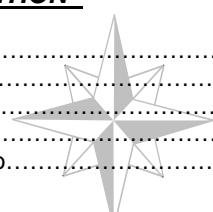



**CAL MARITIME**  
**BEAR'S TALE**  
**THURSDAY AUGUST 20, 2009**  
**AT SEA**

**NOON POSITION**

Latitude.....26° 21. 0' N  
 Longitude.....1350 °34.0' W  
 Avg. Speed.....12.39 KTS  
 Course.....070° T  
 Distance to go.....1027.6 NM



**WEATHER**

Meow hear this, meow hear this; unless you were the first to finish you're c-nav(that would be me, not so much Lynch though) your luck is all but out. Although the remainder of our trip will be smooth sailing with light seas and winds the cloud cover shall remain thick. Thanks and Hook'em.

Cadets Lynch and Hanbury

**1/C General Seamanship Exam (written component)**

Exam will be administered on Saturday, August 22 in the Bowditch Classroom as follows:  
 Last Name A-L 1830 – 1930  
 Last Name M-Z 1930 – 2030.  
 Attendance (including watchstanders) is mandatory. For more details, see the 2009 1/C Handbook CRU 300 Sea Training III (Deck) Handbook.

**Pirates Cove Hours of Operation:**  
**1000-1100 1500-1170 1900-2300**



**1900**

Ch. 22.....Weekend At Bernie's  
 Ch. 24.....The Matador  
 Ch. 26.....Tears of the Sun

**2100**

Ch. 22 .....Dickie Roberts  
 Ch. 24.....Anger Management  
 Ch. 26.....Indiana Jones  
  
 Cam.....Ch.16  
 Electronic Chart .....Ch.14  
 News (when available).....Ch.18

**All TSGB Officers and Staff**

There will be a reception held in your honor aboard the Ferry Boat "BERKELEY" at the Maritime Museum Adjacent to the TSGB dock in San Diego.

***You are all invited!!***

**Date:** Wednesday August 26<sup>th</sup> Time: 1730

**Where:** Ferry Boat BERKELEY – upper deck

**From the Library**

With cruise coming to a close it is time to start returning any item you may have checked out from the library. If your name appears on the list below please return the things you borrowed before we arrive in San Diego. If you need it longer please come talk to me and we'll work it out.

Adams, Robert	Groth, Timothy
Babek, Cameron	Jesse, Nicholas
Baize, Zach	Jimenez, Robin
Britton, Melanie	Jure, Kai
Broussard, Jerron	Lentz, Josh
Campise, Richard	Love, Michelle
Condina, Kyle	Mohler, Rodney
Cutaia, Marc	Molina, Cristino
Darnell, Robert	Palmer, John
DeStafney, Bob	Rodriguez, Andrea
Eckerle, James	Sands, Frank
Ellestad, Jacob	Stuhan, Anthony
Foss, Daniel	Truss, Brittany
Fossati, Kate	Williams, Theodore
Gross, Natalie	Willoughby, Rachel

If you have borrowed magazines or books from the Reading Room please bring those down as well. As we clean up the ship I ask that any stray or homeless books be brought to the library. There still are items wondering around the ship that I need returned.

**1/C Flashing Light Exams**

**Exam:** Last Name **A-M** ..... 8/19  
 Last Name **N-Z** ..... 8/20

**Failure Makeup: All A-Z..... 8/21**

## FRIDAY AUGUST 21, 2009

<b>BREAKFAST</b> Fresh Fruit, Juice, Coffee Assorted Cereals, Milk Eggs to Order Omelet to Order Bacon Pastries	<b>LUNCH</b> French Dip Sandwich Tuna Melt Fries Green Peas Salad Bar/ Soup
<b>DINNER</b>  <b>Prim Rib</b> Herbed Salmon Red Potatoes Pasta Pesto Vegetables Salad Bar / Soup	

