

UASC Wreck Checker

News and Views of the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago

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Website: www.uaschicago.org

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March-April, 2009



Picnic, Museum, and Shipwreck Dive!

As part of the 2009 festivities to celebrate our organization's 20th anniversary, we will be holding a combination picnic, shore dive to a shipwreck, and a museum visit on Saturday, June 20, 2009, at the Dawes Park and Dempster/Greenwood Beach in Evanston, IL. Park access is free (permit paid by UASC), but beach access for divers and non-divers is \$8 adults, \$6 children ages 1-11. The Dawes Mansion Tour (home of the Evanston Historical Society) is \$5. The LUNCH will be free for members and \$5 for non-members. (All are asked to bring a side dish/salad, or dessert to share). Diving is to the shallow wreck of the wooden steamer named the *George W. Morley* (launched in 1888 at West Bay City, Michigan, sunk in a fire on December 5, 1897, no lives lost) from 9:30 to 11:30, picnic from 11:30 to 1:00, and museum tour from 1:30 to 3 PM.

Contact **Cheryl Wickstrom** by Wed., June 17th to RSVP:
Email: clwickst@yahoo.com, home phone 773-761-4404, cell 847-977-4404. **Join the Fun!**

Michael Angelo Gagliardi: UASC Dive Coordinator



Photo by Cris Kohl

Tech diver, photographer, and artist (specializing in underwater scenes) **Michael Angelo Gagliardi** is the 2009 UASC Dive Coordinator.

Michael Angelo is best known for having had Coast Guard machine guns aimed at him as he surfaced from a shipwreck survey dive with **Brad Friend** at Zion, IL, a month after 9-11, and for his work in cave diving (he illustrated the *Hand Signals for Scuba Diving* book, and repaired vandalized clay formations in a Florida cave system.)

Also: **Dan Kasberger** has volunteered to be UASC's official 2009 Refreshments Coordinator. Our **THANKS** to both of them!

UASC Talk Honors Tragic Crib Fire Centennial

On Sunday, Feb. 15, 2009, about 80 visitors filled the pews and stood in the back of the chapel at Mt. Greenwood Cemetery on Chicago's south side to remember a very sad day in the city's history 100 years ago. In late January, 1909, a service on the grounds honored the remains of 51 victims of one of Chicago's greatest, if not most forgotten, tragedies. It occurred on the Tool Crib, a tempor-



Photo submitted by Don Doherty

UASC participants (left to right): **John & Ruth Loftus, Tony Kiefer, Chet Childs, and Don Doherty.**

Continued on page 2...

UASC's Meeting Dates!

April 29 May 27 June 24

July 29 August 26
September 30
October 28 November 18

Our UASC meetings (dates for the rest of 2009 are given above) are held at the **Helix Building**, 310 S. Racine Ave., at Jackson Blvd., in Chicago, on the last Wednesday of every month (2nd last in November), beginning at 6:30 PM until about 9 PM. There is free parking available in the Helix parking lots, the main lot being on the west side of the building, and the other one located across the street to the north of the main lot. Meetings are held on the 8th floor -- an elevator is available and location signs are posted at the Helix entranceway. We discuss shipwrecks off Chicago and UASC projects in progress, plus we have exciting guest speakers.

Join us! The public is welcome!

Chicago Shipwrecks DVD!

The commercial DVD about Chicago shipwrecks, the first ever produced by the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago, is available!



The seven shipwrecks detailed in this DVD are the *St. Mary* (a schooner lost with all hands in a storm in Sept., 1860), the *Wings of the Wind* (an 1866 victim of a collision with another ship), the large schooner *Wells Burt* (lost with all hands in a storm in May, 1883), the tug *Tacoma* (which foundered in late 1929), the colorful speakeasy ship *Rotarian* (scuttled in 1931 because of old age), the innovative *Material Service* (sunk with 15 lives lost in 1936), and *The Straits of Mackinac*, a 1929 car-and-passenger ferry purposely sunk in 2003.

This 40-minute DVD retails for \$15. Current (2009) UASC members receive a 20% discount (which makes the price \$12 for them), available at UASC meetings. If ordering through the mail, please add \$2.00 for shipping (\$17.00 each; \$14.00 each for UASC members). Mail check, payable to "UASC," to: UASC, P.O. Box 11752, Chicago, IL 60611. Commercial/wholesale orders please call (630) 293-8996.

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ary staging area that housed workers and materials used to build the tunnel from the new 68th Street water intake crib underneath Lake Michigan to the filtration plant on shore. Some 100 workers were trapped when fire broke out and spread rapidly throughout the wooden structure on the morning of Jan. 20.

Packing the chapel this sunny afternoon were members of the Ridge Historical Society, from the nearby Beverly Hills neighborhood. Illinois State Senator Edward D. Maloney dropped in, as well as former Chicago Fire Dept. Commissioner James Joyce, a neighbor of the cemetery who had heard about the disaster and always wanted to learn more.

