

AVIANO AFTERBURNER

NEWSLETTER OF AVIANO REUNION ASSOCIATION



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From The President

I want to give a HUGE thank you to Roberto and Tours by Roberto for providing our group with an outstanding reunion. I know it was a lot of extra effort on their part to facilitate this gathering for us out of their normal area. I think I can safely say that they managed it up to their usual high standards. A special thank you to Ben and Lynn Catalina for arranging the wonderful base tour. Enjoy the pictures in this and upcoming issues of the fun we had. You can also see pictures if you go to our website and click on the links provided.

We were sorry that Lew and Dottie Erhart were unable to attend due to her recent accident. She is undergoing extensive therapy to get her mobility back. Due to this, they will be spending the winter in Alaska this year instead of their usual stay in

Florida. Our thoughts are with you, Dottie!

Better news for the Association, Ben and Lynn Catalina bid on 2011 and we accepted. They will be hosting in Italy with Tours by Roberto. We will be looking forward to details on this in later issues, but we still have 2009 and 2010 to look forward to first.

Included in this issue are details for the 2009 reunion in San Diego hosted by Mike Hansen and Linda Kazarian. Get your deposits in as soon as possible so that they can fine tune their arrangements. Ben and Lynn have also put together a cruise to follow the reunion. Details are in this issue.

It has been confirmed that the donation to the Air Force Museum was made with the funds collected at this year's reunion. Thank you everyone that gave.

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FUTURE REUNIONS

2009 SAN DIEGO
September 20-25



2010
NASHVILLE TBD

2008 ROSTER PLEASE READ!

I have delayed the printing of the 2008 roster until I see how many members might want to receive a CD copy of it instead. I would be able to save a little money for the Association by copying the membership file (your choice of an Excel spreadsheet or a Word database or a Word file of the actual roster pages) with the latest Bylaws, a listing of the prior reunions and the In Memoriam page. Please notify me no later than November 21 with your choice.

If I have not heard from you by then, I will send you the usual printed copy. Email me, Tama, at tamat74@aol.com or call me at 603-320-7575. If you chose the CD, let me know which version you want. If you like, I can even send the files by email attachments instead of the CD. Note: Due to this option, I will not be printing, binding and mailing the rosters until the end of November when I can determine how many need to be printed.



SAD NEWS

Malcom "Mick" Gosdin died in
Marble falls Texas
Aviano 1959-1960



2009 SAN DIEGO AVIANO ASSOCIATION REUNION

Plans for the 2009 San Diego reunion are coming together. The reunion begins Sunday, September 20, 2009, at the beautiful Hacienda Hotel, Old Town, San Diego (www.hacienda-hotel-oldtown.com). The hotel overlooks San Diego's Old Town area, and has views of Point Loma to the west. Restaurants and shopping are within walking distance of the hotel. The Hacienda Hotel provides free shuttle transportation to and from the San Diego Airport, which is only ten to fifteen minutes away. The initial deposit of \$300.00 PER PERSON, OR \$600.00 PER COUPLE, is needed to secure the 2009 Reunion's buses, tours, lunches, dinners, etc. Balance will be established in early summer and will be due by July 20, 2009.

Thanks to Tama

As most of you know, we have a tradition whereby we collect donations from reunion attendees to buy a gift for the volunteer host of our annual reunion. Tama was the host who did a wonderful job of organizing our 2008 reunion in Italy. However, she requested our donations be given to the Air Force Museum Foundation. We received a nice letter from the Foundation stating: "Thank you for your contribution in memory of those who served from the Aviano Reunion Association."

Roberto may have been the tour guide, but Tama was the organizer who devoted countless hours toward the success of this event. Thank you, Tama, for all your hard work and devotion to our organization!



GREEK ISLES CRUISE THANKS

After spending seven wonderful days in Northern Italy --- Lake Como and Aviano --- how can one top that? We certainly tried on our cruise from Venice! We had 77 people sail on Royal Caribbean's Splendor of the Seas for seven days of sightseeing, fun, relaxation, food, entertainment, and even a little bit of wine and other libations. In addition, several stayed over in Venice for a few days after. There are too, too many stories to tell about the sights we saw in Athens, Mykonos, Katakalon, Corfu, and Split, Croatia, and the fun we had, so we created a web slide show and sent it to all who attended. The link is also on the Aviano website. Go to www.avianoreunion.com. We will have a cruise report in the next issue of the Afterburner. Thanks to all of you who cruised with us and for making this such an enjoyable cruise.

