

2/13/07 Day 29 – At Sea –
Tuesday: Today started overcast and windy with the seas pretty rough. We were rocking and rolling but not severe enough to cause sea sickness. At 11am we went to the fourth presentation by Clint van Zandt. His primary topic today was psychics who claim supernatural power to know where murder and kidnap victims are located. His message was that these kinds of people do not bring useful information to the problem.



Clint and his wife, Diane, are leaving the ship when we arrive in Sydney, the day after tomorrow.



He mentioned that the producer of the Oprah Winfrey show contacted him today and he is now scheduled to appear on her show Wednesday, 21 February. Later we met Clint and his wife at the elevators. They are a very gracious couple and we were able to get a close up picture.

Another highlight of the day was the Indonesian Luncheon with the Crew. People from our entire deck were invited to the luncheon which was served in the crew's mess room on Deck A. Similar to the Lunch With a View in the Crow's Nest that we attended on Day 15, this lunch was

carried out in a flawless manner for at least 100 guests. We gathered in the A Deck Lobby.

Here on the right, Rollie, our concierge greets our friend Trudy and her husband, Carl (in the wheelchair) while Aryana Bayu (our cabin steward) and his friend Karyadi Jarot on the far right welcome us with smiles.





Cocktails were served.

We were escorted to preassigned place settings at the tables. Here (left to right) Trudy, Dick, Ann, and Carl our neighbors on Deck 7 are seated and ready for lunch.



Barbara was seated next to Susana Beleo, Guest Relations Manager for the Amsterdam while



Orlin sat next to Elaine (her husband David sat on the other side). David and Elaine have been on six world cruises.

Anton from the Lido Restaurant was there.





All the servers were dressed in Indonesian style to carry out the theme of the luncheon. They served seven courses of tasty Indonesian food along with red and white wine.

The stewards we recognized were Anton, far left, and Mohammed in the gold colored shirt.



Captain van Zaane, (seated with white uniform) co-hosted the luncheon with the Hotel Manager, Fekko Ebbens.



Barbara managed to get a pose with Captain van Zaane.

We were able to photograph some of the furnishings around the crew's mess room.



They had mounted clocks on the wall with the center clock telling local time on the ship. Since most of the crew has family in either Indonesia or the Philippines, the clock on the left has Manila, Philippines time and on the right is a clock with Jakarta, Indonesia time.

The crew has a bulletin board with the latest news from Manila.





There was also a bulletin board for Indonesian news with Richard and Sandy sitting at the table under it.

On the right are Dave and Betsy enjoying lunch with one of the ship's officers.





Here Barbara cozies up to Murat Kaya, the ship's Beverage Manager. He has been a favorite ever since he spoke to us at the first www.cruisecritic.com meet and greet get-together arranged by Dorothy (BlueWhale) on Day 2.

The crew's TV and game room was next to the Mess Room.



Too soon the luncheon was over and it was time to go.



Here Don and Gloria pause on the way out.



(L to R) Jean, Dan, Trudy, Barbara on their way out of a wonderful luncheon. Thank you Crew of the Amsterdam!

2/14/07 Day 30 – Rescue at Sea and Valentine's Day - Wednesday: The sky was sunny and the sea was calmer today which is Valentine's Day. The ship gave each of us a little box of Valentine's candy to start the day off.



There were decorations out all around the ship. For example, the entrance to the main dining room was festooned with red and white draperies.



In order to encourage the sending of Valentine's messages by email, the Internet Café, located in the Explorations Lounge, ran a 50% discount on the per minute charge today. Here is a photo of Dejan Mitak, the Internet Café Manager and Susanne Bonnici the Explorations Cafe Manager. We wouldn't be able to put out this blog without the facilities provided by Dejan and Susanne.

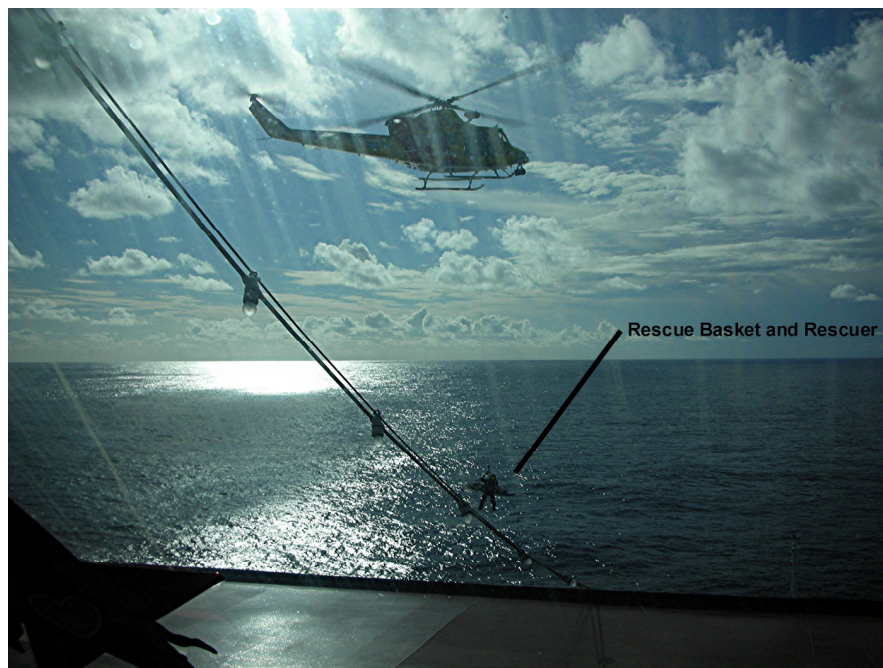


About 4pm the Captain spoke over the loudspeakers throughout the Amsterdam and announced that one of the passengers had a medical emergency. It was necessary for the Australian Search and Rescue helicopter to come out, about 200 miles from Sydney and perform a medical evacuation from the ship. Soon the helicopter was orbiting the ship.



The passengers flocked to the upper deck and cameras were rolling. The bow area was cleared of passengers and the helicopter crew proceeded to lower rescue personnel, and a stretcher basket onto the deck. The helicopter then flew away toward Sydney. About an hour later the helicopter returned and proceeded to retrieve the sick passenger in a stretcher basket.

We were able to watch the procedure through the windows of the Crow's Nest Lounge. The Crow's Nest windows were a bit streaked by salt water but the view was fine. We were able to witness a vital medical evacuation carried out with great expertise on the part of both the Australian helicopter crew and the crew of the Amsterdam. Here are a couple shots of the basket, containing the patient, being lifted with a rescuer into the helicopter.



After the successful medical evacuation from the ship, the helicopter rapidly flew away towards Sydney and emergency medical help for the patient.

By the time the rescue helicopter was disappearing into the distance it was time to

go to the gala Valentine's Dinner in the main dining room. This was a formal night so we were all dressed in our best for the occasion.

Here are the ladies, Barbara, Gayle and Esther at our table.



And here are the guys, Roy, Yudan our waiter, Bob and Orlin.

Here is the whole bunch of us at Table 119, enjoying the festive Valentine's decorations and dinner prepared for the occasion.





Finally, we couldn't resist the opportunity to get one more picture of this Valentine celebration on the Amsterdam 2007 World Cruise.

We closed out the day knowing that tomorrow we realize a long time goal of getting ourselves to Australia and visiting Sydney.