

# THE KWAJALEIN HOUR GLASS



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Channels**

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*(Photo by Jim Bennett)*

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# Kwaj Crud jogs memories, becomes rite

On Oct. 1, I will have spent four complete rotations of the earth around the sun on Kwajalein. In every other place I have lived — 31 different places ranging from Dallas to Alaska (moving is the only way I can clean out my closets) — there were seasonal reminders to help jog my memory when a question was asked.

For example, if someone asked “When did you get that new bike?”

In Alaska, my answer was: “When all the snow disappeared in June,” or “When the mud dried up in September just before the first snowstorm hit.”

In Dallas, my answer was “after Hurricane Hilda hit” or “When it cooled off enough so you couldn’t fry an egg on the sidewalk.”

In Kwajalein, my answer for most of the four years to any question relating to when something happened was, “Well, it was hot and humid.” But I finally realized that even here there is an event that happens twice a year, like clockwork, which can be used to anchor memories.

Just after school starts in the fall and in the spring after Christmas, the infamous Kwaj Crud hits.



This is what I think happens and actually has no real, scientific basis, just speculation on my part:

Residents returning after vacation bring back new strains of colds, flus, viruses and just plain germs to our small, protected isle. Returning children are at the forefront of the invasion carrying the new germs to school where each strain mixes with the other germs, flus and colds carried in by the other students.

After a percolating period of about 24 hours, the Kwaj Crud strain is formed and the children’s parents and teachers are infected, followed closely by most of the

coughing, sneezing, feverish population.

Getting the Kwaj Crud is almost a rite of passage, making a newcomer into an old timer. Trust me, once it hits you, for a week or two you definitely feel like a very old timer.

Muscles you didn’t even know you had ache, there are actually two little people pounding tiny anvils in your head — just like some old headache commercials in the states, and trying not to pass it onto friends and relatives is a futile gesture. They will get it, and they will blame you.

As quickly as it hits, after two weeks wrecking havoc, it evaporates under the Kwajalein sun about this time each fall, only to return after Christmas.

So the question as to “When did you get that new bike?”

My answer on Kwajalein is, “It was hot and humid and I just got over the Crud, so it had to be September.”

## Marshallese Word

### of the Day

jaki — mat

### The Kwajalein Hourglass

Commanding Officer.....Col. Jerry Brown  
Public Affairs Officer.....LuAnne Fantasia  
Editor.....Jim Bennett  
Associate Editor.....KW Hillis  
Graphics Designer .....Dan Adler  
Staff Writer .....Jan Waddell

The Hourglass is named for the insignia of the U.S. Army 7th Infantry Division, which liberated the island from the forces of Imperial Japan on Feb 4, 1944.

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## Letters to the Editor

Keep letters to less than 300 words, and keep your comments to the issues. This would be a no-libel zone. Letters must be signed. We will edit for AP style and, if you exceed the word limit, space. Please limit yourself to one letter every 30 days to give other readers a chance to write.

Send your letter to:

The Hourglass, P.O. Box 23, Local; or  
jbennett@kls.usaka.smdc.army.mil.

## Buckminster and Friends

By Sabrina Mumma



# Cataloging effort increases access, decreases time

By KW Hillis  
Associate Editor

There are 6,000 different resistors available in the Kwajalein Enterprise Asset Management System or KEAMS database, but up until now not all of them were accessible. Even if the specific one desired could be brought up on the system, accessing a list of resistors could take up to five minutes. These and other KEAMS problems are in the process of being fixed — some changes are already evident while others will take up to three years.



Michael Maurer Jr.

“Our primary ending goal is to reduce the access time to between 30 seconds and one minute,” said Michael Maurer Jr., KEAMS senior cataloger, explaining that right now accessing a list of items on the system can take up to five minutes.

The combining of two previous supply databases into KEAMS resulted in problems such as some items “hidden” in the system, over 19,000 duplicate items, poor descriptions leading to the wrong item selected, non-stock purchases instigated when the items were in stock and the long access time, according to Maurer and Fred Barlow, cataloging consultant from Auslang International. All those problems are in the process of being sorted out and fixed during the six stages of the catalog cleanup project.

