

March 26, 2017

Volume XIII, Number 37

In this issue:

**Life at Sea**

**Plan of the Day**

**Spotlight**

Greg Packard

**Ghost Story**

**Classifieds**

### 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**

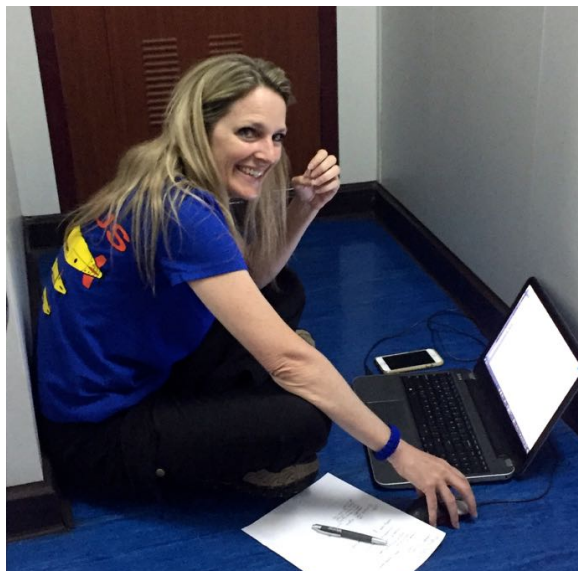
Layout:  
**Bethany Jourdan**

## The Mariner Ashore

### How to Simulate Shipboard Life

The following are suggestions for the land-locked mariner who misses the "good old days," or the flatlander who needs some practice. Particularly helpful for those former Navy sailors who miss the Service:

1. Sleep on the shelf in your closet. Replace the closet door with a curtain. Six hours after you go to sleep, have your spouse whip open the curtain, shine a flashlight in your eyes, and mumble "Sorry, wrong rack."
2. Renovate your bathroom. Build a wall across the middle of your bathtub and move the shower head down to chest level. When you take showers, make sure you shut off the water while soaping.
3. Every time there's a thunderstorm, go sit in a wobbly rocking chair and rock as hard as you can until you're nauseous.
4. Put lube oil in your humidifier instead of water and set it to "High."
5. Don't watch TV except movies in the middle of the night. Also, have your family vote on which movie to watch, then show a different one.
6. (Optional for engineering types) Leave lawnmower running in your living room for proper noise level.
7. Have the paperboy give you a haircut.



8. Once a week blow compressed air up through your chimney, making sure the wind carries the soot across and onto your neighbor's house. Laugh at him when he curses you.
9. Buy a trash compactor and only use it once a week. Store up garbage in the other side of your bathtub.

10. Wake up every night at midnight and have a peanut butter and jelly sandwich on stale bread, if anything. (Optional: Canned ravioli or cold soup.)

11. Make up your family menu a week ahead of time without looking in your food cabinets or refrigerator.

12. Set your alarm clock to go off at random times during the night. When it goes off, jump out of bed and get dressed as fast as you can, then run

out into your yard and break out the garden hose.

13. Once a month take every major appliance completely apart and then put them back together.

14. Use 18 scoops of budget coffee per pot and allow it to sit for 5 or 6 hours before drinking.

15. Invite at least 85 people you don't really like to come and visit for a couple of months.

16. Have a fluorescent lamp installed on the bottom of your coffee table and lie under it to read books.

17. Raise the thresholds and lower the top sills on your front and back doors so that you either trip over the threshold or hit your head on the sill every time you pass through one of them.

18. Lockwire the lug nuts on your car.

### Plan of the Day *March 26, 2017*

- 0100** Est. REMUS Recovery
- 0615** Elgen Skype call. Network secured.
- 0700** ISS pass.
- 1400** Daily Progress Meeting: Ops Ctr.
- 1700** Bar-b-cue, Aft Deck.

*continued...*

**Greg Packard** is the AUV team leader. It's also his birthday today! Greg lives in Massachusetts and began his ocean career in '92. He worked as ship's crew for six years for WHOI and Oregon State. Greg was part of the Antarctic Program where he managed shipboard science projects and field camps, setting up weather stations and more. His favorite project, though, involved sending a vehicle down to inspect the New York City water supply tunnel.



Greg has been working with REMUS since the early stages of its development. He's known by some as the "REMUS whisperer." At home Greg likes to work on his house, travel, and race sailboats. In fact he's off to South Carolina shortly after we return for Charleston race week. He has two daughters, Hilary and Natalie, who are learning to be aerial artists and routinely train on various circus disciplines, including with the popular Circus Smirkus.

— Marika Lorraine



... continued from page 1

19. When making cakes, prop up one side of the pan while it is baking. Then spread icing really thick on that side to level off the top.
20. Every so often, throw your cat into the swimming pool and shout "Man overboard!"
21. Run into the kitchen and sweep all the pots/pans/dishes off of the counter onto the floor, then yell at your wife/husband/kids for not having the place "stowed for sea."
22. Put on the headphones from your stereo (don't plug them in). Go and stand in front of your stove. Say (to nobody in particular) "Stove manned and ready." Stand there for 3 or 4 hours. Say (once again to nobody in particular) "Stove secured." Roll up the headphone cord and put them away.
23. Set your alarm for 0330. Get up, put on a heavy overcoat, hang two coke bottles around your neck connected by a strap, and stand under a sprinkler in the back yard for 4 hours.

*This piece first came to my attention in 1997 under the title, "Life @ Sea" by Jim Julian – ed.*

### Thought of the Day

How come "needless to say" always comes with something said?

**KEEP TIDY THIS MESS**

### HAUNTINGS ON BOARD

Strange knockings and thumpings have been reported in the vicinity of the ladies' cabins the last few evenings. It is very important that we rid the vessel of any evil spirits before we attempt to cross the Dateline and enter the Realm of the Golden Dragon. Otherwise the Great Hectapus may curse us and our glass spheres may shatter. To exorcise any spooks, the residents of said cabins must perform the following ritual each midnight until the phenomenon ceases:

- A. Cover your hair with an official expedition bandana.
- B. Don an orange jumpsuit. The crew has a supply and can lend you one.
- C. Place a Pringles wafer on your tongue and drink a shot of Young Coconut Juice from a styrofoam cup that has been shrunken at a depth of at least 3,000 fathoms.
- D. Sway from side to side (easy with the rolling vessel) and chant the following incantation three times to awaken the soul of the ship:

**"MEDIEVAL MANIC RIG"**

Then shout:

**"DIE MAGICAL VERMIN"**

These special anagrams of the name of the ship, *Mermaid Vigilance*, should work to cast away any ghosts. We're all counting on you. Don't wake us up.

### MERMAID CLASSIFIEDS

#### PERSONALS 100

**NURSE** or Physician's Assistant position available to reduce workload on ship's doctor. Specialty in head knocks, suturing, and/or mental illness desired. Send resumé to Doc Pam, Sick Bay.

#### WANTED 200

**PHOTOS!** Dump your photos on NAS for sharing and backup. Pick a few select shots and save them aside so we can all admire them!

**STORIES** for *Meridian Passages*. Plenty of expedition time remains for you to contribute to this award winning publication. Dave 4031.

**LESSONS LEARNED.** For *EEDE Final Report*. Keep 'em coming! See Spence 4051.

#### FOR SALE 400

**Glass Hemispheres**, slightly used. Great for popcorn bowls or lampshades. Also make great birdbaths. Use coupon code BENTHOS for discount. Greg 3051.

**BRACELETS!** No, you can't have them for any price. They're mine, MINE! Don't bother to call Marika 4062.

#### LOST & FOUND 500

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

**Place New Ads by Friday – ed.**