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The Goody Bag - July 1990

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

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STATE'S FIRST SPORT DIVER ARCHAEOLOGY FIELDSCHOOL

CHRIS AMER: "LET'S HEAR FROM YOU"

Hello Divers. And welcome to the first issue of The Goodybag the newsletter, put out by the Underwater Archaeology Division at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, with you in mind. For nigh on seventeen years the Institute has run a licensing program, formerly called the Hobby Diver Program, under the South Carolina Underwater Antiquities Act, to which you all presently subscribe. The purpose of the program was, and is, not to regulate your recreational activities but to encourage a symbiotic relationship between the State and the sport diving community in an attempt to have you, the diver, participate in the management of our underwater cultural resources.

During much of that time you, the diver, have been paying your yearly licensing fee, getting your Hobby License and diligently sending in your monthly reports of underwater finds. The communication has been fairly one sided (from you to the State) with the sporadic exceptions of talks, the occasional artifact identification session and, since 1987, a yearly dive symposium. With the arrival of Lynn Harris last July the original concept of the program has been put back on track and the symbiotic relationship is becoming a reality.

The first evidence of that was a questionnaire sent out last fall and asking

The Sport Diver Archaeology Management Program, previously the Hobby Diver Program, offered the first annual underwater archaeology fieldschool for sport divers in April.

The fieldschool ran for three days. It included a one day lecture series on informative topics ranging from the South Carolina's underwater legislation to various types of artifacts, fossils, and shipwrecks which were presented by Institute and South Carolina State Museum staff. Techniques for underwater mapping and recording were taught on a simulated shipwreck site set up in the University of South Carolina swimming pool. Students learnt how to measure and draw structural features on a fibreglass section of a replica shipwreck, the"sinkentine", generously loaned to the Institute by the Program in Maritime History and Underwater Research at East Carolina University in North Carolina. Basic archaeological site mapping methods like triangulation from a baseline were practised on artifacts (a selection of household crockery, cutlery, jewelry, tools and even bed-parts donated by Institute staff for the occasion) scattered around the wreck. The third day consisted of open water diving exercises at Pon Pon, a nineteenth century phosphate mining site on the Edisto River. Phosphate, a fertilizer for agricultural crops, was mined both on land and in rivers by divers and with dredging equipment. This site was ideal for fieldschool purposes. Not only were there piles of phosphate mining equipment like picks, shovels and even a wooden barrel, but also the wreck of an old barge. Other inter-

Sport divers map "Sinkentine" in USC pool
FIELD SCHOOL:
Continued from page 1
-erasing underwater features at the site were carvings by Jeff Palmer, fossils, and historical artifacts such as ceramics and bottles. The fieldschool exercise involved plotting the location of the site on topography and road maps, marking finds with buoys and recording the positions by taking compass bearings and range marks and selecting an artifacts to draw, measure and describe. A good time was had by all including exciting incidents such as running aground on sandbars in the Institute’s pontoon boat, the total destruction of a styrofoam cooler which was evidently not meant to be a seat, and an encounter with a water snake!

WHERE TO GET CERTIFIED
Congratulations go to all the recently certified Archaeological Dive Instructors who participated in the fieldschool:

Ralph Wilbanks and Rob Pasqual from the Wetshop in Charleston, Jeremiah Shastid and Stuart White from Adventure Quest Dive Store also in Charleston, Andy Ogbum and Bill McCullough from Wateree Dive Center in Columbia, Michael Pearson from Big Al’s Dive Store in Spartanburg, Kerry Pate from USC Dive Club, Mark Newell from Neptune Dive and Ski Store, Carl Naylor from the College of Charleston Dive Club, Joe Beatty the Institute, and Walt Joyce from Island Hoppers Dive Club in North Carolina. These instructors are now qualified to offer state sanctioned archaeological certification courses for the rest of the diving community in South Carolina. Participation in the state fieldschool is restricted to sport diver instructors or representatives from dive stores with hobby diver instructional licenses because some selection criteria was required and instructors or dive store staff would have the capabilities of passing on these skills to other divers. The state does not have the time or resources to certify all the sport divers who expressed an interest in this course, so this seemed to be the best alternative. Any sport divers interested in obtaining archaeological diver certification should contact the above mentioned stores or clubs. Dive instructors are welcome to start applying for the 1991 state fieldschool.

Copper chocolate or coffee pot Ted Barrineau: This is a rough drawing of a copper piece I found, about a third of it was eroded away. If you could give me some idea of the age I would appreciate it, and any tips on conservation.

