

SEARCH TEAM NEWS

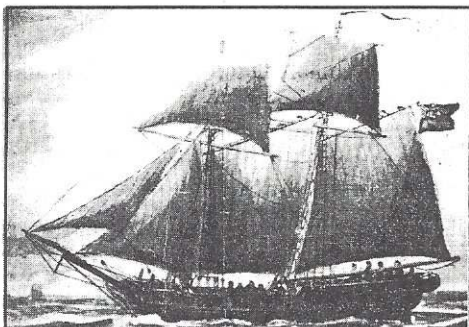
J.W. FISHERS MANUFACTURING INC

JW
FISHERS

UNDERWATER SEARCH

ISSUE 3-1

HMS SPEEDY AND MINNIE SLAUSSON LOCATED



ED BURTT LOCATES HIS SECOND WRECK WITH SEAOTTER ROV!

Ed Burtt, of Ocean Scan Systems, a Belleville Ontario company, has received national recognition in Canada for his discovery of two wrecks off Presqu'ile Park in Lake Ontario.

The *HMS Speedy*, a British Man of War, sank in a violent storm in October of 1804 with all hands lost. The vessel carried several prominent politicians and its sinking effectively brought to an end plans to make the district town of Newcastle the capitol of Northern Canada.

Ocean Scan located the ship in 100 ft of water using the SeaOtter ROV. "We really got excited when we saw the outline of the ship's bell, Ed told reporters for several of Canada's leading papers, "then we saw clay pipes, glasses, a pistol, cannons, and a carriage. The history and artifacts from this wreck are a time capsule waiting to be opened. Many of the artifacts look the way they did the day they went down with the ship."

Several months later newspapers reported "Ocean Scan Systems have done it again; they've found another shipwreck". The SeaOtter sent pictures up of a 150 ft three-masted schooner, the *Minnie Slausson* that sank Nov 2, 1877. The ship is fairly well preserved with the bow, keel, fantail, mast steps, and sides, visible and intact. The bow of the schooner protrudes 15' up out of the sandy bottom. Much of the rope rigging is still intact even after 115 years.

Ocean Scan has done many video inspection projects including jobs for the Ministry of the Environment, Ontario Hydro, the provincial government of Quebec, and the Mexican government. Ed is now involved in an extensive geological survey project using his SeaOtter. JWF

EDMOND FITZGERALD ANCHOR LOCATED WITH PROTON 3



KEN REEVES LOCATES THE ANCHOR FROM THE FABLED EDMOND FITZGERALD IN THE DETROIT RIVER WITH MAGNETOMETER!

Everyone has heard Gordon Lightfoot's famous song of the wreck of the *Edmond Fitzgerald*. In 1975 in a severe November storm on Lake Superior "the good ship and crew" was lost. "The searchers all say they'd a made Whitefish Bay if she'd put 15 more miles behind her". The huge cargo ship now lies in 640 feet of water 10 miles off of Whitefish Point. Not all of the *Edmond Fitzgerald* is lying on the bottom of Lake Superior, part of her was left behind.

The 729' ship had left Detroit with a cargo of 26,000 tons of iron ore headed for Cleveland. About a month before that fateful trip, the ship was anchored in the Detroit River. The ship, upon preparing to leave the river, attempted to raise its anchor. In what was then an incident shrouded in mystery, the ship lost it's 12,000 lb. anchor. The incident was never reported to officials who should have been notified.

Researchers recently discovered information surrounding the mystery. They discovered the possible location of the anchor. Locating the anchor should solve the mystery of how the anchor was lost. Some said the anchor was hung-up on some underwater obstruction, and the crew unable to raise it, cut it loose. Others say the chain broke, plunging the anchor into the muddy bottom.

Divers in the research team had spent considerable time searching for the anchor before deciding they needed help.

