

**Day 7 - Oct 2, At Sea – Port Talk – Movie – Tom Sutton - Clocks:** This had to be one of the most relaxing days since we got on board. The day started bright and sunny with a calm sea. Last night we set the clocks back 1 hour so we had an extra hour of sleep to work with.

**Promenade Deck:** We got down to the Promenade Deck about 7am and walked a couple miles in 30 minutes. Here is Barbara stopping for a moment for a quick picture.



**Port Talk:** We went to the Port lecture by Barbara Haenni the Amsterdam Travel Guide. She told us about the things to see and do in Nuka Hiva which is located in the Marquesas Islands and is our first port of call on 7 October. It appears that the roads on Nuka Hiva are very primitive and require 4 wheel drive vehicles. However, the scenery is supposed to be wonderful so we are looking forward to a private tour we have planned in a 4 wheel drive vehicle. She also covered the attractions that exist in Papeete on the island of Tahiti where we will visit on 9 October. The road system there is good and the market place is set up to handle tourists with a wide variety of souvenirs and other merchandise so it will be a more conventional port compared with Nuka Hiva

**Movie:** In the afternoon we went to a movie in the Wajang Theater. The movie was “Frost/Nixon” and dramatized the interviews that David Frost had with Richard Nixon. This was a popular movie that told the story of how Frost got Nixon to admit to wrong doing in the Watergate scandal that caused the President’s downfall. We thought the movie was very well done. However, we will probably go for lighter fare in the next movie selection.

**Tom Sutton:** After dinner we went to the Queen’s Lounge where the comedian, Tom Sutton, gave us a humorous monologue that kept us laughing through the whole act. It was advertised as a clean show without off-color humor and it was true to the claim. Tom Sutton, with his British accent, played on double meanings that can crop up in the English language and painted mental images of humorous social, political and other situations resulting from such ambiguous words. Here’s one for example. “A man is on safari in Africa. He finds a freshly killed elephant on the ground with a pigmy standing nearby. The pigmy says, “I killed that elephant”. The man asks “How did you do it?” Pigmy says “With my club”. Man says “You must have had a very big club”. Pigmy says, “Yes, there are 80 of us.” Maybe you had to be there to appreciate it but he was one of the best comedians we have heard in recent years.

**Electric Clocks:** We like to have a clock in our room so we bring one with us on cruises. We used to bring an AC electric plug-in type digital clock with large numbers. However, we found that at least on the Holland American ships, Amsterdam and Maasdam such clocks are not useful. The problem is that the alternating current (AC) on the ship is not controlled precisely at 60 cycles per second as is the standard in the US. Since the time keeping in the plug-in electric clock is based on the frequency being precisely controlled at 60 cycles per second, such a clock will gain or lose time if the frequency is not 60 cycles per second. The ship generates its own AC power when at sea and apparently, on the Amsterdam and Maasdam the AC power in the cabins is usually at a frequency slightly higher than 60 cycles per second. We found that our electric clock gained 1 or 2 hours a day while at sea and it was a hassle to keep adjusting it to the correct time. We have solved the problem by bringing battery powered clocks with us for the cabin. Here are the two clocks we are using on this voyage.



The clock on the left is particularly useful because it has two clocks so we can keep track of the Eastern Standard Time back home on the right side while the local ship's time is shown on the left side clock. Perhaps the most important feature is a provision for pictures of our two grandkids, Andrew and Emily, in frames that fold over the clock faces for packing away in the suitcase.

Like we said it was a quiet relaxing day so there wasn't much to write about so this blog entry will be rather short.