

# UASC Wreck Checker

News and Views of the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago

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## UASC Members Explore Door County!

## Buccaneer Clean-Up Well Under Way!



Left: Two boatloads of UASC wreck divers explored the schooner, *E. R. Williams*, the bowsprit of which is examined here by UASC President **Joan Forsberg**. Above, **Ken Mortenson** helps **Don Doherty** and **Tony Keifer** prepare for diving the *Roan barge*. Below, left: **Ruth & John Loftus** wave from atop the Cana Island lighthouse after strong winds cancelled our 2nd diving day to the *Frank O'Connor* & the Pilot Island Wrecks. Photos by **Cris Kohl**

Maritime-historic Door County, WI, saw 20 UASC members and guests (11 divers and 9 non-divers) take up all of the rooms at the Patio Motel, plus a few more at the Voyager Motel right next door, plus two scuba dive charter boats from Dive Diva Charters and Ken's Dive Charters, June 27-29, 2008.

The diving "Doorheads" were **Marni Adamski, Don Doherty, Joan Forsberg, Dan Kasberger, Tony Kiefer, Cris Kohl, John Loftus, Bob Mueller, Scott Reimer, Bob Rushman, and Cheryl Wickstrom**. The non-diving "Doorheads" who came up for the fun & siteseeing were **Geri Adamski** (Marni's mother), **Valerie Doherty, Bob & Claire Gadbois, Diane Gulczynski, Gene Hasiak, Ruth Loftus, Karen Rushman, and Sande Trombley** (Bob Mueller's girlfriend).

We thank UASC President **Joan Forsberg** for coordinating and arranging the 11 rooms at two different motels, plus the two dive charter boats, for this delightful, memorable trip. *More photos on page 2!...*



The clean-up of the old Chicago tourist ship, *Buccaneer*, began with an inspection of the vessel by Coordinator **Bob Rushman**, Assistant Coordinator **Cris Kohl**, and Volunteer **Scott Reimer**, on July 5, 2008. Bob lost no time in arranging volunteers, with busy workdays ensuing on July 12, 13, & 19, 2008. Much was accomplished by these volunteers: **John Bell, Kathy Braun, Joan Forsberg, John Gerty, Bob & Claire Gadbois, Cris Kohl, John & Ruth Loftus, Dean Nolan, Scott "Feed-The-Millions" Reimer** (who brought lots of coffee, donuts, and bagels; *THANK YOU, Scott!*), **Bob Rushman, Kate Rushman, and Karen Yiu**. We thank you all!

We need more help! We can near completion with a few more days of serious weekend work, starting Sat., July 26, 2008. Contact **Bob Rushman** at home (815) 933-4515 or cell, (815) 954-7878, or **Cris Kohl** at (630) 293-4020. *More photos on page 2!...*

Above: Clean-up Coordinator **Bob Rushman** and volunteer **Scott Reimer** head to the remote *Buccaneer* on a pontoon boat. Below: **Bob Rushman** and UASC President **Joan Forsberg** admire the sorted trash in mid-ship. Photos by **Cris Kohl**



Wear old clothes!



July 30

August 27

Sept. 24

Oct. 29

Nov. 19

**Come To Our Remaining 2008 Meetings!**

Our meetings (dates given above) are held on the 6th Floor (probably the 8th Floor in July and August, 2008) of the Helix Building, 310 S. 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 shipwrecks off Chicago and UASC projects in progress, plus we have exciting guest speakers. There is no December meeting. *Join us! The public is welcome!*



...Continued from page 1

### Door County Weekend Trip A Fun Success!

Above, left to right: Besides the excellent shipwreck diving and visits to maritime museums and historic lighthouses this weekend, all 20 "Doorheads" enjoyed an old-fashioned-friendly, weather-perfect, Saturday evening barbecue at the Patio Motel in Sister Bay. Master barbecue chef, **Dan Kasberger**, gives **Tony Kiefer** some pointers. **Ruth & John Loftus** and **Tony Kiefer** share a good laugh. **Gene Hasiak** savors his done-to-perfection gourmet meal. *Photos by Cris Kohl*



