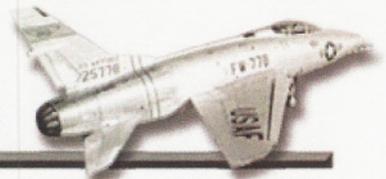


AVIANO AFTERBURNER

NEWSLETTER OF AVIANO REUNION ASSOCIATION



Volume 19, Number 1

February 2006

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ARA Webmaster

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www.avianoreunion.com

From The President

Really looking forward to the cruise in Hawaii this year. Besides Hawaii being one of my favorite places, (I was born there and graduated High School there on Dad's second tour at Hickam) I also look forward to seeing everyone that has signed up for the cruise. If you haven't already, don't wait, the ship is filling up fast.

I also get updates from Martha Novikoff concerning our 2007 reunion in Williamsburg. She has been doing site inspections of the available hotels and should have one picked and dates set up soon. She also wanted to tell everyone that the movie "The New World" that is coming out was shot in the area of Jamestown and Williamsburg. It stars Colin Farrell and they had the premiere in Williamsburg with the red carpet and everything.

The 400 Anniversary of Jamestown in 2007 is a really big thing there and the advertising has been building up. Looks like it should be a very interesting reunion.

Be sure and look at the correspondence this issue. Gloria Walker had a stroke on December 29, but was already up and at the computer to send the message that is in this issue. Also got an update from Earl Fairchild on his ankle. As for my own family, I am sad to report that my oldest daughter's husband (age 37) died on December 10th. It was totally unexpected and was the result of complications at the emergency room. He had been sick with flu and pneumonia for a couple of weeks. He left behind three children and two step children. Please get flu and pneumonia shots.

AVIANO HAWAIIAN CRUISE REUNION 2006 UPDATE

As predicted, our ship is selling out but we still have a few more cabins protected in our Aviano group. At the time we went to press, the prices were also protected at our advertised rates, but we can't guarantee that they will remain for long. Please do not procrastinate any longer. If you have the slightest intention of joining us on this exhilarating reunion cruise, please call our hosts, Ben or Lynn Catalina NOW.

We will sail for seven nights on Norwegian Cruise Line's Pride of Aloha, from September 24 to October 1, 2006. Our itinerary includes calls on four of the Hawaiian Islands, and our



ship has overnight stays on Maui and Kauai. Reunion prices are set at \$926 per person for an inside cabin, \$1187 pp for an ocean view cabin, and \$1603 pp for a private balcony cabin. The deposit is \$250 per person, payable by May 20, 2006, with final payment due July 1. Cancellations prior to

the final payment date are fully refundable. But don't gamble on that May 20 deposit date --- when the cabins are gone, they are GONE!

We are also offering a pre-cruise hotel package at the Hilton Hawaiian Village for those wanting to arrive in Honolulu early and spend some time exploring Oahu. The hotel is located on Waikiki Beach near the Hale Kola and rooms begin at \$175 per night at our special group rates. If you qualify for the Hale Koa (active and retired military, etc.), you are certainly welcome to make your

2007 Williamsburg Reunion Dates
29 April - 4 May 2007

(Continued on page 5)



Anne & Mike Collins
6806 Seafairer Drive
Tampa, FL 33615-2509
Phone: 813-855-0772
E-mail: acollins@baxglobal.com
Aviano Era: 60-64
Dependent daughter of Jack & Meg Johnson
School: Aviano Dependent School

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8578 Ruckman Ave
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Phone: 904-783-1898
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Aviano Era: 60-64
Dependent daughter of Jack & Meg Johnson
Schools: Aviano Jr. High & Vicenza American HS



ROSTER CORRECTIONS

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Dependent daughter of Jack & Meg Johnson
School: Aviano Dependent School

Hilda Wells
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Morganton, NC 28655-8799
Phone: 828-433-5808
E-mail: wellshen1@wmconnect.com
Friend of Howerton

SAD NEWS:

Janet Howerton, wife of **Phil Howerton**, died on December 28, 2005. She had been ill for quite some time. She and Phil have been members of Aviano Reunion Association since the beginning. They were stationed in Aviano from 1959 to 1962. She is also survived by a son Phillip Jr. and daughters Ginny and Mary. Our sympathy goes out to the entire family.

