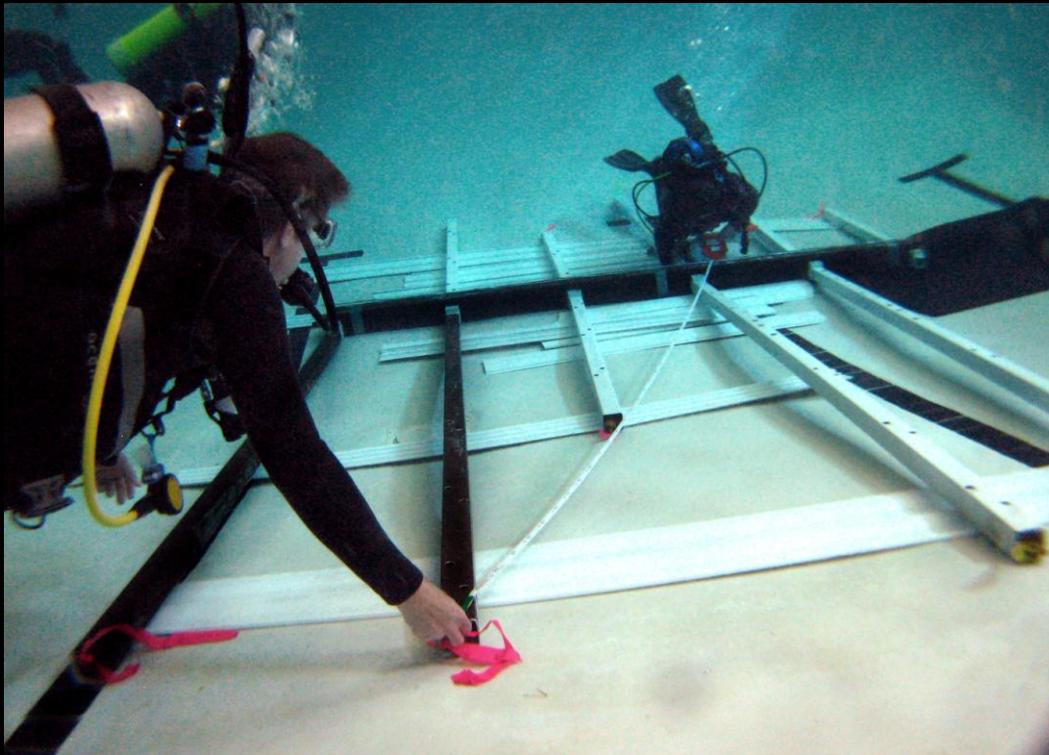


# MAHS – 2017 Pool Session

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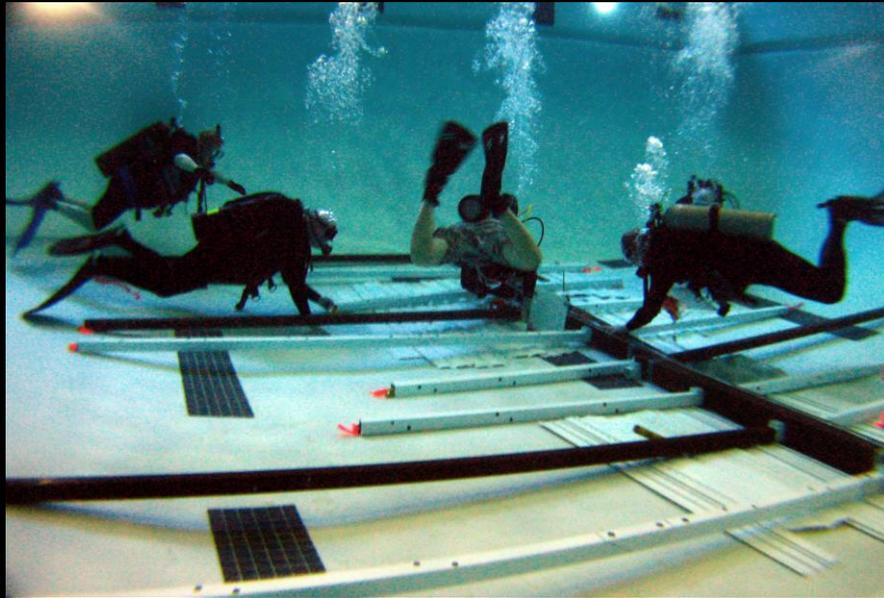


As part of its annual Introduction to Underwater Archaeology course, MAHS conducts a practice session in trilateration mapping in a regional swimming pool.

