

March 21, 2017

Volume XIII, Number 32

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### Meridian Passages

Central Pacific Edition

M/V Mermaid Vigilance

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## ISS Issue

### From Sea to Space

November Alpha One Sierra Sierra, this is November Yankee Zero Victor, Maritime Mobile, copy?..."

"... November Alpha One Sierra Sierra heard you loud and clear."

Station Commander Shane Kimbrough's (Radio call sign NA1SS) voice was met with clapping and cheers when Tom Vinson (NY0V) made contact. The crew in the International

study hard, work your tail off. Find something you are passionate about and then get after it and you will be amazed at what you can accomplish."

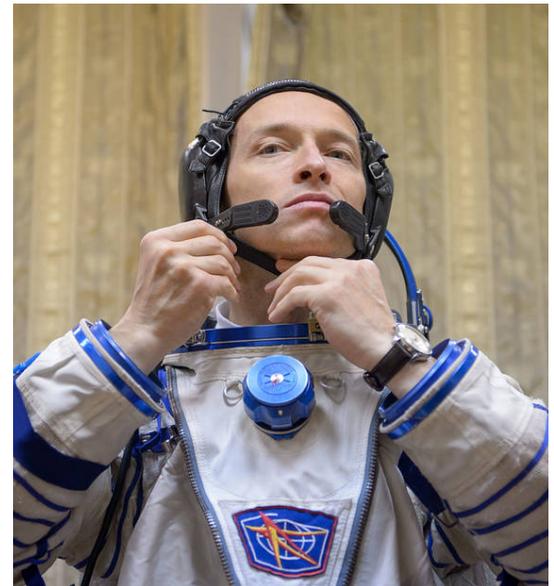
Cap'n Joe was next and he told Kimbrough it was an honor to be speaking with the commander. They chatted about how the ISS crew will be heading home in three weeks on April 10th to complete their six-month mission. Joe asked if they talk Earth politics with the



**Astronaut Shane Kimbrough**

Space Station is extremely busy and a few previous attempts to chat didn't pan out. So the crowd gathered on the bridge of the Mermaid Vigilance knew this talk was special.

Sallie Smith jumped on the microphone first and asked if he had a message for the kids and educators following along on our expedition. He said he has a soft spot in his heart for educators and his message for the kids was, "You have to work hard. Things don't come easy. Things like this require a lot of work, as well as anything that's worthwhile in life. So



**Cosmonaut Sergei Ryzhikov**

cosmonauts. It turns out that part is similar to ship etiquette; the diverse group stays away from politics and just keeps things business and pleasure. Marika then asked about his favorite thing to do in the unique environment. Kimbrough said his favorite thing is to look out the window back at our beautiful planet.

Next Oleks said a quick few words to Russian Cosmonaut Sergei Ryzhikov wishing him a successful and safe stay and return from space. Then Sergiy got to speak with Sergio! Our ship's ETO and the cosmonaut chatted in Russian about how little free time there is up there and the beauty of life out the window. I think our Sergio wins the award for the biggest smile through the event. Tom explained what we are up to out here looking for the Electra and Kimbrough asked how the search was

### Plan of the Day March 21, 2017

**0100** Est. REMUS recovery.

**0300** Est. Transponder deployment.

**1400** Daily Progress Meeting: Ops Ctr.

*continued...*

**Jon Thompson** is a Colorado native now living in Germantown, TN. He will serve as our Exhibition Manager once we find the Electra. He graduated from West Point and earned a master's degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Texas. He owned and managed a successful construction equipment business generating over 80 million dollars in annual sales. His multiple venture capital projects continue to this day. His travels in support of the Defense and State Departments have taken him to Iraq, Egypt, Poland, Honduras, Chile, China and many others.

Jon was named director of Cultural Affairs for the City of Memphis where he developed and managed *WONDERS*, a series of blockbuster art and cultural exhibitions including *Napoleon*, *Imperial Tombs of China*, *Titanic*, and others. The combined attendance of exhibitions in Jon's control exceeded over five million

visitors. The *Titanic* exhibition of recovered and conserved artifacts, seen by almost two million visitors, required intensive international collaborative efforts regarding conservation, security, ownership issues, and photographic rights. Additionally he was responsible for publishing museum quality exhibition catalogs, all audiovisual presentations, exhibition design and contract negotiations for multiple venue locations as well as merchandising rights and product production for the exhibition gift shops.

Jon has concluded successful negotiations with the major museums of the world, including the Louve, Victoria and Albert Museum, The British Museum, the Smithsonian, The National Gallery, the Forbes Collection and others. He has worked with National Geographic, and appeared on television specials relating to *Titanic*, as well as exhibition merchandise specials.

Jon holds a commercial multi-engine pilot's rating and is an avid historical aviation researcher. He served as an airport commissioner for the Memphis International Airport, the busiest cargo airport in the world, for 28 years. He was a combat pilot in Vietnam where he was awarded a Bronze Star, a Meritorious Medal and sixteen Air Medals.

He is married to Susan, his wife of forty-six years. They are the parents of two daughters and have two grandsons. — Marika Lorraine



going. Tom said all was well and mentioned we were using a REMUS AUV from WHOI searching at 5,500 meters depth.

The very exciting exchange ended with an agreement to try to get astronaut Peggy Whitson on the line next time. "Chat again on Sunday. NA1SS, out!" — Marika Lorraine



**FUN FACT:** The astronauts on ISS were the closest humans to *Mermaid Vigilance* when it passed overhead yesterday!

### Thoughts of the Day

Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

Just wondering if gun manuals have trouble shooting sections.....

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