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Central Pacific Edition
M/V Mermaid Vigilance
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Class in Session

A New Meaning to "Distance Learning"

Our first direct contact with remote explorers was a success! Kathy Lamont and 14 of her gifted 5th graders from Antietam Elementary in Woodbridge, Virginia chatted with us via some complicated radio maneuvers. The equipment on board *Vigilance* communicated via HF (high

"What does the REMUS 6000 run on?"

"Where did the AE doll go on the REMUS?"

"How far from land are you?"

Though it was admittedly a little hard to hear the kids, Tom gave excellent responses expanding on the answers: REMUS is powered



Tom and Sallie talk with 5th graders in Virginia from the bridge of Mermaid Vigilance.

frequency) radio link to a station on the Big Island of Hawaii; from there a system called "Echo Link" piped the audio onto the internet, and Kathy was able to receive it on her phone.

As prep for the talk, the kids had watched some of the videos from the Nauticos site, read articles and created a graphic about what they learned so they could share with the class. Some of the questions they asked us were:

by batteries; the AE doll rode in the battery compartment; and the nearest populated land (Tarawa) is about 600 nautical miles from us. Kathy told us, "I was impressed with how quiet my kids were. I told them the audio would be low so they'd need to be quiet, and they were. I got a few raised eyebrows with the answers, which was cute. When we were done a few kids said, 'That was cool!' which is fun to hear from 11 year olds just listening to audio." A big thank you to Gary Belcher (KH6GMP) on the big island in Hawaii who helped the radio guys set up the connection.

Tonight at around midnight the radio guys will turn their antenna to the sky as they hope to make contact with the ISS (International Space Station) for a few minutes as they whiz overhead.

Plan of the Day March 11, 2017

- 0900** SEA School: Sea Porch, Spence.
- 1000** Daily Progress Meeting: Ops Ctr.
- 1500** Est. REMUS recovery.

Tom Dettweiler

Ocean Explorer

Tom Dettweiler was born with salt water in his veins (so says Jeff anyway). His background is amazing, and that's just the projects he can talk about. He has more than 40 years of experience and is a recognized leader in the field of Deep Ocean Exploration and Operation. He has a broad background with virtually all types of instrumentation, tools, and platforms, both manned and unmanned, used in the ocean. He has participated in or led many of the well-known accomplishments in the ocean field (including the *Titanic* discovery). He is also recognized in film, books, and awards for his accomplishments.



Currently, Tom holds the title of President of TKD Enterprises, which means he provides independent consultation and engineering and operations support to the ocean industry and government including continuing support to Odyssey Marine Exploration. From 2010 until 2014 Tom was the Director of the Mineral Exploration Division of Odyssey which discovered and explored a world-class phosphate reserve. They worked with various regulatory agencies and governments to become a recognized world expert in the developing field of undersea minerals and they did so with a focus on environmental responsibility.

Tom's favorite accomplishment is helping find the Israeli submarine *Dakar*. It's a story he tells with pride

and often a bit of emotion in his voice. That's saying a lot as Tom is always calm, and when he talks you better bet he is saying something of value. He lives in Dunkirk, MD and raises alpacas, emus, donkeys, goats, chickens, pigs, and more with his wife H el ene.

— Marika Lorraine



SEA School Update

Today's SEA School was a practical lesson in nautical knots by Cap'n Joe. A gathering of a dozen or so learned to weave a splice. Successful students were awarded a soggy Oreo.

Have You Noticed?

The scenery in the mess room is not quite so greenery. Provisioning day for this vessel was way back on February 13th. We've enjoyed fresh salads, fruits, vegetables at every meal since. Well, things are going to change around here. Gradually, we'll be seeing less and less of the fresh stuff until one day we see

none. It's a normal part of seafaring. Produce rides comfortably in the chiller, day in and day out. But it can't stay fresh in there forever. It ripens and eventually spoils. The galley team separates it so that spoiled food never reaches the serving line. But at some point, it's gone.

Green leafy vegetables are the first to go, such as lettuce and spinach. Soft fruits and vegetables are next, such as grapes and tomatoes. The hard fruits and vegetables last longest, such as apples, onions and potatoes. But count yourself lucky, at least we have refrigeration. Back in the old

days, explorers were treated to one meal a day consisting of salt pork (salted dried meat) and hard tack (petrified bread). And don't let your eyes wander on to your bench mate's plate, that's a good way to get stabbed in the night.

MERMAID CLASSIFIEDS

PERSONALS 100

DOWN DOG! Hot yoga, Spaulding's Aft Deck Studio, Fridays, 2 PM. Wear sunscreen. "Goddess" Marika instructs.

WANTED 200

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

SOCKS STILL ADRIFT: 1 gray/lime "Feetures" footies and 1 gray/white "Speedform" footie. Seeking matching pair. Sue 3344.

FOR SALE 400

FOR SWINGERS ONLY: Hammock rental by the hour. Relax in comfort in exclusive Container Alley. Ocean view. Towel boy included (tips appreciated). Call Mark, 3052.

LOST & FOUND 500

LOST: TP roll dispenser. \$10 REWARD! Marika 4062

STILL LOST: Elgen's Saipan ball cap. Keep your eyes peeled!

Place New Ads by Friday – ed.

