Quarterly Reporter - March 2010

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

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/mrd_sdnl

Part of the Anthropology Commons

Recommended Citation

University of South Carolina, "Maritime Research Division, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology - Quarterly Reporter, Volume 1/Issue 1, March 2010". http://scholarcommons.sc.edu/mrd_sdnl/1/

This Newsletter is brought to you by the Maritime Research Division at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Sport Diver Newsletters by an authorized administrator of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact dillarda@mailbox.sc.edu.
SDAMP’s Carl Naylor Releases New Book

By Carl Naylor

Several years ago, I realized that other than the raising of the Confederate submarine H. L. Hunley most people knew little about maritime archaeology in South Carolina. To remedy this I decided to write a book about projects the Institute’s Maritime Research Division have conducted over the past twenty years.

The result, The day the johnboat went up the mountain: Stories from my twenty years in South Carolina maritime archaeology, was released in February by the University of South Carolina Press.

The book recounts tales of dredging the bottom of an Allendale County creek for evidence of the earliest Paleo-Americans, exploring the waters off Winyah Bay for a Spanish ship lost in 1526 and the waters of Port Royal Sound for a French corsair wrecked in 1577, studying the remains of the historic Santee Canal near Moncks Corner, and searching for evidence of Hernando de Soto’s travels through South Carolina in 1540.

The book also describes the division’s investigations of suspected Revolutionary War gunboats in the Cooper River, a colonial and Revolutionary War shipyard on Hobcaw Creek, the famous Brown’s Ferry cargo vessel found in the Black River, a steamship sunk.
April Quarterly Reports

This is a reminder that your 1st quarter 2010 reports are due by April 10, 2010. These reports should cover all of the collecting you have done between January 1st and March 31st 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 29202

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.

Upcoming Events

Throughout the course of this year, SDAMP will be very active in public outreach. Not only will we appear at many community events, but also we will be offering many opportunities for you to become involved.

SDAMP is offering many talks about the program, our research, and maritime archaeology to dive groups and other organizations. If you think your group would like a presentation, please contact us for scheduling.

We will be offering workshops to the public covering various topics such as artifact identification, site recording, and much, much more! There will also be a field-training course available for our Hobby Divers who are interested in becoming volunteers for us on our projects.

SDAMP offers volunteer opportunities with our projects at various times throughout the year. This is your chance to really get involved.

Keep an eye out for emails, visit our website, and see articles in the Quarterly Reporter about these and other upcoming events with SDAMP.

ASSC Conference

The Archaeological Society of South Carolina will be holding its 36th Annual Conference on April 9th and 10th this year. The conference theme this year is Archaeological Sciences. Presenters will highlight the diversity of scientific techniques and applications used in modern archaeology through their own research. A second general session will be on papers covering archaeological research findings of interest. Members of the public as well as professional (continued on page 3)
Conference (continued from page 2)

archaeologists from the Carolinas and Georgia will be presenting. The conference will be held at USC Columbia in Gambrell Hall Auditorium, Room 153.

For more information on the ASSC Conference visit: www.assc.net

Volunteer Opportunity - The Allendale Project

SDAMP is looking for Hobby Diver volunteers for the Allendale Project this year in May. Since 1985, SCIAA has conducted an archaeological project at a prehistoric site in Allendale County. Excavations at the Topper Site have revealed that ancient humans were present 16,000 or more years ago, two to three thousand years earlier than previously believed. Using mostly volunteers, Dr. Albert Goodyear, archaeologist for SCIAA, has excavated a large amount of the Topper Site and uncovered many prehistoric artifacts including some that date back to pre-Clovis times.

Each year SDAMP joins the excavation for 2 weeks to carry out underwater archaeology in the Smith Lake Creek that runs along the Allendale Chert Quarry. SDAMP volunteers get the opportunity to dredge, screen, man equipment, and monitor artifact recovery. This year the Allendale Project will run from the 3rd-7th, and the 10th-14th of May.

SDAMP is looking for 4-6 volunteers each week who can commit a full week to the project. Divers will need to bring their own dive gear and SDAMP will provide the tanks. Lunches and dinners are provided, but volunteers will need to supply their own breakfast. Divers can camp out for free with the rest of the volunteers (you must provide your own camping equipment) or can stay in a motel at their own expense.

Dark water experience is preferred and there is a 25-dive minimum requirement. Volunteers will be selected on a first come first placed basis with current Hobby Diver licensees given priority. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact SDAMP for more information.

