

# UASC Wreck Checker

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

P.O. Box 11752, Chicago, IL 60611 Telephone: (708) 636-5819 Fax: (708) 636-5847

Website: [www.uaschicago.org](http://www.uaschicago.org)

Vol. 20, No. 4

July-August, 2009



## The *Buccaneer* Is Now CLEAN!

After working on it for 13 months, the UASC clean-up of the former US Coast Guard ship, *Dexter*, built in Bay City, MI, in 1925 and given its last name, *Buccaneer*, in 1994, finished in late July! From left to right: Working on that final day were **Bob Rushman** (Clean-up Organizer), **Scott Reimer**, **Joan Forsberg** (UASC President), **Cris Kohl**, **Dean Nolan**, **Bob Mueller**, and **Bill Messner** (who took this photo and who supplied the champagne!). On a previous work-day, **Joan Forsberg** and **Claire Yashar** finished taking measurements of the engine room to complete Claire's survey drawing. The much lighter *Buccaneer* now rides high and clean, and is ready for inspection! *Bottom photos by Cris Kohl*



## Survey of Rotarian Shipwreck Continues...

The *Rotarian* (left) was launched in 1889 at Sandusky, Ohio, as the **A. Wehrle, Jr.**, and renamed *Rotarian* in 1919. This 147-foot-long wooden steamer was a "restaurant" (really a speakeasy) while it was tied up along the Chicago River in the late 1920's during Prohibition. However, the old ship sank at its slip on October 10, 1930, and was eventually raised, towed out into Lake Michigan, and scuttled on September 28, 1931. It lies in 80 feet of water eight miles off Chicago, and the UASC has been documenting this vessel with its colorful history, including this detail of an underwater photomosaic of the wreck (above). *Photomosaic by UASC Dive Coordinator Michael Angelo Gagliardi. Archival photo from the Cris Kohl Collection. Underwater photo by Cris Kohl. More photos on page 2....*



### UASC's Meeting Dates!

**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!*

### Explore Chicago Shipwrecks DVD Selling Well!



The brand new DVD about Chicago shipwrecks, produced by the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago, is selling well to members as well as non-members who enjoy exploring the waters off the largest city on the Great Lakes!

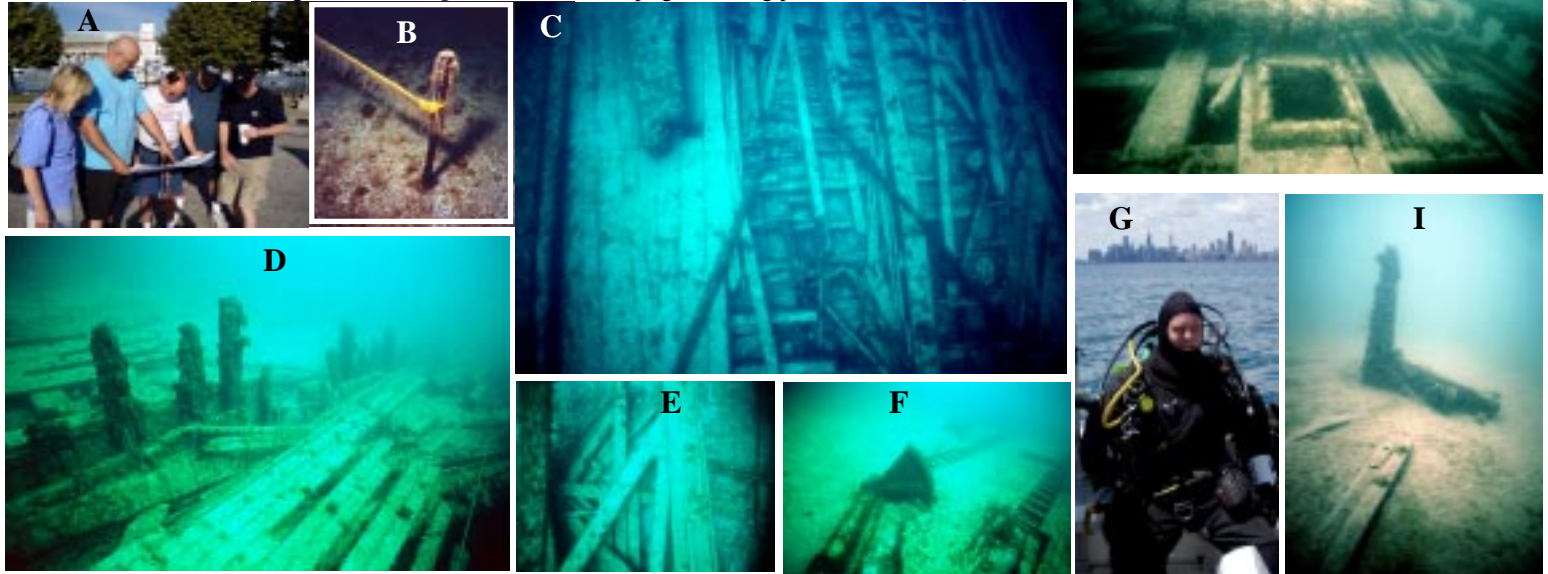
The seven shipwrecks detailed in this DVD are:  
the schooner *St. Mary* (lost with all hands in September, 1860),  
the *Wings of the Wind* (an 1866 collision victim),  
the large schooner *Wells Burt* (lost with all hands in May, 1883),  
the tug *Tacoma* (foundered in 1929),  
the speakeasy ship *Rotarian* (scuttled in 1931),  
the barge *Material Service* (sunk with 15 lives lost in 1936),  
and *The Straits of Mackinac* (a 1929 ferry purposely sunk in 2003).