### ***Are Americans dumber than Europeans?***

Dear Cecil:

In a Straight Dope staff report I read online, the writer kindly reminded readers that ? is the symbol for the euro. As a European, it seemed to me to be unnecessary until I recalled the old stereotype that we, the Europeans, so enjoy believing about the general American populace: that they're stupid and/or blind as far as the rest of the world is concerned. So, my question to you, an American who is no doubt \*not\* stupid or blind as far as I know, is how close to the mark are we Europeans in assuming that Americans are generally dumb? Where do "y'all" rank globally? And, while we're on it, where do European countries rank? And, if it turns out we were all wrong about our neighbors across the pond, is there a reason why Europeans would spread such filthy lies about your noble and intelligent nation? Please help restore my faith in America. - Geert S., the Netherlands

Cecil replies:

You think we're stupid? Just because we let a smirking doofus steal our presidential election and lead us into a bogus war? Come on, that was years ago! Let bygones be bygones. Besides, didn't we just elect the most fab president ever? Maybe you think we're stupid because a bunch of slicks who went to our fanciest schools just trashed the banking systems from here to Iceland (sorry 'bout that), after which we gave them a ton of money so they could take home huge bonuses and laugh it up while the rest of us eat tainted peanut butter.

OK, OK, mistakes were made. But we gave you the Internet, didn't we? Jeez, cut us a little slack.

Actually, Geert, as unbelievable as it seems, you can't find much solid evidence that Americans are any dumber than Europeans or the rest of the world, for that matter. Not saying we're not - just that proof is hard to come by, mostly because of the utter impossibility of even defining, let alone measuring,

smartness and dumbness.

In *\*IQ and Global Inequality\** (2006), a couple of European academics named Richard Lynn and Tatu Vanhanen took a stab at ranking the intelligence quotients of 190 countries. Not surprisingly (given that Western scientists cooked up the tests), they found the U.S. and other industrialized nations clustered right around the average score of 100. They listed the mean IQ of the U.S., France, and Denmark at 98, Germany at 99, the UK and the Netherlands at 100.

At the top of their list were Japan, Taiwan, and China at 105, North and South Korea at 106, and Hong Kong and Singapore at 108. Of course the very idea of the intelligence quotient is highly controversial, and some of the authors' figures have been roundly criticized; in certain cases they seem to have been little better than guesses. If you want proof that Europeans are smarter than Americans, help yourself, but me, I'm not so sure. Maybe we can use literacy as a measure of smarts. According to the CIA (and we all know how smart \*they\* are: intelligence is their middle name), adult literacy in the United States is about the same as in Australia, Canada, and Europe.

If you want to use higher education as your yardstick, the U.S. fares a little better: a 2005 study by the Educational Policy Institute showed the U.S. had the highest college attainment rate of 13 peer countries (10 in Europe plus the U.S., Canada, and Australia), with 31 percent of those between ages 25 and 34 having completed a four-year degree.

But even if Americans aren't innately dumber than Europeans, that doesn't mean we ain't ignorant.

The question before us asks if Americans are "stupid and/or blind as far as the rest of the world is concerned," and on the second part of that formulation we have to plead guilty as charged. All it takes is a vacation to know that Europeans are way more likely to speak our language than we are to speak theirs, and to know and care a lot more about our business than we do about theirs. Why? Probably because we're greedy, smug, and self-centered. But in our defense let me point out that we live in a big, big country. Travel 500 miles in Europe and you might go through several languages and national histories. (And only ten years ago you would have needed several currencies.) If I travel 500 miles, I'm in Pennsylvania. Or Nebraska. Same language, same money, same media, same bad food.

As a nation we're just a little unclear on the concept of foreign countries. Besides, we apparently don't really \*need\* to know much about the rest of the world. According to Baylor University polling, 55 percent of Americans believe they have an advantage that surely outweighs any intellectual deficiencies:

A guardian angel.

- Cecil Adams

