

# Ralph Wilbanks

## Underwater Archaeologist

### AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Underwater field investigations including submerged site identification and assessment. Marine remote sensing, navigation and positioning. Historic watercraft identification and evaluation.

### EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

M. A. Maritime History, Vermont College, 2004  
B. S. Education, *University of South Carolina*, 1970  
*Harvey Lynch Sea Floor Engineering* - Hands-on seminar in remote sensing, 1976.  
*The Mariner's Museum*-Seminar on Ship Construction, 1980.  
*Klein Associates, Inc.*-Hydroscan Operations and Maintenance, 1993.

### PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

1975-1984 Assistant Underwater Archaeologist  
*University of South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology*, Columbia, SC.  
1984-present Underwater Archaeologist and/or Survey Technician contracting to various cultural resource management firms  
*Tidewater Atlantic Research, Inc.*  
*John Milner & Associates*  
*Dolan Research, Inc.*  
*Mid-Atlantic Technology*  
*Brockington & Associates, Inc.*  
*Aetna Insurance for Lloyds of London*  
*NUMA*  
*Eason Diving & Marine Contracting*  
*Friends of the Hunley*  
*Naval Historical Center*

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Have participated in more than 300 underwater and archaeological projects since 1975.

#### **Sample Projects:**

Survey Technician and Underwater Archaeologist. A cultural resource survey prior to channel modification in Chub Cay. Brockington & Associates & Chub Cay developer under license from Bahamas Government.

Underwater Archaeologist. A Reconnaissance Level Underwater Archaeological Survey of the Hagan Plantation Tract, Cooper River, Berkeley County, South Carolina. Mid-Atlantic Technology, NUCOR Steel.

Survey Technician. A Cultural Resources Survey of Ponce DeLeon Inlet, New Smyrna, FL. Mid-Atlantic Technology, Jacksonville District, US Army Corps of Engineers.

Underwater Archaeologist. An Underwater Archaeological Investigation of a Wreck Site in San Juan Harbor, Puerto Rico. Mid-Atlantic Technology, Jacksonville District, US Army Corps of Engineers.

Survey Technician. A Side Scan Sonar and Magnetometer Survey of Proposed Borrow Areas, Ocean City, New Jersey. Dolan Research, Philadelphia District, US Army Corps of Engineers.

Survey Technician and Underwater Archaeologist. A Side Scan Sonar and Magnetometer Survey of Prairie Du Chien Harbor, Mississippi River, Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin. Tidewater Atlantic Research, Inc., St. Paul District, US Army Corps of Engineers.

Underwater Archaeologist. Located the remains of *The General Slocum* off New Jersey.

Survey Technician. Location of World War II B-25C bomber in 147' of water, Lake Murray, Columbia, SC. Private Individual.

Survey Technician and Underwater Archaeologist. An Underwater Archaeological Investigation of a Proposed Bridge Replacement Site, Weems Creek, Annapolis, MD. Dolan Research, Inc., Maryland Department of Transportation.

Remote Sensing Specialist and Underwater Archaeologist. Participated in the 2003 - 2007 search for *The Bonhomme Richard*, John Paul Jones ship lost in the North Sea.

Remote Sensing Specialist. Located an A-4 training jet that crashed in the Great Salt Lake, then located the ejection seat.

Survey Technician. A Remote Sensing Survey of Damage to Artificial Reefs near Charleston, SC, caused by Hurricane Hugo. Diversified Wilbanks, Inc., South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

Survey Specialist. Located a plane lost 50 years ago in a mountain lake 200 miles from Anchorage, Alaska.

Underwater Archaeologist and Videographer. A Phase III Underwater Archaeological Excavation of the Hilton Wreck, NE Cape Fear River, Wilmington, NC. Tidewater Atlantic Research, Inc. Wilmington District, US Army Corps of Engineers.

Field Director. A Side Scan Sonar Survey of approximately 200 miles of rivers between Charleston and Hilton Head, SC, including mapping and establishment of reference stations using a Klein Associates 100 kHz side scan sonar. Seventy-three targets were located and evaluated in 1979 and 1980, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, Columbia, SC.

Project Director. A successful Side Scan Sonar and Magnetometer Survey with identification of targets in Charleston Harbor, SC, in search of Confederate submarine HL Hunley in 1994-1995. NUMA and Clive Cussler.

Survey Technician. A Side Scan Sonar Survey of the World War II D-Day Beaches (Utah and Omaha) in Normandy, France. Naval Historical Center, Washington, DC.

### EQUIPMENT AND OTHER SPECIALIZATIONS

Side Scan Sonar, sub-bottom profiler, video and still photography, proton precession and cesium magnetometers, fathometers, range/range positioning systems, laser-track positioning systems, differential GPS, computer navigation & mapping programs (HYPACK, Sextant), SCUBA, surface-supplied air diving supervisor for Assoc. of Diving Contractors, Nitrox, NOAA and EPA diving certifications, US Coast Guard licensed captain, dive safety supervisor, ROV pilot.