This 40-minute DVD retails for \$15. Current UASC members pay \$12, and copies are available at UASC meetings every month. If ordering, please add \$2.00 for shipping, making the price a total of \$17.00 (or \$14.00 for members). Mail check, payable to "UASC," to: UASC, P.O. Box 11752, Chicago, IL 60611. **Chicago area scuba dive shops can place wholesale discount orders by calling (630) 293-8996.**

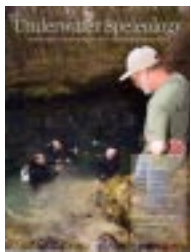
# UASC Works on Chicago Shipwrecks: *Rotarian* and *Wings of the Wind*

On July 6, 2009, six UASC members did survey work on two shipwrecks off Chicago. A: **Michael Angelo Gagliardi**, UASC Dive Coordinator, towered over **Joan Forsberg**, **John Bell**, **Bill Messner**, and **Jeff Rouse** as he showed them the progress on his *Rotarian* photomosaic. B: Our base line, down only two weeks, was covered in algae. C, D, and E: Much can be learned about wooden steamship construction, but the site makes 3D survey work challenging. F: The *Rotarian*'s rudder post and steering quadrant. G: **John Bell** suited up at the *Wings of the Wind* site, closer to Chicago. H: The *Wings*' windlass. I: Its upright steering post.

Photos by Cris Kohl



## UASC Member Author, Cover Subject



The UASC's very own Dive Coordinator, **Michael Angelo Gagliardi**, also an accomplished cave diver, is pictured on the cover of the April-May-June, 2009 issue of *Underwater Speleology*, for his work in repairing vandals' damage to a clay wall inside Florida's Cow Spring. He also wrote the article about that restoration. He is making quite a name for himself: that part of the cave is now called "The Sistine Chapel"! Congratulations, MA!

Below: Detail of cover photo by Jill Heinerth



## UASC on the Radio!



The summer radio audience which listens to Vocalo Radio (usually broadcasting out of Chicago, but on Aug. 11, 2009, it was live from the beach at Michigan City, IN!) heard an hour's worth of talk about Great Lakes shipwrecks and the UASC's work. UASC President **Joan Forsberg** and Past President **Cris Kohl** (right) were the speakers at this event. Above photo by Cris Kohl; right, by the DJ.



