

Journal #12

Thursday

1. 202200Z January 05
 2. Position: Lat: 35-00.0S, LONG: 150-00.0W
 3. Course: On Station
 4. Speed: 11.1 kts
 5. Distance: 120.0 NM
 6. Steaming Time: 10H 48M
 7. Station Time: 13H 12M
 8. Fuel: 2,214 gals
 9. Sky: Cu 3
 10. Wind: 170-T, 16 Kts.
 11. Sea: 170-T, 2-3 Ft
 12. Swell: 040-T, 5-7 Ft
 13. Barometer: 1015.2 Mb
 14. Temperature: Air: 22.5 C, Sea: 21.7 C
 15. Equipment Status: Normal
 16. Comments: none
- MASTER, R/V ROGER REVELLE

The weather is still pretty nice , but definitely feeling cooler, we are wearing jackets outside most of the time. Still doing about 3 CTD casts per day and right on schedule. Tomorrow is the broadcast from the bridge with Captain Dave Murline. I spoke with Captain Dave and asked him some questions about his career at sea:

Interview with Captain Dave Murline



Captain Dave captures Plankton!

One of the questions the students sent me for the broadcast was:

“Have you caught any plankton yet?” Well, this is the only one so far, but we will be doing a couple of tows in the next few days.....

Captain Dave has been a captain since 1996 and has worked for Scripps Institution of Oceanography on the ships for 20 years. He studied to become a captain at the California Maritime Academy in Vallejo, California. This is an accredited California State College. There are several Maritime Academies throughout the United States. When going to a maritime academy you usually choose one of two paths either studying to eventually become a Captain or Master, or to become a Chief Engineer. The format is a bit different than a regular university because in addition to coursework you also need a certain amount of time at sea to progress to the next level and license. You take courses for the entry level position for example Able Bodied Seaman and then upon completion of coursework you go to sea for several months, at the end of your seetime you can then take the exam to qualify as an Able bodied Seaman. Each level all the way up to Captain/Master goes in this manner. In the old days you could sign on as an ordinary seaman and study on your own time and take the test when you felt ready and had enough seetime, now however you are required to also have completed the course work for the license and since these classes cost money, most people feel that you may as well get the college degree at the same time, although it is not required.

Before coming to work for Scripps Captain Dave worked on Glass-bottomed boats on Catalina Island. He has always been interested in science and the ocean. A graduate of Coronado High School and an avid surfer and water polo player, you might say water runs in his veins..... He also took summer courses at Scripps when he was younger as part of the Junior Oceanographers program there. At Scripps he has worked on the R/V New Horizon, R/V Melville, R/V Sproul, R/V Thomas Washington and the R/V Roger Revelle.

He still makes his home in San Diego and fishes and surfs whenever possible, often in many interesting and exotic places that he visits as part of his work. Although when he was young he wanted to be an oceanographer, he says that today he is very happy to be a captain of an oceanographic research vessel and be an important part in making world class research in oceanography happen. He is always learning new things from the scientists who he travels with and participates in many unique and fascinating research projects. His job and his life are never dull and certainly not ordinary and more than that he is a part of ongoing scientific research that is contributing to our knowledge of the world around us.

Tomorrow we will be broadcasting from the bridge of the R/V Roger Revelle and my students will not only be able to tour the bridge with the Captain, but ask him some questions and have him discuss some of his interests and insights into life at sea.



Bridge on the R/V Revelle

For an interesting look inside the Revelle, at least until our panorama shots are up and running...go to:

www.divediscover.whoi.edu/cruise5/about/tools_ships_revelle.html