



President's Message

2014 Reunion in Italy! By now you should have received your notification from Zane Hoit as to your final payment due. Hopefully you have already mailed him the check for your balance. If not, please do so now. As an FYI, the euro exchange rate is better this year than our last Italy reunion in 2011, saving each of us a few dollars.

Cruise after the Italy Reunion! We currently have 18 members going on the Rhine River cruise and 25 going on the Mediterranean cruise. A list of participants is in this Afterburner. We can still get you on either sailing. Contact Ben or Lynn now for more information.

Air Travel to Italy! Have you forwarded your flight schedule to Zane yet? He needs that to make sure you are not left behind in Milan! It is very important that you are at the Milan Malpensa Airport baggage claim area on the morning of April 5 to meet our bus! He also needs your plans for after the reunion. If you haven't made your air reservations yet, see the article in the last Afterburner for important information on when to fly, where, times, etc. Can't find that issue? Go to www.avianoreunion.com and click on the link for the Afterburners...or call Zane now.

2015 Reunion in ??? In our last issue I mentioned that we had potential volunteer hosts for Washington D.C, Branson, Missouri, and now we have a potential host for Quebec, Canada. At the April business meeting in Italy, we will review all three reunion ideas and proposed pricing options and will vote on the best option.

Member Get A Member! Thanks to Kay Fryman for bringing us new members Tom & Carol Futrell; to Reg Shaleski for Joe D'Angelo; to the Hortons & Heckmans for Sharon Newman; and to Jaime Vazquez for ordering his brother Jose to join! Their new member info is on page two. Welcome to our new members!

Cruising for A Cause! Lynn and I and several ARA members had the pleasure and honor to sail on the Princess Cruise Line's "Cruising for a Cause" military veterans fund-raising cruise. See the separate article elsewhere in this issue.

In this Issue...2014 Italy Reunion Update, Member News, Reunion Attendees, Cruise Participants, Cruising for a Cause, and...more.

www.avianoreunion.com

ARA Officers

Ben Catalina - *President*
Rodger Gracey - *Vice President*
Sally Ann Eaves - *Secretary/Treasurer*
Elaine Horton - *Editor*
Lisa Ringler - *Webmaster*

FUTURE REUNIONS

2014 Modena, Italy - Hosts: Zane & Margaret Hoit
April 5-12, 2014

2015 To Be Determined
Host To Be Determined

WELCOME New Members

Joseph S. D'Angelo (Joe)
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Phone: 650-875-1844
Jdangelo2000@yahoo.com
U.S. Army (ret)
Relative of Reg Shalaski

Sharon Newman
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Marietta, GA 30068
Phone: 770-977-4439
Cell: 770-365-5739
rexnewman@att.net
Friend of Heckmans and Hortons

Thomas (Tom) W. and Carol Futrell
370 Spring Run Lane
Raphine, VA 24472
Phone:
540-377-5420
Cell: 540-280-6403
CarolDF@aol.com
USAF
Friends of Fryman

Jose R. Vazquez
Condominio Del Sol, Apt #403
#16 Calle Amapola
Carolina, P.R. 00979-8042
Phone: 787-448-9982
Jose.rvazquez@firstbankpr.com
U.S. Army
Jaime's brother

JUST FOR FUN

(MADE ME THINK OF OUR TRIP TO SAVANNAH!)

When Forest Gump died, he stood in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter said, "Welcome, Forest. We've heard a lot about you." He continued, "Unfortunately, it's getting pretty crowded up here and we find that we now have to give people an entrance examination before we let them in."
"Okay," said Forest. "I hope it's not too hard. I've already been through a test. My momma used to say, 'Life is like a final exam. It's hard.'"
"Yes, Forest, I know. But this test is only three questions. Here they are."
1) Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'?"
2) How many seconds are in a year?
3) What is God's first name?