## UASC's Diveheart Trainee!

Longtime UASC member **Gene Hasiak** (right) traveled down to the Florida Keys in July, 2009, as a Diveheart Volunteer Diver to learn how to be a dive buddy for divers with disabilities. The UASC Board is working hard to try to work out the details so that we can take some of Diveheart's disabled divers out with us on an underwater archaeological survey dive. For this pilot project, we will be teaching them survey techniques so that they will be able to participate in this challenging type of diving. Diveheart is a not-for-profit organization that does a wonderful job of teaching scuba to people with disabilities. Learn more about how you can help by visiting [www.diveheart.org](http://www.diveheart.org). And stay tuned!



Photo by Cris Kohl

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## At Our June, 2009 Meeting

**Harvey Moshman & Chuck Coppola**

Many UASC members are already familiar with **Harvey Moshman** because he has seen to it that news of the work that UASC has been doing over the past 20 years has been broadcast locally on Chicago television. He now works for Weigel Broadcasting in Chicago and also operates his own company called Moshman Productions. **Chuck Coppola** is also a television producer and the narrator of their documentary, "Lost and Found, Legacy of the **USS Lagarto**," (about a submarine built at Manitowoc, Wisconsin, sunk in the Pacific in World War II, and explored by **John Chatterton** and **Richie Kohler**), which they showed at the packed (45 people!) June 24, 2009, UASC meeting, and answered the enthusiastic audience's questions afterwards.

We thank both of these presenters!

Photo by Cris Kohl

**Calendar of Events**

Compiled in August, 2009



August 26, 2009 (Wed.) -- **UASC meeting**, 6:30 PM, Helix Bldg, Chicago, IL. Guest speaker: **Dr. Ted Karamanski**, History Professor, Loyola University, Chicago, author of maritime history books, on the topic of federally designating Lake Michigan's Manitou Islands (shipwrecks!) as natural historic sites.

September 4-7, 2009 (Fri.-Mon.) -- Labor Day weekend. **UASC's Washington Island, WI, trip**, using members' accommodations & boats! **Ruth Magnus** and **Mike Brutlag** have a house on ten acres of forest on Washington Island, and they have invited our members to camp, or park a camper, around their house. Some members are going up on Thursday, and some are staying until Tuesday or later. **Ruth** and **Mike** have a boat, while other members will be bringing their boats as well. Several shipwreck sites will be explored in the passages between Lake Michigan and Green Bay. About 20 UASC members have indicated that they will make this trip! For info, call **Ruth Magnus** at 630-294-3657 (cell) or [ruthmagnus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ruthmagnus@sbcglobal.net). **SEE YOU THERE!**

September 19, 2009 (Sat.) -- **International Beach Clean-Up --Project AWARE Day**. Burnham Harbor clean-up by divers. UASC's **Ruth Magnus** is coordinating another clean-up. **ICSSD** hosts a zebra mussel clean-up at Haigh Quarry.

Sept. 30, 2009 (Wed.) -- **UASC meeting**, 6:30 PM, Helix Building, Chicago. Guest speakers: UASC members! Several short (5-10 minutes) talks/presentations about the shipwreck diving they did this summer.

October 4, 2009 (Sunday) -- **Underwater Pumpkin Carving Dive** (Illinois Council of Skin and Scuba Diving), Haigh Quarry, Kankakee, IL.

October 10, 2009 (Sat.) -- UASC Presentation by **Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg**, US Coast Guard Auxiliary Annual Conference, Schaumburg, IL.

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## At Our July, 2009 Meeting:

**Lee Murdock**

On Wednesday July 29, 2009, we had a special evening with **Lee Murdock**, one of the best-known Great Lakes balladeers and story tellers. Lee is recognized around the inland seas as a maritime historian who happens to use music as his main medium of disseminating information while simultaneously providing entertainment. His many CDs contain both traditional tunes from Great Lakes maritime history, plus many original compositions about ships and sailors of the fresh-water seas, including numerous haunting melodies about Great Lakes shipwrecks.

We **THANK** Lee for entertaining us!

Photo by Cris Kohl

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

November 14, 2009 (Sat.) **CHANGE OF DATE** from October 10th! **ICSSD Presidents Night Banquet and Raffle**, Burnham Yacht Club, Chicago, IL.

