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

Log 6

Teacher at Sea, October 3, 2005, RONAL H. BROWN, Eric Heltzel

NOAA Teacher at Sea: Eric Heltzel
NOAA Ship RONALD H. BROWN
Mission: Stratus VI
Monday, October 3, 2005

Weather Data from Bridge, 08:00

Clouds cover: 7/8, stratus, cumulus, altocumulus
Wind direction: 250 degrees
Wind speed: 18kts.
Wave height: 3 - 4'
Swell wave height: 5 – 5'
Seawater Temperature: 29.9 degrees C
Sea level Atmospheric pressure: 10.10 mb
Relative Humidity: 82%

Science and Technology Log

Today I worked my first watch from 08:00 to 12:00. I was responsible for being present in the main science lab and monitoring our position and being aware of where the first deployment of instruments will occur. Since we are not yet allowed to deploy any instruments, it was a fairly slow day. We did receive training from Sergio Pezoa in how to calibrate and activate radiosondes. These are the instrument packages that send back information on its position, temperature, atmospheric pressure, and relative humidity. These instrument packages carry a water-activated battery and are attached to a helium balloon. They are released into the atmosphere at prescribed times and send back by radio the information they gather to the receiving unit. This continues until the balloon fails and the instrument package tumbles to earth. Radiosondes are the basis for most of the information about conditions in the upper troposphere. I'll be working on the team that launches the weather balloons carrying these instrument packages.