SHIPWRECK DETECTIVES

A shipwreck can be many things.
Time capsule. Workplace and home.
Grave and memorial.
A treasure and a teacher.

In addition to schlepping scuba gear,
nautical archaeologists bring tape measures, cameras, rulers, pencils, and clipboards to document a shipwreck. For every hour spent underwater, it takes more than seven to transcribe drawings and do research.

What’s that Stuff?
When archaeologists use the word “treasure” to describe the objects contained within a shipwreck, they don’t mean “made of gold.” Artifacts are a window into the lives of the men, women and children who once worked and lived aboard these vessels. A single button can narrow the date of a shipwreck site; a cannon ball’s size reveals the type of gun that fired it.

Don’t Get Wet
Technology now allows the researcher to get information without ever leaving the surface. Remote sensing equipment includes sonar, bathymetry, sub-bottom profiler, and remotely operated vehicles.

An Archaeologist
strives to learn and share. His or her studies may result in books, films, artwork, exhibits, or even full-sized working replica vessels.