

ALOHA KAKOU

May there be friendship between us.

ARIZONA ♦ HAWAII ♦ MEXICO ♦ MISSOURI ♦ NEVADA ♦ OREGON ♦ SPAIN

Royal Aloha Vacation Club Newsletter

Fall 2009

ARIZONA — LAND OF ANCIENT NATURAL WONDERS

Arizona is a state of fascinating landscapes. Magnificent saguaro cactus preserves contrast with national forests teeming with wildlife, cool lakes, and tall pines.

Butterfield Park in Chandler is ideally located for adventurous day trips throughout the Grand Canyon State.



In Arizona's rugged and beautiful Indian country, way of life has virtually unchanged over the centuries. Tribal homelands are still the center for Indian folk arts and crafts.

The *Navajo Reservation* is the largest, spreading over the northwestern part of the state. The *Hopi Reservation* lies in the center of Navajo country, and *Fort Apache* is to the south. The *Apache Trail* winds along steep cliffs and sparkling lakes through the *Superstition Mountains* and rewards intrepid travelers with

Nearby Phoenix anchors *The Valley of the Sun*, the second fastest growing metro area in the United States. Phoenix has an abundance of parks and recreation areas, including *South*



Mountain, the largest city park in the world, and Camelback Mountain, which attracts hikers of every persuasion with both easy and strenuous trails.

World-class museums exhibit collections of art, science, history, and vintage aircraft. Thousands visit the famous *Heard Museum* each year to see its outstanding display of Native American art and culture.

Long renowned for authentic Mexican and Southwestern fare, the metro area also has many fine restaurants featuring international cuisine by local chefs.

And if you have an appetite for professional sports, Phoenix is home to several franchises, most notably the NFL's Cardinals and the NBA's Suns.

Adjacent Scottsdale, home of Frank Lloyd Wright's *Taliesin West*, has become a mecca for the arts and a premier golf destination.

Sedona also has a reputation for a richness of the arts. It is home to hundreds of artists and craftsmen who are inspired by massive red rock formations that glow in the rising and setting sun.

If you plan to visit the *Grand Canyon National Park*, the scenic road through Oak Creek Canyon begins at the north end of Sedona and winds for 16 miles through a continuous and ever-changing display of dramatic natural beauty.

picturesque views of unspoiled mountain and desert scenery.

The *Petrified Forest National Park* and the *Painted Desert* are north of Fort Apache. Surreal terrains are strewn with ancient trees that have turned to stone, multicolored rock and sand.

Spectacular natural landscapes and an intriguing Southwestern culture! Arizona is a diverse and vibrant state offering visitors extraordinary experiences. 🌍



Photos by Tom Cummings, Seattle Washington

President's Report



Jack Corteway

Dear Members,

Thank you for taking a few minutes to read your Aloha Kakou online. We appreciate your understanding of our decision to electronically post the newsletters.

We also have decided to post next year's Annual Meeting booklets on the website to save considerable printing and postage costs. You still will receive a proxy card to facilitate mailing in your vote.

We also appreciate the many comments you have conveyed regarding the Club's efforts to cut expenses. Hopefully, the worst of the economic recession is over, but we will continue to hunker down, which brings me to our telephone survey (on page 3). Please take a moment to forward your thoughts. We would like your input before taking any action on this potential cost-saving measure.

Many have complimented the "members-only" information section on the Club's website, which now allows you to view availability at each resort. We would like to implement more features in this section but will not be moving forward with any new initiatives until current cost constraints are eased.

This summer, the Board's Strategic Planning Committee charged management with reviewing and updating the Club's Strategic Plan. We have spent many, many hours making an honest assessment of our successes and failures, our internal strengths and weaknesses, and the effects of the changing economic and industry environments. We are now formulating long-term strategies to build on our strengths. As we realistically face the future and attempt to chart the best strategic direction for the Club, we will be continually adjusting and altering our course, but our primary mission remains unchanged: providing you the best possible vacation experience at a reasonable cost.