DUES ARE DUE!

If you are in the red (your label is highlighted red), you need to mail your check made payable to Aviano Reunion Association and mail it to Emily Povey, 626 E. Davis Blvd., Tampa, FL 33606. Dues are \$15 per year.

Correspondence

From Gloria Walker

[note: Gloria had a stroke on 12/29/05] (1/11/06) – I wasn't taking aspirin before this happened; in fact, wondered if I had been if I would have even had this stroke! I am now taking plavix with a baby aspirin everyday. Today is the first day I feel really well – the doctor said the stroke may come back in a month, so to take it really easy, so I've been. AND, she said no stress – well, after she told me it may come back in a month, it really stressed me out! Only thing is she called me last week and asked me what I was doing – I told her resting – she said my resting and hers is different – to lie down, watch TV and eat bonbons! Well, I told Bill she said I really must rest, so he took 3 naps that day! When I told him that was 3 naps, he said he was trying to teach me how to do it...it was really scary, but I've had every test imaginable and go back to the doctor's tomorrow again, so hopefully she'll be able to see results from these tests. My blood pressure is always perfect – the doctor always says that – but you sort of associate a stroke with high blood pressure, guess that doesn't always happen. I couldn't walk at all, had double vision and my lip went numb – BUT, while in the emergency room, they took a catscan and the doc said it definitely was a stroke – but, they gave me nothing and I got back to normal, but they kept me 2 days taking tests.

From Earl Fairchild (1/11/06) - It's been 5 Months and 1 day and I'm free of doctors' care. Harriet nursed me thru the whole time while I mended a fractured ankle. I fell about 3 feet from a ladder trying to trim



a branch over the roof prior to Hurricane Dennis. I rolled one way as I was taught for a PLF, parachute landing fall, but my left foot hit a branch and rolled the other way. Son, Jim, who completed Jump school just 3 years ago at age 40 said "Dad, you did a Perfectly F.....d up landing. Anyhow, my poor circulation in that leg slowed the healing of the wounds and we lived with a vacuum pump 7/24 for about 6 weeks. Harriet changed dressings religiously twice a day after we were thru with that contraption and the metal boot. We still had fun. Just wanted all you great folks and family to know we are out and about. Love to all.

From Gene Collins – Due to ill health I have been unable to attend the reunions, but enjoy the "Aviano Afterburner" being able to keep in touch...I was able to get to Italy this spring and so enjoyed going back... was in Rome when the pope died. ...was something to be a part of – me and three million others! The Hawaiian Cruise sounds fun.

From Veronica & Clay Murphy – Happy New Year. Lot's of rain in Oregon...have a new puppy (Pom) Fang the Mighty Dog!...Lot of work...I can't sleep until 9 anymore...No storm damage this year!...Had 2 months of jet lag! Thanks for doing a difficult job...

From Maurine & Bert Prudhomme - ...we are in Arizona for the winter months enjoying the sun. It is a little warmer than Colorado. Looking forward to seeing the group on the cruise this fall.

Post-Cruise Report

2005 Western Mediterranean Cruise on the Costa Magica

After our wonderful reunion in Tuscany, most of the reunion bunch headed to the Port of Civitavecchia, just outside of Rome, to board the beautiful Costa Magica. We were joined by about 20 more folks for seven sun-filled days cruising the Western Mediterranean. Cruising in Europe offers fantastic opportunities to sample many different countries and locales, and this cruise did a great job of that, with six stops in six days. The best news to start any cruise is that no one "missa da boat." All of our 63 guests made it, and no one was late to the welcome aboard cocktail party that evening. I guess I never should have said "open bar." How was I to know that this bunch could drink so much, but one anonymous Avianoite said it best "... the Captain is driving the ship and we're having fun!"



