



NAUTICOS

Meridian Passages

Central Pacific Edition

March 31, 2017

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Visit to Howland Island

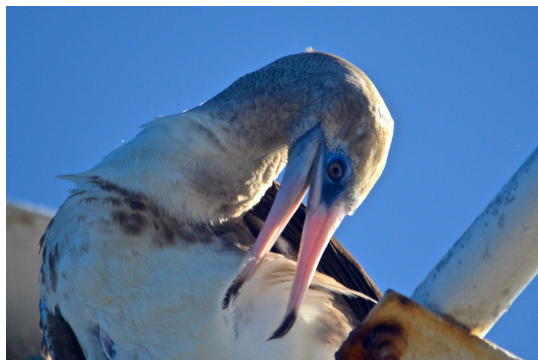
Mermaid Crew Views Land from 3-Mile Limit

Recently while transiting between areas the expedition team got a glimpse of the island that Amelia and Fred never saw. Lit by a brilliant afternoon sun, a thin strip of beach bordering a scrubby patch of land

Something to do with Easter Island? Equatorial beaver dwellings? Yet another mystery to ponder as we floated near the tiny island. We could approach no closer than 3 miles due to Fish & Wildlife rules. For a closer look, Bill



appeared on the horizon. The island is featureless except for the Amelia Earhart Beacon, a "Keep Out" sign, and some mysterious mounds that even Elgen could not identify.



launched his camera-equipped drone and flew to within 2 miles at 1,000 feet, capturing the image on this page.

As we approached the island and cruised over the rising seamount that is its foundation, an abundance of sea life emerged. Besides our regular booby companion perched on the yardarm, we saw ahead a frenzy of birds feeding on a swarm of small fish. A lucky camera shot caught one of the tuna that



Plan of the Day March 31, 2017

- 1000** Celestial Nav Team Mtg.: Ops Ctr.
- 1100** Est. REMUS Recovery.
- 1400** Daily Progress Meeting: Ops Ctr.
- 1400** Est. Begin transit to Majuro

continued...

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Lania Kurniauan

Chief Mate

The Chief (or First) Mate is second in command aboard the vessel and must be capable of assuming full command should the Captain become incapacitated. The Captain relies heavily on the Chief Mate to supervise and coordinate day-to-day activities of all members of the deck department.

Our Chief Mate Lania Kurniauan is from Palembang, which is the capital of Indonesia's South Sumatra province. He's been



working on ships since 2007. In his free time, he likes to work out, go jogging and travel with his wife around Indonesia. He says he is very excited for this project because this is his first time working with REMUS and on this type of survey. His favorite part though, was hearing the astronauts on the ISS. Being on the bridge, he had heard us try a few times. Until they answered, he thought the task to be impossible. He said he was very surprised! He is glad to have this particular job and adds, "I just want to say thank you to all of you."

— Marika Lorraine



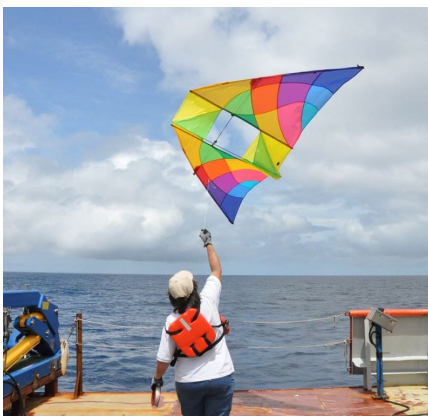
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were pursuing the little fish from below, herding them against the surface. As the small prey tried to



escape the feeding predators, they became lunch for the hungry seabirds. Clouds of birds were seen in the distance blanketing the island, a remote stopover in their migratory meanderings.

Sallie took the opportunity to fly her kite provided by the NASA Aerokat program and collect some atmospheric data.



A gaggle of onlookers gathered on the roof of the bridge deck for the best views. We imagined the thoughts of the handful of colonists arriving to this tiny scrap of land, barely the size of the Washington D.C. Mall, mere inches above sea level, where they were expected to take up residence and eke out an existence.

Soon the little drone buzzed back, eyeballed the spectators, and settled onto the back deck. Sallie recovered her kite. Time to move on and get back to work, mapping the seafloor miles below. We left Howland with thoughts of Amelia and Fred, and the island they never found.

Sea School. The Homeward Bound Navigation Exercise. We will use traditional instruments, namely the sextant and the chronometer to navigate the ship from the survey site to the Majuro entrance buoy using only the sun, moon, stars and planets. Our daily work will be used to fix the ship's position once daily at noon. Our noon fix will then be compared to GPS for accuracy (just in case). There will be a class daily to teach basic piloting and celestial theory and application. Everyone will have opportunities to go up on deck and shoot sunlines each day. We need participants. No experience required. We'll meet on Friday at 0900 to get started.

SATURDAY. A final "Farewell" Barb-cue will be held on Saturday at 1700 because there will be no Sunday. Please come down to the Aft Deck to say farewell to the

whole *Mermaid* crew before we depart. It's a dress up event. If you have a costume, the *Mermaid Beauty Contest and Talent Show* will kick off at 1800. Strut your best outrageous outfits. This is a "No Rules" event! The contestant will have 30 seconds in which to showcase their very special talent. Judges will crown the winner as "Queen of the Mermaid."

How to catch a giant clam.

The giant clams live at 200 feet of water or more. They live in crevices, but do not attach themselves to rock or coral. To catch one, a pair of divers work from a boat and tie a grapefruit sized stone to a long line. With one man in the water, the other lowers the stone to the bottom. The diver swims down to about 50 feet so that he has a clear view of the bottom. He lifts the stone off the bottom and moves it around until it is just above an open clam. He then lowers the stone into the clammy maw. The clam closes tightly around the stone because it is irritating. It will not open. The two then haul the clam up from the depths into the boat. If that sounds easy, you try it.

MERMAID CLASSIFIEDS

PERSONALS 100

P-A-R-T-Y Be there Saturday at the HUGE Crossing the Dateline BBQ - Farewell- April Fool's Day costume Party!! Featuring everything but beer. Last call for group photo. Be there or be ... absent!

Place New Ads by Friday – ed.