



NAUTICOS

Meridian Passages

Central Pacific Edition

March 4, 2017

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In this issue:

Avalanche!

Plan of the Day

Spotlight

Chief Eng. Oleks

Heroic Action

Classifieds

Meridian Passages

Central Pacific Edition

M/V Mermaid Vigilance

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Rock Bottom

REMUS Reveals Dramatic Seafloor Geology

Thanks to hard work and good performance by REMUS OPS, we are being treated to some amazing imagery from the bottom of the ocean. A particularly dramatic example of what is

To get an idea of the scale of this feature, the spacing between the light stripes running across the scene is 1,100 meters (0.6 nm). That makes the pile of rubble at the top of the screen about a half mile across. The stripes



probably an undersea landslide is shown here. Several sonar passes were made over this area with each swath overlapping. After the REMUS collected the data, Jeff merged it together with navigation to make a mosaic, yielding the composite image shown here.

represent the nadir of the sonar (line directly below) where imagery is poor. We overlap swaths to be sure to cover everything.

As interesting as this terrain is, we are hoping to avoid a lot of rough bottom, as crevices and craters can hide our target. Also, steep ridges can be a hazard for the AUV as we try to skim the sonar just off the bottom. However, we must take what the sea will give us, and these topographic features are not only interesting, but provide some geographic "tie points" to help us assess our navigation

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Plan of the Day March 4, 2017

- 0900** SEA School: Ops Ctr, Jon.
- 1000** Daily Progress Meeting: Ops Ctr.
- 1200** Surprise Abandon Ship Drill.
- 1330** ET REMUS recovery.

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Oleksandr Baybak Chief Engineer

Oleks jokes that he was born in an orange jumpsuit. He is from Odessa, Ukraine and his father, grandfather and uncle all have claimed the title of ship engineer. Oleks knew he liked the lifestyle so he followed the family tradition. A tour of *Mermaid's* engineering spaces shows that he's proud of his crew and really knows his business.

He and his wife Julia recently became parents. They welcomed



twins Anna and Andrew on December 12th, 2016. About being away from the babies, he says, "Of course it's hard, but it's a seaman's life. For me it's normal." His father is still working on container ships and sometimes the two end up at the same port town. When that happens, they try to get together to have a drink and swap stories. He and Julia love to travel and in the past she has met him at the end of a cruise so they could tour the area and then travel home together. A good way to save on



airfare! The above photo of Julia and the twins has drawn many "awwwww" reactions from all of us on board.
—Marika Lorraine

... continued from page 1.

accuracy and to ensure we line up with older data. Fortunately, the vast majority of the seafloor in this region is quite flat and featureless, and the Electra should stand out clearly when we image it.

Operations Summary

Mission 007 concluded yesterday morning and Mission 008 started after a swift turnaround. Two notable improvements were achieved. The battery pack service life was extended to permit more lane coverage per mission, meaning more survey time available. And the on deck service interval was reduced by a significant amount, meaning more survey time available. All of this speaks well for the teamwork that is evident out here. Well done everyone!

S/V *Sauvage* Arrival Imminent:

The meeting at sea of the sailing vessel *Sauvage* and *Mermaid Vigilance* is planned for Sunday. A personnel transfer by small boat will occur in which explorer Alan Eustace will join the team and participate in the mission for a number of days. Alan has come all the way from California to be with us. Be sure to welcome him aboard.

We'll also host a visitor, Nino Wattrelot, crewmember of *Sauvage* and licensed engineer in the megayacht industry. He asked for a tour of the *Mermaid* and to have a look at the technology we use. A lifelong sailor, Nino was raised on sailing yachts. He has traveled extensively around the Pacific. You

are encouraged to chat with Nino – just remember security at all times, "You are not free to discuss details of the operation."

NOTICE TO SPORTS FANS

The Basketball "Hooeyknots" are taking their undefeated record on the road this SUNDAY afternoon. They will take a challenge from any one at any time as long as REMUS is busy on the bottom. HooeyKnot fans anticipate a spanking is in order for anyone who steps on to the timber wood with them. These bad boys of the West are called The Mean Machine for a good reason. Doctor Pam will be on call in the hospital all day. For this challenge, "No Rules Apply" rules apply. The losing team with their fans will stand together and face the winning team and their fans and sing a heartfelt song of hope and redemption to the victors following the game. Fans are reminded to please not bring weapons to the game. All forms of noise-making are encouraged. Go HooeyKnots!

In other news, in a dramatic at-sea rescue this morning, Bryan leapt into action to save a runaway quadcopter. Bill's machine was apparently distracted by a passing booby and refused to shut down upon landing. With props spinning wildly and gyros oscillating crazily, the copter was heading for certain destruction when Bryan grabbed it and held on. After a few moments, Bill and Jeff were able to tame the wayward aircraft. Unfortunately, in the process one of the sharp props

flayed a nasty gash in Bryan's hand. Doc Pam, unavailable while attending a medical conference (sleeping), said she would have expressed "concern," and upon examination declared it to be an "inconsequential" flesh wound.

MERMAID CLASSIFIEDS

PERSONALS 100

SUE'S SEASIDE SALON open for business by appointment. Sue shears salty sailors by the seaside.

WANTED 200

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

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

LOST: "E" Transponder, vicinity Howland Island. Doesn't answer to anything. Last heard on bottom. Valuable "Amelia-belia" on board. Free dual glass ball buoy reward (condition as is). 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. This is no joke!

Place New Ads by Friday – ed.