Our first stop was in Savona, Italy, the headquarters for Costa and an old Italian port city. Most of us took an optional tour to the nearby city of Genoa, home of Christopher Columbus. A friend of ours, Filippo Zimparelli, a professional tour guide in



Genoa, led us on a most informative and grand tour of Genoa. Others opted to tour the many sights of Savona, including the beautiful aquarium on the edge of the sea that is the largest one in Europe, or take the tour to picturesque Portofino.

Barcelona—the site of the 1992 Summer Olympic Games—was beautiful. We took a city tour that passed by the Olympic Stadium, let us wander around the exterior of Gaudi's Sagrada Familia and in and around his Parque Guell, and also took us to Montjuic Hill and to the Gothic Quarter. We yearned for more time to explore Gaudi's works, hit the tapas bars, and walk down La Rambla, Barcelona's famous thoroughfare. Some in the group did visit La Rambla for a while and returned with moderate reviews. But by then it was raining and we wouldn't have had time to do the area justice. Bill and Emily participated in a cycling trip here—an easy ride on a one-speed bike.

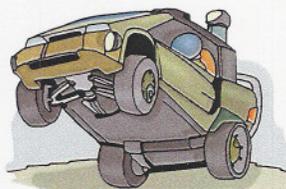
Mallorca is one of three popular islands (along with Menorca and Ibiza) off the southern Spanish coast, and Palma de Mallorca was our host town for day three. For our excursion here, we opted for a catamaran sailing trip to a nearby beach. Some of us (Ben, Lynn, Jeff, Erin, and Bill and Dee Davis) even braved the cool water and snorkeled or swam to the beach, while others just enjoyed the ride and the sights. The girl in the tiny bikini was a pretty good site to see also! The Poveys got a little more exercise on this one, touring



the waterfront and old city on 24-speed mountain bikes. Emily says it was the best trip.

Tunisia provided us an opportunity to step foot on the continent of Africa. It was culture shock for some of us, and certainly one of the poorest areas we visited. But it also has some interesting history. Jeff said it best with "exciting, intriguing, and eyebrow-raising all at the same time." Most in the group toured the predominantly Muslim city of Tunis. Although the tour was interesting, it was too rushed, with too many competing languages explaining the famous mosaics in the town. We also stopped at a souk for some frenzied bargain hunting, but the highlight was seeing the fabled Roman ruins of Carthage. The scenery was spectacular.

Malta was a breathtaking way to spend day five. Our excursion here was just about as cool as you can get: a caravan of open-air jeeps that traversed practically the entire island. Our driver was a maniacal, chain-smoking, semi-nut case, but he



certainly showed us the sights as we held on for dear life. Malta's towns are nearly uniform in architecture, showing off square, flat-top buildings all a sand-colored hue. Its countryside is just as picturesque, offering arid plains, pink sand

beaches, and sheer cliffs that plunge into the ocean. Did you know that the movie Popeye, starring Robin Williams, was filmed here? Okay, so it was a forgettable flick. However, we did see the beautiful little cartoonish port village that was created just for the movie. We even got to spend a quiet hour on a beach on Malta, eating lunch, sunning, and enjoying the scenery. Bill Povey still cannot believe the tattoos on that lady in the bikini. Everyone we spoke with felt we could spend a few days in Malta just relaxing and exploring the area. The tour ended with a stop in Mdina, the ancient capital of Malta in the center of the island. Others took island tours that spent even more time there. Nice place to shop and browse.

