

The Combined Probus Club of Wheelers Hill Inc.

HAWAII - WAIKIKI & ISLANDS CRUISE

11th - 24th October 2012.

Commentary by John Whitwell and Robin Bray.

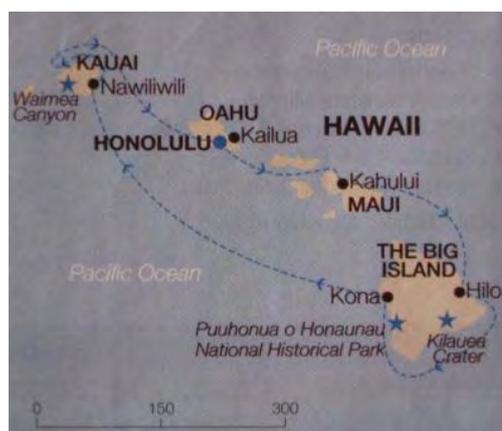
Photos courtesy of John Whitwell, Val & Ian Dale, Ellen Stokes, Pat & Alan Taylor, Pam Cotton and Ros White.

Plus read our 'Pacific Correspondent' Ian Dale's trip recollections at the end!

In October a party of 26 members travelled to Hawaii for two weeks. The first three days were spent at our excellent hotel The Outrigger Reef in Waikiki, relaxing, enjoying the sights of Honolulu and exploring the island of Oahu. We then embarked on our cruise ship "The Pride of America" and did a seven day cruise of the four main Hawaiian Islands, Oahu, Maui, Hawaii (Big Island) and Kauai. Each island had shore attractions and there were excursions to suit everyone. The facilities were excellent, staff and service were superb. The crew went to great lengths to ensure we all enjoyed ourselves. We added to the entertainment provided on the ship with our own traditional "happy hour". It was a memorable seven days. On returning to our hotel in Waikiki, we spent the remaining four days in Honolulu visiting sights such as Pearl Harbour Memorial and going to a Hawaiian Luau. The ladies took advantage of the great shopping opportunities. Everyone enjoyed the time spent in Honolulu and the cruise. We returned home with many happy memories.



Group Photo aboard the cruise liner 'Pride of America'.



Map of our sea route around the Hawaiian Islands.



Arriving at our Waikiki Outrigger Reef Hotel.



Pat, Ian and Val at breakfast on the beachfront.



Ros and Ellen enjoying breakfast at the Outrigger.



Fairlie and Iris at breakfast.



Settling into the first dinner at the hotel prior to our cruise.



Ian and David cooking their steaks on the BBQ.



John giving serious consideration to his steak!



Bill goes for a stroll on Waikiki Beach.

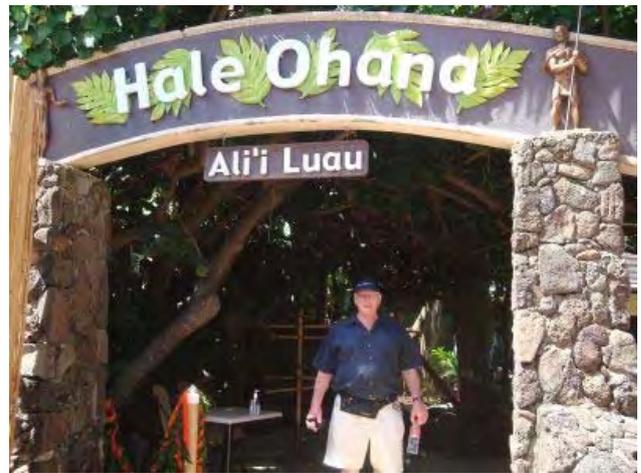


Pat taking in the gorgeous view from her balcony.

After settling in we headed off for a Polynesian Cultural Centre tour. Here we journeyed through 6 authentic Polynesian Island villages - Tahiti, Tonga, Fiji, Samoa, New Zealand and Hawaii and saw demonstrations of their native arts and crafts. We experienced the `Rainbows of Paradise` Pageant of the Long Canoes show and indulged in a sumptuous luau dinner buffet, ending in an extravaganza of Polynesian song and dance.



Barbara, Freda, Julie, Ian, Val, Bill and Jan in a stretch limo off to the Hawaiian Cultural Centre.



Alan at the cultural show entrance.



The entrance to the Cultural Centre Building.



Fairlie, Ros and Rita boarding the cruise boat.



Enjoying the Cultural Centre boat cruise.



The Tongan natives boat display.



Ros, Pat, Iris and Fairlie taking a break.



Hawaiian dancing girls.



Hawaiian chieftains.



Dinner and cultural dance show.



Dinner and cultural dance show.