“[I’m] formalizing the strategy for improving the catalog,” Barlow said. In the first week and a half of his month-long visit, Barlow has already accessed over 70,000 items out of the 143,000 items, making sure that like items have the same common name or colloquial.

One reason that some items were inaccessible is that the colloquial list, which is searched each time an item is requested, was not linked to similar items. For example, if a person is looking in KEAMS to see if any bacon is available in the warehouse, he or she could enter “bacon” or a brand-name like “Hormel” in the Inventory Item Review screen and both nouns would

be in the colloquial list pointing to the bacon stock. But if one of the bacon products in the system had only a common name of “pork,” that particular listing of bacon would not come up for the user to see. So the item would sit in the warehouse and the user would order that type of bacon from off-island even though it was available.

Another problem is that some of the common names were not so common, and a system user would have to know an uncommon name to access an item. This happened in the case of the 6,000 resistors, many of which had been assigned the colloquial “res.”

Barlow is retrieving each record of the 6,000 resistors in the system and making sure the colloquial is “resistor.”

Each user can add a colloquial for an item, he said. For a plug, a user may want to add “three-pin,” and from then on all users entering “three-pin” will bring up that particular pin. The problem with that, Barlow said, is that there may be other three-pin items on the list and if the selected “three-pin” is discontinued, the user won’t be able to access any other three-pin plugs using that colloquial.

If the colloquial added can describe an attribute of other items in the system, Maurer asks that the user e-mail the change to the KEAMS Cataloging Team listed in the global address book.

“Then we will go ahead and do all the research and find all the three-pin connectors and put that colloquial on there,” Maurer said.

Users can use a colloquial that is unique, like “Bill’s plug,” but that can cause a problem, Barlow said.

“Bear in mind, you don’t want to restrict too much,” he said. If the item is discontinued or there is a better match, then the user will never be able to find the other plugs if they narrow the search too much.

As soon as next week, users accessing KEAMS to find a list of all like items, such as bolts or plugs, will be able to use very common names, like “bolt\*” and “plug\*” in the Inventory Item Review screen colloquial block. This upgrade will happen without bringing the KEAMS system down, Maurer said. The asterisk will bring up all the items under that colloquial name.

Once a simple noun and asterisk, is entered, the Colloquial Name Ac-

cess screen comes up with space for the user to enter more description on what type, size or even, brand of bolt is needed. Once entered, Stock Items Matching on Colloquial Name pages are displayed, showing the number of items, the stock code, a more comprehensive description and the number of containers of each available on hand.

One problem that users have had once they get to the Inventory Item Review page when a certain item is selected from the list is getting back to the search screen, Maurer said.

At the bottom of the screen, a “J” should be entered in the “Ac” block and the program jumps back to the search screen, he said.

When the update to the database occurs, users may see another change.

The Item Name will be a simple noun or name rather than describing the item, he said. The actual description will start on the second line.

With over 143,000 items in the entire database it will take a while to fix all of the items, Maurer said.

Once some standardization is done, then duplicate records can be found and deleted, Barlow said.

Another change which is also being worked on by the six-member team is standardizing the first 40 characters of the description of each separate item in the database, he said.

“All the bolts, when you look at them, will be size first, then threads, then etc,” Maurer said. “So you will actually see when you are looking at a list of 15 bolts, all of the measurements in the appropriate column. So you can decide which one you want.”

There is an encoding standard list which will be available on the KRS’s K-drive and also will be sent via e-mail to users which can be consulted to find out what an abbreviation means on the list, Barlow said.

The reduction of access time is the final goal, Maurer said.

The improvements, seen by users in increments, will have a ripple effect.

The purchaser will know what he or she is ordering, he said. The warehouse people will have the correct item on the shelf, the customer will know what to order and the number of non-stock items ordered because they can’t find the item in the catalog will go down, Maurer said.