Our cruise days passed too quickly, and it was already time for day six in Palermo, Sicily. This stop offered a different view of Italy. Lynn & I took the opportunity to just walk the city, browsing the open market areas, shopping in a hardware store and grocery store, and even finding an Internet café to catch up on e-mails. And the prosciutto pizza cooked in a wood burning oven in a quaint pizzeria was the perfect end to a beautiful day. Some of our group took the Mysterious Palermo tour. The "mysterious" (and most interesting) part was a visit to the



(Continued on page 4)

(Post Cruise Report continued from page 3)

Catacombs of the Capuchin Friars, where over 8,000 mummified bodies of monks, noblemen and citizens dressed in their original 15th century clothes can still be seen today.

When we weren't exploring an island or another country, we were having a great time on the beautiful new Costa Magica. This wonderful ship has so many things to do—all the time. This was the third Costa cruise for many folks, and, as often happens after three cruises on any cruise line, we got pickier. It didn't help that we had just spent a week in Tuscany, so the food, although very good, couldn't compare with the real thing. And the port of Venice is much prettier and more efficient than Civitavecchia. Nonetheless, we managed to put on some more pounds, drink some great wine, lose money in the casino, and

view fabulous shows. The pools always had some Avianoites in them, and some folks even made it to the large fitness center with the whirlpool spa and hydro jet swimming pool, or enjoyed a massage in the spa. But none of their massages could top Ben's experience in Chianciano Terme. He can tell you more about it over a glass of vino... in Hawaii!

A big treat for the Catalinas, however, was seeing friends from our Aviano days that we hadn't seen since the 1970's, Tom & Elaine Horton and Randy & Peggy Witt, and cruising with our old friends Jim & Imo Willis, and our neighbors Jerry & Sarah Dellinger...not to mention our son Jeff and his wife Erin! Of course, there were other new faces onboard, too. Several members brought family, extended family and friends, and all of them helped to make this an exceptional experience

for us. Grazie tutti to all of you! What a great week on the ship and a phenomenal reunion in Umbria.

When our cruise was over, the Catalinas weren't ready to come home yet. We rented a car and drove across the heart of Italy to Ancona, on the Adriatic Coast, where our distant relatives, the Catalani's and Ulissi's, call home. It was wonderful to reconnect with all of them, and believe us, our stomachs never went hungry! You haven't lived until you've sat down for a three-hour, 100% homemade real Italian family-style dinner. Yum! Mille grazie to all our family in Italia!

Don't forget to check out all the great photos that people have shared. The links to those photo sites are on the ARA website at www.avianoreunion.com. Now on to Hawaii 2006—see you in paradise!

AVIANO REUNION ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING

Chianciano Terme, Italy September 7, 2005

Call to Order:

Pres: Tama Tillman

Time: 6:33 PM, September 7, 2005

Robert's Rules of Order were not followed due to limited time.

After the correction of Earl Fairchild's name was made to the 2003 Minutes a motion to accept the corrected minutes was made by Carolyn Watters. Carried.

Report by Officers:

~**Rodger Gracey, VP** – Rodger was unable to attend the meeting due to open heart surgery, but he had made the commitment to continue as Vice President.

~**Emily Povey, Sec/Treas** – Send in any address changes. ARA pins, etc. for sale.

~**Nick Leone, Editor** – Nick was unable to attend the meeting, but had committed to continuing in the position of Afterburner Editor.

~**Gene Ives, Historian** – Unable to attend but will continue with the position of Historian.

Election of officers: Peter Ross made the motion to elect the existing Board by acclamation. The motion carried.

New Business:

Proposed By-Law Change: ARTICLE VI. DUES. 2. Currently reads "Annual dues shall be twelve dollars (\$12.00) per member (membership includes the individual's spouse), payable EACH YEAR prior to May 31. Dues may be paid in advance on a non-refundable basis." Amended to be "Annual dues shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per member (membership includes the individual's spouse) payable EACH YEAR prior to May 31. Dues may be paid in advance on a non-refundable basis."