Photo by Scott Reimer



...Continued from page 1

### Buccaneer Clean-Up Off To A Rip-Roaring Start!

Above, l. to r.: The pontoon boat carries workers to the remote *Buccaneer*. **Cris Kohl**, Assistant Coordinator, and **Bob Rushman**, Coordinator, admire a below-deck mural. "**Indiana John**" **Bell** discovers a secret passage with another rare mural. **Dean Nolan**, **Bob & Claire Gadbois**, and **Karen Yiu** clean up the bow. Below, l. to r.: **Bob Rushman** wades through diesel fuel and water to clean up the engine room. **John Gerty** finds one of the many plastic "Captain Hook" hooks on board (did buccaneers really use these things?). **Scott Reimer** finds a toy rifle below deck. **Karen Yiu** discovers the *Buccaneer's* "Free Beverage" tickets, but fails to find the bartender. **John Loftus** and others eat lunch. **Kathy Braun**, working on a documentary, videotapes the growing trash pile. *Photos by Cris Kohl*



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**The May '08 Meeting:**

**Jim Gentile**



Jim Gentile discussed the potential for the aging *Buccaneer* (the ship, not him!) at the May 28 UASC meeting. Photo by Cris Kohl

Jim Gentile, who operates Windy City Diving in Chicagoland, gave an exciting pep talk about the *Buccaneer Project*. The *Buccaneer*, a Chicago tourist boat operating under that name since 1994, started as the Coast Guard vessel, *Dexter*, in 1925.

Guest Roger Barski relayed some information about the archaeological value of the *Buccaneer*, and member Cris Kohl gave an account of the *Buccaneer's* dramatic history.

We thank Jim, Roger, and Cris for sharing this exciting information.

Patrick Hammer (right), owner of the Scuba Emporium dive shops and President of Chicago's "Our World--Underwater" annual scuba show, will be our guest speaker at the July 30, 2008, UASC meeting, informing us about "How To Sink A Ship and Still Stay Married," based upon his experiences with the sinking of the ship, *The Straits of Mackinac*, off Chicago in April, 2003. SEE YOU THERE!



\* \* \* \* \*

CONGRATULATIONS to members John and Kat Bell upon the safe arrival of their first child, a future dive buddy named Locklin Michael Bell.

\* \* \* \* \*

According to one report, the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago, with 97 paid members to date, is now the largest dive club in Chicagoland.

\* \* \* \* \*

UASC member Hank Fiene took fellow members Dan Kasberger and Cris Kohl to the *Material Service* wreck on Mon., July 14, 2008, to finish photographing the stern for this project report. The divers had an excellent 40 feet of visibility during their 53-minute dive. Thanks, Hank!

Below, Dan Kasberger photographs the mangled stern of the *Material Service* wreck. Right, the Port Huron grave of the *Material Service's* captain, one of the 15 victims. Photos by Cris Kohl



Keith Pearson refreshed our memories about what UASC used to do. Photo by Cris Kohl

**The June '08 Meeting:  
Keith Pearson**

Longtime UASC member (one of the first, in fact), Keith Pearson, brushed the dust off two early-1990's UASC presentations, about the *St. Mary* and the *Rotarian*, both shipwrecks off Chicago, and gave these talks at the June 25, 2008, meeting.

The schooner, *St. Mary*, sank with all seven hands in 105 feet of water on Sept. 8, 1860. The steamer, *Rotarian*, despite its colorful past, was scuttled in Lake Michigan due to old age in 1931. Thanks, Keith, for inspiring future presentations!

Also, Cris Kohl gave a talk and a handout about his June 22nd visit with Jim Kennard & Dan Scoville, who recently discovered the very historic 1780 wreck of the HMS *Ontario*, lost with 130 lives.

**Calendar of Events**



Compiled in July, 2008

- 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, this year at Muskegon, MI. www.aglmh.org.
- Sept. 13, 2008 (Sat.) -- "McDougall's Dream," whaleback presentations on board the *Meteor*, Superior, WI. Keynote speakers: UASC's Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg. www.superiorpublicmuseums.org/ssmeteor/ for more info.
- 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 speakers. 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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- 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
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YES, I WANT TO JOIN THE UASC!  PLEASE RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP!

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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 architectural drawing membership recruiting public relations Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### *UASC Wreck Checker*

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#### 2008 UASC Officers:

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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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