

# TIGHAR TRACKS

April 2015



## *Down to the Wire*

## **The Niku VIII Expedition June 6 to July 1, 2015**

Preparations for the Niku VIII expedition are at a full gallop. The airline tickets to Fiji have been purchased, the Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) and pilot have been selected, and the hundreds of logistical details are being sorted out. On May 1<sup>st</sup> the expedition team will assemble at TIGHAR HQ for final planning. We're coming down to the wire.

**HOWEVER, due to recent unforeseeable increases in airline and ROV costs, we will need to raise another \$70,000 to give the expedition the full capability to conduct a thorough search of the areas we've targeted.**

Twenty-seven years of rigorous research and ten previous expeditions have produced a compelling preponderance of evidence that says Nikumaroro is where the Earhart saga ended.

**This expedition may be our last opportunity to find whatever more there is to find. It is extremely important that you contribute what you can.**

You can donate via the secure TIGHAR website by going to [www.tighar.org](http://www.tighar.org) and clicking on any "Donate" link.

**Or**

You can phone us with your credit card information at 610-467-1937. Ric will be happy to take your call and answer whatever questions you may have. TIGHAR accepts VISA, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express.

**Or**

You can send a check, payable to TIGHAR, to:

TIGHAR  
2366 Hickory Hill Road  
Oxford, PA 19363

Whatever you can do will make a difference.  
Thank you.



# The Plan

The 14-person TIGHAR team will depart Fiji on June 8 aboard *Nai'a* for the five day, one thousand mile voyage to Nikumaroro, arriving June 13. Three types of search operations will run concurrently over the next fourteen days.

## ROV OPERATIONS

A SeaBotix vLBV950 will be piloted by Ron Bernier of Advanced Remote Marine Services. The system has all the capabilities we need to investigate the anomaly and other potential targets: 1,000 foot+ depth, four LED light arrays of 1,080 lumens each, powerful thrusters to deal with the current, forward looking search sonar, high-definition real-time video, etc. The expedition ship will be moored over the target area to provide a stable platform.



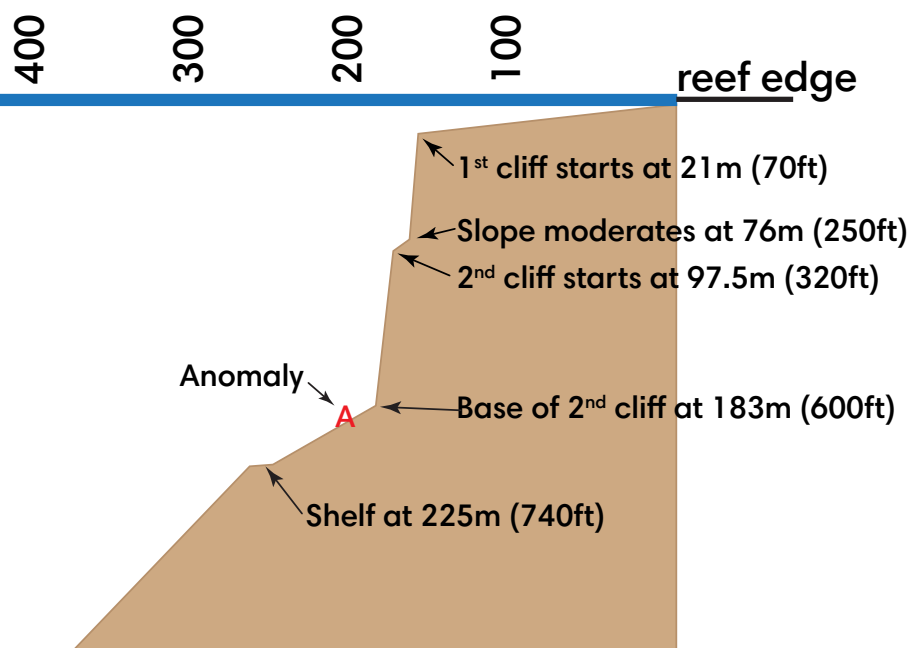
## SCUBA OPERATIONS

TIGHAR's five-person dive team will make an intensive search from the point on the reef edge where the plane appears to have gone into the water (the 1937 Bevington Object location) down to the edge of the first underwater cliff.

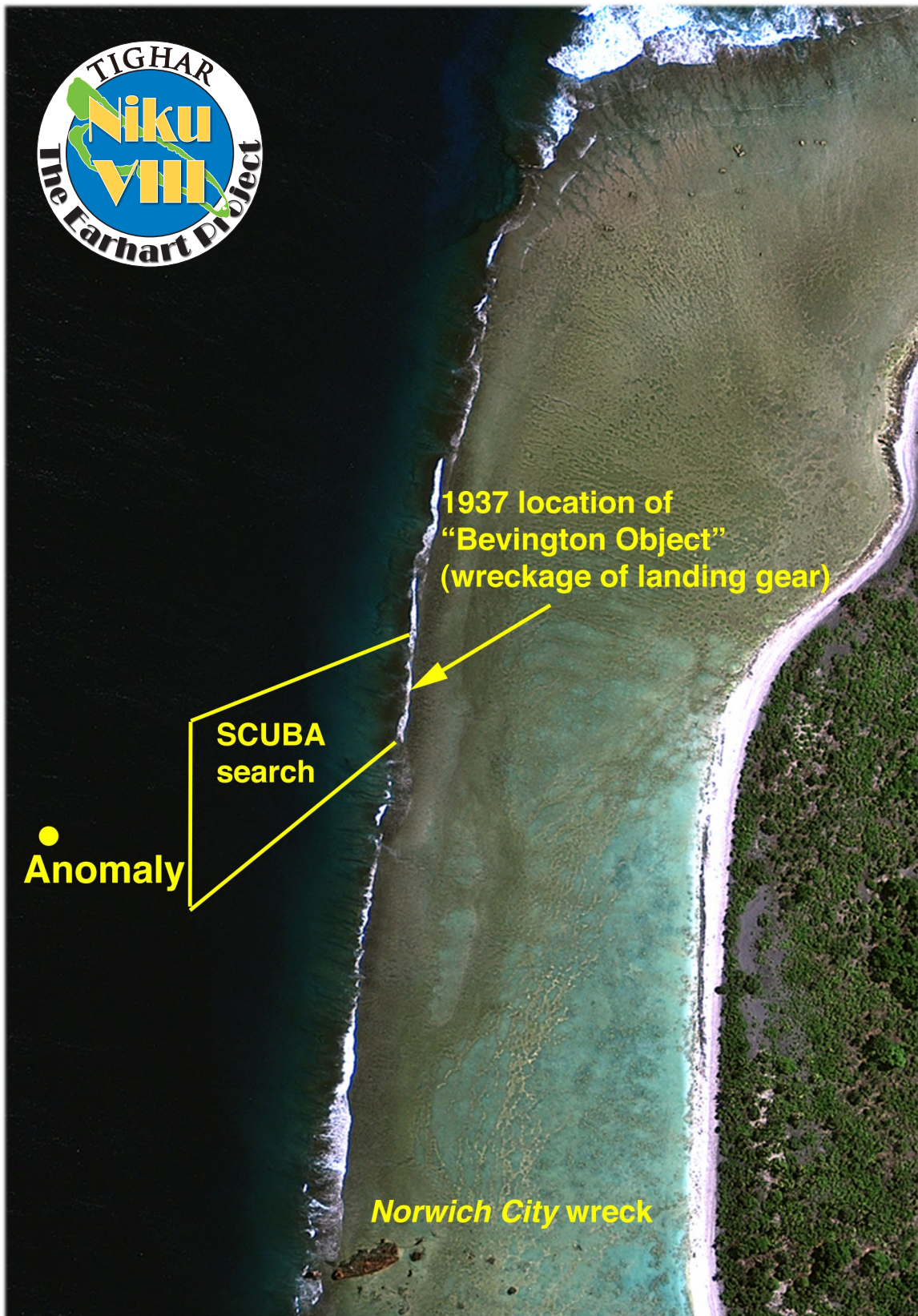


*TIGHAR expedition vessel Nai'a.*

meters from reef edge









## ONSHORE OPERATIONS

TIGHAR's four-person onshore search team will cover the area inland from the beach for signs of an initial survival camp. Eight points have been identified where objects that may be man-made appear in the 1938 aerial photos. To the extent possible, the entire area will be swept visually and with metal detectors.



For the final four days at Nikumaroro the TIGHAR team will be joined by 60 passengers aboard M/V *Fiji Princess* for the Betchart Expeditions Amelia Earhart Cruise. Four experienced TIGHARs, including Senior Archaeologist Dr. Tom King, will be aboard *Fiji Princess* to serve as lecturers and guides.



*Nai'a* will depart Nikumaroro on June 26, arriving back in Fiji on July 1.

