TIGHAR member response to the Niku IIII funding campaign continues to be strong and our fuel needles keep climbing toward our goal. This enthusiastic support has enabled us to add another nine days to our ship charter thus giving the expedition a full three weeks (21 days) on the island. Funding and scheduling constraints have limited most of our previous trips to ten days or less of actual search time, so this is a really significant boost to Niku IIII’s capabilities. We’re grateful to the folks at Nai’a Cruises for juggling their other charters to make more time for TIGHAR, and to you, the TIGHAR members, for showing us that the funding support is there to enable us to make this much-needed but expensive (about $46,000) adjustment to next year’s operation. At this time it looks like we’ll be on site at Nikumaroro from August 30 to September 19, 2001.

Betty’s Notebook - Update

Research into what appears to be a surviving real-time transcription of distress calls from Amelia Earhart (see “The Girl Who Heard Amelia” in the November 2000 TIGHAR Tracks) has prompted a detailed reexamination of all of the alleged post-loss radio transmissions from the lost plane. Over a hundred documented occurrences are being logged in a standardized format, adjusted to Greenwich Mean Time, and plotted on time lines to obtain an accurate picture of what events were happening concurrently and what patterns, if any, are discernible. We hope to have the initial results ready for the next (January 2001) issue of TIGHAR Tracks.