

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 14, No. 3

November 2003

Officers:

Jerry Judge, Chairman, Board of Directors; John Reynolds, President; Jack Timmons, Secretary-Treasurer; Max Kaster, Reunion 04 Chairman; Jack Connery, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Growing Old is Not For Cowards.

We really don't grow old anymore. They tell me we are in our Golden Years. However, sometimes the years don't feel golden. As Pat Buttram used to say, "When I get up in the morning all my parts hurt, and the ones that don't hurt don't work." While rummaging around in some of my junk, I came across this bit of verse that I am sure some of you may be able to identify with. The author is unknown.

The row of bottles on my shelf causes me to analyze myself:

One yellow pill I hope to pop, goes to my heart so it won't stop.

A little white one that I take, goes to my hands so they won't shake.

The blue ones that I use a lot, tell me I'm happy when I'm not.

The purple one goes to my brain, and makes me think I have no pain.

Pink capsules tell me not to sneeze, or cough, or choke or even wheeze.

The red ones, smallest of them all, stir my blood so I won't fall.

The orange ones so big and bright, stop my leg cramps in the night.

Such an array of brilliant pills, help to cure all kinds of ills. But what I'd really like to know is what tells each one where to go?

John Reynolds

NEW MEMBERS (SINCE JUNE)

Roger Johnson BM3 (60-61) Troupsburg, NY
Joseph "Joe" Friend CPL (62-64) Walnut, CA
Michael Morris ETR2 (67-68) Chico, CA
Robert Naber FTCS (67-69) Crescent City, CA
Roger Lewis RD3 (60-62) Tenakee Springs, AK
Bob Lindsay SN (64-67) Los Angeles, CA
Kenneth Short IC2 (63-66) The Colony, TX
Bob McDonald DT3 (68-68) Jacksonville, FL
Michael Savidge SN (65-67) Beaverton, OR
J.B. Johnson RM2 (65-68) Portland, OR
Carl Langdon MMC (61-66) Gilbert, AZ
Richard Melhart YN3 (61-63) Vancouver, WA
Gene Randolph HA (68-69) Niles, OH
John Yusko MM3 (59-63) Albion, PA
Jim Simbulo FN (59-61) Penasco, NM
Bill Gilbert ET3 (59-60) Costa Mesa, CA
Richard Cross BM3 (61-63) Weidman, MI
Carl Wade FTM1 (68-69) Ventura, CA
Richard Bond BM2 (65-67) Lake City, AR
Larry Sklar BM3 (65-67) Suffern, NY
Ernie Leclair SM3 (68-69) Cocoa, FL
Jesse Vickers, Jr. GMM2 (61-62) Levelland, TX
Bob Harmon LT (67-69) Chicago, IL
John Gilliam IC3 (67-68) Laguna Woods, CA
Bill Coiner EM2 (68-69) Waverly, WV
Harvey Bridges, CS3 (59-61), Alba TX
James Merrell, RD3 (67-69), Plymouth, CT
Paul Smith, RD3 CCDF7 Staff 1961, Okla. City OK.

TAPS

James R. Turner, SH1, 1960-66, Nashville TN, August 6, 2003.

John Bone, LT, 1962-64, Marlton, NJ, Nov 26, 2002.

RADM Frederick Emory Janney, Commanding Officer, 1960-61, Potomac, VA, August 18, 2003.

Randall Bess, CWO4, 1960-62, Spanaway, WA.

Pete Klein, CDR, 1965-67, Arlington, VA April 5, 2003.

IT'S CHARLESTON, SC IN 2004

Charleston, SC., won a close vote over New York and Tampa, FL, as the site for the 2004 reunion. The contract is already in place with the Towne and Country Inn and Conference Center, August 11-14.

Reunion chairman for the event is Max Kaster, ETNSN (59-60), of Cayce, S.C. A rate of \$82 a night for a King/Queen room is guaranteed August 7-14 for those who want to come early. A buffet breakfast is included during the reunion.

Sites nominated for the 2005 reunion were Minneapolis, MN and San Antonio, TX. More Charleston details will be provided in the next newsletter. Put those dates on your calendar now.

WE HAVE A NEW BOARD CHAIRMAN

Jerry Judge, FTCS (63-66), has been named Chairman of the Board of Directors, replacing Dudley Cass who elected not to run again, but will remain on the board of directors.



Tom Victory



Jerry Judge

Judge, who hails from Chula Vista, CA., has been involved with the Association since it's founding in 1990 and will steer the association on a steady course. All will remember Jerry as the Emcee of most past reunions.

John Reynolds will continue for another year as president of the Association, and Jack Timmons will continue as Secretary/Treasurer.

Leaving the board is Jerry Pennington, RD3 (63-64) after a three-year tour. Replacing him will be Tom Victory, SFCS (60-64), Port Orchard, WA, as elected by the general membership.

LAUGHLIN ADVENTURE

It's too early to have all the details on the Laughlin Adventure but the dates of March 7-8 are locked in. The Smothers Brothers will be appearing at the Riverside Hotel on March 7, and the cost is \$104 for two nights for two and \$76 for one, including show tickets.