"Well, sir," said Forest, "The first one is easy. Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'? Today and Tomorrow."
St. Peter looked surprised and said, "Well, that wasn't the answer I was looking for, but you have a point. I give you credit for that answer."
"The next question," said Forest, "How many seconds are in a year? Twelve."
"Twelve?" said St. Peter, surprised and confused.
"Yes, sir. January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd ..."
St. Peter interrupted him. "I see what you mean. I'll have to give you credit for that one, too."

"And the last question," said Forest, "What is God's first name? It's Andy."
"Andy?" said St. Peter, in shock. "How did you come up with 'Andy'?"
"I learned it in church. We used to sing about it." Forest broke into song, "Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me, Andy tells me I am His own."

St. Peter opened the gate to heaven and said, "Run, Forest, Run!"



Report from the Secretary/Treasurer

Sally Ann Eaves

Email: saeaves@comcast.net
8708 Independence Way • Arvada, CO 80005
Phone: 303-421-2163

We certainly welcome new members to the ARA. If you have someone you would like to recruit as a member, please give them an application to send in. The application is located on the ARA website www.avianoreunion.com under the Membership section. As always, please remember that travel and trip payments go to the hosts as directed in the Afterburner. I get the membership dues only. Thank you!

ARA May Roster Changes

Reg Shaleski is a new member welcomed in a previous Afterburner. I said that Lisa was his wife and I was mistaken. Lisa is his daughter and should not have been listed. Please make that change to your rosters. To Reg, I offer my profound apologies.

Phone number: 909-792-6068

Email: regshaleski@yahoo.com

Olympia Gibson: Delete the "summer" address for Olympia Gibson

**WISHING YOU ALL
VERY HAPPY HOLIDAYS
AND A
WONDERFUL NEW YEAR!**



Four Months to Modena!

By Zane Hoit

I wish that title said "Four Months IN Italy!" Are you ready for a great trip? Almost everyone is paid in full. At press time I still lacked three final payments but those will be in soon. Our reunion daily schedule is being tweaked a little by Roberto to make even better use of our time and allowing us the opportunity to see even more. As mentioned in a previous Afterburner, he has prepared a time slot one day to have a tour of the Ferrari Museum. That will be only for those that want to do that, and it will be at a small extra cost. If you want to take this Ferrari tour, please send me an email now, or call me now. If you're not sure if you told me previously, tell me again.

As in the past, our group will be divided into two groups, A & B. One group will be designated for "gentle walkers" or people desiring a slower pace and maybe less steps. Please let me know now if you would like to be a gentle walker.

When Roberto drafted our schedule nearly one year ago, he visited Modena and the area and met with the hotel manager, various restaurants, and the different venues we will visit. Now that our reunion date is getting closer, he will visit again and do what he calls a "dress rehearsal" to make sure everything is in order. Based on that rehearsal, he may tweak the schedule a little if needed. We will provide an update in the February Afterburner.

In that February issue, look for final details and reminders, such as "where to meet at Malpensa airport and what time on Saturday, April 5." As mentioned before, we recommended that you not make any flights from Malpensa prior to noon on the 12th. In February we hope to be able to tell you the approximate time we will be dropping folks off at the airport and at the Milan train station. For the Venice folks, we'll have that info too.

I received an email recently asking "can we still add people to the reunion?" The answer is yes. We still have room, but don't delay much longer as we have to finalize contracts with the hotel, busses, and restaurants.

For those who have not yet decided to join us, here is a quick summary:

We will spend a full week --- 7 nights --- at a magnificent hotel in the city of Modena. This central location allows for short day trips to the

surrounding countryside, including Bologna, Ravenna, Ferrara, Mantua, and the home of one of the best cured hams in all of Italy. You will get to enjoy the sights, sounds and tastes of the food center of Italy, and all with your friends in the ARA.

This one week package includes not only the hotel, transportation, and tours, but also 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches, and 5 dinners, including the gala farewell banquet on the final evening. Our package price even includes round trip transfers from Milan's Malpensa airport, all luggage handling, and even gratuities.