They came to see pictures, hear the story of the disaster, and visit the gravesite of many of the 1909 victims. The storytelling was left chiefly to UASC member and Past President **Tony Kiefer**, who kept the crowd in the seats for almost an hour as he presented the UASC's "From Crib to Grave" and later answered questions for almost 20 minutes from interested members of the audience.

Tony did an outstanding job. As the show's primary author, researcher, and a diver throughout the UASC's survey of the Tool Crib in 2001, no one knew the story better. Yet, he assigned minor speaking roles during the show to a few UASC members scattered around the chapel. They included **Chet Childs, Don Doherty, and Ruth and John Loftus**.

Thanks to all the UASC members who showed up to help or attend the program. The Ridge Historical Society was very grateful for the group's contribution on Feb. 15th, and expressed interest afterwards in other UASC presentations. It's very possible we'll hear from this group of local history buffs again.

UASC Washington Island Shipwreck Dive Trip!



Two UASC members, **Ruth Magnus** and **Mike Brutlag**, have generously invited our members to join them at their "home away from home" 300 miles away up at Wisconsin's Washington Island between Lake Michigan and Green Bay at the tip of the Door County Peninsula this Labor Day weekend (Sept. 5-9) for some shipwreck diving and other fun!

Their three-bedroom getaway home at 340 Timber Trail, Washington Island, WI 54246, sits on ten acres of woods -- bring your campers, tents, and boats!

Shipwreck dives up there could include the wooden steamer, **Louisiana** (the first victim of the Great Storm of 1913) and the scenic **C. C. Hand** at Summer Island.

Contact Ruth at 630-294-3657 (cell) or ruthmagnus@sbcglobal.net. **SEE YOU THERE!**

Potpourri: Some Brief Nuggets of Information about UASC People



Many people helped make the winter shows successful for UASC, at the booth (thanks to **Dean Nolan's** organized scheduling) and otherwise. UASC had its exhibit (recently redone by **John Bell**, whose Chicago shipwreck map was a huge success!) at *Our World--Underwater*, the *Chicago Maritime Festival*, and Milwaukee's *Ghost Ships Festival*. Above, UASC members at the *Chicago Maritime Festival* include **Gene Hasiak** (in dive gear) and **Joan Forsberg** at our exhibit, **Dan Kasberger** giving a talk, **John Loftus** showing a young man how we do shipwreck photo mosaics, **Ruth Loftus** helping children identify shipwreck parts, and **Don Doherty** introducing a young man to the exciting world of underwater archaeology. **THANKS** to all! *Photos by Cris Kohl*

Openlanders Head Southwest!



Longtime UASC members **Howard and Gwen Openlander** (left, with UASC President **Joan Forsberg** between them) are moving from Chicago to Arizona to enjoy the year-round warm climate and golf. Non-diving members, they greatly assisted UASC in historical research over the years. We wish them many years of fun in the sun! *Photo by Dan Kasberger*

ICSSD U/W Olympics!

UASC did well this year on March 29th at the annual Illinois Council of Skin and Scuba Diving's Underwater Competition, placing **SECOND** in pool events such as tricycle riding. Our team consisted of (left to right) **John Bell** (team captain), **Scott Reimer, Mike Brutlag, and Ruth Magnus**. *Photo submitted by John Bell*



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Calendar of Events

Compiled in April, 2009



April 25, 2009 (Sat.) -- The annual "Mysteries and Histories Beneath the Inland Seas" Show, 7-9:30 PM. Holland, MI. Sponsored by MSRA (Michigan Shipwrecks Research Associates). Presenters: **MSRA, Dave Trotter, Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg**. See www.michiganshipwrecks.org for more information.

April 29, 2009 (Wed.) -- **UASC meeting**, 6:30 PM, Helix Building, Chicago. Past UASC President **Don Doherty** will do the presentation put together by Past UASC President **Tony Kiefer** about the **Chicago Crib Fire Tragedy of 1909**. Tony recently presented this fascinating story to a very appreciative audience in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of this tragic event.

May 2, 2009 (Sat.) -- **Buccaneer** clean-up. Contact **Bob Rushman** at 815-933-4515 (home), 815-954-7878 (cell), rushil6@daily-journal.com.

May 9, 2009 (Sat.) -- **Nat. Archives (Chicago) Spring Workshop**: "Using Court Records to Find Local and Family History." 10-11:30 AM. Cost: \$10. Call 773-949-9001 or email chicago.archives@nara.gov

May 16, 2009 (Sat.) -- **Buccaneer** clean-up. Contact **Bob Rushman**.

May 23, 2009 (Sat.) -- **Buccaneer** clean-up. Contact **Bob Rushman**.

May 27, 2009 (Wed.) -- **UASC meeting**, 6:30 PM, Helix Building, Chicago. Guest Speakers: **Jim Elliott** of **Diveheart** will tell us about his organization's work with disabled divers, including war veterans, and **Ed Thiel** will tell us about the wreck of the **George W. Morley** and his grandfather's work in raising the propeller in the early 1960's.