Dinner and cultural dance show.



Dinner and cultural dance show.



Val and Pam off shopping in a limo!



The girls' special day out shopping.



Bill and Ellen making friends with an HPD officer.

Some of us went on a day tour around Oahu to visit the best sightseeing spots including a Buddhist Temple, Turtle Beach, surfing beaches, the Dole Pineapple Plantation just to name a few.



John sounding the Buddhist bell.



Ellen and Val at the Temple.



Experiencing the sand at Turtle Beach.



Beachcombing at Turtle Beach.



A turtle in the breakers.



John and Barbara experiencing a 'tender moment'? Is Rita trying not to look, or waving to the camera?

We had barely got settled into Oahu and experienced what it had to offer when it was time to set off on our 7 day Hawaiian Islands adventure cruise on the `Pride of America` to visit the other islands comprising this volcanic American State.



John and Barbara W. checking in.



John and Barbara R. off to board the ship.



David, Freda, Pam and Julie checking in.



Alan and Pat checking in.



Julie and Freda exploring the ship



Ros, John, Rita, Ellen, David and Pam at dinner.



Ian, Barbara, Freda, John, Fairlie and Iris.



Bill, Pat, Alan and Jan.



View of the pool from the Sun Deck.



Our regular `Happy Hour` sit out on deck.

The `Pride of America` is the premier cruise ship operating around the Hawaiian chain of islands. It boasts 11 restaurants, bars, casino, pools and spas, theatres and games areas providing for whatever the tourist feels like doing. Entertainment was available all day and evening. Our 7 day cruise started and finished in Honolulu on Oahu and called at the islands of Maui, Hawaii (The Big Island), and Kauai.

After leaving Honolulu in the evening as the sun was setting over Waikiki Beach we arrived the next morning at Kahului on the island of Maui. Maui `or The Garden Isle` has not changed from the old fishing village it once was. Whilst there we visited the Ocean Centre and took a sightseeing tour along the Hana Highway across the island to Hana. This road trip is a journey not to be rushed as it passes spectacular scenery along a very winding road. Maui is also well known for its many beaches of differing hues, white, gold, black green and even red sand.



The Maui Ocean Centre and Aquarium.



Fairlie, Ros and Iris at the Aquarium.



The Needle, Maui.



Monk seal on the road to Hana, Maui.



Spectacular landscape on the road to Hana.



Black sand inlet near Hana, Maui.

The next island stop was Hawaii, known locally as The Big Island. Not only big in size but big in the wide variety of landscape, contrasting from lush green forests, black sandy beaches, flowing molten lava to at times, snow capped mountains. We docked at Hilo the island's capital city known for its lovely architecture. Hilo is also the gateway to the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park where lava flows from an active volcano. Whilst in the park we explored the lava tubes.



Docking at Hilo on the Big Island, Hawaii.



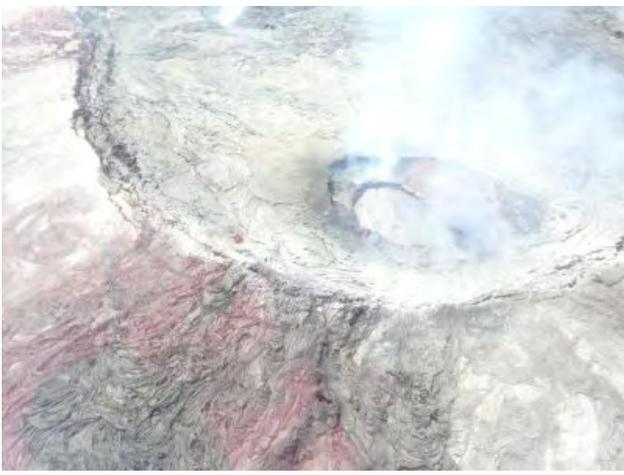
Signs of volcanic activity.



Tourists are just specks on an ash landscape!



Inside a lava tube, Hawaii.



Ros takes a look at Kilauea's crater from above.

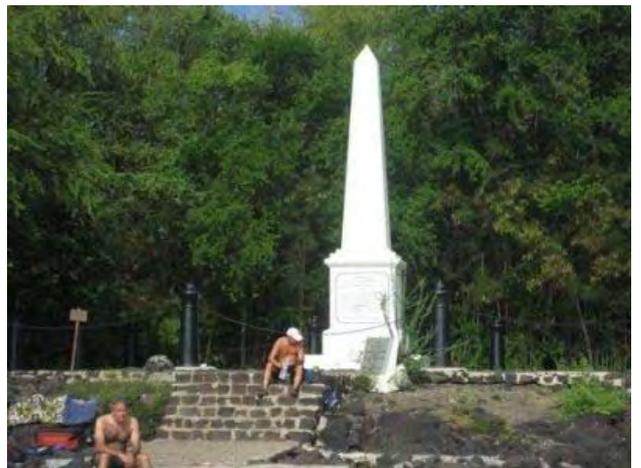


A spectacular sight of the active volcano.