We already have our follow-on cruise established for next year. After attending the reunion in San Diego, join us for a five night adventure to the Mexican Riviera. The price is extremely reasonable and is a perfect follow-on to the reunion. Call Ben & Lynn for more details and see the flyer on the ARA website.



WELCOME BACK
Donald (Fish) and Alice Fishlinger

Aviano Era: 66-70

27 Crestline Ave.

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Bethpage, NY 11714-4612

Email: df447@aol.com

TRAVELS WITH TAMA

Lake Como



Traveling on airlines lately is anything but a pleasure. Gary and I were supposed to get to Milano two days early, but due to a cancelled flight, we missed the first night. However, per usual, once we got to Italy, things improved right away. Our hotel allowed us to apply our prepaid room fee for the missed night to our restaurant charges, which paid for our meals.

On Saturday, we went back to the airport to meet up with the rest of the reunion attendees. We were not the only ones that had plane troubles, flights were late, George missed his and Kaki and Rob were rerouted. Roberto immediately got the bus pickups rescheduled and things were under control again. We were all taken by two buses on a short drive to our two hotels in Varenna.

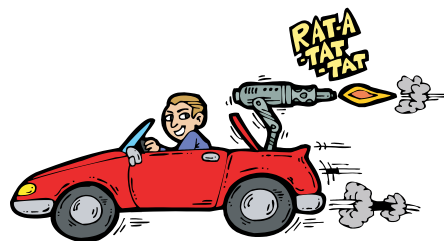
The main hotel with most of the attendees and the site of two of the dinners was the Hotel Royal Victoria. Gary and I were at the secondary hotel, the Villa Cipressi Isimbardi, a smaller hotel with beautiful gardens. In fact, the night we arrived, they were having a wedding reception just below our window. Just after arrival of the second bus, there was a short walking tour of the town to



familiarize us with the area. Afterwards, Roberto had arranged for a welcome dinner at the Royal Victoria. Talk about loud and happy, the food and wine kept coming while we all had a chance to be reacquainted with old friends and making new ones.

Sunday morning, after a very nice breakfast buffet, we met at the main hotel lobby for our tour. We all walked down to the pier behind the hotel and got onto the boat that took us. One of the nice features of the entire reunion was the use of “whispers”. They are individual receivers with earphones that pick up what is being said by the individual guide. We had two guides while in the Lake Como area, Brad and Donald, both who live locally. The group was divided between the two guides, but the assignments were switched for the second day on the lake, so that we had the benefit of both points of view.

The boat took us along the lake edges and while we traveled, our guides were pointing out various points of interest, sharing bits of color and giving us historical information. Our first stop was the



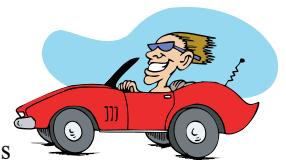
Villa Carlotta, named for the Prussian Princess who received it as a wedding gift. It is full of works of art and surrounded by extensive gardens that ranged from cactus to ferns. The second villa we toured was the Villa del Balbianello. For movie buffs, this villa was used in the recent James Bond film. It used to be the site of a Franciscan monastery that was turned into a personal residence. The most recent owner,



before it was turned over to the Italian Ambient Fund, was Count Guido Monzino and many of his collections are still on display in the villa. The Italian Ambient Fund continues to maintain this villa and others for the enjoyment of visitors to the area. They do an amazing job on the grounds of this villa with the tree and shrub sculpturing. We finished the boat tour with a stop for lunch in Bellagio at the Hotel Suisse. Afterwards we had time to shop, but frankly, the area was a little pricey. We still managed to find a fruit bowl we were looking for and of course, a stop for gelato.

The evening was free, so Gary and I went to the little sidewalk café in front of the Royal Victoria hotel. We were not the only ones with that idea and I am sure we drove the staff a little crazy with the talking and sharing going on between tables. The pizza and desserts we had were so good that we ended up going there again on our other free evening.

