

President's Message

Happy New Year! Have you continued keeping your New Year's Resolutions? Or have you already forgotten what you promised? Or did you not even make any? I would like for all ARA members to make one belated resolution for 2010: bring us one new dues-paying member. Each of you knows what a great group of members we have. Once you attend one reunion, you soon learn that many members become lifetime friends. I challenge each of you to reach out to your contacts from your Aviano years, via email, Facebook, Twitter or whatever social network you use. Invite them to join us. Pickup that old thing called a telephone and call them if necessary! Remember that even if you were never stationed at Aviano, reach out anyway to friends and relatives --- they will qualify for membership!

Let's make this even better! Bring us three new members who pay their 2010 dues by March 31 and we will extend your membership for one year for free! Bring us five new members and we'll extend it two years! Again, the deadline is March 31, 2010.

Afterburner new look! We hope you like it. Nick & I thought it was time for an update, especially since many of our members now receive the Afterburner electronically. The electronic version is much more colorful and even has active e-mail and website links. If you would like your issue e-mailed to you, please send Emily a note at: empo@tampabay.rr.com.

The Webmaster job is still open! Lynn is hanging in there but

sure would like a replacement with a little web talent and about an hour or two every quarter to take care of this project. Contact her at: lcatalina@satx.rr.com.

2010 Aviano Reunion Nashville! The best news today is that our reunion is only nine months away! Joe & Ms Italia, oops, Franca, have developed an outstanding program for our enjoyment. The historic Opryland Hotel will be our beautiful home for five days. Lots of activities are lined up. For example, for the Radio City Rockettes show, I've already reserved the front row for Bill Povey, Tom Horton, Bill Walker, Rodger Gracey, Nick Leone, Zane Hoit, and... me! I even called Clem at the Jack Daniels Distillery in Lynchburg to let him know that Avianoites are on the way! The Rutters have full details in this Afterburner. Check it out, complete the Registration Form and reserve your space now!

Early Deposit Contest! Any member getting their reunion deposit checks to the Rutters by March 31...will be entered in a contest for a free prize. The prize will be awarded in Nashville. Trust me...you will enjoy it!

In this Issue...Don't miss Elaine's article on the follow-on cruise several ARA members and friends enjoyed following the San Diego Reunion. Check Jay Maust's article about a patient reunion from his Aviano days.



2010 Aviano Reunion Nashville

By Joe Rutter

Aviano Reunion Nashville is just nine months away! Franca and I have developed a super program that we think you will really enjoy. The historic Opryland Hotel will be dressed in its Christmas season finery and glowing just for us! Using the feedback forms and emails you submitted, we selected and arranged for a variety of tours that would appeal to all the membership. Day-by-day details are shown on a later page in this Afterburner, but we'll start with a lazy cruise down the

Cumberland River on the General Jackson riverboat. This fun trip includes lunch and onboard entertainment, which is always a hit. We'll get you back to the hotel later that afternoon to relax, socialize, or sightsee around our amazing hotel. Yes, you can even shop too. Also included during our reunion will be a Nashville City Tour and a performance at the Grand Ole Opry. Whether you are a country music fan or not, you cannot visit Nashville without attending the Opree...

Continued on page 2

ARA Officers

Ben Catalina - President

Rodger Gracey - Vice President

Emily Povey - Secretary/Treasurer

Nick Leone - Editor

Lynn Catalina - Webmaster

Tama Tillman - Board Assistant

FUTURE REUNIONS

2010 Nashville, TN - Hosts: Joe & Franca Rutter

Dates: Nov. 28-Dec. 3

2011 Italy - Hosts: Ben & Lynn Catalina

Dates: TBD



ROSTER CORRECTIONS

Dayton & Norma Taylor
PO Box 781808
San Antonio, TX 78278
Phone (512) 524-6200

Leonidas Fotiou
Email:
LEEDOG206@verizon.net

Martha Novikoff
Email:
mnovikoff@cox.net
delete all other email addresses

DUES ARE DUE!

Check your label and if it is highlighted in yellow, you need to pay your dues. Dues are \$15 per year. Make checks payable to: Aviano Reunion Association and mail to:
Emily Povey
626 East Davis Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33606.

ARA By-Laws Change

Our ARA financial institution has a limit on the number of account holders on an account. As a result, the board had to tweak Article IX., paragraph two of our bylaws and make a minor change to be in compliance. Your board approved the change. In accordance with our organization's policies, the change will be ratified at our ARA meeting in Nashville.

