

Day 10 At Sea – Clockwise Walking - Stewards – Cabin Door - 5 Oct 09: The clocks have been turned back nearly every night as we cruise in a westerly direction so we have been waking up earlier each morning. Today we woke up before dawn to a calm sea and sky with broken clouds.



The moon was still visible as the early morning light of the sun caught the tops of the clouds.

Clockwise Walking: After we had our first coffee of the morning we decided to do the regular 30 minute walk around the promenade deck. We can do about 7 laps or 2 miles in 30 minutes time. During these morning exercise sessions we have been studiously looking for the first signs of the “equatorial clockwise walking syndrome”. Although there are no shipboard rules on this subject, nearly everyone stepping out onto the Promenade Deck turns to the left and walks counterclockwise around the ship. Our friend, Ben, in San Diego has a theory that says humans are genetically coded to perform in this manner. The theory has an escape clause that helps to explain why as we approach the equator, some passengers chose to walk the Promenade Deck in a counterclockwise direction.

Today the Amsterdam was about 5 degrees north of the equator when we made our first sighting of the “equatorial clockwise walking syndrome”. Two gentlemen, who were most sensitive to this phenomenon, succumbed early and we caught them with our camera. This man in the picture on the right is striding out after enjoying the thrill of threading his way through oncoming traffic at the last corner.



Later we found this man in the white shirt, shown below, hopelessly exhibiting the syndrome. His red shirted fellow sufferer, having just negotiated another corner, can be seen following in the distance.



Stewards: About the time we were ready to go to breakfast we saw our room stewards, Rurie and Jay, in the hallway and they were ready to attend to our room. We got these photos of Rurie, on the right, and Jay below.



While in the Lido for breakfast, one of the stewards was particularly friendly and helpful. His name is Rudy and we got his picture along with the coffee cart that he maneuvers around the Lido serving the diners.



At 10am we decided to go to a “Future Cruise Seminar” in the Queen’s Lounge. We knew we were in trouble when they greeted us with glasses of champagne and mimosa drinks as we entered the room. A detailed and interesting presentation was made by Leah, the Future Cruise Consultant. There were lots of incentives being given for booking a cruise as early as possible. At the end we had to admit that the World Cruise leaving Ft. Lauderdale on the Amsterdam in January 2011 looks very attractive. We shall see about that.

Cabin Door Decoration: One of the yearly events in East Tennessee that we had to sacrifice this year for the cruise we are on is the splendor of the hardwood tree foliage. We make a special point of soaking in as much of those beautiful vistas as we can when we are home at this time of year. We have taken lots of pictures of the fall colors on the trees so we had an enlargement of one picture made and Barbara put it on the door to our stateroom with the caption, “Happy Fall Y’all”. Here is a picture of our greetings to anyone passing by in the hallway.



Since earlier in the day we had taken pictures of our room stewards, Rurie and Jay, as well as Rudy in the Lido, we also got pictures of our dining room stewards tonight. They provide service to two other tables as well as ours and are constantly on the run. However, we got Romli to slow down long enough for this quick picture on the right.



Our other steward, Didi, is responsible for bringing the food in from the kitchen. Like Romli, Didi keeps very busy and we caught



him loaded down with the main course dishes for one of his tables.

One of the most colorful dishes tonight was a white chocolate tort on raspberry sauce as shown below.



Tonight, about 2am we will cross over the equator. Usually King Neptune tracks down hapless sailors and extracts a penalty of some sort for invading his realm of the deep. So far there has been no sighting of King Neptune on the Amsterdam and we are waiting in suspense to see what tomorrow may bring.