Bob Watters made the motion to accept the proposed change. Motion carried.

Lynn and Ben Catalina presented information about Reunion 2006. The date will be 09-24-2006. The Hilton Hawaiian Village Resort will be made available for those that want to arrive early. The military hotel Hale Koa is next to the Hilton and can be used by those wishing to stay there. "Pride of Aloha" will set up tours prior to sailing for those visiting at that time.

2007 Reunion Bid

Martha Novikoff offered to host the reunion in Williamsburg, VA. Jamestown will celebrate

400 years of history in 2007. Other Virginia cities to be visited during this time are: Newport News, Jamestown, and Yorktown. The reunion will be in the spring – the end of March or the first part of April. Peter Ross moved that Martha Novikoff be host for 2007. Motion carried.

There being no other business, **Carolyn Watters** moved to close the meeting.

Adjournment: 7:20 PM

Submitted by:

Emily C. Povey
Secretary/Treasurer
September 22, 2005



(Hawaiian Cruise Update continued from page 1)

Have you made arrangements for your flights yet? Don't delay. You need to arrive Honolulu early afternoon on Sept. 24 because the ship departs at 8 p.m. Your departure from Honolulu should not be made any earlier than 12 noon on Oct. 1. If you need help, call Ben or Lynn.

Since our last article, we have had three cabins to cancel, but have booked four more couples. We have 57 people confirmed and paid to date. For information or to book your cabin, please call Ben or Lynn at 1-888-522-7447, or email at Bcatalina@satx.rr.com

2006 ARA Reunion Registrants

Ben & Lynn Catalina
Jack & Marilyn Curtis
Carol Davis & Jean Kunz
Rodger & Betty Gracey
James & Nelda Hall
Gene & Jean Ives
Erica Hall & Kristin Johnson
Mike Hansen & Linda Kazarian
Marvin & Adella Hill
Zane & Margaret Hoit
John Horton & Kathy Tupper
Tom & Elaine Horton
Dick & Lee Hudgins
Tom & Beverly Johnson
Paul & Fran Mobley
Leon, Joanne, & Samantha Moyer
Lynn & Barbara Moyer
Bill & Tisa Murphy
Bill & Emily Povey
Bert & Maurine Prudhomme
Abbee Roop & Ladessa Forrest
Pete Ross & Bea Jernigan
Joe & Franca Rutter
Jason & Debra Schuber
Gary & Tama Tillman
Gary & Leah Turner
Bill & Gloria Walker
Bob & Carolyn Watters

**AVIANO REUNION ASSOCIATION, INC.
TREASURER'S REPORT**

For Year Ending December 31, 2005

Beginning Balance in Bank
January 1, 2005 \$5,921.34

Inflows:

Dues \$1,983.00
 Interest Earned 82.85
 Luggage Tag Sales 6.00
 Texas Reunion Income..... 80.18
 Texas Reunion Deposit Refund 500.00
 Donations..... 24.00
Total Inflows \$2,676.03

\$8,597.37

Outflows:

Corporate Agent..... 157.00
 Office Expense..... 170.32
 Postage..... 666.31
 Printing – Afterburner..... 565.95
 Misc. – Afterburner..... 3.34
 Printing – Roster 440.30
 Misc. – Roster 39.42
 Website Expense 49.50
Total Outflows \$2,092.14

Balance in Bank
December 31, 2005 \$6,505.23

Note, funds in bank include prepaid dues as follows:

