

### **Day 55, (Wednesday, 11/12/08) At Sea, Cruise Critic Lunch**

The day started with temperature in the low 80s, calm sea, and overcast sky. At the noon navigation report the Captain van Zaane said we were 216 miles from the nearest island, we had 17,500 feet of water under the keel and we have 1855 miles to go before we reach Honolulu, Hawaii.

We took about a half hour walk around the Promenade Deck. It was pretty windy so we didn't do our usual hour of walking. There is no strict rule about whether people walk clockwise or counterclockwise around the Promenade Deck. A few free spirits have chosen to walk clockwise and apparently there have been some very predictable collisions. In the ship's Daily Program today there was a cautionary note that pointed out most people walk counter clockwise. Those people walking clockwise and all walkers in general were cautioned to be particularly careful when rounding the corners to avoid collision with oncoming traffic.

**Cruise Critic Lunch:** MaryAnn (wowzo) organized another lunch for the Cruise Critic (CC) folks on board. We all gathered at 12:30 in the main dining room. This was our last lunch for this cruise and after everyone was seated and served we took the following round of pictures for the scrap book.



**Left to right: Diana (lusyrgirl), Trudy (friend of Cruise Critic), Nick (foxpaw)**



**Left to right: Darrel & Karen (cruisertwo), Anne (ansalberg)**



**Left to right: Chet & Anne (travelinggg), Hennie (friend of Cruise Critic), Lois (sotl)**





**Left to right: Carney & Kay (katyb)**



**Left to right: Carol & Larry (webecruisinnow), Roxanne (arzz), Jean & Doug (ausieoz), Sally (croozer)**



**Left to right: MaryLou (lusyrsgirl), Lyle & Marjorie (70 +), Sue (landandwater), Barbara & Orlin (tenncruisers), MaryAnn & John (wowzo)**

The Cruise Critic enthusiasts who come to these luncheons are now long time friends and the conversations just kept going. The stewards finally had to usher us out of the dining room. As we left the dining room there was a man who had fallen at the entryway. The medical staff was arriving and they soon had him up and in a wheelchair.

In the evening, just before dinner, we dropped by Ray and Ann's place for a chat. Alan, their next door neighbor on the ship was also visiting and we enjoyed meeting and talking with him. Alan is a Canadian construction contractor living in Calgary. He and Ray are masters of quick witted repartee and their several exchanges were quite humorous. We had also taken photos of the Sydney Bridge Climb to share with them. We always enjoy reliving this great adventure.

After dinner we went to the evening show in the Queen's Lounge. The performer was a magician known as "Devlin – The Matador of Magic". He came from Brazil and his costume, magic, and commentary was staged with bull fighting and Latin American references. His wife, Bronwyn, was a striking lady who filled the assistant's role with a real flare. His most intriguing act was when he placed a table cloth on a small table and then lifted the corners of the cloth and the table rose up off the floor with him holding the loosely draped tablecloth. He somehow moved all over the stage and out into the audience with the table before bringing it back on stage. With the lights turned off and in complete darkness the table was removed. Devlin and Black Tie are two of the best acts we have seen on the cruise so far.

