



NAUTICOS

Meridian Passages

Central Pacific Edition

February 28, 2017

Volume XIII, Number 11

In this issue:

Bounding Main

Plan of the Day

SEA School

Spotlight

Jan Pieter

Classifieds

At Sea

Musings of an Amelia Explorer

We may count ourselves among those who "went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the mighty waters" (Psalms, 107:23). It is a privilege that bears reflection. It is a circumstance rich in contradiction. At once, you are isolated from society, yet in close company with your shipmates. You are immersed in nautical

satisfaction of accomplishing small but important jobs take on a great significance. When we return home and resume our land lives, we find that we have a new appreciation for these things, and find the ways ashore curiously lacking. No matter how eagerly a sailor looks forward to returning to port, to reunite with friends and family, to



Equatorial Sunset – Sue Morris

traditions of organization, timeliness, protocol, and routine, yet always subject to the random whims of the sea and nature. You have almost nothing impeding your vision, but a limited set of things to see. You have set aside any work that seemed essential to do on land, and replaced it with an entirely different set of tasks that are essential to do at sea.

Under these circumstances, the relationship with shipmates, the value of tradition, the nightly wonders of the heavens, and the

enjoy the comforts of home and hearth, once ashore he soon begins to recall fondly the ways of the sea.

While there is some truth in this romantic point of view, the reality for most seafarers is quite different. Cap'n Joe, for one, says, "It's only romantic to those that haven't done it." He wasn't talking about a South Pacific run, with fine weather, good food, and easy work ... for some of us. For the team in Ops, it's like an office job – except the office leans a bit and you don't go home at the end of the day. It's not the same as stints in the engine room, day after day with the heat, noise, and grease. Or twelve-plus hours, seven days a week working the survey gear back aft, or all the back-breaking work that goes on with the deck

... continued

Meridian Passages

Central Pacific Edition

M/V Mermaid Vigilance

Contact: Ops Center

Editor in Chief:

Dave Jourdan

Contributors:

Spence King

Marika Lorraine

Sue Morris

Director of

Photography:

Bill Mills

Complaints:

Cap'n Joe

Layout:

Bethany Jourdan

Plan of the Day February 28, 2017

0900 SEA School: Ops Ctr., Jeff.

1000 Daily Progress Meeting: Ops Ctr.

1500 SEA School: Ops Ctr., Jeff.

NAUTICOS, LLC
For unofficial use only

Mantup Publishing

Jan Pieter

Mermaid Vigilance
Chief Cook



Jan Pieter has always loved making food. He was born on May 1, 1967 in Manado, Indonesia. He now lives just outside of Jakarta in Bogor. He and his wife, Haryanti own a catering company there. Pieter has been working on ships since 1991. His son is finishing high school and may follow in his father's footsteps, but wants to serve on the sea as an engineer. Pieter's daughter just finished college and studied economics. On average Pieter spends three months at a time away from

Indonesia with one or two months home before heads out again. While he's home he helps with the catering company during the week and spends time with his family on weekends. They love to travel, hike, and go to the beach. Bali is only an hour and a half away from home! His favorite places to visit though are Singapore and Hawaii.

Pieter says he's been having fun making American food for this project and enjoys experimenting with the ingredients on board. Baking is his passion and he says the best thing to bake is birthday

cake. He also says the Sunday BBQ's have been entertaining. When asked about this trip there was no hesitation in his reply saying, "I am very happy because the crew and passengers are like family and work together."



... continued from page 1.

gang to keep us afloat, not to mention the cooking and cleaning that keeps us fed and comfortable. It's easier to be "romantic" when you don't have to spend days re-building a diesel generator, or re-assemble a hydraulic power unit in the rain, or cook all day every day for three dozen people.

Now, consider doing it in Alaska, and imagine you are spending most of the time in cold, drenching winds, heavy seas, and primitive surroundings. And much harder work, exhausting physical labor. And some real hazards, even for the experienced sailor. Joe doesn't want to tell some of his stories ... friends he's lost and close calls he's had.

He will tell you, though, that, "Cruise ships don't go to the Bering Sea in January." I wonder why??

SEA School Recap

STEM: "Stories Told by Engineers & Mariners"

So far the expedition team has been treated to the following SEA School talks:

- 20 Feb: Elgen Long, *Noonan's Error*.
- 21 Feb: Spence King, *Safety*.
- 22 Feb: Sue, *Survival Knots*.
- 23 Feb: Jon, *The Amelia Exhibit*.
- 25 Feb: Dave, *The StratEx Project*.

Today's SEA School presentation by Bryan and Rod started with a brief historical background of the early

years of the Collins Radio Company. The program focused on the development of a revolutionary transmitter, the Collins AN/ART-13, along with the Boeing B-29, and how the two came together in the final push to end the war with the Empire of Japan in 1945.

In 2012, Rod, Bryan and several other retired Rockwell Collins engineers completely restored the radio operator position on *Fifi*, the



only flying B-29 at the time. *Fifi* is operated by the Commemorative Air Force out of the old Collins Radio Hangar in Addison, Texas. Once everything was installed and operational (including the original wire antenna), a dedication ceremony was held. Guest of honor Clyde Hussey, who at age 19 was the radio operator on the *Horrible Monster* (believed to be the last B-29 to bomb Japan just prior to the surrender announcement) flew on *Fifi* in his old position for the first time in 67 years. It was a fitting celebration of many years of work.

You can read more about this project at these web sites:

www.b29radio.com
www.cafb29b24.org

MERMAID CLASSIFIEDS

PERSONALS 100

SHORN BY SUE: Variety of (short) hairstyles available. Be the first to sport that "Recon" look that's all the rage. Exclusive ocean view salon. First come, first shorn. Must have health insurance card.

WANTED 200

STORIES for *Meridian Passages*. News, fake news, old news, welcome. Also bulletins, messages, accounts, disclosures, releases, announcements, communiqués, dispatches, or reports. Revelations, tidings, and even gossip will be considered. Dave 4031.

FOR SALE 400

UNCLAIMED: Shrunken cups. On display in Ops, available to rightful owner with ID.

LOST & FOUND 500

FOUND: Old spool of cable, on seafloor, only 3.4 miles deep. Available for salvage. See Tom D. at 3041 for recovery planning.

FOUND: Our position. By celestial navigation, twice. We are so proud! Spence & Dave.

FOUND: Anklet sock, yay!

Place New Ads by Friday – ed.