



## **A Report from the Field Northwest Vancouver Island Expedition Report June 4 – 8, 2015**

*Submitted by,  
George Silvestrini*

*&*

*Photos by Jacques Marc*

*Participants: Jacques Marc, Eric & Bronwen Young,  
Jiri Kotler & George Silvestrini*

This was the second trip to Quatsino Sound, to seek out new wrecks and to further explore the wreck sites discovered during the 2013 expedition.

We started this trip on a bright and sunny Thursday morning with George and Jiri meeting at Jacques' house to load gear into two vehicles and then head north from Victoria. At Campbell River we met Eric and Bronwen



*Eric & Jiri with Plane Crash Memorial on Lawn Point.*

at the grocery store, completed shopping and picked up the air compressor from Gary Grant for our trip. Winter Harbour is an isolated village, so we had to pack in all supplies for the entire trip.

Once the cars were loaded we continued our trip north to Coal Harbour where we were to meet our charter boat for transport to Winter Harbour. While waiting we visited a small museum housed in the old WW II Seaplane Hanger. It held many interesting artifacts, some from the local logging industry but most of the exhibits were from the former RCAF base that was lo-

*Continued on page 2*



*O Yarkum looking towards Eagle Point*

## President's Message

by: Bronwen Young

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Bronwen Young and I am the new president of UASBC. Our family joined the organization about thirteen years ago while living in the Okanagan. We took the NAS courses and participated in Society activities, learning as much as we could. All this led to the formation of the Thompson Okanagan Chapter in 2004. I assumed the role of Director and by extension, became part of the executive. I was very fortunate to have a small but dedicated group of people willing to put in the hours of work and travel necessary to accomplish a considerable amount of search and survey work in the region. Later the Kootenays also became part of the chapter area.

In 2012 we moved back to the coast and settled on Vancouver Island. My husband Eric became president of UASBC in 2012 and now I have taken over from him. The transition should be fairly 'seamless'!

A sure sign of Fall is the first UASBC executive meeting after our summer break. September 1 we met by Skype to discuss upcoming activities and issues. The September - December Explorations Schedule will be out soon in the Foghorn. Director Jacques Marc has put together some very interesting dives at reasonable cost. If you are a diver, please check to see if you can participate. We need you!

UASBC is celebrating its fortieth Anniversary this year. It is not often that an organization survives this long. It is due to the dedicated people along the way that we are still here. Many thanks to all who contributed their time and energy in the past. Many more thanks to those who are continuing to do so! There will be celebrations happening at chapter meetings some time in the next couple of months. Check the website and this Foghorn issue for specific dates and sites.

If you are going to be in Victoria later this Fall you might plan to attend the annual 'Wine and Cheese' in November. It is a chance for members to drop in, raise a glass and get to know one another. There are many ways to have fun. This is one of them. Watch the web-

site for dates and location.

As an aside, we have moved to a schedule which sees Shipwrecks on one side of the Salish Sea in a given year, with the AGM and Wine and Cheese on the other. The idea is to disperse the responsibility but also to provide opportunities to all members to attend quality functions.

As we move forward, UASBC has reasons to be optimistic. There are nine dedicated individuals on the executive who want to make the society 'work'. They feel passionately about underwater archaeology and the value in continuing to explore, document and record it, before it disappears forever. We also have very supportive members that we value highly.

But UASBC does have its challenges as well. Funding has become a big issue. The financial support that we had in the 'old days' has vanished. We realize that we are only one of many non-profit societies that are feeling this pinch. The executive is working hard to find other sources of funding that will facilitate quality education, exploration and documentation. We hope to be here, prodding the waters for her secrets, for yet another forty years!

## Northwest Island Expedition (cont'd)



Miss Emily at the Winter Harbour dock.

cated on this site. Lyle Berzin was our skipper for this trip and he trailered his 26' aluminum dive boat (Miss Emily) from the east coast to the west coast of Vancouver Island for us. He normally works out of God's

## Northwest Island Expedition (cont'd)



diving conditions off Kains Island Lighthouse

Pocket resort but worked for us on his "days off". We were able to leave our vehicles in the Coal Harbour boat launch parking lot which was nice, because it allowed us to avoid driving on the rough gravel road to Winter Harbour. Instead we loaded all the gear into Lyle's boat and were able to enjoy a scenic one hour cruise to Winter Harbour.

Key map: <https://goo.gl/maps/XU1Ro>

Our lodge while not fancy was very comfortable for a group of divers with a nice view overlooking the harbour. Sitting on the deck we could watch the returning fishing charter boats unload and weigh their catches and the families of Sea Otters swimming in the bay.

Our first dive was to Kwakiutl Point (Reef Point) to search for the wreck William T. Lewis. Although the



The divers at Lawn Point

winds were light, the residual swells were large and there was lots of sea foam. Our search unfortunately revealed no evidence of the wreck. This dive was followed up with an interesting surface interval at Lawn Point. Here we visited a cairn placed to commemorate the lives lost from a tragic US Air Force plane crash during the second world war. Jacques disappeared into the woods and was able to find parts of the plane wreck.

Next was the first of three dives at Kwakiutl (Forward Inlet) to search for the 1852 wreck Eagle. On the previous expedition a gudgeon was found, so these dives were to thoroughly examine the area to relocate the gudgeon and to search for any other artifacts. We located the gudgeon but were unable to find any other artifacts. On the plus side this was a nice easy dive location out of the swells and currents and close to our lodge at Winter Harbour.

With light winds on Sunday June 7th morning we dove the west side of Kains Island looking for the wreck of Dunsyre. Visibility was 20 feet with foam on the surface. During the dive the wind picked up and on surfacing we were in choppy waters. No evidence of wreckage was found on this dive.

Most dive sites were close to Winter Harbour so we were able to return to the lodge for lunch, a surface interval and to fill tanks. Jacques as usual did a great job of keeping us fed. No one went hungry.

Monday it was time to load gear back into Lyle's boat and head back to our vehicles parked at Coal Harbour. Although no new artifacts were found on this expedition we added to our knowledge of the area and where "things" weren't!



## UASBC Diver Explorations Fall Diver Schedule 2015

### Sunday Sept 20th (Tentative)

Southern Vancouver Island – Join us for a two tank boat dive on the Zephyr off Mayne Island and on the G.B Church BC's first artificial reef sunk in 1991. The Zephyr was a sailing bark loaded with sandstone blocks and columns destined for the San Francisco mint. It sank in a snow storm in 1872. Surveying this site was one of the first projects undertaken by the UASBC in 1976. These are moderately easy dives so everyone is welcome.

**Cost \$80 per person. Limit 8 divers.**

**Contact Jacques (250) 474-5797**

**or email: jmarc@shaw.ca.**

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### Sunday October 17th

Gulf Islands - We will visit Porlier Pass to dive the SS Point Grey which struck Virago Rock and sank in 1949. Our second dive will be to explore the remains of the sailing bark Panther wrecked on Panther Point on Wallace Island in 1874. A continuing education course at UBC saw 16 students practiced U/W archaeology techniques on the Panther site in the spring of 1975. Students from that very class went on to form the UASBC in the fall of 1975.

Dive a piece of UASBC history. The Panther dive is easy, but we may experience some slight current on the Point Grey dive.

**Charter \$80 per person. Limit 8 divers.**

**Call Jacques (250) 474-5797**

**or email: jmarc@shaw.ca**

### Sunday November 8th

Southern Vancouver Island – Shore dive in Enterprise Channel to try relocate the remains of the yacht Discovery Isle lost after striking a rock in 1950. We searched for the Discovery Isle during the Southern Vancouver Island project but were unsuccessful. Mark Hiebert (victoriadiving.awardspace.com) recently found several parts of the wreck. While we will dive at slack we may experience some current during the dive.

**Cost: Free. No diver limit.**

**Contact Jacques (250) 474-5797**

**or email: jmarc@shaw.ca.**

**PLEASE REFER TO WWW.UASBC.COM FOR THE LATEST UPDATES!**

## 2015 Vancouver Speaker Schedule

### Wednesday, September 30

#### Royal Edward: Canada's Lusitania

#### Speaker: Rob Rondeau, Marine Archaeologist

Overshadowed by the sinking of larger liners like the Lusitania and Britannic, the loss of the Royal Edward was a major blow to the Allied effort in World War One. Owned and operated by the Canadian Northern Railway, it was torpedoed by a German U-boat in the summer of 1915. Requisitioned by the Admiralty, it was the first British transport sunk by an enemy submarine. Join marine archaeologist Rob Rondeau for an exciting evening of discovery as he explains this unique part of Canada's long-forgotten wartime past.

