

Day 37 (Sunday 10/26/08) At Sea – Indian Ocean

The day's temperatures hovered in the mid 80s with thankfully less humidity as we head south away from the equator. Captain van Zaane in his navigation report for the day said we were cruising in the Indian Ocean with 18,000 feet of water under the keel. The deep water in this part of the Indian Ocean contrasted sharply with the rather shallow several hundred feet depth we traveled over along the coast of China, Southeast Asia and Indonesia. The captain announced that we have 342 miles to go before we get to Fremantle, Australia which is the port for the city of Perth.

While we were making the passage across the northern Pacific we would spend an hour each morning walking around the ship on the outside Promenade Deck. After we landed in Japan and the subsequent ports that regimen suffered considerable neglect. We frequently skipped walking around the deck as we alternated between frantic touring while in port and recovering in the few days at sea. Early this morning we resumed our walk around the Promenade Deck. It was a bit warm and humid so we limited the outing to about 45 minutes.

Occasionally we like to walk around the ship and observe features that might escape notice during normal everyday hustle and bustle. Today the device used to wash salt spray and dirt off the outside of the large windows caught our eye. This machine is permanently mounted on a track horizontal to the deck. Moving along the track it is positioned so that can spray the outside of the windows with high pressure fresh water. Here, on the right, is what one of the machines looks like. This sprayer would be used to clean the large windows shown in the background. The sprayer assembly also includes a platform for a person to ride along and perform window cleaning and maintenance work on this deck with the wooden railing and the one below.



Some large windows, like those in the Lido Restaurant, have stationary nozzles located above them to provide for flushing the outside surface with fresh water. These nozzles above the windows are shown in the picture on the left.

At noon there was an International Food Fair cook-out on the Lido Pool Deck. There were several stations where cooks were preparing ethnic food of different sorts from countries such as The Netherlands, Asia, Germany, Austria, and Belgium. German sauerkraut with wieners and Southeast Asia stir-fry were two popular dishes. The festive mood of the event was complemented by the excellent two person band, called "The Peacefulls" that also plays in the Crow's Nest Lounge in the evening.



In the evening, after dinner, we were walking by the Explorer's Lounge on deck 5 when we met up with friends Jack and Evelyn. We hadn't chatted with them for quite a while so we made our way to the Crow's Nest for a round of drinks. They had been on the overland tour in China and we enjoyed catching up on the details of that outing. The theme for tonight was the Red and Black Oriental Ball. We were all dressed in our red and black finest for the evening so we had our picture taken.



At noon the captain had said that we might be headed for some stormy seas but so far this evening we were having a smooth ride. We turned in for the night hoping our good luck continues.