

**Expedition Log for IODP Expedition 313
New Jersey Shallow Shelf
Week 10**

Julia Crummy's first impressions of life on board the lift boat *L/B Kayd*.



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I have spent time on research ships over the past couple of years working for the British Geological Survey, so I'm no stranger to spending up to a month offshore, with no sight of land, and spending 24 hours a day in the company of others – often having only just met them. However, on the transfer boat out to the *L/B Kayd*, I was filled with trepidation. I had been told that the accommodation areas are very cramped with 6 people to a cabin, and only a small relaxation area beside the cabins. With 24-hour operations, there would always be someone sleeping, so noise levels were to be kept to a minimum. Deck space was limited, with any space being used up by containers, core, drill pipes, tools etc. Basically if you're not working you're sleeping. But I had also been told there is an endless supply of ice cream and cakes!

Joining the expedition at the end, when everything is set up, people know their routine, friendships have been made and bonds formed, is really quite daunting. However, having grinned from ear-to-ear on the basket 'ride', I was greeted with a very warm welcome by everyone on board.



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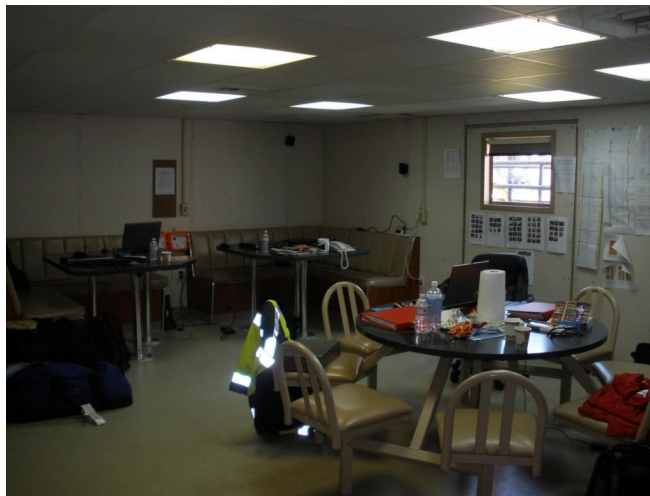
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There were smiles everywhere, and there was a great atmosphere on board. At first I wondered if that was in part due to the obvious high of those leaving to go back home, but over the following days it's become clear that everyone is enjoying their work from the crew and drillers to the scientists. There aren't the usual grumblings you hear, and from what I can see, there aren't any big personality clashes, which is pretty surprising considering there are so many different types of people from different cultures and backgrounds!



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After meeting and greeting, I was shown where to dump my bag. One 6-bed cabin has been set-aside for women. The cabin has 3 bunk beds, with 2 drawers beneath the bottom bunk, 6 cupboards for bags, clothes etc, a sink, and an ensuite toilet and shower. I was pleasantly surprised. As long as we're not all in there at the same time, it's fine. Out of the 6 of us, 4 are on days (6am – 6pm) and 2 are on nights.



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The one thing this boat does lack is somewhere to chill out. The area outside the cabins has a round table with 8 chairs, and a U-shaped bench seat with 2 square tables. Some recliner chairs and a sofa would be great!!! However, there is a TV and DVD player. Film time is usually around 8pm, and everyone who's not on shift or working settles down to watch – there's even popcorn!



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Mealtimes are 5-7am, 11am-1pm, 5-7pm and 11pm-1am. The Chefs cook up really tasty hot food and in between times there is the endless supply of cakes and ice cream I'd been told about! And fresh fruit; melon, watermelon, strawberries, grapes, peaches... Heaven!



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On the work side, the set up here is really good. The office and lab containers are all lined up either side of the 'Main Street', with the drill floor at the end. Everything runs pretty smoothly with most people, having been here a while, in a routine, while us newcomers slot in easily after the 4 hour handover. It'll take a couple of days to find my feet, but it all seems pretty easy going.

The one thing that really strikes me about being on here is the sense of community. Some of the crew and drillers have been on since the start, just over 2 months now, while a lot of the ESO operations staff and scientists are on their second or third leg. I'm looking forward to becoming a part of it, but for the moment it's time to chill out and watch the sun go down from the best seat on the boat... looks like Carol beat me to it!



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