



President's Message

Branson is Hot, Hot, Hot! If you have ever been to the Caribbean, I'm sure you have heard the song "Hot, Hot, Hot!" Members of the ARA may not be able to move as fast as the lyrics to that song, but we party in the spirit...just a little slower. Branson was built for us, and is the "Live Music Show Capital of the World." It's a great place for families and seniors (yep, us!) to go for a fun and relaxing as well as refreshing place to spend a few days. There are so many things to see and do that it's almost like Vegas, but more affordable and G-rated.

Our 2015 reunion promises to be another memorable one as Belinda and Jaime have put together a great package at a wonderful low cost. It's nice to see that we already have 44 members deposited. If you haven't yet mailed your deposit, please see the article elsewhere in this issue and visit www.avianoreunion.com. And don't hesitate to call or email Belinda on any questions.



Cruise After Branson? Nope. Sorry. No ocean or navigable river close enough. But there is a Titanic Museum in Branson you may want to visit in your spare time, as well as many other great attractions.

Short Issue! Yes. We just wanted to provide you the latest info on the Branson Reunion and to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

In this Issue... Member News, Branson Reunion Info & Attendee List...and More....



What is IT?

Are you wondering what the IT Show is all about? Click on this [link](#) and be amazed. If you didn't sign up for this optional show with your deposit, you still can.

ARA Officers

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

FUTURE REUNIONS

2015 Branson, Missouri - Hosts: Belinda & Jaime Vazquez
September 28 - October 2, 2015
2016 Kentucky - Hostess: Kay Fryman
September, 2016
2017 Italy - Hosts: Ben and Lynn Catalina

Report from the Secretary/Treasurer

Sally Ann Eaves

Email: saeaves@comcast.net

8708 Independence Way • Arvada, CO 80005

Phone: 303-421-2163

ARA November/December Roster Changes and

New Email Address:

Rodger and Betty Gracey

bjrgracey@gmail.com

New Address: **Mark Rutter**

5445 Fitzmaurice Drive,
Prescott, AZ 86303



Christmas Memory

by Elaine Horton

Christmas is speeding towards me as I stop to spend a few minutes listening to video Christmas Carols on Facebook. These are old songs with new artists singing them. I am listening to Pentatonix, Celtic Women, Home Free and Celtic Men... all beautiful with new twists on old favorites.

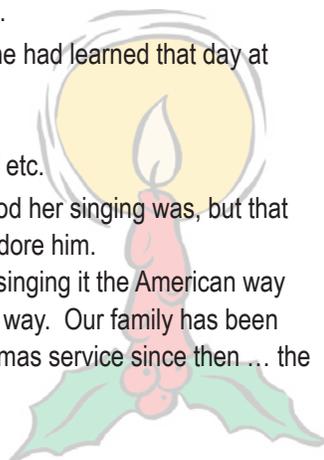
They are all so good that I am shedding a little tear or two at their beauty. Somehow this brings back the memory of an old Christmas Carol that one of our daughters, Kaki, once came home singing when she was in English Infant School (probably around 2nd grade had she been in the States). She had made her own new twist to an old favorite.

She obviously loved the song she had learned that day at school and was really belting it out:

"Oh, come let in the door – man,
Oh, come let in the door – man, ..." etc.

I heard this and told her how good her singing was, but that the words were: Oh, come let us a-dore him. I was promptly informed that I was singing it the American way and SHE was singing it the English way. Our family has been singing it loudly during every Christmas service since then ... the English way!

Merry Christmas, Everyone!



Branson Reunion Attendees

(Let's keep adding names!)

Jaime and Belinda Vazquez	Raymond & Marilyn Walbridge
Ben and Lynn Catalina	Wendall (Lash) and
Rodger and Betty Gracey	Norma Lasher
Sally Ann Eaves	Randy and Peggy Witt
Joe and Claire Dorris	Michael Hansen and
Peter Ross	Linda Kazarian
Marshall Bishop and	Tom and Elaine Horton
Doris Burnett	Jose (Papo) Vazquez
George and Nancy Beckwith	William Walker
Jay and Jane Maust	Tom and Carol Futrell
Chuck and Pat Miller	Ken and Kay Fryman
Pete and Pat Gissing	Alan and Linda Steele
Al and Lou Currie	Nicholas and Margaret Leone
Joseph and Franca Rutter	

WELCOME New Members

Bill and Anne Kinast

4408 Parkland Drive
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579
Telephone: 843-236-644

E-Mail: abkinast@aol.com

U.S. Navy - Friends of Jay and Jane Maust

Doc and Maria. McCauslin

15865 Redwoods Manor
San Antonio, TX 78247-5662
Telephone: 210-310-4145

E-Mail: docm1309@sbcglobal.com

USAF (Ret) - Friends of Jaime Vazquez

Steve and Audrey Westbrook

13614 Inwood Park
San Antonio, TX 78216
Telephone: 210-402-1274

E-Mail: Blcktail2@aol.com

USAF (Ret) - Friends of Jay and Jane Maust

Branson Reunion 2015

He knows when you've been sleeping, he knows when you're awake, he knows when you've been good or bad, so be good for goodness sake....

