

USS MONITOR 2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



<http://monitor.noaa.gov>

Keeping an Eye on the *Monitor*



Diver and USS *Monitor*. Photo: Monitor Collection/NOAA

A summer expedition to the USS *Monitor* gave the public an up-close-and personal with researchers studying the historic shipwreck, 240 feet below the surface. NOAA's staff produced a 16-minute video program that describes the *Monitor*, sanctuary, and the technology that was used on the expedition. More than 7,000 viewers tuned in to the Intranet and local PBS stations. Archived video from the expedition can be watched on the sanctuary's Web site and can serve as an excellent educational tool for those who want to peak into a part of our maritime history. Scientists also produced photomosaics of the site that will serve as a tool to track the wreck's deterioration over time. The mission was coordinated through the National Marine Sanctuary Program, the University of Rhode Island and the Institute for Exploration.

NOAA Data Buoy Finds New Home

Working with the NOAA National Data Buoy Center, sanctuary staff moved a data buoy into the sanctuary that will make life easier for ocean users. The buoy records real-time data on water and air temperature, wind direction and wave height. In Spring 2007, upgraded instrument packages for tracking currents and salinity will be added. The new equipment will be very useful to fishermen in the area who will, for the first time, have access to sub-surface current information. The data collected will also be used to assist staff in monitoring conditions at the sanctuary. The data from the buoy can be accessed online. [http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_page.php?station=41025]

Education Efforts Expanded

Sanctuary staff reached more than 2,500 students and 150 teachers with information about the *Monitor* and the National Marine Sanctuary System at workshops and open houses held in the region. The staff continued to support regional community festivals as well, reaching more than 500,000 people through events including Norfolk Harborfest, Hatteras Day at the Docks and Delaware Coast

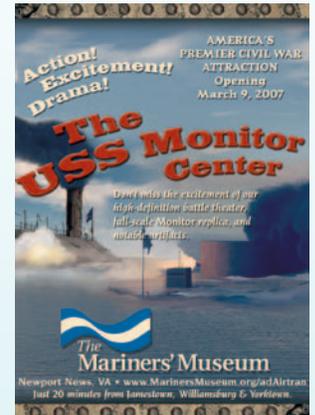


Students participate in a mock shipwreck exercise. Photo: Monitor Collection/NOAA

Day. New exhibits highlighting the National Marine Sanctuary System took center stage with displays at NOAA's Maritime Archaeology Center, Nauticus in Virginia, and The North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island. Staff also installed exhibits and opened a field office at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras, North Carolina this year.

Monitor Replica Christened – New Center Opens

To recognize an important part of our maritime history, program staff and The Mariners' Museum, Northrop Grumman Newport News, and the U.S. Navy christened a full size steel sculpture of the USS *Monitor*. The ceremony in June highlighted how the ship will serve as an iconic centerpiece for the Museum's \$30 million, USS *Monitor* Center which opened in March. One of the premier Civil War attractions across the nation, the dramatic, 63,500-square-foot facility features exciting exhibits bringing visitors face-to-face with history.



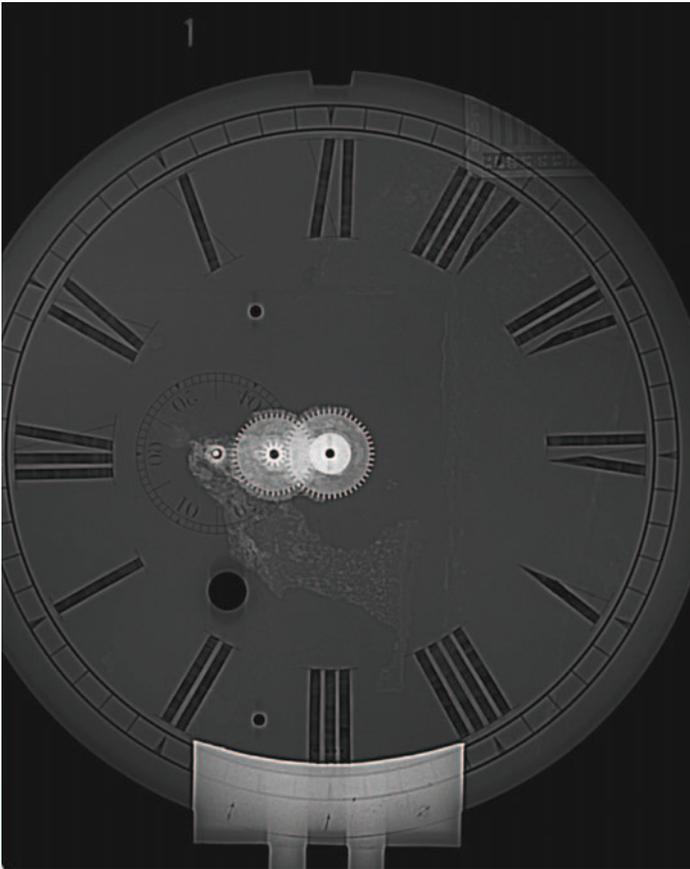
Jeff Johnston (far right) stands with reenactors Jeff Cranford, Josh Stone, and Sam Craghead during christening ceremonies. Photo: Walter Bonora

To learn more about these and other accomplishments, visit: sanctuaries.noaa.gov

Conservation Efforts Continue on *Monitor* Artifacts

Salt, mud, and time have taken their toll on the iron artifacts of the USS *Monitor*. To ensure their conservation, conservators from The Mariners' Museum continue to excavate inside the gun turret to remove oxidized sediment. Conservators recovered several small uniform buttons, a wrought iron hand crank, and four metallic "rim fire" cartridges believed to be from a Sharp's and Hankins breech loading rifle. The discovery of these artifacts sparked media frenzy during the summer as newspapers around the country ran the story.

In 2006, NOAA and the Mariners' Museum used the latest state of the art technologies to document the condition of artifacts recovered from the *Monitor* and to help scientists better understand the corrosion process that has affected those artifacts. Working with companies like CC Technologies, Fuji Film, and Optira, NOAA and The Mariners' Museum are making great strides in preserving the historic shipwreck for future generations.



X-ray image of the *Monitor*'s engine room clock and gear box.
Photo: Northrop Grumman Newport News Shipbuilding



Monitor Anchor. State-of-the-art laser and scanning technology continue on *Monitor* artifacts.
Photo: Courtesy Maglev

Plans for 2007

- Prepare management plan review with staff, advisory council members and the public underway;
- Install new instrument packages on NOAA Data Buoy in the sanctuary.
- Research continues in the graveyard of the Atlantic.

Sanctuary Maps Now Available



New sanctuary atlas maps depicting physical ocean and land features, other state and federal managed areas and parks, and other basic atlas features are now available on the sanctuary program Web site: sanctuaries.noaa.gov.

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