

QAR Fall 2014 Field Season Weekly Reports

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The goal for October 2014 is to raise two 1-pounder cannon concreted to the central artifact pile, the single most recognizable feature of the shipwreck site. Our plan is to begin on October 5, setting up the site, and work for three weeks using pneumatic chisels to define the cannon and separate them from the pile. We hope to raise the two cannon together as one large concreted mass and transport them to the QAR Lab in Greenville, where they can be carefully cleaned, documented and conserved. All photos were captured by DCR/QAR Staff.

Week 1: October 6-10

The team convened at the US Coast Guard Station at Fort Macon first thing Monday morning to begin setting up our dockside equipment. Our team this year consists of Nathan Henry (UAB Archaeologist), Chris Southerly (UAB Archaeologist), Julep Gillman-Bryan (Diver Safety Officer), Kim Kenyon (Conservator), Jim Dugan (long-time volunteer), and three graduate students from ECU's Maritime Studies Program, BJ Howard, Greg Stratton, and Jeremy Borrelli. Elise Carroll, our Maritime Studies graduate assistant at the QAR Lab, also joined us for one day on the water to see how things happen on site. The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries is very generously providing us with the use of R/V *Shell Point* as a dive platform, with Captain Tom Piner at the helm and Joe Carraway serving as first mate. Since *Shell Point* is equipped with a crane capable of lifting 5,000 pounds, we will be able to perform the cannon lift on the same vessel.



Ready to start the day, with Greg, BJ, Jeremy, and Elise (left to right).

Chiseling commenced on the pile in the first week, and much of the encrustation was removed in order to better define the surfaces of the two cannon. A cluster of cannon shot was found lodged between the two guns, as well as ballast stones, a large fastener, and a grenade. These additional artifacts slowed progress considerably, as each had to be documented prior to their careful removal.



A large fastener located within the pile concretion.



A hand grenade located within the pile concretion.

Week 2: October 13-17



A beautiful Monday morning on the water!

The second week was almost a complete loss due to worsening sea conditions as a result of Hurricane Gonzalo tearing across the Atlantic. We were able to work most of the day Monday, continuing to chisel cannon C29 away from the rest of the pile. It became apparent pretty quickly that the goal of C28 being lifted together with C29 would not be possible due to the abundance of other artifacts that would have to be removed from the concretion first. Focus was turned to chiseling between the two guns instead, in order to recover C29 alone.



A friendly visitor for the day.

Week 3: October 20-24

The third week saw all attention turned to freeing and rigging C29 for recovery. Tom and Joe ran through a safety briefing regarding the use of *Shell Point's* crane prior to lifting the cannon. Once we were all well versed in the mechanics of the lift, we could proceed with all due caution. Finally, on the last day, C29 was brought to the surface! QAR Conservator Erik Farrell joined us on the barge for the day to help with the lift and transport. C29 was lifted with no issue and returned to the QAR Lab the same day.



Erik and me, preparing for the lift.

As it turns out, C29 appears to be a 2-pounder, a size not yet represented in the QAR collection. This newest cannon brings our total of recovered guns to 23 of the 30 known to be on site. Despite having lost almost a full week of working time, we still managed to raise 18 artifacts in total. The close of the week saw the shut-down of the QAR site until next season!



The happy lifting team: Chris, BJ, Jeremy, and Greg (left to right), with C29 finally on deck!



Erik and me, prepping C29 for transport. The cannon is wrapped in rags and kept wet during the drive to Greenville.