Diving With A Purpose offers SCUBA divers of all varieties an opportunity to experience a new adventure underwater archaeology. Where many are drawn to the selfish lure of sunken treasure, DWP challenges divers to hone their diving skills and contribute to revealing the hidden stories of our past. Diving with a Purpose (DWP) is a leader in submerged heritage preservation and conservation that provides education and training, mission leadership, and project support services worldwide with a focus on the African Diaspora.

The DWP course is an intense, weeklong program that teaches the basics of underwater archaeology. This program usually consists of two-day of dry instruction, and three days of diving data collection, ending with the final drawings of a wreck site. Students learn basic principles of underwater archaeological methods, ship construction, theory, and hands on archaeological drafting. Graduates can then participate in other missions to gain experience.

**MAPPING THE Hannah M. Bell SHIPWRECK**

**History:**

The Hannah M. Bell was built by Ropner and Son in Stockton-On-Tees, and launched into the Tees River on May 1, 1895. The vessel measured 315 feet in length by 40 1/2 feet in breadth and had two triple-expansion engines. Named after the woman who christened it, the steamship crisscrossed the Atlantic Ocean over the following 18 years carrying bulk cargoes of cotton, coal, and naval stores between the Americas and Europe. The steel steamship met its end when it ran aground off the coast of Key Largo in 1911. The ship stuck Elbow Reef in what is now Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS). For years, this wreck was known only as Mike’s wrecks by local and visiting divers.

**Field Mission #1:**

On September 18, 2012 thru September 20, 2012, four members of DWP joined National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) cultural resource managers on a mission to map the wreck known as Mike’s Wreck in an effort to discover its identity. The team mapped 60 feet of the stern section of a estimated 300 feet long wreck in water 12 to 17 feet deep. Evidence documented during the mission pointed towards the ship being the Hannah M. Bell. The site dimensions matched very closely to the vessel’s as-built specifications and the site’s construction characteristics matched the historically reported characteristics of Hannah M. Bell. No other vessels of similar characteristics to Hannah M. Bell were found during historical research to have wrecked at Elbow Reef.

**Field Mission #2:**

On May 18, 2014, thru May 20, 2014, 22 members of DWP again joined with ONMS staff to continue mapping the Hannah M. Bell. This time the work was done through the DWP Training Program Course which allowed for a larger team. The mission concentrated on areas not previously mapped and verified previous work from the bow to the stern.

**Field Mission #3:**

On May 17, 2015, thru May 23, 2015, 19 DWP members again joined ONMS staff on a final Hannah M. Bell mapping mission. The work was again done through the DWP Training Program Course which allowed for a larger team. Following the fieldwork, DWP and ONMS researchers finalized the site drawings and produced a CAD overall site map.

**Participants:**

Matthew Lawrence - NOAA/ONMS Archaeologist
Brenda Almeida - NOAA/ONMS FKNMS Maritime Heritage Coordinator
A Joe Jones - NAS Science Committee
Erik Denson - Diverse Orlando Lead DWP Instructor & NOAA Scientific Diver
Jay Haigle - UAS Lead DWP Instructor & NOAA Scientific Diver
Paul Washington - AVSC Lead DWP Instructor & NOAA Scientific Diver
Kamau Sadiki - USA Lead DWP Instructor & NOAA Scientific Diver
Emest Franklin - UAS Lead DWP Instructor & NOAA Scientific Diver
imageframe DWI Instructor & NOAA Scientific Diver
Melody Garrett - USA Instructor Candidate - Scientific Diver
Ken Futch - UAS Advocate Candidate - Scientific Diver
Lisa McLoughlin - Advocate Candidate
Joel Buchman - UAS DWI Instructor - Scientific Diver
Albert Dobbs - DWI Instructor
Kramer Wimberley - AVSC DWI Instructor
shrakiana Gerima - USA Advocate Candidate - Scientific Diver
Dawn Ross - Advocate Candidate
Rae Tyler - Advocate Candidate
Rebecca Hunter - Advocate Candidate
Andy Lyons - Diverse Orlando DWI Instructor
Gayle Patrick - UAS DWI Instructor
Walter Mason - Advocate Candidate
Guy Adelair - UAS Instructor Candidate
Kevin Blaisdell - Advocat Candidate
Justin Beckett - USA Advocate Candidate
William Cox - Instructor Candidate
Barry Handley - NABS Instructor Candidate
Bernard Reeser UAS Advocate Candidate
Chris Searles - DWI Instructor

**SITe CONDITIONS**

The air temperature each day was 84° F to 87° F. The depth of the site is 22°-0” at the center of the wreck to 11” at the bow end. There was little current, 10 knots seas. The water temperature at the surface was 84° F. The water temperature below was 80° F. The visibility was 100% most of the days. The bottom terrain was basically hard with some sandy areas around the site.

**DIVING WITH A PURPOSE**

**MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM**

**RESTORING OUR OCEANS, PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE**

**NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES AND NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION**

**"HANNAH M BELL SHIPWRECK"**

**DRAWN BY CAITI CARTER PATRICK"**