

ST. SOMETIMES

Carnival Cruise Lines Vol 125

CARNAVAL BREAK ON CARNIVAL

Carnaval is not a misspelling, it is a Latino celebration. I spent the week with Joey and Danica Kiedinger!

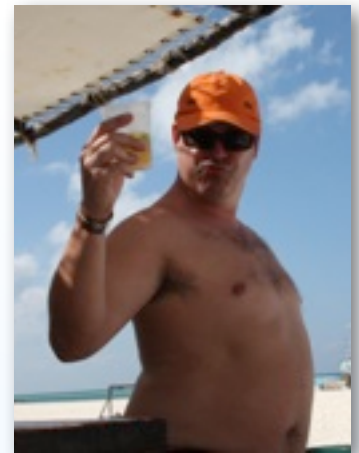
Think back to February of 2011? What were you doing? Joey and I were busy planning this trip. Yes, I was actually planning ahead. This was almost a first for me. What a trip it was.

The three of us met in Miami at a real sleazy motel. Long story, but there was a boatshow this weekend and all of the hotels were double the usual price. I go to Miami a lot and I couldn't believe it was \$150/night at the cockroach hotel! But the pool was nice. Fortunately, Joey and Danica didn't care.

The cruise was called the Carnival ~~Inebriation~~ Imagination. It was a real short cruise that took us to Key West and Cozumel, with a full day at sea to round it off.



The flavor of this newsletter should be quite clear. It doesn't matter if the cruise ship had stayed at dock in Miami for four days or if we had stayed at the cockroach hotel the whole time. We had a blast. What matters is WHOM you are with, not what you are doing. Getting back together with Joey and Danica was priceless, like a Mastercard commercial. So read on, and enjoy the stories!



Life of the Party!

Here he is in all of his splendor: Father of four, husband to a beautiful wife, and definitely the life of any party. He is the essence of a notion called "FUN COUNTRY". He is a successful author, entrepreneur, businessman, and entertainer. Joe Keidinger is one character that makes me want improve myself each day.

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Get some Sun, White People!

I woke up early one morning to get chairs on the main deck of the boat. Joe and Danica came down around 10am and found me sitting happily in the shade. Of all the chairs on the decks, I had put towels on the only three chairs that wouldn't get sun until well after noon. Blame it on my lifestyle. I didn't even notice it. Where I come from it is eternally sunny. "Pick your time to be in the sun and run for the shade the rest of the time" is a mantra in my current lifestyle. Well, the sun DID come out. Next cruise I will pick the sunniest three chairs for the entire day! That way I won't feel out of place with all the white cruisers. hah!



Adiam condimentum Purus, in Proin in sapien. Fusce urna, neque lacus.

"...I really miss him"

Every night, we were scheduled to have dinner with the same table of old ladies. We did, the first night. The second dinner Joe went alone. When the old biddies asked Joe about us, his reply was: "My wife ran off gambling with my best friend. I really miss him!" LOL, as they say in the chat rooms.

Danica and I started the trip with about \$30 each into the tables. She has this magic where she gets the entire table to help her out. Together, we had the FUNNEST (is that a word?) table. We were also the loudest. If we won 3 dollars we would go wild! We played that same money for three straight nights. Danica's magic probably brought in thousands for the ship.



Let's All Sing and Dance on the Ferry!

Except for the couple in the back, I don't remember or know any of the people in the picture above! This was our day in Cozumel: off the ship at 7:30, ferry to a Mexican beach with a hundred other cruisers, back on the cruise at 6:00.



This was not Mexico. It was Carnival Mexico. But, we had a lot

of fun on the beach: sun, sand, water balloon games, and Joe won the *cerveza musical chairs*.

After partying on the beach for an entire afternoon, bartering for a new Mexican hammock, and ruling the inebriation games, the three of us started a ferry party.

No kidding! The three of us instigated singing and dancing of a hundred people on the top deck of the ferry. The trip back featured free photography, the YMCA -as seen above, and a continuous conga line. Even the minimal crew was getting into it. I haven't seen so many people having so much fun since the last Frank's Dinner Theatre! We ended up at some Cozumel bar with these

two dental hygienists from Washington D.C. Beautiful! The hygienists, not the city.



I'll never forget the YMCA and the conga line. That crew should have paid us for the entertainment value of the ride back. By the way, check my website MacVideo section for the Musical Chairs vid. Hilarious!

Hector!

Every other person on deck of a cruise is a waiter from some developing country.

Hector was the one we picked. We only got drinks from Hector. Joey learned the word Chamo, a step up from amigo.

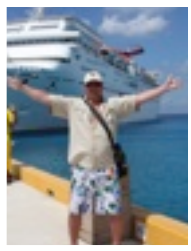
The Pit Boss!

Danica and I ruled the casino. The pit boss new it. We were so loud when we even won \$3 that he camped out next to our table and watched over us. Meanwhile, a man was up \$4,000 at the roulette table

and he didn't even bother. We think he was just having too much fun. Danica and I would always sit at the same table and the people would gather. No kidding! One night we entered an empty casino. In one hour there were 20 people surrounding our table.