Answer: The best way to obtain information about the rivers in South Carolina is to purchase the 7.5 minute series USGS topography maps. For sites in or near the ocean the NOAA chart series would be more useful. Maps and charts can be purchased from: SC Land Resources Commission, 2221 Devine Street, Columbia, SC 29205; SC Geological Survey, Harbison Forest Rd, Columbia, SC 29205; The Armchair Sailor, 3 Lockwood Dr., Suite 202, Charleston, SC 29401; J.J.W. Luden, Concord Street, SC 29202.

Dredging for shark teeth
Henry Crowley Jr.: I have heard through the grapevine that the state plans to issue a license to dredge for sharks teeth, I would like to know if this is true, if so I would like to know to whom the license was issued.

Answer: Currently, nobody in South Carolina has a license to dredge for sharks teeth. Dredging for artifacts or fossils is an illegal activity unless the diver has a salvage license. However, Robert Black from Beaufort has applied for a fossil salvage license. This has not yet been issued. Before any license is issued the state holds a public hearing which members of the public can attend, ask questions or voice objections. Topics such as whether or not dredging will destroy other marine life (like clams) in the area, suitable salvage methods for mining fossil resources, or whether this project might prevent other sport divers from diving in a popular dive spot will be addressed. This particular hearing will be held in Beaufort at the end of July. Although the Institute does the paperwork for the licensing, the South Carolina State Museum is the state custodian of fossil material and the ultimate decision about granting a license will rest with their paleontological staff. Any more queries about this type of license should be made to Michael Ray, Curator of Natural History at the State Museum in Columbia, phone: 737-4943.

River Maps Daryl Boyd:
I am interested in doing river diving for artifacts, but am in need of river maps. Any possible information on where I could obtain these maps would be greatly appreciated.
SPORT DIVER FINDS TWO SHIPWRECKS

Miller Ingram, a model hobby diver since 1987, has found and reported two shipwrecks in Pee Dee river. The Sport Diver Archaeology Management Program would like to take the opportunity to publicly thank Miller for his consistent, quality reporting and for providing new data for the state shipwreck site files.

The one wreck, a nineteenth century steamship, is likely to be the Robert Martin, wrecked in 1853 at Laney Landing in Cheraw. The Pee Dee river was Cheraw’s main travel route during this time period. Steamboats travelled one hundred and seventy two miles from Georgetown to Cheraw which was the last stop for steamboats delivering passengers or cargo on the river. With the construction of the Carolina Central Railroad between Charlotte and Wilmington after the Civil War, it was no longer necessary to ship supplies to Cheraw. Miller and his diving buddy, John Therrel, first found the anchor of the wreck in August 1988. Since then they have recovered numerous interesting artifacts and found various sections of the ship’s structure and machinery, embedded in the western river bank and lying in the channel. The Robert Martin was reported in newspapers and shipping lists to have wrecked when a boiler exploded, scattering wreckage and bodies in the trees and river. A rather morbid tale, but typical of that what has been written down and accepted as gospel. If you find you must travel to the CofC-town, the first place you should stop is the Thomas Cooper Library on the USC campus. They have an excellent variety of material on local history, including rare books and records on microfilm. Your next stop should be the South Caroliniana Library, also on the campus of THE University. In addition to a rare book and pamphlet collection, they have an excellent manuscript collection and perhaps the most extensive microfilm collection of newspapers from every corner of the state. And last, but not least, is a stop at the South Carolina Archives which contains a mind-boggling manuscript collection as well as an impressive collection of colonial maps.

Another worthwhile trip would be to Charleston: the home of the South Carolina Historical Society, the Charleston Library Society, the Charleston County Library, and the field office of SCIAA’s Underwater Division. The Historical Society contains a well-organized and massive collection of manuscripts, records, plats, and maps. The Library Society contains many not-to-be-found-elsewhere records, newspapers, and insurance maps from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The County Library has a humberous collection of old wills, inventories, and miscellaneous records in their South Carolina room relating to the coastal area of South Carolina. If you come to Charleston don’t forget to stop by our field office at Patriot’s Point. We may not be able to help you with your research, but we like the diversion and, of course, we accept all invitations to lunch.

Good Luck. And you thought “diving into history” just meant stripping on a tank and goody bag.

CAROLINA WATERCRAFT

BY MARK M. NEWELL

Long before the first European set foot in what was to become South Carolina, there were boats plying local rivers. The Indians of this period carved dugout canoes both small and massive using flame and stone as their only tools.

With the advent of Colonization, a new age of watercraft began - one which saw the adaptation of the dugout, and the introduction of entirely new types of vessels, each designed for a specific purpose associated with our efforts to tame and then exploit the rich resources of the new Colony.

