

26th SCUFN MEETING
Tokyo, Japan, 23-27 September 2013

Report of ACUF Activities since SCUFN 25

Greetings, SCUFN members and colleagues,

I regret I do not have the opportunity to meet with everyone in person, but I hope there will be opportunity in the near future to do so. I've always enjoyed the camaraderie and friendship with you all, and I look forward to seeing you all again.

ACUF ACTIVITIES:

The Advisory Board on Undersea Features only met once since the last SCUFN meeting held Oct. 2012. For various reasons we were not able to meet as frequently as we hoped. However, now we are preparing for a different change of pace due to having received nearly 130 new proposals. As the saying goes, "when it rains, it pours". So, we will certainly have more to share with you next year. But for now, there is one new undersea feature that has been approved. I believe the proposers may have even made their submission to SCUFN as well.

UNDERSEA FEATURE NAME RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVAL:

Barker Bank, center point 53°13'S, 46°42'W

The feature is located in the southern Atlantic Ocean, ~475 east of the Falkland Islands, on the Scotia Ridge.

The undersea feature and name were approved by the USBGN on 15 Jan 2013, and currently registered in our GEOnet Names Server (GNS). *Although 'Bank' is part of the name, the Feature Designation/ Category that was applied and approved is 'plateau' or undersea plateau.*

The feature is named in honor of British Scientist, Mr. Peter Barker, initial scientist to study the tectonics of the Scotia Sea. He died June 25, 2012.

The proposal was submitted by Mr. Lawrence A. Lawver and Mr. Ian W.D. Dalziel of the University of Texas at Austin, Institute for Geophysics, and Mr. Robert Larter, British Antarctic Survey.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Peter Barker's Contributions to Ocean Sciences:

“Marine Geophysicist who led pioneering studies into the tectonic and environmental history of the Southern Ocean”, Written by Rob Larter.

Dr. Peter Barker graduated from Kings College London in 1960, having studied physics. In 1964, he moved to Birmingham University to join the Antarctic Marine Group (AMG), which Professor Donald Griffiths had established in the Department of Geological Sciences. A year later, Griffiths handed over its management to Peter, who led and developed it over the next 21 years.

During this time he was Principal Scientist on many research cruises on RRS *Shackleton* and RRS *Bransfield*, the data collected on those cruises underpinning our present understanding of the geological structure and tectonic evolution of the Scotia Sea region. Many early-career scientists took their first steps in research under Peter's guidance at AMG.

Peter became Head of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) Geophysics Division in 1986, and moved to Cambridge. During his first few years, Peter played an important part in specifying the scientific facilities on a new polar research vessel, RRS *James Clark Ross*, launched in 1991. BAS still operate the '*JCR*' and, even today, visiting scientists remark on what an excellent platform it is for multi-disciplinary marine research – a testament to its design vision. Peter went on to lead several research cruises on *JCR*.

Peter was awarded the Polar Medal in 1991 for outstanding achievement and service to British polar exploration and research. He was widely respected internationally, and was invited to sail as Co-Chief Scientist on four DSDP and ODP expeditions, making fundamental contributions to understanding the tectonic and environmental history of South Atlantic and Southern oceans. Peter became a leading figure in the Antarctic and Southern Ocean geoscience community, actively fostering international cooperation. He continued working at BAS until retiring in 1999, and subsequently as an emeritus scientist for a further three years.