Ken Reeves is a man who loves a good mystery. When Bill Hoey, with the Great Lakes Maritime Institute, asked Ken to help in the search Ken readily agreed. Previously Ken had great success using his Proton 3 magnetometer, but Ken knew this was not going to be an easy job. The huge anchor was an easy target for his mag to detect, but the area to be searched presented many potential problems. The search area had three power plants on the surrounding shore. There was a metal reinforced tunnel running underneath the river, and a large steel bridge loomed close-by. Lots of metal in the area for the powerful mag to detect. The problem was how to pinpoint the anchor in an area surrounded by all this metal. Well Ken loves a good challenge too. Within four working days from beginning the search with his Proton 3, Ken had located the anchor. He also solved the mystery of how the ship had lost the anchor. The open master link was found lying on the bottom next to the anchor.

The anchor is on display in the Dossin Great Lakes Museum in Detroit. A special commemoration took place last November.

JWF

PULSE 7 MOUNTED ON DIVER SLED.



DOUG MANSFIELD, OF MARINE INNOVATIONS, OFFERS BOAT TOWED DIVER SLED WITH OPTIONAL PULSE 7.

Doug Mansfield started Marine Innovations in the late 1980's with the objective of providing a reasonably priced high performance diver sled. Very quickly Doug discovered that one of the main applications of his sled was for large scale underwater searches. Divers can cover four times as much area using the sled as through normal search methods. When Doug discovered that many customers wanted to locate metal objects he quickly contacted J.W. Fishers to see if we could modify any of our equipment for his sled. We shipped Doug a Pulse 7 and he modified it for his sled. Talking to some of the divers that have used it, the results have been outstanding. *JWF*

TWO MORE COLLEGES PURCHASE SEAOTTER ROV'S

The Sir George Fisher Centre at James Cook University in Queensland, Australia, and Middlebury College, in Middlebury Vermont are among the educational institutions that have purchased SeaOtters for their oceanographic programs.

Dr. Tom Manley of Middlebury says the students in their oceanographic program are getting hands on experience in using the ROV in their research projects. One group of students is mapping a square kilometer of the bottom of Lake Champlain. The project involves the integration of a number of different data gathering systems including the ROV to examine sediment structures and bottom biological growth. The students enjoy using the SeaOtter because it allows them to actually see the bottom. Tom tells us future plans include investigating artifacts and examining some peculiar sediment structures in deep water. *JWF*

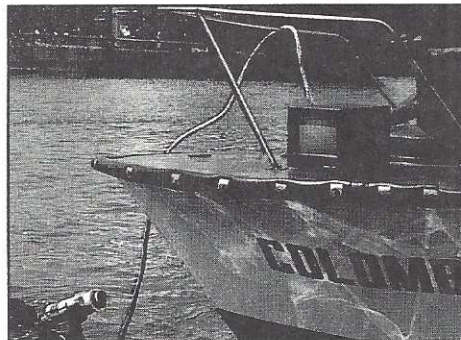
PROTON MAG AND PULSE 8X'S LOCATE MILLIONS IN GOLD.

It started quietly enough. The purchase of a single Proton magnetometer. Then the sale of a Pulse 8X, followed by the purchase of many more Pulse 8X's. Faxes were coming in every other day. April 9, "We brought up 385 gold coins today and 2 gold ingots dated 1749." April 21, "today we recovered 1024 gold coins and 8 gold ingots." Ruben Collado and his partners in Montevideo, Uruguay had hit the big one.

The search for "El Preciado" off the South American coast had started two years earlier. It began with extensive researching of all available records. It was well known the ship had sunk in 1749 laden with gold, but its exact location had eluded searchers for over 200 years....More on this in upcoming issues. *JWF*.

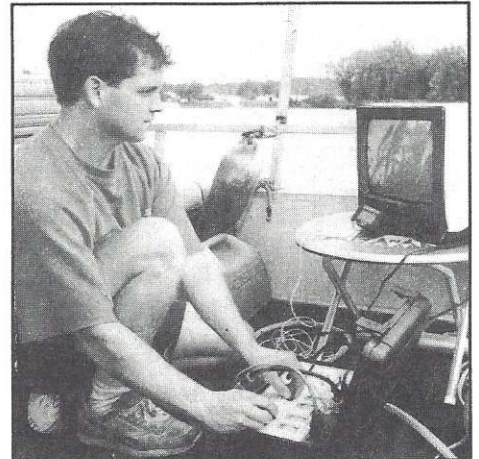
COLOMBO ENGINEERING PURCHASES DV2 FOR SHIP HULL INSPECTION

Colombo Engineering, one of the largest marine services company in Sri Lanka, purchased a DV2 color drop camera for hull inspections for their ship repair facilities. The company, located in the capitol of the island nation, is capable of providing a wide range of services to the marine industry. The company's equipment includes ten deep-sea motor launches (largest fleet in Sri Lanka) fully equipped with state of the art electronic equipment.



