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Quarterly Reporter - June 2010

South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology--University of South Carolina

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June 2010

Volume 1, Issue 2

Quarterly Reporter

Things You Need to Know:

- 2010 Quarter 2 Reports Due July 10, 2010
- SDAMP now on Facebook!
- Sign up now for August workshop

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"Helping to preserve and protect South Carolina's maritime heritage through research, education, and public outreach."

The Allendale Expedition

For the first two weeks every May, SDAMP gets an opportunity to be part of one of the most influential archaeological sites in the country right here in South Carolina. SCIAA and SEPAS (Southeastern Paleoamerican Survey) work together to uncover the mysteries of South Carolina's past.

While the land archaeologists get to dig around in the dirt at the Topper site, SDAMP and its volunteers get to be on the black bottom of the creek at

the Big Pine site dredging or airlifting archaeological finds to the surface to be screened by volunteers on shore.

This year was very exciting as it was the first year for the airlift. It took some getting used to and certainly some MacGyver talent to rig our makeshift barge and deal with all of the minor technical difficulties that so often plague a project. With the help of eight SDAMP diving volunteers and their ingenuity and positive

spirits, we pulled off another very successful season in Allendale. We can't wait to do it all over again next year!

If you are interested in learning more about the Allendale Expedition and how you can get involved visit:

www.allendale-expedition.net

or contact the SDAMP office.

Be sure to read about the experiences of some of our 2010 Dredgeheads in this issue of the *Quarterly Reporter*. ■



2010 Dredgeheads at the Big Pine site, Allendale, SC (Allendale Crew pictures on pg. 9)

The Allendale Experience

By Carrie Miller

I always thought the BEST reason for having a Hobby Diver License was being able to find (and keep) those MEG teeth hidden in the Cooper River. That was BEFORE I replied to the e-mail from SCIAA and SDAMP looking for volunteer hobby divers to help with the dredging operation at the Big Pine site of the Allendale Expedition!!

I arrived at check-in with my

SCUBA equipment/camping gear and left a week later with LOTS of new FRIENDS, great STORIES, and new SKILLS....working an air lift dredging hose thingamajig in 58 degree water with zero visibility!! I can't divulge the stories ("dregeheads" are sworn to secrecy), but I encourage every Hobby Diver to look into this project and become one

of "our team".

I really want to thank Ashley, Carl, and Joe for transforming a nice group of divers into a GREAT DREDGEHEAD UNIT!! I also want to thank everyone involved with putting the programs together & making it such a fantastic experience!! Sign me up for next year!■



**Allendale volunteer
Carrie Miller**

Hobby Divers Really Suck!

By Dennis Coco

When I read the article in the *Quarterly Reporter* entitled "Volunteer Opportunity- The Allendale Project" I thought "This will be great. Free river diving for two weeks and I get to be part of an archeological project. Diving everyday and searching the bottom for stuff. But I hope I will have more than just a couple of dives a day or I will get bored." Well I was right and I was wrong. It wasn't just a couple of dives a day... It was in the water ALL day, either on the bottom, or on the surface supporting the diver on the bottom. It wasn't searching the bottom for artifacts... there was nothing to

see. A light was a waste of batteries. Basically we went diving in a swamp. It WAS diving in complete BLACK water, laying in the bottom mud, can't see gauges, dragging around a four inch pipe that was sucking the bottom of the river up to screens on the surface. The screens were floated over to folks on the shore that screened it again and found the artifacts. Points and pottery galore. It WAS a great experience. There was a lot to learn and it was really neat rubbing shoulders with some of the biggest names in archeology and diving with the people that raised the *Hunley*. Joe Beatty, Carl Naylor and

Ashley Deming were great to be with and kept us busy. No one had trouble sleeping at night. It was a full workday. Yes, it was great fun. Yes, it was nasty trying to get the sand and mud out of your ears every night. Yes, I'm glad it was COMPLETE

darkness because I'm sure if I could have seen some of the things I was bumping into down there I probably would have!!!

