

# **NHShorty & Buffalobill's between Christmas & New Year's**

## **Cruise and Visit**

### **Day 5, December 29, 2013**

#### **Trip Overview:**

In case you've forgotten, this trip was a combination 3 day cruise on the Disney Dream, followed by 3 days/2 nights at the WL at WDW.

#### **Day 5:**

We had opted to take advantage of the early disembarkment process offered to all the passengers. This meant that instead of having our bags packed and out in the corridor before turning in for the night, we could keep our bags and just be responsible for getting them off the ship ourselves at 7:30. This was step 1 of our 5 step plan to get to The World as quickly as possible. The remaining 4 steps of our 5 step plan were to pick up the rental car we had reserved in Port Canaveral, eat a nutritious vacation breakfast, drive to WDW, and check into the WL DVC Villas.

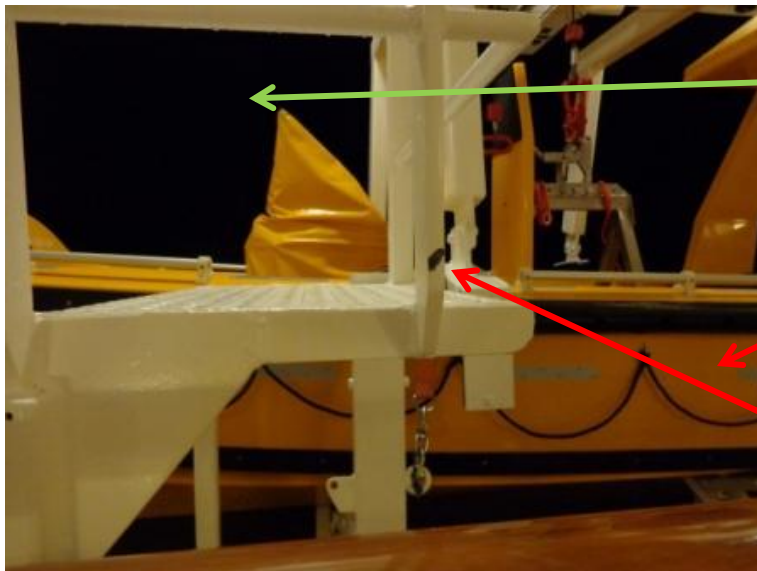
Our last day on the Dream began around 5AM when there was a cryptic announcement made over the ship's PA system. The announcement came through the speakers in phone in our cabin and through the speakers out in the corridor. I wish I could remember exactly what was said, but a man's accented voice said something like "Attention, crew, the port side paint locker is athwartship..." Anyway, whatever was said was repeated twice and that was enough to get me out of bed and dressed pretty quick. NHShorty decided that the announcement was probably a mistake and did not pertain to us, but I wanted to be sure. So, with visions of the Titanic, Poseidon, Concordia, and Andrea Doria in my head, I left the cabin to see what was going on.

Almost immediately, I saw a crewman and asked what was going on. He said that someone had pushed the wrong button and that there was nothing to be concerned about. I later learned that the announcement was for a segment of the crew and the message should have gone to the crew walkie talkies, not the public address system. I quickly returned to the cabin and told NHShorty that all was well.

I had wanted to get up early anyway and since it was definitely early, I decided to head to Deck 4 by way of the beverage station on Deck 11. NHShorty stayed in our cabin to catch a few more winks and finish her packing.

The errant announcement seemed to have woken up many of my fellow passengers because there was a gathering at the beverage station of folks in PJs, mismatched cruisewear, and hoodie sweatshirts. No one seemed to be happy campers.

When I finally got to Deck 4, with a cup of tea in hand, my AS9100 Certified Quality Engineer eyes spotted a blemish in the paint at a lifeboat station on the starboard side of the ship.



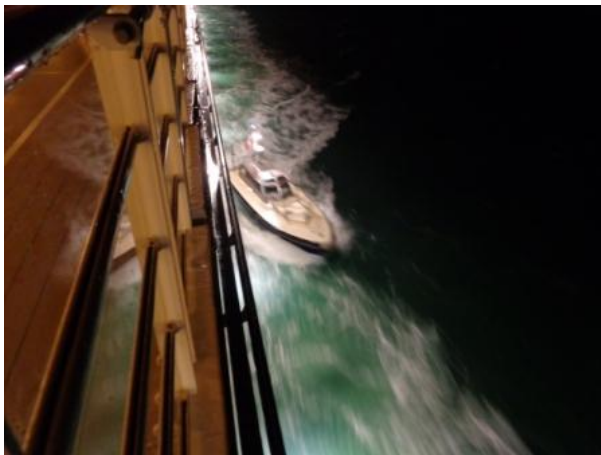
Dark sky at 5:30 AM

Not really a lifeboat, more like a utility boat

Chip in the paint!!!!!!