Diving services provided include underwater welding and cutting, hull inspection and cleaning, and underwater recovery. One of the most recent recoveries was a ship's anchor which was located with the Pulse 8X. They have lift bags capable of handling up to 20,000 lbs. Their divers use cordless underwater communications equipment, a first in Sri Lanka, and a Nikonos V underwater camera for underwater still photography. The company offers a 24 passenger launch and supply craft service that meets all international standards. *JWF*

SEAOTTER USED IN THE OHIO RIVER FOR ZEBRA MUSSEL INSPECTION.



TOMMY PRITT "FLIES" SEAOTTER ALONG THE BOTTOM OF THE OHIO RIVER.

Tommy Pritt, of Vienna Marine, recently purchased a SeaOtter ROV. "The SeaOtter increases the market for our company" Tommy said. A major new market for Vienna Marine will be input pipe inspection for power companies. Power companies regularly have their intake water pipes inspected and videotaped for debris blockage and more recently for zebra mussel buildup.

Zebra mussels are one to three inches long with stripes running across their shells. The mussels originated from the Caspian Sea and were introduced by a tanker in the Great Lakes in 1986. They have spread to the Ohio river and attach to almost any hard surface. They reproduce rapidly and can clog water intake tubes, thus the need for frequent inspections.

The SeaOtter will also be used to inspect and videotape the inside of municipal water tanks. Many municipalities routinely drain their tanks for inspection - a very costly procedure.

Vienna Marine had previously purchased a Pulse 12 boat towed metal detector and the DV1 drop video which they use for search and salvage work. The Pulse 12 was put it to good use not long ago. An 18 ft fiberglass boat was traveling down the river at night when it hit a barge and sank. The Pulse 12 was brought on the scene and located the boat by detecting the motor.

The company has also purchased the optional altimeter for the Pulse 12 which shows the distance the tow fish is running off the bottom. "What a fantastic device, we always know where our fish is in relation to the bottom", Tommy reports. *JWF*

ROV USED FOR WATERTANK INSPECTIONS



STEVE KUBALA OF GM SERVICES INSPECTS WATER TANKS WITH SEAOTTER

GM Services, of Houston Texas, has recently purchased J.W. Fishers SeaOtter ROV. Among the many services that the ROV will be used for, is for the purpose of water tank inspections. Water tank inspections will be a new service offered by GM. "The large tanks, holding water supplies for city residents, are required by state regulations to have regularly scheduled inspections" Jimmy Graves co-owner of GM told us.

City officials are reluctant to have human divers enter the water supply tanks. The inspections, which must be done on a regular basis, are a perfect application for motorized underwater cameras. The tanks must be inspected to check for corrosion, structural integrity and to see if any debris has entered.

The SeaOtter was modified slightly at GM's request to be able to inspect the roof of the tank which is out of the water. The ballast in the Sea Otter's skids were rearranged to allow the rear to sit low in the water and the front viewing dome to be out of the water to view the tanks ceiling.

Steve Kubala, the operator of the system for GM, reported how easily he learned how to operate the ROV despite never having worked with such a system before. "It was so simple, after about an hour in the pool with it, I could get it to doing anything I wanted."

GM Services provides a wide variety of services including down-hole camera surveys and well inspections. Although the company is just over three years old, the companies principals have collectively over 50 years experience in the business. Steve tells us that with the SeaOtter's deep depth capability it will be a great addition to what GM Services can offer. *JWF*

MAG LOCATES TWO BOATS IN FLORIDA RIVER

John Lovee, of Bradenton FL, started Advanced Aquatic Research several years ago with the intent providing a large variety of search and inspection services to both individual and commercial customers.