*Aloha,
Jack Corteway*

Applications for Club Director due by November 30

If you're interested in being considered as a board nominee in 2010, now is the time to submit your application (available at www.ravc.com/director.html).

For next year's election, Royal Aloha is seeking candidates who have a background in finance with bottom-line responsibilities. Directors must be able to commit at least two weeks per year to attend board and committee meetings and perform duties related to committee work. (The other two quarterly meetings will be held via teleconferencing.)

The Nominating Committee is now reviewing all applications and will make recommendations to the Board at its January meeting. A thorough background/credit check is made prior to placing a nominee's name on the ballot.

Channing's Corner

A few weeks ago, Jack Corteway and I hosted RAVC membership receptions in Portland and Seattle. It was a great pleasure to gather face-to-face with loyal RAVC members, some who have been members for over 30 years, and to meet their family and friends who have been guests at our RAVC resorts.

At the receptions, it was my job to present the benefits of becoming an RAVC member, speak about our nine beautiful destinations, the flexibility of our membership and, of course, the availability of exchange opportunities. I arrived nervously prepared with my 12-minute DVD, brochures, and well-rehearsed answers to just about any anticipated questions that might be tossed in my direction. After light refreshments, the crowd took their seats so we could begin the program.

Jack suggested that we start by having everyone introduce themselves, state how many years they have been members of RAVC, and share their favorite vacation destination or experience. When we went around the room, it became very apparent to me (as the new guy in the company) and also to everyone who wasn't already a member, that our RAVC members thoroughly enjoy their membership.

They certainly are not shy about sharing all the great vacations they have enjoyed all over the world!

After introductions, I went ahead with my 15-minute presentation and ended the program by taking questions and thanking everyone for taking time out of their busy schedules. As we were walking to our rental car after the conclusion of the meeting, Jack turned, looked at me and said "we don't need you to sell anything, our members' stories were more effective than you!"

As much as I hate to admit it, he's absolutely right . . . Our members are the best people to sell the benefits of joining RAVC. I hope you won't see me at the end of the unemployment line!


*Malama pono (take good care),
Channing Bridges*



Channing Bridges

COMMENT CARD WINNER: SECOND QUARTER, 2009

Michael and Gerry Cenami, Las Vegas, Nevada

Mr. and Mrs. Cenami have received a free week of accommodations at Royal Aloha Acapulco. A winner is randomly drawn from comment cards submitted each quarter. 

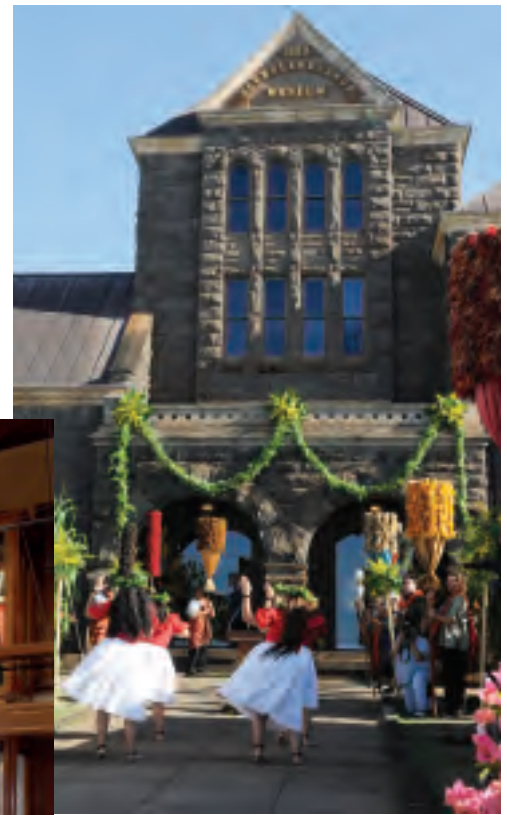
HAWAII'S BISHOP MUSEUM CELEBRATES REOPENING OF HISTORIC HALL

After completing a three-year restoration project, the Bishop Museum recently unveiled its historic Hawaiian Hall. The first major renovation in over a century, the reopening was celebrated with a week of festivities.