(Ben Catalina)



Nashville Reunion, Continued from page 1

We will spend one morning touring the Hermitage, which was General Andrew Jackson's 1,100 acre plantation and home. This 150-year old home is stunning and one of the most authentic Presidential homes in America. That tour will be followed that evening by the famous...and beautifully talented, Radio City Rockettes. **What a show they have in store for us, as this will be their Christmas show which is absolutely spectacular.**

The optional tours that you voted to include are the special Jack Daniels Distillery tour, including lunch. (Maybe you thought it would be a liquid lunch --- it's not!) The Civil War tour of historic Franklin, Tennessee is also sure to be an enlightening experience. And of course we'll have our traditional farewell dinner and party on the final evening.

How do you sign up? Please see the enclosed information and registration form. Don't forget to select the optional tour you prefer for Dec. 2. Please don't delay in sending your reservation information. You can mail, email or fax us the form, but send your checks by mail only made out to Joseph G Rutter or Franca A Rutter. Remember, get your deposit check to us by March 31 and you will be entered in the special contest. Optional tours require a minimum participation so please make your selection now. If the minimum number is not attained the tour can not be conducted.

Welcome New Members

James (Dick) & Barbara Gaskell
8011 Lavelle Rd
Athens, OH 45701
Phone: (740) 592-4159
Email: JamesGaskell2000@yahoo.com
Friends of Maust

Merrilee Kazarian
601-C E. Palomar #365
Chula Vista, CA 91911
Phone: (619) 512-6590,
(808) 347-1152
Sister of Linda Kazarian

Douglas (Doug) & Ann Trent
536 19th Avenue Drive NW
Hickory, NC 28601-1265
Phone: (828) 328-8441
Email: adtrents@yahoo.com
Friends of Maust

Dean & Dana Willsey
13024 Thomas Rd, KpN
Gig Harbor, WA 98329
Phone: (253) 857-2841
Email: Deananddana@aol.com
Friends of Maust

Robert (Bob) Burnett
PO Box 583
Valle Crucis, NC 28691
Phone: (828) 963-6230,
cell (941) 356-1277
Email: bobburnett2000@aol.com
Aviano Era: 72-74
Status: Military
Unit: 2187 Communications Group
Ex wife: Doris Burnett

Correspondence

John Fells – "We are going one day at a time. It has been raining just a day and my rotten back is not too happy. I try to ignore it and maybe it will go away because of lack of attention. I can't complain though, because at my age (82). I am luckier than a lot of people younger than I. I have been busy this month with a lot of Veteran Programs. I have one tomorrow. I still do funerals when I'm called... Upon reading the Afterburner I received yesterday, it seems you had a most wonderful time in San Diego... Give our love to everyone in the Association, who to Marianna and me are the greatest people in the world. They call us 'World War II' veterans the 'Greatest Generation', but to me the Association is the 'Greatest Generation'..."

12-30-2009: Martha Novikoff - "Happy New Year! ... All fine here. I had a knee replacement the end of July - knee OK, but other body parts not so good... See you maybe in November."

Tama Tillman – Just wanted to let everyone know that at the follow up exam after his radiation treatments, Gary was told that the cancerous growth on his larynx is gone. We got the news just before Christmas which made it the best gift we have ever received.



SAN DIEGO REUNION - SEPTEMBER 2009

Mexican Riviera Cruise Review

by Elaine Horton
(with Lynn Catalina)

Friday, Sept. 25

As everyone from the Reunion scattered towards their many destinations, Ben put Tom and George Hughes in charge of making sure all the cruise people caught the right shuttles from the hotel to the port. Hmm ... this could have been trouble, but all worked well and everyone made it to the ship in plenty of time. After checking out our cabins and the gorgeous Radiance of the Seas, it was already dinner time. Dinners are always fun on cruises, and these dinners were no exception. You want two appetizers? Sure! You prefer a soup for the main course?? Of course! Two desserts? No problem. We had beautiful tables with fantastic views, the food was all delicious and the wait staff was very attentive.



Saturday, Sept. 26

Our first port of call was Ensenada. Some selected one of the ship's tours, which were inexpensive; others trekked out on their own. A couple of the tours were canceled because of concerns that the big bike race scheduled would delay arrival times back at the ship.

Mike and Linda headed to her favorite jeweler and bought a special new piece for her collection. Tom and I chose to see La Bufadora, a spectacular natural blow hole about an hour out of town. The closest translation of La Bufadora is "The Snort." The area between the port and La Bufadora was industrial



and poor. The guide asked us what we saw that was like in America. Most answers were the obvious: McDonalds, KFC, Burger King, NO Taco Bell, Costco, Home Depot, etc. The guide said that one previous tourist had noted that there were also a lot of Mexicans!