2006 \$912
 2007 \$171
 2008 \$36



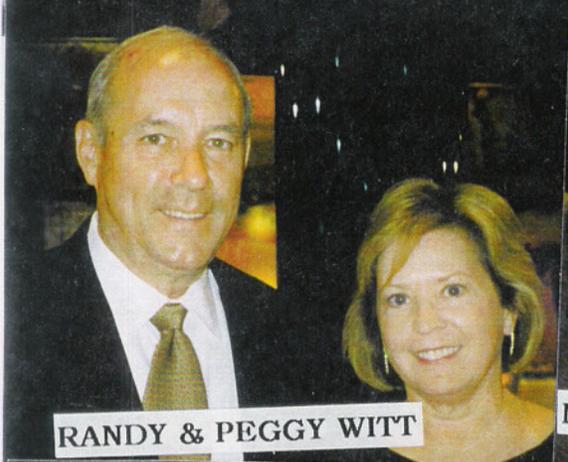
COSTA MAGICA



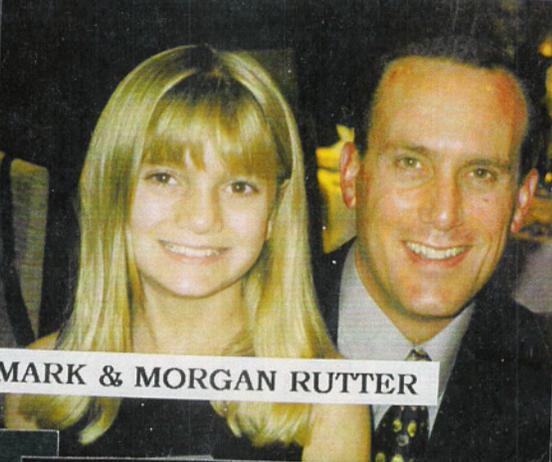
ARA CRUISE 12-18 SEPTERBER



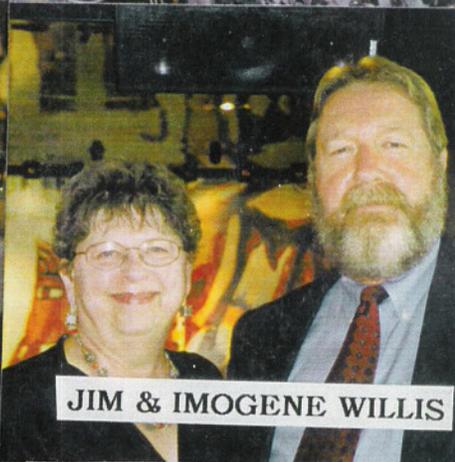
ERICA & NELDA HALL



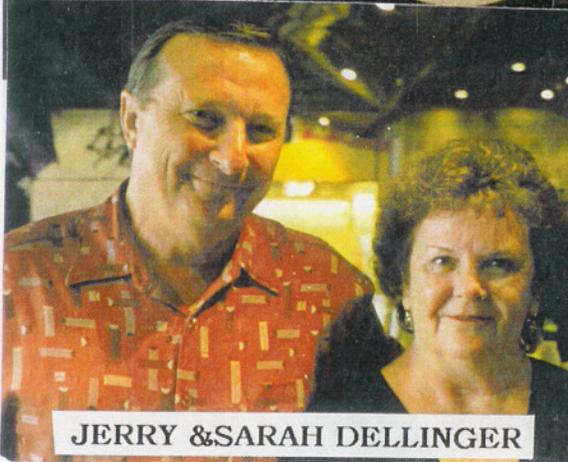
RANDY & PEGGY WITT



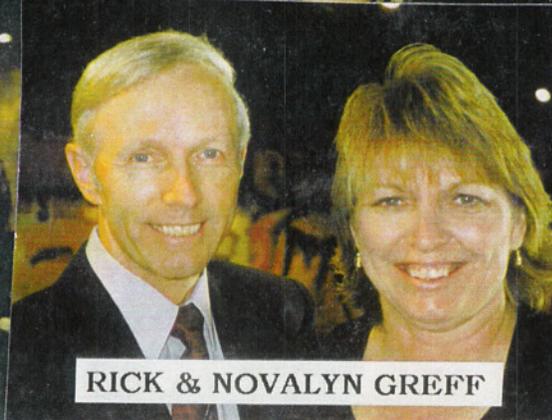