And, hurry up, use Santa's Express to send your initial deposit of \$200 p/p for the fabulous Branson extravaganza. You should include the additional \$35 p/p for the optional "IT" show on Monday evening, if you are planning to attend. Remember, that you must fill out the form included in this issue of this Afterburner and send it to the Gathering Plus event planners at the address listed on the form. You can also get all the reunion info and form at our website, www.avianoreunion.com

At the current pace, we may be in for a record attendance at a good-ole USA reunion. So far, 44 people [see list below] have already registered and did it before the deadline of October 31, qualifying them for the drawing of the TWO special \$200 door prizes. The drawing will take place during our membership meeting at Branson.

Now, make sure you plan this vacation right and avoid the misadventures of the Griswold family in the National Lampoon Vacation movie. Call 417-336-6646 and make your hotel reservations soonest. Don't worry, unlike the Griswolds' luck, The Grand Plaza Hotel is scheduled to be open for business when you arrive on or before September 28.

Jaime invites the golfers in our association to consider arriving a day or two earlier to squeeze in a round of golf at one of the magnificent golf courses in this picturesque area of the Ozarks. Here is one you should give some serious consideration:

The Payne Stewart Golf Club: A truly unique concept course dedicated to honoring the life and legacy of Missouri's own champion, William Payne Stewart. The course takes the golfer through a series of Payne Stewart memories, with each hole defining one of Stewart's traits of style, character, good humor and high ideals, plus his

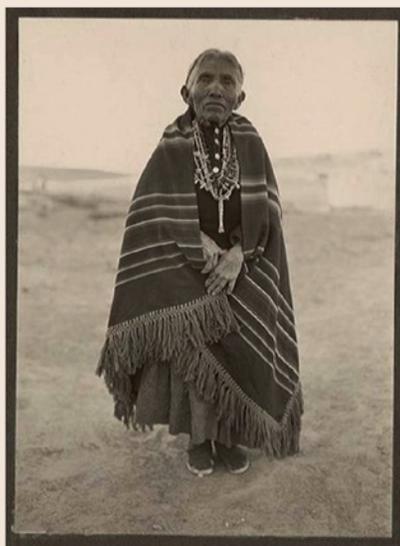
experiences on the PGA Tour. The golf course incorporates the natural rock outcroppings, waterfalls and creeks and wooded areas into the design features. The club house and restaurant are incredibly attractive, and the staff is extremely friendly, as Jaime gathered from his scouting visit to this venue.



Click [here](#) for more info.

Need more info about the reunion activities, hotel, or transportation to Branson? Or maybe to set up some T-times? Or maybe for things to do before or after the reunion? Give Belinda & Jaime a ring at 210-957-2892. Don't forget to check our website.

THE BOTTLE OF WINE



Sally was driving home from one of her business trips in Northern Arizona when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road.

As the trip was a long and quiet one, she stopped the car and asked the Navajo woman if she would like a ride.

With a silent nod of thanks, the woman got into the car.

Resuming the journey, Sally tried in vain to make a bit of small talk with the Navajo woman. The old woman just

sat silently, looking intently at everything she saw, studying every little detail, until she noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally.

'What in bag?' asked the old woman.

Sally looked down at the brown bag and said, 'It's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband.'

The Navajo woman was silent for another moment or two. Then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, she said: 'Good trade.....'

Steve Longoria is a 21-year USAF veteran, and was stationed at Aviano twice during his career (80 – 82, and 87 – 92) as a Security Specialist. He retired from Travis AFB as a Master Sergeant in 2000. After retirement, he founded Lifelong Learning Systems, and is currently the Chief Executive Officer at Aanko Technologies Inc., a security consulting firm. Among other talents, he writes poetry, I am presenting one of his seasonal poems here for you. We hope he will join us at future reunions.