### Wednesday, October 28,

#### 40 Years of Exploration and Discoveries

#### Speaker: Tom Beasley, Lower Mainland Director

Description: the UASBC was formed in October 1975 following a continuing education course on underwater archaeology at UBC. Since then it has grown into one of the largest and most active avocational underwater archaeological organizations in the world. The presentation will focus on the projects, personalities and milestones over those 40 years

### Wednesday November 25,

#### Clam Gardens

#### Speaker: Nicole Smith, Archaeologist

Nicole will share with us the where, when and how clam gardens were constructed by the First Nations along the Coast of British Columbia.

## Let's Party 2015

You and a guest are cordially invited to attend  
The Underwater Archaeological Society of BC  
Wine & Cheese Recognition Evening

**UASBC**

Saturday, November 28, 2015

7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

@ Chateau Victoria

740 Burdett Ave., Victoria, BC

Suite TBA

Underwater Archaeological  
Society of BC

Please RSVP by November 14<sup>th</sup>

Respond by email to: [jaso@telus.net](mailto:jaso@telus.net)

or contact John Middleton @ (250) 743-4495

## Victoria Underwater Explorers Speaker Series:

### Wednesday September 9, 2015 Tour of Cable Ship Wave Venture

Come join the UASBC for a tour of the 142M Cable Ship "Wave Venture". This vessel is stationed in Victoria and is responsible for constructing and maintaining some of the fiber optic telecommunication (TV, Internet) cables which connect North America with Asia. We will learn how they grapple the cables 12,000 feet under the ocean using their ROV's and bring them on board to their fiber optic cable repair facility, and other projects that they get involved with.

RSVP [john.Middleton@telus.net](mailto:john.Middleton@telus.net)

### Wednesday, October 14, 2015 40 Years of Underwater Archaeology in BC

This year is the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Underwater Archaeological Society of BC (UASBC) by a group of UBC Archaeology students. Jacques Marc, who has served as both President and Explorations Director will hi-lite the achievements of the society with a slide show and talk, ranging from societies first project surveying the Panther (which became the society's logo) to recent shipwreck surveys conducted in partnership with Parks Canada off of Haida Gwaii.

Cake will be served in celebration of our 40th year anniversary.

### Wednesday November 11, 2015 Voyage Thru The Northwest Passage

With the recent discovery of the long lost Franklin Expedition vessel Erebus, the Northwest Passage is very much in the news these days. In 2013, Mary Anne Unrau and Larry Roberts sailed their 45" sailing vessel Traversay III through what they thought would be a shortcut to the west coast from the Atlantic. Come and hear about their discoveries along the way and how this "shortcut" stretched into 8 long months.

### Wednesday December 9, 2015 A Long Dangerous Coastline

Anthony Dalton is an Adventurer, Author and photographer with over 14 books to his credit, "Wayward Sailor - In Search of the Real Tristram Jones", "Bachimo - Arctic Ghost Ship" and "A Long Dangerous Coastline - Shipwreck Tales from Alaska to California" to name a few. Anthony will give us a talk and slide show on this latter book

**The UASBC Victoria Chapter meets at  
Swan's Hotel and Brewpub,  
506 Pandora Street in Victoria  
at 07:00 PM  
during the period October - June**

Hi Folks!



I'm still in shock that our summer's over. Not that I don't love the fall because I do! We all know the water is going to get clearer and clearer and I can feel a sort of excitement brewing here.

The summer brought us unusually good vis, so does that mean winter vis will be worse or better yet? I vote the latter.

Anji, some friends and I plan on mounting a little expedition North of Lund in the hopes of finding a rather large vessel (1408 tons! That's similar to the Texada ferry!) that burned in 1932. The story goes that a commercial diver was called to lift an entangled anchor. It had a buoy on it so he went down the line in near zero vis and freed the hook from a steel wheel latch attached to a steel door attached to a bulkhead etc... You get the picture. He didn't explore it but we have an idea where it is. We have a dot on a map! This is the mission we choose to accept!

Gary and Anji out.

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