

Saturday, June 11th 2011

Finally we moved towards Galveston by bus. Arriving at the port we were pretty amazed when we stood in front of the huge ship. The dimensions are overwhelming. After check-in and the security check we went over a footbridge into the huge ship. And then the search for our cabins started. Since we did not have to carry our luggage, it was not quite so bad, if you got lost. Finally everybody had found their cabin - but the luggage was not there yet. So we left the cabin immediately to satisfy our curiosity and to get to know the ship. The ship departed punctually at 4 p.m.

On the top deck we had a marvellous view of Galveston, and by passing the "Elissa" we were reminded of our first Familientag in Texas in 1991, when we had a wonderful party celebrating on this old sailing boat.

At 6 p.m. we met for a family gathering in "China Town", which was organized by Nancy Gerhard. Meanwhile, our luggage had been put in front of our cabins, and some people had already determined, that our luggage had been examined. The crew took all alcoholic beverages out of the suitcases and instead placed a letter inside, that after the cruise everything can be picked up again when leaving the ship. This made some of us pretty upset.

At 8:15 p.m. there was our first 4-course dinner menu in the Wind-Song Dining-Room, which everyone had to set together by themselves. For the first evening, the tables were allocated, but Nancy had organized, that our family could change their seats in the coming nights, which is very unusual on cruises. After the meal, we finished the first evening in a quickly renamed Teltschik-Lounge, which was a balcony in the rear of the ship behind the Panorama Grill-Bar.

Whitsunday, June 12th 2011

At 11 a.m., after a sumptuous breakfast buffet, we met in the conference room for a small Pentecostal worship, which was prepared and held by Fran, Jürgen and Wolfgang. Afterwards some of us used the available spare time to get sunburn on the sun deck or to play mini-golf. Those, who could not bear the sun, have used the time under deck to gain some valuable experiences in the casino or to explore the ship some more. There were several boutiques as well as a duty-free shop in the front of the huge ship. However, we did not get the tax-free purchased alcohol with us in the cabin, but instead a voucher to get back all our purchases when departing the ship. At 3:30 p.m. we had our official welcome party in the Stripes-Disco, when almost every Teltschik wore their new blue t-shirt. We had cocktails and delicious canapés to eat. Then we went in single file across the whole ship to get in line for a family photo in the big atrium. Almost everybody made it to be in the picture, except for Robert Dugan, who cared for Mildred Platte exemplary, so that she also got in the picture on her scooter. He wanted to bring her one level higher by elevator, but the technology failed. So now Mildred is sitting in the elevator - and Rob invisibly behind her.



In the evening there was the formal Captain's Dinner. Everyone got dressed beautifully in suit and tie or in a "little black dress".

Monday, June 13th 2011

Today we have our first shore excursion on the program. The ship stopped in Progreso, and most of us left the vessel. Many have booked excursions exploring the Mayan ruins or frightening the area in Jeeps and Quads, or just went shopping in Progreso. Punctually at 3 p.m. the ship departed again taking course on Cozumel. Before dinner our two piano virtuosos Alex and Travis gave a spontaneous one-hour concert in front of the Metropolis-Bar, which had to be called off, because directly across a band started playing and the piano had no chance against an electronical amplifier and speakers.

Tuesday, June 14th 2011

In the morning at about 8 a.m. we arrived at the largest island in the Mexican Caribbean. There was already the sister ship of our Ecstasy in the port of Cozumel, called the "Carnival Legend". This was truly an impressive view, as the two cruise ships were laying side by side in the harbour.



On land, there was a huge mess, until everyone has found his guide or organizer. Almost everyone has booked an excursion, either to swim with dolphins, or to go snorkelling followed by a beach party or to drive across the island in a Jeep. Even diving classes for beginners have been offered and those, who were already certified divers, could have made two real dives in crystal clear water. Just in time before the ship departed again, many met in the bars at the port drinking a cocktail or a beer and enjoying the awesome atmosphere. In the evening everyone, who was still hungry after a princely 4-course menu, could have participated in the Mexican evening at the pool on the Panorama deck and eating the traditional delicacies from the midnight buffet.

Wednesday, June 15th 2011

Our last day at sea! Without a special program it was just to relax and enjoy, or to get lost on the ship. In fact, after 5 days on board there were some people still not knowing their way and searching for their cabin on the wrong deck. On the Panorama-and on the sun deck you could meet the sun lovers and the others were motivated enough to play mini-golf. There was a regular meeting point for all those thirsty ones in the Teltschik-Lounge and in the casino there were also some Teltschik to be met. In the evening at 6 p.m. all of us met again in the China-Town Bar for a final meeting with surprises for the one and the other. Thus we congratulated Nancy Gerhard for her 44th wedding anniversary and Jeanine could present a certificate to our dearest friends Clifford and Darlene for their 50th wedding anniversary. After dinner we celebrated late into the night and everyone agreed that these 5 days passed much too quickly.