

Day 16 (Sunday 10/05/08) At Sea

We got underway for Shanghai about 11 pm last night and this morning found us sailing through calm seas with a light rain falling. The temperature was a balmy 71 degrees so we dodged the rain and walked the Promenade deck for an hour.

It was pretty much a kick-back day with updating the blog and attending several lectures. One lecture given by the tour director was about upcoming port tours and another was by Frank Buckingham on what we would be able to see and do in the port of Shanghai. He said the Chinese government has felt that they could not claim complete ownership of the shining commercial success of Hong Kong because the British were responsible for the early development of that city. As a consequence, the current Chinese government is putting great amounts of development money into Shanghai where commercial success can be claimed completely by the Chinese. The magnetic levitation (MagLev) train that runs between Shanghai and the airport is an example of cutting edge high profile technology that is being introduced at high cost into Shanghai. We are scheduled to take the tour that includes a ride on that train when we arrive in Shanghai.

Another lecture was by David Smith on editing digital camera photographs. He had useful comments but you would have to be familiar with the problems of editing digital photos with Adobe Photo Shop on your computer to really pick up on most of the suggestions he made.

The dress for dinner tonight was formal. There are 12 formal nights designated for the 65 day cruise so our seldom used finery has been getting a real workout since we started the cruise. About an hour before dinner we gathered in the Queen's Lounge for a Mariner Appreciation cocktail party hosted by Captain van Zaane in recognition of passengers who have been long time guests of the Holland America Line. The Holland America Band was playing great dance music so we joined the other couples and took a few turns around the dance floor just for fun.



Medallions of different colored metals are given out when passengers have been on board Holland America ships beyond certain threshold number of days. Barbara and I have copper medallions that we got during the 2007 Grand World Voyage. Our table mates, Bob and Esther have qualified for platinum medallions based on their many voyages with Holland America. Captain van Zaane and the Hotel Manager Mr. Cruijsberg presented them with their medallions.



This is the top of the line for medallions so we kidded them about how they now have no higher level to work for. They are satisfied with the tons of great memories they have stored away over the years.

Some Cruise Critic members also participated in the awards. Lyle and Marjorie (70+) got their gold medallions at the celebration this evening.



After the Mariner Appreciation festivities we all made our way to the dining room. At the dinner we had our photo taken by our steward to



remember this special Mariner's Appreciation evening.