

## Day 62, (Wednesday, 11/19/08) At Sea, Garage Sale, Clockwise Walking

This was the first day at sea since leaving Lahaina. It was windy with both the sea and air temperature in the mid 70s. In the noon navigation report the captain said we had 9200 feet of water under the keel.

We are all starting to plan for packing our luggage and things we accumulated from visits in foreign ports. Some of the enthusiasm that came with the sights and sounds of new ports has died away and the priceless souvenir we had to have is now just another item that will take up space in our luggage. Sensing this inevitable circumstance the Amsterdam staff planned a "Garage Sale" for today. Tables were set up in the Atrium area of Deck 5 and people could bring their unwanted items there and sell them to other passengers who would appreciate them more. On the outside chance that there was something there of interest we dropped by the Garage Sale tables to check it out. We found our friend, Diana, showing off a purse she could live without. We were glad to see that the gourd flute she had frantically procured from a vendor through the open bus door in Shanghai was not on the auction block today.

There were many other people showing their wares at their tables and potential customers milling around as shown below.



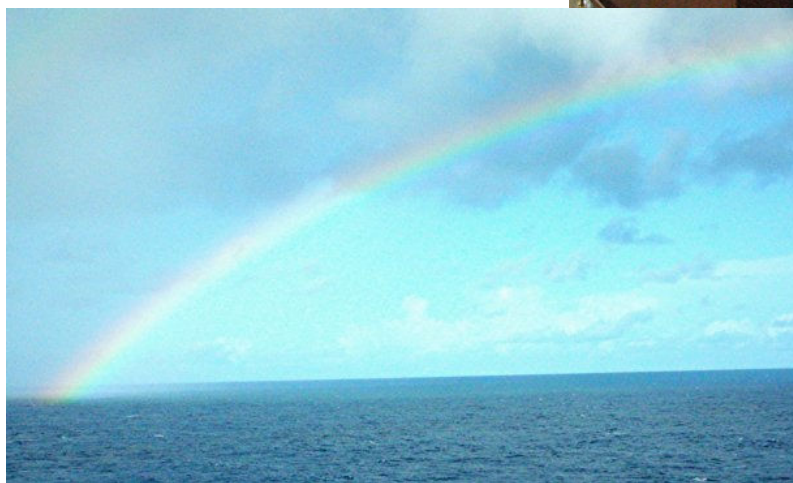
Fortunately we didn't find anything we couldn't live without.

Part of the package deal for the cruise included unlimited shipping of luggage from the ship in San Diego back to our home. A representative from Federal Express had come on board in Hawaii and was available to answer questions about how our luggage should be prepared for shipment. We needed a few extra tags for our bags so we dropped in to see the FedEx lady. We got the tags and in addition some very good news. All the luggage we are shipping will be picked up outside our stateroom and we won't see it again until it arrives at our home. We will be avoiding one of the most painful experiences of cruising which is the retrieval of all your bags spread out on a vast warehouse floor along with the luggage of 1000 other frantic passengers. We will be able to leave the ship with just the few bags we need for a short stay in San Diego and the return to Oak Ridge. This was very good news indeed.

At noon we went to the Lido Pool Deck where an International Food Luncheon was being prepared. We found Gde, our dining room steward, preparing a mango flambé dessert and snapped his picture.



During lunch there was intermittent rain and occasional sunshine. These conditions are great for spawning rainbows. Barbara had the camera ready and caught this rainbow, shown below, before it got away.



Because of the occasional rain and windy conditions we have not been taking walks on the Promenade deck as often as we did earlier in the cruise. We have commented previously about an interesting phenomenon observed while walking around the Promenade Deck with other cruise passengers. Normally walkers step out on to the Promenade Deck, turn left and move in a counterclockwise direction around the ship. However, shortly after crossing the equator into the Southern Hemisphere we noted that one or two passengers would occasionally walk against the traffic in a clockwise direction. There was no shipboard rule against clockwise walking but the observation seemed a bit odd so we mentioned it in the blog. Steve, back in Oak Ridge with tongue firmly in cheek, sent an email suggesting that these few passengers preferring to walk clockwise may be very sensitive to the coriolis effect and simply changed their walking direction because of our crossing into the Southern Hemisphere where the coriolis effect would be reversed. We thought about Steve's suggestion. Steve's suggestion is based on good physics. The coriolis effect in the Northern Hemisphere would provide a force toward the left or counterclockwise direction and it would be reversed in the Southern Hemisphere. However, most experts on coriolis effects would probably say they are too weak to influence these deck walkers.

Ben, a friend living near San Diego, spent some time analyzing the phenomenon. He sent an email with the conclusion that when moving in a circular pattern humans are naturally inclined to go in a counterclockwise direction. The people walking in a clockwise direction on a ship's deck are perhaps doing it to get attention or for the thrill of suddenly meeting other people going the other direction when they round corners. We thought Ben's analysis was worth repeating here so it is shown below:

## Human bias toward counterclockwise walking/running - Explained

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**Counterclockwise direction phenomena:** the Indianapolis 500 and other auto races, track and field events, Roller Derby, indoor bicycle races, horse races, speed skating, merry-go-rounds and other carnival rides, revolving doors, the chariot race in *Ben-Hur*, the customary flow of people around an ice-skating rink, the usual direction in which people spin Hula Hoops, the base runners in baseball, cable-operated model airplanes, and tornadoes and hurricanes in the Northern Hemisphere. By way of explanation there are some exceptions to the above: Some of these supposedly counterclockwise phenomena in fact aren't always counterclockwise. Horse races, for example, are commonly run in a counterclockwise direction in this country, but European tracks are less standardized and at times the horses run clockwise. Oval tracks for stock-car racing are common in the U.S.; they're counterclockwise because in stock cars the driver is on the left and if he loses control and crashes into a wall the right side will absorb most of the impact. (Presumably it's also easier for a driver on the left to cut a tight left turn.) In Europe, serpentine grand-prix-type courses are more common, and some are run in a clockwise direction.

It's true running track events (foot races) **are always run counterclockwise**, but that's because track geometry, direction of travel, etc., are set by international agreement to ensure comparability of times. From all of this the uninitiated might conclude that there is no natural law or scientific reason for the more common counterclockwise direction flow. **Not So:**

## **There is a scientific reason for the standard counterclockwise flow being NORMAL:**

One of the strongest reasons given for the innate "left hand inside" preference for human motion comes from brain science. Since the right brain processes spatial recognition, human perception of space is stronger through the left side of vision (the hemispheres of the brain control opposite sides of the body). When you are running "left hand inside" or counterclockwise, you have better visibility of space on the left side and you are able to run more comfortably, confidently, and quickly.

Amusement rides that are designed to terrify tend to be clockwise, putting human visual spatial perception at a disadvantage and increasing your fear and discomfort. The merry-go-round, which are designed to be a pleasant experience for children go counterclockwise.

It's all in the brain and easily explained by "Brain Science".

Now regarding the passengers that walk clockwise around the deck maybe you can extrapolate that either they all have some brain disorder, either physical or emotional or they are simply being contrary to gain attention or to be disruptive. The natural way is counterclockwise per the healthy and normal primate brain.

So, there you have it. Maybe you can get a substantial reduction in cruise rate by offering to lecture on the counterclockwise natural flow direction for deck walking/running?

By the way I first became aware of the counterclockwise flow direction by playing baseball and in walking Hereford steers around the judge at the Jackson County 4-H club fairs. HA

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We weren't quite up to giving a lecture on the ship that Ben suggested so this blog entry will have to suffice on this vital issue.