

The Hatteras Classic Club 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
aboard the Celebrity Equinox February 1-8, 2020

For 15-months, since the fall of 2018 Stu Esack, Fleet Captain and Brad Price, HCC Treasurer planned the cruise for HCC members. They wanted to provide value to our members of the Hatteras Classic Club. Brad Price, with the approval of the board, offered a \$250 subsidy to each registered member toward the cost of the cruise. Stu worked consistently to negotiate perks with Celebrity to include a complimentary, unlimited beverage package, prepaid gratuities, and \$150 onboard spending power. Stu also arranged the private events that you will read about herein. The membership of the Hatteras Classic Club will be forever grateful for your efforts.

Friday, January 31, 2020 - Thirty-two Hatteras Classic Club members excitedly attended the Pre-Sail Away Cocktail Party hosted by Brad Price and Stu Esack at their spectacular residence at the Point of Americas II. Scrumptious sandwiches, salads, and desserts were available along with generous amounts of your favorite adult beverages. Every need was fulfilled. The balcony view overlooked the cruise port in Fort Lauderdale as we excitedly anticipated our cruise. It was a special evening for everyone to re-unite and relax.

Saturday, February 1 – Several members lodged at the same location. About noon, about 6 Uber vans arrived to transport several members of the group to the ship. We anticipated the Sail Away Cocktail party on the Heliport that is typically offered for VIPs for a fee. However, Stu arranged for it gratis. Unfortunately, weather did not cooperate and we enjoyed cocktails in the Solarium. Most members were assigned cabins on deck 6 of the ship. In addition to the cabin number/phone tree, this provided the perfect opportunity to confer with our members daily and make plans for an event or meal.

For dinner, some members dined in the main dining room, Silhouette, while others sampled the gastronomical delights of QSine - Le Petit Chef, Murano, or Sushi on 5. These superb restaurants were especially delightful since many members paid with used their on-board credits..

**Q Sine** was totally remarkable, definitely one-of-a-kind, fun, and delicious. It was amusing to watch an animated cartoon of a chef appear on your plate as he prepared the dish before your eyes. Once the animation entertainment was over, your “real” food was served just as it appeared in the animated version. Unbelievable!

**Murano** offered impeccable service, classic design, world-class cuisine, and comfortable sophistication. We experienced a tableside lobster presentation and a fish being deboned, expansive artisan cheeses, desserts, and an extensive wine list. Reminiscent of days gone by. Everyone who dined in these restaurants enjoyed a fabulous, dining experience. Many members had chosen the unlimited, free drinks package. Another perk that was negotiated for our group.

After dinner, a large number of members gathered at the **Silent Disco**. A participant had the choice of selecting one of three types of music to your ears via a headset, therefore, there was not any loud music permeating the room. It was silent. Our fleet captain, Stu Esack coordinated this outrageously, fun, nightclub event. Everyone danced to a different style of music, SILENTLY. It was hysterical. Others attended the show, comedy impressionist, Dave Burleigh.



Sunday, February 2 – Everyone was free to enjoy our day at sea. Lounge at the pool, spa, exercise, view an afternoon broad way cabaret, sample food and beverages, and nap. It seemed most of our group gathered at the martini bar for cocktail hour then departed for dinner and the evening events, Lost Legends or Hanna Goldman.

Monday, February 3 – San Juan, Puerto Rico was our playground from 3:30 to 11:00 pm and offered shopping, restaurants, and tours of the island. Several members were brave and experienced the zip line, others remained on the ship for various activities. We were delighted with the performance of Ashley-Amber Harris who presented a tribute to Whitney Huston, truly a memorable evening. Ashley-Amber is a dynamite performer!

Tuesday, February 4 – Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas welcomed us from 8 am to 5 pm to sample local food at quaint restaurants, sightseeing, and shopping or enjoy the activity onboard. The specialty restaurants onboard were available every evening, reservations were necessary due to popularity, and our members had the opportunity to choose to enjoy them. Celebrity Equinox singers, dancers, and orchestra presented a live show, LIFE.

Wednesday, February 5 – Samana, Dominican Republic was visited by a lot of members for the tender ride and at least a short stroll into town. This is humpback whale territory from Jan to March. Other folks did the rainforest hike or the full day beach with lunch. Following the martini bar and dinner, our members attended the ballet and the Rondell Sheridan comedy show. Rondell's performance was hysterically funny producing ear to ear smiles and laughter.

Thursday, February 6 – A wonderful day at sea to play BINGO, pool, spa, Elvis impersonator show, or watch the CREW versus GUEST WATER, VOLLEYBALL GAME. Our very own, David Ervin, Bernie and Ron's son, represented the Hatteras Classic Club and demonstrated a stellar performance. He made us proud as he accepted his medal. Due to the circumstances, the guest players allowed the crew to win especially since Captain Tasos was on the crew team. Fleet Captain, Stu Esack, arranged for the HCC members to meet Captain Tasos at his domain, the FLYBRIDGE. After rigid, security measures were completed, we entered the flybridge and were given detailed descriptions of how the Celebrity Equinox operated. This was truly fascinating. Stu presented Captain Tasos with a Hatteras Classic Club burgee and we assembled for our group photo with Captain Tasos and our treasured HCC banner. The martini bar and dinner was always a highlight followed by the ballet and comedy show if you missed it on Wednesday.

Friday, February 7 – Nassau, Bahamas is always a treat but all good things must come to an end. The joys of the cruise were so very memorable. Camaraderie with HCC members, thrills of the casino, bingo, onboard movies, sing-along parties, game show participation, concerts, silent disco, martini bar and lounges, spectacular restaurants, and so much more. Most members packed the theatre on our final evening for Uptown, a variety show of Soul and R&B that made us rise to our feet, our hips swing, hands clapped, and voices resounded. What fun!!

Many thanks to Stu Esack for organizing the HCC, 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary cruise and providing wonderful memories for all to hold close to our hearts. Gratefully submitted by Bernie Ervin.