The class was held again this year at Blu Water Scuba, in Manassas, Virginia.



The water is clear and shallow, with no current, allowing the students to concentrate less on the environment and more on the task at hand: documenting an underwater archaeological site.

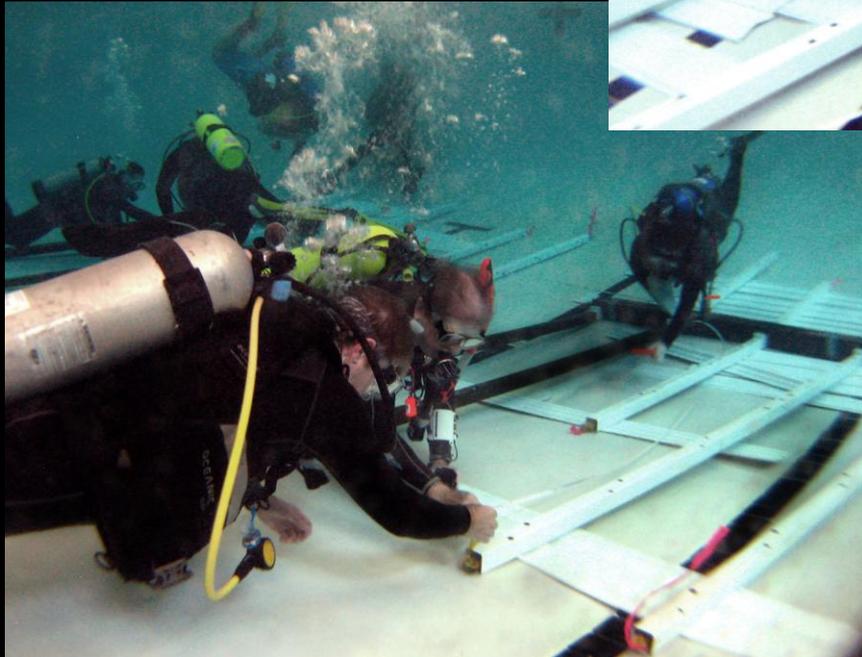


In the pool we use a mock shipwreck constructed from plastic downspouts and vinyl siding. The downspouts serve as keel and frames, and the siding represents hull planking.

It's all weighted down with sash weights.



As on a real wreck site, we work in buddy teams.



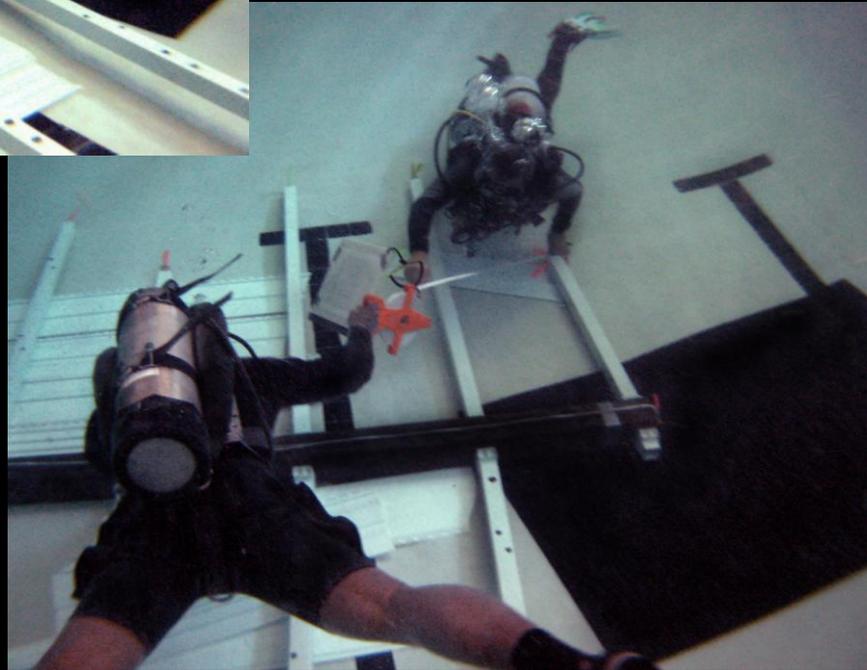
And because it's a training exercise, an experienced MAHS instructor keeps an eye on things.