Monday was the optional tour day to St. Moritz. It was a total picture postcard day. We were picked up at the hotel by bus and driven to a train station where Roberto had reserved two train cars just for ARA. Roberto hired a lady to tell us about what we were seeing on the “whispers,” but frankly, it was more a matter of enjoying the scenery we were passing through. We saw fresh snow, glaciers, and lakes that were unusual in color and mountains that astounded you. When I showed the pictures of that day to my friends at home later on, I got nothing but oh’s and ah’s. At the end of the train ride, we were picked up by the bus and taken to the Hotel Sonne for another delicious lunch. After



lunch, we were dropped off at the old town square for shopping and sightseeing. Only shopping that Gary and I did was at the Coop where we bought Swiss chocolate, although he did see a 7-ply cashmere sweater that he liked...for only \$3500. In

Reunion 2009 San Diego HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Your hotel reservations need to be made as soon as possible to assure your room. Reservations at the "Best Western" Hacienda Hotel can be made by calling toll-free at 800-888-1991, or 619-298-4707. Be sure to tell them you are part of the "Aviano Reunion Association" to get our room rates in our block of assigned rooms (as set out below). 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

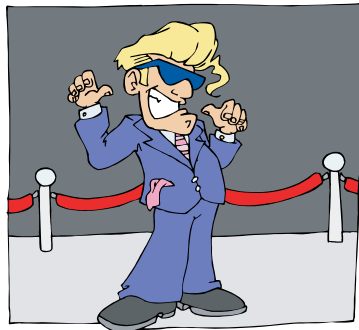
night, to each guest's daily room rate. (Taxes and surcharges are subject to change). Thirty-five rooms are currently available at this rate. Reservations made after August 20, 2009, will be subject to availability. Parking at the Hacienda Hotel is \$12.00 per car, per night. Breakfast for our group 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.

Travels with Tama (continued from page 3)

addition, if that does not give you an idea of the area, three Rolls Royce's drove by the bench I was sitting on in the square. However, from the same bench, I could see cows grazing in a field on the mountain.

We were taken back to Varenna by bus, passing more of the postcard scenery. Dinner that night was a group dinner at the Royal Victoria. Lots more food, wine and happy noise.

Tuesday morning we met again for the second boat tour of Lake Como. This time the cruise went a lot further down the lake. Along the way, we passed the villas owned by George Clooney and the crew was nice enough to slow down for us to have a good look and picture opportunity. Clooney not only bought this one villa with a very nice extended garden on the side,



he also bought the one next to it for "beach" access since his own had only a dock entrance. Then he bought the villa behind for a guest house. Brad and Donald kept us entertained with local insight to what we passed. The boat dropped us off at Como where we had time for sightseeing and shopping before going to lunch at the Antica Riva. Prices in Como were a little more reasonable than what we had seen at Bellagio and St. Moritz, so we did do a little shopping, but we also enjoyed sitting at the dock area and watching the birds and people. We were returned to Varenna and had a free evening. Gary and I returned to the sidewalk café for another great dinner with Pete and Bea.

{To be continued. Watch for the next issue of the Afterburner for the conclusion of the reunion - "Travels with Tama - Aviano."}

Italian Mother

Mrs. Ravioli comes to visit her son Anthony, for dinner.

Anthony lives with his female roommate Maria ..

During the course of the meal, his mother couldn't help but notice how pretty Anthony's roommate was. Mama had long been suspicious of a relationship between the two, and this had only made her more curious.

Over the course of the evening, while watching the two interact, Mama started to wonder if there was more between Anthony and his roommate than met the eye.

Reading his mom's thoughts, Anthony volunteered, 'I know what you must be thinking, but I assure you, Maria and I are just roommates'.

About a week later, Maria came to Anthony saying, 'Ever since your mother came to dinner, I've been unable to find the silver sugar bowl. You don't suppose she took it, do you?'

'Well, I doubt it. But I'll email her, just to be sure.' So he sat down and wrote:

Dear Mama,

Maria mentioned that she noticed her sugar bowl missing right after your visit. Now, I'm not saying that you 'did' take the sugar bowl from my house; and, I'm not saying that you 'did not' take it. But the fact remains that it has been missing ever since you were here for dinner. *Love, Anthony*

Several days later, Anthony received a response email from his Mama, which read:

Dear Son,

I'm not saying that you 'do' sleep with Maria, and I'm not saying that you 'do not' sleep with her. But the fact remains that if she was sleeping in her OWN bed, she would have found the sugar bowl by now. *Love, Mama*

Moral: Never lie to your Mama . . . **Especially if she's Italian.**



San Diego Reunion ITINERARY

Monday, September 21, 2009

City Tour of San Diego, Harbor-side Luncheon.

