

CSTR's *Yukon* 10th Anniversary Celebration Is Becoming a Project *Yukon* Reunion

The leaders whose vision and dedication made Project *Yukon* a success will be honored by California Ships to Reefs July 14 at the *Yukon*'s Tenth Anniversary Celebration.

The first privately funded artificial reef in California was created ten years ago when the *HMCS Yukon* was sunk near San Diego harbor, a project that took more than 2,000 people fourteen months to accomplish. "California Ships to Reefs is proud to have the Project *Yukon* Team leaders attend our celebration and share their amazing accomplishments," said Joel Geldin, CSTR Chairman and CEO. "The story of how a Canadian destroyer became a rich new ocean environment and popular diving spot is best told by the people who made it happen."

The day's celebration includes fascinating afternoon seminars and an evening cocktail party with raffle prizes, the unveiling of a new Wyland masterpiece and a tour of a Soviet submarine. Project *Yukon* Team Leaders and *Yukon* volunteers will be part of the festivities. It is happening at the Maritime Museum of San Diego, which is co-sponsoring the event. You may get your tickets online through July 12 at <http://www.californiashipstoreefs.org/Calendar?eventId=158999&EventViewMode=2&CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=7/6/2010>.

The *Yukon* leaders include Dick Long, who initiated and chaired Project *Yukon*, Bob Beitzl, John Boyer, Doug Goepfert, Frances San Clemente, Kai Schumann, Bob Watts and Bob Willey. Another team leader, Milt Beard, is deceased. Project *Yukon* volunteers who were instrumental in helping present the anniversary celebration are Scott Brown, Susan Long and Ken Shortridge, all from San Diego.

Volunteers who have been working for the last few months to bring you this very special event include John Hott of Ocean Technology Services; Dale Sheckler of California Diving News; Julie Lorenzen of the Maritime Museum of San Diego. The Underwater Sea Ceremony will be conducted by Stephanie Adamson, Mike Bear, Anita D'Amato, Ronan Gray, Barbara Lloyd, Stephen Mendel, Occhi Moore, Janet Pinterits, Margo Sanchez, Anna Schwinger, Patrick Smith, Andy Solomon, Stephen Speiser, Allison Vitzky, Ian Wimmer and John Wagner.

The generous sponsors who provided equipment and/or services for the celebration are BlooSee, DiveNav, Diving Unlimited International, Gates Underwater Products, The Maritime Museum of San Diego, Ocean Technology Systems, Scuba Diver Girls, Waterhorse Charters and The Wyland Foundation.

Donors who gave valuable raffle prizes for the cocktail party event are APS Mantaray, Chammyz, Diving Unlimited International, Hammerhead Press, Horizon Charters, Ikelite Underwater Systems, Inside Afghanistan, Otter Box, Pelican Products and Reef & Rainforest.

The celebration at the Museum begins at with the seminars and panel discussions from 2 to 5 pm. The cocktail party, from 5 to 7:30 pm will include an opportunity for all attendees to place their names and messages into a time capsule to be placed on the *Yukon* the next day. The Wyland artwork, which is his painting on an 11-foot steel dolphin taken from the *Yukon*'s hull, will be unveiled.

The event will conclude July 15 with the Underwater Sea Ceremony aboard the *Yukon*. Divers who participate will don special face masks that allow them to talk underwater while the time capsule is placed on the *Yukon*. Special equipment, donated by Ocean Technology Systems, will transmit voices to the surface where the press and public can be part of the adventure.

California Ships to Reefs is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit corporation seeking to reef surplus ships as artificial reefs, bringing diving and fishing tourism to local ports in California and enhancing the ocean environment.

The Maritime Museum of San Diego is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation whose purpose is to preserve the traditional knowledge, skills and folk culture of the enterprise of the sea; to provide a safe repository for material culture; and to illustrate how the maritime enterprise has touched and continues to influence our daily lives through innovative and engaging educational programs, exhibits, publications and cultural events. For more information please visit their website at www.sdmaritime.org.