

AVIANO AFTERBURNER

NEWSLETTER OF AVIANO REUNION ASSOCIATION



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President/Host 08

Tama Tillman
302 Fox Run Road
Hudson, NH 03051
(603) 883-1254

Vice President

Rodger Gracey
1810 Apache
Cheney, KS 67025
(316) 542-3824

Editor

Nick Leone
2623 Hickory Flats Trail
Huntsville, AL 35801
(256) 883-9086

ARA Webmaster

Reunion Host 11
Lynn Catalina
8510 Aesop Lane Universal
City, TX 78148-2641
(888) 522-7447
www.avianoreunion.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Emily Povey
626 E. Davis Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33606
(813) 251-4664

Reunion Host 10

Franca and Joe Rutter
2250 Governors Bend
Huntsville, AL 35801
(256) 534-7214

Reunion Host 09

Linda Kazarian/Mike Hansen
9151 Vista Entrada
Lakeside, CA 92040
(619) 561-8025

From The President

You still have time to make the San Diego reunion if you haven't made arrangements yet. Please read the sections in this issue with details from Mike & Linda about the reunion and Ben & Lynn about the follow up cruise. Looks like it will be a lot of fun, don't miss out!

Email addresses – Emily has had a lot of emails returned to her. She sends out emails to confirm she has received your dues checks or with inquiries. We also publish in the Roster those email addresses that have been approved for publication by you. Those that don't want them published we just keep on record for internal use by Emily and me. Our biggest problem is that people change their email addresses/servers and don't update us. So I am asking anyone with email access to please send me your current address by email to tamat74@aol.com and specify whether you want it published or not. Please put ARA in the subject line so I will know it isn't spam and delete it by accident.

Speaking of emails, Mike Hansen received an email from Carl Richards who was at Aviano in 1954! The email is included in the correspondence section of this issue. Have fun reading it, I sure did.

I am getting excited about San Diego, how about you!

Sad News from the Ives

James Clifford "Kip" Ives lost his long battle with diabetes on Friday, February 13, 2009. Kip is the older brother of Gene and he and Faye were hosts in 2000 for our reunion in Seattle. He was a fun loving guy and will be missed.

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Future Reunions

2009 SAN DIEGO
September 20-25



2010
NASHVILLE TBD

DELINQUENT DUE REMINDER

Check your label. If it is highlighted in yellow, you need to send your dues in or this will be the last issue you receive. Dues are \$15 per year and checks should be made out to Aviano Reunion Association and mailed to Emily Povey, 626 E. Davis Blvd., Tampa, FL 33606. (If you have recently mailed your dues check, it may not have been posted before the labels were made.) If you receive your Afterburner by email, please contact Emily by email: empo@tampabay.rr.com to see if you are current.

Roster Corrections

Betty Farmer

Email: bettyfarmer@live.com

Bea Jernigan

Email: beatricejernigan@verizon.net



Don & Rita Kilgore

601 East 20th Street – Apt 13D

New York, NY 10010

Phone: (212) 260-6284 • e-mail: Gorenyc@aol.com

Aviano Era: 56-59 • Dependent Son

Schools: 7th Udine, 8th Aviano, 9th Wiesbaden

CORRESPONDENCE



KS Alert!! Rodger and Betty Gracey are very proud grandparents of a baby girl named Aseel. She was born Jan 30th. Weighed 6# 14oz, and was 20 1/4" long. Had lots of black hair, beautiful steel blue eyes, and totally spoiled for 2 months by Betty. Rodger had a month to do his damage. Of course she is already the

ranch boss, and no doubt Rodger will be getting all sizes of horses ready for her. We're so blessed--and thanks for caring. See you in San Diego!

From Carl Richards (5/13/09) – In 1954 I was stationed at England AFB, LA and assigned to the 390th FBS (Wild Boars) Squadron as a young Lieutenant. We deployed our squadron to Aviano in December of '55 on a 7 month TDY. We were flying F-84F's at that time, having retired our "old" F-86F's. We were the first American outfit to open up Aviano and upon our arrival the entire compliment of squadron pilots was invited to Trieste, Italy to be welcomed by the American Ambassador. Aviano was "virgin" territory at that time and our 7 month tour was a gift. Our "O" club was very small and the bar was only 12 ft long. Our bartender was named Mario, a young Italian chap, who died several years later. They didn't serve hard liquor at the bar, only red and white wine. They also served sandwiches at the bar. We had a choice of either a ham sandwich, a cheese sandwich, or a ham & cheese sandwich. Dishes of mustard adorned the bar counter top.

