

Day 9 (Sunday, 9/28/08) At Sea, Medevac Update, Table Mates, Squid Boats:

This morning the sea was calm and the sun was shining brightly as we hiked around the deck in 60 degree weather. The wind was still blowing hard but overall this was a big improvement over the walking conditions of the last few days. For the first time since leaving Seattle we saw another ship this morning as we were walking. It was a freighter far off on the horizon. Later in the day we saw several small fishing boats. It looks like civilization can't be too far off.



Eggs Benedict: After an hour of walking around the deck we like to treat ourselves to the Eggs Benedict plate available in the Lido Buffet. Each dish is cooked and assembled with condiments selected to your liking as you wait. Usually the same cook prepares the eggs Benedict so we got his picture as he went about the task this morning.



Medevac Update: In church this morning, Pastor Dick Huber mentioned the lady who suffered a stroke and was evacuated by helicopter shortly after leaving Seattle. Sadly the reports are that she is not improving and remains partially paralyzed without the ability to speak. When the Amsterdam reaches Hakodate her husband will be returning to their home in Seattle to be with her.

Port Talk: Frank Buckingham delivered a talk about some of the cultural features and tourist sites of interest in the southern cities of Osaka and nearby Kyoto and Kobe. We will be visiting those cities after checking out the more northern cities of Hakodate, Aomori and Miyako. He recommended the tour to The Ancient Capital in Kyoto so afterwards we added that 10 hour tour to our plans for the stop in Osaka.

Table Mates: Before dinner our table mates came over to our place for some drinks and chit chat about things we have been doing and what we plan to do in the upcoming ports. All these veteran travelers have seen more of the world than us so there is a lot to learn. Here Esther and Joan are playing it straight while Bob is clowning around.



Squid Boats: As the evening approached our little group glanced out the window and noticed that we were passing by a series of bright lights. Some lights were white and some were green. It turned out that these were squid boats and the lights may be used to attract the squid. Bob had seen them earlier and said that with the fishing booms extended they looked like a bunch of porcupines. All we could see at this point were the colorful lights on the horizon. Squid is the official fish of Hakodate City and the local fishermen keep the supply coming. If you like squid, Hakodate would be the place to satisfy your craving. We may pass on that opportunity.



It was time for dinner so we made our way to the dining room and continued the discussion there.