



MEET & MINGLE

LESSONS LEARNED



PegEgg and I participated in an informal Meet & Mingle on the Grandeur of the Seas on January 9, 1990. (Because it was a 5-day cruise, the ship would not host one.) Our meeting did not go too well for a variety of reasons.

Our Lessons Learned from that experience include:

1. **NAME TAGS.** Only PegEgg and I wore name tags. Everyone realized that name tags would have reduced the first three questions one always asks, but can't remember any way: ① What is your name, ② Where are you from? ③ What is your CruiseCritic name?



Our name tags are 3"x5" so they can be seen and read at a distance of 2 feet or more.



2. **LIST OF CRUISERS.** If we had exchanged a list of names and cabin numbers, we could have contacted each other. Those who had experience tried to tell us, but they were drowned out by the band's music.
3. **PRE-SAIL DINE.** A gathering for dinner the night before the cruise would have given us an informal atmosphere to meet other cruisers before we got on the ship. While not all could attend, those that could would be given a preview of whom they wish to spend more time with on the cruise.
4. **NEVER MEET BY THE POOL.** We gathered by the pool. This was convenient because everyone would have a drink. It became a disaster the minute the calypso band began playing at a volume discernable in Orlando, 45 miles away. I was fortunate because I am hearing impaired and could turn off

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my hearing aids — using them instead as ear protection. Anyone who was not hearing impaired before the meeting certainly was for the next four hours.

5. **CABIN DOOR SIGN.** We posted a sign on our door that had our photo and our CruiseCritic names. Some people found us because they saw it. It looked similar to this illustration.



Door Sign