

At Sea – Day 6 Oct. 3:

During the night the Amsterdam crossed the International Date Line and we moved forward a complete calendar day. We woke up this morning and it was Monday October 3 while yesterday had been October 1. Isolated as we are on the Amsterdam, this turn of events was easy to assimilate and little comment was made on the event.

We were moving across the Bering Sea in the direction of Petropavlovsk, Russia in fairly rough seas. The captain is doing his best to guide the ship around the worst of the storm but there is still plenty of rocking and rolling going on. Fortunately, it appears that most people, including us have avoided sea sickness. We are constantly moving away from the US shores and today we lost the live TV coverage from CNN. However, Fox News is still coming in strong.

Without a lot to do today we explored one of the ship's facilities that is just down the hallway from our cabin. We are talking about the self service laundry room where passengers can feed the washers and dryers quarters and get their laundry done while on a cruise. It takes 2 dollars in quarters for each load of laundry in the washer or dryer. The equipment appears to be new and very serviceable as shown in the picture on the right.



We are fortunate because of the fact that we have spent over 200 days on



Holland America ships and are qualified for "4 Star Mariner Status". 4 Star Mariner Status brings several perks but the most important is free laundry service in the ship's laundry. We simply stuff the dirty laundry in the bag that is provided, fill out the paperwork and the room steward takes it away. It is returned clean and neatly folded or ironed in about a day's time. In the picture on the left, Barbara is seen happily filling out the paperwork describing what she is sending to the laundry.

The Amsterdam staff does a great job of decorating the ship with fresh flowers. Today we noticed one unusual display that incorporated large pine cones as shown on the right.



The really big event of the day was the silver and black theme formal dinner tonight. This had been well advertised in the cruise information prior to sailing so the ladies had all prepared with beautiful black and silver formal wear. Barbara's special silver shoes were abandoned tonight in favor of low heeled sandals since it has been so hard to walk. Some of the men, including Orlin, had brought along silver ties and cummerbunds for their tuxedos.



We put on our finery and paraded with the other passengers down to the dining room which had been lavishly decorated earlier in the day in the theme of black and silver. A picture of the dining room is shown on the left.

We managed to get a picture of us along with Presto, the dining room manager dressed in his formal attire, as shown on the right. We have 10 more of these formal affairs scheduled on the voyage so there should be plenty of opportunity to get some use out of these clothes that normally hang in the back of the closet at home.



We had previously requested that one of the Amsterdam's officers join us at the dinner table on this formal night. Presto had made such an arrangement and an extra place had been set for our officer guest tonight. However, it turned out he was needed on the bridge because of the heavy weather around us so we had to postpone that event for a later date.



One of the nice things about formal night is that the chef usually includes the traditional favorite, “surf and turf” lobster and steak on the menu. A picture of this fine meal is shown on the left. It’s no wonder that we have only been on the cruise 6 days and already the waistlines are starting to creep out.

The entertainment in the Queen’s Lounge tonight was the singer Dale Kristien who had performed in the musical “Phantom of the Opera” for 5 years on Broadway. She has a beautiful voice and treated us to a great selections of songs from Phantom of the Opera and other popular musicals. She will be leaving the ship when we stop later in South Korea.

After returning to our room we each received a nice pillow gift from the Amsterdam. They were a collection of travel items like tissues, insect spray, sun block, hand sanitizer, and a sewing kit wrapped up in zippered pockets of a handbag. These handbags, shown on the right, were a much appreciated and handy addition to our travel items.

We have one more day at sea and then we arrive at our first port-of-call in Petropavlovsk, Russia.

