



**NOAA Teacher at Sea  
Mary Patterson  
Onboard NOAA Ship *Rainier*  
June 15 – July 2, 2009**

**NOAA Teacher at Sea: Mary Patterson**

NOAA Ship *Rainier*

Mission: Surveying uncharted areas around the Pavlov Islands

Geographical area of cruise: Pavlov Islands

Date: Monday, June 15, 2009

**Weather Data from the Bridge**

Overcast

10 nautical mile visibility

Sea Temp 7.2° C

Sea level air pressure 1015.2 mb

Dry Bulb 13.3

Wet Bulb 10.0

**Science and Technology Log**

After lunch came safety training and a quick tour of the ship. We watched several videos about survival at sea, fire and abandon ship drills and even conflict resolution. Some of the same principles of conflict resolution that we use in school were in the film. JO (Junior Officer)

Russell Quintero passed out our bunk cards. These cards fit into a pocket in our bunks and list all our stations for all our drills.



**A life ring aboard the *Rainier***

Next, we were fitted for our bright orange survival suits otherwise know as the “Gumby” suit.



**Being able to put out a fire on a ship is really important when you're at sea. There are no fire departments to save you.**

These suits are designed to help minimize the shock of extremely cold water. They may look funny, but I'd be glad we had them in an emergency. We were also issued a lightweight vest, a bright orange deck coat and a hard hat. It's good to know that all the emphasis I put on safety in my classroom, really does translate to the real world of science. NOAA is all about safety first! After dinner, we had our first fire drill and not long after that, an abandon ship drill.

With a ship this size it is crucial that everyone knows what to do in an emergency.

Usually, by dinnertime, the orders for the next day are posted in several spots throughout the ship. These list the survey boats that will be going out, their crews and where they are going and what they will survey. This is called the Plan of the Day (POD) and everyone is expected to read them when they are posted.

### **Personal Log**

Excitement built as fellow Teacher at Sea, Jill Stephens and I made our way to the ship. We were greeted by ENS Matt Nardi and shown to our bunks to unpack. Our first chow in the crew mess hall was at 12 noon. This food is nothing like cafeteria food! Our cooks, Dorethea, Raul, Floyd and Sergio like to keep the crew happy! Our first lunch was roasted veal or a chicken cheese sandwich. I also learned that there is always ice cream in the freezer and salad available 24 hours a day.



**Here I am in my survival suit, also called a "Gumby" suit.**

As we left the dock, we saw quite a few puffins. Those crazy birds flap and flap their wings but look afraid to fly. They are quite entertaining. We also passed approximately 50 or so sea otters playing and feeding in the kelp. Later in the evening, I saw whales spouting in the distance. I really hope we get to see one up close. As the engines were turned on, it seemed like all the jellyfish in the water came towards the ship. I wonder if they are attracted to the vibrations made by the engines.

The sun set at 11:10 pm and so did I.

### **“New Terms/Phrases/Words”**

Bunk card

POD

Rack

Standing orders