

RVTEC Report

Since the report given at the winter UNOLS meeting, RVTEC members are preparing to attend INMARTECH 2008 in Toulon, France on October 8-10. This international meeting brings together marine technicians from around the world. Sessions allow attendees to share information relating to instrumentation, data collection, data archival and other topics affecting all technicians. In the past, these meetings have shown to be very informative and helpful for all those who attend.

Issues such as crew retention, RF frequency spectrum management, and TWIC continue to be discussed with our community.

New to the list of discussion topics is data archival. The 'NSF Legacy Workshop' was held September 3-5. This workshop brought in data archivists and shipboard data collectors to discuss issues associated with data collection, formats, and archival. This was a very successful meeting and I look forward to this topic as an agenda item at the 2008 RVTEC meeting.

The 2008 RVTEC meeting will be held October 28-30 at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida. This year we will have 'focus group' meetings the day before our normal meeting. The purpose of these focus groups is to have more time to discuss topics. The regular meeting agenda just doesn't seem to be able to schedule enough time for everyone to discuss certain topics to the depth we would like. We hope the focus groups will promote interaction between the technicians. Currently two focus groups are scheduled, HiSeasNet and SWAP. Both of these groups have technicians that want to know what is being developed, troubles experienced and help with the future direction of these programs. Another topic to be discussed will be Rich Findley's spreadsheet to determine safe working loads per the new guidelines. We will also have Ali Hudon, from the Alliance for Coastal Technology, give a talk on best practices for ocean sensors and the sensor comparison testing her laboratory performs. Also on the agenda is a tour of the FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory.