



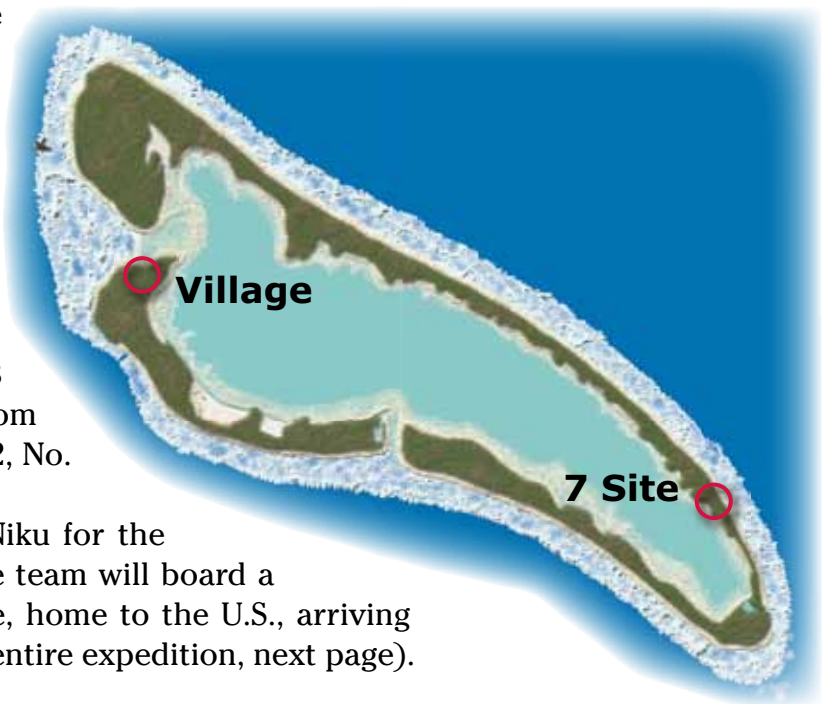
A special double issue of *TIGHAR Tracks* is in the works and should be out by early April, but in the meantime we want to give everyone a quick update on the projects, expeditions and research developments that have kept us hopping since the issue that was published last September. Watch for additional News Alerts in the coming weeks.

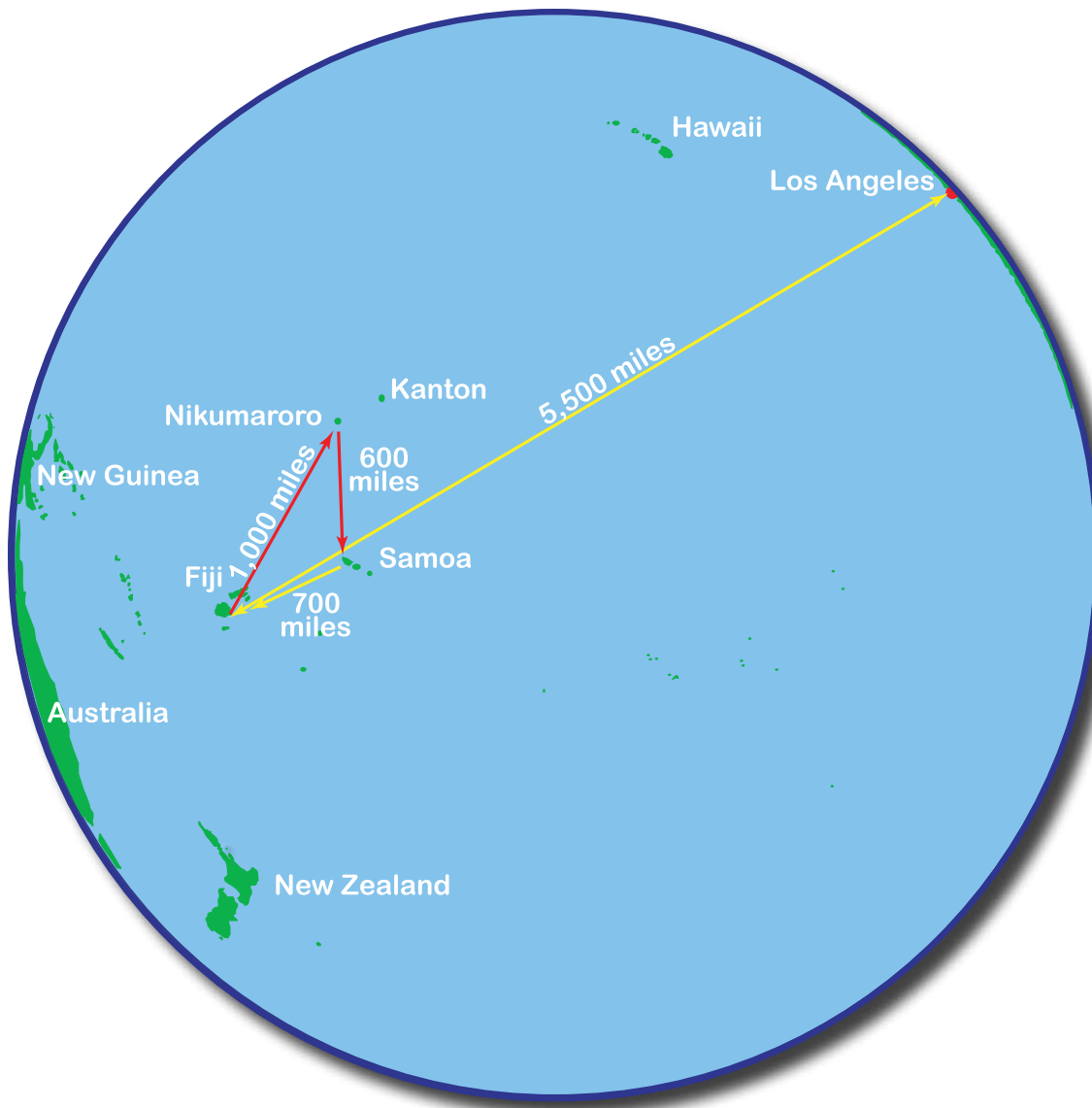
NIKU V – the 70th Anniversary Expedition

