



## Community Updates

### In memory of Tom Stetson the first UNOLS Executive Secretary

We recently learned of the passing of Tom Stetson. Tom played an important role in laying the foundation for today's University National Oceanographic Laboratory System. He was the first Executive Secretary when UNOLS started in 1971. Tom started his long career as an oceanographer and geologist at WHOI in 1957. A lifelong sailor, he said he never tired of sailing on R/V ATLANTIS: "heaving to in mid-ocean to conduct experiments, meeting ships from other institutions for joint cruises, docking in foreign ports and exploring waterfronts." Tom was well recognized as a wonderful, pleasant person who loved to share his experiences with others. We are very grateful for Tom's passion, knowledge, experience and strategic thought in making the concept of a cooperative coalition of federal agencies, academic institutions, and oceanographic laboratories into the successful reality that is UNOLS today. His obituary can be found [here](#).

### Quick COVID-19 update

As the pandemic continues to evolve quickly, the UNOLS Office is working on updating the COVID-19 guidelines for conducting oceanographic research on Academic Research Fleet ships. During the recent RVOC meeting Marine Superintendents, federal agencies, and the UNOLS Office exchanged a considerable number of ideas and recommendations for updating them in light of recent developments (i.e. relaxation of CDC masking requirements). The UNOLS Office is working with our telemedicine provider - George Washington Medical Faculty Associates, as well as the ship operators and federal agencies to develop the updates. As has been the case with previous updates, the UNOLS Office will proactively notify the community when new guidelines are adopted.

### Be a part of the community - Join a Listserv

The University National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) is a community of sea going scientists, vessel operators and funding agencies working together to streamline ship scheduling, standardize safety practices, and develop the future of marine research. An easy way to keep up with what the community is up to is to join the UNOLS Listservs. The general UNOLS mailing list (UNOLS News) posts quarterly newsletters with information about committees, vessels and upcoming meetings. Additionally there are listservs for the following topics:

- AICC - Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee
- DESSC - DEep Submergence Science Committee
- MSROC - Marine Seismic Research Oversight Committee
- RVOC - Research Vessel Operators Committee
- RVTEC - Research Vessel Technical Enhancement Committee (this list is kept vendor-free to promote candid tech. exchanges)
- SCOAR - Scientific Committee for Oceanographic Aircraft Research
- Early Career - Outreach Programs for early career scientists and students including Training Cruises
- Cruise Opportunities - To be notified when volunteer bunk space on cruises is available for current U.S. graduate students
- MERAS - Maintaining an Environment of Respect Aboard Ships

You can sign up for any of these listservs on the UNOLS.org website. <https://www.unols.org/form/contact-us-form>

### R2R Advisory Committee Meeting

The Rolling Deck to Repository (R2R) Advisory Committee meeting took place 2-3 March 2022 and reported that data volumes to R2R have increased rapidly over the past couple of years with operators providing data significantly faster after cruises. R2R reported on their pilot effort to break documentation such as calibration sheets, gravity ties, and patch tests out of data distributions. Out of the three vessels in the program, only one of the three had documents stored and updated in a consistent way. As a result, R2R has created a Best Practices recommendation for the operators regarding where to save documents and directory naming schemes. The [Cruise Data Directory Structure](#) Best Practices can be found under R2R's [For Ship Operator's page](#).

Some additional topics that the R2R Advisory Committee discussed is the role of Near Real Time Data (NRT) in the archival process, when emerging sensors are considered "routine underway data" and fall under the purview of R2R, as well as the implementation of new best practices to ensure overlapping of old and new sensors as well as including bottle data with CTD data.

## Committee News

### RVOC & Safety Committee Meeting

The Research Vessel Operators Committee (RVOC) held its first formal RVOC meeting since 2019 on 20-21 April 2022. It was a virtual meeting. During pandemic the Marine Superintendents, Federal Agency representatives, and the UNOLS Staff have been conducting "Check-In" meetings every 4-6 weeks. Those meetings have focused primarily on Covid-19 related issues. The RVOC meeting helped to usher in a return to the "norm" with updates and discussions on many issues relevant to oversight, management and operations of the Academic Research Fleet ships. University of Minnesota-Duluth's Doug Ricketts was announced as the new RVOC Chair-Elect. The agenda, meeting recordings, meeting notes, and presentations will be available [here](#).

Prior to the RVOC meeting, Chair of the Safety Committee, RADM Jeff Garrett / USCG Retired, conducted a Safety Committee meeting on 19 April 2022. It was well attended and covered several important topics relevant to shipboard operations. The agenda, meeting recording, meeting notes, and presentations will be available [here](#).

### Shipboard Civility Discussion Guide

The Maintaining an Environment of Respect Aboard Ships (MERAS) committee compiled a Shipboard Civility Discussion Guide to facilitate communications and preparedness amongst crew, science and other expedition participants. Utilizing the Discussion Guide prior to departure as a team building exercise can empower participants to advocate for themselves and others while at sea. Vessel Operators and Principle Investigators are encouraged to hold a "viewing party" where participants watch the Shipboard Civility videos as a group. This can be done in person or virtually and should be a part of the cruise planning process. You can find the Discussion Guide with the [Shipboard Civility Program at UNOLS.org](#) as well as in the [YouTube descriptions of the Shipboard Civility videos](#).

