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Central Pacific Edition  
M/V Mermaid Vigilance  
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## Milestone Merriment

### Halfway Day a Hit

It is a sailing tradition to celebrate the halfway point of a cruise, even if you're not sure exactly when that point will occur. The Nautical Rodeo idea was conceived by Spence and Sue when they realized that the halfway point was just one day away. The timing was perfect to incorporate the event into our regular Sunday bar-b-cue. Some games and prizes were cooked up in a hurry. Bryan was asked to host the event as MC. A sound system and music was added and a firepit was concocted using the bar-b-cue grill. The program included dancing under the full moon, and a nightcap of smores.

We started the festivities with dinner at 5PM (a practical move as the Equatorial sun is quite intense at noon). Folks broke out their party attire (except the REMUS OPS team who were facing an imminent AUV recovery – the survey never stops!) Dave (decked out in Hawaiian shirt and dreads) followed with a few remarks about the tradition of Halfway Day, and recognized the excellent service from the galley team, Pieter, Mardan and Susanto.

MC Bryan took over the mike to explain what an American Rodeo is all about:

"The American cowboy after a long week of wrangling cattle out on the trail would be anxious for a bit of recreation. So they got together with other cowboys and show off their wrangling skills by roping calves, riding bulls and their horsemanship. It started out as recreational activity for cowboys, and today it has become a spectator sport, in which the competition is fierce and huge prize money is awarded. There are not too many cowboys in these parts, but we have plenty of mariners. This Nautical Rodeo is a mariner skills participation event. Everyone is welcome to try."

The first event was Competitive Knot Tying. Participants each had a piece of line in their hand, and upon the signal to start, judge Spence gave them a knot to tie. The quickest draw won.

The second event was the Heaving Line Toss. Participants each had three tosses of the heaving line in an attempt to drop the monkey fist in the bull's eye, a trash can. The last event was the Jellyfish Throw. Teams of two tossed a water filled latex glove to their partner on the signal from the referee. After successful throws, one team member took a step backward, and tossed the glove back to their partner.

Prizes were awarded at the end of competition: an autographed photo of Pamela Earhart, who regretfully could not be here.

The Rodeo wrapped up to much laughter and many splattered "jellyfish." Unfortunately, clouds interfered with views of the simultaneous sunset & moonrise, but we were confident the events occurred anyway. Next was the bonfire. Music and dancing ensued.



### Plan of the Day March 13, 2017

**0900** SEA School, Ops Ctr.: Jon  
**1000** Daily Progress Meeting: Ops Ctr.  
**1500** SEA School bonus, Ops Ctr.: Bill  
**2245** Est. REMUS recovery.

continued...

**Mardan Andi Kanna**, our very able and enthusiastic Second Cook, hails from Jakarta and was born with killer dance skills. He showed off his moves at the Nautical Rodeo on Sunday blowing us all away with his pop n' lock. He



loves hip-hop music and Jay Z and says busting a move is easy, "Just move your body with the music." He told me this job "is not boring." Mardan has been working on ships since 1997 and loves the sunsets out at sea. He has a wife and four daughters who all help run the family business (along with a cousin or two) at home in Palopo South Sulanesi in Indonesia. When Mardan is home, he steps in to help with that business raising, caring for, and selling birds, mostly parrots. He loves his lovebirds. He also loves sushi. Mardan and the team get up at 4AM to help prep our meals.

**Susanto Doni** is our Steward. This is his third year on ships. He likes to cook and is looking forward to more time at sea and moving up the chain. He says the people on

the ship are like family. Susanto's family on land is his wife and seven year old daughter. Susanto is 31 and shy though he sings and plays guitar. He lives in Temanggung, Java and has a tobacco farm at home. — Marika Lorraine



...continued from page 1.

A brief squall sent the revelers running for cover, and serving of Indonesian Style S'mores was postponed because REMUS operations and data analysis was started. They were served in the mess for snacks. Traditional s'mores, that gooey chocolaty marshmallowy thing between graham crackers was not possible. Chef Pieter has never heard of marshmallow before. He googled it and found that he didn't even have the ingredients to make them. So instead he improvised a chocolate and peanut butter concoction between two wafer things. It was really quite good. He dubbed it "Indonesian style."

**MARCH MADNESS** comes to the Vigilance! If you'd like to match your wits with the best, or just risk \$5 for fun, Join **Mermaid March Madness**. See Greg for details and take a shot! Picks & cash by 10AM Tuesday. No Kalman filters, please.

### NATIONAL CHAMPS!!

Missing home and missing your children's accomplishments is part of being at sea, but thanks to my "village," I almost felt like I was in Virginia Beach at Cheer and Dance Extreme's two day National Championship. Our daughter

Anna's Calvert All Stars, *Blackout* Senior 2 squad hit their first day's performance with zero deductions. As Coach Tara always says, "You can't win with deductions." As soon as they came off the mat, I was downloading a video of their performance – thanks to my village back home. At the end of the day, *Blackout* was in first place, with a 1.10 lead! Day two, they needed to repeat what they did on day one if they wanted this win. They wanted it! Another zero deduction performance. Another video for me



photo by Candy Wheelock

to download. Coaches Jake and Tara could not be more proud of the team. After having a rocky start to the season, the team came together and put on the performance of a lifetime. They walked away as **National Champions** with jackets and a banner! Even though I wasn't there to give Anna her big 'ole hug and tell her how proud I was as she came off the mat, Grandma and her many other "moms" made her feel like I was almost there as they made me feel like I was in Virginia Beach instead of somewhere in the middle of the Pacific. — Sue Morris

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