

Example of a Student's Field Journal Entries

Day 5 – 5 February 2010

It was an early rise this morning as a team of Maddy M., Maddy F., Sarah, Denise, Leonie and myself went with Brit to help with her individual project. Today she was working on the elevation of the Orante. Her plan was to an elevation from both the North side and South side of the wreck. As she worked on this site plan with Maddy M. and Leonie, the rest of us worked on the height, width, and length of the individual timbers and features of the site. I worked with Denise, and we decided to describe each feature based on their location along the baseline with a small description and the orientation of any angled timber. After we finished this part of Brit's project, we moved on to taking photos of different features of the wreck as well as some continuous profile photos that Brit intend to create a photo mosaic from. We finished our work at 10:20am and packed most equipment while Brit finished the remainder of her elevation site plan. She did not have time to do the north side elevation before the quickly came in. I continued to work on properly entering the magnetometer data into an excel spreadsheet to map in MagPick. Around 12:30pm, Deb Shefi began work on constructing the box for her conservation PhD project. I joined her in screwing the sides to gether as well as drilling additional holes for additional brackets.

At 2:00pm, I went with Mark, James, and Jeff to the DEH boat Rapid to learn about side scan sonar. We left the Westside of Streaky bay on the boat and headed for hospital cove. Amer Kahn gave us a thorough tutorial on the set up of the side scan sonar, which including setting up the deferential GPS, properly hooking up the laptop, and assembling the side scan sonar. I was able to help Amer deploy the fish off the back of the stern of the boat. It was neat to watch the scans on the laptop and see the different types of reassigns the fish was picking up. For example, when we passed the jetty we were able to see a faint shadow of the jetty piles. After a couple of different searches we retrieved the tow-fish, and Shane gave us a tutorial on the drop camera. The drop camera is a video camera that is lowered from the side of the boat which enables one to see the sea floor without diving. It was really fascinating to see the video from the drop camera because the speed appeared to be different from a regular video camera. We had tried to use the drop camera to see an anomaly we noticed on the side-scan sonar but we were only able to see sea grass. At this point we brought the drop camera back into the boat and headed back to the dock. We assisted in getting Rapid out of the water and onto the trailer.

When we returned to camp, I finished working on entering the magnetometer data and attempted to create a map using MagPick. However, every time I attempted to create a map, the program would freeze and shut down. I attempted to change computer to the department laptop, but the same problem happened on that computer. After double checking my data, I approached Emily who sympathized with my frustrations and offered to help fix any glitches and help in any way she could. She reassured that she would help me tomorrow. We had our daily debrief at 8:00pm, Denise shared our team activity for the day and Mark gave us our assignments for the following day. Helen Carter joined us for her first night with us, and she showed the students a video on some proper underwater video recording techniques. The end my day I began to work on my individual report.

Day 8 – 8 February 2010

Today was Agents of destructions first day on the jetty. No matter how much preparation we tried to do last night and this morning, our first underwater team diving experience could not predict the difficulties we would receive today. We left camp at 7:00am and did not get our first dive in until 9:00am based on some technical difficulties. Sarah and I were the first divers and our plan was to set up the underwater baseline and measure the perimeter of our site map. Meanwhile, Matt and Denise were working on the top of the jetty plan view site measurements. When we got to the bottom we realized how necessary it was that both of us have an underwater compass. Once the baseline was set straight, we began taking the perimeter measurements of the far end of the swim cage. There were some problems with communication and our measuring tape was not at a 90 degree angle to the baseline. However, we did not realize this until we finished the measurements that this was the case. When we resurfaced and spoke with the rest of our team on the jetty, we were told that the measurements that we had just completed were inaccurate. Frustrated, we developed an alternative plan with two snorkelers on the surface lining up the 90 degree angle and directing the divers below to the appropriate positions for the measurements. Matt and Denise geared up and went to the bottom as Sarah and I snorkeled on the surface. Sarah informed me that it was still too difficult to get an accurate reading on the surface so she went on the surface to direct me as to the appropriate positions of both divers and I swam along the measuring tape to straighten it before the measurement was taken. I was a bit tired after a while, but our system proved to be successful in the end which made the team happy.

For our next dive, Sarah and I were in charge of measuring the piles of the jetty. Our method was to measure four sides of the piles using baseline offsets. I was in charge of documenting the measurements and Sarah took the "dummy" end of the tape to the necessary piles. We felt very accomplished after finished the pile measurements knowing we would be able to start drawing our underwater plan view site survey. The team packed up all our gear at this point because it was too hot to continue our measurements on the jetty. Mark was nice enough to buy the whole team ice cream which was delightful. We cleaned our gear and filled the empty scuba cylinders. At this time I worked on my individual project before our team meeting. At our team meeting we volunteered to do different aspects of the report to be combined into one team report for Scaele Bay. We also went over a plan for tomorrow where we were going to change dive buddy teams to: Sarah with Denise and Matt with me. Brit would work on drawing the topside jetty plan view site map with the buddy team who were not in the water. We hoped to finish both the topside plan view and the underwater plan view by the end of the day tomorrow. Finally, I worked on our underwater site plan based on the measurements we had taken. However, it was here that I realized that the measurements Sarah and I took of the piles did not line up correctly and we would have to find a better way of measuring them in the morning.