



NOAA Teacher at Sea
Eric Heltzel
Onboard NOAA Ship RONALD H. BROWN
September 26 – October 22, 2005

Log 14

NOAA Teacher at Sea: Eric Heltzel
NOAA Ship RONALD H. BROWN
Mission: Stratus 6
Thursday, October 13, 2005

Weather Data from Bridge, 07:00

Temperature: 17 degrees C
Sea level Atmospheric pressure: 1016 mb
Relative Humidity: 78%
Clouds cover: 8/8, stratus, light rain
Visibility: 12 nm
Wind direction: 140 degrees
Wind speed: 12kts.
Wave height: 3 – 4'
Swell wave height: 4 - 5'
Swell direction: 120 degrees
Seawater Temperature: 18.2 degrees C

Salinity: 35 parts per thousand
Ocean depth: 4364 meters



A small boat is launched in order to get to the stratus buoy

Science and Technology Log



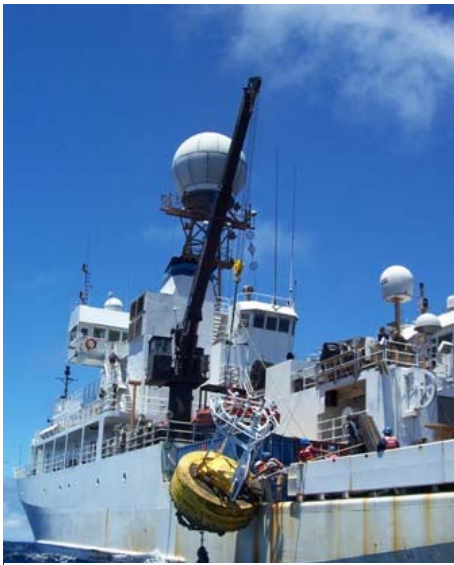
Sean Whelan attaches a line to the buoy

We are holding on station today as the data from the Stratus 4 buoy is downloaded and analyzed. I helped out on the fantail for a couple of hours today. We were rearranging the positions of the Stratus 4 and 5 buoys. These are large, heavy devices that can be only moved by crane and winches. The buoy waiting for deployment is now on the portside of the fantail, is strapped down, activated, and awaiting deployment. The buoy we retrieved yesterday is tucked in next to the starboard side crane. This doesn't sound like a big thing, but each buoy is very heavy and the deck is moving up and down six feet and rocking side to side every few seconds. We go slowly and are very deliberate.

Jeff Lord is setting up for deployment of the Stratus 5 buoy and its array of instruments. The buoy will be launched, followed by the mooring and its attached instruments, and lastly the 9000-pound anchor will be deployed over the stern of the ship. Before this a Sea Beam survey of the ocean floor has to be accomplished to help Dr. Weller choose the site of the Straus 5 deployment. I am continuously amazed by the thorough planning that has been done for this venture.

Personal Log

I'm sitting on the foredeck of the BROWN as I write this entry. It's once again a partly sunny day and



The buoy is retrieved for maintenance

I am sitting out of the wind enjoying the sunshine. I realize that I haven't seen a jet contrail since we crossed the equator. Yesterday I did see a whale spout at about of a quarter mile out and there was a fishing boat about four miles away. Except for a few birds the view is of ocean and sky. We had an abandon-ship drill Tuesday and the captain announced that the nearest land is some Argentinean islands over 400 miles away. We are out there.



Glass balls attached to the buoy