

NOTES OF APPRECIATION:

As is our continuing custom, the P-MAN XV team wishes to acknowledge and express our gratitude for the support of the many people in Palau, in our United States and elsewhere who have made our mission successes possible: both from those who help us year-to-year and those whom we met for the first time during this mission. We received help everywhere we went during our mission in Palau. We were honored to not only pay a courtesy call to newly re-elected President Remengesau but also were thrilled to once again to dive with President Remengesau, joined by our US Embassy Mission Deputy, Mr. Thomas Daley on March 25 at the Corsair crash site we had identified the year before. We also thank the **President's Press** Secretary, Mr. Koebel Sakuma for all his assistance in coordinating activities with us **during and after our field mission. On April 4, Palau's Vice President Antonio Bells** joined us to dive on the Corsair – we all had great fun, in spite of the rough waters that day. Former President Nakamura invited the P-MAN XV team for dinner at the Longshoreman – with a



P-MAN XV team photo with the President of Palau.

President Remengesau joins the SHS students to dive on Corsair crash site Photographs with permission, 2013



P-MAN XV team meets with Vice President and Minister of Justice Antonio Bells in Koror Photo with permission, 2013



Former President Nakamura with the P-MAN XV Team Photo with permission, 2013

Our US Ambassador Helen Reed-Rowe once again took great interest in our activities this year, as well as the activities of the Stockbridge kids – for which we are very appreciative. The ROV team was really impressed that the Ambassador spent so much time with them. The Ambassador joined the SHS students on the water on April 1 and watched the ROV in action in the waters east of Arakabesan. She also joined the SHS team at **Sam's Tours** that evening for their public presentation; she added to the evening when she gave a rousing talk supportive of the ROV team and their activities. The P-MAN XVI team also debriefed Ambassador Reed-Rowe on our activities prior to departing Palau.



Karly Kruger explains ROV mission to Ambassador Reed-Rowe
Photo with permission, 2013

We met with Senator Mason Whipps and President of the Senate Elias Chin after a working session out the Palauan Capitol (unfortunately we were not able to take any photographs).

The Whipps family continued to assist the BentProp Projects – once again, permitting us to use one of their vans during our stay.



Pat and Casey express the team's thanks to the Whipps family for their courtesy in letting us use their van.
Flip Colmer©2013

We also appreciate the continued support, guidance and numerous introductions from many individuals and offices within the Palau government. We thank Mr. Dwight Alexander, the Director of the Bureau of Arts and Culture (BAC) and the entire staff for their patient assistance with our permitting, through our joint Memorandum of Understanding. Dr. Suzanne Finney, PhD continued working with us, as the senior **archeologist. We also thank BAC's ethnographer, Ms. Kelly Marsh, for her guidance and continued assistance.**

We thank the governors and their respective staffs from the States of Airai, Koror, Ngatpang, Ngaremlengui, Ngiwal, Ngarchelong, Ngaraard and Peleliu for permitting us to work and interview within their states and hope to continue our cordial and productive relationship with them on future P-

MAN trips. We greatly appreciate the help from the chiefs, historians, elders and hunter-guides of Ngaremlengui, Ngatpang, Koror, Ngiwal, Ngaraard, Ngarchelong and Peleliu. We thank property owners for giving us permission to evaluate sites on their land. We are also grateful to Neco Marine and **Sam's Dive Tours for leads they have provided, as well as for** continuing to provide superb service. Special thanks to Margie and Dave Mendoza for their very special margaritas and dinner we so look forward to.



Margie and Dave Mendoza
at Sam's watching the SHS
students

Photo with permission, 2013

In particular we acknowledge the special, ongoing guidance that Mandy and Shallum Etpison have provided over the years as we continue to make our way around these beautiful tropical islands – even though with their busy schedules, we rarely see them, their kindnesses are felt by each of us throughout our mission. They also gave up valuable floor space at Neco Marine so the SHS students could work on their ROV. And the Drop-Off became the site for evening debriefings – often with gear spread out all over the place.



Left: The SHS team working on the ROV at Neco Marine dive shop.

Right: The SHS team gathers for an afternoon debriefing at Drop-Off while **Dan O'Brien** adds an extra ingredient to his Palauan lemonade. We usually drink all the Palauan lemonade they make – I like it as-is: fabulous after a long day! Photographs with

We sincerely acknowledge Sam Scott and Dermot Keane for their tremendous enthusiasm for our work – **and for inviting the kids to Sam's Tours to give their presentation at their facility!**



Sam Scott invited the SHS students to give a talk about their robot to a **packed audience at Sam's Tours** – in spite of a very rainy evening.

Flip Colmer©2013



Chloe Hypes presents her portion of the team presentation

Photo with permission, 2013.

