



**NOAA Teacher at Sea
Robert Oddo
Onboard NOAA Ship *Ronald H. Brown*
July 11 – August 10, 2009**

NOAA Teacher at Sea: Robert Oddo

NOAA Ship *Ronald H. Brown*

Mission: PIRATA (Prediction and Research Moored Array in the Atlantic)

Geographic Area of Cruise: Tropical Atlantic

Date: July 30, 2009

Weather Data from the Bridge

Outside Temperature 25.50°C

Relative Humidity 87%

Sea Surface Temperature 25.75°C

Barometric Pressure 1017.3 inches

Latitude 20 09.721 N

Longitude 33 34.806 W

Science and Technology Log

On the 28th of July we did our 34th CTD and changed out our third buoy and started to steam west back towards the states. We have a break now from our 12-hour shifts and only have one more buoy to change out and only one more CTD to deploy.

I wanted to write about a couple of things that I have noticed over the last couple weeks when sampling that I thought were noteworthy.

The seawater we collect from 1500 feet down in the ocean, even though we are in the tropics, is still very cold. It is about 4 degrees C or 39 degrees F while the sea

surface temperature is around 26 degrees C or 79 degrees F. Another thing that is really cool is that when we are doing CTDs at night the lights from the ship attract squid and you can watch the squid chasing flying fish at the surface. The last thing that is strange, is that every once in a while even though we are hundreds of miles away from land, a butterfly or dragonfly darts around the ship. You just wonder where they have come from.



Deploying a buoy



Nightly Science Seminar

Every night around 8 pm, there is a meeting of all the scientists onboard. We usually get a weather briefing and then someone will give a seminar on the work they are doing. There are many links between the work that each scientist is doing on this ship and this is an important way to share ideas, get feedback and create new questions.

Personal Log

There is down time on the ship and I wrote about the movies earlier. We have a ping-pong table set up in the main lab where we play in

our spare time.

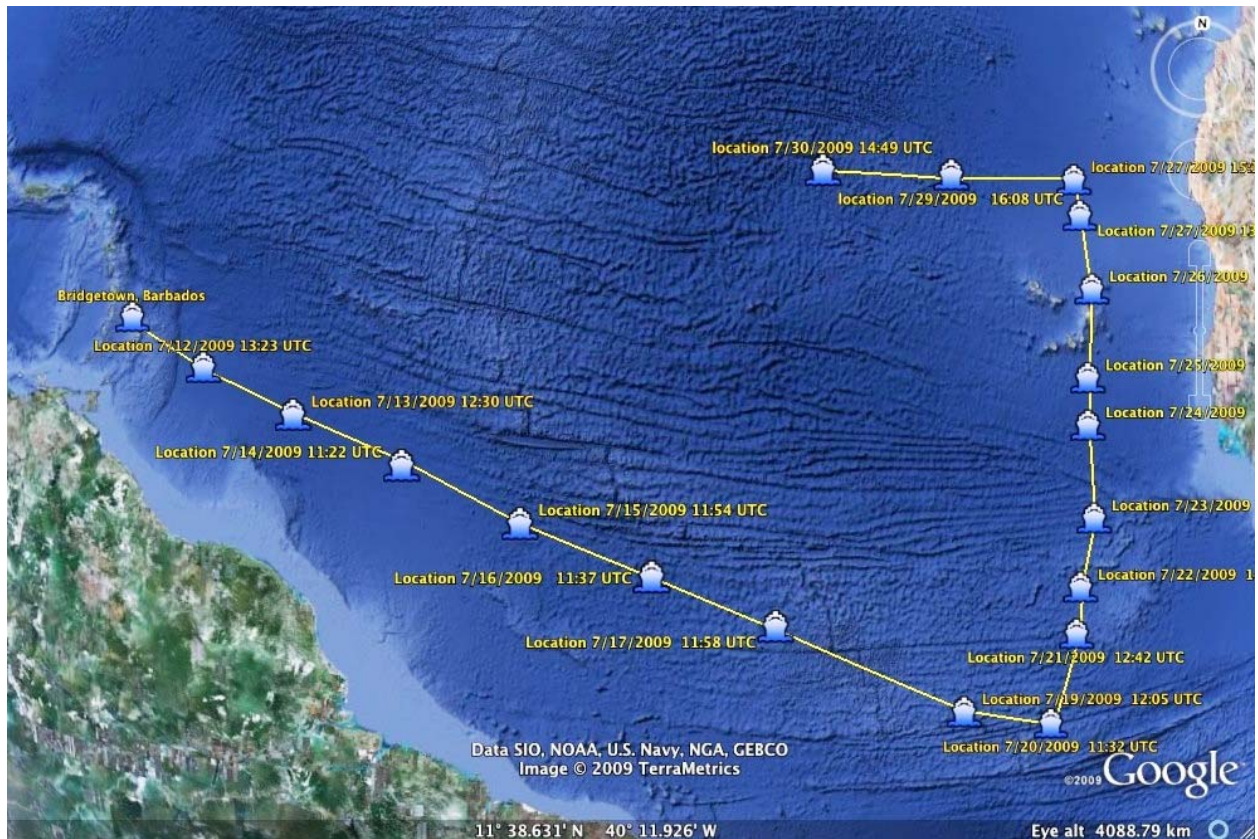
Since we are so far from any land, safety is very important on the ship. We have fire drills and abandon ship drills weekly. After the drill there is a briefing and the safety officer discusses some of the safety equipment the ship has and its use. Today we went out to the fantail and the officers demonstrated how to use flares and smoke signals.



A little ping pong in the main lab



Flare demonstration



Course we have taken since we departed from Bridgetown. More information about our current location from <http://shiptracker.noaa.gov>