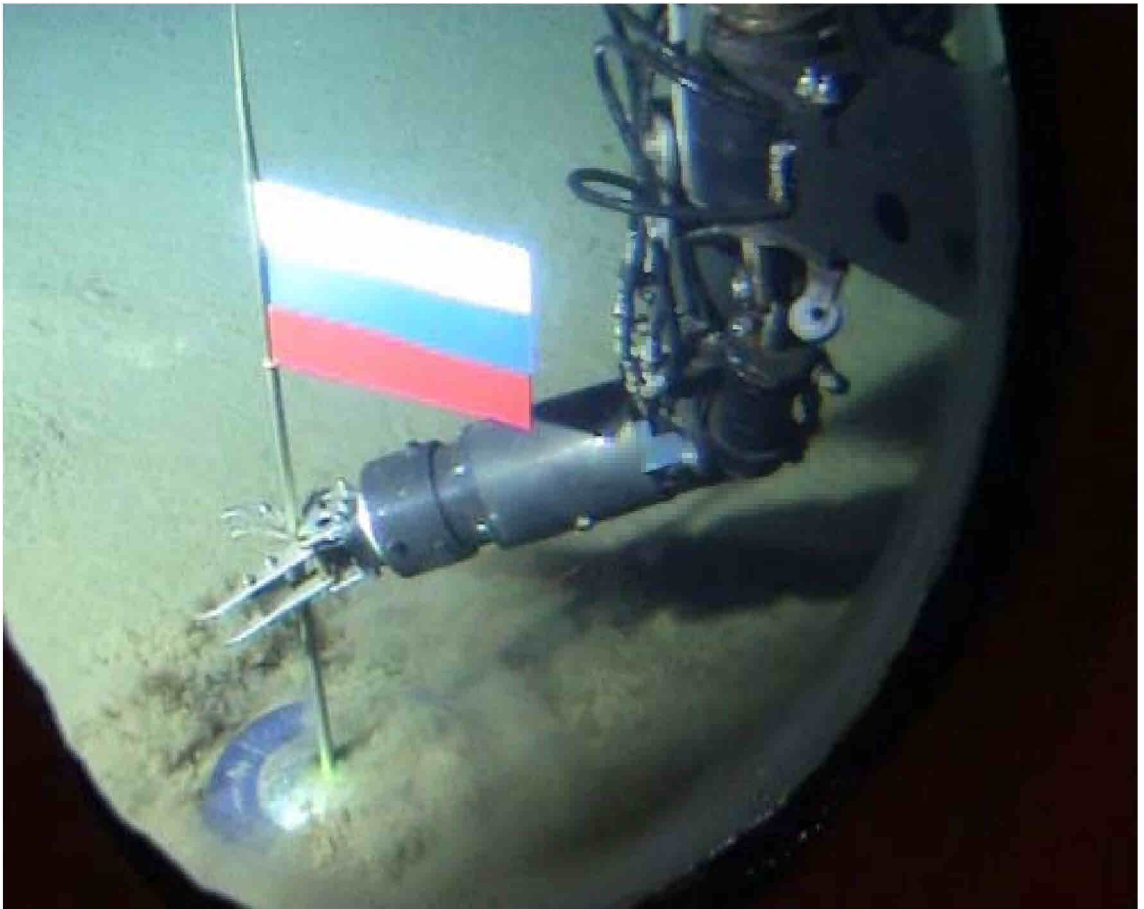


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**Club Member Dr. Anatoly Sagalevitch in *MIR-1* plants Russian Federation flag on sea bottom at North Pole**

## I claim this "Land"...

*Robert G. Williscroft – Editor #1116 (with material adapted from AP and other sources, and inputs from Paul Isley (#1088) and Ralph White (#942))*

It can only happen once in all of history: On Thursday, August 2, 2007, at 8 o'clock GMT, Club member Anatoly Sagalavitch, piloting the Russian deep submersible *MIR-1*, was the first human to reach the ocean bottom at the geographic North Pole, where he planted a titanium flag of the Russian Federation. With him inside *MIR-1*, he carried an official Adventurers' Club of Los Angeles Expedition Flag, which he will return to the Club with appropriate endorsements in due course.

It all started back in 2005 – at least officially. Anatoly has long been the brains and the muscle behind the PP Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, the guys who own and operate the world's deepest diving submersibles, *MIR-1* and *MIR-2*. This ownership includes, of course the submersibles' mothership, *RV Akademik Keldysh*, a fleet of support craft and equipment, and a host of people to maintain and operate them.

The Shirshov Institute has been Anatoly's

baby since before the collapse of the Soviet Union, and since that time, he has built it into one of the world's premier oceanographic research institutes.

*RV Keldysh* is one of the largest oceanographic support vessels in the World. She is equipped with a range of laboratories, and is the only vessel in the world capable of supporting the operation of two deep-diving submersibles simultaneously. *Keldysh* can accommodate a total of 130 personnel, and up to 35 of these berths are allocated to visiting scientists, filmmakers or other charter groups.

The world of research oceanography is not always capable of utilizing the total available oceanographic support systems. When these systems lie idle, they lose money, and in the world of research, that is nothing but bad.

During the late 1990s, Australian Adventurer Mike McDowell developed "High Adventure – High-Dollar Travel Expeditions," taking well-heeled clients up Everest, and renting Russian icebreakers in the

*(North Pole continued on page 2)*