Each year, we try to find new ways to thank Joe Maldangesang, our dear friend and Master Guide and dear friend for the past 17 years. Once again, he did a terrific job even though he continues with his job as Conservation Officer of Ngarchelong State. We also want to give special thanks to Governor Browney Salvador, who permitted Joe to break away from his important job to help us during this mission.



Joe always happy to be on the water

Flip Colmer © 2012

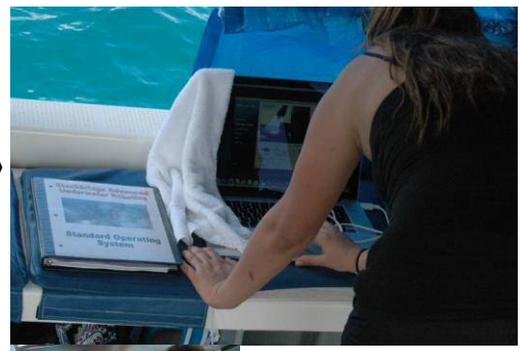
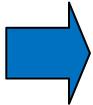
We remain in awe of the people of Palau, as well as of their friendliness, cooperation and graciousness to each and every one of us. Every year we hear new stories from the WWII era that bring us closer to the Palauan people and the Palauan people closer to the families of our American missing. We want all the people of Palau to be aware of our deep gratitude to your nation and to each person who has helped us find large clues and small clues (which sometimes become large clues) – each one important to families in the United States and to Palau – to understanding events generated in and around Palau almost 70 years

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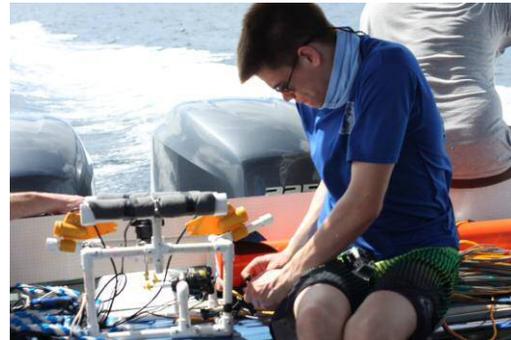
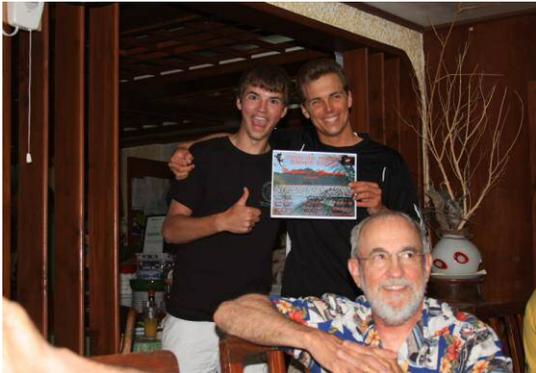
ago. So many of the “WWII” generation have now passed on and yet the family stories passed down to the next generations, as is Palauan tradition, continue to help us in our searches. Once again, each member of the P-MAN XV team wishes to convey our ongoing and deep respect for your wonderful nation and its people.

The Stockbridge High School students demonstrated not only that their new and improved ROV worked better but also that their team continued to grow in function and spirit. They truly have become inspirations for all of us! Under the leadership of Mr. Bob Richards, a very special educator, with the never-ending help of Mr. Josh Nichols, this team of high school engineers and marketers found the ways to make this year even more successful than the first year. They reached a critical benchmark by identifying that a tubular structure (looking very much like a fuselage on SSS) was in fact part of a ship – thus saving scuba dives to 135 feet just to visually confirm that. Great job! They received recognition from the President of Palau and our US Ambassador – and deservedly so. Mr. Nichols has added to the project by bringing ROV technologies to the Palauan classrooms – teaching fourth graders how to make and test their own. And the SHS kids became film stars, appearing on a news article for Discovery, Canada, Channel!

A Day with the SHS Team:



Top Left: Morning brief on day’s mission, getting set up on site, searching and searching, confirming target hit with scuba, debriefing back at dock. Photographs with permission, 2013



Top Left, Clockwise: Chloe, Breanna and Jeremy –proud BPP coin holders, Jenny gets documentary stardom, Evan works on ROV and Josh tests underwater, Breanna and Chloe and Bob take breaks, Jeremy tries out fruit bat soup, Buck gives Andy a Certificate of Appreciation
Photographs with permission, 2013

Our appreciation would be incomplete without acknowledging the ongoing support of the several agencies in the United States that are assisting our efforts. We recognize here the Joint POW/MIA

