

Day 35: August 20, 2010

Another day of PR and errands. Quiznos donated \$20,000 to the voyage. They brought over a huge cardboard check, hats for Captain Bob and me and lunch. There was a reporter who spent some time covering the story and asking a lot of questions, though I am not sure what local paper he was with. Maybe someone can Google whales and Quiznos and Mobile and find the article as we are now in the final stages of readying for leg 3. Greer and Ryan did check in and made it home safely - though they did get stuck in Memphis and delayed a day. Flying these days is just not like it used to be.

Iain solved our array problem! He had an array flown in from Scripps. He also had a directional hydrophone shipped in from somewhere else. He was taking no chances that we would leave empty handed. Thus, we now have an array, a directional hydrophone and a regular hydrophone- we should hear something! It took a bit of running around plus getting the groceries, but we are all loaded up now and ready to go tomorrow. I certainly kept Johnny and Matt quite busy with work this port call. To their credit they did it all with a smile- and of course a lot of food.

During the evening we enjoyed a visit from Dr. John Vincent, a chemist at the University of Alabama who works on chromium supplements. John brought his family by the boat and Matt and Johnny gave them the grand tour from crossbows to cell cultures. To my lab group: Qin Qin, you will be happy to know that John will look into whether they can help us with your long term chromium valence study as they have one of the top EPR facilities in the country. James you will be happy to know that John can point us to a source for buying crude oil to dose the cells with. As for the rest of my lab and others interested, John tells me that the USDA has informed him that he has pretty much nailed down all the evidence that chromium is in fact NOT an essential element. Nevertheless, USDA is not planning to changes its recommended daily allowance of chromium... remarkable. Anyway, we enjoyed barbeque with John and his family at a local college spot. It was quite good. It's nice to have quality colleagues doing related work.

The day ended quietly and tomorrow it is back to sea.

John