One of the first tools he purchased for his search operations was a Proton magnetometer. During a recent survey of a section of the St. Johns river John located two separate wrecks with his mag.

AAR has since added a SeaOtter ROV, a DV1 drop video, a Pulse 10 boat towed detector, and the diver held Pulse 8X. *JWF*

J.W. FISHERS WINS READERS CHOICE AWARD



SCUBA TIMES conducted a poll of its readers to determine the top rated manufacturers of diving equipment. J. W. Fishers not only won the metal detector category, but received the highest percentage vote (48%) of any manufacturer in any category! Seven detector manufactures were listed. *JWF*

FRENCH MAN-OF-WAR LOCATED AND FILMED IN BOSTON HARBOR

For many years a dive group out of Boston, Ma. had searched for a French Man of War that had hit a rock and sank in Boston Harbor in 1782. The group had done a lot of research and had narrowed the area down to a reasonable size. Lou Cook, of Underwater Observation Services, a Plymouth, Ma company, participated in locating and filming the Man Of War using his SeaOtter ROV. Lou started his underwater search company in 1989 with the purchase of the SeaOtter. The company has since expanded adding a Proton 3 magnetometer, a Pulse 12 boat towed metal detector, and a Pulse 8X diver held detector. "I'm equipped to do almost any type of underwater search or inspection" Lou tells prospective clients. *JWF*

ANTIQUE STEAM CRANE LOCATED WITH TOWED CAMERA

It was a dark windy day on lake Michigan. The seas were heavy as the tug towed the barge out of port with the old steam crane perched atop. The antique piece of construction equipment was on its way to a new home. Somewhere enroute, the crane disappeared overboard. The tug captain explained the mishap "the seas were a little rough, one minute the crane was there, and the next minute it was gone". The captain had a general idea of where it went overboard, but there was a large area to be searched.



RON CROWELL HAS LOCATED MANY WRECKS WITH HIS TOV-1.

Divers searched for the crane, but without success. Finally, the company contracted Ron Crowell of Muskegon, MI. to conduct an extensive search of the area. Ron had experience conducting large scale searches for items, and had received excellent results using his TOV-1 towed underwater camera system. In less than 2 days of searching, Ron located the crane with the TOV-1.

Ron reports that he has used his TOV-1 for numerous commercial jobs and for one of his favorite pastimes - wreck hunting. The underwater camera has been instrumental in locating and inspecting wrecks. He told us: "In a hundred foot depth, where visibility for the diver averages about 10 feet, my camera can see 15-20 feet with a width of field of about 15 feet. I can cover a very large area in a day of searching"

For most searches Ron runs his depth finder in conjunction with his towed camera. Three wrecks findings, however, were made exclusively with the TOV-1. "The wrecks were broken up with debris scattered over the bottom, nothing significant enough to show up on the depth finder. The underwater camera easily spotted the wreckage", Ron said. *JWF*

BITS AND PIECES

.....Lloyds of London has accepted video tapes produced by J.W. Fishers DV2 deep water drop video system and the SeaOtter ROV as meeting their quality standards for inspection work. The systems already meet standards accepted by a large number of insurance organizations and world-wide shipping companies for recording hull inspections. The underwater cameras are capable of doing "in the water" hull inspections to avoid expensive dry-docking. The DV2 and SeaOtter use the same high quality CCD color camera and 8mm auto iris lens.

.....State police divers searched the Pawtucket river for six days for a murder weapon. Finally the state police borrowed a Pulse 8X underwater metal detector from SGT. Ray Wells of the Warwick, R.I. police dept. Within hours of arriving on the scene with the detector the weapon was located.

.....Scott Humes continues to bring up an seemingly endless supply of artifacts off an old pier on Lake Tahoe. After a little research, Scott discovered there had been an old casino on top of the pier many years ago.