One day the officers' wives had the interior of the club painted a mustard color. That afternoon, after flying, one of our pilots, Lt. Harry Gainer, while standing at the bar sipping wine, began criticizing the color of the newly painted interior. He said, "It looks like mustard." One of the other jocks disagreed with Harry, so Harry grabbed a handful of mustard and tossed it upwards and onto the ceiling, saying, "See, it's the same damned color." Well, when some of the mustard splattered a few of the other squadron jocks standing at the bar, that started a brawl, the likes of which I have never seen before. Before the night ended there wasn't a single bottle of wine left "unbroken" behind the bar and the floor was covered with broken glass, wine and mustard. The following morning, during our morning briefing, our Ops officer told us the bill came to \$535 and that we could each pay Charlie \$21 on the way out. On another occasion, after many sips of wine, a bunch of us lifted an Italian Fiat called "the Blue Goose" up the flight of stairs leading into the club and set her down alongside the bar. We, then, had a game whereby one would rev up the engine, release the brakes and pass through a small opening just large enough for the "Goose" to pass through without hitting anything, and stopping before crashing into the game room wall. There were 2 glass panes on either side of that doorway with all of our names inscribed on them. I, often, wondered whatever happened to those 2 panes of glass.

I could rattle on for hours about the many things we did during

Continued on page 7

2008 Cruising the Greek Isles-2008 Reunion

By Ben & Lynn Catalina



After spending seven wonderful days in the Lake Como and Aviano areas, 77 folks boarded the beautiful Royal Caribbean Splendour of the Seas in Venice. Our seven night cruise was from Sept. 6-13 and took us to the Greek ports of Athens, Mykonos, Katakalon, and Corfu, and to Split, Croatia. Our weather was excellent! Ages in our group on this trip ranged from 35 to 80 years young, along with two toddlers. Among the group were some first-time cruisers as well as first-time travelers abroad.

The first event of our cruise after the lifeboat drill was the Welcome Aboard cocktail party, where our group from the Aviano Reunion got to meet others who were joining us on the ship. Since our group was so large, Royal Caribbean gave us a private room. It was great seeing old friends and making new ones. This was the first of three cocktail parties.

Our group all dined together and what a great experience that was. Several in our group purchased the "wine package" when boarding the ship. This consisted of either 6 or 12 bottles of wine. Once we sat down at our table that first evening, we realized that our table alone had purchased 24 bottles of wine! Yes, we averaged FOUR BOTTLES per night, and two folks at our table didn't even drink! This was the beginning of what would be a fabulous week!

We all had a mixture of cabin types, from inside cabins to balcony cabins and even a family suite. All were very nice. Each cabin was provided with a bottle of wine delivered to their cabin, plus a fruit plate. The fruit plate was nice and gave you the feeling that you were really trying to eat healthy! Most of us didn't. After all, we were on vacation!

The first day was at sea and was welcomed as it gave all of us a chance to sleep in and then enjoy the ship before arriving at Athens.

Activities/Entertainment: Production shows were very nice, and games around the pool proved as noisy as ever. One of the nicest features of Vision Class RCI ships remains the adult spa pool area with a covered glass roof. We took advantage of this nice area. Food was excellent and we seemed to



sample it all. While dining we also celebrated many birthdays and anniversaries and had a great time with all.

Athens: This was our first stop, and we had pre-arranged a private tour and were met at the dock by our guide, Myrto, who escorted us to our new tour bus. She provided an excellent five-hour tour of the Acropolis, the Temple of Zeus and the Roman Agora, and other sights.