The ship then next stopped at Kona on the opposite side of the Big Island. This is the home of the famous Kona coffee and is a vibrant resort and shopping centre.



The Pride of America off Kona.



Captain Cook's Memorial, Kona.



Laying off Kona on the Big Island.



The Kona Refuge.



Pat at Kona's House of Spiritual Power.



The ladies out shopping in Kona.

Our next stop was the island of Kauai a true `paradise`. This is the Hawaiian island that Captain Cook first stepped foot onto. This is the most northerly island in the volcanic chain and also the oldest. Nature has created an island paradise over time creating spectacular cliff and canyon scenery and coral reefs. Highlights of this stop included flights over the Waimea Canyon and a cruise along the Wailua River and sightseeing along the Na Pali coastline.



Docking at Nawiliwili Town, Kauai.



Catching the trolley in Nawiliwili.



On the Wailua River cruise, Kauai.



Barbara and John with locals, Waimea Canyon, Kauai.



Ian and Val, Waimea Canyon, Kauai.



Barbara, John, Ros and Ian enjoying lunch on Kauai.



Polynesian Dancers in Kauai.
Combined Probus Club of Wheelers Hill Inc.



Ellen and Freda on a joy flight over Waimea Canyon.



Ros, Fairlie and Iris about to take off!



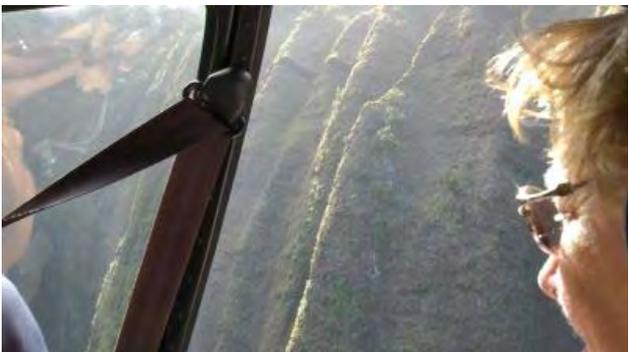
Alan and Pat ready for a scenic flight.



The spectacular Waimea Canyon landscape.



View of the Na Pali coastline, Kauai.



Pat viewing the scenery.



The breathtaking Waimea canyon, Kauai.



The Na Pali coastline from our vessel.



`Happy Hour` off the Na Pali coastline, Kauai.



Bill, John, Alan, David, Ian and Freda, Val & Ellen & the beautiful Na Pali coastline, Kauai.



Iris and Fairlie and John and Barbara enjoying the scenery off the Na Pali coastline, Kauai.



John and John enjoy `Happy Hour` Kauai.



Rita at sunset, Kauai.

Our island cruise was all too short and we were soon back in Waikiki at the Outrigger Reef hotel again. For the final few days of our trip we took in some of the various remaining sights, activities and tours that Honolulu had to offer.



John and Alan trying their skill on `segways`.



A local artist preparing for `Halloween`



Julie and some Hawaiian dancers.



The Arizona War Memorial.



Ros at the Arizona Memorial.



Alan at the Battleship Missouri entrance.



Barbara and John on the U.S.S. Missouri.
Combined Probus Club of Wheelers Hill Inc.



Alan `takes command` of the Missouri.



`The Mighty Mo`.



Being shown over the giant battleship.



John and Rita recreate a famous war end image.



Our final dinner at the Outrigger in Waikiki.



Julie, Freda and John at the `Barbie`.



Three Johns and a Bill cooking their meat .



Our final dinner at the Outrigger in Waikiki.



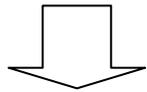
Our final dinner at the Outrigger in Waikiki.

After dinner President Pam, on behalf of the travelling group, made a presentation to John in appreciation of the wonderful organisation that he and Barbara had done for the trip. It has truly been a memorable one. Thank you both and well done.



President Pam makes a presentation to John and Barbara for a wonderful trip away.

Now read on for Ian's `Trip Report` .



HAWAII 5 - OH !

October 2012

(The author denies all responsibility for reports handed to him and no correspondence will be entered into.)

ALOHA !

