



# What to Do When **Everything** Goes Wrong

Bogota, Colombia 2009

# The Mission

- Darwininvest asked Steve Van Meter and I to travel to Bogota, Colombia to do a pre-inspection on a hydroelectric power plant. The inspection would take place at three separate locations in the Bogota area.



# Flight Issues

- Flight from Duluth to Minneapolis goes fine.
- Flight from Minneapolis to Houston gets cancelled, and I'm rerouted to Chicago for the night. I will now fly from Chicago to Miami and then on to Bogota the next day.
- Arrived in Bogota 16 hours late.

# Luggage Issues

- When I arrived in Bogota my luggage was still not there, but the airline promised to have it on the next flight (approximately 8 hours later).
- The only luggage I have are the two BlueView sonar units I carried on the plane.
  - P900
  - DF900-2250
- Steve Van Meter has a VideoRay system that he is bringing along.
- Question: Do we have enough gear to go ahead with the job?

# First Location

- We have one complete system (VideoRay and BlueView), so we are able to attempt the mission.



- Within minutes of deploying the ROV and sonar we are caught up in what we think is debris at the trash rack.
- The tether end pulled free of the tether and we lost the sub.



- Helpers from the power company attempt to locate the ROV and sonar using trash rack rakes.



# Lost Gear

- We now have lost a VideoRay ROV, and a BlueView P900 Sonar.
- Do we have enough gear to continue or should we go back home?





# We Decide to Continue

- We evaluate the gear we have and decided to try and continue with the one sonar and laptop computer.
- This water was the darkest water that either Steve Van Meter or I had ever encountered.
- We determined the water was too dark for the VideoRay and this would be a sonar only search using the VideoRay only as a vehicle for the sonar. If the VideoRay shows up with my lost luggage.

# Time to Manufacture a Pole Mount for The BlueView



We are able to work again.



# Sonar Pole Mount Inspection

- We were able to do two locations working with just a sonar on the pole mount.
- This gave us very nice images, but we were not able to get close enough because we still didn't have the VideoRay.

# Day Six

- My luggage finally shows up.
- My luggage is in very bad shape. My bags have been duct taped together by the airline.
- Steve needs to return home on day seven and I need to return home on day eight.

# Time to Go Home

- After inspection of my gear I find my control panel inoperable.
- We look over all our gear and decide it is now time to go home.
- We cannot fix the control panel, and Steve needs to take his home.
- We did everything possible to get the job done and did get some good images, but we still need to return another day.



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