During your next Oahu vacation, take a journey through the beautifully restored Hall and enter the world of the Hawaiians. Treasured collections and sacred artifacts are exhibited in exquisite native koa wood showcases, each carefully designed to tell the story of Hawaii.



Bishop Museum photo by Linny Morris.



Bishop Museum photo

The Bishop Museum is open Wednesdays through Mondays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Tuesdays and Christmas Day. 🌐

WE'D LIKE YOUR OPINION!

Since cellular telephones have rapidly become a staple of life in the 21st century, Royal Aloha has been weighing the merits of maintaining telephone service in each of its condominium units. The current cost for all nine locations is approximately \$65,000 per year. Eliminating this expense is another possible way to save a chunk of money for the Club.

Please let us know if you travel with or without a cell phone. If so, do you automatically use it to make calls? Do you

travel with a cell phone but still use the unit phone? Do you feel that land telephones in vacation units have become essentially unessential?

We look forward to your comments. 🌐



Please check all that apply:

- I travel with a cell phone
- I automatically use my cell phone to make all calls
- I use the unit phone along with my cell phone
- I travel without a cell phone
- I feel RAVC should continue to provide a landline in each unit
- I feel landline telephones are not essential in RAVC units

Member name _____

Membership number _____

Please return to: Telephone Survey
 Royal Aloha Vacation Club
 1505 Dillingham Plaza, Suite 212
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

FROM SMALL-KID DAYS TO A SCOTTISH HIGHLAND WEDDING!

Sam and Marsha Scripter first met in Miss Carson's first-grade classroom in Ashland, Oregon in 1944. They were friends in high school, but never dated.

Their lives took different paths. (Sam is a retired Geography Professor/ Department Head from the University of Idaho. Marsha spent her career as a teacher/administrator; she has been an RAVC member since 1981.)

Five years ago, they reconnected at a class reunion!

Sam and Marsha, now 70 years old, were married on January 24, 2009 as part of the Robert Burn's Night in Moscow, Idaho. The Scottish poet is celebrated all over the world each year, and Moscow's annual event is sponsored by Sam Scripter's bagpipe band, the Border Highlanders. As part of the evening's program, Sam gave the "Toast to the Lassies," ending with a proposal to Marsha. Marsha then gave the "Reply from the Lassies," ending with a "Yes!" The very surprised 250 attendees watched as Sam and Marsha left the stage and re-entered down the center aisle following a single bagpiper to the tune of "The Highland Wedding." Finally, the audience "got it" - the wedding was real!



Congratulations, Sam and Marsha! Thank you for sharing your story. We are delighted to hear that you enjoyed your two-week honeymoon at Aloha Towers in Waikiki. We hope your happy union will include many Royal Aloha vacations.

(Postscript from Marsha: "We attended this year's Annual Meeting, and it was great to meet RAVC's dedicated staff, hear the business reports, and take part in the election of new board members. A highlight for me was to see Lisa Kalakau, Reservations Manager and Resort Coordinator. I knew Lisa in 1972 when I taught first grade in American Samoa. She was not in my class, but her dad was Director of Education. I had not seen Lisa since, so what a delight to visit with her!")

ROYAL ALOHA EXPANDS ITS ONLINE PRESENCE!

Keeping pace with new technology, Royal Aloha has expanded its online presence! Members can now keep in touch through the following:

Facebook:
<http://bit.ly/RAVC-Facebook>

YouTube:
www.youtube.com/RoyalAlohaVacation

Twitter:
www.twitter.com/RoyalAloha

Web:
www.ravc.com

Welcome to RAVC's online world!

Corporate Office will be closed:

November 11
Veterans' Day

November 26-27
Thanksgiving

December 11 at 11:30 a.m.
Employees' Christmas Luncheon

December 24 at 11:30 a.m.
Christmas Eve

December 25
Christmas Day

December 31 at 11:30 a.m.
New Year's Eve

January 1
New Year's Day



THE ROYAL ALOHA VACATION CLUB

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