November 18, 2009 (Wed.) -- **UASC meeting**, 6:30 PM, Helix Building, Chicago. Election night to decide the 2010 UASC Executive Board.

November 21, 2009 (Sat.) -- The 26th annual "**Shipwrecks & Scuba**" Show, Sawmill Creek Resort, Huron, Ohio. Morning workshop, afternoon presentations, evening banquet speakers, and exhibits throughout the day. UASC members **Cris Kohl & Joan Forsberg** will do a new presentation, "Searching for Shipwrecks: The Technology," and **Cris** will be emceeing the afternoon presentations. For more information, go to [www.bayareadivers.net](http://www.bayareadivers.net)

December 5, 2009 (Sat.) -- Annual **LOUP/UASC Christmas Party**. Burnham Harbor Yacht Club, Chicago. Details to follow.

February 19-21, 2010 (Fri.-Sun.) -- The **SPECIAL 40th annual "Our World --Underwater" Scuba Show**, Chicago, IL. See [www.ourworldunderwater.com](http://www.ourworldunderwater.com)

February 27, 2010 (Sat.) -- 8th annual "**Chicago Maritime Festival**," Chicago History Museum, Clark St. at North Ave., Chicago. Seminar presentations, 10 AM-4:30 PM. Concert 7-10:30 PM. Go to [www.chicagomaritimefestival.org](http://www.chicagomaritimefestival.org)

February 27, 2010 (Sat.) -- "**Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival**," Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. River Dr., Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI. Go to [www.shipwreckfestival.org](http://www.shipwreckfestival.org) for more information.

February 27, 2010 (Sat.) -- 11th annual "**Dive Into The Past**" show, Minneapolis, MN. Visit [www.glsps.org](http://www.glsps.org) for information.

March 5-6, 2010 (Fri.-Sat.) -- 11th annual "**Ghost Ships Festival**," Milwaukee, WI. See [www.ghost-ships.org](http://www.ghost-ships.org) for more information.

March 6-7, 2010 (Sat.-Sun.) -- 56th annual **Boston Sea Rovers Clinic and Show**. Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA. Seminars, Workshops, Exhibits, Evening Film Festival. Go to [www.bostonsearovers.com](http://www.bostonsearovers.com) for info.

March 26-28, 2010 (Fri.-Sun.) -- The 34th annual "**Beneath The Sea**" show, Secaucus, NJ. Exhibits, seminars, workshops, filmshow. [www.beneaththesea.org](http://www.beneaththesea.org)

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**Join or Renew Your Membership in the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago Today!**

**2009 MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CHICAGO**

**UASC MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:**

- Opportunities for volunteer participation
- Six UASC newsletters (bimonthly in 2009)
- Participation at regular meetings
- Invitations to special events

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

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**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 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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**2009 UASC Officers:**

President ..... **Joan Forsberg**, (630) 293-4020. jaforsberg@aol.com  
 Vice-President ... **Dean Nolan**, (773) 550-2737. deannolan@sbcglobal.net  
 Treasurer ..... **Bob Gadbois**, (773) 883-1601. bobclarg@worldnet.att.net  
 Secretary ..... **John Bell**, (708) 366-0273. JBell@uic.edu

**2009 UASC Chairpersons:**

Membership Data Base ..... **Scott Reimer**, (847) 788-0417. streimer1@comcast.net  
 Newsletter Editor ..... **Cris Kohl**, (630) 293-4020. criskohl@aol.com  
 Dive Coordinator ..... **Michael Angelo Gagliardi**, (773) 282-7114. MA9001@aol.com  
 Refreshments Coordinator ..... **Dan Kasberger**, (773) 267-6634. sarduck@gmail.com  
 ICSSD Rep. .... **Claire Gadbois**, (773) 883-1601. bobclarg@worldnet.att.net  
 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

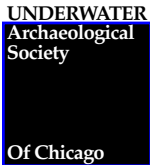
to preserve sites by studying the effects of natural and biological forces as well as the impact of human activity on shipwrecks. It advocates responsible use of submerged cultural resources.

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.



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 P.O. Box 11752  
 Chicago, IL 60611**