# Library benefits from new arrivals

## From Grace Sherwood Library

Grace Sherwood Library recently received over 20 new McNaughten books, four large print books and a plethora of material donated from Johnston Island including over 200 books, 30 books on tape, and 25 new videos.

And for those Harry Potter fans, Grace Sherwood has two copies of his latest adventure "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix."

Also starting in September is the Monthly Book Draw. Register to win between the first and fifteenth of the month. One entry form per person. This month, we are giving away the complete set of Harry Potter books, volumes 1-5.

# Glory Trip mission scheduled tomorrow

## From Command Safety Office

A range operation is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2003. Caution times are 10:31 p.m. through 6:31 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 11, 2003. In conjunction with this operation a caution area will exist within the Kwajalein Atoll. See the Sept. 5 *Hourglass* for maps.

Bigej Island, including the inner reef, is specifically excluded and is not a part of the mid-atoll corridor. All mid-atoll corridor islands are designated sheltered islands.

KPD island clearance procedures began at approximately 7:30 a.m., Sunday, and will continue until evacuation has been accomplished.

Egress of all air and seacraft is required when requested by authorized clearance personnel. Subsequent to lagoon clearance, the hazard area will be in effect until mission completion.

In the event of a mission slip, the following caution times and areas will be in effect:

- 10:31 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 11, through 6:31 a.m., Friday, Sept. 12, 2003.
- 10:31 p.m., Friday, Sept. 12, through 6:31 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 13, 2003.

Questions regarding the above safety requirements for this mission should be directed to the Command Safety Office, Range Safety officer, 51910.



(Photo by Jim Bennett)

AFN Chief Engineer Craig McCarraher works with new television transmitters, lower right, that will replace the old transmitters, in back. Though nearly five times smaller, the new transmitters put out just as much power and include digital features that make them more efficient and easier to repair.

# AFN sets stage for new channels

## Outage planned for weekend daylight hours

By Jim Bennett  
Editor

TV service will go down during daylight hours this weekend, but the net result will be more television channels, according to Craig McCarraher, AFN Kwajalein chief engineer.

The shut down is tentatively set for Sept. 14-15.

The weekend dates were necessitated by the crane availability for the week. The giant Condor crane must come to Kwaj from Roi for the operation, which will take workers up to 165 feet in the air to install new transmitter antennas on the twin monopoles located behind the police station. McCarraher estimates the work should take two days, but added rain delays could complicate matters and push the work into the week.

The move falls in the midst of televised football, some of the more popular programming, McCarraher admitted. To compensate for the downtime, however, AFN will tape three college football games on

Sunday and air one of them Sunday night. AFN will then tape two NFL games Monday morning during the downtime. Monday evening, when TV service is restored, AFN will air the two NFL games, back-to-back on channel 20, and the remaining two college football games, back-to-back, on channel 23. Check Friday's *Hourglass* and the *Roller* for specific game listings.

As soon as the work is completed next week, Kwaj residents will have three different programming channels, an additional channel with duplicate programming and no delays, and three informational channels.

"This is a continued improvement to quality of life," said Lloyd Jordan, deputy manager for Community Services.

Currently, AFN receives all programming via satellite from the AFRTS Broadcast Center in Los Angeles, tapping the Direct-to-Sailor Pacific feed. It consists of programs primarily geared towards sailors aboard Navy ships, but includes the most popular shows in the states from a variety of networks. To make

(See *CHANGES*, page 5)

Jason Bischoff works master control at AFN last week. As AFN broadcasts feeds in their entirety, master controllers won't have to merge news and sports feeds into a single channel.



(Photo by Jim Bennett)

## Changes improve TV and radio ...

(From page 4)

the programming fit with Kwaj time, AFN delays the broadcast by 21 hours.

Meanwhile, the AFN Broadcast Center also broadcasts 24 hours of news and 24 hours of sports on separate feeds, again from all the major networks. Today, AFN merges the news and sports into a single channel. Furthermore, AFRTS often sends sailors some sporting events on the entertainment feed. Thus, AFN Kwajalein will take the feeds, and merge the sports and news onto a single channel, while running entertainment programming on channel 9.