Upon arrival at La Bufadora, our driver parked on a primitive clay field. We had to then maneuver through a long alley lined with tent-style shops and hawkers urging you to step into their "non-profit" store. Whew! Visions of The Sook in Tunis continued to appear in our heads. Guess that is the selling style in any depressed area of the world. We escaped buying anything on the way to La Bufadora, but did stop at one shop later where I bought two pair of earrings that started out priced at \$185 and ended up at \$40. All I had to do was keep walking out of the shop and apologizing to the guy that I just did not want the earrings!

When we got back on the ship and saw coupons being given out on the ship for a 10% discount at selected stores, we were tickled! If someone could not get at least 10% off in Mexico, they might as well wait and just buy whatever it is back in the good ole' USA – or they deserve to pay too much! We did enjoy buying a little bracelet for the granddaughter, Amelia, with her name on it and watched them make it. The cost was three dollars!

One group of five people (NOT in our group!) decided to go golfing on their own (without a ship-sponsored tour), allegedly to save a few bucks. Apparently, they did not fully appreciate the impact that the scheduled bike race would have on traffic patterns when returning to the ship, and they did not make it back in time. The captain made several announcements about the reasons for our delay and actu-



ally waited about twenty minutes beyond scheduled departure time. He finally announced we could wait no further since we had our next port of call to meet, and off we sailed. We heard later that the missing passengers had to go back to San Diego and forfeited the rest of the cruise as well as a lot of money!

Sunday, Sept. 27

Sunday was a day at sea. I have decided that sea days are pretty darn cool. To make it even better, Tom's and my cell phones weren't working well at all – an experience we don't get too often and a reminder of the "olden days" without constant and immediate communication. This is not to say, however, that it was cheaper (!) to be at sea. The spa helped take care of that! Tom and I both enjoyed the spa, but if you really want a GREAT spa story, ask Ben and Lynn about their experience in Budapest. I have not laughed so hard in years!! [Note from Lynn: that story is best told over margaritas supplied by the listener!]

Monday & Tuesday, Sept. 28 & 29

The port of Cabo San Lucas was quite beautiful on approach. The town itself is more of an upscale resort than Ensenada and very Americanized (nearby San Jose del Cabo gets the nod for being more quaint and historic). Most of the town's attractions are located very near the port, and we could see some of the beaches and the famous Arches as we entered the



Continued on page 4

San Diego Reunion, Continued from page 3

bay. Ships anchor at sea, so ships used tenders to transport passengers to shore. We booked a two-hour tour to the Arches on a 130-foot catamaran, with our guide pointing out Lovers' Beach (on a peninsula with views of both the Pacific Ocean and Sea of Cortez) and other points of interest. We also were treated to their first sighting of whales, usually reserved for December thru March. (Ben said he ordered the whales just for the Aviano gang!) We only saw 2 or 3 whales, but even that was exciting! BTW, did I mention that it was HOT??!! I mean... H-O-T, hot, caldo!!! The tour provided water, beer and margaritas, and we probably drank our ticket price in water! I think it was 96 degrees with about 115% humidity (sure, that IS possible!).

We heard that several of our group went snorkeling. That included Bill & Dee Davis and Ben & Lynn. George Hughes was on the boat with them, but he was on the snuba adventure, with his own mini-sub. George was a kid all over again! Other Avianoites tried various activities and fun was had by all.

We returned to Cabo and walked through the flea market, but the severe heat burned us out and headed straight to lunch, thereby beginning another day and a half on the ship! (Elaine LIKES THIS, as they say on Facebook!) That evening, some of us tried out the Italian specialty restaurant, Portofino. The food was quite good, but those who were in the dining room dined on lobster tails, so I guess it is debatable as to who got the better end of that deal! It was nice to have a smaller setting to get to visit with our dinner partners.

After another beautiful day at sea (and cooler temperatures), we reluctantly packed up for our departure the next morning. The final dinner was fun, the waiters sang, and the entertainment after dinner was funny. It was a beautifully relaxing cruise!

Wednesday, September 30

We disembarked that morning about 1 - hours late due to some type of customs problem. Tom and I, and Ben and Lynn met up with some Aviano friends who had not been able to attend the Reunion or the cruise, George and Nancy Beckwith. They met us at the port and walked with us to Seaport Village where we visited over some ice cream and laughed a LOT! It was like we were all 20-somethings again back in Aviano. They then drove us to the airport. It was a perfect end to a lovely trip.

