

# SCOAR Report

by John Bane

- 1) SCOAR had a very successful first Airborne Ocean Science Conference at MLML in May, with about 35 aircraft ocean/atmospheric scientists attending. The suggestion was to continue with this conference about every two years.
- 2) SCOAR continues to contribute to discussions about a better method for disseminating information about the nation's fleet of research aircraft and about getting scheduled on one. To this end, SCOAR will participate in the NSF atmospheric science facilities assessment that is now underway. There is a subcommittee dedicated to airborne platforms (co-chaired by Cheryl Yuhas, a SCOAR quasi-member), and they intend to create a database of airborne platforms (similar to the one the Europeans have: [www.eufar.net](http://www.eufar.net)). This will be a one-stop-shopping type of web site that helps with information and scheduling.

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- 3) Some good news was presented at the SCOAR spring meeting by several of the agencies, including: (1) the establishment of a "catalog of available aircraft" by NASA, (2) the acquisition of one more Twin Otter and one more P-3 by NOAA, (3) the HIAPER Gulfstream jet being brought into service by NSF-NCAR, and (4) the addition of one more King Air by the Naval Research Lab. Tempering this news is the fact that budgets to operate the fleet of federal research aircraft continue to be tight.
- 4) Carl Friehe, who will take over as SCOAR chair in 2007, will attend a workshop at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, which is about to begin operating a "new" A-10 jet (former military fighter jet) for storm penetration research. They are interested in determining how this platform may be of use in oceanographic studies.
- 5) The next SCOAR meeting will be within the next several weeks and will take up the topic of a community survey of needed and desired airborne sensors. This will interface with the NCAR EOL effort to consider airborne needs. There is an upcoming Community Airborne Platform Remote-sensing Interdisciplinary Suite (CAPRIS) Users Workshop, later this month in Boulder, which I plan to attend.