May 30, 2009 (Sat.) -- **Buccaneer** clean-up. Contact **Bob Rushman**.

June 6, 2009 (Sat.) -- **Buccaneer** clean-up. Contact **Bob Rushman**.

June 13, 2009 (Sat.) -- **Buccaneer** clean-up. Contact **Bob Rushman**.

June 15, 2009 (Mon.) -- DIVING to photograph, videotape, and possibly to take more measurements of the wreck of the **Rotarian**, lying in 83 feet of Lake Michigan water about 8 miles off Chicago. After a long, illustrious career (which included operating as a speakeasy boat while docked in the Chicago River during Prohibition near the end of its life, with celebrity guests such as **Al Capone** reputedly visiting), the aging, leaking, wooden steamship was towed out into the lake and scuttled in 1931.

June 20, 2009 (Sat.) -- **George W. Morley** wreck shore dive, picnic, and museum tour, Evanston, IL.

June 24, 2009 (Wed.) -- **UASC meeting**, 6:30 PM, Helix Building, Chicago.

June 27, 2009 (Sat.) -- **Buccaneer** clean-up. Contact **Bob Rushman**.

July 11, 2009 (Sat.) -- **Buccaneer** clean-up. Contact **Bob Rushman**.

July 18, 2009 (Sat.) -- **Buccaneer** clean-up. Contact **Bob Rushman**.

July 25, 2009 (Sat.) -- **Buccaneer** clean-up. Contact **Bob Rushman**.

July 29, 2009 (Wed.) -- **UASC meeting**, 6:30 PM, Helix Building, Chicago.

August 9, 2009 (Sun.) -- **UASC Presentation** at Beverly Historical Society -- "Underwater Forest."

August 26, 2009 (Wed.) -- **UASC meeting**, 6:30 PM, Helix Bldg, Chicago.

Ken Wagner

At Our February, 2009 Meeting



Ken Wagner owned and operated the **Buccaneer** as a Chicago tourist excursion boat for many years, and he shared stories and photos from the ship's earlier years with a captive UASC audience -- since this is the ship which we are presently cleaning up in order to sink it as a new dive site off Chicago later this year!

Also at this meeting: **Kathy Braun** showed a short video on the progress of the **Buccaneer** clean-up (and the progress of the video documentary!), and **Cris Kohl and Joan Forsberg** showed their video "Shipwrecks off Lake Shore Drive" (which they presented at Our World--Underwater's Friday Film Festival this year) and commented on its production.

We thank all of these presenters!

Photo by Cris Kohl

Our March, 2009 Meeting: Dan Johnson

Captain Dan Johnson is the owner of Loves Park Scuba in Rockford, IL, an avid Great Lakes shipwreck diver and charter boat captain, and the founder of the new Lockwood Pioneer Scuba Diving Museum.

Dan gave an excellent presentation on the establishment of the pioneer diving museum, working with longtime shipwreck hunters such as **Gene Turner**, including Dan's work in locating such shipwrecks as Lake Michigan's **Lumberman** and **Kate Kelly** in the early 1980's. His photographic exhibits of the museum undoubtedly encouraged many of our members to visit it.

We THANK Dan for joining us!

Photo by Dan Kasberger



September 4-7, 2009 (Fri.-Mon.) -- Labor Day weekend. **UASC's Washington Island, WI, trip**, using members' accommodations & boats! See write-up at the top of page 2 in this newsletter; more details to follow.

Sept. 30, 2009 (Wed.) -- **UASC meeting**, 6:30 PM, Helix Building, Chicago.

mid-October (Sat.) -- **ICSSD Presidents Night**.

October 28, 2009 (Wed.) -- **UASC meeting**, 6:30 PM, Helix Building, Chicago.

Nov. 18, 2009 (Wed.) -- **UASC meeting**, 6:30 PM, Helix Building, Chicago.

December 5, 2009 (Sat.) -- tentative date: annual **LOUP/UASC Christmas Party**. Location to be announced, but probably Burnham Harbor Yacht Club.

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UASC MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

- Opportunities for volunteer participation
- Six UASC newsletters (bimonthly in 2009)
- 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
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YES, I WANT TO JOIN THE UASC! PLEASE RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP!

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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 group and dive activities if membership is not current.

Please circle your areas of interest: learning u/w Archaeological techniques Boating Exhibits Membership recruiting u/w still Photography
Public Relations Researching maritime history Shows Shipwreck Drawing Shipwreck Surveying u/w Videography Wreck diving Other: _____

UASC Wreck Checker

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

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Archivist **Jim Jarecki**, (219) 923-7420. jimjarecki@aol.com
Capital Development **Tony Kiefer**, (847) 296-3218. 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

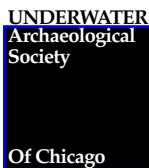
to preserve sites by studying the effects of natural and biological forces as well as the impact of human activity on shipwrecks. It advocates responsible use of submerged cultural resources.

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.



**Underwater Archaeological Society
of Chicago,
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