



# University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System Research Vessel Operators Committee

## NEWSLETTER

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**PLEASE CONTACT THE UNOLS OFFICE  
FOR COPIES OF THE FOLLOWING  
ATTACHMENTS:**

Notes and Clippings

### Editor's Note

It's that time of year again! Getting prepared for all the fall meetings, I am personally looking forward to RVOC in Monterey this October. Steve has put together a fine agenda. There will be an opportunity for all of us to see the R/V POINT SUR and the R/V WESTERN FLYER, MBARI's SWATH vessel. As I recall, some of us saw her in San Diego when she was being built.

Last week, I attended the annual round of meetings held at the National Science Foundation. Almost all classes of ships will have very busy schedules in 2003.

Tim Pfeiffer retired from ONR. He will be missed by all of us. Not to worry though, he and his wife are planning on traveling around the country with their new camper to visit various UNOLS Universities and Institutions to rub it in.

Also, Bob Knox has turned over the bosun's pipe to Tim Cowles, Oregon State University, after four extremely productive years as UNOLS Chair. Peter Wiebe, WHOI, was elected as Vice-Chair.

Thanks to all of this issue's contributors.

See you in Monterey, Tim Askew

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### From the Chair

Greetings To All,

I had hoped to use this opportunity to bring you up to date with events before the Annual Meeting, but because of back-to-back tropical storms/hurricanes I don't have time to elaborate and get the Newsletter out before the Meeting.

So, in lieu of a proper Chairman's report I'll simply say that all is well in Cocodrie. The power is on, the phones are working and we are as close to normal as we were a month ago before our bouts with Ole' Man/Woman Tropical Cyclones. I can say (with fingers crossed) that there is every likelihood that I will see you at MIMI/MBARI next week, and am really looking forward to it. If for no other reason than to give Joe a rousing farewell (I'm open for suggestions guys, we've got to make this a good one.)

Steve.

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## **New Vessel Updates**

### **R/V LEONARDO**

Ian Sage (Chris Gobey's replacement), SACLANT Undersea Research Centre, reports that R/V LEONARDO finally arrived in La Spezia on 18 August after a troublesome delivery voyage from the UK. As with all new builds, we are experiencing a few teething problems but nothing that is insurmountable. At present, we are conducting trials and proving operating procedures for scientific equipment. If all goes to plan, she will commence a full scientific program of work in mid-October. She is running ISM equivalent procedures and is currently under the UK mercantile flag while we sort out the transfer to the Italian Public Flag.

A very successful Commissioning ceremony was held in La Spezia on 5 Sept. where the ship was officially named by the lady sponsor, Mrs. Marianne Kernan, wife of General Kernan, the current Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic.

R/V LEONARDO has a huge amount of technology packed into her small hull and will provide a very capable scientific research platform for the center. A full noise ranging was conducted prior to delivery and she presents a near silent platform in the slow speed configuration. Dynamic positioning and HiPap acoustic positioning trials were also conducted and proved very successful. Combined with Seapath RTK GPS, she was displaying the ability to hold position to 0.2m in calm conditions.

We are very pleased with this new acquisition and look forward to her entering a full operating cycle.

### **R/V SAVANNAH**

Braxton Tesh, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, reports that the 92' R/V SAVANNAH is performing well after a year in service. The SAVANNAH replaced and is a definite improvement over Skidaway's previous research vessel the 72' BLUE FIN, a wooden boat built by St. Augustine Trawlers and designed more for commercial fishing than oceanographic work.

The steel-hulled SAVANNAH is specifically designed for scientific work. She is doing

biological, physical, chemical and geological oceanography. Designed by Rodney E. Lay & Associates, Jacksonville, FL., she is able to stay out for 10 days and work in 5' seas.

The 8' draft allows the SAVANNAH to work the rivers and fairly far up into the estuaries ensuring that scientists are able to set and haul their test gear and conduct experiments in sloppy offshore weather. The SAVANNAH has roll chocks on the hull and a flume tank that is located under the wheelhouse. The SAVANNAH works the winter months in the rivers and estuaries and offshore in summer keeping her busy year round.

It provides the four crewmen and up to 20 scientists or students accommodations that are as comfortable as possible. Instead of having large bunking areas for six to eight people, there are three staterooms for two people, two staterooms for four people, two staterooms for three people, and two master cabins.