Under the new arrangement, AFN will not alter the feeds, but rather, residents will continue to receive the DTS entertainment on channel 9, as always. They may also watch the DTS feed, undelayed, on channel 35. The news channel will air on channel 14 and the sports network will run on channel 17.

"That way, absolutely no programming gets covered up," McCarraher said.

Channel 13 will carry the Roller, 24 hours a day. Channel 29 will display the weather radar and channel 32 will show flight information, both intra-atoll and commercial, schedules, delays and other information.

Channels 20, 23 and 26, will remain blacked out for future growth. The current plan calls for the addition of three more AFN channels including Spectrum, which features

educational programming such as that seen on the Discovery Channel, Travel Network and Animal Planet; a movie channel; and a family channel geared towards those 11 and under.

The equipment for this expansion has been bought and awaits installation in Huntsville, where AFN Kwajalein will initially receive the three feeds before they are sent via satellite to Kwajalein. As soon as the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command moves across town to its new headquarters at the Redstone Arsenal, McCarraher will fly to Huntsville and install the equipment. Jordan said the move is currently scheduled for the first part of next year.

At that time, AFN will be able to replace the DTS feed with the AFN Atlantic feed, which is more geared towards families stationed in Europe rather than sailors, 18 to 35 years old. The Atlantic feed includes soap operas too, a programming casualty of the transfer to the DTS format two years ago, McCarraher said.

In addition, the satellite connection to Huntsville, allows AFN Kwajalein to receive the full complement of four AFN radio networks including National Public Radio, country, classic rock and contemporary rock. Exact frequencies have yet to be determined, he said. AFN Kwajalein will continue to receive the DTS radio service, and broadcast those as background on the informational channels.

## Siren callers raise alarm with KFD

By KW Hillis

Associate Editor

In the last two weeks, two siren warnings on Kwajalein prompted a flurry of phone calls from curious residents to the Fire Department, the commander's office and the Commander's Hot Line.

"An incoming call is a distractor to the Fire Department's focus right then," said Jerry Leverett, KFD assistant fire chief. "It also ties up outgoing lines which may be needed, depending on the emergency."

No additional information about the nature of the emergency can be gleaned from making the calls.

"They are not going to get anymore information than they get in the phone book," Leverett said.

Said LuAnne Fantasia, USAKA Public Affairs officer, calling the commander's lines won't result in additional information. The people answering those lines do not have any additional information when a siren goes off.

Deciphering the meaning of the five different sirens is as simple as looking at the Siren Warning System listing on page 111 — note that the Table of Contents erroneously lists page 109 — of the new telephone book or clipping and keeping the following list:

### Siren Warning System

**Fire Recall siren** is a steady blast lasting one minute and recalls all off-duty firemen.

**Pending Disaster siren** consists of two short blasts repeated five times at 20-second intervals. Residents need to listen to the radio at 101 FM or 1224 AM or turn on the TV.

**Evacuate to Shelters siren** is one three-minute warble. Residents need to evacuate to shelters listed in the phone book on page 113.

**All Clear siren**, one 20-second blast, notifies the island that any Pending Disaster or Evacuate to Shelters conditions are lifted and is used for the daily 6 p.m. siren test.

**Special Mission siren** is a sequence of a 10-second blast, a 40-second blast, a pause, a 10-second blast, then a two-minute blast. The sequence is then repeated.

### HELP WANTED

KRS has the following on-island job opening. Unless otherwise noted, call Alan Taylor, 55154.

CAFE PACIFIC NUTRITIONIST. Plan, organize and implement nutritional policies and guidelines for all Food Service Operations. Provide nutritional input for menu production and recipes, monitor and maintain proper sanitation in accordance with TB Med 520 guidelines, oversee production of salad room and perform other related duties as required. Four years of experience and a BS in nutrition is needed.

