



2012-10-23

MAGIC continues into Leg04A, and the *Spirit* should arrive in Honolulu tomorrow night. Actually, it will be early in the morning, my time, this Thursday. I mentioned in my last update, from Honolulu, that I had been more than a bit confused with time zones, time changes, etc. A friend here at work pointed out that I had stated in the update that it was Tuesday, October 10, 2012, but Tuesday was October 9. I rest my case – confusion reigned. In trying to decipher how I could have made such a glaring mistake, I came up with the following scenario. I was writing that section of the update on Tuesday (local time) in the evening and looked at my computer to give the date. My computer was set to UTC (formerly Greenwich Mean Time), for which it was already Wednesday, and the date shown on the screen was the 10th. As one of my coworkers once quipped, “Time is a pain in the ***.” I couldn’t have said it better myself.



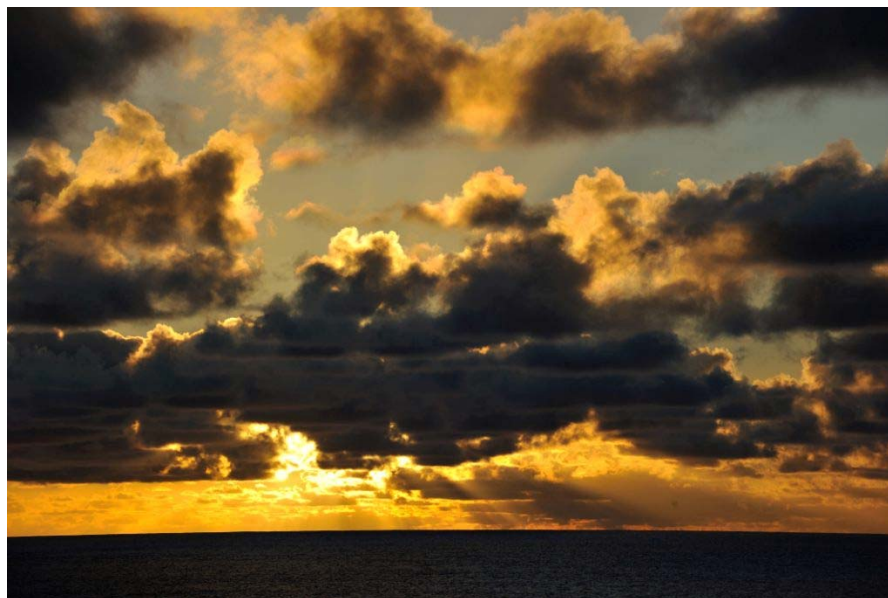
Radiosonde (sensor attached to a weather balloon that makes measurements and relays information). They don't work as well after hitting containers.

The trip back from Honolulu to Los Angeles was good. We had calm seas until two days out, and then we had some impressive rock and roll, with rough seas and a steady 20+ knot wind from the north. I thoroughly enjoyed it (no seasickness this time!), although it made balloon launching a bit tricky and we lost a few into the containers (see picture above). The techs who will live on the ship and operate the instruments, Pat, Brett, and Rob, were great sailing companions, and I look forward to when I can take another trip with them. They got off in Los Angeles and Tom and Mark got on. The outgoing and incoming teams immediately start talking to each other about what worked, what didn't, what instruments were having problems – stuff like that. That kind of carryover is essential to smooth operations and good data, and I was very happy to see it happen.



Brett launching a balloon and radiosonde as Pat looks on.

Being back on shore has been a bit difficult; there are a few hundred emails to catch up on, phone calls, mail and bills to deal with – all that “real world” stuff that has to be done. I suppose one must always pay for their fun. Some of the catch-up has been enjoyable, though; specifically, sorting through the pictures that I took while on board. A few are attached.



Clouds over the Pacific at sunset.

Ernie Lewis

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Please address any questions or comments to elewis@bnl.gov.

All updates and other MAGIC information can be found at <http://www.ecd.bnl.gov/MAGIC.html>.