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NEWSLETTER OF THE INSTITUTE OF MARITIME HISTORY

Spring 2011



THE ONCE AND FUTURE SHIP

2010 was a very good year for local work on the Submerged Historical Inventory Project (SHIP). We finished the Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09) project for the Maryland Historical Trust, scanned 14 wrecks in the Potomac upriver from the FY09 area, filed 17 state site forms, started the first known underwater reconnaissance at Mount Vernon, Virginia and reported at the Maryland Archaeology Workshop, the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference (MAAC), and the annual Society for Historical Archaeology conference.

It was a good year for other work, too: we deployed and recovered U-1105 buoy, of course; helped the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP) with their field school and field work, and held our second field school. Kirk Pierce and Isabel

Mack launched *Ballena Blanca*, we hauled and repaired the IMH research vessel *Roper* and mounted one of two newly acquired 1.5-ton davits for towfish and other uses. We also welcomed four more boats: *Dock Potato*, *Red Mistress*, and *YoHo* to the IMH fleet at Tall Timbers Marina.

Our friends at LAMP had a super year. The "storm wreck" yielded a cauldron and a flintlock pistol, both tentatively dated to the late 18th century, then yielded a ship's bell and four cannons. The bell was recovered and is undergoing conservation and analysis at St. Augustine, Florida.

As productive as 2010 was for IMH, 2011 will be even better. Plans include 130 days of field work at Aquia, Mount Vernon, Quantico, six Virginia rivers, and Kedge's Strait, plus 85 days of reconnaissance and assessment in Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey with the Archaeological Society of Delaware (including a search for Fort Elfsborg, a 17th century Swedish fort on the New Jersey bank of the Delaware River). We will make the annual commute to Florida to support LAMP, service the U-1105 buoy, conduct more fieldwork and perhaps hold a field school in the Chesapeake area. We will also report at several archaeological workshops and confer-



RV Roper in service during LAMP's summer field school program.

ences (see calendar). We are particularly excited about the prospect of assisting LAMP raise one or more of the guns from the storm wreck (if state permits can be acquired and if LAMP can find the funding for conservation).

George Washington's
MOUNT VERNON
ESTATE & GARDENS



Virginia Department of
Historic Resources
Helping You Put Virginia's Historic Resources to Work

Report provided by
David Howe, IMH
Secretary



Research Vessel Roper

LAMP DIVERS DISCOVER CANNON AND SHIP'S BELL

On December 17, 2010 Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP) divers found one of only two ship's bells ever discovered off the First Coast of Florida.

"The bell is traditionally known as the diver's holy grail," explains Chuck Meide, Director of LAMP. "That's because a ship's bell is extremely rare and also, a ship's bell is often the best clue to the identity of a shipwreck."

The dive that day was to be a routine monitoring dive on a site, months after summer excavations had come to a close. The water was around 54°F and they were prepared for the normal low to black visibility.

However, the divers noted that visibility was actually very good by normal standards in the area—six to eight feet. As the divers began a standard circle search Dr. Sam Turner, Director of Archaeology of LAMP was the first to make out the shape looming ahead of him in the haze—it was a cannon—and then three or four cannons. Then he saw it—the shape of a large bell, nestled between the cluster of guns.

A foot across at its base, it appeared to have its hanging apparatus intact. That meant it was definitely a ship's bell, once attached to the vessel, as opposed to a



LAMP diver inspecting the ship's bell on day of recovery.



Dr. Sam Turner assisting with lifting of ship's bell to the surface.

cargo item, such as a church bell. After being fully recorded, the bell was lifted by hand up and into a lifting crate. Once safe on the boat, the bell was moved from the lifting crate into a waiting vat of water. "It is critically important," says Meide, "to keep the bell or any previously submerged item wet until it has been fully stabilized in the laboratory, a process that can take well over a year."

For a while LAMP and the volunteers on the dive that day kept the existence of the bell a secret, to protect it until they could

LAMP DIVERS DISCOVER SHIP'S BELL

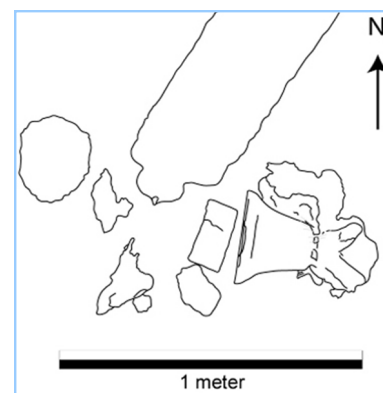
get it to a secure, undisclosed location. They also wanted to announce the discovery of the bell, and unveil it at a public event. In the end they decided to unveil the bell, and clean it, at the same event, which took place in late January. Much to their disappointment, no markings were found on the bell to help them identify the shipwreck or the bell's origins. But the exhilaration of the find still lingers and the year-long conservation process begins.

Information in this article was excerpted from The Keeper's Blog. For the complete story:

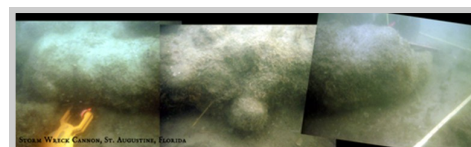
www.staugustinelighthouse.com/blog/lampposts



Ship's bell before 'unveiling' to the press.