The dates are April 5-12, 2014 --- pickup at Milan Malpensa on the morning of April 5, and return on the morning of April 12. Folks desiring to arrive in Italy prior to the 5th are certainly free to do so, but will be responsible to meet the bus at the airport on the morning of the 5th.

The total cost for the package is 1295 Euros per person based on two people per room. There is a single supplement of 170 Euros.

HOMEWORK REMINDERS:

1. IF you want to participate in the Ferrari Museum tour, please contact me now. Cost is expected to be about 12 € per person. You will not be obligated until we get the firm cost confirmation, at which time you can cancel if desired.
2. IF you would like to be with the gentle walkers, please let me know now.
3. IF you have not sent me your flight schedules and travel plans, please do so now.

FINAL PAYMENT: If you haven't made your final payment, please contact me now and mail your check payable to Zane or Margaret Hoit.

QUESTIONS: Call Zane Hoit at 602-942-0356 or zhoit@q.com or mahoit1@q.com.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Milan airport and having another great reunion in Italy!

CURRENT LIST OF ATTENDEES

Aviano Reunion, Italy, April 2014

Craig and Mary Adams
George and Nancy Beckwith
Marshall Bishop & Doris Burnett
Ben and Lynn Catalina Catalina
Al and Lou Currie
Bill and Dee Davis
Dale and MaryNell Doan
Joe and Claire Dorris
Sally Ann Eaves
Dave Fahrner & Kate Erhart
Lew and Tayler Erhart
Tom and Carol Futrell
Ken and Kay Fryman
Rodger and Betty Gracey
Linda Kazarian & Mike Hansen
Zane and Margaret Hoit
Tom and Elaine Horton
Dick and Lee Hudgins
Gwen Exley & George Hughes
Lash and Norma Lasher
Neil Lewis
Topper and Carole Long
Tom and Cheryl McIlroy
Ian and Geri McKinnon
Sharon Newman
Bill and Emily Povey
Pete Ross
Joe and Franca Rutter
Tom and Jo Scannell
Dave and Maryellen Scherer
Jaime and Belinda Vazquez
Jose Vazquez
Bill and Gloria Walker
Roger Wills
Randy and Peggy Witt

Did you see what's scheduled
Day 7? Parma ham tasting!!!
We gotta hide!



2014 ITALY REUNION DAILY SCHEDULE

DAY ONE – ARRIVAL – SATURDAY, APRIL 5

- Pickup at Milan Malpensa Airport in the a.m.
- Drive to Modena and hotel check-in
- On the way, visit of Acetaia (lunch included) to learn how balsamic vinegar is produced. Also visit historical villa used by Bertolucci in film "Novecento" starring Robert DeNiro.
- Welcome Dinner at Hotel

DAY TWO – MODENA – SUNDAY, APRIL 6

- Day trip and tour of Modena
- Visit Palazzo Ducale, which serves as headquarters of a famous Italian Military Academy.
- Dinner on your own. We will provide recommendations.

DAY THREE – RAVENNA – MONDAY, APRIL 7

- Day trip and tour of Ravenna capitol of the Roman Empire in the 5th Century
- Visit classical mosaic sites of Sant' Apollinare in Classe, Galla Placidia, San Vitale and others
- Dinner at Hotel

DAY FOUR – BOLOGNA – TUESDAY, APRIL 8

- Day trip and tour of Bologna
- Explore piazza Maggiore and medieval market
- Visit the world's oldest university
- Free time for shopping and cappuccino/espresso/vino
- Early return to Hotel for free time
- Themed dinner at Taverna de Servi

DAY FIVE – MANTUA (MANTOVA) – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

- Day trip and tour of Mantua
- Visit historical center, main sites, and Palazzo Ducale
- Boat tour along the Po river focusing on history and natural scenery
- Dinner on your own

