

Day 43 – At Sea – Cruise Critic Lunch – Gnome Dinner - 8 Nov. 09: The day started with overcast sky, light wind and smooth sea with rollers coming in from the south. This was to be another day at sea so the schedule was very light. It was a nice day to relax.

At 12:15 we went down to the dining room for the Cruise Critic Lunch that Karen had scheduled. It was a fairly good turnout with 17 people and two tables filled.

We took pictures of the people at the table. We won't try to identify everyone but the following photos show who was there.





The turnout may have been higher except that there was a lot of competition for people's time and appetites with the Mongolian Barbeque going on in the Lido Pool area.

New Zealand and the area around Wellington was the location of filming for the movie trilogy named "The Lord of the Rings". Gnomes play a significant part in that movie. The Amsterdam is approaching New Zealand for a visit. Never known to miss the opportunity for a "Theme Dinner", tonight the Amsterdam dining room was decorated with gnome stuff, like the two gnomes shown on the right.



The dining room staff was decked out in gnome costumes and there were pointy hats on the tables for us to wear. We didn't quite know what the connection was between pointy hats and gnomes but we joined in anyway and put them on for dinner. Shown below are some of the photos we got as everyone mugged for the camera.



George set the pace at our table by putting on three of the hats, covering both ears as well as the top of his head. He's an original and Judy was egging him on.

Nughie, the Assistant Dining Room Manager, came by in his gnome outfit and scooped up Karen.



Of course we couldn't resist getting into the act.

The carrot cake dessert looked particularly good tonight so we thought it deserved to be photographed for the record. Here is what this delicious dish looked like before it was devoured.



There's nothing like a good dinner to finish off the day. Tomorrow we are going to be sailing through the fiords of New Zealand and we have heard that the views will be fantastic. Looking outside tonight we had a little concern because there appeared to be a light fog setting in. We have a couple hundred miles yet to go so hopefully we will be free of this fog as we cruise the fiords around Milford Sound tomorrow.