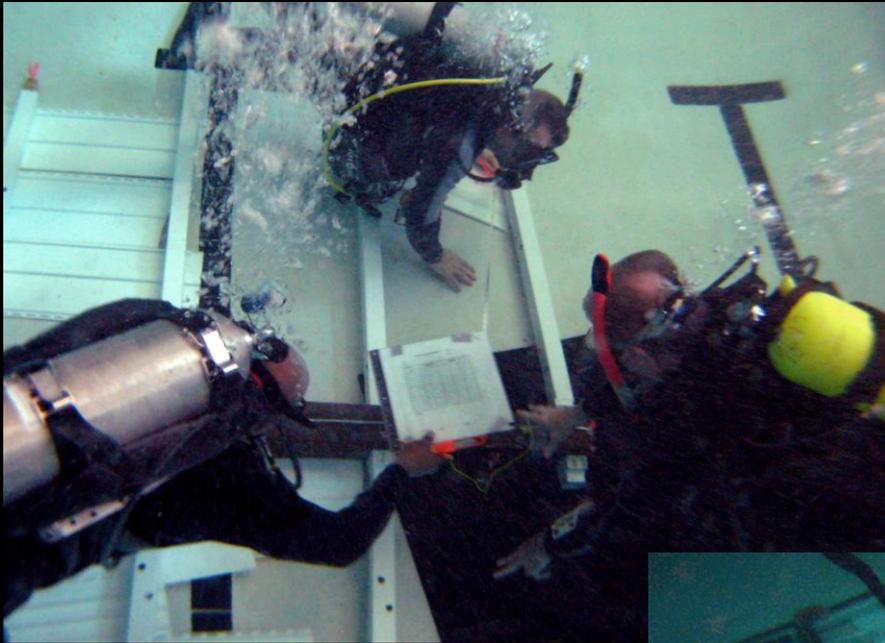




Trilateration is a relatively easy mapping technique to use, but it does take some practice in order to become proficient at it.

The confined water environment of the pool is a good place to begin.





