

## Fall 2000 Expedition Summary

Archaeological fieldwork during the fall of 2000 was conducted at the Queen Anne's Revenge shipwreck site between September 25th and October 13th. The primary goal of the expedition was to complete emergency recovery begun during the spring. The projected area of excavation was a 10-foot X 30-foot area on the north side of the exposed mound where the hull timbers had been recovered in anticipation of another active hurricane season (see Map). The actual area excavated included four 5-foot X 5-foot units that were completely excavated and portions of two others. A total of one hundred and eighty-four objects were recovered and catalogued, and the 22nd cannon was identified and prepared for recovery slated for the spring 2001. Several planks, one nearly eighteen feet long, lead shot, a small brass cup for weighing small objects, and lots of ballast stones were among the finds. Many artifacts are hidden in the larger concretions and will not be revealed until further cleaning takes place in the conservation laboratory.

The expedition was a success also in terms of testing vessels, equipment and recovery equipment. R/V *Shellpoint* was a very effective work platform and Maritime Research Institute's screen and sluice system worked particularly well. Heavy-duty anchor stakes were installed to insure stability for the main baseline, which provides the key reference for all excavation and artifact mapping. The *QAR Live Dive* segment came off with only minor glitches and reached 85 school classrooms from as far away as California, Utah, and Canada. As the word got out it became more and more popular.



The project staff was much the same as in the spring with members and volunteers from the North Carolina Underwater Archaeology Branch (formerly Unit), Maritime Research Institute, and the North Carolina Maritime Museum. Other agencies and institutions included the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, North Carolina Marine Fisheries, East Carolina University, and Virginia Polytechnical Institute. Research vessels included R/V *Seahawk*, R/V *Shellpoint*, R/V *Defiance* and R/V *Snap Dragon*.

Video-documentation was provided by Nautilus Productions, and still photographs were taken by members of the Underwater Archaeology Branch.

From the archaeological aspect, this was the first time that areas were totally excavated and several observations were made:

- The stratigraphic profile in the four excavated units resemble what was found in tests conducted around C-2 and in test trenches to the south and therefore may be uniform over most of the site. Site sediments consist of three zones: (1) mobile sand overburden; (2) materials with possible organic preservation (small, heavy objects, such as lead and gold,

have gravitated to the lowest portion of this zone); and (3) fine, hard-packed sand, which is devoid of artifacts.

- Artifacts from the excavated units are similar to those collected in the southern portions of the site and suggest, therefore, that the ship layout was less departmentalized than a traditional ship. The fact that a large quantity of lead shot, a brass scale cup/weight, and ceramics were forward of what we suspect is the officer's quarters supports this line of thinking. Another explanation would be that a high degree of artifact resorting has taken place over the entire shipwreck site due to natural forces.
- The predominant artifacts from the excavated units were ballast stones. Since the excavated area was under hull planking, the objects here most likely arrived in their current position due erosion and settling after the vessel wrecked.

It becomes evidently clearer with each expedition that the shipwreck of Blackbeard's *Queen Anne's Revenge* will provide researchers many exciting lines of study that will ultimately bring us closer to understanding how the pirate crew lived and what happened on that fateful day in June of 1718. Once the information and remains from past investigations and excavations are inventoried, projections can be made concerning the amount and type of artifacts expected from the total shipwreck site, and in turn, conservation laboratory needs, the kinds of archaeological information available for study, how to best design recovery strategies, and what personnel, equipment and organizational framework can best accomplish the exploration and recovery of *Queen Anne's Revenge*. With a detailed excavation plan and proper funding, a major expedition can be launched as early as the Fall of 2001.



More information about the Fall 2000 *QARLIVE* Event below.

### ***QAR DiveLive***

***QAR DiveLive*** was a week-long event in the fall of 2000, and 2001- with underwater videocast from the actual wreck site of **Blackbeard's** flagship, the ***Queen Anne's Revenge***, and from the ***QAR*** Project's conservation laboratory, where the artifacts from the ship are being preserved.

Apple Computer, through their Apple Learning Interchange (ALI), generously agreed to host the 2001 ***QAR DIVE LIVE*** event. Visit Apple's Exhibit site to view broadcast segments from ***DIVE LIVE 2001***: [http://newali.apple.com/ali\\_sites/ali/events/qar/](http://newali.apple.com/ali_sites/ali/events/qar/)

## How Did They Do That?

Here's how it worked!



A sophisticated television "studio" was placed aboard one of the research vessels used by archaeologists who are working to study and recover the shipwreck thought to be Blackbeard's flagship, the *Queen Anne's*

*Revenge*. Three surface video cameras, plus an underwater camera, will follow the archaeologists and divers as they work on the wreck site. Sensitive microphones pick up what the scientists are saying. A "television director" on board the ship will pick the best camera views to show what's going on.



A special microwave transmitter, the same equipment used to transmit live pictures from stock cars during NASCAR races, will be used to send the television picture and sound back to land. The signal will be picked up by



large antennas located on the roof of the Duke University Marine Science Center in Beaufort and fed to computers located on shore.

From our computer on shore, the video signal was "digitized" and transmitted over the internet to special video "servers" located in Raleigh, NC and elsewhere (thanks to our "server" sponsors, like Apple Computer).



From there, the digitized video signal travels (in the same way your EMAIL travels) over the Internet to desktop and classroom computers all over the world. Even if you logged on from Broad Creek Middle School just a few miles from the wreck site in Beaufort, the live video will travel many miles before it reaches your computer!



The signal traveled over telephone lines, fiber optics, microwaves, and copper wires. All this "travel" may slow the video down and the image that reaches your computer may look "funny" or "jumpy" or perhaps it may even stop for a few seconds

Depending on how your computer is connected to the internet, and how "fast" or "slow" the net is that day, you

may receive a good quality video signal with good sound or you may receive a fuzzy image that stops and starts. But even if you receive "slow" video, you will see exactly what scientists and divers on the *Queen Anne's Revenge* are seeing and you'll be able to ask the scientists questions!



Courtesy of [Marine Grafics](#)

### **Sponsors and Participants in *QARLive*:**

(in alphabetical order)

Center for Marine Science-University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Duke Marine Lab

East Carolina University Center for Science and Technology

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