Dudley and Ruth Cass will again be hosting this west coast get-together, and all are invited. Bring your drink and a snack to share in the Cass room. Last year, 10 shipmates and friends made it a good party.

Contact the hotel at 800-227-3849 for reservations. Make sure to tell them you want show tickets at the Cass table. Call Dudley and Ruth at 619-267-3123, Email Bonitarcdc@aol.com, for more information.

LETTERS

Dear Ed:

I'm glad you guys found me in Portland. Or did I find you? I had hoped to get down to the reunion hotel, but had company all week and we were out of town most of the time. At the end of the week I had a speaking engagement on the east coast. I was a hostage in the Middle East in 1986.

I am so glad to make contact with the association. I look forward to attending some of the functions. I retired from my medical practice (physicians assistant) in January. I will continue to do public speaking. I certainly have time since I am not seeing patients on a regular basis.

Dick Melhart (61-63)

Dear Shipmates:

WE NEED AN EDITOR

Getting this issue of the newsletter together and to the printer has really been a struggle. It has been a difficult effort, as has been the last two or three issues. The reason they have been so hard, I have decided, is that the fun is gone from it.

I have enjoyed 12 years as editor of this newsletter, almost from the very beginning, and now, it's time for someone else to step forward and take a turn. There are other things I want to do and it is time to move on.

This will be my last issue. If you would like to take this task on (presently three issues a year, due out in February-March, June and October-November), please contact Board President Jerry Judge, Association President John Reynolds, or me. Our addresses are elsewhere in this newsletter.

It has been my sincere pleasure serving the USS Topeka Reunion Association.

Jack Connery (62-64)

Dear Ed:

I recently ran across the website and enjoyed it very much, especially the account of the typhoon of 61. It was quite a ride.

I was an RD3 on the staff of COMCRUDESFLOT 7. I remember seeing waves above me on the 04 level in flag plot. I extended for the duration of the cruise and got out of the navy upon arrival in the states. I now reside in Oklahoma City.

Paul Smith (1961)

Dear Ed (Shipmates):

Thanks for all the hard work that went into the Portland reunion.

It was a moving and emotional event to see all those semi-familiar faces, weathered by forty years of raising families and pursuing careers, united again.

Best wishes to all, and will see you in Charleston.

Lamar Johnson (64-68)



Safe Harbor, B.J.Wagner, Performing Arts Cards

The officers and members of the board of directors take this opportunity to extend best wishes to all shipmates for the coming Holiday Season and New Year. As we celebrate with our families, let us remember fellow servicemen world wide who go in harms way to protect our freedoms.

Annual Dues are \$15.00

Hello Shipmates:

Remember the "ditty bag," issued in Boot Camp? It was originally called "ditto bag" because it contained at least two of everything: 2 needles, 2 spools of thread, 2 buttons, etc. As time passed, "ditto" was dropped in favor of "ditty" and remains so today. The "ditty" bag is still issued to recruits and contains a sewing kit, toiletry articles and personal items.

MMCM (SS) Greg Peterman USN Retired
submitted by Bob Bond (62-64) from www.military.com

IT IS THE VETERAN, NOT THE ...

It is the VETERAN, not the preacher, who has given us freedom of religion.

It is the VETERAN, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the VETERAN, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the VETERAN, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to assemble.

It is the VETERAN, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the VETERAN, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote.

Author unknown

NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Board of Directors

Jerry Judge, Chairman, 68 E. Sierra Way, Chula Vista, CA 91911; 619-422-0761. Email RAJTR@cox.net

Board Members: Dudley Cass, Don Anderson, Jack Connery, Ken Noble.

President

John Reynolds, 916 Esplanade, # 107, Redondo Beach, Cal., 90277; Telephone 310-540-7817. E-mail Cabrc@hotmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Jack Timmons, 2661 Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, Ca, 92106-1121; 619-224-8928; Email JETimmons@aol.com

2004 Reunion Coordinator

Max Kaster, 2520 Tiffany Trail, Cayce, SC 29033; 803-926-7475. E-mail mjaster@ax2k.net

Newsletter Editor

Jack Connery, 9814 E. 83rd Pl., Tulsa, Ok., 74133; 918-459-8918; Fax 918-459-9758; E-mail JJConn@AOL.com.

WebMaster

Ken Noble, 14019 Summer Bay Lane, Broomfield, CO 80020; 303-410-7150; Email CLG8@usstopekaclg8.org

Ship's Store

Linda Roberts, 7315 Valley Lane, Hixson, TN 37343-2207; 423-842-5147. Email IJLRob@aol.com

USS TOPEKA Reunion Association
 c/o Jack Connery
 9814 E. 83rd Pl.
 Tulsa, OK 74133

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 Permit # 2146



New Topeka Jacket



New Topeka Shirts

SHIP'S STORE

Here's what's available in the Ship's Store. Order now and come to the reunion already dressed out. However, most merchandise will be available in Charleston.