For more information on the Allendale Project visit: www.allendale-expedition.net

Upcoming Field Schedule

Over the next few months, SDAMP will be pulled from our regular duties to assist with Maritime Research Division (MRD) projects. We also have SDAMP projects that take us away from the office. We will still be issuing licenses during these periods, but the processing times may be a bit longer. Please be aware that processing times for your license are between 2-4 weeks. We will do our best to get your license to you in a timely manner. The times we are away in the next few months are as follows:

- American Battlefield Protection Program
  - March 8-12, 29-31
  - April 1-2, 19-23

- Allendale Project
  - May 3-7, 10-14

Ayllon Survey
- June 7-11

These dates are all subject to change. Such is the nature of archaeology. There will also be additional shorter projects and obligations that will take us out of the office. Please see our website and look for our emails regarding field schedule updates.

MRD C-Hawk with survey equipment
in a storm off Hilton Head Island in 1899, the Ingram wreck in the Pee Dee River, our survey of the waters around Callawassie Island, and a mysterious cargo site in the Cooper River. In addition, there are chapters on the division’s Sport Diver Archaeological Management Program, the wildlife we encounter during our projects, how we find shipwrecks, working with salvage divers, dugout canoes, the Cooper River Anchor Farm, and more.

According to one reviewer, Roger C. Smith, underwater archaeologist with the Florida Division of Historical Resources, “Naylor has skillfully woven throughout this narrative humorous anecdotal tales with well-researched historical facts and archaeological lessons as he recounts and interprets his journeys through South Carolina’s heritage. Readers will enjoy the trip and learn a great deal in the process.” I couldn’t have said it better myself.

Any group wishing to schedule a talk with a PowerPoint presentation on the book can contact me at 843-762-6105 or canaylor@sc.edu

“Add a pinch of Mark Twain-style humor, throw in an adventurous dash of Indiana Jones, mix well with South Carolina history, and stir in a whole lot of water.” – Charles R. Cobb, SCIAA Director

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.

January
We are pleased to announce that the SDAMP website has been updated. For your convenience, all of the information and forms regarding the Hobby Diver program are available online. Downloading the application form, renewal, and report forms are now just a click away! Website information is located at the end of this newsletter.

Ashley Deming and Carl Naylor gave a presentation about underwater archaeology in South Carolina and a dive gear demonstration to 100 students at James Island Middle School.

February
SDAMP gave a talk to the Charleston Dive Club. The presentation included information on the Hobby Diver Program and artifact identification.

SDAMP joined MRD for a weeklong survey in Charleston Harbor. This survey is part of a grant project for the American Battlefield Protection Program. SDAMP participated in the American Red Cross Blood Drive at the Fort Johnson Marine Resource Center.

March
The Charleston Harbor Survey continued for a week. At the end of this month, MRD will begin diving on some of the survey targets found in February and March.

Upcoming...

April
Diving in Charleston Harbor will continue for a week in April.

Two days will be spent on the Copper River deploying buoys and monitoring the Heritage Trail.

SDAMP will be giving a talk to the Coin and Relic Association about the Hobby Diver Program.

May
SDAMP will be participating in the 2010 Allendale Paleoamerican Expedition.

June
SDAMP joins MRD for the Ayllon Survey in Winyah Bay.

Much more to come!■
SDAMP cannot stress enough just how important the information is that you give us on your artifact report forms. The report forms serve as the simplest way to help you identify and report your information to us. The reports are also a great way for you to catalogue your own collection. This is an opportunity for you to value your finds even more and have a better understanding of what it is you are finding. It is our hope that each of you will treasure the importance of the artifacts you find and care for each of those items for years to come, passing on that tradition to the generations that follow.

There has been some confusion as to just what you should report on your artifact report forms. There is no object too small or too large to report. If it is important enough for you to pick it up off the bottom, it is important enough for you to report. Everything matters to archaeologists. We relish broken bits of pottery and bottles. If you find it, you should report it, no exceptions.

FYI, you are required by law (and the contract you signed) to file artifact report forms even if you have not been collecting or are only collecting fossils. If this is the case, you should tick the “No Recoveries Made This Quarter” box on the top of the report form and send it in. If you do not file your reports, we cannot renew your license.

Remember that you should be filling out an individual report form for each dive where you are collecting. For example, if you dive and collect three times a day for three days, you should be filing nine reports for those dives. This makes our jobs easier, but also helps you remember much more accurately what you found and where you found it.

When it comes to filling out your reports forms, there is no such thing as too much information. If you need to add extra sheets for info, by all means, include them. Be as specific as possible when describing your artifacts and the locations where you find them. Our records are exempt from the Freedom of Information Act, so we cannot disseminate your “sweet spot” information to the public. Include pictures, maps, drawings, or anything that will give us the most accurate information as possible.