SUPPLY CATALOGER. Originate and maintain catalog records in MIMS. Includes screening of Requests for Stockage, assignment of Item Name Codes, creating standardized item names based upon Auslang nomenclature discipline, developing item descriptions and colloquials, researching manufacturer part numbers, identifying standardized units of purchase, defining units of issue; implementing initial inventory control levels and strong customer support and interface. Other duties as tasked. Marshallese and English fluency is a plus.

CYS ACTIVITIES ASSISTANT DIRECTOR. Part time. Perform duties under the general directions of the youth activities director. Serves as an assistant youth director with responsibility for operation of the youth center and other youth activities programs. Requires childcare clearance.

CYS HOMEWORK CENTER LEAD. Part time. Serves as lead associate in the SAS homework center. Develops relationships with parents, school and other CYS program associates. Plans homework center program and supports classroom teachers. Requires childcare clearance.

CYS TECHNOLOGY LAB ASSISTANT. Part time. Serves as assistant to the CYS technology lead. Conducts activities under the lead's direction. Must have good working knowledge of computers and be able to assist in troubleshooting hardware, printers and software. Requires childcare clearance.

MS/TEEN HOMEWORK CENTER AS-

SISTANT. Part time. Serves as assistant to homework and technology lead. Supervises the middle school/teen homework center and program. Works closely with school staff, parents and other CYS associates. Plans appropriate activities under direction of leads. Requires childcare clearance.

USAKA/RTS has the following job vacancy. For job information, call Chris Foster, 54417. Access on-line at <http://www.epol.army.mil>.

INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT Specialist, G-1103-13, USSSMDC Contracts and Acquisition Management Office, Contracts Site Operations, with duty station Kwajalein. Announcement No. SCBK03367907. Open Sept. 4-18.

### WANTED

BASS, brass and backup vocals for SASS (Kwaj's only girl band). Must be female or look good in a wig and dress. Call Sheri, 52725 or Mary, 52771.

JABRO SCHOOL on Ebeye is in need of computers. If you would like to help by donating one, please call 52823. Ask for Laura.

### LOST

CHILD'S PRESCRIPTION eyeglasses, tan, metal-framed in hardshell case. Second empty case lost at the same time, Monday, Sept. 1. Call Mary, 51031.

MASK and blue snorkel left at adult pool Aug. 28. Call 52300.

DIGITAL CAMERA, small and silver, lost Aug. 30 on the way home from Coral Sands. \$25 reward, if found. Call 51308.

### FOUND

PRESCRIPTION GLASSES in West Marine eye glass case found on Lagoon Road. Call 53511.

NAME TAG, magnetic, "The Crawley Company," in front of Ten-Ten; green vest and blue plastic cup at CAC room 6, Aug. 20, after Cherokee slide show; Call 53539.

### FOR SALE

AQUARIUM, 55-gallon with stand and accessories, \$750; two chaise style plastic patio chairs, \$20 ea. Call 53364W or 52295H before 8 p.m.

RIFFE ISLAND SPEAR GUN with Riffe case, two 3/8 inch spears, and extra spear tip. \$650



**Due to mission requirements for the hyperbaric chamber, recreational diving is limited to 50 feet, Sept. 8-13.**

or best offer. Call 52641 or 54448.

PLANTS, aquarium items, stained glass materials. Call 53355.

JET-SKI, Yamaha Wave Venture three-person, very stable, low hours and a lot of power. New dry-cell battery and cover. Includes 2003 registration, aluminum trailer, 48 qt. cool and rack and pole holder. Ski #288 near the launch ramp area. \$4,500. Call 54555, or 54431.

FISHING GEAR Shimono Tiagra 80; Penn Tuna Stick 80; hundreds of trolling lures and fishing gear. Rod/reel combo; \$900. Riffe Islander spear gun; 4 spears; 4 tips; travel bag; float/75' tag line, \$700. Sony 25" TV, \$200; DVD, \$50. Call 59313 or leave a message.

KWAJ BIKES, two, \$20 each; fishing gaff; 6' long wire and 5" hook, \$30. Rod and reel; 6' Tuma Stick and Penn Senator reel, \$250. Call 52459.

