

**Final Packing Follies:** We spent our last two days at home trying to shoehorn all of our stuff into our original luggage allotment. Alas, in the volume and weight tradeoffs of luggage politics and the need to preserve domestic tranquility we added a third piece of luggage. We now plan to check three pieces of luggage with US Airways for the charge of \$55 and carry-on the rest. Here is how our luggage collection looked when we finally had it assembled.



After getting the luggage issue under control we spent time with family and friends in several get-togethers discussing the voyage and saying goodbye. Tomorrow morning (Friday 7/24/09) Steve will pick us up at 5am and haul us and our assembled worldly goods to the Knoxville Airport. We take US Airways flights via Philadelphia to Boston where we arrive about noon. We have reservations at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel. The hotel is not far from where the ms Maasdam will be located at the Black Falcon Cruise Terminal on Black Falcon Avenue. We should have some time in the afternoon to check out tourist sights in Boston and then have dinner at a Legal Seafoods Restaurant in the evening.

On Saturday (7/25/09) morning we will try to work in some more sightseeing in Boston. We board the Maasdam in the afternoon and at last settle in to our stateroom. We will try to get the blog up and running as soon as possible but the whole scene with the Internet Manager in the first few days on these cruises is usually very chaotic so it may be a day or two before we make the next blog entry.

In any event we plan to thoroughly enjoy the whole adventure before us.