



### **Franz Van de Kop**

Franz retired from the Naval Oceanographic Office in 2004 after managing the GPS program for their 30 survey vessel fleet for 15 years. Franz obtained his third patent three years earlier and during his free time developed the system for locating aquifers. After the SEG in 2003, he started to look for hydrocarbon signatures and found the first one in February of 2004.

Franz developed his second patent jointly with his son Andrew in 1989. He had joined Odom Offshore in 1969, where he designed, patented and led a team of five engineers and ten technicians that fabricated and deployed the first solid state over the horizon positioning system. This was used by NOAA, NAVOCEANO and Gardline, in the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, North Sea and for MX missile calibration trials in the Pacific.

Before Odom, Franz traveled extensively for Decca companies in Europe and the US. He participated in two Arctic expeditions and coordinated the positioning system for the US Navy which was used by search vessels to locate the missing H-bomb off the coast of Spain in 1966. He installed and operated electronic positioning systems in 18 states and 17 countries. These systems were used for weapon recovery, lost airplane searches, hydrographic mapping, dredging, pipeline surveys and laying transatlantic cables. Franz delivered positioning and sonar seminars in three languages for a number of international agencies including German, Russian and British Hydrographic Offices and World Bank in Pakistan.

Franz graduated in electronic engineering from Haarlem Higher Technical College in the Netherlands in 1958. He is a lifetime member of IEEE.