The tour also provided time to shop or dine in the Platka. At the top of the Parthenon, Rob Colvin proposed to Kaki Horton...and she accepted! This was cool as we knew Kaki over 30 years ago as a toddler at Aviano. Parents Tom & Elaine Horton's plans for 2009 were suddenly changed on the Acropolis! Our second cocktail party was supposed to be held in the Top Hat Lounge that evening but when we arrived, someone had mistakenly scheduled BINGO in that lounge. We were quickly escorted to the Viking Crown Lounge way up on the highest deck 14. It was the most beautiful setting we could have asked for. And with the open bar, it was even more breathtaking! This private venue was a hit so they allowed us to use it again for our final party later.

Mykonos: Our next stop was this beautiful little island known for its whitewashed buildings, signature windmills and Greek hospitality. We walked and shopped and enjoyed a typical Greek lunch with the Hefners and Scherers. We saw others walking all over Mykonos, shopping or just enjoying the sites. Ben and Lynn



took a city bus to beautiful Paradise Beach. It was very nice but Ben was sad to see a few women so poor that they could afford only half a swimsuit...

Katakalon: This Athens port serves as the gateway for tours to ancient Olympia, and several of our group did this. Some even lined up on the track in Olympia to recreate the start of the marathon. Nope, no records were set!

This is a very small port town, which was a nice place to lazily walk the streets, shop, and enjoy a lunch overlooking the harbor. It was a very relaxing day. Some also visited the new small museum on ancient Greece. Very well done and unbeatable at a price of 2 euro per person.

Corfu: Much to do on this beautiful island! We loved the 4x4 adventure on our last visit, but opted this time for a bus tour to

(Cruising the Greek Isles Continued from page)

the Achilleion Palace, Paleokastritsa and Old Town. Lynn is usually drawn to any destination attached to the Empress Elizabeth “Sissy” of Austria and was not disappointed with Achilleion, which Sissy had built in 1891. Other tours also included stops there. We saw many Avianoites in the palace. And we heard that the 4x4 adventure was another hit this time!

Tonight was formal night, and we attempted to take a group photo at our third cocktail party. Maybe it was the results of the open bar, or just the impossible task of trying to get 77 people to be still and smile on que, but the photo was...well, it was okay. You can see it on the ARA website.

Split, Croatia: This was our last port of call and several of us splurged here and booked the Best of Split and Its Countryside. It included a delightful Romanian-style lunch at an outdoor restaurant out of town in the woods on the banks of a small river. The tour included stops at the MeStrovic Gallery featuring his sculpture, the Roman Palace erected by Diocletian, and Old Town points of interest.

At the end of our cruise, our group had 8:30 disembarkation, although folks with early (11:30) flights out of Venice were able to disembark at 7:30 a.m. using RCI transfers to the airport. The only glitch for those of us staying over in Venice was the free courtesy shuttle from the ship to the Venice train station—Piazzale Roma—run by the city of Venice. It operated on an Italian schedule, meaning that the bus driver got there when he felt like



this beautiful part of the world and is a great complement to our reunion. We will lose all our unsold group space on the ship on June 30, so now is the time to make a decision to join the 33 folks who are sailing!

Royal Caribbean’s Radiance of the Seas will be our host as we sail to Ensenada and Cabo San Lucas. The Radiance is sleek, smooth, and pretty, and even features glass elevators that over-

it. No signs and no one directing. Oh how we missed Roberto! But we got to the train station just fine, with some of us remaining in Venice for a few days, and others catching trains or flights for other destinations.

Venice, Italy: We all love Venice.

After all, most of us lived just an hour north of the city when we were stationed at Aviano. This time the excellent weather pattern we’d enjoyed for two weeks broke into a cold and rainy two-night visit. No matter—we donned our warmest clothing and jackets and used umbrellas compliments of the hotel to make our way to Rialto, Piazza San Marco, and some of the less expensive shops closer to our hotel. We really lucked out on the hotel that Ben found, Al Ponte Mocenigo. It is in a very quiet area of Venice away from the crowds and higher prices, and only about 50 steps from a water bus stop. Excellent personal service from the owner, with a wonderful continental breakfast and exceptional cappuccino! It was amazing to walk the streets of Venice, gawking just like other tourists, and running into other Avianoites from our group. We shopped and dined together and had a great closing to a wonderful trip to Italy and the Greek Isles.

