

**Sea-Life Habitat Improvement Project, Inc.
(SHIP) is a 501(c)3 public charity.**

August, 2012



Sinking of the U.S.S. Mohawk C.G.C.

Calendar

September 10, 2012
SHIP Board Meeting
3:00pm

October 1, 2012
SHIP Board Meeting
3:00pm

November 5, 2012
SHIP Board Meeting
3:00pm

November 17, 2012
"Sink Our Ship" Party
Pelican Yacht Club
6-10pm

December 3, 2012
SHIP Board Meeting
3:00pm

January 7, 2012
SHIP Board Meeting
3:00pm

S.H.I.P., Inc.
P.O. Box 2541
Ft. Pierce, FL 34954
772-285-1646
admin@sinkourship.org
www.sinkourship.org

By April Price

On Monday, July 2nd, I had the privilege of being front and center for the deployment of the U.S.S. Mohawk C.G.C. It all started when Kerry Dillon from Sea Rover Services called me and said, "April, they are sinking the Mohawk on Monday, we've been invited, Let's Go!" So after some calendar adjustments, I made the commitment to go.

I met up with Kerry in Stuart at 2:30 am and we began our trek across the state to Ft. Myers. We had to be on the boat no later than 6 am. The drive was relatively uneventful until we got into Fort Myers. That is when our Map Quest directions didn't exactly match up to some of the new road construction. Nothing major, however several U-turns and some guessing was enough to throw us off schedule. We stepped onto the casino boat that was to take us to the deployment site at 5:57 am and departed the dock three minutes later.

It was a *beautiful* day for a deployment. Seas were flat and the winds calm. Onboard were the families and friends of the deployment team along with a variety of media persons. We arrived at the deployment site around noon.

It wasn't long before the countdown began and we were graced with the best seat in the house. It was a false start and the deployment crew boarded the Mohawk to double check all connections. Once com-

pleted, the countdown began again. This time it was a success; believe me, I can't put into words the excitement of witnessing this moment in time. I realized that this is something we can make happen right here on the Treasure Coast!

The Mohawk was built in 1935 in Wilmington, Delaware, and was the last serving vessel of the Greenland Patrol fleet, which served in WWII. The ship broke ice in the Arctic Circle, launched 14 attacks against Nazi U-boats and rescued more than 300 sailors from the sea in two operations.

The Mohawk was sunk in 60-90' of water 13 miles off Sanibel Island. The site is near an old radio tower that has become a popular diving and fishing spot. The project is estimated to cost Lee County \$1 million and they contracted ReefMakers, the Florida Keys-based company that sank the USNS Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg off Key West in May, 2009, to oversee the deployment. In honor of the old Mohawk's sinking, the ReefMakers' crew cut their hair in the traditional Mohawk, Native American Indian style. The Mohawk will attract more divers and fishermen to the already popular area. The wrecks off of Florida's west coast generate \$100 million a year in tourism, according to a Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission study.

It was exciting to be part of such a great project. Congratulations to Lee County and ReefMakers!

Come on Treasure Coast, We Can Do This!

U.S.S. MOHAWK C.G.C. / JULY 2, 2012

Join us for the
2nd Annual
"Sink Our Ship"
Party @ the
Pelican Yacht
Club

Sponsors
Welcomed!

S.H.I.P., INC.
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Dean Kubitschek

2nd Vice President

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Vicky Tillman

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Paul Sampson

Directors

Linda Cox

Chris Dzadovsky

Anna Shope

Lange Sykes

Executive Director

April Price



Save the Date!

**2ND ANNUAL "SINK OUR SHIP"
PARTY @ PELICAN YACHT CLUB
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2012
6:00-10:00PM / \$50 PER PERSON**

Please help us to sink a large Navy type ship as an
artificial reef on the Treasure Coast.

RSVP Today!

772-285-1646 / shipinc.slc@hotmail.com