All Ship's Store Orders should be sent to Linda Roberts at 7315 Valley Lane, Hixson, TN 37343-2207. Linda's phone number is 423-842-5147. The following is available:

2000 Polo Shirts

White or Gray w/Navy trim, Beige w/Black trim; Sizes M, L, 28.00

2002 Polo Shirts

Beige w/pocket, Sizes M,L,XL,XXL 30.00
 Yellow, Blue w/o pocket, M,L,XL, XXL 30.00

Ball caps 12.00

Key Chains 3.00

New Style Nylon Jackets

Navy w/Burgundy trim; Hunter Green or Royal Blue, both w/Navy trim; 46.00

Cold Drink Holders 5.00

Coffee Mugs w/Topeka emblem 6.00

Topeka Note Pads (5-pack) 5.00

License Plate Holders 4.00

Include \$5.00 shipping with each order, Make checks out to the Reunion Association and send check or money order to Linda Roberts.



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- Don Anderson, ET2 62-64, Woodbridge, VA
 Al Andres, FGT2 62-64, Township, PA
 James Bennett, RDSN 60-61, Bella Vista, AR
 Albert Bilka, Jr., GM3 60-62, Klamath Falls, OR
 Jack Bock, LTJG 62-65, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
 Mrs. Barbara Bone, LT 62-64, Tamarac, FL
 Phillip Brooks, MR2 63-65, Cloverdale, CA
 Parker Butcher, FTM2, 63-66, Shenandoah, IA
 Dudley Cass, LTJG 61-64, Bonita, CA
 Jack Clements, FTM3, 63-67, Virginia Beach VA
 Irye Couch, BM1 60-65, Grand Junction, CO
 Jerry Craig, FTM2 66-69, Cartersville, GA
 John DeFord, SA 64-67, Broomfield, CO
 Erin Endicott, RD3 61-63, Cove, OR
 George Grupe, LTJG 62-65, Sacramento, CA
 Don Habener, RD1 59-62, La Pine, OR
 Carl Hemenway, RM3 72-64, Centralia, WA
 Gordon Herigstad, MM1 62-65, North Hollywood, CA
 Harvey Hershkovitz, CYNNSN 64-66, San Diego, CA
 Arnold Hoel, BT3 63-66, Carson, CA
 Peter Houseknecht, Midn1C 1964, Miami, FL
 Michael Hight, RD2 60-62, Avon Park, FL
 Norbert Howe, SDC 1960, Lakewood, CA
 J.B. Johnson, RM2 65-68, Portland, OR
 Lamar Johnson, FTM2 64-68, Beaverton, OR
 Jerry Judge, FTCS 63-66, Chula Vista, CA
 John Keith, RD1,59-60, Portland, OR
 Calvin Ladd, MM3 63-66, Minnetonka, MN
 Roger Lewis, RD3 60-62, Tanakee Springs, AK
 Ralph Lohr, BMC 64-66, Veronia, OR
 James Mahoney, HM3 59-61, Dunedin, FL
 Ron Malone, RM3 65-66, Grand Junction, CO
 Vince Manion, LCDR 60-62, Eugene, OR
 Don Nelson, BT2, 64-66, Brooklyn Center, MN
 Loy Nix, GMM1 59-62, Flowery Branch, GA
 Kenneth Noble, RD2 59-63, Broomfield, CO
 Gary Noland, FTG3 64-66, Orangevale, CA
 Charles Northrup, SK3 60-61, Palm Harbor, FL
 Doug Olson, MM2 63-66, Sioux Falls, SD
 Parky Parkhurst, FTCS 63-66, Granada Hills, CA
 Larry Patriquin, FT2 61-64, Barrington, NH
 Gale Pfund, LTJG 62-64, Ukiah, CA
 John Reynolds, FTM1 61-66 Redondo Beach, CA
 Joe Ripley, LTJG 59-63, Los Alamitos, CA
 Robby Robbins, FTC 60-65, Milton-Freewater, OR
 Paul Ruby, LTJG 62-65, San Francisco, CA
 Courtney Rudin, FTG2 63-66, Healdsburg, CA
 Austin Schroder, LCDR 59-63, Smith, NV
 Dick Schuder, RM3 62-65, Tillamook, OR
 Andre Seaton, RD2 59-62, Tarzana, CA
 Leroy Servin, BM3 62-64, Apache Junction, CO
 Alonzo Simmerman, BT2 67-68, Stockton, CA
 Odis Simmons, RM3 61-63, Fox Island, WA
 Ron Smart, RD3, 59-62, Turlock, CA
 Emory Smith, FTG2 62-65 Manteca, CA
 Raymond Spatz, CS3 67-69, South Hempstead, NY
 Jimmy Starr, GS2 60-61, Topeka, KS
 Daniel Thomas, PN3 64-66, Spokane, WA
 Jack Timmons, LTJG 64-65, San Diego, CA
 Leonard Van Gemert, ET1 63-65, Myakka City, FL
 Tom Victory, SFCS 59-62, Bremerton, WA
 Bud Zimmerman, GMT1 59-62, Bremerton, WA.