One more note from Lynn

I must say that I love Radiance class ships--Jewel, Serenade, Brilliance, and Radiance. Ben and I have sailed on over 50 cruises on ships as varied as the largest in the world, Oasis of the Seas, holding over 5000 passengers, to river cruise ships maxing at about 140 passengers. Radiance ships are just about the right size. Deck 6 features the Bombay Billiard Club with two self-leveling pool tables, the champagne bar, cinema, theater, two alternative restaurants (Portofino and Chops Grille), and some really cool bars--Singapore Sling's, Schooner Bar, Jakarta Lounge, and Scoreboard Sports Bar. From rich wood decor to the signature glass elevators overlooking the ocean, not to mention the 2500 passenger capacity, this class ship is one loved by passengers and crew alike.

A big thank-you to all who were able to join us on this short get-away adventure!



A "Reunion" within the Reunion

By Jay Maust

Many of the San Diego Reunion attendees were assembled in the Hospitality Suite Thursday evening after enjoying various cuisines with "dinner on our own". Gloria and Bill Walker announced that they had some relatives of friends back home in Florida stopping by to say "hello" as they had an "Aviano background" and lived in San Diego.

Shortly thereafter, Shirley and Vito Altieri walked in and Gloria introduced them as having been assigned to Aviano "in the 60's." I ambled over to introduce myself to Vito who promptly inquired as to when I was assigned to Aviano. I casually replied that I was one of the 3 assigned dentists from 1963-1966. He immediately asked if I remembered treating a dependent wife in 1965 following an auto accident. I replied that I indeed did remember the incident and that I was the attending provider. He immediately beckoned to Shirley across the room, saying, "Shirley, I found him"! Of course, this remark created immediate anxiety as I wasn't sure where the conversation may be heading! Shirley came over and immediately seemed to recognize me and quickly reassured me that the resultant treatment turned out "great." I checked and after 44 years, there was minimal scarring evidence of the many sutures which had been placed, both intra orally and in the chin area! She gave me a warm embrace and repeatedly thanked me for the treatment and follow-up. When I remarked that her enthusiastic memory and patient satisfaction had given me "goose bumps", she immediately replied "and I have hot flashes"!

I am told that Shirley and Vito have since visited their relatives and the Walkers in Florida and have joined the Aviano Reunion Association. The ARA really helps it become a "small world" but a great family!

AVIANO REUNION ASSOCIATION, INC. TREASURER'S REPORT

For Year Ending December 31, 2009

Beginning Balance in Bank – January 1, 2009 \$5,298.24

Inflows:

Dues	\$2,415.00
Interest Earned	19.70
Pin Sales	9.00
Name Tag Sales	25.00
Other Income	10.00
Reunion Advance refunded	600.00

Total Inflows \$3,078.70

\$8,376.94

Outflows:

Corporate Agent	341.00
Office Expense	72.37
Postage	687.26
Printing – Afterburner	756.78
Printing – Roster	426.00
Misc. – Roster	19.98
Website Expense	118.00

Total Outflows \$2,421.39

\$5,955.55

Balance in Bank – December 31, 2009

Note: funds in bank include prepaid dues as follows:

2010	\$780
2011	\$165
2012	\$60
2013	\$45
2014	\$30
Total	\$1080

Just Doing Business

Luigi (the father) says to his son. . . 'I want you to marry a girl of my choice.'

The son says 'I will choose my own bride!!'

Luigi says 'But the girl is Bill Gates' daughter.'

Son answers 'Well, in that case . . . Ok.'

Next Luigi approaches Bill Gates and says 'I have a husband for your daughter...'

Bill Gates answers "But my daughter is too young to marry!!"

Luigi says "But this young man is a vice-president of the World Bank"

Bill Gates answers "Ah, in that case . . . Ok."

Finally Luigi goes to see the president of the World Bank.

Luigi says "I have a young man to recommend as a vice-president."

The president answers "But I already have more vice-presidents than I need!"

Luigi says "But this young man is Bill Gates' son-in-law."

The president answers: "Ah..in that case . . . Ok."

And that my friends is how Italians do business!

Memories of Aviano...

All of us who were stationed at Aviano Air Base hold fond memories of our times there. We know because we share some of them at our annual reunions, and we laugh together and forge stronger bonds. The problem we have is that the gap between those reunion discussions is too far apart. So, think about some of your fondest memories...

Maybe it's a memory of a child being born in an Italian hospital, or on the way to the hospital. Or a memory of a child learning to walk on cold slick marble tile in an unheated Italian home. Could it be when you drove to Yugoslavia to get your "second car" exported and imported so you could qualify for a black AFA tag? Or was it the memory about the time the commissary ran out of toilet paper? Remember the "gas announcements" over the PA system? Or how



about a "pyramid recall" trip you made --- to the wrong house?

