

Super Sixty's Reunions

THE GOUGE

Dear Classmates,

The Covid pandemic caused cancellation of 2 attempts to conduct our 60th Reunion, but we persevere! Ten years is simply too long between reunions and meaningful contact with classmates.

Accordingly, 3 Mini-Reunions were planned during 2022 and 2023. The goal: 2 Mini-Reunions in 2022 and a 3rd in 2023. We held the first in New Smyrna Beach, FL in early February 2022. The 2nd reunion is scheduled in San Antonio, September 27—30, 2022. In spring of 2023, a Mississippi riverboat cruise will depart from New Orleans. The cruise itinerary is described on page 7 below.

Mini-Reunion locations were selected based on an April 2021 class survey. Some 50 to 60 classmates, wives, and guests participated and demonstrated strong interest in the chosen locations.

The San Antonio Mini-Reunion schedule of events will be similar to the recent gathering at New Smyrna Beach. Day 1 is a travel day. Hotel check-in is available at 1600. A special welcome event (Margarita Bar and Taste of San Antonio Buffet) will kick off at 1800 at our hotel. Days 2 and 3 offer a private breakfast buffet to start the day and a choice of optional activities: a riverboat sightseeing tour, a custom guided tour of the Alamo, box lunches at the hotel, a bridge tournament, and a group dinner at Paesano's Riverwalk restaurant. We will also host a special farewell event on our last evening together. Day 4 is reserved for departure travel. The hotel restaurant will be open for meals on-your-own before departure. The schedule of San Antonio events is more fully described on page 3 below.

The Mississippi River Cruise will begin with a complementary pre-cruise package (including hotel accommodations) prior to departing New Orleans. Our ship will depart in the morning of Day 1 and return to New Orleans on Day 5 (breakfast and airport drop-off included).

Plans for San Antonio and the Mississippi River Cruise are described in detail below. The Gouge will be updated as reunion planning progresses. As before, **new information is highlighted in red bold face type.**

Best regards.

(s) Pete Chabot

Section 1

San Antonio Mini-Reunion

27–30 September 2022

Introduction

The Covid pandemic, labor shortages, and recent inflation have resulted in significant travel industry changes. The Mini-Reunion planners are working to mitigate higher prices and limit guaranteed minimum charges, which are now required by many service providers. In spite of our best efforts, changes (compared to previous reunions) to room reservations and selection of optional activities procedures, and deposit and cancellation policies, will apply.

As a result, we urge classmates to reserve their hotel room, and select optional activities, as early as possible, but not later than August 1, 2022. Later sign-ups may be subject to price increases and/or lack of available hotel or activity space. We will distribute a complete reunion information packet, including room reservation and selection of optional activities procedures, in the near future.

Travel

San Antonio International Airport (SAT) is served by Alaska Airlines, Allegiant, American, Delta, Frontier, JetBlue, Southwest, United, and several other smaller carriers. The reunion hotel is located approximately 9 miles from SAT. Taxis, Uber, and shared ride services are readily available at the airport for transport to the hotel. We advise against car rental due to limited and costly downtown parking.

Points of contact on the ground in San Antonio during the reunion are Frank Simpson, assisted by Raymond Burkley. Frank can be reached by email at dualdolphins@etesc.net, or phone 210-646-5747.

San Antonio Mini-Reunion

Schedule of Events

PLEASE NOTE: WE ARE CURRENTLY IN PROCESS OF CONFIRMING SCHEDULED EVENTS WITH REUNION PROVIDERS. THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS REMAINS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THIS TIME. A FINAL SCHEDULE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AS SOON AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

Tuesday, 27 September

Arrive Weston Riverwalk Hotel, 420 West Market Street, San Antonio, TX 78205.

1900—2100. Welcome! Margarita Bar & Taste of San Antonio Buffet. Enjoy local specialty Margaritas and southwestern inspired (but not too spicy) cuisine, including soups, salads, beef, fish, and chicken entrees, fresh local roasted vegetables, and tempting desserts. Following a day of strenuous travel to the reunion, this event will take place in a convenient private room at our reunion hotel.

Attire: Dressy Casual.

Activity Level: Very light. Walking short distance in hotel, standing on carpeted surface for short periods. Seating is always available.

Wednesday, 28 September

0730—0900. Start the day with our private Breakfast Buffet. It's an opportunity to socialize with classmates. Breakfast menu includes fresh fruit and juices, breakfast sandwiches, breads and pastries, and coffee/tea. Breakfast will be served in a private event room near the main lobby.

Attire: Casual.

Activity Level: Very light. Walking short distance in hotel. Seating is available.

Option 1. 0945—1200. Custom Narrated Sightseeing Riverboat Tour.