KITCHEN AID MIXER, professional model K5-A, \$200; white drapes, 44 1/2" long x 37" wide, seven pleats, lined, 6 panels, \$10 ea.; new portable CD player, \$70; 2 twin comforters; pink background with 5" cream border, \$10 ea.; picnic basket, new, \$20. Call 53640 before 8 p.m.

### COMMUNITY NOTICES

SUNFISH REGATTA and beach party at Camp Hamilton is open to the entire community, Sunday, Sept. 14. Enjoy the beach and learn how to sail Sunfish and Lazer sailboats from 1-6 p.m. Sponsored by Kwajalein Yacht Club.

RMI SHOPPING DAY is Saturday, Sept. 27. Macy's, Macy's West and Gimbel's store hours are: 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

HAWAIIAN LUAU BRUNCH at the Café Pacific for Sunday Sept. 21, featuring an array of delicious Hawaiian foods.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER'S Open House is Sept. 11. Starfish at 6 p.m., Stingrays at 6:20 p.m., and Dolphins at 6:40 p.m. All are welcome. If you have question, call Trina 52158.

FAMILY CHILD CARE informational meeting, Sept. 25, 7 p.m. in the elementary school music room. Stop in to find out about this

## STAYWELL INSURANCE PATIENT NOTICE

Incorrect information can delay claim processing or result in a denial of benefits.

Please check your insurance card and if any information is incorrect, contact Jean, 51888.

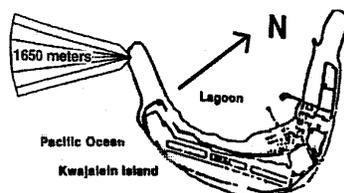
The Pharmacy is now sending Staywell prescription claims electronically.

Bring your insurance card when you pick up a prescription to expedite processing.

## The Small Arms Range is in operation

Sept. 10, 8 a.m.-noon and Sept. 11, 4-10 p.m.

Avoid the hazard area shown below. All watercraft observe the red flags at the southwest end of the island.



**All residents are invited to a  
Diabetes Type 2 presentation**  
by  
**Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetic Educator  
Conly Acton**  
**Sept. 12, 6-7:30 p.m.  
CAC, room 6**

opportunity. Call 52158 for details.

**PRE-SCHOOL PARENT WORKSHOP** on "Disciplining the Heart of the Child," Sept. 18, 7 p.m. in the elementary school music room. Call 52158 for details.

**4TH ANNUAL ROI-NAMUR CHILI COOK-OFF.** Chili entry forms available at Macy's and Post Office bulletin board, Tradex, Gimbel's and Caf e Roi. Catamaran departs Kwaj at 9 a.m. and departs Roi at 4:30 p.m. Seating on a first-come, first-served basis. Two flights to Roi at 9:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Return flights to Kwaj at 4:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Make reservations early by calling 56FLY. For tickets, call: Karla, 53461/54173 Eric Rogers, 56608/56529 Angela, 52158/51059 Damon, 56446, or Stephenia, 56599/56615.

**ALL ACCOMPANIED** residents employing domestics as childcare providers need to contact Host Nation, 54848.

**KWAJ SCUBA CLUB's** next general meeting is Wednesday Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. in CRC room 6. For more information, call Harry, 52479.

**PLANTS FROM SELF HELP.** If you received plants from Self Help and are transplanting them, please return starter pots to Self Help.

**COLLEGE INFORMATION NIGHT** scheduled for students and parents, 7 p.m., Friday Sept. 12 in the Dayve Davis MP room at the high school.

**HARRY POTTER BOOKS** drawing at Grace Sherwood Library for all five books. Fill out a registration form at the front desk during Library Hour, Sept. 1-15. One form per person. The lucky person will be notified on Sept. 16.

**KWAJ TENNIS CLUB** is hosting a tennis social and membership drive on Saturday, Sept. 13, 6-10 p.m. at the Koenig-Jabbar tennis courts. Everyone is welcome. Bring a pupu to share. Drinks and paper goods are provided. The Majuro tournament is a topic of discussion. Questions? Call Kevin at 54785 or Wil at 52687.