Drawing Meide made underwater, digitized by a LAMP volunteer.



Mosaick showing full length of one of the cannons.

MOUNT VERNON: PHASE I RECON

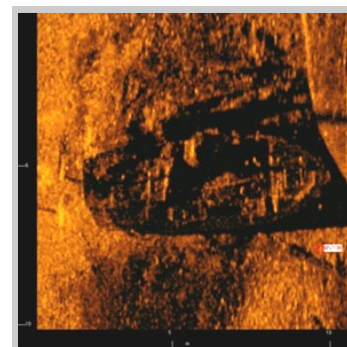


Field crew on April 28, 2010. Left to right: John Dowdle, Isabel Mack, Kirk Pierce, Kira Runkle, Brendan Burke (LAMP), John Ratcliffe, Adam Brinkman, Karen Toti, Bill Toti, Dan Lynberg.

During the last week of April 2010 the IMH and the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP) conducted a Phase I reconnaissance of the river bottom near Mount Vernon, Virginia, for the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, the Maryland Historical Trust, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Findings included two definite but unidentified shipwrecks along the Maryland shore of the Potomac, and several possible wrecks on the Virginia side and in the main stem of the river. These sites will require further work to evaluate. The search disclosed 137 anomalies. The IMH divers assessed those that were determined by sonar to be cultural. The two definite wrecks will require further work to

record their diagnostic attributes, features and scantlings. Future reconnaissance will also include magnetometry; especially where hydrilla infestation precludes productive sonography.



One of the definite wrecks targeted with sonography during Phase I.

THE IMH FLEET

Tall Timbers, MD



Over the past few years volunteers with IMH have, one by one, joined the fleet of IMH boats that call Tall Timbers Marina their home port.

Larger photo from left: Yoht (IMH), Roper (IMH), Ballena Blanca (Kirk Pierce, Isabel Mack).

Bottom row from left: Yo-Ho (IMH), Red Mistress, Dock Potato (Cynthia & John Dowdle).

IMH PARTNERS

We would like to acknowledge several dive shops that have played an important role over this past year in enhancing the safety and quality of the IMH scuba diving experience:

- Adventure Scuba, Chantilly, VA
- Aquatic Adventures, Alexandria, VA
- Sea Dive, Solomons, MD

Additionally, IMH would like to thank Rick Meatyard of Tall Timbers Marina for his continued support and for serving as the IMH home port for the past 10 years.

IMH FIELD SCHOOL AUTUMN 2011: FOCUS ON CHESAPEAKE AND DELAWARE BAYS

Each year, at least once per year, IMH conducts a field school in underwater archaeological reconnaissance. The course is designed to acquaint students with basic issues and skills in underwater reconnaissance with side scan sonar, site mapping, and common diagnostic features on shipwrecks.

The end result of the training is to develop volunteers who can successfully assist with locating submerged sites and reporting them to State Historic Preservation Officers for inventory, management and further investigation.

Course completion generally requires 12 hours of classroom discussion, dry land practice and 5 hours of searching by side scan sonar, concluding with 12 hours of in-water site assessment. All findings are documented in a Maryland site report. The next IMH Field School is set for mid July.

A massive reconnaissance project is currently scheduled to investigate a long list of targets (372 at current count) in the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays and off Cape Henlopen, Delaware.

The Archaeological Society of Delaware, Maritime Chapter (ASD) and IMH will continue their underwater archaeological reconnaissance from 18 August to 10 November 2011. The goal is to locate and assess underwater sites relating to the maritime heritage of those historic areas.

Those interested in participating as a diver, tender, boat-driver or researcher are welcome; subject to the IMH rule against disturbing sites or disclosing them to others who might; no take, no talk. Some of the diving will be easy, and some challenging. All of it will be low-visibility or no-visibility. Most targets are in 40 feet or less, but some are as deep as 90 feet.

To sign up for the IMH Field School or to volunteer for the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays reconnaissance project, or just to receive more information please click on the "contact" link at www.instituteofmaritimehistory.org or write david.howe@maritimehistory.org.



IMH FOUNDER JOINS JPAC

IMH founder and past president Dr. Stefan Claesson moved to Hawaii in October 2010 to join the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC). The mission of JPAC is to "achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of the nation's past conflicts."

In addition to leading underwater survey and recovery projects for JPAC, Dr. Claesson is building an Underwater Geographic Information System (UGIS) that will be used to inventory and account for all Americans lost in underwater environments from World War II to the Vietnam War. "Currently no federal agency retains a comprehensive, global database of underwater US military losses or archaeological sites", explains Claesson. The

UGIS will provide the baseline information needed for accounting purposes as well as essential environmental data for planning underwater recovery missions. To learn more about the work of JPAC and Dr. Claesson, visit:

<http://www.jpac.pacom.mil>

Military archeological sites need our full stewardship and protection. The JPAC welcomes information about or photographs of underwater military sites. Contact Dr. Claesson directly for more information at:

Stefan.Claesson@jpac.pacom.mil

Remember to follow the IMH credo of "no touch, no take" whenever confronted with or exploring an underwater military site.