Several folks have created websites with their photos of the reunion and the cruise. All sites that we know about are loaded on the Aviano Reunion website. If you haven’t visited it in a while, go to www.avianoreunion.com. Lots of good information there, including more details about the reunion and cruise in San Diego in September 2009.

Thanks to all the wonderful friends who joined us on the Aviano Reunion and the cruise. See you in San Diego!



SAN DIEGO REUNION CRUISE CRUISE THE MEXICAN RIVIERA- UPDATE

As we mentioned in past Afterburners, we have a “post ARA reunion cruise” scheduled to depart the beautiful port of San Diego on September 25. This five night cruise of the Mexican Riviera gives you even more opportunity to enjoy

look the ocean. Cabins, entertainment, activities, and yes, food, are wonderful. It even has self-leveling pool tables, as well as a solarium at sea, and many other special features.

Prices are excellent and range from \$420 per person for an inside cabin to \$620 for a balcony cabin, including the port charges. Taxes are additional. Deposit is only \$100 per person, with the balance not due until July 7. And of course at least one bottle of wine is included in each cabin!

If you would like to join us, please contact Ben or Lynn Catalina at 888-522-7447 or email them at Bcatalina@satx.rr.com.



UPDATE TO THE SAN DIEGO AVIANO ASSOCIATION REUNION SEPTEMBER 20, 2009 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

The 2009 San Diego Aviano Association Reunion is rapidly approaching commencing on Sunday, September 20, 2009 through Thursday, September 24, 2009. There are still rooms available at the beautiful Hacienda Hotel in Old Town San Diego. Thanks to all of you who have already made your hotel reservations and have sent in your deposit checks.

NOTE: TO THOSE GOING ON THE MEXICAN RIVIERA CRUISE, BUT NOT ATTENDING THE REUNION, OR THOSE WHO CANNOT ATTEND ALL REUNION EVENTS, AND WOULD STILL CARE TO ATTEND SOME:

For those only going on the Mexican Riviera Cruise, and plan to be in San Diego on the Thursday, September 24, 2009, before sailing, you are most welcome to join us for the farewell dinner and Harbor Cruise on September 24, 2009. The all inclusive price is \$79.00 per person. Please notify Linda and Michael, as soon as possible, if this is something you would like to do.

Also, if you are unable to attend all of the reunion events, but are able to attend some, please let Linda and Michael know, as soon as possible, which events you would like to attend, as this can be arranged.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

To take advantage of the ARA room rates, you must make your Hacienda Hotel reservation by August 20, 2009, by calling 800-888-1991 or 619-298-4707. Their E-Mail Address is: www.haciendahotel-oldtown.com <blockedhttp://www.haciendahotel-oldtown.com/>. Be sure to tell them you are part of the "Aviano Reunion Association" to get our room rates in our block of assigned rooms. Best times to call are Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., San Diego time.

Your travel plans should be made with a planned arrival on Sunday, September 20, 2009. Hotel check-in-time is 3:00 p.m., with a departure time of 12:00 p.m. on Friday, September 25, 2009. The rate is \$139.00 for single or double occupancy. Each additional guest in a room is \$10.00. Current tax is 10.5%. The Hacienda Hotel will add a \$5.00 Resort Fee, per night, to each guest's daily room rate. (Taxes and surcharges are subject to change). Reservations made after August 20, 2009, will be subject to availability. Parking at the Hacienda Hotel is \$12.00 per car, per night. Breakfast for our group will be \$11.00 PER PERSON, PER DAY, inclusive of tax and gratuity. Breakfast coupons will be secured at check-in. In the event a guest who has reserved a room within the Aviano Reunion Association block checks out, prior to the guest's reserved check-out date, the Hacienda Hotel will add a \$75.00 early departure fee to the guest's individual account. Guests wishing to avoid the fees should advise the hotel at or before check-in of any changes in planned length of stay.