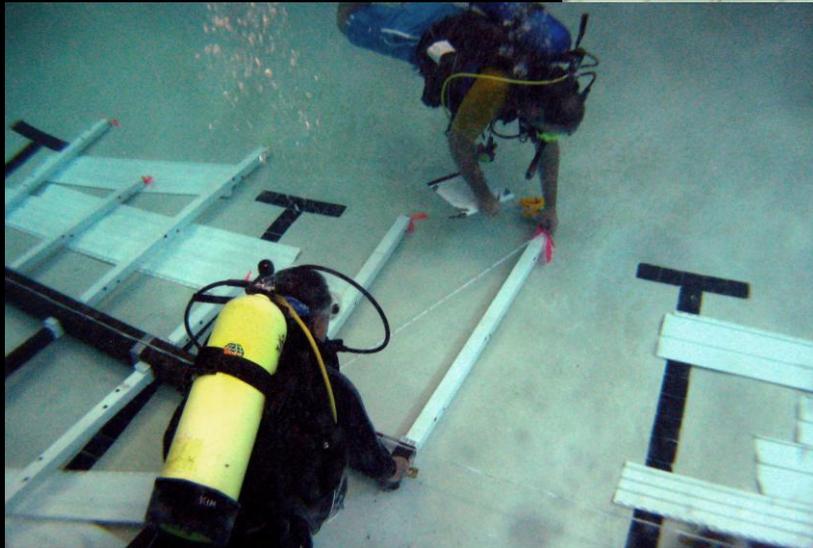
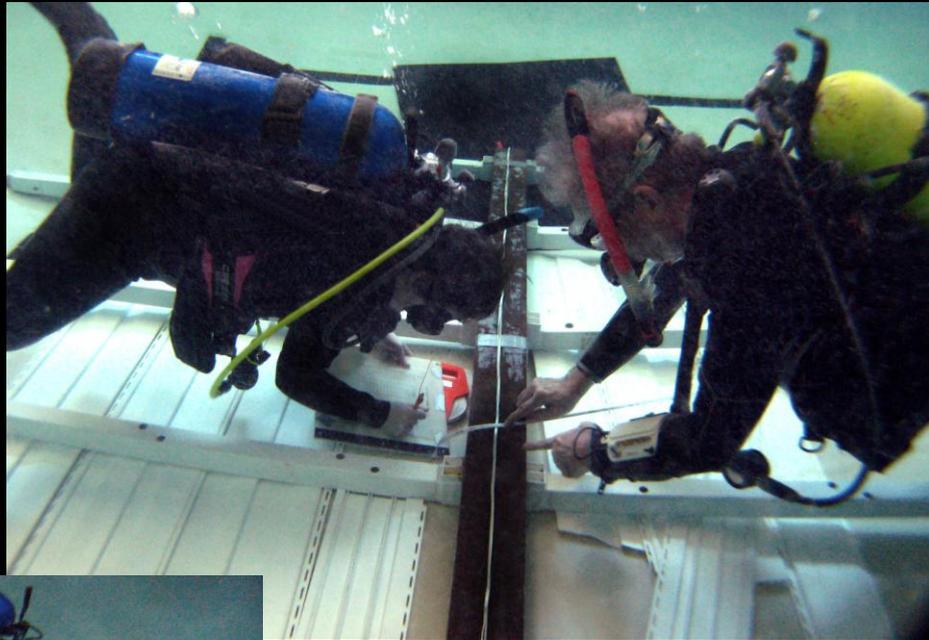
Each person gets a chance to do recordkeeping, which involves drawing a sketch map, taking measurements, and writing down the data.





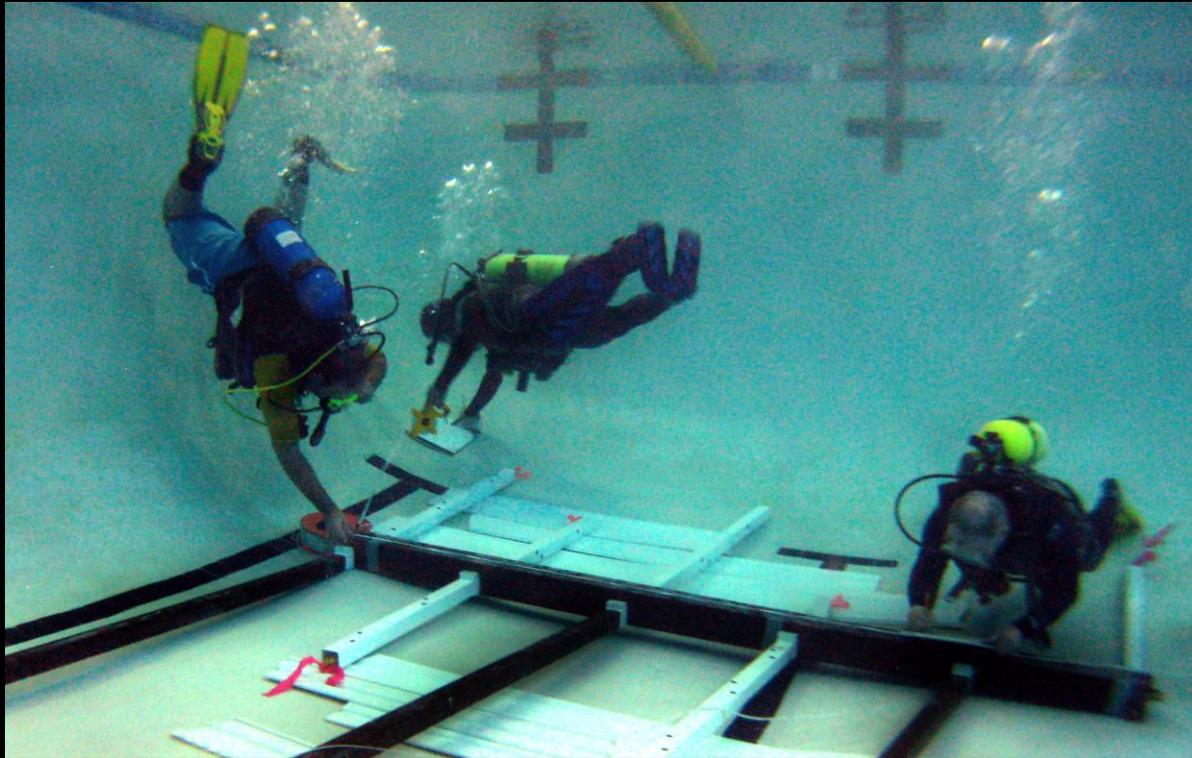
**Holding the zero end of the tape seems like an easy job, but it is no less important to accurate measurements than recordkeeping.**