DAY SIX – FERRARA – THURSDAY, APRIL 10

- Day trip and tour of Ferrara
- Visit City center a Unesco World Heritage
- Visit the 17th Century Jewish ghetto
- Visit the Estense Castle and cathedral
- Visit of underground prisons
- Tour of ancient city walls and architectural history
- Dinner at Hotel

DAY SEVEN – PARMA – FRIDAY, APRIL 11

- Day trip and tour of Parma birth place of Arturo Toscani
- Visit cheese factory to learn how Parmesan cheese is produced
- Cheese tasting --- of course!
- Parma ham tasting --- of course!
- Visit of Torrechiara castle & Farnese Theater & Baptistry
- Gala Farewell Banquet Dinner with music at Hotel

DAY EIGHT – DEPARTURE – SATURDAY, APRIL 12

- After breakfast, bus one departs for Milan Malpensa Airport and Milan Central Train Station
- Bus two departs for Venice and Venice cruise port

NOTES: Breakfast at hotel included each day!
Lunch at typical local restaurants included each day!
Evening dinner included for five evenings!
Tour departures from hotel will be at approximately 9:00 a.m. each day

Post-Reunion Cruisers

Sailing on April 12, round trip Venice, to the Eastern Mediterranean on the MSC Preziosa

Ben & Lynn Catalina
George & Nancy Beckwith
Doris Burnett & Marshall Bishop
Dale & MaryNell Doan
Sally Eaves
Rodger & Betty Gracey
Tom & Elaine Horton
Dick & Leneile Hudgins
Topper & Carole Long
Sharon Newman
Pete Ross
Dave & Maryellen Scherer
Jaime & Belinda Vazquez
Jose Vazquez
Roger Wills

Sailing on April 13, Basel, Switzerland to Amsterdam on a Rhine River cruise on the Avalon Felicity

Al & Lou Currie
Bill & Dee Davis
Joe & Claire Dorris
Lew Erhart & Tayler Bailey
Betty Farmer & Bonnie Collier
Mike Hansen & Linda Kazarian
Lash & Norma Lasher
Bill & Emily Povey
Joe & Franca Rutter

QUESTION OF THE QUARTER

I will see if throwing out one question for each issue can bring up comments that I can use for the next issue. Just email me back your answer (even a one word answer or a one-liner!) on the link provided and you will see everyone's responses in the next issue. Sooo...the question for this quarter is:

WHERE DID YOU EAT YOUR FIRST MEAL AFTER ARRIVING IN AVIANO? DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS?

Please email your answers to:

elaine@elainehorton.com

Please also send any ideas for other "Questions of the Quarter".

Thanks! Elaine

PARAPROSDOKIANS

...Contributed by Mary Adams (new member joining us in Italy)

Winston Churchill loved them. They are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently humorous.

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.

2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.

3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

5. We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.

6. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.

7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

8. They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

9. TO STEAL IDEAS FROM ONE PERSON IS PLAGIARISM. TO STEAL FROM MANY IS RESEARCH.

10. Buses stop in bus stations. Trains stop in train stations. On my desk is a work station.

11. I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted paychecks.

12. On filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put 'DOCTOR.'

13. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.

14. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.

15. Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.

16. A CLEAR CONSCIENCE IS THE SIGN OF A FUZZY MEMORY.

17. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.

18. Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.

19. THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN CUDDLING AND HOLDING SOMEONE DOWN SO THEY CAN'T GET AWAY.

20. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.

21. You're never too old to learn something stupid.

22. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.

23. Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

24. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

25. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

26. Where there's a will, there are relatives.

And mine is...

