

# Queen Anne's Revenge Shipwreck Project 2004 Photo Mosaic Expedition Summary

## Chris Southerly, Project Archaeologist/Divemaster

The week of April 5th 2004 marked the third attempt at shooting a digital photo mosaic of the Queen Anne's Revenge wreck site. The first attempt, in September 2003, was called off because of the imminent arrival of Hurricane Isabel, and the second, in November 2003, was cancelled before deploying due to poor weather. This time, water and weather combined to allow a successful project.



The team consisted of Mark Wilde-Ramsing (QAR Project Director), Chris Southerly (QAR Project Archaeologist), Nathan Henry (UAB Archaeologist/Conservator), Julep Gillman-Bryan (UAB Dive Safety Officer), Jim Martin (Visiting Scientist/Videographer), David Moore (NCMM Archaeologist) and Courtney Platt (National Geographic Photographer). Tom Piner (Captain) and Rocky Best (Mate) crewed R/V Shellpoint, the operating platform provided by NC Marine Fisheries. Lauren Hermley, Calvin Mires, and Steve

Workman (East Carolina University graduate students) provided additional dive support when available. Sarah Watkins-Kenney (QAR Project Conservator) and Wendy Welsh (QAR Project Lab Manager) made a topside site visit Monday.

Monday the team went out to the site despite 3-5 foot seas and a west wind blowing 25-30 knots. Visibility was fair and two moorings were set for early the next day in hopes of better conditions.

Tuesday morning was cool with winds light from the west-southwest. When the first diver entered the water at 8:40 AM, the visibility was excellent (20-30 feet) and water temperature was 57°F on the bottom. The 10x20 foot photo grid was lowered over the side and setup over the main ballast pile along the baseline. Digital images were taken at each grid point while divers prepared reference lines for digital video. The grid was then moved to the west and partially shot with digital images before visibility began to diminish with the falling tide. Sand elevations were recorded before leaving site for the day.





Wednesday was again clear with a light breeze. Photography at grid location two was completed while the National Geographic photographer documented the digital video passes. The grid was moved south and west to its third location where digital stills were taken. In anticipation of possible poor weather in the morning the grid was broken down and recovered once shooting was complete in location three.

Thursday was overcast with light winds. There was some surge on the site with only 10-15 foot visibility and colder water moving in; bottom temperatures had dropped to 53°F. The grid was lowered over the side again and setup over the baseline, extending out to cover the north anchor. Digital stills were taken despite diminishing visibility and overall conditions. Once photography was complete the grid was broken down and recovered while reference lines and tapes were collected in preparation for the forecast afternoon storm.

Friday conditions had not improved from the previous afternoon's conditions and archaeologists conducted reconnaissance dives on two nearby magnetic targets/sites while waiting for high tide and hopefully better visibility to allow for more photography. The conditions did not improve even with high tide and slack tide so the final dive of the day was made to recover the mooring buoys and baseline from the QAR site, wrapping up the project for the week.

In the five days of the project 10 divers made 55 dives, for a combined bottom time of 33 hours and 18 minutes. Over 300 digital images were taken, in addition to digital video. Sand levels at the site have remained consistent through the winter with minimal variation since the 11/17/2003 measurements. There has been some burial at the northern end of the site while the north anchor (A-3) has seen some scour and sand loss.

Project Support from the Following:

National Geographic Magazine - Washington, DC  
General Expedition Support  
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/>

NC Marine Fisheries - Morehead City, NC  
R/V Shellpoint and crew  
<http://www.ncfisheries.net/>



Comfort Inn - Morehead City, NC  
Lodging for out-of-town crew  
<http://www.moreheadhotels.com/>

Courtney Platt Eclectic Photographer - Grand Cayman  
Photographer for National Geographic  
<http://www.courtneyplatt.com/>

Capital SCUBA - Wake Forest, NC  
Drysuit and accessories  
<http://www.capitalscuba.com/>

Discovery Diving - Beaufort, NC  
Dacor SeaSprint Scooter  
Tank Fills  
<http://www.discoverydiving.com/>

Olympus Dive Center - Morehead City, NC  
Equipment Support  
<http://olympusdiving.com/>

East Carolina University Diving and Water Safety - Greenville, NC  
Olympus C4040 Digital Camera and Tetra 3030 Housing  
<http://www.ecu.edu/diving/>

Jim Martin - Burgaw, NC  
Video camera/housing and videography

Mapping Resource Group - Wilmington, NC  
Mylar plotting  
<http://mapres.com/>

NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher  
Tank dive time for camera calibration photos  
<http://www.ncaquariums.com/newsite/about.htm>