

4/10/07 Day 85 – At Sea - Tuesday, 10 April, 2007: Today was a calm cool day at sea. Most of the time was spent editing Turkey and Greece photographs and pulling together a couple days' worth of blog info. The crew is very busy preparing for what is billed as "The Grand Voyage Signature Event". For the first time in Holland America Line's history, two Grand Voyages (on the Amsterdam and Prinsendam) will meet in one port of call. Tomorrow we will dock next to the Prinsendam in Dubrovnik and both ships will be open for tours by passengers on the other ship. The Amsterdam will also host the Holland America Line President and CEO Stein Kruse and his wife Linda.

This seemed like a good time to blog a few photographs we have taken during the cruise while walking on the Promenade Deck (Deck 3). This deck is nicely paved with teak wood and makes a complete unbroken loop around the Amsterdam. If you walk around 3.5 laps that is one mile.

The tradition is to walk counterclockwise around the ship, although we haven't seen any signs requiring that practice. However, there are signs asking that we not jog. That rule is to avoid disturbing the people living in the cabins below with the thumping of our feet. The salt water spray from the ocean results in a film of salt forming over all exposed surfaces during the day. The salt is like a fine dust and unless removed it rubs off on your clothes and hands. In order to eliminate the salt deposits the outside decks and walls all over the ship are washed with fresh water each morning. Near the beginning of the cruise we used to get down for walking early in the morning and often found the deck washing in progress as shown in this picture on the right.



The traction remains good even when the decks are wet so the washing process doesn't interfere with the walking routine.



Here is Barbara on a sunny day with Marvin and Marilyn Onstott coming up from behind. Walking the Promenade deck is a good way to see friends and make new ones.

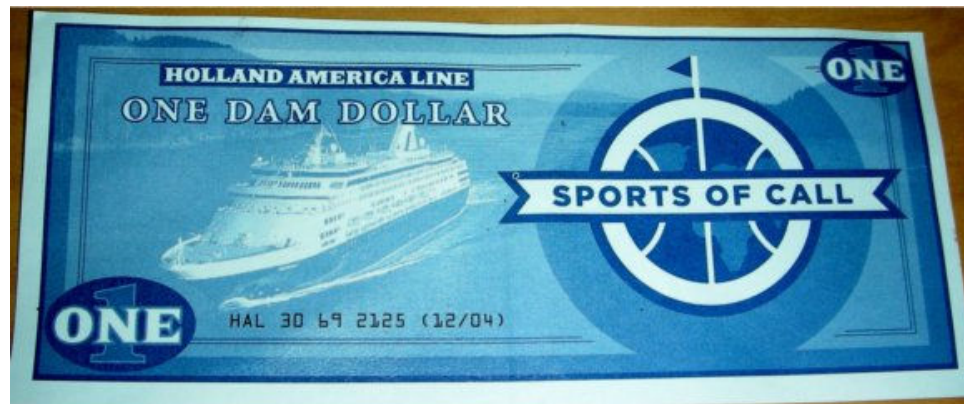
While some of us want to lose weight there are others who must just walk for the fun of it.





The deck attendant, Andrew, is in charge of laying out the pads for the deck chairs each morning. The early morning walkers get to see him doing his job.

The Amsterdam has a program that encourages passengers to take part in various sports activities during a cruise. Those passengers who participate in the activity are given certificates that can be turned in to get prizes like sports wear and other things. The certificates are called "Dam Dollars", as kind of a naughty play on words taken from the fact that all the Holland America ships have names that end in "dam" which is the Dutch word for CITY. For example there is the Vollendam, Prinsendam, and Amsterdam. Dam Dollars are given to people who walk a mile on the promenade deck in the morning at 9am.



This is a popular activity and many people participate with enthusiasm. Our friends, George and Dorothy Hennings whom we met through [www.cruisecritic.com](http://www.cruisecritic.com) are mentors for us with regard to traveling matters and they are avid walkers as well as. Here they are along with many other



vigorous passengers hoofing it around the promenade deck in the quest for Dam Dollars. They are in the second row of walkers, left to right – John (another friend – blue shirt, beard), George and Dorothy in white shirts, sun glasses.

The time passed quickly today. Tomorrow, we dock in Dubrovnik, Croatia and meet with the Prinsendam.