Attention to detail is one of the keys to getting precise data.

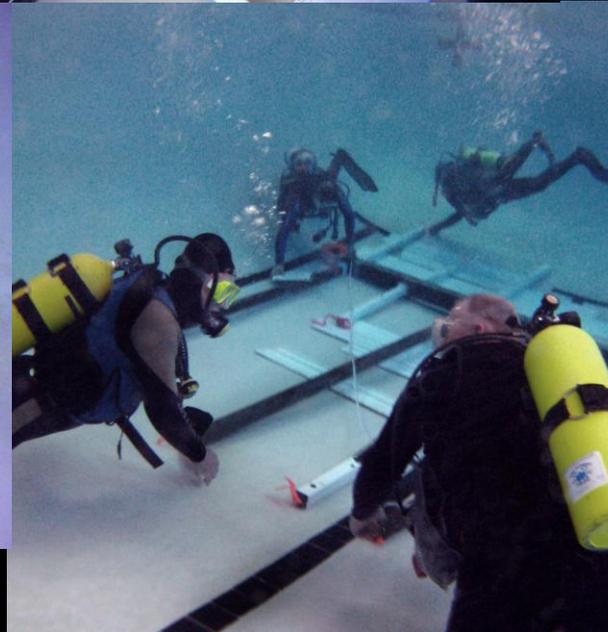
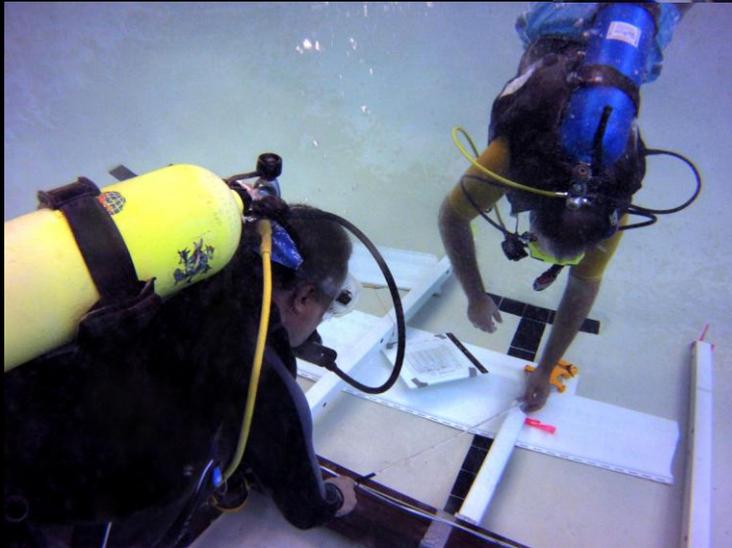