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The Season of Hope

Deck the halls with boughs of holly
Here come wonders to make us jolly
Love and laughter, hugs and cheers
With warmth and joy to drive off tears

Festivals arrive to spread the news
Enjoying holidays together in streets or on pews
There's Christmas, Hanukkah, and O-shogatsu
Epiphany, Kwanzaa and Ramadan too

The sun sets, yet stars shine bright
For mystic happenings brought forth in the night
A message of tidings or perhaps intrigue
Spreading beautiful songs of holy deeds

We seek to declare our spiritual strengths
Religious affirmations that go to great lengths
To provide for salvation and pray for our fate
In solemn forgiveness to end all the hate



A chance to foresee a wondrous day
When east and west can just once say
Hello my sister, hello my brother
And accept the diversity of the other

Taking a chance, yes doing our part
Sharing with another a hand or a heart
To radiate thoughts from deep in our soul
And achieve our forefather's everlasting goal

That we live on this earth and co-exist
Instead of wandering aimlessly lost in a mist
A melting pot that feeds the mind
Accepting all races, regardless of kind

Giving of ourselves, a gift or a smile
To neighbors near or across the long miles
It starts with open eyes but with sight unseen
In mutual understanding to realize the dream

So stop for a moment and just hug a friend
Believing in each other from beginning to end
Then each of us can state what all can surely see
"Tis the season of hope, that has truly blessed me."

AVIANO REUNION ASSOCIATION

Branson, Missouri Reunion

September 28-October 2, 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 <p>THE GRAND PLAZA HOTEL \$92.00 per room per night plus tax, including breakfast</p> <p>3:00 p.m. Hospitality Room Open</p>  <p>5:30 p.m. WELCOME ABOARD Reception</p>  <p>Optional Show: 8:00 p.m. IT Show at Hughes Theatre \$35.00 p.p. including transportation</p>	<p>Hot Buffet Breakfast</p> <p>9:00 a.m. BRANSON LANDING, OLD DOWNTOWN BRANSON and COLLEGE of the OZARKS TOUR and LUNCH at Keeter Center</p>  <p>3:30 p.m. JONAH At Sight and Sound</p>  <p>6:00 p.m. DINNER at Charlie's Steak, Ribs and Ale</p>	<p>Hot Buffet Breakfast</p> <p>11:-00 a.m. SHOPPING at Grand Village And Mel's HARD LUCK DINER LUNCH at Mel's Hard Luck Diner</p>   <p>2:00 p.m. #1 HITS of the SIXTIES SHOW</p> <p>5:00 p.m. BUSINESS MEETING</p>  <p>7:00 p.m. DINNER at Florentina's</p>	<p>Hot Buffet Breakfast</p>  <p>10:00 a.m. THE CLAY COOPER SHOW and LUNCH</p>  <p>6:30 p.m. SOCIAL HOUR</p>  <p>7:00 p.m. BANQUET DINNER At Hotel With Entertainment</p>	<p>Hot Buffet Breakfast</p> <p>Depart</p> <p>ACTIVITY PACKAGE: \$400.00 per person</p> <p>INCLUDES: Welcome Packets with Name Badges Hospitality Room Welcome Reception Tour and Lunch at Keeter Jonah Dinner at Charlie's Lunch at Hard Luck Diner #1 Hits of the Sixties Show Dinner at Florentina's Clay Cooper Show and Lunch Social Hour Banquet Dinner With Entertainment Transportation to Group Activities Reunion Website</p>

AVIANO REUNION ASSOCIATION Branson, Missouri Reunion September 28-October 2, 2015

NAME _____

GUEST/SPOUSE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Any physical disabilities? _____

Any dietary restrictions? _____

HOST HOTEL: THE GRAND PLAZA HOTEL

Call 417-336-6646 for room reservations and mention you are with the Aviano Reunion Association. The room rate is \$92.00 per room per night plus tax. A hot buffet breakfast is included in room rate and rate is available 3 days prior and 3 days after the reunion based on availability. Rooms not reserved by August 28, 2015 will be dropped from the group block.

Reunion Activity Package: \$400.00 per person
_____ # of Attendees x \$400.00 per person = \$ _____

“IT” Show on Monday Evening: \$35.00 per person
_____ # of Attendees x \$35.00 per person = \$ _____

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

A 50% deposit (\$200 per person) is requested by May 1, 2015 with final payment due August 1, 2015. No refunds will be issued after September 1, 2015.

**MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK PAYABLE TO:
GATHERINGS PLUS
P. O. BOX 1023, BRANSON WEST, MO. 65737
417-338-4048...pam@gatheringsplus.com**

Reunion Website: www.ReunionPro.com, click on “reunions” link, type in Aviano Reunion Association, enter, then click on your logo to get to the reunion website. You can order discounted tickets to additional shows and attractions as well as see a list of attendees!!!!