

Sea Scholars Log
15 August, 2006 Tuesday



Latitude 32⁰ 45' N
Longitude 127⁰ 10' W

Photo 1: This is the beautiful Kahili ginger plant in bloom.

Good morning from the *USNS Pathfinder*. After the ship rocked and rolled last night, the Sea Scholars groggily awakened ready for their 8th day of classes. The morning classes scheduled today are: the *GEWS* will be with Dr. Brown in Biological Oceanography; the *Kaatin Predators* will be with Lt. Liz Crapo in Meteorology; and the *Makoa Wahine* will be with Jay Walmark in Acoustics.

In Oceanography we learned about red tides, known as “Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).” They are extensive blooms of phytoplankton that can color the water red. Approximately six percent of all phytoplankton species is known to cause red tides. This percentage represents about 200 of 3,700 species.

In the Gulf Coast of the United States, the common cause of red tides is the tiny organism, *Karenia brevis*. This organism is a dinoflagellate that is about 50-100 micrometers in diameter. A single drop of water may have hundreds of thousands of these cells. The problem is *Karenia brevis* produces chemicals that can make some animals and humans sick. So, there is no wonder scientists are busy trying to learn more about these HABs.

In Jay Walmark’s class we learned about active and passive SONAR and the factors affecting sound. We listened to many different sounds from the ocean and it’s VERY noisy down there! We listened to the call of whales, dolphins, and some sounds that have not yet been identified.

Jay compared the SONAR we were hearing to a “large” tablespoon of peanut butter being spread on a piece of bread in all directions.

Jay said, that as we spread the peanut butter on a slice of bread, the it becomes thinner and thinner as do sounds waves as they go farther from their source.

The *Predators* visited with Lt. Liz Crapo for information concerning the manner in which hurricanes, tornadoes, clouds, and thunderstorms develop and affect our lives. The discussion about hurricanes “brought back” memories for the Sea Scholars who live in Mississippi and Florida as the devastation of *Hurricanes Katrina* and *Andrew* were discussed and remembered.

Our afternoon classes were interrupted by a fire drill for all the crew and Sea Scholars. We grabbed our life jackets, hats, and flashlights; we “mustered” in the dry lab; and then rapidly walked to lifeboat on the Port side of the ship. The Sea Scholars will actually get inside the lifeboat in tomorrow’s drill. That should be an exciting learning experience!

Tonight the Sea Scholars will complete their individual and group lesson plans and presentations. Throughout this voyage, the Sea Scholars have been supported by wonderful shipmates of the *USNS Pathfinder*. Our readers met the Captain in yesterday’s log. Today, we would like to introduce you to the people who have supported us during this time at sea.



Photo 2: Marta Williams and Popi Mejia keep us smiling with their fantastic meals.



Photo 3: Our favorite nurse, Sherry Griffin, keeps us healthy and happy.



Photo 4: We bought our *USNS Pathfinder* shirts and hats from Ryan Lusk, Supply Officer, who manages the ship's store known as "the Slop Chest."



Photo 5: NAVOCEANO E.T.s, our shipboard Electrical Technicians Wally Stout (left) and Dave Schulyer (right) maintain the ship's electronic systems.



Photo 6: This photograph “caught” some of the crew having lunch in the Crew’s Mess (dining room), left to right: Jerwin Ablan, Dinh Thong, and Rocco Quintanilla.



Photo 7: Meteorology Instructor, Lt. Liz Crapo; Second Assistant Engineer, Mike Futrell; and the Chief Engineer, Joe Kasny are having lunch in the Officers' Mess (main dining room).



Photo 8: First Mate, Stan the Man, aka Stan Breedlove, has kept a watchful eye on the Sea Scholars and helped with our experiments on the fantail of the ship.



Photo 9: Everyone is in the lifeboat as Third Mate, Andrew Rogers and Senior Navy Representative (SNR), Mark Jarrett inspect our safety drill.



Photo 10: We “caught” Rocco Quintanilla bringing fresh string beans to Popi’s and Marta’s kitchen



Photo 11: Third Mate, Andrew Rogers, during safety procedures for the Sea Scholars.



Photo12: While Reid Griffin operates the radio room; his wife, Sherry, takes care of the ship's infirmary.



Photo13: We “found the Big 3,” Captain, Troy Erwin; SNR, Mark Jarrett; and First Mate, Stan Breedlove, having breakfast and planning the day for the Sea Scholars and crew.



Photo14: We enjoyed a beautiful sunset over Pacific as seen from the fantail of the ship.

Good night from Regina Sumner and Saralee Lamb