Cruise Ships, I'm Still Impressed!

This was my second cruise in two years. The first, with Matt and Stacy, was the Destiny. This one, the Imagination, is a far cry from the Destiny. Who would put



huge orange safety boats on the top deck blocking the best view? I guess they learned this after they built the Imagination. But I am still impressed with the sheer size of these

vessels. A couple thousand people on a boat that never sleeps. Elevators, a mall, tons of restaurants, casino, pools, mini golf.

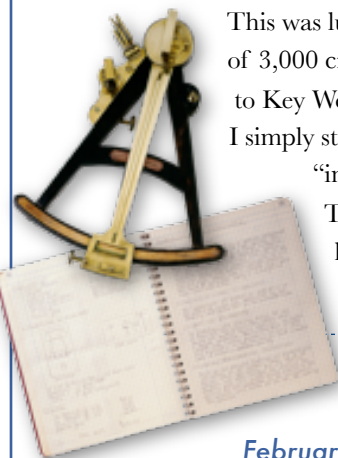
Customs Anecdote!

The disembark was hilarious. By law, there was a customs agent as we arrived. He took several minutes to page through my passport and said: "you travel quite a bit". I told him what I do for a living. Then he asked the customary question about what I was doing on this trip for the past few days. Now usually, I don't joke around with the customs agents.

This was ludicrous. As one of 3,000 cruisers that went to Key West and Cozumel, I simply stated:

"innebriation"!

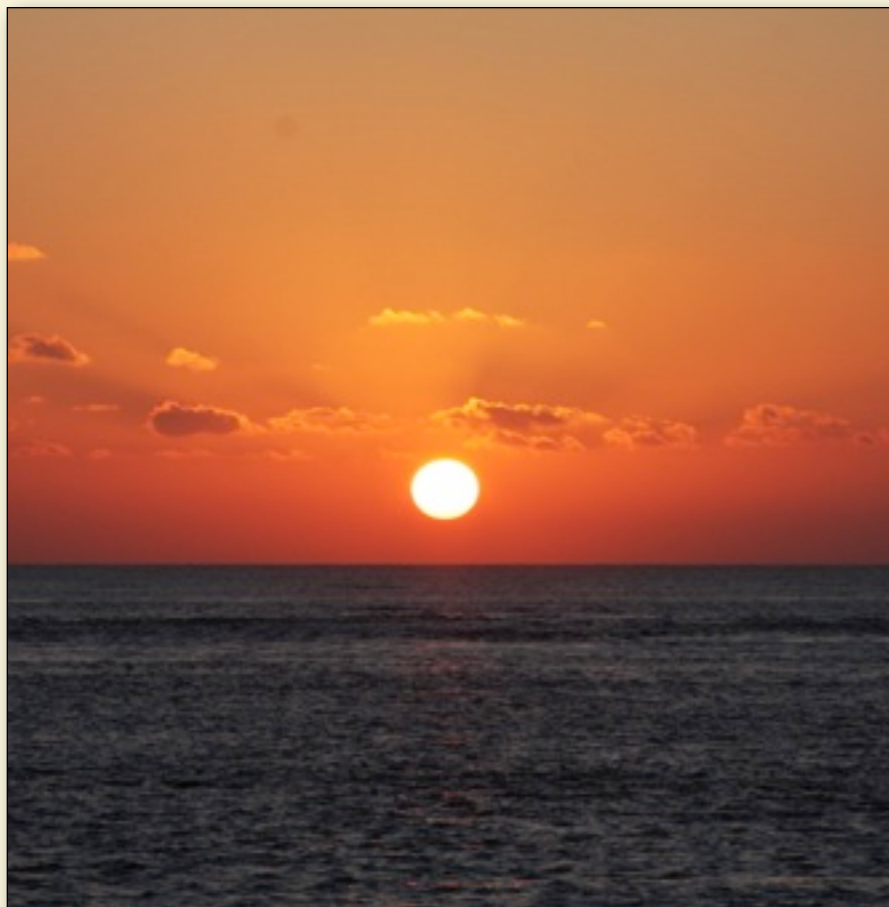
That earned a hearty laugh.



"Captain's Log, Stardate

February 24, 2012.

We are landing the cruise vessel again in Fake Mexico to get big sombreros for fat, white people."



As the Sun Sets

This was a trip of "fun country" that started the minute I met Joey and Danica at the Roach Hotel pool. We never stopped laughing. Don't get me wrong, I love cruises.

However, it was such a great opportunity to lounge around with these two for an entire week. Unlike me, they have a lot of responsibilities at home. This was a much needed rest for them, a time away from four kids, two businesses, a dog, a house, and everything else that makes up their busy lives. I count myself lucky that the Kiedingers could take a break away from

everything and devote it all to "Greg Time". I look forward to our next vacation together. No matter where it is, or what we plan on doing, "fun country" will be what we always bring along. Thank you readers!