Would I do it again ???...next week !!!■



**Allendale volunteer
Dennis Coco**

Was it Heaven or Was it Hell? Two Weeks in Allendale, SC

By Ted Churchill

My name is Ted and I'm a dredgehead. There, I said it. I'm addicted to sucking air out of a tank, crawling around in pluff mud, and watching alligators and snakes share the same cold, black water as me. I'm not ashamed to admit having to relieve myself in my wet suit for eight hours of a day that is either cold and raining or hot enough to make you forget that the creek you're in is in the mid-sixties. If all this sounds like some kind of boot camp for underwater dredging, well, it's not. It's what I do and I love it, and maybe if I'm good, I may be asked to do it all again next year. I can't wait to wade into that cold, black water and get my first turn at bottom time on the dredge head. The sound of chert going up the pipe, knowing that what you're bringing to the surface for the first time in seven thousand years plus, will help promote the understanding of how the first Americans lived and survived in their hostile environment. Speaking of hostile environments, the Topper Site is on the Savannah River, in the middle of -- NOWHERE--. The general address is, Allendale, SC. About 18 miles from a gas station and cell phone reception. Of course, if

you have a good service provider and don't mind climbing a pine tree your good to go. TV reception is the classic channel out of Augusta. I watched reruns of the A-Team for two weeks. Accommodations are whatever you want. Some showed up in RV's, others pitched tents. Me, I took the right front seat out of my truck and had one of the best all around utility vehicles one could ask for. It served as my home away from home, my bar (cooler in the bed), air-conditioned, heated, wrap around stereo, dive gear locker, and butt transport to and from the dive site. It had the most beautiful view of the sunrise or sunset, and a star filled sky, with no light pollution, you could ever wish for. For those of you reading between the lines, looking for the smile or the frown on my face, well, let me help you. When I think back on those two weeks, the first of May, each year I have a huge smile on my face. The SCIAA staff, especially, Miss Deming (Michigan Deming), Carl, and Joe are wonderful people to work with. Their passion and can do and will do attitudes are contagious. The staff from the University and the volunteers from all over the world were just

a lot of fun to be around. Those that came especially to dive, came together under the supervision of Michigan Deming to make up one hell of a go get it team which I'm very proud to have been a member of. Of course, there are always those you have to take under your wing and help out in any way for the good of the team, Dennis I was proud to be there for

you. Just kidding. I just wanted the last jibe. It was great working with you all, especially those who could dish it out and take it all for two weeks of me. Hope to see you all back in the cold dark water next May. I'm Ted and yes, I'm a dredgehead and yes, we suck (I stole that line from Carl).■



**Allendale volunteer
Ted Churchill**

July Quarterly Reports

Quarterly Reports due by July 10, 2010

This is a reminder that your 2nd quarter 2010 reports are due by July 10, 2010. These reports should cover all of the collecting you have done between April 1st and June 30st of this year.

Your artifact reports should be sent to:

Artifact Report Forms
PO Box 12448
Charleston, SC 29422

You may also fax forms to: (843) 762-5831

Email forms to us at: canaylor@sc.edu

Or you can submit forms online at: www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa/mrd/sdamp_hdl_eaqrf.html

Your fossil report forms should be sent to:

Chief Curator of Natural History
301 Gervais St.
Columbia, SC 29201

Make sure that you file reports to both agencies

even if you have not done any collecting. Just tick the box that reads “No Recoveries Made This Quarter” and send it to the appropriate agency.

If you have any questions regarding reports, please visit our website at:

www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa/mrd/sdamp_hdl_forms.html

Or give us a call at: (843) 762-6105. ■

Shipyards Shindig

By Carl Naylor

Mix live music with food and drink and you've got a shindig. Add a historic shipyard site and an archaeological display featuring artifacts found on the site and you have the Shipyards Shindig, held Saturday, May 22, at the site of the Hobcaw Shipyards in Mount Pleasant, colonial South

Carolina's largest shipyard. State Underwater Archaeologist Christopher Amer, head of the Maritime Research Division (MRD) at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA), explained the artifacts found during

excavations conducted by the MRD to interested shindig-goers while Ashley Deming and I from MRD's Sport Diver Archaeology Management Program talked with the public about the program. I also signed copies of my recently published book, *The day the johnboat went up the mountain: Stories from my twenty years in South Carolina maritime archaeology*. The Hobcaw Shipyards began operation in 1753. During the American Revolution the yard was owned by Paul Pritchard and the South Carolina Navy Board, and many of the ships of the South Carolina Navy were built or repaired there. Following the war the