A private tour boat will pick us up at the reunion hotel Riverwalk entrance. Be ready and waiting at 0945, the boat will not wait on latecomers but departs promptly at 1000. Once on board, we'll meet our tour guide and enjoy a custom narrated 2-hour boat tour of San Antonio's famous, historical, and picturesque Riverwalk and Museum Reach areas. For safety's sake, please wear flat shoes with non-slip soles, sun-protective clothing, and bring your sunscreen. We'll have bottled water on board. After the tour, we'll disembark at our hotel. Optional **Box lunch** awaits tour participants in our private events room.

Attire: Casual.

Activity Level: Light. Walking short distances on level pavement. The vessel is wheelchair accessible.

Option 2. 1200—1600. Box Lunch and Bridge Tournament (Part I). Box lunch is optional for all reunion guests, including but not limited to, bridge players. Box lunch will be delivered to our private events room at approximately 1200. Bridge tournament starts after lunch and continues on 9/29.

Attire: Casual.

Activity level: Couch Potato.

Option 3. 1745-2100. Dinner at Paesano's Riverwalk (Italian) Restaurant

The River Shuttle will pick up classmates at our hotel for round trip to/from Paesano's Riverwalk Restaurant. At the restaurant, we'll enjoy outdoor patio seating overlooking the Riverwalk and popular Italian cuisine. Wine and beer will be available at the table. A cash bar is also available on-your-own in the restaurant, if desired.

Attire: Casual.

Activity Level: Very light. Walking short distance (less than 100') on level pavement from hotel to shuttle boat, walking up/down short ramp for boarding/disembarking shuttle, and walking similar short distance from shuttle to restaurant seating.

Thursday, 29 September

0730 -0900. Breakfast Buffet in the private event room.

Option 1. 1000–1100. Private Custom Alamo History Tour.

Our private tour guide will share Alamo history. Skip the lines, we'll purchase group tickets in advance.

Transportation from hotel to the Alamo is on-your-own. It's a 5-minute taxi/Uber ride from the hotel. The Alamo is currently undergoing major construction to add new and expanded public facilities.

Attire: Very Casual.

Activity level: Moderate. Tour requires 1 hour walking and standing on level pavement.

Option 2. Hop-On, Hop-Off, City Sightseeing Tour (1 day pass).

See San Antonio at your own pace. Continuous city loop tour bus runs 0845—1730. Hop-on hop-off at any stop. Tour stop 12 is located within walking distance (.2 miles), or short taxi ride, from the hotel, and picks up every 20 minutes. Tour features 19 stops of interest.

Attire: Very casual.

Activity Level: Moderate. Requires walking at your own pace on level pavement. Tour bus is wheelchair accessible.

Option 3. 1200—1600. Box Lunch and Bridge Tournament (Part II). Bridge tournament continues today. Box lunch is optional for all reunion guests, including but not limited to, bridge players. Box lunch will be delivered to our private events room at approximately 1200.

Attire: Casual.

Activity level: Couch Potato.

Option 4. 1815—2100. Farewell! Fiesta Style Cocktail Party and Banquet at Biga on the Banks.

Our private river shuttle will pick up classmates at the hotel Riverwalk entrance. It's a short boat ride to Biga on the Banks, a local favorite 5-star restaurant. The Fiesta Bar (Sangria, wines, domestic and Mexican beers) and Fiesta Buffet (passed hors d'oeuvres and 3 food stations) is sure to satisfy your appetite. The Riverwalk view from our dining space is memorable. Following dinner, the river shuttle will return us to our hotel.

Attire: Dressy Casual.

Activity Level: Moderate. Requires walking short distance on level pavement, may include walking up ramp, and standing for short periods. Seating is available in the restaurant.

Friday, 30 September

1100. Hotel Check-Out. Due to individual departure/travel schedules, no Mini-Reunion breakfast is planned. Breakfast is on-your-own. The Weston Riverwalk restaurant is open for breakfast and lunch. Before check-out, room service is available in room. There are many restaurants within easy walking distance on the Riverwalk. Food delivery services (Uber Eats, Door Dash, etc.) are also available on call.

Westin Riverwalk Hotel Room Reservations

The Westin Riverwalk San Antonio will be our headquarters hotel. The hotel is located at 420 West Market Street, San Antonio, TX 78205. Front desk phone is 210-XXX-XXXX.

Room Reservation Instructions

A direct link to the hotel room reservations system will be provided in a future edition of the Gouge.

Early reservations will qualify for special room rates:

- \$195 per night, City view with Double beds.
- Optional upgrade: \$225 per night, River view with balcony and Queen bed.
- Room prices are subject to applicable state and local taxes, currently 16.5%, Texas Recover Fee .75%, and Assessment Recover fee, 1.25%.
- Hotel amenities include an exercise room, outdoor swimming pool and sun deck, business center, wireless internet in public areas and high speed internet available in sleeping rooms. The hotel is centrally located on the Riverwalk within close proximity to restaurants and shops.