**BOY SCOUT** recruiting and registration is Sept. 11, 7 p.m. in CAC room 6. Twelve-year-olds and older (6th grade and up) are welcome to join. Class B shirts are on sale.

**MEASLES** vaccination requirements for badged workers and all international travelers have been changed. All persons 6 months to 40 years will be required to show proof of vaccination before getting on a plane.

**SCOREKEEPERS** and officials needed. Pre-K to 6th grade basketball. Sept. 12. A clinic for people interested is scheduled. Paid positions. Call Mark at 53796 for time and place.

**COACHES** needed. Pre-K to 6th grade basketball. Sept. 10. A coaches meeting for people interested is scheduled. Call Mark at 53796 for the time and place.

**ALL USAKA** access programs are reinstated. Anyone under 40 years of age must show proof of MMR immunization to pass through DSC. This includes badged workers.

**JINO JEN 5:00** awa jibonin Thursday/August 3, enaj bar belok access ak dreton USAKA. Aolep ro 30 yio im lalok renaj aikuijin kwalok kamol ke rar wa in measles bwe ren maron le ilo DSC. ekoba ri-jerbal ro ilo USAKA. Etal nan Ebeye emon nan ro ilonin 30 yio ak ro emoj aer wa in measles (MMR).

**KWAJALEIN COMMUNITY Band's** first rehearsal is Tuesday, Sept. 9, 7:30-8:45 p.m., in the MP room. Newcomers are welcome. For more information, call Dick, 51684.

**See you at the movies!**

**Wednesday**

**Entrapment (1999, PG13)** A priceless Rembrandt painting is stolen from a New York skyscraper in a daring and technically sophisticated robbery. Ace insurance investigator Virginia "Gin" Baker looks into the matter.  
*Adult Recreation Center, 7:30 p.m.*

**Saturday**

**The Good Thief (2003, R)** An aging American thief, living in France, is in the midst of an extended personal losing streak when he rescues a new girl in town from her pimp.  
*Yokwe Yuk Theater, 7:30 p.m.*

**Monte Walsh (2003, NR)** Monte Walsh and his friends are cowboys and bronco busters, plying their trade in the Wyoming Territory of 1892.  
*Roi Namur, C Building, 7 p.m.*

**What a Girl Wants (2003, PG13)** A New York teenager turns 17 and is undecided about her future, so she takes off by herself to London in search of her father.  
*Richardson Theater, 7:30 p.m.*

**Sunday**

**House of 1000 Corpses (2002, R)** A group of teens visit Captain Spaulding's museum of oddities and become obsessed with uncovering the mystery of a legendary local maniac known only as Dr. Satan.  
*Yokwe Yuk Theater, 7:30 p.m.*

**Dark Blue (2003, R)** A cop's personal code of justice begins to change after violence strikes the city repeatedly.  
*Roi Namur, C Building, 7 p.m.*

**Head of State (2003 PG13)** A straight-talking African-American politician who says what he thinks runs for president.  
*Richardson Theater, 7:30 p.m.*

**Monday**

**The Good Thief (2003, R)**  
*Yokwe Yuk Theater, 7:30 p.m.*  
**What a Girl Wants (2003, PG13)**  
*Richardson Theater, 7:30 p.m.*

**MADISON COUNTY  
COUNTRY BAND**

- \*THURSDAY, SEPT. 11, 6 P.M.,  
ROI SWIMMING POOL
- \*FRIDAY, SEPT. 12, 7:30 P.M.,  
ROI OUTRIGGER BAR
- \*SATURDAY, SEPT. 13, 9 P.M.,  
GILLIGAN'S BAR
- \*SUNDAY, SEPT. 14, 5:30 P.M.,  
EMON BEACH

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more.**

**Now through  
Saturday**

# Note finds friend across 413 miles of ocean

By KW Hillis  
Associate Editor

A beachcomber for almost 40 years, Dennis Baker has found some surprising things on uninhabited islands in the Pacific — but he didn't expect to find a letter in a bottle from someone he knew washed ashore on a tiny uninhabited island 413 miles from Kwajalein.