### AICC Meeting

The UNOLS Office is working with the AICC and the USCG to schedule a virtual summer AICC meeting in coordination with USCGC HEALY's summer operational schedule. Efforts were made to schedule an in-person meeting at Coast Guard Base Seattle prior to ship's departure but conflicting schedules made this impossible. The AICC anticipates returning to in-person meetings in Seattle with the normal winter meeting in December / January.

### MSROC & R/V LANGSETH SMRs

R/V MARCUS G. LANGSETH will be moving the Atlantic Ocean this year for geophysical projects as well as some general oceanographic work after an extensive period of completing projects in the Pacific. The Regional Plan (updated in 2021) indicates that the ship will operate in the Atlantic and adjacent seas through 2024. Scientists interested in completing oceanographic projects using R/V LANGSETH are encouraged to submit proposals to NSF soonest to allow for review, permitting, and detailed cruise planning.

LDEO is charging ahead in their efforts to obtain a replacement vessel for R/V MARCUS G. LANGSETH that is slated for retirement after completing operations in 2024. Their goal is to have a replacement ship online and operating in 2025. The Marine Seismic Research Operations Committee (MSROC) is working to assemble the seismic science mission requirements (SMRs) for the replacement vessel in support to LDEO's efforts. Anyone having interest in contributing input to this effort should contact MSROC Chair John Orcutt ([jorcutt@ucsd.edu](mailto:jorcutt@ucsd.edu)) or UNOLS' Doug Russell ([doug@unols.org](mailto:doug@unols.org)).

### New Committee Members

All of our committees are staffed by volunteers and we are grateful for their contributions of time and experience. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest committee members:

- Eric Klein / UAA - AICC
- Doug Ricketts / UMN-Duluth - RVOC Chair-Elect

## Fleet Highlights

### HOV ALVIN Update

The HOV ALVIN's repairs are on target and they expect to start operations on schedule. The first cruise is the Sea-Trials, departing from Woods Hole on 5 July 22. This will be followed by a Science Verification Cruise (SVC), headed by Dr. Adam Soule, which is scheduled to depart San Juan Puerto Rico on 24 July 22. Good luck to the ALVIN team and MANY THANKS for all their hard work and long hours getting ALVIN ready to go.

### Featured Ship - R/V SAVANNAH



R/V SAVANNAH  
Photo Credit: Michael Sullivan

**Name:** SAVANNAH  
**Year Built:** 2001  
**Mid-Life Refit:** Planned for 2023  
**Place Built:** Washburn and Doughty, East Boothbay, Maine  
**Science Berthing:** 16  
**Crew Berthing:** 7  
**Owner:** Skidaway Institute of Oceanography - University of Georgia  
**Class of Vessel:** Coastal/Local

Although the R/V SAVANNAH conducts mainly coastal research it has conducted a large number of student cruises, helping to shape our young marine scientists. Now that the R/V SAVANNAH is over 20 years old, the Marine Operations team at Skidaway, headed by John Bichy, are planning for a major mid-life refit. Some key mission enhancements include:

- Main Deck Extension to accommodate a 20ft. van on the back deck
- A-Frame modifications
- J-Frame modifications
- Transducer well modifications
- Accommodations upgrades
- Lab upgrades
- Dynamic Positioning (DP1)

Good luck to the R/V SAVANNAH team as they approach this challenging and exciting project.

FUN R/V SAVANNAH FACT: In June of 2018 the R/V SAVANNAH rescued two fishermen from their sinking fishing vessel. Read all about it [here](#). John Bichy, Marine Superintendent of Skidaway, said, "Captain Raymond Sweatte was proud as was I of him and the crew for their actions to fulfill their duties as mariners to assist other mariners in distress."

Bravo Zulu to the R/V SAVANNAH!

### Featured Photo

R/V Atlantis and R/V Armstrong passing at sea



Photo courtesy of Captain Kent Sheasley

### Upcoming Events

2022 DeSSC Spring Meeting  
25-26 May 2022  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

2022 FIC Spring Meeting  
Virtual meeting - dates tbd

2022 Council Spring Meeting  
Virtual meeting - dates tbd

2022 SCOAR Spring Meeting  
Virtual - dates tbd

2022 AICC Summer Meeting  
Virtual meeting - dates tbd

### Did you know...

### 2022 PCARS are to be submitted in MFP

Post Cruise Assessment Reports (PCARS) for cruises conducted in 2022 should be submitted through MFP. If you have completed a cruise, login to [MFP:us](#). In your science portal, find the cruise that was just completed and click on "Complete Post Cruise Assessment". If this step is not available, contact [mfp@unols.org](mailto:mfp@unols.org).



### From the Editor

Thank you to all who contributed information and articles for this issue of UNOLS News. Articles are always welcome and encouraged. Copy, links, or images and questions can be submitted by e-mail to [media@unols.org](mailto:media@unols.org).

### SPONSORS



To unsubscribe from UNOLS News, please reply to this email with the word "unsubscribe" in the body. Thank you!