Pritchard family operated the shipyard until the 1830s. Hundreds of shindig-goers enjoyed the warm weather, music, food, and drink (not to mention the displays of the SCIAA staff) as they wandered over the Hobcaw property that is now the home of Pepe and Cyndy Hernandez. The shindig was a joint fundraiser between two local non-profits: [The South Carolina Maritime Foundation](#) and [The Mount Pleasant Land Conservancy](#). ■

Chris Amer explains Pritchard Shipyards artifacts



Author Carl Naylor with his book at the Shipyards Shindig

Upcoming Events

SDAMP will be conducting another Artifact Identification Workshop in August. Please see the article on page 6 with details about this workshop. SDAMP workshops are designed for the purpose of getting you, the hobby diver, to better understand and report your finds to us. All of our workshops are interactive with lots of hands-on opportunities. We will

provide you with the basic skills you need to be able to identify and describe your artifact. We want you to not only be able to understand and appreciate what you are collecting from a historical and archaeological perspective, but also to be able to report those finds accurately to us.

SDAMP also offers talks to various groups and

organizations. If your group is interested in a SDAMP talk, please contact our office at 843-762-6105 or email at us deming@sc.edu.

Throughout the year, SDAMP will be offering a variety of other education and outreach opportunities. Make sure to check the *Quarterly Reporter* as well as emails from the SDAMP office for updates about our programs. ■



Artifact Identification Workshop

Upcoming Field Schedule

The MRD (Maritime Research Division) and SDAMP field season will be getting a little slower these next few months. We have only one MRD project (so far) that will be taking up some of our time in July and probably September.

MRD will be doing some remote sensing survey work on the Pee Dee River in July. We are looking

for the third cannon that was jettisoned off of the CSS *Peedee* before it was burned in 1865 to prevent the Union from capturing the ship. The other two cannons have already been located during previous surveys.

The plan is to raise all three cannons in September and have each conserved. All three cannons are then

to be put on display at the Florence County Museum.

For more information on this project and others, please visit the MRD website at: www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa/mrd/resprojs.html ■



Archaeologists at work

June Artifact Identification Workshop

At 9am on Saturday, June 19, fourteen expectant students gathered at Fort Johnson Marine Resource Center for SDAMP's first Artifact Identification Workshop. The day was a long one, but everyone went home knowing a little more about South Carolina history and the artifacts they collect.

Attendees had the opportunity to listen

to lectures on many different types of artifacts and then get real hands-on experience in identifying and understanding a variety of cultural materials.

Although the day was long and there was not much down time, everyone enjoyed themselves and got something out of the experience.

The workshop

focused on how to identify and date artifacts using a diagnostic approach to field identification. This is something that everyone can do. With some simple descriptions, artifacts can be identified in a manner useful to both hobby divers and archaeologists.

SDAMP staff Ashley Deming and Carl Naylor gave lectures

and led practical sessions about bottles, historic ceramics, Native American pottery and projectile points, and other historic cultural material.

SDAMP will be offering another Artifact Identification Workshop in August. Please see page 6 for details on how to sign up. ■

August Artifact Workshop



**SDAMP Artifact
Identification
Workshop**

Since our very first Artifact Identification Workshop was such a success, we have decided to offer it again. Our workshops feature a mixture of lectures and hands-on activities designed to help you identify some of the types of artifacts you collect from South Carolina waters. We hope to help you better understand and identify artifacts so that you can love your collection even more and report your finds

more accurately to us. Historic and prehistoric ceramics, bottles, Native American stone tools, and much more will be covered. You will get the opportunity to work with real archaeological material. Please note that we will not be covering any paleontological material (fossils: i.e. shark teeth and bone). The details about the lecture are below.

Artifact Identification
Workshop

August 7, 2010
9am-5pm
1321 Pendleton St
Columbia, SC
Cost: \$30 (make checks payable to USC)

If you are interested in attending, please email me (deming@sc.edu) immediately and I will reserve you a seat. I MUST have your check before 7/30/10 or you will lose your spot. There are only 15 spots available so sign up now!■

SDAMP News

It is important to us that our Hobby Divers are aware of the education and outreach we do throughout the year. We hope to keep you updated on all that we are involved in so that you too will get involved.

SDAMP has now joined Facebook! Be sure to look us up and get the latest info on what SDAMP is up to. We love to hear from our hobby divers and friends, so leave us a message on our wall.

Our website has been updated again with the latest versions of our forms. Please use these forms, as many of the old forms are very much out of date.

