



NAUTICOS

# Meridian Passages

Central Pacific Edition

March 15, 2017

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## 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**

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## Farewell

### Alan Begins Journey Back to Civilization

**W**e were sorry to see Alan depart today on the sailing vessel *SauVage*, bound for Funafuti, then Fiji, then the Mainland and eventually to Lancaster, PA. It will take him about five sailing days to cover the over 600 nautical miles to the Funafuti atoll south of here, and considerably less time to make it the rest of the way to Pennsylvania.

Unfortunately, owing to timing and short scheduling window of this expedition, Alan was unable to spend the entire search mission on board. However, the ten days he spent with us were a great experience for all. He was



able to immerse himself in our operations, catch up with details of the analysis work that underpins our search having all the experts at hand, and dive into the technology of REMUS and our sonar analysis tools. In a few short days he became an integral part of the team and said he enjoyed the camaraderie. Before he left, he thanked the Captain and crew for their hospitality and left us with some words of support and encouragement.

Spence reported feeling separation anxiety in response to losing a shipmate. Doc Pam

examined him, expressed only mild concern, and prescribed a dose of Oreos. Pam herself was seen trying to climb over the rail as the sailboat departed, but was restrained by Bryan who slapped a running taut line hitch around her wrist.

The crew of *SauVage* took on a load of fuel from us, and returned the favor with a swag bag of goodies. Included was a lube oil filter for the Engineer, a *SauVage* t-shirt, some fancy scarves, a postcard, and three bottles of spirits. Doc Pam immediately took custody of the alcohol, and said she would inventory it in her



cabin. She expressed "concern" that it be administered properly. (Did we mention this is a "dry" ship?)

After departure, we sent the following message to the Captain and crew of *SauVage*:

*Thank you for your kind gift of nice wines, liqueur and colorful fabrics. These things thrilled our team. Our captain was most pleased at the sight of the fuel filters; our ladies were most excited for the chance to improve fashion around here; and we all are looking wistfully at the wines and liqueur. The vessel owners did not think to provide us any cork pullers. But we have engineers, so don't worry about us.*

*We hope you get off to a good start and have a safe trip to Funafuti.*

*continued...*

### Plan of the Day March 15, 2017

**0900** SEA School, Ops Ctr.: Tom D.

**1000** Daily Progress Meeting: Ops Ctr.

**1330** Est. REMUS recovery.

"They also serve who only stand and wait." — Milton

If I may borrow Milton's line and tweak his meaning a bit, I want to recognize those important folks who "stand and wait" back home but also serve our cause while we head out on expedition. They are just as much a part of the team as anyone on board.

**Charlotte Vick** has been a busy bee in Honolulu supporting ashore logistics (including organizing our re-supply mission) and coordinating PR. **Bethany Lacroix** is handling our great and popular website; **Jenne James** helped get us off the ground and is handling communications; and **Louise Mnich** has been indispensable supporting our contracting and legal needs. But today I want to spotlight:

### David Kling

When we launched this expedition we needed a reputable individual

to help manage the funds, make wire transfers, and be sure the cash kept flowing. For this, I looked no further than down Mills Road in Kennebunkport to my friend David. Not only that, but he wrote his own spotlight! In his words:



### SPOTLIGHT

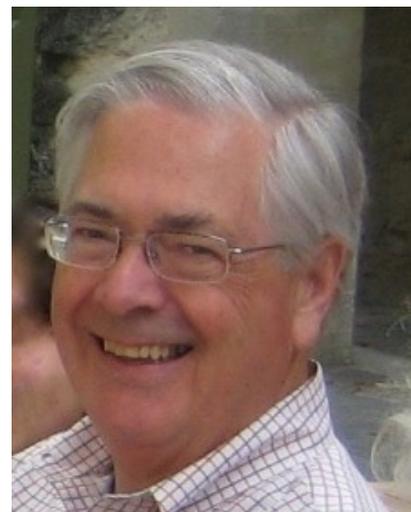
"I've known Dave Jourdan since my late wife and I moved to Kennebunkport in 2003, where we live about a half mile apart.

Since then, we've become good friends, golfing buddies and generally partners in crime as members of the Cape Porpoise Mafia. I've been (as have all of Dave's local friends) an avid follower of Dave's adventures looking for Amelia. We're pretty excited to think that this expedition just might be the one. I guess it was because of my trustworthy face and maybe my career in banking that led Dave to ask me to be "Master of Coin," i.e., making the payments that grease the wheels of

the whole operation. I could not be more pleased to be in support.

So, we're hoping to hear good news and wish you all the best of good hunting. In the meantime, we Mainers are enjoying blizzard conditions – hopefully the last big (or any) snowstorm of the season.

All the best, David"



...continued from page 1.

For Alan: From all of us here we join together to say thank you for sharing time with us and showing your support in so many ways. We all share the passion for discovery, and we'll pursue the truth wherever the facts lead us until the sea finally gives up her secret. We're proud to sail for the Eustace Earhart Discovery Expedition. And yours was the most memorable arrival and departure we've seen yet.

The Eustace-Earhart Discovery Team



Vigilant Cheer Patrol honors the National Champion Blackout Squad

**MERMAID MARCH MADNESS** is on! If you didn't get your picks & ante into "Numbers" Packard by 2100 GMT you missed the boat. Stay tuned for exclusive updates and check results against your bracket. Passages is the ONLY paper on board with this inside scoop. Remember, the winner must buy rounds in Majuro until all funds are exhausted.

**LATEST RESULTS:** The pre-first round (zeroth round?) "Play in" saw **Mt. St. Mary's** best New Orleans. They will play Villanova in Round 1. Also, **Kansas State** beat Wake Forest; they will play Cincinnati.

### Winter Storm

While those whiners back east are complaining about blizzards and deep freezes, we have had some storm activity of our own. You may have noticed the persistent showers around the ship, with condensation dripping in profusion out of overhead vents in Ops, the Mess, and just outside of Bill & Bryan's room, among other locales. This is caused by either excessive outside humidity, a malfunctioning A/C system, or it means Oleks has made so much fresh water that the tanks are overflowing. Cap'n Joe has checked

the glass and he says the belowdecks drizzle may abate soon.

### Expedition Update

The REMUS OPS team worked overtime yesterday as we completed one of our search areas, collected all of our transponders from the bottom, and transited to the next spot. There we deployed a pair of transponders and surveyed them, then Mission 017 was launched. All of this happened between 10 PM last night and 10 AM this morning. It took the entire OPS team to support this. Well done! Get some sleep!

### MERMAID CLASSIFIEDS

**PERSONALS 100**

**WANTED 200**

**STORIES** for *Meridian Passages*. Sea, land, or air stories welcome. Dave 4031.

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**FOUND!!:** Sue's socks. Yay!

**Place New Ads by Friday – ed.**