"I was absolutely amazed. What are the odds of finding a letter in a bottle, let alone a letter in a bottle from somebody you actually know," Baker said. "I picked it up and saw rice in it and thought it as Japanese. I opened it up and it was from [the] *Cherokee*."

The bottle and its contents were cast overboard on Nov. 29, 2002, by Carl McGrew who was aboard the trimarin *Cherokee* with his son Paul and crewmate TC Cardillo.

Baker found the clear glass wine

bottle containing a tattered, darkened note and some rice to keep the note dry on the shore of Sibill Island located in Taongi Atoll on the morning of Aug. 26. Baker and eight other people went to the atoll to look for glass balls, dive and set up a temporary ham station since two people aboard Baker's boat were ham radio operators from the states.

"It was morning; we had come across the island from lagoon side to ocean side, and walked along checking out stuff," he said. "It was 15 feet above sea level."

This serendipitous find happened at a very unusual time since when Baker's crew left Kwajalein, Paul McGrew was on island entertaining residents with a slideshow of the 2½-year *Cherokee* voyage.

"I knew Paul was back on [Kwaj]," Baker said. "He was doing his spiel up there at the CRC while we were on our way to Taongi. Then he left by the time

we got back, so I e-mailed him.

"We are 400 miles southeast of Hawaii at latitude N 15 degrees 20' and longitude W 150 degree 10'," wrote Carl McGrew on the lined notepaper dated Nov. 29, 2002.

The bottle had to float almost 2,500 miles to reach Sibill Island, Baker said.

"It could have drifted that far in two months," he added after doing some calculations.

The letter continued, "We have been sailing for 2 ½ years and have put many messages out to sea to see where the currents take them. I am interested where it is found. If you send me a letter I will send you a picture of our sailboat."

Baker counts this find as one of the most unusual in almost 40 years of beachcombing.

"This is my fourth trip to Taongi," he said. "This is the first time I've ever found a letter in a bottle anywhere.

"I've been walking beaches since I was sixteen," he said. "It's cool ... especially on an uninhabited atoll you see so much diverse stuff. We've found scuba tanks, washing machines, refrigerators, chopped up surfboards [and] floats."

Baker e-mailed Paul McGrew to tell him about the find, but has yet to hear from him, but plans to joke with McGrew about the lack of postage stamp or money in the bottle.

"Most of the time people will at least put a postage stamp in it so you can mail them," Baker said with a smile. "I'm going to kid Paul that he was too cheap to put a buck in there."

Dennis Baker reads the tattered note from the bottle, right, he found on Sibill Island, Aug. 26. Sibill is 413 miles from Kwajalein and 2,500 miles from where it was thrown off of the *Cherokee* by crewmember Carl McGrew on Nov. 29, 2002.



(Photo by KW Hillis)

## WEATHER

Courtesy of Aeromet

**Tonight:** Increasing clouds with widely scattered showers.

**Winds:** North to east at 6-12 knots.

**Tomorrow:** Partly sunny with isolated showers.

**Winds:** East-northeast to east-southeast at 7-13 knots with higher gusts near showers.

**Temperature:** Tonight's low 80°  
Tomorrow's high 88°

**September rain total:** 0.57"

**Annual rain total:** 57.63"

**Annual deviation:** -3.96"

**Call 54700 for continuously updated forecasts and sea conditions.**

## Sun • Moon • Tides

	Sunrise/set	Moonrise/set	High Tide	Low Tide
Tuesday September 9	0640/1853	1800/0511	0330, 5.5' 1600, 4.9'	0950, 0.7' 2150, 0.9'
Wednesday September 10	0640/1853	1843/0603	0400, 5.7' 1620, 5.2'	1020, 0.5' 2220, 0.6'
Thursday September 11	0640/1852	1923/0652	0430, 5.8' 1650, 5.4'	1050, 0.4' 2250, 0.5'
Friday September 12	0640/1852	2002/0738	0500, 5.8' 1720, 5.5'	1110, 0.4' 2320, 0.5'