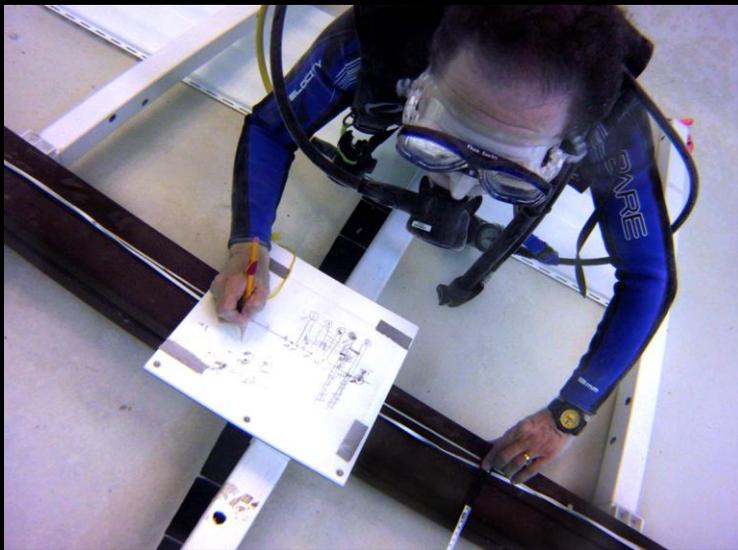
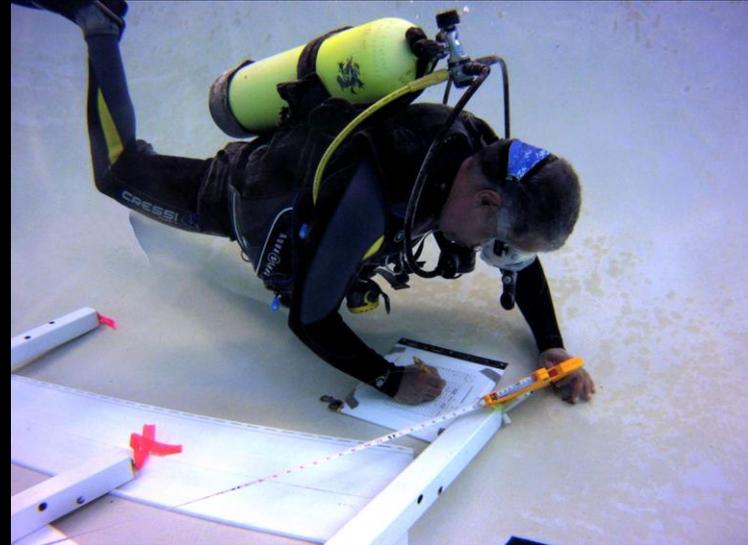
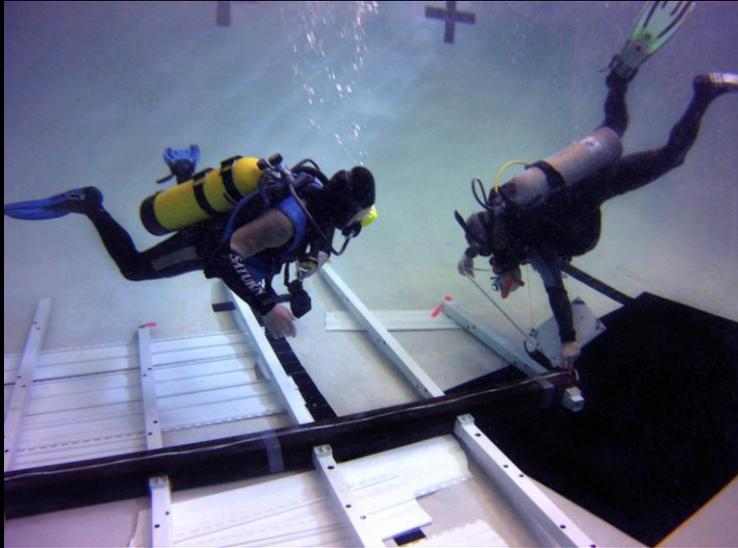


**Tight quarters at one end of the pool can simulate crowded conditions on a real shipwreck.**



Practice makes perfect.





Looks like we're getting plenty of data by the end of the dive.



**The final critical step in the process involves plotting the data.**

**This is where we see how good our measurements are, as the numbers begin to take shape and eventually result in a map of the wreck.**





**It is also a chance to find any errors that may have occurred in measuring or recording.**

**Errors are easy to make underwater, and identifying them at this stage allows us to be make corrections on subsequent dives.**





Good job, everyone.



Special thanks again to

**Blu Water Scuba**

9449 Taney Road

Manassas, VA 20110



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