

SAVE THE DATE – ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA MINI-REUNION

The next class mini-reunion will be conducted in conjunction with the 2015 Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. A local host committee has been organized and chaired by Bill Cates. The local host committee consists of Karla and Bill Cates, Carolyn and Alton Donnell, Joan and Mark Fischer and Sally Winkel. The local host committee recently met to begin planning. The Hotel Andaluz was chosen as the mini-reunion base of operations. The Hotel Andaluz was the fourth hotel built by Conrad Hilton. It is a historic landmark and representative of the Southwest. The mini-reunion will start on Friday, 2 October 2015 and conclude on Wednesday, 7 October. Registration will start at 1300 Friday. There will be an opening buffet Friday night and a closing banquet on Tuesday night. Potential activities include: 1) the mass ascensions of hundreds of hot air balloons on Saturday and Sunday, 2) the "Balloon Glow" on Sunday evening, 3) an optional ride in a hot air balloon 4) a trip up the longest tramway in the US to Sandia Peak where we will watch the sunset and descend in darkness to a dinner at a popular BBQ restaurant, 5) a day trip to Acoma, the longest continuously inhabited settlement in North America, 6) a day trip starting with an hour and a half train ride to Sante Fe where will have lunch at a local hotel and then have some time to shop and take in the sights, 7) a trolley trip around Albuquerque to see their sights and 8) shopping. Like with the Hawaii mini-reunion, the local host committee will be sending out a questionnaire shortly to determine interest. This is important for us in order for us to allow more accurate planning and to let the different venues know what to expect. So if you are interested in participating, fill out the questionnaire, save the date and start saving. Note that Albuquerque is easily reached by car via I-40 or I-25 or by AMTRAK. However, unlike Honolulu, the number of airlines that service ABQ is more limited. Thus during the Balloon Fiesta, the local host committee recommends early reservations.