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In this issue:

Rendezvous

Plan of the Day

Spotlight

Bill Mills

Classifieds

Meridian Passages

Central Pacific Edition
M/V *Mermaid Vigilance*
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Re-Supply Mission

Vigilance Hooks Up with S/V Machias

“Being an oceanographer is not quite the same as being a professional sailor. Oceanographers have the best of two worlds – both the sea and the land. Yet many of them, like many sailors, find it extraordinarily satisfying to be far from the nearest coast...”

— Roger Revelle (1909-1991)

Yesterday we welcomed the good ship S/V *Machias* built in the State of Maine and operated from Honolulu. We learned that skipper and owner, Cap'n Bill Austin, is a well known representative of both the sea and land worlds and precisely the kind of person we needed for a mission to our remote location.

His crew of three are seasoned seamen who are fiercely loyal and confident in their captain. All of which builds our confidence in the intrepid team.

Machias is an eighty-two-foot Maine-built steel-hull, staysail schooner, registered as a freight carrier and operating out of Honolulu. With a long history of educational work for the University of Hawaii and the Honolulu public schools in past decades, it has been part of the community and is still engaged in whatever venture puts her to sea.

According to Mary Crowley, the word “*Machias*” roughly translates in the Native American Passamaquoddy tribe language as “little bird on big water,” a reference to the *Machias* River in Maine. *Machias* is known as the site of the second naval battle in the

American Revolution. In his *History of the Navy of the United States of America*, none other than James Fenimore Cooper dubbed this engagement “the Lexington of the Seas.” The battle, which occurred in June 1775 at *Machiasport*, began after townspeople refused to provide the British with lumber for barracks. This led to the capture of the armed schooner HMS *Margaretta* by settlers under Captain Jeremiah O'Brien and Capt. Benjamin Foster.

Aboard *Machias* was precious cargo important to our mission, specifically ten glass

spheres used as deep sea floats for transponders, and two replacement transponders used for underwater navigation. There were also some treats for the teams living and working aboard the *Mermaid Vigilance*: chocolate, macadamia nuts, and a few other delights.

The re-supply mission was organized in some haste on March 6th as a rash of float failures (a very unusual occurrence) threatened to stall our expedition before it had hardly begun. With a normal inventory of eight pairs plus spares, the REMUS team was down to five operating units early on and four before the re-supply arrived.

Fortunately, the team managed to juggle the available units with little loss of survey time. Offered a bonus for quick response, Cap'n Austin organized a crew and took on supplies for a three-week sea voyage in just a few days. His cargo arrived from Massachusetts and was carefully packed on board with help from the University of Hawaii Marine Center. *Machias* got underway on March 12th for a 10-day transit. Mary Crowley of Ocean Voyages helped setup the charter.



Plan of the Day March 23, 2017

- 1200 Est. REMUS Recovery.
- 1400 Daily Progress Meeting: Ops Ctr.
- 1500 SEA School Movie! Ops. Ctr.

continued...

Bill Mills

Director of Photography

Bill is based in St. Petersburg Florida, but he's traveled the world telling stories. He started his career in local news, and moved over to Turner to begin his feature film and documentary life working on Portrait of America with Hal Holbrook. After that, Bill decided to start his own business. He's created and worked on countless projects but his favorite feature films are *Wild America* and *The Bedroom Window*.

His favorite documentaries are *I-52*, *Apollo F-1 Engine Expedition*, the

Amelia search, and *Tigers of the Snow*. *Tigers* was nominated for 5 Primetime Emmy awards. In his career (so far) Bill has collected seven Emmys and three Golden Eagles.

Bill loves to travel because he gets to see how people in other countries live. He says at the end of the day, we are all similar. It's a great perspective and helps people feel at ease around him and the camera.

Bill shoots on land and under water. He loves scuba diving, good food, good wine, and sailing. He is a freelance sailing instructor and plans to transition to that full time with Southwest Florida Sailing Services



once he decides to put the camera down. His son is in the sound business in Atlanta.

— Marika Lorraine



... continued from page 1

Cap'n Joe organized the deck crew and rehearsed the event the day before. It was a busy morning as *Machias* came in sight around 0800, just as REMUS OPS was launching the AUV.

Cap'n Noe took charge of the ship's launch, known as the FRC (Fast Response Craft) and fetched the cargo in three trips back to *Vigilance*, where it was hoisted aboard by crane. The operation went very smoothly and soon *Machias* reversed course and headed back home.

Our own Cap'n Joe has small acquaintance with land, but while at sea he appears to have no aversion to treats.

— Charlotte Vick

★★SAFETY NEWS FLASH★★

If anyone needs to contact the bridge from the back deck in an emergency, like man overboard or an accident requiring medical attention, there is a call button on deck.

Go to the ladder going up to the third deck. Stand on the fourth step facing forward. Hit the button marked "CALL". Speak into the loudspeaker directly above you. The deck officer on watch will respond.

And thanks to Charlotte for a tremendous job getting this important mission off the ground in such short order! — ed.

CORRECTION:

The March 21st issue of MP included a Spotlight on Jon Thompson, which stated: "He is married to Susan, his wife of forty-six years." This line should have read:

"He has been oh-so-happily married to his lovely wife Susan, his wife of forty-six years."

Susan (aka "Aunt Pretty") wanted everyone to know of Jon's good luck and happiness.

MERMAID CLASSIFIEDS

PERSONALS 100

WANTED 200

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

LESSONS LEARNED. For *EEDE Final Report*. Spence 4051.

FOR SALE 400

FREE: Blood Pressure screening, Thursday 1-3PM. Followed by psych evaluation and sonar Rorschach test. Doc Pam, Sick Bay.

YOU MISSED THE BOAT! *SS Machias*, has sailed. Too bad!

LOST & FOUND 500

LOST: Mostly clean blue, yellow, & white sock with logo "<d" sock. Free to a good home. See Bill 3071.

LOST: iPhone power cube. Was under the desk with the printer in Ops. Dave 3031.

Place New Ads by Friday – ed.

