



NAUTICOS

Meridian Passages

Central Pacific Edition

April 3, 2017

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Mantup Publishing

Mission Conclusion

Nauticos Crew Head Home, Makes Plans

Today the Eustace Earhart Discovery Expedition 2017 comes to a close. Yesterday I took the opportunity to thank Alan and the rest of the team that made it happen, and I am sincerely grateful for the privilege of sailing with everyone. Captain Noe and the crew of the good ship *Mermaid Vigilance* came to our last operations meeting and thanked each of us one by one with handshakes, high fives, and hugs. After just a few weeks together we feel like old friends, and I was truly touched.

tally in three expeditions is nearly 2,000 square nautical miles, and with the coverage by the Waitt Foundation in 2009 we've mapped an area the size of Connecticut at 1 meter resolution or better. This is one of the largest contiguous areas of the deep ocean mapped in history. We have discovered seamounts, calderas, and volcanic cones never seen before. We mapped a large portion of the Howland and Baker Islands Marine National Monument, and helped guide NOAA's recent expedition to the region on *Okeanos Explorer*.



As you may have gathered, I cannot announce that we found the Electra. However, it's worth focusing on what we did accomplish. We covered 725 square nautical miles this expedition, a record for Nauticos. Our

The new data will be provided to geologists and other scientists in the near future.

Expedition performance was exemplary, including our Nauticos team, WHOI, the ship, and all support elements. We completed the 1,800 square mile high probability search area we set out to cover in 2002. Alan said, "You and the team have done everything you said you would, and the equipment and people performed near flawlessly. No reason to hang your head low. We either missed it somewhere or just didn't cover the right spot."

Of course, analysis always leaves residual possibilities, even without altering assumptions, and the source data hasn't changed. We also have very valuable new search coverage to consider. The technology we used to search
continued...

Plan of the Day *April 3, 2017*

0001-2400 Transit.
1500 SEA School: Greg, Ops. Ctr.

April 4, 2017

1500 SEA School: Sue & Jeff, Ops. Ctr.

April 5, 2017

0800 Est. Arrival Majuro.

Note: Owing to crossing IDL we skipped April 2

David Jourdan

Publisher

Best known as the Editor of *Meridian Passages*, Dave Jourdan working is on book number four, coming soon. He's been pursuing the Amelia problem ever since he met Elgen Long in 1997. His wife, Lynn has put up with all of it. His sister is Sue Morris, his brother-in-law is Jeff Morris and his daughter is Bethany. So if you are on the expedition, you are either related to Dave or going to be. Dave started on the water at the Naval Academy and was a nuclear submariner. Five patrols with the USS *Kamehameha* were enough, but he



continued to work with submarine programs at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab in Maryland. After about six years there, he left in 1986 to start Meridian Sciences, Inc., which became Nauticos, now in its 31st year.

Dave loves to travel, but he doesn't go to "normal" places. He's been to the remote islands of Midway, Saipan, New Caledonia, Yap and of course Tarawa. He's excited to add Majuro to that list. He also lead the recovery team for the StratEx project with Alan Eustace. He was in charge of two trucks, four helicopters and an airplane. In his free time he likes to ski, scuba dive, run, and he's obviously a star

basketball player. He also likes puns...a lot. Dave & wife Lynn have two children, Bethany and Eric and they boast three granddaughters with their grandson on the way due in June. Dave & Lynn now live in coastal Maine, but continue to explore the oceans

— Marika Lorraine



... continued from page 1

the seafloor has improved with each expedition, and we look forward to future work with WHOI using next-generation AUVs.

We will take another look at all of our work, and have already made a to-do list. We will return home, take a well deserved rest, then get back to it! — Dave Jourdan

SKYPE & STEM

On Wednesday seventh graders at Prairie Middle School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa took the opportunity to Skype with team members from the Eustace Earhart Discovery Expedition. Tom Vinson and Rod Blocksome, Rockwell Collins retirees, and Sallie Smith, the expedition's educator from NASA got up early to meet with the students and answer their questions about Amelia Earhart's last flight and the expedition's operations.

Tom and Rod both commented on the excellent and thoughtful questions asked by the students. In addition, they received nearly three pages of questions that several team members from the expedition have answered. These will be sent back to the students at Prairie Middle School.

Sea to Space

We made a very successful radio call to the International Space Station Saturday morning ... at 3:27AM to be exact! Jon Thompson (West Point '65) shared a "Beat Navy" with with fellow Army grad Shane Kimbrough. Then Dr. Pam

Geddis, Sue Morris (aka Sonargirl), Sallie Smith (NASA Goddard educator), and Marika Lorraine (Journalist) spoke with astronaut Peggy Whitson. A nice capstone to International Women's month. We ended with Bryan McCoy, KAØYSQ speaking until LOS (loss of signal)

Rod Blocksome, KØDAS manned the radio while Tom Vinson, NYØV and Dave Jourdan, NERD stood on the bridge wing pointing our antenna and timing the pass.

It was a great morale booster to a team that has been at sea for two months to have a chance to talk to the ISS. The QSO ("conversation" in radio talk) was filmed by Bill Mills and will appear on the Nauticos



Pam wanted to thank everyone for their help in figuring out when to make her conference call. As you can see, it all worked out!

Expedition Web Portal in the near future.

April Fools "Blunders": Did you catch all of the "mistakes" in yesterday's *Meridian Passages*? There were 13 total (not including repeats), all on Page 1. Unintentional mistakes not counted:

1. **Mental** Pacific Edition (twice).
2. Nauticos logo **backwards**.
3. **Putnam** Publishing.
4. **Kicking stick figures**.
5. M/V **Sunmaid** Vigilance.
6. Editor in Chief: **Michael** Jourdan.
7. Contributors: **Burger** King.
8. Contributors: **Quiche** Lorraine.
9. Contributors: **Chuck** Morris.
10. Dir. of Photo.: **General** Mills.
11. Complaints: Cap'n **Crunch**.
12. Layout: **Louie** Jourdan.
13. **Plane** of the Day (twice).

FINAL ISSUE

This is the last issue of *Meridian Passages* Vol XIII. The Editor would like to offer his sincere THANKS A LOT to our Dedicated Staff, including: Spence King, who made up the Plan of the Day; Marika Lorraine, who gave us our daily Spotlight; Sue Morris who contributed articles, photos, proofreading, and levity; Beth Jourdan for the super layout; and Cap'n Joe for ensuring there were no complaints.

Tomorrow we will pack up the printer, fire all the staff, and close the presses. But who knows, we may re-hire everyone and launch Volume XIV sooner than you think!
— editor.