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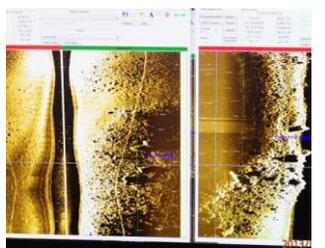
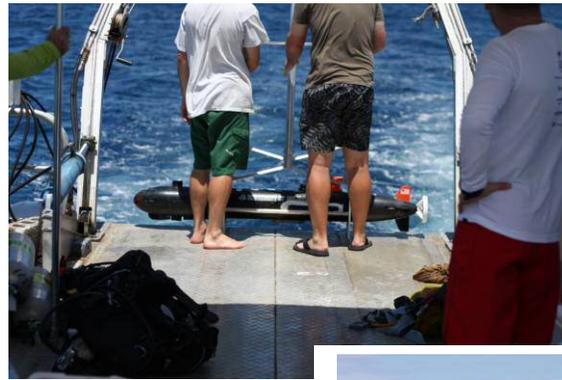
Accounting Command, Hawaii, the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, Arlington, VA, the National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD and the U. S. Naval Heritage and Historical Center, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C., They have always enthusiastically provided and continue to support us with the technical and historical information we have sought and continue to seek – and much more.

We also wish to acknowledge that we greatly value the recollections (and photos) from veteran aviators, crews, families and friends from VMF-114, VMF-121, VMF-122, VMTB-134, 307th BG(H)/13th AAF, 5th BG(H)/13th AAF and 494th BG(H)/7th AAF as well as other units in the Pacific during WWII – all these veterans risked their lives for our country and the people of Palau. These men, their wives, families (especially now the children) and friends are even now continuing to provide historical and emotional snapshots of that time and place – and over the years, we have gained so many special relationships as a result. As time goes by, we value these friends of ours even more. The BentProp Project continues to expand its technology base, along with finding the dedicated people who are helping us optimize the application of these instruments for our searches. We reiterate our thanks to Marine Sonic for their generous donation of SSS equipment and support, as well as to Chesapeake Software which is extending our abilities to interpret SSS data.

We continue to confront the reality that our searches are getting more difficult – the easy targets have been found. And, with increasing difficulties have come, for reasons we find difficult to explain, increased capabilities. The P-MAN XV team was simply blown away by the support and encouragement of Eric Terrill and his SIO team along with Mark Moline and his UDEL team. We also thank Lori and Pat Colin at the Coral Reef Research Foundation (CRRF) for their patience and (to us) their unbounded interest in helping the BentProp Project. It is a fact that the BentProp Project could not alone even dream about what we are now accomplishing with SIO and UDEL. Covering more than 20 square kilometers of ocean floor would have taken our team alone more than a decade of dedicated effort. Moreover once the field mission ended, Eric and Mark have spent considerable time and energy throughout the year providing ongoing input on both interpretation and forward planning. Because of Eric and his relationship with GoPro (a great company!), Andy Isaacson, a writer for *Popular Science*, imbedded with us all, resulting in an article in September 2103. During P-MAN XVI, Eric and Mark and their field teams, along with Pat and Lori Colin became BentProp Project coin holders in our ceremony, fittingly, on a boat just off Peleliu. They are officially BentProppers now and one of us. We are enriched by having them as team members.



Two great guys who have dedicated themselves to helping BentProp Project extend its search mission. Mark and Eric – thanks from the entire team!



Top Left clockwise:
The bosses watch their teams in action, Paul (both outdoors and in) as AUV team leaves mother ship, Miles, Andy, Evan and Travis take a rest break on Peleliu, late night SSS reviews looking at hundreds of images on projected on the wall, Evan closely guarding his hexacopter

Photographs with permission, 2013

The BentProp Project wishes to acknowledge and thank the US Office of Naval Research for their continuing support of Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the University of Delaware to support the objectives of BentProp and, specifically, this P-MAN XV mission. This effort is funded through a

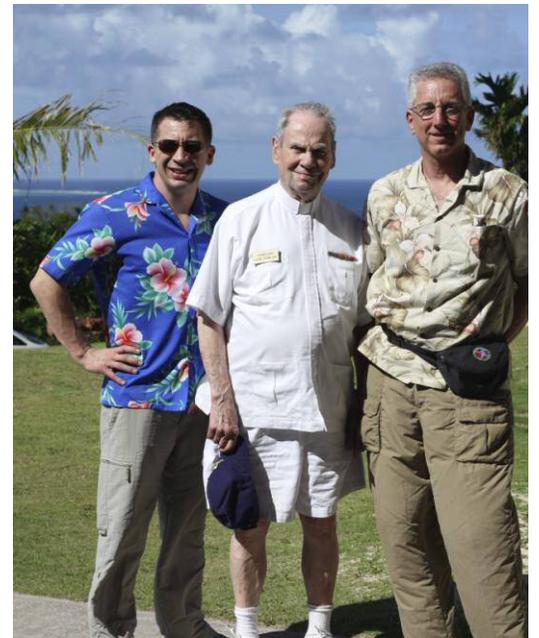
research program dedicated to technology development and outreach to support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) initiatives.