The SAVANNAH has dry and wet labs, an air-conditioned lounge, galley and mess area.

To haul and set the scientific gear, there are two Markey COM-7H-1.5 compact winches loaded with conducting wire. The winches will run their wires through J-frames.

For heavy benthic equipment and moorings, ½" wire from a Markey DUP-8 trawl winch I runs through an adjustable A-frame with two Hawboldt Industries hydraulic cylinders.

To move gear around the deck and for loading and unloading, there's an Amco Veba Sealand Marine knuckleboom crane driven by a Hawboldt hydraulic power unit.

Main power for the SAVANNAH comes from a pair of 900 hp Caterpillar 3406E DITA diesels. The engines are hooked up to Twin Disc MG516 gears with 3.5:1 reductions that turn 48" Hawboldt bronze 4-bladed props. Service speed for the SAVANNAH is 11.5 knots.

### **R/V CAPE HENLOPEN Replacement**

Matt Hawkins, University of Delaware, reports that the design phase for the HENLOPEN replacement has been finalized.

The new vessel will be "general purpose" serving all disciplines in oceanography.

Scientific payloads will be highly variable and include such items as winches, vans, and itinerant deck loads, such as moorings. The vessel should also have solid lifting and towing capability. As a result, it will be designed with “ultimate flexibility” in mind, such that it can be configured to a wide range of missions, both those currently envisioned and those that may develop in the future. In support of high flexibility, it shall be capable of carrying standard 20-foot portable laboratory vans.

The vessel should have excellent slow-speed control as well as good sea-keeping and station-keeping ability. It should be highly maneuverable to work in shallow or confined waters. The most modern communications systems available shall be used to provide a virtual link from ship to shore for scientific data transfer and educational purposes. Acoustic noise levels (both internal and emitted) and chemical emissions from the ship itself shall be minimized to levels acceptable to the scientific operations envisioned. In other words, the vessel should influence its environment as little as possible.

When brought on line in 2006, the new vessel will be a more modern and capable replacement for the University of Delaware’s 120-foot *R/V Cape Henlopen*, which was christened in 1976. The use of new technologies will be explored where possible on the new ship to meet the science mission requirements and serve the scientific community well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The new vessel’s principal area of operation will be the Atlantic coastal waters from Long Island, New York to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, up to 200 nautical miles offshore, and the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays. The vessel may occasionally be required to work as far north as the Gulf of Maine, as far south as Florida, and as far offshore as Bermuda. In short, the vessel must be capable of working near shore, in the bays and sounds, as well as in exposed offshore waters. The vessel should be capable of operating in all seasons and a 24-hour-per-day basis.

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## **Draft Agenda 2002 RVOC Meeting**

Moss Landing Marine Laboratories/Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute

Tuesday, 15 October 2002  
Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute,  
Pacific Forum

0800 Registration and Coffee/Pastry (Guests Invited)

0830 Welcoming Remarks

- Rich Muller, Marine Superintendent, MLML  
Steve Etchemendy, Marine Superintendent, MBARI
- Kenneth Coale, Director Moss Landing Marine Laboratory
- Steve Rabalais, Chairman, RVOC

0900 Old Business

- Minutes 2001 Meeting
- Group Purchase Update
- Joint RVOC/RVTEC – Mike Prince

0915 New Business

0925 Committee and Liaison Reports

- UNOLS - Mike Prince, Ex. Sec. & UNOLS Chair, Dr. Robert Knox
- Safety Committee - Tom Althouse
- Ship Scheduling Committee - Dan Schwartz

1000 Break

1015 Committee and Liaison Reports (cont’d)

- RVTEC - Steward Lamerdin
- AICC - Dan Schwartz
- FIC - Joe Coburn
- SOCP – Steve Rabalais
- Van Standards and Inventory Committee – Matt Hawkins

## 1100 Agency Reports

- NSF – Mike Reeve
- ONR – John Freitag
- NOAA – Beth White
- NAVO – Paul Taylor
- USCG – Joe Bodenstedt, Jonathan Berkson
- State Dept. – Liz Tirpak