- ✚ All roads led to Tullamarine for our flight to Sydney and then on to Hawaii with 26 excited travellers.
- ✚ Whilst waiting in the airport lounge Ros was heard to ask why that huge plane is towing that tiny little truck backwards from the terminal. It was explained to her !
- ✚ John W lined up some of the group for a photo only to find that his camera was missing its battery which was in its charger which was in his luggage which was in transit to Honolulu.
- ✚ Which Iris could not wait to get some attention from Hawaii Fire-fighters and then a couple of strong handsome Paramedics on the way for a short stay in hospital to correct her dehydration.
- ✚ Ellen and Ros decided to catch a free shuttle bus. Trouble was no one told them what the bus stop looked like and after searching they returned to the hotel exhausted. They did master the system and became the authority on shuttle buses.
- ✚ Seen near the beach after the fireworks, Father Christmas all dressed up and playing his violin for the tourists.
- ✚ Also seen was a lady wearing a full length fur coat to ward off the cold ! She could not compete with the large bald man in a large 4WD with chrome spikes stuck to the top of his head and silver rings through nose, ears, lips, cheeks, eyebrows etc.
- ✚ John R lost his suitcase on arrival in Honolulu. Two days later on returning to his hotel room he spied a suitcase on a chair. Wow he thought, they have found my missing case, but he found all the men's clothes gone when he opened it.

- # He went down to reception to thank them and report the missing men's clothes only to be told "Oh no sir, this is your missing bag behind the counter". Barbara told the muttering John "You id**t, that is our carry on luggage in the room!"
- # Whenever John R went to reception he was welcomed by "not you again"!)
- # Which John closed his safe with the wrong combination. A long legged blonde came to the room to open it . He locked it again and the same blonde arrived. Not so the third time as a short male arrived. He remembered the combination from that point!!
- # Which Norma forgot to bring enough heart tablets to last ? Did she share with a John...(using Jan's pill splitter !!) ..
- # Which man was last into the lift and got the announcement that the lift was overloaded and he had to get out before it would move.
- # Whilst on an Island bus tour the bus made many stops so alternately people from the rear were able to get out first. Which Ian was caught pinching our girls as they went past and why did Barbara return several times ?
- # John R again.. Called up onto stage during the cruise with about 12 others to entertain the audience with comedian Tim. He was supposed to do an Elephant impression with 6 other people but decided to do his own thing. He was eventually ushered offstage by Tim and Barbara was instructed to dramatically increase his medication.
- # John H asked his dark cabin attendant if he did Sammy Davis Jr. impressions. He replied "Oh no, I am Indian".
- # Alan and Ian were discussing which side of the ship the Cadillac Diner was on. Alan was adamant it was on the Starboard side whilst Ian was sure it was Port side. Never trust sailor Alan !!!
- # Freda and Ellen were caught studying the native male legs and would you believe - giving them scores !
- # Julie and Freda spent some time in the Club Mardi Gras with comedian Tim. We understand numbers were given out and if your number was called you were to do certain things. Julie's number came up. It may have involved karaoke/talent quest or lap/pole dancing.
- # What did Julie perform and did her performance earn her a "10". We will leave it to your imagination.....
- # The pilot (22 y/o) of the doorless helicopter taking Iris on her joyflight was very impressed with his plucky passenger and said she qualified as the oldest he had flown....You can tick that one off your bucket list Iris !
- # We understand Lorna prefers to wear pyjamas on the cruise ,as if there is ever a need to use the lifeboat ,"pyjamas are better than a nightdress over your head".
- # Wendy was a bit puzzled about the shrinkage of all her clothes and put it down to the humidity !
- # Which David forgot to take identification ashore and had to do a lot of talking to finally be allowed to get back on board.
- # John B was seen knocking on various doors as he had forgotten his room number. Did he get lucky?

- # He even had trouble remembering how many people were in the room he just left. Had to return to find out how many glasses were needed.
- # Whilst explaining the massive gun powder charges needed to carry the shells over 20 miles on the Missouri battleship at Pearl Harbour the guide asked grandma Iris how much she weighed. Their weights were similar !!
- # About 18 of the group drove 40km.to a factory outlet complex to get rid of any excess cash and to assist the local economy.
- # At Waikiki the group went by two limo's to dinner and a show.
- # The driver was so impressed with his \$20 tip that he hugged John W and Alan but kissed David.. Mmmmm.
- # Ellen was fortunate to find a snake oil salesman who introduced her to a magic formulae cream which will take years off her appearance. You will not recognise her when you next see her!
- # Departing Honolulu Pam was seen cooling her heels waiting for husband David as he tried to test the security process once again.
- # Tried to smuggle out a jar of his special skin cream. Silver tongue worked again and he persuaded security to package the offending article and have it stored in the hold of the plane..
- # Which Val forgot her husband's birthday as we crossed the International Date Line and picked up a day.

MAHALO