MARK & MORGAN RUTTER



JIM & IMOGENE WILLIS



JERRY & SARAH DELLINGER



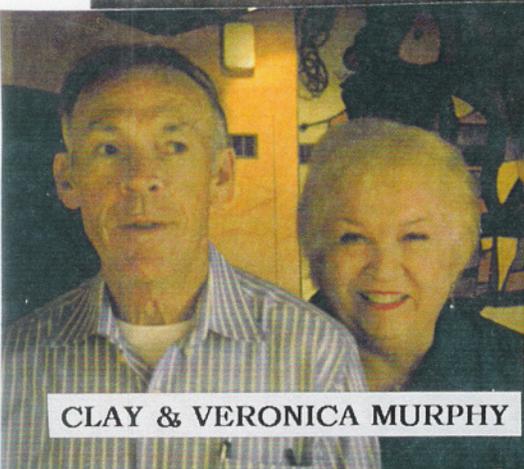
RICK & NOVALYN GREFF



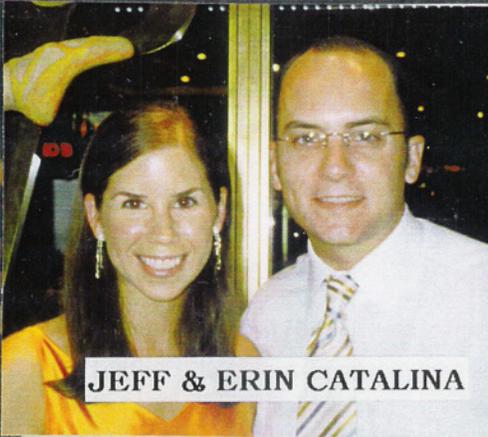
CHERYL & ABBEE ROOP



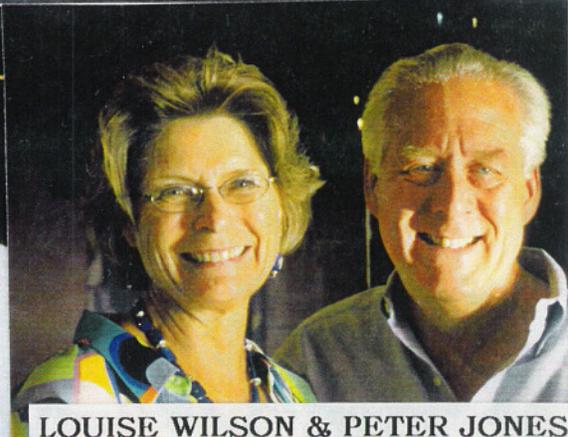
ARA CRUISE 12-18 SEPTEMBER 2005



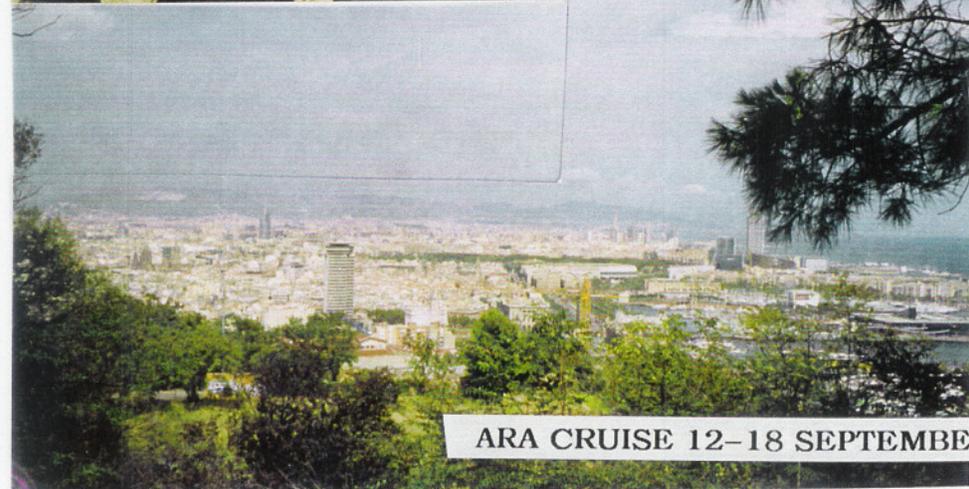
CLAY & VERONICA MURPHY