I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

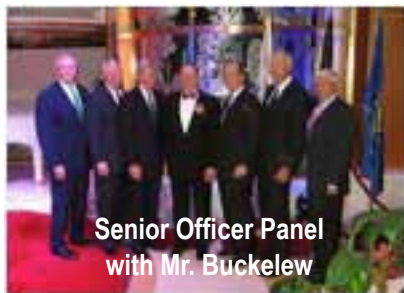
Cruising for a Cause

Lynn Catalina

What an honor and privilege it was to sail on the Princess Cruises' Veterans Charity Cruise "Cruising for a Cause" Nov. 5-9, 2013!

This event on the Caribbean Princess marking Veterans Day raised funds for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and Operation Homefront and was hosted by Princess President and CEO Alan Buckelew, himself a Vietnam veteran. The goal was for the cruise to raise \$500,000 and Princess would match it with another \$500,000. Although the cruise was way too short at only four nights long from Houston and one port of call, it was packed with special presentations and Q & A sessions by military brass and their spouses, service branch get-togethers, a military film festival, and even a 5k walk led by Mike "Flagman" Bowen carrying his signature POW/MIA flag. This military veteran was so moved when visiting the Vietnam Memorial Wall that he began his quest to log 58,272 miles, one mile for each American killed or lost as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, and completed his quest September 20, 2013. (And I wondered if the 5k back and forth on one side of the ship would ever end!)

The Senior Officer Panel included Admiral Michael Mullen, USN (Ret), 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; General George W. Casey, Jr., US Army (Ret), 36th Chief of Staff, US Army; General James T. Conway, USMC (Ret), 34th Commandant, US Marine Corps; Admiral James



Senior Officer Panel
with Mr. Buckelew

Loy, USCG (Ret), 21st Commandant, US Coast Guard; Admiral Gary Roughead, USN (Ret), 29th Chief of Naval Operations; and General Norton Schwartz, USAF (Ret), 19th Chief of Staff of the US Air Force.

With great pride, I told Gen. Conway about my own connection to the Marine Corps. My second cousin, General Louis Wilson is one of his predecessors as Commandant and also a Medal of Honor recipient. Just a good ol' boy from Brandon, Mississippi, who made it to the top.

Those on the slate of guest speakers brought equally impressive credentials. I won't list them all, but we especially enjoyed hearing Major General Suzanne Vautrinot, USAF (Ret) and Former Commander, 24th Air Force and Commander Air Forces Cyber Command, who gave an excellent presentation in layman's language

of cyber and security threats posed not only to the military but to us as citizens. She currently resides in San Antonio, and some of our group enjoyed an impromptu visit with her and her husband, AF veteran Bill Keller, who served on the military spouse panel. As we gathered for a group photo in the Piazza, we saw Medal of Honor Recipient Colonel Bruce Crandall, US Army (Ret) and invited him to join us.

Robert W. "Bob" Patrick who is Director of the Veterans History Project encouraged all of us to help his office gather oral histories of our living veterans. You may want to do this for any veterans in your family. And we learned the history of "Taps" and other bugle calls from Jari Villanueva, USAF/USAF Band Director (Ret), who is considered the country's foremost expert on military bugle calls.



With Maj. Gen. Vautrinot
& Col. Crandall
(3rd & 4th from left)

Those of us "women" (okay, I said it) coming from the previous Officers Wives Club era, were very gratified in hearing from today's military "spouses" about the numerous networking, support, service opportunities, and assistance organizations available to military spouses now, as well as learn of some of their individual accomplishments. It is truly a different world and military lifestyle these days, but change has evolved in ways we can be proud--our own wonderful personal memories notwithstanding.

On the lighter side of things, country singer and US Army veteran Rockie Lynne added his talents to the normal Princess lineup of singers, dancers, and comedians and drew big crowds at both of his performances.

Eight couples joined Ben and me in our little group, and all were military veterans with one active duty Army officer about to return to Afghanistan in December.

When we met Mr. Buckalew, we thanked him for his dedication to the cause of veterans, and asked him to please try to make this veterans cruise an annual event, but also make it a 7-night cruise. We hope he does!

We salute Alan Buckalew and Princess Cruise Line for putting this classy event together!