South Carolina’s age of the wooden boat was brought to a close by the railroads in the late nineteenth century and finally by the State highway system as it expanded during the early twentieth. To early settlers, their boats were simply utilitarian objects needed to facilitate trade and transportation. Today we see them as much more. The skills of the carpenter, the blacksmith, the entrepreneurial drive of the planters, the romantic lives of the black freeman petroms and their crews, the adaptability of local boatbuilders...these are but a few of the qualities represented by the wrecks rotting on riverbottoms or the muddy tidelines of long abandoned plantations.

So little is known about this fascinating aspect of South Carolina history. To learn more, the wreckage needs to be found and to be studied. Every time a piece of a vessel breaks away in the wash of a speedboat on the Ashley River, is pounded to matchsticks beneath the pilings of a condo on Myrtle Bench, or is scattered by an ocean storm - we lose a piece of history.

The large community of sport divers can be the first line of defense in an effort to save as much information as possible. With this in mind, Carolina Watercraft will attempt to provide you with information on what we know about the different types of vessels you are likely to encounter in local waters. There are four basic regions which appear to have craft peculiar to each - along with some types which are found in all four:

Coastal Waters - Ocean going vessels, fishing vessels, coaster schooners.

Lower Coastal Plain - Coasting schooners, ferries, large river barges, pirogues (built-up dugouts), large rice barges, small rice barges, dugouts.

The Piedmont - Ferries, barges, canal boats, rafts.

The Mountain region - Mountain boats, ferries, rafts.
Exploring the Pee Dee

A dive team from the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology came to Cheraw last week to dive the Pee Dee River and survey the river bottom, including two sunken vessels that have been found there. Shown before their dive are David Beard, Joe Beatty, Lynn Harris, Cheraw hobby diver and lawyer Miller Ingram Jr., Carleton A. Naylor and Christopher F. Amer.

Another interesting find was a syringe! No doubt there may have been a doctor on board for the long river trip. Each artifact, as well as its location on the site and relationship to other artifacts, can tell us more about the ship and the crew. The detailed maps, drawings and descriptions of features on the site provided by Miller also helped to give us a good idea of the general layout of the area for further archaeological recording.

The second wreck that Miller reported was a small sailboat. The wooden structure was partially exposed in the sand of the river channel about fifty yards from the steamboat wreck. We investigated this site and measured structural features like the keelson (spine of the structure) and the frames (ribs of the structure). We also noticed that it had both wooden dowels ("treenails") as well as metal bolts as fastenings. Chris took samples of the wood and caulking material. Before we can date this shipwreck accurately we need to expose more of the structure to take additional measurements, analyse the samples and hopefully find some artifacts associated with the site. We hope to be able to return to Laney Landing (or as Miller refers to it, "my backgarden") in the near future to do some more underwater work and to photograph his collection.

time period when the technology associated with steam machinery was not all that advanced.

Recently the Underwater Division staff dived on the site with Miller and then spent a most enjoyable evening with him and his wife, Gail, looking at the artifact collection. From the structural remains the Robert Martin appears to have been a wooden, flat-bottomed steamboat. The large drive gear, a boiler base, and chunks of anthracite coal and are all artifacts associated with steam machinery. Other artifacts from the site included ceramic mugs, jugs and sherds. A variety of ceramic types were represented by this collection: pearlware, salt glazed stoneware, Westerwald ware and redware as well as a pipe bowl with a face design. Amongst the crockery, iron cooking pots were also found suggest that this might have been the galley area on the ship. A barrel filled with oysters gave some indication of what the crew or passengers had been eating. Champagne and ale bottles (not Budweiser!) give us a clue about their drinking habits. Numerous buttons and a few coins were recovered from the vicinity of a large boulder in the river channel. Rather than representing area of specific activity like the galley, it seemed that these lighter objects were washed into a depression scoured by the water around the one side of the boulder. Were these items part of the cargo or did come from the crew's clothing?
A landmark decision by U.S. District Court in Charleston has guaranteed the rights of sport divers to enjoy recreational shipwreck sites in South Carolina waters.

"The decision supports our position that certain wreck sites should be set aside and protected from exploitation so that the public can enjoy them," said Dr. Bruce Rippeteau, Director of the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina, which brought the suit.

"The days are gone when underwater sites could be salvaged with little or no accountability to the people of South Carolina," Rippeteau said. "We are not dealing with renewable resources like wildlife or the environment—once this kind of cultural heritage is removed and sold—it is lost forever."

The decision was the result of a strongly contested legal case in which professional salvors sought to destroy the remains of the steam vessel William Lawrence off Hilton Head Island.

The Lawrence sank in 1899 with a cargo that included South Carolina Dispensary bottles. "The bottles have become popular trophies recovered by visiting sport divers and served to make the wreck an attractive location for local dive tour operators," said Lynn Harris, the underwater archaeologist in charge of the State’s sport diver program.