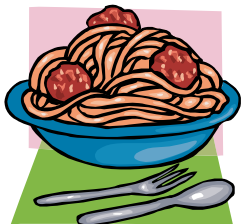
The hotel is located in the heart of San Diego's "Old Town" area, which has a lot of Spanish and Mediterranean charm. The hotel is located on a hill that overlooks San Diego's Old Town area with views of Point Loma to the west. The hotel is conveniently located within walking distance to many restaurants, shopping, and transportation. The Hacienda Hotel is located just minutes from the airport and provides free shuttle transportation to and from the hotel.

Fun and interesting tours have been planned, including a city tour of San Diego, Hotel Del Coronado on Coronado Island, a tour of an operating Navy Ship in the San Diego Bay, the San Diego Zoo, and shopping and sightseeing in La Jolla, a dinner cruise, etc. See details of tours below.

LIST OF CURRENT ATTENDEES

1. Jay R. Maust & Jane M. Maust
2. Ben Catalina & Lynn Catalina
3. Carolyn F. Watters & Bob Watters
4. Bill Walker & Gloria I. Walker
5. Melvin Black & Sandy Black
6. Sally Ann Eaves & Stephen D. Eaves
7. Al Currie & Lou Currie
8. William Davis, Sr. & Delores Davis
9. Betty Farmer & Al Richardson
10. Michael Hansen, Linda Kazarian & Merrilee Kazarian
11. Joseph G. Rutter & Franca Rutter
12. Wendall Lasher & Norma Lasher
13. Alan Steele & Linda Steele
14. Rodger Gracey & Betty Gracey
15. Bill Povey & Emily Povey
16. Elaine Horton & Tom Horton
17. Gary L. Tillman & Tama L. Tillman
18. George Hughes
19. Doris M. Burnett
20. Margaret M. Corcoran & Michael T. Corcoran
21. Dorothy M. Erhart & Lewis Erhart
22. Nicholas Leone & Margaret Leone
23. Raymond Walbridge & Marilyn Walbridge
24. Philip Howerton & Hilda Howerton

THE ITALIAN WAY



Italians have a \$40,000 kitchen, but use the \$259 stove from Sears in the basement to cook. There is some sort of religious statue in the hallway, living room, bedroom, front porch and backyard. The living room is filled with old

wedding favors with poofy net bows and stale almonds (they are too pretty to open).

A portrait of the Pope and Frank Sinatra in the dining room. God forbid if anyone EVER attempted to eat Chef Boy-are-dee, Franco American, Ragu, Prego or anything else in a jar or can (tomato paste is the exception). Meatballs are made with Pork, Veal and Beef. We are Italians, we don't care about cholesterol.

Turkey is served on Thanksgiving, AFTER the manicotti, gnocchi, lasagna and soup.

If anyone EVER says ES-CAROLE, slap 'em in the face -- it's SHCAROLE.

If they ever say ITALIAN WEDDING SOUP, let the idiot know that there is no wedding, nor is there an Italian in the soup. Also, the tiny meatballs must be made by hand. No matter how hard you know you were going to get smacked, you still came home from church after communion, you stuck half a loaf of bread in the sauce pot, snuck out a fried meatball and chowed down, you'll make up for it next week at confession.

Sunday dinner was at 2:00. The meal went like this... Table is set with everyday 20 dishes...doesn't matter if they don't match...they're clean, what more do you want? All the utensils go on the right side of the plate and the napkin goes on the left. Put a clean kitchen towel at Nonni & Papa's plate because they won't use napkins. Homemade wine and bottles of 7up are on the table. First course, Antipasto...change plates. Next, Macaroni (Nonni called all pasta Macaroni)...change plates.

After that, Roasted Meats, Roasted Potatoes, Over-cooked

Vegetables...change plates. THEN and only then (NEVER AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEAL) would you eat the salad (HOMEMADE OIL & VINEGAR DRESSING ONLY)...change plates. Next, Fruit & Nuts - in the shell (on paper plates because you ran



RIVIERA CRUISERS

- Ben & Lynn Catalina
- Carol Davis & Jean Kunz
- Bill & Dee Davis
- Lew & Dottie Erhart
- Tayler Bailey
- Betty Farmer & Al Richardson
- Jim & Nelda Hall
- George & Diane Hefner
- Zane & Margaret Hoit
- Tom & Elaine Horton
- George Hughes
- Gene & Jean Ives
- Bill & Emily Povey
- Joe & Franca Rutter
- Mark Rutter
- Lisa Sills & Deborah Park
- Bob & Carolyn Waters
- Jim & Imogene Willis

