



NAUTICOS

Meridian Passages

Central Pacific Edition

March 3, 2017

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Central Pacific Edition

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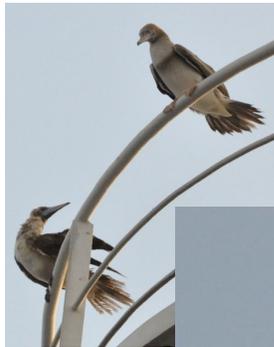
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Wildlife Issue

What's Out Here

Ornithologically speaking, this place is for the birds! Boobies and terns, mainly. Boobies most likely get their name from



the Spanish word *bobo*, meaning dunce. Boobies had the unfortunate (for them) habit of landing on sailing ships. Since they had

no fear of humans they quickly became part of the evening meal.

Fish are also flying around in profusion. We see them



skimming the wavetops ahead of our bow. Rumor has it a wahoo was observed the other day, but we're not telling since fishing is not allowed on *Vigilance*. We will tell about the



huge squid that are attracted to the bright lights astern during REMUS recoveries.

Of course the focus of our endeavors is well below the waves, and we are lucky to have a chance

to see what's down there, thanks to REMUS. Though we are mainly engaged in a sonar

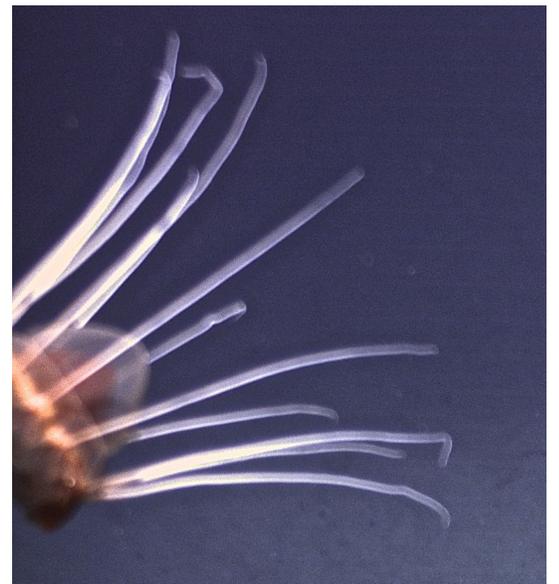
search for now, we did test out the camera on a sortie and managed to capture a few deep sea critters. Common on the seafloor here are acorn worms, which have no bones,



no eyes and no brains with soft and gelatinous bodies. They crawl over the surface of the mud slurping the sediment and excreting a trail behind them. Yuck.

The specimen above and the other seafloor photos here were captured by REMUS at a depth of greater than 18,000 feet.

The helmet jelly is found in every ocean of the world except the Arctic, as deep as 7,000



Plan of the Day March 3, 2017

- 0900** ET REMUS recovery.
- 1200** Sunlines for Sunlovers: Bridge Deck.
- 1500** SEA School: Ops Ctr., Tom & Rod.
- 1600** Daily Progress Meeting: Ops Ctr.

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Tom Vinson (NY0V) had planned to take a trip to India with his wife Karen for their 40th wedding anniversary, but when he got the call that the expedition was on, she turned to him and said he'd better get packing and go find Amelia! He arranged to have flowers delivered on February 26th and she'll be leaving for the India trip without him soon. Their daughter lives in Mussoorie, India with her husband and three kids. They have another daughter, Jodie who lives in Seattle with her husband. And their youngest, Meg is getting married in June and lives in St. Paul.



Tom retired from Rockwell Collins in 2007 and a few years later he and Karen made the move from Cedar Rapids to the log home they designed in Minnesota. His radio days are far from over, though.

Besides all of the radio analysis and communications work he's providing for this expedition (including trying to organize a chat with astronauts on the International Space Station), Tom is a very active ham. He's also on the board of the SeaWord Foundation, the Chosen Valley Community Foundation, and volunteers with a group called Help Our Neighbor which assists the elderly to stay in



their own homes longer. He's active in his church and helps instructors teach English on International Family Night. That is when he's not biking, kayaking, cross-country skiing, or trout fishing. Next up for Tom, a five day trek with a caravan of kayaks and canoes this summer.

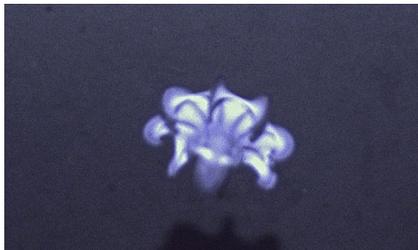
—Marika Lorraine

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meters (23,000 feet). They are 90% water and the rest is tissue and a gelatinous mass. They light themselves from within with bioluminescence.

Umbrella octopuses have a web of skin between the tentacles. They swim up above the ocean floor, spread their tentacles and float

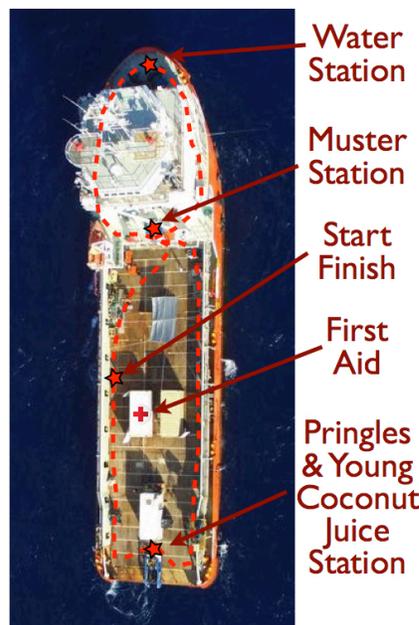


down collecting food looking like an opened umbrella.

The octopus above is seen upside down, probably skittering away from the AUV. We look forward to seeing more exotic creatures of the deep the next time we turn on REMUS's cameras. —Sue Morris

CENTRAL PACIFIC MARATHON!!

Sign up now for the Inaugural First Annual Central Pacific Marathon! Amazing prizes!* A unique quarter mile 209.6 lap all-ocean view course features varied terrain with a nautical theme. Many runners hit "The Wall" around lap 160. Life rings and towage free for runners veering off course. Make sure



you're at the start when that grapple gun is fired to vie for the coveted "Shrunken Cup." Snyder's Pretzels and Hawaiian Isles 100% Purified Water proudly served at the finish.

*It'll be amazing if there are any prizes.

MERMAID CLASSIFIEDS

PERSONALS 100

SUE'S SEASIDE SALON open for business by appointment. Not just any clip joint!

WANTED 200

STORIES for *Meridian Passages*. Keep 'em coming! Dave 4031.

STYROFOAM CUP SHORTAGE! World wide supplies dwindling. Jon and Sue are running out of items to shrink. Please ship any available stockpile to: R/V *Mermaid Vigilance*, vicinity 1°N 176°W.

FOR SALE 400

Learn to Dive! SCUBA lessons. Enjoy the wonders of the deep! Meet Tuesdays at fresh water tank #2. Please shower first. See Oleks for signups.

LOST & FOUND 500

DISAPPEARED: Air tank for the grapple gun. Needed for AUV recovery. REWARD! Greg, 3051.

UNCLAIMED: Safety goggles, trimmed in sporty orange, with pouch. Sue will trade for 1 doz. styrofoam cups OBO. Sue 3344.

LOST: Ball cap with "WW II 60th Anniversary Battle of Saipan & Tinian" motif. Valuable memento of a veteran of the battle, our own Elgen Long. Please help!

Place New Ads by Friday – ed.