North Carolina Maritime Conference

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North Carolina Maritime Conference

By Carl Naylor

Several SCIAA Underwater Archaeology Division staff members traveled to the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort, North Carolina, in April to give talks at the 1997 North Carolina Underwater Maritime Conference. The staff members were Jim Spirek, Lynn Harris, and Carl Naylor. Accompanying the staff members were Doug and Dee Boehme of Summerville, who also gave talks at the conference.

Jim Spirek, an underwater archaeologist with the Underwater Archaeology Division, told the group about his upcoming project in the Port Royal Sound. The project will include a remote sensing survey of the sound. Anomalies discovered during survey will be inspected and recorded by divers. In addition, visual inspections of maritime shoreline features will be conducted. See future issues of Legacy, for more on this exciting project.

Lynn Harris, head of the Sport Diver Archaeological Management Program (SDAMP), discussed the public education and research aspect of the program. Since 1990, SDAMP has offered underwater archaeology field training courses and continuing education workshops to divers and non-divers. Harris reviewed the various aspects of these courses and workshops and how well they were succeeding in meeting the program’s research and management goals.

As an archaeological assistant with SDAMP, I discussed the program’s Hobby Diver License Program. In 1973, South Carolina began issuing licenses to sport divers for the recovery of artifacts and fossils from the state’s waters. Since then more than 3,500 licenses have been issued. I discussed how this program has benefited the state as well as the licensed divers.

Doug Boehme, a sport diver and Research Affiliate at SCIAA, gave a presentation on the Helen B. project. In July 1996, Doug discovered a large wooden vessel embedded in the bank of the Wando River, several miles upstream from Charleston Harbor. Doug, along with a group of dedicated sport divers, is currently conducting an investigation of the wreck under the guidance of SCIAA. Doug told the group about the methods being used to excavate the vessel, the history of the immediate area, and speculated on the identity and use of the vessel.

Dee Boehme, a non-diving volunteer on many of SCIAA’s underwater projects, gave a talk on the many opportunities for non-diver involvement in underwater archaeology. She described how non-diving volunteers work on shipwrecks that are on riverbanks or exposed at low tide, assist on the terrestrial components of underwater sites, and get involved in the documentation process through drawing, research, and photography.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Legacy, Vol. 2, No. 1, March 1997, had three photographs mislabeled on page 21. These are the correct captions.

Figure 4: Baked clay objects. (Photo by Doug Boehme)

Figure 5: Full-grooved axe. (Photo by Doug Boehme)

Figure 6: Southern Notched Ovate bannerstone. (Photo by Doug Boehme)
Schedule of Events for Sport Divers
By Lynn Harris and Carl Naylor

“Sight on This” Workshop at Old Dorchester State Park in Summerville (Saturday, July 19)

Learn how to use a transit, lay survey lines, dig test pits, and excavate archaeological units. This workshop will require active participation. The integral historical link between the land and the water will be a significant theme. The importance of combining terrestrial and underwater fieldwork and survey methodologies will be explained in the context of Fort Dorchester’s location on the Ashley River. Cost is $10. Send a $5 deposit to SCIAA at P.O. Box 12448, Charleston, SC 29422. The remainder of the fee should be paid to the State Park on arrival. Contact Monica Beck at (803) 873-1740 or 873-7475, for further information.

Ashley River Canoeing and Kayaking Shipwreck Trail (Saturday, July 26)

Paddle the Ashley River and learn about the maritime history of the area represented by shipwrecks embedded in the riverbanks. Tour guides will discuss a variety of diverse topics such as the vernacular boat construction techniques, shipwreck disposal patterns, trade, industry and settlements along the river. Total cost to be determined based upon availability of canoes. Send a $5 deposit to SCIAA at P.O. Box 12448, Charleston, SC 29422. For more information, contact Lynn Harris or Carl Naylor at (803) 762-6105.

South Carolina Archaeology Week (September 27 to October 4)

Archaeology events will be held state-wide. Contact Nena Powell Rice for further information and a Calendar of Events at (803) 777-8170. (See page 32 in this issue of Legacy.)

“Going all the Way, the Right Way: Official Methods for Reporting a New Shipwreck Site,” Workshop in Charleston (Saturday, October 11)

Spend a few hours in the morning discussing the procedures and requirements for reporting a shipwreck site to the SCIAA Information Management Division. This will be followed by a boat trip out to some old wrecks lying on the beach at Snake Island on the Stono River to practice these methods. Divers and non-divers are welcome. Cost is $10. Send a $5 deposit to SCIAA at P.O. Box 12448, Charleston, SC 29422. For more information, contact Lynn Harris or Carl Naylor at (803) 762-6105.

Conference in Underwater Archaeology in Atlanta (January 7-10, 1998)

This annual conference will feature presentations and workshops offered by underwater archaeologists from all around the US and many other nations. We are considering a session on public participation in underwater archaeology and would like a few advanced FTC (Field Training Course) students to consider giving 10-minute papers. For more information, contact Lynn Harris or Carl Naylor at (803) 762-6105.