The city tour of San Diego includes travel on a comfortable air conditioned coach with a stop at Coronado Island, and a tour through the Hotel Del Coronado, est. in 1888, Balboa Park, The Gaslamp District, and a stop at Seaport Village, with free time on your own to browse the many unique shops, followed by a delicious buffet luncheon at Tom Ham's Lighthouse on the beautiful San Diego Bay.

Evening, Monday, September 21, 2009

Spanish theme dinner at the Hacienda Hotel and business meeting - 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Active Navy Ship tour and barbecue at the Bali Hai Restaurant.

Tour an active U.S. Navy Ship at 32nd Street Naval Station, followed by a harbor side barbecue luncheon at the famous Bali Hai restaurant located on Shelter Island. (Million dollar view).

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

San Diego Zoo tour includes a narrated bus tour on a double deck bus, and a gondola aerial sky tram. Lunch is on your own.



OPTIONAL TOUR TO THE GUADALUPE WINERIES IN MEXICO:

On Wednesday, September 23, 2009, we will have an optional tour to the Mexican wineries, in the beautiful Guadalupe Valley, with Day Tripper Tours; a San Diego based Tour Company, which includes a white-linen luncheon served with wine, under an open-air terrace on the hillside overlooking the lush vineyards at L.A. Cetto Winery. Later, we continue southward for a visit to the bustling port city of Ensenada, where you will have time on your own for shopping in the town, or strolling the beautifully revitalized waterfront and plaza area. Please let us know, as soon as possible, if you are interested in taking this optional tour. We need a minimum of 35 people. The cost for this tour is \$85.00 per person, which is all inclusive of tour, luncheon, and tips for the luncheon, the bus driver and tour guide).

NOTE: DO NOT FORGET TO BRING YOUR PASSPORTS, AS IT IS NOW A MANDATORY REQUIREMENT IN ORDER TO CROSS THE MEXICAN BORDER.

Thursday, September 24, 2009

La Jolla Tour:

The La Jolla tour includes a spectacular 360 degree view of San Diego at 900 feet above sea level, at Veteran's Park, Mount Soledad, plus a visit to the Stephen Birch Aquarium, one of the nicest aquariums in the U.S., with another magnificent view of the Pacific Ocean. Lunch will be on your own in La Jolla Village. There are several restaurants to choose from with ocean views. You will also have time for shopping in the village and strolling along the ocean, on paved sidewalks, with magnificent views.

Evening, Thursday, September 24, 2009

Farewell Harbor Dinner Cruise - departs at 6:00 p.m. and returns at 10:30 p.m. Sit-down dinner includes a duo entrée of chicken and steak. Enjoy music and dancing after dinner, or stroll the top deck under the stars.

PLEASE NOTE:

1. Initial deposit of \$300.00 per person is due immediately.
2. Balance to be determined (\$50.00 to \$200.00 per person), due by July 20, 2009.
3. The optional tour to the Mexico Wineries and Ensenada is \$85.00 per person.
4. The group may be divided into smaller groups for the tours, so let us know if you have someone, you want to tour with.
5. Lynn and Ben Catalina are coordinating a cruise to the Mexican Riviera following the reunion, with a departure slated for Friday, September 25, 2009, out of San Diego.
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2008 Aviano Reunion Attendees