Photo courtesy of JPAC

IMH OUTREACH

July 2010 Isabel Mack represented IMH during this summer's 2010 Boy Scout National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill. Scouts had an opportunity to closely inspect an ROV (remotely operated underwater vehicle) generously loaned by the Archaeology Society of Delaware-Maritime Chapter as well as handle sample maritime artifacts (with no provenience). Her message focused on the 'leave no trace' philosophy and the importance of submerged cultural artifacts. Her presence at the Jamboree has led to several other speaking opportunities including an

invitation to speak to archaeology students at James Madison University.



IMH volunteer Isabel Mack at 2010 Boy Scout National Jamboree

October 2010 The WAMU 88.5 Kojo Nnamdi Show featured the Mt. Vernon, Phase I reconnaissance project. Interviewed by Kojo Nnamdi were IMH volunteer William Toti along with Esther White, Director of Archeology, Mt. Vernon and Susan Langley, Maryland State Underwater Archeologist.

February 2011 IMH volunteers Kirk Pierce and Isabel Mack participated in a debate on ethics before area high school students. The debate was sponsored by Venture Scout.

Volunteers are available to speak about IMH and its projects. Contact: david.howe@maritimehistory.org



We're On the Web.
www.maritimehistory.org

IMH 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All dates and events are subject to change....and the weather.

FEBRUARY	Mount Vernon (1) Re-scan viable targets identified in April 2010. Some underwater reconnaissance possible.
MARCH 2011	<p>IMH Annual Dinner</p> <p>Aquia Creek Shoreline and underwater reconnaissance (to include sidescan sonar/magnetometer/diving) at the site of a 1861 battle between US Navy warships in the Potomac and Confederate artillery. Partners: Stafford County, Virginia, National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and IMH.</p> <p>Quantico, VA Continuation of scanning/diving on a wreck believed to be Confederate gunboat <i>City of Richmond</i> (ex- ferry <i>George Page</i>) as well as search for and map other wrecks reported to be in the area.</p> <p>Mount Vernon (2) Return to Mount Vernon to continue reconnaissance and mapping of anomalies.</p> <p>Maryland Archaeological Workshop, Crownsville, MD, Saturday, 12 March IMH presents a paper on IMH Submerged Historical Inventory Project (SHIP) 2010-2011.</p> <p>Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference, Ocean City, MD, Saturday 19 March IMH presents four papers on IMH Underwater Reconnaissance in 2010 and 2011.</p>
APRIL 2011	<p>Virginia Rivers (1) Contingent upon winning the Virginia awards the grant, IMH will scan and map sites in six Potomac tributaries, starting with Colonial Beach, Nomin Bay, and the Lower Machodoc.</p> <p>U-1105 Buoy Each year IMH volunteers raise the mooring buoy chain, attach the buoy, and clear trash off the site.</p>
MAY 2011	Kedge's Strait Throughout May IMH volunteers will help Maryland Historic Trust search on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake for debris from a 1782 naval battle fought between Loyalist forces and the Maryland State Navy.
JUNE 2011	<p>Research Vessel Roper to Florida Each summer <i>RV Roper</i> is loaned to the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program, St. Augustine FL for their summer training program.</p> <p>Virginia Rivers (2) Scanning and mapping for the Virginia Rivers Project will continue with the use of <i>YoHo</i>. Rivers include the Yeocomico, the Coan, and the Little Wicomico.</p>
JULY 2011	<p>IMH Field School: Tentative Dates 18 July – 23 July This will be the third, annual field school in sonar reconnaissance and low-visibility site mapping.</p> <p>RV Roper Returns to Tall Timbers</p>
AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2011	<p>U-1105: Tentatively scheduled to dive this WWII submarine submerged under the waters of the Potomac on 7 August.</p> <p>Chesapeake and Delaware Recon This three-month reconnaissance will require running 840 sea miles of search lanes; anticipating 372 targets to investigate. Plans are to also search for remains of Fort Elfsborg, a 17th century Swedish earth work on the New Jersey Bank of the Delaware River.</p>

The Institute of Maritime History (IMH)

The IMH is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and documentation of archaeological remains related to maritime history. Incorporated in 1995 and based in Kensington, Maryland, IMH is engaged in the study and conservation of shipwrecks, historic waterfront structures and landscapes, and submerged prehistoric archaeological sites. Through archaeological research, IMH seeks to inform and engage the public about the history and culture of seafaring, marine industries, and traditional maritime lifeways.

SHIP: Submerged Historical Inventory Project

The Institute of Maritime History is conducting a multi-state project for State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs), using volunteer divers and researchers to scout for shipwrecks, assess them, gather archival data, and report their findings.

IMH is a non-profit 501(c) 3 corporation dedicated to research, preservation and education in nautical archaeology and maritime history.

"LO-VIZ" is compiled and edited by Cynthia Loden-Dowdle, volunteer diver with IMH.

Find us on the web at www.maritimehistory.org