

# Phelps - Rail Wedding Cruise News

JANUARY 3, 2005

[WWW.GEOCITIES.COM/ITSARAIL](http://WWW.GEOCITIES.COM/ITSARAIL)

ONLY 12 DAYS

## Rail's Ramblings

### WOW...it's less than TWO Weeks!!

Dina and I are REALLY excited all of you will be going along on the cruise with us to help celebrate our wedding (well OK, we realize some of you may actually be going as much for the vacation time as the wedding...and we are certainly alright with that too, because we're looking forward to our Honeymoon time as well!)

You should all have your Royal Caribbean "Guest Vacation Documents" booklet. Your airline 'e-ticket' number is in there (page 15 in mine). You will use that when you get to the airport, along with a photo ID. There are Baggage Tags near the back of the printed pages (following page 60). These tags (mine are light blue) are used to identify your bags and get them from the Airport to Your Cabin on the ship. One should be used on each of the bags you check. Also, since a lot of those black luggage bags look alike, Dina suggested putting some type of colored tape on your bag or handle, to better identify your bags.

You MUST complete your 'Boarding Documents' before you get to Miami. This is the form on page 51 "Guest Clearance Information" **OR** you can complete it On-Line at

[www.royalcaribbean.com](http://www.royalcaribbean.com) and clicking "Before you Board" and "Boarding Documents" or by clicking this link:

<https://secure.royalcaribbean.com/beforeyouboard/boardingDocuments.do>

The manila/yellow "Bahamas Immigration" cards you received with your book will need to be filled out when we get to Nassau on Friday, 01/21. They will not be used at the port in Miami.

A few quick comments about getting around on the ship:

### Directions/terminology:

- Fore is Front (like forward)
- Aft is Back (like after)
- Port is Left (less letters, 4 in Port/4 in Left)
- Starboard is Right (more letters)
- Bow is the Front of the ship
- Stern is the Back of the ship

When heading for the Wine/Cheese Reception on Deck 14 in the Cloud Nine Lounge, only the elevators near the Stern or back of the ship go to Deck 14. Don't panic if the elevator you're on doesn't go that high, you can get off on Deck 11 and walk to the elevators at the back of the ship. Or...better yet, with all the good food, you might consider the ... stairs!!!!

### Bon Voyage

Since the different groups get to Miami at different times, we might want to consider planning a 'gathering' spot for the Bon Voyage ceremony (although it really isn't a ceremony, and it's not really official). The ship should be casting off right at 5:00 PM. We might want to pick a spot on one of the upper decks to watch the goings on as we leave port, and any of the other ships that are sailing at that time. (Just an idea).

### Wedding Ceremony

The Wedding will be Tuesday, at 10:00 a.m. (Island Time) at the Bolongo Bay Resort, on the Beach. We will have a shuttle to transport you from the port at St. Thomas to the resort. And, it will take you back to the port after the ceremony (11:15 or so). However, the wedding coordinator has agreed that for less than \$10 per person, the shuttle/driver will take the entire wedding party (all 22 if we all want to go) on a tour of the island. Since we've already paid for the shuttle, the additional amount is much cheaper than paying for the driving excursion through Royal Caribbean...Just a suggestion.

## Who's going along for the ride:

There are 22 people going (including Dina and Alan). Most of the rooms are on Deck 6, close together, and in the aft (or back) part of the ship.

### The Kentucky Contingent:

Carlos and Jean Phelps (parents of bride) Cabin# 6217  
Gordon and Minnie Miller (grandparents of bride) 6219  
Carl, Tonya and Grace Phelps (brother, sister-in-law and niece) 1553  
Donnie and Margaret Whitmer (family friends) 6229  
Jeff and Carla Embry (cousin) 6227

### The Arkansas Bunch:

Nadine Rail (mother of groom) 1668  
Dick and Dianne Rail (father and step-mother of groom ) 6616  
Jeanice Falls (great aunt) 1668  
Royann Foreman (aunt) 1668

### The Tennessee Twosome:

Jim and Sharon Kintzler (friends of bride/groom) 6237

### The Kansas Crew:

Jon and Carolyn Tyler (family friends) 6519

## Some Event Reminders

Sat 01/15 – 5:00 PM – Ship leaves, bon voyage!

Sun 01/16 – 11:30 AM – Meet and Mingle (Cruise Critics) – Cosmopolitan Lounge, Deck 14

Sun 1/16 – Cocktail Party for Dina and Alan,  
Hosted By Jeanice Falls – Cloud Nine Lounge, Deck 14

Tues 1/18 – 9:00 AM (Island Time) – Shuttle  
Leaves for Wedding Site (Bolongo Bay Resort)

Tues 1/18 – 10:00 AM (Island Time) – Wedding  
Ceremony, on the Beach at Bolongo Bay Resort

## Terry's Travel Time

Terry Massaro at Terry's Travel Time has been absolutely super in trying to help with this cruise, and getting things arranged. If you have ANY questions or concerns, please feel free to give her a call (678-354-4053) or contact her by email ([terry@terrystraveltime.com](mailto:terry@terrystraveltime.com)).

## TIPS for TIPPING the Staff

You will have a Cabin Steward (or Stateroom Attendant, who takes care of your cabin, and it will seem like he or she is living in one of your dresser drawers); a Waiter and Assistant Waiter in the Dining room (who usually wait on you hand and foot); along with the Headwaiter (or Maitre d'). These individuals are paid primarily by Tips. The Cruise Line usually provides envelopes for each of these people for you to use at the end of the cruise. They also recommend the following per person:

Waiter -- \$3.50 per day	\$24.50
Asst Waiter -- \$2.00	\$14.00
Strm Attend -- \$3.50	\$24.50
Maitre d' -- \$0.75	\$ 5.25

So...\$68.25 total per person. Some people pre-pack their envelopes before they leave home, so they don't have to worry about keeping enough cash separate for the tips. Or, you may use your on-board charge to get cash to pay each of them.

A handy site for figuring tips is:

[www.members.aol.com/CruiseTip](http://www.members.aol.com/CruiseTip), you can select the Cruise Line, Number of Days, and number of Adults at the top. It will automatically figure the amount. You then enter the Actual amount you want to tip, and it will calculate how many of each bill you will need to get from your friendly bank Teller!