



2012-03-01

Hawaii was wonderful, even though I only had a short time in Waikiki Beach (I'm getting no sympathy from my friends at work on this point, so I'm trying a wider audience). We (Mike Reynolds, Brad Orr, and I) left Los Angeles on MAGIC Leg00a on Saturday, Feb. 11 at 5:30 am along with nearly 1000 cargo containers aboard the *Horizon Spirit*. With the help of Mike's son Jeremy, we spent the previous two days installing a meteorological (met) system on the mast and a navigation system to characterize ship motion, both of which worked very well for the entire cruise. We arrived in Honolulu on Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 9:30 pm after a mostly cloudy and cool trip. Fortunately the seas weren't too rough and there was no seasickness (hurray!).

Thursday in Hawaii we checked the met system, met with personnel at the Horizon office in Honolulu, picked up some supplies, met colleagues for lunch, and did a cursory check of email to see if there were any emergencies. I tried to send an update but my computer server here at home wouldn't allow it. Brad left to fly back from there, and Mike and I had just enough time after our errands to buy a few Hawaiian shirts and have one Mai Tai at Waikiki Beach before turning in the rental car and returning to the *Spirit*. We departed at 11:00 pm that night on MAGIC Leg00b, and arrived back in Los Angeles on Thursday, Feb. 23 at 7:00 am

The trip back was much windier – the ship was traveling at 15 knots and we had headwinds of 25 knots most of the way home. That's a relative wind speed of more than 45 mph! One of the goals of the trip was to investigate the feasibility of weather balloon launches from different locations around the ship. Filling balloons on deck in those conditions is, needless to say, quite challenging, and there were strong downdrafts around the ship, which added another challenge. However, I am proud to report that during the cruise we successfully launched five potatoes, two turnips, one avocado, four sweet potatoes, one rhubarb, and three squash, while sending only one squash into the ocean, having one squash explode in hand, and popping only two balloons.

Brad and Mike were good travel companions, and everyone on the *Spirit* was great. We thank Horizon and especially Captain Walt Rankin and his crew on the *Spirit* for their enthusiasm and support. I look forward to more Hawaii trips with them, and also aboard the *Reliance*.

Ernie Lewis  
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Please address any questions or comments to [elewis@bnl.gov](mailto:elewis@bnl.gov).

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