

**2/4/13 - Day 29 – Good Morning Amsterdam & Super Bowl Monday:** This was another day at sea. The Amsterdam was headed for Auckland, New Zealand and we had about 400 miles (nm) to go as indicated on the Ship's Course video screen shown below.



We had breakfast and then decided to attend the popular show called “Good Morning Amsterdam” that is hosted by Cruise Director Bruce and Hostess Adele in the Wajang Theater. Before the show started Adele handed out a numbered raffle ticket to each person seated in the theater. When the show started Bruce announced that he was going to draw tickets out of a bucket to determine which one of us would be raffle winners today. The first ticket Bruce drew had Orlin’s number and he excitedly raised his hand as a big winner. Two other “lucky” winners were then selected. It turned out that a “win” in this case was to be interviewed as a guest on the show this morning. Orlin was wondering where this lucky break would lead but he dutifully took a seat up front along with the two other winners.

After us three folks out of the audience introduced ourselves Bruce and Adele asked us what ports we liked, our prior traveling experience and other friendly questions. Bruce and Adele handled us volunteers very comfortably so it turned out to be a fun experience for everyone. In addition to the interview there were periodic raffle ticket drawings with people in the audience, including Barbara, winning little prizes. Barbara had been fretting to herself during the show because we had not brought a camera to the show so she could record this whole event. However, the show was later replayed on the TV in our stateroom and we got this picture on the right to record Orlin (in striped shirt) as he basked in his brief moment of fame.



The experience with Good Morning Amsterdam was certainly a surprise this morning. However, the main event of the day was “Super Bowl Monday”. Because of our recent crossing of the International Dateline we were one day ahead of the calendar date back in the US. It turned out that Football Super Bowl XXLVII (47) was to be played on Sunday, February 3 in New Orleans. However, for us on the Amsterdam it was played on Monday, February 4. Many of the passengers are avid football fans which the Amsterdam staff fully recognized and made arrangements for a gala tailgate party and showing of the game on big screens in the Queen’s Lounge today. The tailgate party started at 1pm and the live ESPN broadcast of the game started at 1:30pm our time. The following pictures show the huge effort expended by the staff to make our Super Bowl Monday a memorable event whether the Baltimore Ravens or San Francisco 49ers won the game.

The entrance to the Queen’s lounge had a big “Game Day” sign and a sumptuous buffet greeted people arriving for the tailgate party.







The Super Bowl fans helped themselves to the buffet before taking their seats in the lounge to watch the game.

As shown below, there was ample room in the Queen's Lounge for everyone.



The busy bar staff was easily identified by the leather football helmets out of the 1930s that they wore.



The pre-game program came to an end with a children's choir singing America the Beautiful and then a soloist sang the Star Spangled Banner.



The game started at 1:30pm with the video shown on the three large screens at the front of the theater as shown below.



From the cheering of the crowd it appeared that there were slightly more San Francisco 49er fans than those who were for the Baltimore Ravens.

Meanwhile, up in the Sports Bar Lounge that is the usual place for continuous sporting events the Super Bowl was also featured with guests settled in for the game.



It is all history now but the Ravens dominated the game up until there was a loss of electric power for the lighting of the New Orleans Stadium. There was about a 30 minute delay of the game before power was restored. After the game restarted the 49ers made a remarkable comeback but in the end the game was won by the Baltimore Ravens. Of course, some passengers were happy and others were disappointed by the Super Bowl results.

However, everyone seemed to keep a reasonable perspective and the topic of conversations soon turned to the evening's entertainment and things to do in the upcoming port of Auckland, New Zealand. We arrive in Auckland about 6pm tomorrow evening (2/5/13).