 1936, near Chicago. The 240-foot-long wreck sits upright in less than 30 feet of water just outside Calumet Harbor.

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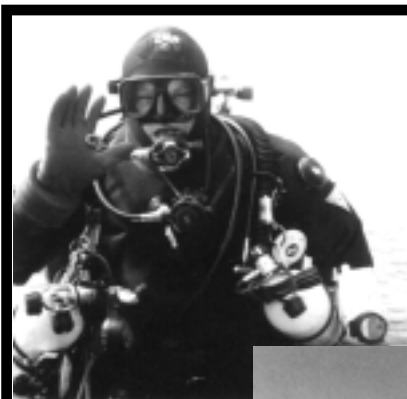
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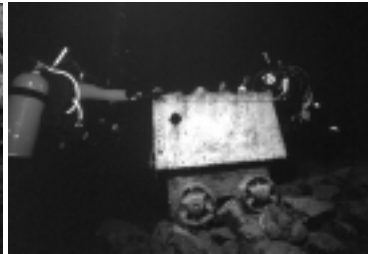
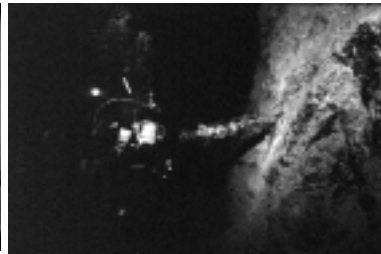
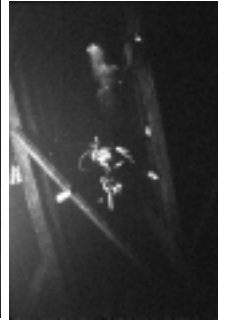
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...Continued from page 1

Bonne Terre Mine Dive Trip A Fun Success!

The UASC group stayed at the restored train depot, with its delightful rooms (and also railroad car and caboose accommodations!) All nine of the intrepid explorers enjoyed a pizza and beer party in the building's Common Room on their second evening there. After a downhill hike past 68 stairs and a sloping path, they arrived for each dive at the wooden platform in the deep interior of the mine, where they suited up, entered the water, and enjoyed the sights! *Photos by Cris Kohl*



Calendar of Events



Compiled in May, 2008.

- May 28, 2008 (Wed.) -- UASC meeting, 6:30 PM. Guest Speaker: **Jim Gentile** on the topic of the scuttling of the *Buccaneer*.
- June 25, 2008 (Wed.) -- UASC meeting, 6:30 PM. Guest Speaker: TBA
- June 27-29, 2008 (Fri.-Sun.) -- UASC members dive the shipwrecks of Death's Door, Door County, Wisconsin. Trip organizer: **Joan Forsberg**.
- July 30, 2008 (Wed.) -- UASC meeting, 6:30 PM. Guest Speaker: **Patrick Hammer**, on the topic of "How to Scuttle A Ship Off Chicago."
- August 27, 2008 (Wed.) -- UASC meeting, 6:30 PM.
- Sept. 4-6, 2008 (Thurs.-Sat.) -- Annual conference of the **Association for**

Great Lakes Maritime History, held this year at Muskegon, Michigan. See www.aglmh.org for more information.

- September 24, 2008 (Wed.) -- UASC meeting, 6:30 PM.
- October 29, 2008 (Wed.) -- UASC meeting, 6:30 PM.
- November 19, 2008 (Wed.) -- UASC meeting, 6:30 PM.
- 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 for more information.
- November 27, 2008 (Thurs.) -- THANKSGIVING DAY
- February 20-22, 2009 (Fri.-Sun.) -- The 39th annual "**Our World--Underwater**" Show in Chicago. Seminar presentations, exhibits, workshops, Friday Evening Film Festival, a different Saturday Evening Film Festival, much more! Many Great Lakes presentations! See www.ourworldunderwater.com
- March 7-8, 2009 (Sat.-Sun.) -- The 56th annual "**Boston Sea Rovers Clinic.**" Presentations, Exhibits, Film Festival. See www.BostonSeaRovers.com
- March 20-21, 2009 (Fri.-Sat.) -- The 10th annual "**Ghost Ships Festival,**" Milwaukee, WI. See www.ghostships.org
- March 27-29, 2009 (Fri.-Sun.) -- The 34th annual "**Beneath The Sea**" New York City Scuba Show. See www.beneaththesea.org



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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

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

Name: _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: home _____ work _____

Fax No. _____ E-Mail Address _____

ENCLOSED ARE MY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

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

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 architectural drawing membership recruiting public relations Other: _____

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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

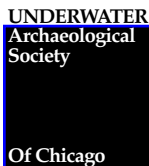
to preserve sites by studying the effects of natural and biological forces as well as the impact of human activity on shipwrecks. It advocates responsible use of submerged cultural resources.

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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