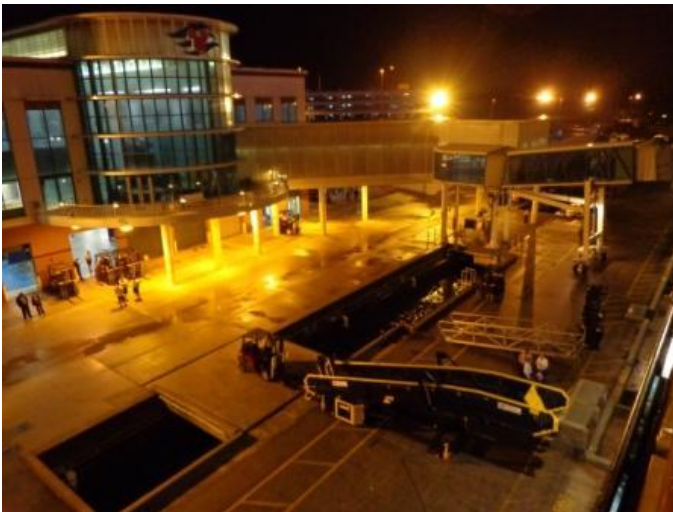
While I was trying to decide whether or not to call the Captain to report this defect in the ship, I heard another partially awake passenger who had been standing at the rail smoking exclaim, "Hey, that little boat just bumped into us!"

Looking over the side I was able to snap a picture of the aforementioned "little boat".



Since NHShorty and I are avid watchers of the PortCanaveralWebcam.com I knew exactly what was going on. (Quick shout-out to DisneyDee27 for telling us all about this webcam.) The captain of the Dream is not a US person, so he cannot pilot the Dream into port. So the little boat delivers a US pilot to the Dream when she is about 10 miles away from the port to supervise the entry into the port. They open up a big door on the side of the Dream and the little boat pulls alongside and the pilot steps off the little boat into the Dream. It looks way more dangerous than it sounds.

Now that we were under the watchful eye of an American pilot, here are some pictures of the docking of the Dream at Port Canaveral.



The upper left picture is Fish Lips Bar and Grill. The lower right picture may make it look like it was raining, but it wasn't. They were washing one of the upper decks and the water was draining over the side. In the background of that same picture was a Carnival ship that had docked after the Dream.

I returned to our cabin, made one last check around, and NHShorty and I joined about 100 people in the ship's lobby to disembark. Passport control and customs were quick and easy and in no time we were standing outside the terminal waiting for the shuttle to the rental car office. Here's one of our last shots of the Dream.



The wait for the shuttle bus and the ride to the Budget (I think) office took was about 15 minutes and we were quickly on our way to a diner suggested by the guy at the car rental place. Breakfast was adequate to get us through the morning and about two hours after getting off the ship NHShorty snapped this picture.



Back home again!!!!



Check in at the WL was smooth and we were quickly ensconced in our comfortable 1 bedroom villa. After a quick nap, shower, and a change of clothes we were ready to check out the Christmas decorations at the WL before heading over to HS. Here are some random shots starting with the Christmas tree in the villas' lobby, the walkway from the villas to the WL, and various places in the WL lobby including the hideous chairs and chevron rug.





Next stop, Hollywood Studios!



NHShorty and I fired up the rental wheels, which happened to be a white Mazda of some sorts, and exited the WL parking lot, waved to the security guards, drove down Timberland Drive, turned left onto World Drive, hung a left onto Vista Boulevard, drove past FW for old times sake, turned right on Bonnet Creek Parkway, turned right onto Buena Vista Drive, and finally took a left onto Cypress Drive into the Hollywood Studios Parking lot.

At 5 PM, exactly 12 hours after waking up to an erroneous announcement on the Dream, we were walking through the gates of the HS. It was sprinkling, but the sky was clearing.



First stop for us, given the time of day, was the Tune –In Lounge adjacent to the 50's Prime Time Café. We were hoping to grab some grub, but as you can see, the place was slammed, so we headed to the Backlot Express.



I don't know what it is about this counter service eatery, but we've always liked it. The lines seem to move quickly, the beer is cold, and the décor has that appealing level of funkiness. After a quick bite we hit two new places, at least new to us. They were both near the southern end of the Streets of America and the “



This is a coffee/espresso place and to the right was the Comedy Warehouse Holiday Special. Since it was close to 6 PM we decided to go to the show. So, remember back when there was a Comedy Warehouse on Pleasure Island; well this was a re-imagined version with an Improvisational Holiday Theme. It was very entertaining.





The show was pretty funny in a Disney PG sort of way. We had never noticed this building before, but I hope they do some more live performance kinds of things here. Speaking of live performances, we caught the hardest working combination of landscapers and rockers, Mulch, Sweat, and Shears. Here is NHShorty jamming with Morris Mulch.



Next trip I am hoping to showcase my cowbell virtuosity with the band. My plan to get Morris' attention is to hold a sign that reads "I've got a fever and the only cure is more cowbell".

At 7 PM it was time for.....











Before we overdosed on Christmas lights, we beat a hasty retreat and stopped to ride Star Tours. After eluding Darth and the Evil Empire, we exited HS around 9 and returned to the WL. But the day doesn't end here; we stopped at the room to freshen up and jumped on the next boat to FW. At FW the guests bring their own Christmas decorations. We strolled around the area near Pioneer Hall and took in the sights.



Around 11 o'clock we took the boat back to the WL and fell into the Territory Lounge. While NHShorty ordered some adult beverages, I went to the Roaring Fork and retrieved some flat breads. After that we called it a day.

Stand by for Day 6 when we make an amazing food discovery, we discover Zombies at EPCOT, and we actually send back food at the Cali Grill.