When describing your artifact include things like color, length, height, and width, the type of material it is made of, if there is a design or pattern and a description of it, the overall shape, if there is a glaze of the pottery, etc. These are all things that can help us and you identify your artifact correctly. Remember to write the number of pieces you find in the artifact report forms, do not just mark the space provided. We do not expect you to be experts in artifact identification. Keep it simple, but descriptive. A description like, “broken piece of old bottle” is not helpful at all. It would be better to write, “piece of 2”x1” green glass about ¼” thick, possibly from an English wine bottle.” If you are having difficulty describing your artifact, send a picture. Pictures are always welcome and make a great addition to our files. In this case, pictures are not worth a thousand words, but more like a million. Drawings are also great data. You can draw freehand or even trace your artifact. When sending a picture or drawing, make sure to include a scale with the image. For small artifacts you could use a penny, for larger items the use of a ruler is best. Many hobby divers have sent photocopies of their artifacts. This is a fast and easy way to record your collection. Should you recover something that is not on the artifact report form, include a separate sheet of paper describing the artifact(s).

Being a more responsible collector and reporter helps ensure that the history of the artifacts you find and the history of South Carolina can be accurately recorded and preserved for everyone to learn from and enjoy. The collecting and reporting you do helps to enrich the understanding of South Carolina’s maritime past.
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 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

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.

Notes from the Editor

Greetings, Hobby Divers and Friends of SDAMP!

I am so excited to join SDAMP and have the opportunity to get to work with all of you. As the new manager of SDAMP, I have implemented some new policies regarding licenses of which you should be aware. There has been a severe lack of artifact reports filed with this office from hobby divers. Most of this is general confusion about the need to file reports. I will do my best to make sure you understand the requirements of your license. However, when you applied for a license, you read the requirements and signed a contract. It is your responsibility to understand that contract. You must file artifact reports on a yearly quarter basis to this office. Ignorance will no longer be accepted as a valid excuse for not filing reports. You will be granted one opportunity upon renewal to back in old reports. After that renewal, you must file reports in a timely manner. If reports are still not filed, you will not be renewed. We do not want to have to do this. This is an educational program and it thrives on the information provided by hobby divers. If reports are not coming in, the program could be shut down and collecting may even become illegal. Let’s work together to keep this program going and divers collecting.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding reports, please contact this office at (843) 762-6105.

Hobby Diver
Scott Harris

Carl Naylor
Archaeological Technician

Ashley Deming
SDAMP Manager
SDAMP- Who Are We?

By Carl Naylor

The Sport Diver Archaeology Management Program (SDAMP) serves the licensing and educational needs of sport divers regarding their collection of artifacts and fossils from state waters. Sounds simple enough, but in fact it is not. Let me explain.

Presently, about three hundred persons hold current hobby diver licenses. Since its inception, nearly five thousand hobby diver licenses have been issued through this office to divers from all over the United States. This requires not a small amount of administrative activity. In addition to processing the several hundred applications and renewals each year, we spend much of our time reviewing and recording the artifact reports and subsequent sites that come from the divers. This is the heart of the licensing program. From these reports we learn not only about the cool artifacts divers are collecting, but we also learn of new archaeological sites in state waters, adding them to the already eight hundred plus recorded sites. Once these sites are in the site files, we monitor them, protecting them from the ravages of vandalism, development, and environmental degradation.

By the way, while the licenses we issue cover the collection of fossils as well as artifacts, divers report fossil finds to the South Carolina State Museum where there are trained paleontologists evaluating the significance of these found fossils. Artifact reports come to this office by mail, fax, or now online through our website.

We are also charged with providing a public education and outreach program. With the addition of Ashley Deming as manager of SDAMP, we hope to revitalize and improve our education efforts. The aim of the program is to educate divers to become more informed reporters of their finds, to help divers understand basic conservation methods, teach divers how to record shipwreck sites, and to enhance overall public appreciation for our South Carolina maritime heritage.

SDAMP staff is often in the field doing projects with the other members of the SCIAA Maritime Research Division as well as working on our very own SDAMP field projects. Many of these projects take place offshore. To read more about these joint projects see the Upcoming Events section in this newsletter starting on page 2 or visit the website.

For these reasons, we can often be hard to contact in the office. Yet, we get back to SDAMP headquarters, a 20+ year old trailer at Fort Johnson Marine Resource Center on James Island, as often as we can during our times in the field. The entire SDAMP staff (that’s just Ashley and me) work diligently to handle your licensing, reporting, and education and outreach needs. This program is our number one priority. The reports you submit help us to create a better program for you, so keep those reports coming!

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