March

•On March 25th SDAMP gave a talk about the program to 22 students of the Coastal Carolina University SCUBA Club.

April

•SDAMP gave talks to 20 metal detectors of the Coin and Relic Association in Goose Creek and to 25 members of the Underwater Adventures Dive Club in Sumter.

May

•On May 19, Ashley Deming presented information on SDAMP and the Underwater Antiquities Act to 45 DNR Law Enforcement Officers.

•Carl Naylor, Ashley Deming, and Chris Amer ran the archaeology tent at the

Shipyard Shindig in Mount Pleasant. See page 4 for Carl Naylor's article on the event.

•On May 25, SDAMP gave a talk about South Carolina maritime archaeology to 40 members of the public at the Charleston County Library.

June

•On June 12, Ashley Deming presented information on SDAMP to 10 field school students from Coastal Carolina University.

•On June 17, SDAMP gave a talk to 45 members of the Wateree Dive Club in Columbia.

•On June 19, SDAMP ran its first Artifact Identification Workshop with 14 attendees (please see page 5 for

information on this workshop).

Upcoming

July

•SDAMP will be joining its parent organization MRD for remote sensing work on the Pee Dee River.

August

•SDAMP will hold their second Artifact Identification Workshop in Columbia on August 7, 2010 (please see top of page for details).

September

•MRD will be raising three Civil War cannons from the Pee Dee River (please see page 5 for information on this project).■

What Do You Mean 0 Visibility?- My First SC Dives

By Ashley Deming

I first learned to dive in Barbados and then followed that experience with dives in the Great Lakes, the English Channel, and Road Harbor, Tortola. When I took the job as SDAMP manager in January 2010 and was told that I would be diving in low visibility water, I was a very interested to see how I would react to this new experience. Interested and a little anxious.

My first dive in South Carolina was on the wreck site of the *Georgiana* and *Mary Bowers* off Isle of Palms. When my dive team of Chris Amer, Jim Spirek, Joe Beatty, and Carl Naylor told me that the visibility was not very good, I was expecting a foot or so, maybe, worst-case scenario a few inches. I was wrong. As I descended the down-line, the water got blacker and blacker until I couldn't see my hand right in front of my face. Forget about gauges. A light was useless. On my descent, I just kept thinking, "what is the point of doing archaeology in this?! These people are crazy!" I then told myself, "Ashley, you are a professional. You can do this." I also began reciting Dori's little ditty from *Finding Nemo*, "Just keep swimming, swimming, swimming."

My knees finally hit the muddy bottom and began to sink into this warm, mushy substance made of what I didn't even want to speculate. Chris Amer (my dive buddy) put my hands on the end of a line he was tying off somewhere and I held onto that thing for dear life. I felt my way along the line and along what I can only assume were iron hull sections. It felt like metal and I could feel metal ribs at about where I expected to find them. This was going to take some getting used to. After spending my archaeological career *looking* at shipwrecks, *feeling* them was definitely different.

I got to the end of the line and turned back, I was getting a little more confident and comfortable with each fin kick. Then I ran into something. I started to feel it, map out its shape. It was definitely soft and kind of round. I thought, "Oh God, what is this?" I was terrified it was some animal ready to consume me in one gulp. I then felt this hand pat mine at the top of this round, soft, unidentified object. I realized, embarrassingly, that what I was feeling was my dive buddy's (and supervisor's) hood-covered head. "I am never going to live this one down" I said to myself. I gave him a couple of pats on the head and maneuvered around him back to the

down-line. I was ready to end this first experience, and having no idea what my air was or how long I'd been down, I thought it best to ascend and face the brunt of the laughter at my Lionel Ritchie "Hello" video moment.

In addition to my offshore experience, I needed to get some river diving under my belt. We headed to the Cooper River to dive on some of the Heritage Trail sites. I was more than a little anxious about diving in alligator infested waters. In Michigan, the scariest thing you'll come across is a grouchy pike.

We decided to dive the Strawberry site, where only an hour before, we had seen an 8ft gator resting. It was now nowhere in sight and I wasn't sure if that made me more or less nervous. I was the first one in the water.