Our original plan was for a mission aboard *Nai'a*, the Fiji-based 120-foot ship we've used on three previous trips to Nikumaroro. The funding required for that expedition, which would have given us twenty-one days at the island, proved to be more than we could raise in time to meet the January payment deadline. After exploring a number of different options, we've now worked out an agreement with our friends at *Nai'a* Cruises for a somewhat shorter, more economical voyage that still gives us 17 days at Nikumaroro – **but the \$162,000 balance of the ship charter must be paid by April 3rd**. Of course, we'll need to raise additional funding to cover airfares, equipment, and so on, but the priority right now is to meet the \$162,000 goal by April 3rd.

As presently planned, the expedition team will depart Los Angeles on July 12, arriving at Nadi International Airport, Fiji on July 14. Transferring to the nearby port of Lautoka, we'll board *Nai'a* for the 1,000-mile, 5-day voyage to Nikumaroro. Archaeological operations on Niku will focus on the Seven Site – the “castaways’ campsite” location we began excavating in 2001. The goal there will be to determine whether objects or remains are present which reveal the identity of the castaway(s) who died there. On July 24 we'll celebrate Amelia's 110th birthday at the very spot where she may have passed her 40th. Further excavations in the abandoned village will look for more airplane parts in the same area where artifacts were found by the 2003 team which we suspect are “heat shields” from the Electra's cabin (see *TIGHAR Tracks* Vol. 22, No. 2, “Detective Story”).

On August 4 the expedition will depart Niku for the 3-day, 600-mile trip to Apia, Samoa where the team will board a commercial flight back to Fiji and from there, home to the U.S., arriving back in Los Angeles on August 9 (see map of entire expedition, next page).





Depart LAX, travel non-stop to Nadi, Fiji. By bus to Lautoka, where Nai'a is berthed. Five days to Nikumaroro; 14 days at the island. Three days to Apia, Western Samoa; catch a flight back to Fiji and then back to LAX.

To fund this expedition we need to raise \$200,000 between now and April 1, 2007. As an incentive,

**we are making four of the fifteen berths
aboard *Nai'a* available for Sponsor Team Members**

– individuals who will make a pledge of at least \$50,000 to TIGHAR for the privilege of participating in this historic expedition. Sponsor Team Members must be at least 21 years of age (no maximum age limit), in good health, and be approved by TIGHAR executive director and expedition leader, Ric Gillespie. TIGHAR members will, of course, be given first consideration.

We're well aware that not everyone can donate \$50,000. We wish you could as much as you wish you could. But every dollar you are able to contribute lightens the load. Please use the enclosed flyer to make your donation.

If you are interested in becoming a Sponsor Team Member please contact Ric by email at ric@tighar.org or by phone at (302) 994-4410.