Although our membership was stationed at Aviano over a span of over fifty years, we all have special memories. And for those who were never actually stationed at Aviano, reading some of these stories will help them better understand the Aviano connection we cherish and strengthen their ties to la famiglia.

Starting with our May Afterburner, we would like you to share your favorite Aviano story with the ARA membership. Please take a few minutes to write a brief paragraph or two about your special memory, and mail or email them to Lynn Catalina. We will publish them as space permits in upcoming Afterburners. You can reach Lynn at lcatalina@satx.rr.com. Her mailing address is in the membership directory.

AVIANO REUNION - OPRYLAND HOTEL, NASHVILLE, TN NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 3, 2010



NASHVILLE REUNION DEPOSIT: Remember, make your check payable to Joseph G. Rutter or Franca A. Rutter.

**Aviano Reunion - Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN
November 28 - December 3, 2010**

Preliminary Agenda

Nov. 28 - Check-in (after 3:00pm) Welcome reception/agenda updates: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Nov. 29 - 7:00am-11:00am Breakfast(on your own) and free time to get acquainted with the hotel and its beautiful decorations
11:00am-2:30pm General Jackson Riverboat Cruise with lunch and entertainment

Nov. 30 - 7:00am - 08:30am Breakfast (on your own)
9:00am -1:00pm Nashville City Tour
1:00pm-6:00pm Freetime
6:30pm-9:30pm Grand Ole Opry

Dec. 1 - 7:00am - 08:30am Breakfast (on your own)
9:00am - 12:30pm Tour of the Hermitage - General Jackson's Plantation
1:00pm - 6:00pm Free time to enjoy all the venues in the Hotel
7:30pm -10:00pm Radio City Rockettes

Dec. 2 - 7:00am - 8:00am Breakfast (on your own)

Optional Tours:

#1. 8:30am – 4:00 pm Jack Daniel Distillery – includes lunch at Ms Bobo's famous family boarding house (minimum of 23 required) Tentative price: \$95.00

#2. 8:30am - 1:00 pm Historic Franklin, TN (Civil War) includes time for shopping in downtown Franklin (many boutiques, galleries etc) Minimum of 23 required. Tentative price \$70.00
5:00pm - 6:00pm ARA Business and Social Meeting
6:00pm - 9:00pm ARA Farewell Dinner

Dec 3 - Checkout no later than 11:00am.



Opryland Hotel all decked out in its Christmas finery

DEPOSIT

Hotel Reservations should be made directly with the Hotel at 615-883-2211 and identify yourself as part of the Aviano Reunion or Group Code X-AVI-AN. Rates for the standard room will be \$175.38 inclusive of local taxes for double occupancy. Additional persons per room (up to 4) are charged \$20.00 per person plus tax. Children are free. A premium room with a balcony overlooking the atrium can be had for an additional \$35.00 plus tax. The standard resort fee has been waived for our group and includes high speed wireless internet, local and toll free calls up to 20 minutes, access to the fitness center, daily news-paper delivered to each room, two bottles of water refreshed daily and scheduled complex transportation. If driving, parking is available for \$18.00 per day. Reservations must be made no later than October 29, 2010 to obtain these rates. If anyone wishes to arrive early or stay later these group rates are available for 3 days prior to the reunion or 3 days after the reunion. Recommend reservations be made early to insure room location within the group area. One day's charge will be made at the time of the reservation. This charge is refundable up to three days prior to the reservation date.

Please provide the following information with your initial deposit check of \$350.00 per person. The initial deposit covers a portion of the following: General Jackson River Boat cruise with lunch and entertainment, Nashville tour, Grand Ole Opry show, Hermitage tour, Radio City Rockettes show, and the ARA Dinner. It also includes all transportation, tour guides, any entrance fees and driver gratuities. If selecting one of the optional tours please add \$50.00 per person for Tour #1 and \$35.00 for Tour #2 to your deposit. Remaining costs are variable with total participants and will be due NLT Aug 25, 2010. All payments are non-refundable after Aug 25, 2010. MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Joseph G. Rutter or Franca A. Rutter.

Send this form to Joseph & Franca Rutter, 2250 Governors Bend Rd, Huntsville, AL 35801 or E-Mail josephgrutter@bellsouth.net or Fax (256) 534-7214

Please provide the following information with your check:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

E-Mail _____

Need name tag? Yes No If yes please print below how you want your name(s) shown:

Optional Tour: #1 Yes No **Optional Tour # 2:** Yes No



The Newsletter of The Aviano Reunion Association

2623 Hickory Flats Trail
Huntsville, AL 35801