I descended and switched on my light. This water was indeed black, but I could at least see something with my light on. Much better! Fearful of incurring the wrath of an alligator, I moved along the site slowly and carefully. Now this was a wreck site I could get used to. I started examining it and soon forgot about gators and my possible impending doom. After about 20 minutes, I followed the hull back to the stern; I caught movement out of the corner of my eye. Whether this was my dive buddy, a log, or a gator, I didn't wait to find out. I was up and out of there before you could say Crocodile Dundee!

I guess that my experiences have taught me that this South Carolina diving is going to take a lot more getting used to and I need all the practice I can get. I look forward to getting the chance to jump back in the black waters of the Cooper or Charleston Harbor to have the opportunity to experience what South Carolina waters can share with me about the past. Plus, I'd do just about anything to see/feel a good shipwreck!■



New SC Diver Ashley Deming

Feature Hobby Diver Article

Each quarter we would love to feature one or two articles by you, the hobby diver. Your article can be about an artifact or fossil you found, your collection, your research, your experience with the program, a humorous diving anecdote, or just something interesting that relates to South

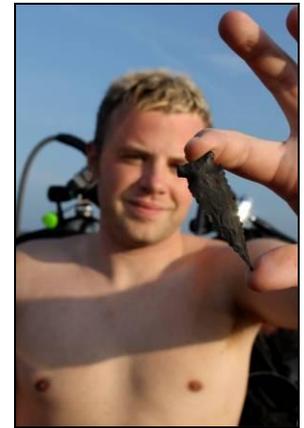
Carolina's past. Feel free to include images that can be used with your article.

You should submit your articles to SDAMP for review and editing. Once we have approved your article, we will do our best to get it into the next issue of the *Quarterly Reporter*. If your article

is accepted, we will contact you to let you know.

We want to hear from you, so get writing! Submit your articles to:

deming@sc.edu or canaylor@sc.edu ■



**Hobby Diver
Brian Sadrovitz**

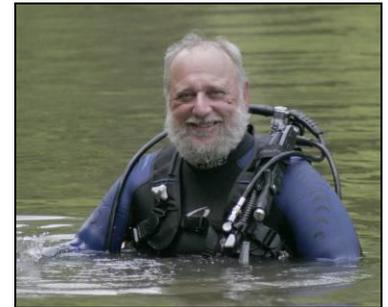
Letters to the Editors

If you have something that you would like to say about the program or have questions that you think others like yourself would like to have answered, look no further. This section of the newsletter is just for you. Send in your

questions, comments, and concerns and we will post them here. You can also send in comments responding to letters from other hobby divers. Ashley and Carl will respond to your comments and answer your questions

for all to read.

Just like your artifact report forms, you can email, fax, or send your letters to SDAMP. We look forward to hearing from all of you.■



**Carl Naylor
Archaeological
Technician**

Notes from the Editor

Well, we have almost a full two quarters of 2010 under our belts already. I want to thank all of you that have done so well with reporting to us. SDAMP has seen a 30% increase in reporting since the fourth quarter of 2009. Keep up the good work!

SDAMP wants to make sure that you have all of the information you need when it comes to applying, renewing, and reporting for your hobby license. Please check out our website at:

www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa/mrd/sdamp.html for all of your forms and info about the program. Of course, you can always contact Carl or me with any questions you may have. Our contact information can be found at the end of this newsletter or on the website.

As Quarter 2 draws to a close, I'm sure that many of you have been back out there for a full season of diving and collecting. Please make sure that you are filing your recovery and no recovery artifact reports

with this office. Again, forms are available online. Don't forget about the e-Artifact Report Form which allows you to submit reports online. For more information on reporting, see page 4.

Again, thank you to all of you who have been diligent in your reporting. It is through your reports that we can help preserve and protect South Carolina's incredible cultural heritage.■



**Ashley Deming
SDAMP Manager**

Sport Diver Archaeology Management Program

The *Quarterly Reporter* is a quarterly newsletter from the Sport Diver Archaeology Management Program (SDAMP), part of the Maritime Research Division of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina.

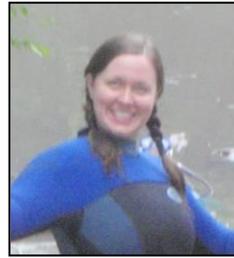
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The Allendale Crew



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Useful Website Information

For more information on

SDAMP: www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa/mrd/sdamp.html

MRD: www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa/mrd/mrd_index.html

SCIAA: www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa

SCIAA publication *Legacy*: www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa/legacy.html