"The Lawrence was outside the state’s territorial limits. It became necessary for the court to clarify the rules for determining territorial boundaries, commonly referred to by boaters as the three-mile limit. This is the first time a legal interpretation of how to determine the three-mile designation has been offered."

"The judgement is a major victory for sport divers and archaeologists - it serves to support our position that certain wreck sites should be set aside and protected from exploitation by a few so that the majority can enjoy them", Rippeteau said.

South Carolina law allows commercial salvage of some wreck sites. Now, with the backing of recent federal legislation, commercial salvage is usually only approved if it meets archaeological standards. The State also must benefit in terms of artifacts for museum display and competent reports of value to future researchers.

"This gives us the ability to protect these sites and take steps to involve the diving community in the process", said Christopher Arner, who is in charge of the Institute’s underwater archaeology program.

State law allows sport divers to collect isolated artifacts by hand provided they are properly reported to the Institute. "The Lawrence contains furniture, toys and Dispensary bottles - all of little monetary value but of historic significance", Harris said.

"We have no objection to individual sport divers collecting the odd artifact that might be exposed on the Lawrence, but we are against the wholesale destruction of the entire site for the sake of a few dollars", she said.
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you what you felt we needed in the program.

Three issues were consistently addressed by
the divers who responded—1) that there ap-
peared to be no enforcement of the law for
those persons diving without a Hobby Li-
cense, 2) some divers with a commercial
mindset were removing artifacts and fossils
from the State with the intent of selling them
and, 3) the State was not very approachable
nor was it communicating nor interacting
with the dive community.

The first two issues are currently
being addressed through a reworking of our
underwater legislation (more on that in the
next issue) and through monitoring of the
State’s waterways and dive areas by Di-
vision staff as well as increasing enforcement
of our law. The recent State win in U.S.
District Court which removed the wreck of
the S.S. Lawrence, a popular dive site off
Hilton Head, from the hands of salvors and
reopened the site for recreational use illus-
trates this last point (see this issue).

As for the third issue well, in this
last year the Division has given numerous
presentations to the dive community, has
provided handouts on artifact identification
and has conducted South Carolina’s first
archaeological fieldschool for Hobby divers.
An archaeological manual for Hobby divers
is in it’s final stages of production and will
soon be available to to. You wanted an
avenue of communication whereby your
comments and concerns could be made
known to the State and the dive community,
your questions answered and you could be
kept abreast of what is happening around the
State regarding underwater sites, the law,
presentations, workshops etc. You asked
for it and you’ve got it. Here it is. Within
these pages you will find articles penned by
both archaeologists and avocationals based
on information provided by Hobby divers,
information about what the archaeologists
are doing and what other divers are doing
around the State, and answers to your ques-
tions and concerns as well as announce-
ments of public hearings on salvage applica-
tions.

The interaction of the State and
the dive community is important if we are to
effectively discover and manage our under-
water heritage and we value each one of you
who subscribe to the program. The same
interaction among Hobby divers throughout
the State is equally important. After all, a
concern about our cultural heritage (which
the archaeological sites and artifacts repre-
sent) from divers in one region of South
Carolina is a concern of all divers in the
State.

This newsletter is for you and we
would like to see the greater part of it’s
pages filled by you. So, if you have written
a short article that would be of interest to
other divers or archaeologists, or even if you
haven’t before authored one and would like
to try, send it in. If you have concerns you
would like to be made known, or have an
artifact you just can’t find any information
on, send a description and/or photo an we’ll
get it in the newsletter. So, as Dean Martin
used to say, “keep those cards and letters
coming”. (Note: I guess that last comment
rather dates me!)

The Editor of
the Division of
Underwater Archaeology

LITERATURE

There are three useful manuals which are
currently available to hobby divers from the
Institute:

Lynn Harris, An Underwater Archaeology
Manual for South Carolina Sport Divers
(1990, Underwater Division, SCIAA). This
work provides information about artifact
and shark tooth identification, conservation,
basic archaeological concepts, as well as
underwater and site recording methods. Cost:
$8.50 or $7.00 with hobby license applica-
tion or renewal.

Carl Naylor, South Carolina’s Maritime
History, An Annotated Bibliography - Colo-
nial Period (1990, Underwater Division,
SCIAA). This will be extremely useful for
any hobby diver interested in doing research
on colonial period shipping. The books,
periodicals, newspapers and manuscript
collections where you can find information
on various maritime topics are listed in this
work. Cost $5.00.

John Powell, Points and Blades of the
Coastal Plain. (American Systems of the
Carolina’s, West Columbia, SC). For divers
interested in Native American stone arti-
facts particularly projectile points (arrow-
heads) or blades this is a very useful identi-
fication guide. Cost $10.75.