.....Police divers had searched the water filled pit for many days for a suspected drowning victim. Water visibility was very poor which made the divers job very difficult. Finally Steve Weston of the Jasper County Sheriffs Dept. borrowed a DV1 underwater camera system from another police dept. They covered the search area again, but this time from a boat on the surface. They found the victim. Steve told us how impressed everyone was with the picture quality even in very bad water conditions. They plan to purchase their own DV1.

.....Frank Rizzo of Schenectady NY continues to use his Pulse 8X to pull up artifacts, including coins dating back to the 1600's, from an old battle site on the banks of a nearby lake. Using his DV1, Frank located and filmed a wreck site in 105' of water. Many artifacts were brought to the surface.

.....Marex divers continue to bring up millions in gold from the fabled Maravillas galleon in the Bahamas. The galleon sunk in a storm in 1543. Herbert Humpphreys Jr owns Marex divers and has been searching for the main load since 1986. The total estimated value of the cargo is estimated at 1.4 bil. The operation has been a long time user of J. W. Fishers equipment including Pulse 8X's and boat-towed detectors.

.....In a separate Bahamas item, we received a fax from Kevin of Subsea Exploration, "The Pulse 12 is working brilliantly. We are getting some exciting responses on this survey in the Bahamas."

.....Chuck Larson, of Ocean Sands Scuba, used his boat deployed Pulse 7 to pinpoint the location of a small plane that was lost after crashing in a local lake.

.....Larry Spessin, of Seattle, used his SeaOtter ROV to locate a 300 passenger liner which had gone down off the coast. Larry has been very active in leasing himself and his SeaOtter to do search and inspection work.

.....Kaj Ojala and his dive group, of DivePoint (Norway), continue to bring up a large quantity of artifacts located with their Pulse 8X's. The wreck site is from the Great Nordic War (1714). Many Russian silver coins have been recovered. His prize possession is a beautiful gold and silver watch dated from 1696.

.....A recently received fax from Centro De Investigaciones Submarinas (Vigo, Spain), congratulating us on the outstanding performance of their TOV-1 towed underwater camera system. They were under a one month contract to video tape kelp beds off the coast of northwest Spain. They got the job done and ended up with some outstanding video footage.

.....Dale Polk, of Florida, writes us of his outstanding success with his Pulse 8X. "It is so easy to use in the surf, does not give false readings, and it is very easy to pin-point the target. Of the 60-70 rings he has found so far, his favorite is a 5 carat sapphire. "It is such a magnificent and beautiful stone" Dale writes. Dale's really gotten into detecting. He is manufacturing a very heavy duty scoop which is being sold through Kellyco in Winter Springs, FL. JWF

If you have a story you would like to share, send us a photo and write up or call Chris or Jack at (800) 822-4744 or (508) 822-7330. FAX (508) 880-8949

NEW LOW LIGHT LEVEL CAMERA AVAILABLE FOR THE DVI AND TOV-1

J. W. Fishers announces the availability of a commercial grade CCD very low light level black and white camera. The camera has a .5 lux sensitivity rating which is considerably more sensitive than the standard 4 lux low light camera used in the DV1 and TOV-1 camera systems. This new camera enables good video pictures even in very poor lighting conditions. Customers report excellent video recordings in even poor visibility water conditions. The camera has the added benefit of a 60 deg wide field of view (vs. 40). This camera upgrade can be added when ordering the DV1 or TOV-1. Existing systems in the field can be upgraded. The upgrade is field installable. JWF

NEW COMPUTER INTERFACE IS AVAILABLE FOR THE PROTON 3 MAGNETOMETER

J.W. Fishers very popular Proton 3 mag is now available with a RS232 output which enables direct interface with a computer. The Proton 3 is a state of the art, micro processor driven marine magnetometer which has a 1 gamma sensitivity. The system is J.W. Fishers top of the line boat towed detecting device for locating iron and steel targets. The Proton 3 can interface with either Loran or GPS positioning systems. The position coordinates are printed out on a built-in printer. This same information is now available in serial RS232 format so it can be inputted directly into a computer. The computer can be used to simply store the information, or to plot magnetic anomalies in the area. JWF

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