As is the field team's desire and my custom in this report, I want to take a moment to thank each of the volunteers of the BentProp Project who were not in the field with us this year. A growing number of team members provide support at home during the year and particularly during our mission. I call out Katie Rasdorf and Reid Joyce as always ready when they get our emails from Palau, usually making near impossible requests. We know and are gratified that the other team members stand ready to assist, as well.

To the P-MAN XV team: you guys are the best! Somehow, each of you continues to grow in your dedication, passion, work ethic (did we take even a day off this year?) and perseverance in our quest to return home these American MIAs within Palau (and elsewhere). Once a year, we come together for the most part knowing each other and yet, each year, together we morph into a unique P-MAN team. No P-MAN team, nor P-MAN mission, has ever been alike in personality, scope and accomplishment but each has always alike in meeting our mission goals. This year we held to a frenetic pace in order to keep up with our mission goals, working closely with SIO/UDEL and helping mentor the SHS ROV students. Some of our daily missions by need had to be split – something none of us like, but we made it work well. I never heard a complaint from any of the team. Flip, as Mission Leader, directed the operation without ever raising his voice – truly a quiet and successful leader, while continuing his liaison between the SHS team and us. And he continues to do a great job of taking pretty pictures for us. Derek, currently an **instructor's instructor for the Marines, and Casey at Okinowa both provided life-changing input to the students' briefs and debriefs** – and the students loved the Marine-style input they received (I know because they told me). Derek and Casey now have taken leadership, with a disciplined approach (where did they get that?) for our safety, whether on land or water – which has been good for all of us. Derek loved the diving but was always the first to lead the way into the jungles. Casey has turned out to be a great note taker – many of us in the heat of the moment forget to catch critical information we will later need. **Dan O'Brien, simultaneously at times, took GPS readings, recording interviews on video and** ensured our lines of communication were intact – amazing. Joe continues to be our link with the Palauan people but he is so much more – his powers of observation have saved us so many times! With this bunch, I mainly sit back and marvel at what we are able to accomplish in one short month. I am always prepared to fill in any gaps but it is a fact that there are not many gaps to fill. It is my honor to know and work with each of these P-MAN members, as well as together as a team. This year, we also were blessed to have Chaplin Lew Towler join us – he returned to walk the battlefields of Peleliu, where he landed as a US Navy SeaBee. We felt honored to have him join us and share his experiences. Lew is now our Team Chaplin.



P-MAN XV Team minus Dan for BPP Shirt photo (he did not get the memo –so he took the picture instead, **Dan O'Brien©2013, Dan, Casey, Joe and Flip on the ready to dive on a non-natural SSS target** (Photo with permission, 2013)



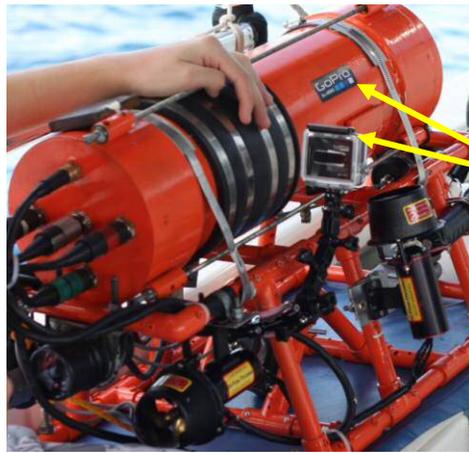
Top Left clockwise: Derek hamming it up at McCullah Corsair site, Casey in a Japanese cave on Peleliu beside a rusty 20mm cannon barrel, Dan assisting SHS students with his navigation skills, Flip is always **hungry but especially hungry after a dive....**, Derek, Chaplin Lew and Flip on Peleliu with reef off invasion beach in background, Pat, Flip and Joe give thumbs up after finishing characterizing the Shien floatplane site, Joe resting at Sam's, Derek using his levitation skills to get the hexacopter airborne, the other side of the SHS briefing room – the P-MANXV team critiquing that day's mission plan, And who else but the BentProp Project could get dirty in the middle of an ocean on a SCUBA dive??

Photographs with permission, 2013

Many Specific and Special Thanks to:



Thanks to our friends and colleagues Lori and Pat Colin!



Marine Sonic Technology, Ltd.

Once again, many thanks to everyone at Neco Marine for all your help. To the owners, Mandy and Shallum Etpison, and the entire staff, our deep appreciation



Thanks to Sam and Dermot and all the folks at Sam's!



With deep appreciation to Mason Whips and the Surangel Whipps Family!

As with every expedition I have made back to Palau, I want to thank my family for their ongoing and unfailing love and enthusiasm. My wife, Susan, continues, without hesitation, in her incredible year-round encouragement and support of my year-round involvement in this effort. I know she is tired of this photo but I love it almost as much as I love her: I try to live my love – and with all my love, Pat