Is your name missing from the above list?
Contact Ben & Lynn Catalina.

out of the other ones). Coffee with Anisette (Espresso for Nonna, 'Merican' coffee for the rest) with hard Cookies to dip in the coffee. The kids go play..the men go to lay down. They slept so soundly you could perform brain surgery on them without anesthesia..the women clean the kitchen. Getting screamed at by Mom or Nonna - half the sentence was English, the other half Italian. Italian mothers never threw a baseball in their life, but can nail you in the head with a shoe thrown from the kitchen while you're in the living room. Prom Dress that Zia Ceserina made you...\$20.00 for material. Prom hair-do from Cousin Angela...\$Free. Turning



around at prom to see your entire family (including Godparents) standing in the back of the gym...

“CAPEESH?”

Capeeshe Italiano.....

I'm sending this out to every person I know who is Italian, could be Italian, married an Italian, lived with Italians or wants to be Italian.....!!!!

Let's start at the beginning.

Come stai? Molto bene. Bon giorno. Ciao. Arrivederci. Every Italian from Italy knows these words and every Italian-American should.

But what about the goomba speech pattern? Those words and phrases that are a little Italian, a little American, and a little slang. Words every Paesano and Bacciagalooop has heard, - words we hear throughout our Little Italy neighborhood of New York

This form of language, the “Goomba-Italiano” has been used for generations. It's not gangster slang terms like “whack” or “vig”, if that's what you are thinking---nope, this is real Guido talk!

The goomba says ciao when he arrives or leaves. He says Mama Mia anytime emotion is needed in any given situation. Mannaggia, meengya, oofah, and of course, va fongool can also be used. Capeesh?

He uses a moppeen to wipe his hands in the cuchina, gets agita from the gravy and will shkeevats meatballs unless they are homemade from the famiglia. Always foonah your bread in the pot of gravy (sauce) or you will be considered a real googootz or a Mezzo-finookio.

There are usually plenty of mamalukes and the girl from the neighborhood with the reputation is a faccia-bruta, puttana or a schifosa.

If you are called cattivo, cabbadost, sfatcheem, stupido, or strunz, you are usually a pain in the ass. A crazy diavlo can give you the malokya (evil eye), but that red horn (contra malokya) will protect you if you use it right. Don't forget to always say per favore and grazia and prego.

If you are feeling mooshadda or stounad or mezzo-morto, always head to Nonna's and she will fix you up with a little homemade manicott', cavadell', or calamar', or some ricotta cheesecake.

Mangia some zeppoles, canolis, torrone, struffoli, shfooly-

adell', pignoli cookies, or a little nutella on pannetone. Delizioso! I think I will fix myself a sangweech of cabacol' with some proshoot and mozarell' or maybe just a hot slice of peetza

So salud' if you have any Italian blood in you and you understood anything written here! Then, you are numero uno and a professore of the goombas.

If you don't get any of this, then fa Nabola with the whole thing and you are a disgraziato. Scuzi, Mia dispiachay, I didn't mean that..... Just.....Fugheddaboudit



(Correspondence Continued from page 2)

our Aviano tour, but it might become boring, therefore, I will close and say to all of you who will attend the reunion in San Diego...Enjoy yourselves, tip one for me and...the best of luck to each and every one of you. *Carl Richards, Lt Col USAF (ret)*

From Anita Burnett (5/8/09) – ...I am doing fairly well; had my 8th back surgery (reconstruction) April 2007 and the Lord gave me a miracle!!! I am able to stand up straight and walk with a cane! I don't use a cane at home but learned the hard way to use the cane when I am out in public. Sorry I won't be able to go to San Diego in September but hope to make it to Italy in 2010. Have a great time in San Diego.



AVIANO
AFTERBURNER
NEWSLETTER OF AVIANO REUNION ASSOCIATION



2623 Hickory Flats Trail
Huntsville, AL 35801