JEFF & ERIN CATALINA

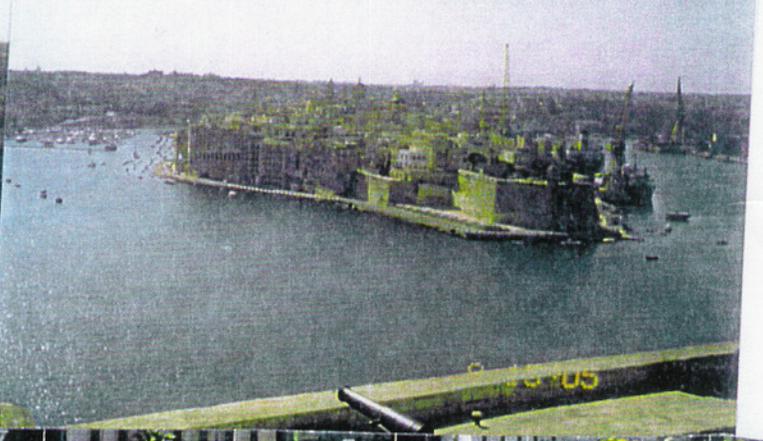
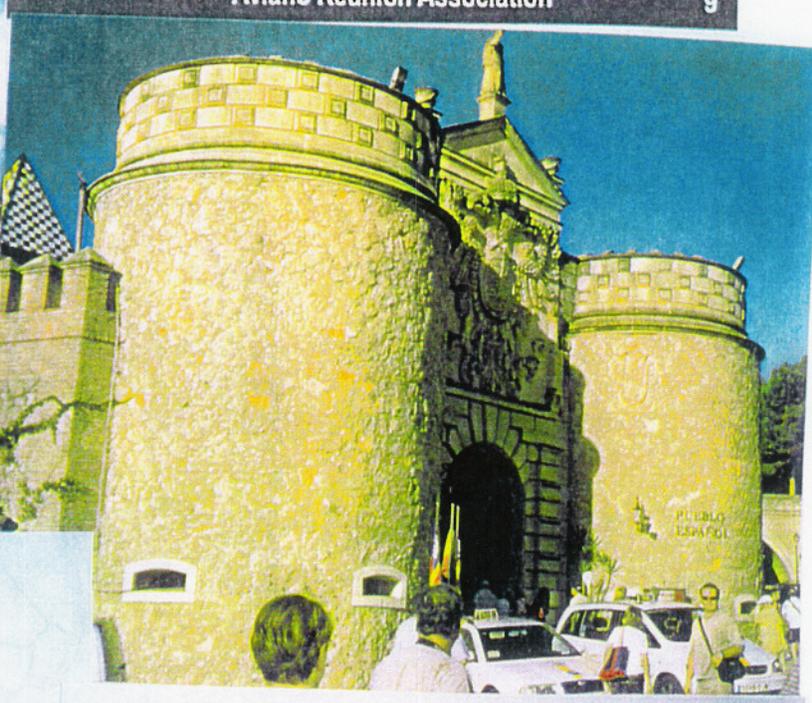


LOUISE WILSON & PETER JONES



ARA CRUISE 12-18 SEPTEMBER 2005





ARA CRUISE 12-18 SEPTEMBER 2005



**AVIANO
AFTERBURNER**

NEWSLETTER OF AVIANO REUNION ASSOCIATION



2623 Hickory Flats Trail
Huntsville, AL 35801