

Day 57, (Friday, 11/14/08) At Sea, Grand Show Buffet

The day started at sea with temperatures in the high 70s, moderate sea, overcast sky, and 5100 feet of water under the keel. The Amsterdam is cruising at 21 knots which is near the maximum. We have two more days of cruising before reaching Honolulu, Hawaii.

We called Scott with the on-board ship's phone to wish him a happy birthday. With only a 5 hour difference between Oak Ridge and the ship it makes it easier to time the calls back home to arrive at a reasonable hour of the day. The phone reception was great and we managed to get everything said in the 12 minutes provided by the card we purchased for \$25.

Grand Show Buffet: Today at noon the Executive Chef, Ed, and the Amsterdam Kitchen Brigade created a spectacular display of culinary delights in the main dining room. Tables were set up with gastronomical goodies of all sorts and we were invited to walk around the tables and take pictures before the food was served up to the starving passengers. Barbara braved the crowd of enthusiastic passengers around the tables wildly snapping pictures. She was not to be outdone and came away with lots of photographs. The following are a few of our favorites:



Here is a display of salads with an animal 5 piece band made up of melons and eggplant.



This is a pyramid of jumbo shrimp (now there's an oxymoron) for the shrimp lovers in the crowd.



Executive Chef Ed Sayomac orchestrated the whole delicious show.



On the right is a display of cold cuts splayed out with decorative fruit toppings.



Here on the left is a squadron of desserts led by a swan carved into the rind of a watermelon.

In addition to the preparation of food the kitchen staff has promoted exceptional skills in carving decorative shapes from ice and food items like melons.

Viewing all this food on display whetted our appetite so when dinner time rolled around we were ready to go. Tonight's dress for dinner was "Formal with a Tropical Paradise Theme". We weren't quite sure what the Tropical Paradise Theme meant. Bob, Joan, and Orlin played it safe with traditional formal night wear while Esther and Barbara were more daring with a splash of color in their outfits. Our head waiter, Janar, took this picture of us on this tropical night as we approached Hawaii.



Just for the record it should be noted that Joan is working on her third lobster of the evening. As we like to say, "Soon we have to go back to reality".