## 1145 LUNCH

1300 Special Reports (presentations will be limited to 10min/ea.)

- Representatives from foreign countries  
SACLANT – Ian Sage  
NERC-Geraint West  
NIOZ – Marieke Rietveld  
Others
- Research vessel updates  
AGOR 26 – Robert Hinton  
Cape Hatteras Refit – Quentin Lewis  
Pelican Mid-life - Steve Rabalais  
Alpha Helix Replacement – Tom Smith  
Asterias Replacement – Joe Coburn  
NMFS Fisheries Vessels – Jim Meehan  
Suncoaster Replacement – Randy Maxon  
Robert C. Seaman Update – Phil Sacks  
Henlopen Replacement – Matt Hawkins  
CMMS Update – Bill Hahn  
Post Cruise Assessments and PCA results – Mike Prince  
Safety Statistics – Mike Prince  
Ship Inspection Program – Dolly Dieter  
Shipboard Scientific Support Equipment Program – Dolly Dieter  
Winch and Wire Update (Safe Working Loads, Wire Specs., W&W Inventory and F-O cable) – Mike Prince  
Salary Surveys, Large and Intermediate Ships – Tom Althouse, Bill Hahn

Stability Program Update – Justin Morgan, Glosten Associates  
Other Special Reports may be added as time permits

## 1530 Break

1550 Insurance and Liability (with discussion about OSHA in the fleet) – Dennis Nixon

## 1720 Adjourn

Dinner at the Outer Bank Tank, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, Monterey, CA

Wednesday 16 October 2002  
Moss Landing Marine Laboratories

0830 Human Factors in Ship Design. Dr. Thomas Dobie, University of New Orleans's National Biodynamics

0930 Security – Dan Schwartz, Chair of RVOC Security Committee and Charles Dragonette, ONI - Piracy/maritime security in all regions of the world including Western Hemisphere.

## 1030 – Break

1050 ISM – Class I/II Operators - Class I experiences with emphasis on the fact that ISM is a work in progress. ISM impact on science and development of a common front for presentation to scientific community with an update of the ISM vessel's progress to date.

## 1150 Lunch

1400 Ship Inspection Program – Jamestown Marine Services – An update on the Inspection Program activities with an overview of the ship inspections conducted over the last 12 months.

1500 Isotopes on UNOLS Vessels – Woody Sutherland - Recent experiences and the major hot topics" on isotopes on UNOLS vessels. This issue will later be considered by RVTEC and this will give us an opportunity to learn more about this topic and prepare recommendations for further action.

1600 Medical Standards for Scientists using UNOLS Vessels-TJ Edwards, CDR, USPHS RDHS/MOP/NOAA An overview of at sea medical conditions that may be considered

debilitating and should be of concern to vessel operators in both local and foreign operations.

1630 Continuation of un-finished Special Reports

1700 Adjourn

1720 Tour of MLML and MBARI vessels and Marine Facilities

Thursday 17 October 2002  
Moss Landing Marine Laboratories

0830 Round Table Discussion (Marine Superintendents Only)

Ship Inspection Program (with input from non-Mar Supts.)  
ISM, its impact and extension to other vessels in the fleet  
Term Limits for RVOC Officers  
RVOC/RVTEC Joint Meetings  
Medical Standards for Scientists (with input from non-Mar Supts)  
Quality of Service  
Proposal Sharing  
Other items to be added as needed

1030 Break

1045 Roundtable cont'd

1200 Lunch

1300 Business Meeting

Election of Chair and Vice Chair  
Assignment to Committees  
Review of Action Items Pending  
Suggestion for 2003 agenda  
Nominations and vote on 2004 meeting location

1430 Adjourn

### **Notes and Clippings**

#### **Regulatory**

Guidance on Company Roles and Responsibilities under the 1995 Amendments to the International Convention of Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW).

STCW Grace Period Ends  
Continuing Competency in Basic Safety Training (BST)  
Recent Notes Affecting Implementation of STCW  
Validity of Licenses for Service on Vessels of not more than 200 Gross Registered Tons (GRT) valid for service on Oceans  
From the Bridge: STCW 95  
An Overview of the GMDSS

#### **Safety**

Fire Safety  
“Don’t let terrorists take your ship!”

#### **Miscellaneous**

Double Sling Failure  
Swivel Hoist Rings Add Safety  
Rigging, Hoisting, and Wire Rop  
From the Bridge: Human Factors Engineering  
Maritime Casualties  
Definitions, Tonnages and Equivalents

# **Regulatory**

# **Misc.**

# **Safety**