

BIOGRAPHIC SUMMARY / DAVE MCMAHAN

Dave retired as the Alaska State Archaeologist and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer in 2013, having worked for the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology since 1983. Prior to 1983 he worked for the University of Tennessee McClung Museum, the Tennessee Division of Archaeology, and the National Park Service Alaska Region. Dave currently does periodic consulting and has just completed a multi-year maritime archeology project that he directed under a National Science Foundation grant. Since October, 2017, he has served as an “on call” senior archaeologist for Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions. Since September 2021, he has been deployed as a senior archaeologist to Saipan, Commonwealth of Mariana Islands, to work under contract to FEMA. As a Professional Registered Archaeologist, and with more than four decades in professional archaeology, Dave’s interests and appointments are diverse. While a State Archaeologist with a diving certification, and with responsibility for managing historic shipwrecks on state submerged lands along more than half the nation’s coastline, Dave played a key role in bringing marine archaeology to Alaska. He worked with federal, academic, and private marine archaeologists to investigate several of the state’s most important shipwrecks. These include wrecks off Kodiak Island, as well as Southeast Alaska, Cook Inlet, and the Aleutians. Most recently he has directed research and field investigations pertaining to the Russian frigate NEVA, which wrecked near Sitka in 1813.

With a background in forensic anthropology and long-time advisor to the Alaska State Medical Examiner, Dave helped to solve some of Alaska’s most gruesome crimes. He continues to hold a federal appointment as DMORT forensic anthropologist, deployable in mass disasters. In recent years Dave has been involved with joint U.S.-Russian research projects in Alaska and Siberia, and is known for his expertise in the archaeology of Russian America. He has served as President of the International Association of Specialists on Russian America and on the Board of the Alaska-Siberia Research Center.

In addition to an extensive publications list, Dave has served as keynote speaker, session chair, organizer, and participant in international conferences devoted to topics such as maritime heritage, historic and prehistoric archaeology, history, climate change, forensic anthropology, and Arctic sciences. In 2006, he was given the Alaska Anthropological Association’s “Outstanding Service Award.” In December 2016 he relocated from Anchorage to the Nashville, Tennessee area, along with his archaeologist wife Patty. They split time between Nashville and their lake cottage in Pardeeville, Wisconsin.



Archaeology / Historic Preservation / International Collaborations:

https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=136012

<https://www.archaeology.org/news/3676-150909-alaska-neva-shipwreck>

<https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/science/2017/03/04/archaeologists-say-theyve-found-the-campsite-used-by-survivors-of-legendary-doomed-ship-the-neva/>

<http://bhoffman.edublogs.org/category/coin/>

<http://pribaikal.ru/rus-america-article/article/12651.html>

Maritime Heritages:

<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/04kadyak/welcome.html>

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/oha/kadyak/kadyakindex.htm>

<http://www.cdn.information/industry/i040908/i040908.html>

<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/06alaska/welcome.html>

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/maritime/expeditions/hassler/expedition.html>

http://www.juneauempire.com/stories/071408/reg_303633601.shtml

A complete CV and Publications List is available at: McMahanConsulting.com

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