Selection of Optional Activities

Registration Instructions

We will again be using the Barnet Associates website, which was developed by Evan Barnet, Class of '91. The website is straight forward and easy-to-use with purchases made by credit card. Per person optional activity fees will be posted.

SECTION 2

Mississippi River Cruise

Overview. This is a 5 day/4 night cruise on American Cruise Line's paddlewheeler, "America." Passengers arrive in New Orleans, 31 March 2023, a day ahead of cruise departure. The cruise line provides complementary overnight hotel accommodations for 1 night on arrival, and complementary hotel breakfast and transfer from hotel to ship on the morning of departure. Passengers embark ship and depart port of New Orleans, 1 April 2023. Cruise itinerary is below. Passengers disembark at New Orleans, 5 April 2023.

Cruise Itinerary

Day before departure.

Arrive New Orleans. Enjoy a complimentary hotel stay in New Orleans.

Day 1.

Complimentary breakfast at hotel and transfer from hotel to pier. Embark ship and depart port of New Orleans.

Day 2

Stop at Houmas House Plantation and Gardens.

Day 3

Stop at Baton Rouge, LA. Visit the Capital building, Louisiana Arts and Science Museum, and USS Kidd (DD-661) Veterans Memorial and Museum.

Day 4

Stop at Oak Alley, LA. Visit Oak Alley Plantation.

Day 5

Debark ship in New Orleans around 8:00 AM. Complimentary shuttle to airport or parking garage.

Travel: New Orleans International Airport (MSY) is served by several airlines: Air Canada, Alaska Airlines, Allegiant, American and several other carriers. Transportation from airport to hotel is on your own. For those who drive, a parking garage close to the pier is available. Daily fee is \$20 to \$25 per day.

Cruise reservations: The bookings for our cruise are handled by Lulu Pincu of the TSI USA agency, who can be reached at 972-331-4226. In addition, our classmate Don Sanders, who will be traveling on the cruise with us and providing general oversight, will also be available for general questions at (303) 589-0147.

All bookings be done through our travel agent and not directly with the cruise line. To maximize our opportunity for booking everyone on this same cruise, please reserve your cabin by March 1, 2022. The sooner your reservation is secured by a deposit, the better. The ship only has 98 cabins; and, of course, the general public is free to book cabins at any time.

Cruise details: For pictorial information about the cruise and a good view of the ship deck plan, see the website: <https://www.americancruiselines.com>. Starting from the website, the following search path will provide highlights of the cruise and on-board accommodations. Select the following filters:

Mississippi River
Destination (Mississippi River)
Duration (5 days)
Departing Dates (March 2023)
Select a Ship: America

Costs. Cruise prices per person are shown in the table below. Significantly, a number of items are included in cruise prices: cruise fare, gratuities, complementary shore excursions, and complementary beer, wine, and cocktails. Because we are sailing as a group, we will also receive a \$600 price reduction per cabin (\$300 pp). This reduction is shown on the price table below.

To hold a cabin, a deposit of \$500 per person is required. \$250 is refundable, if cancelling before the final payment date, which is 120 days (Dec.1, 2022) prior to sailing (Mar. 31, 2023).

To determine your cost, we suggest you speak with our booking agent, Lulu (972-331-4226).

Optional Trip Insurance. Trip insurance is highly recommended, especially at our tender age. The extra cost varies according to your state, age, and cruise cost. An average cost for an 85 year old purchasing

the highest cost cabin is \$ 374 pp. If insurance is purchased within 14 days of the deposit date, any pre-existing medical conditions are covered. The cost of the trip is covered, but the plan also covers medical emergencies, baggage delay, emergency evacuation and other things. The Travel Solutions USA travel agent can help you purchase the plan that is best for you.

Remember, when the website says, “contact a travel specialist,” do not call their agent, but do call our travel agent, Lulu, at 972-331-4226.

Comments: “America” has a capacity of 185 guests. Class of ’60 members should make reservations as early as possible. Waiting risks space being taken up by early “walk-ons” (individuals not our Classmates or guest).

STATEROOM CATEGORIES	BROCHURE RATE	GROUP DISCOUNT	PORT CHARGES & FEES	PER PERSON CRUISE FARE (Double Occupancy)
Owner Suite's (Private Balcony)	\$3,745.00	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$3,595.00
AAM (Private Balcony)	\$3,095.00	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$2,945.00
AAC (Private Balcony)	\$2,850.00	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$2,700.00
AAL (Private Balcony)	\$2,720.00	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$2,570.00
AAR (Private Balcony)	\$2,500.00	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$2,350.00
A (Non-Balcony)	\$2,215.00	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$2,065.00
Single (Private Balcony)	\$3,140.00	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$2,690.00
Single (Non-Balcony)	\$2,840.00	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$2,390.00