Lake Como



Villa Carlotta



Lake Como



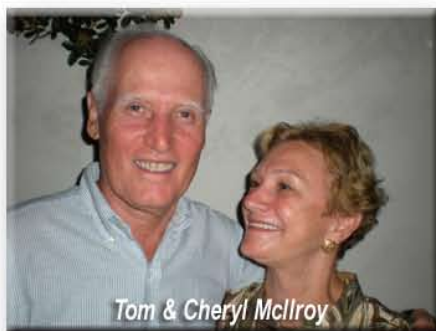
Phil & Hilda Howerton



Villa Carlotta



Richard & Eleanor Scalzitti



Tom & Cheryl McIlroy



Boat Tour - Sunday



Roberto & Anna, Tours by Roberto



Tom & Elaine Horton



Tama & Gary Tillman



Sally & Steve Eaves



Jane & Jay Maust



Jean & Gene & Gay Ives



Jean Kunz, Mark Rutter & Carol Davis



Kaki Horton & Rob Colvin



Judy & Ed Laurnen



Joanne Harnit, George Hughes & Peg Byrd



Leon & Madison & Lisa (Fairchild) Van Holsbeke



Lynn & Ben Catalina



Margaret & Zane Hoit



Megan (Johnson) Decker
& Jane (Johnson) Pol



Maryellen & Dave Scherer



Marianna & John Fells



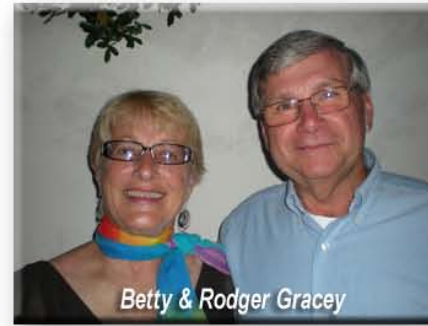
Mike Hansen & Linda Kazarian



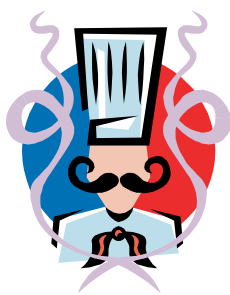
Nancy Hall & Bill McKinley



Norma & Lash Lasher



FROM THE EDITOR'S KITCHEN



Fusilli Pasta

Ingredients

- 1/3 cup dried tomatoes, not packed in oil (see Chef's Note below)
- 3 tablespoons boiling water
- 1 1/2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 1/2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped fresh marjoram
- 3/4 pound dried fusilli
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 4 cups diced mixed fresh domestic and/or wild mushrooms (3/4-inch dice)
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1-1/2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1/2 cup loosely packed fresh basil leaves
- 2 cups Quick Tomato Sauce
- 3/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 4 cups arugula
- 2 tablespoons pine nuts, toasted
- Red pepper flakes (optional)

Combine the tomatoes, boiling water, sugar, vinegar, and marjoram in a small bowl. Let rehydrate until soft, about 10 minutes. Drain well, squeezing out excess liquid. Cut the tomatoes into fine julienne. Set aside. Discard marinade.

Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Add salt and the pasta and cook until al dente, about 10 minutes. Drain, reserving about 1/2 cup of the pasta cooking water.

While the pasta is cooking, heat the olive oil in a large sauté pan over medium-high heat until hot. Add the mushrooms and do not move them until they begin to brown, about 1 minute. Then sauté until brown all over, about 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Add the garlic and sauté briefly until light brown. Add the basil and julienned tomatoes and cook quickly, pulling the pan off the heat as necessary so the tomatoes do not burn.

Add the tomato sauce and bring to a simmer. If you chose to add jalapeños to the tomato sauce, seed, mash, and reserve them. As soon as the pasta is done, add it to the tomato-mushroom mixture and toss well with 1/2 cup of the cheese and the reserved pasta cooking water. Add 3 cups of the arugula and toss until barely wilted.

Pour into a warm serving bowl or onto a platter and scatter the remaining 1 cup arugula on top. Sprinkle with the nuts and dust with a little cheese. Serve immediately and pass the remaining cheese at the table with a shaker of red pepper flakes, if using, or a small bowl of the mashed jalapeños.

Serves 4

NOTICE

“The editor installed a new computer and his email file did not transfer from the old computer. Therefore I need those ARA members who requested and electronic copy to resend me an email with their email address and we will begin with the February 2009 edition. Sorry for the inconvenience.”



DEPOSIT

The initial deposit of \$300.00 covers a portion of the following: Welcome reception, bus tours, some lunches, guides, and two dinners, etc. \$100.00 is non-refundable. Deposit is due immediately so transportation and facilities can be reserved. Final adjusted payment will be due sixty days prior to the reunion. The amount will be determined by the number of participants and will be from \$50.00 to \$200.00 per person. There will be no refunds thirty days prior to the reunion. Checks should be made payable to “Aviano Reunion Association” and mailed to Linda and Mike as follows:

Mike Hansen & Linda Kazarian
 9151 Vista Entrada
 Lakeside, CA 92040-5815

Home Phone: 619-561-8025
 E-Mail Addresses:
 hansen.michael@att.net or lindakaz@att.net

Please provide the following information with your check:

Name(s) _____

 Address _____

 Phone # _____
 E-Mail _____



Happy Thanksgiving

**AVIANO
AFTERBURNER**
NEWSLETTER OF AVIANO REUNION ASSOCIATION



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Huntsville, AL 35801