

# USS TOPEKA CLG-8

## Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 24, No. 2

June 2013

### Officers:

Dan Moore, Chairman, Board of Directors; Dan Moore, President;

Gary Baker, Secretary-Treasurer;

Ruth Judge, 2013 Reunion Chairman;

Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Gary Baker, Web Master;

Cyndi Johansen, Ships Store



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Officially spring has arrived in Indiana. The pollen is heavy and the mosquitoes are large enough to carry small animals and children away. Sometime we wonder why we live where we do. However, that is one of the things that I enjoy about our reunions. We get to visit new places and enjoy meeting up with old friends.

Long Beach should be no exception. It's been many years since a lot of us have been there. I'm really looking forward to this September.

Again, I would recommend making your reservation on the Queen Mary soon. We expect a large turnout for this reunion. Nice to see some new names On the 'Who's Coming List'.

Having passed the enlistment physical, Jon was asked by the doctor, "Why do you want to join the Army, son?"

"My father said it'd be a good idea, Sir."

"Oh? And what does your father do?"

"He's in the Navy, Sir."

Best wishes to all..... Hope you have a great summer and we get to see you in Long Beach.

Dan

### NEW MEMBERS (since March 2013)

Rick Ritchey, IC2 64 –67, Sherman, TX

George Willis, RD3 65 –68, Calimsdea, CA

Billy Oxford, BT1 (Posthumous)

Clarence Orient, BT1 (Posthumous)

### TAPS

Patrick Doyle, RM3 61 – 63

John Richardson, SK3 63 – 66

Billy Oxford, BT1

Clarence Orient, BT1



## **REUNION 2013**

Monday, September 16, 2013 to Friday, September 20, 2013.

Ruth Judge is our very capable host for the 2013 reunion aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach She may be contacted at [rajtr@cox.net](mailto:rajtr@cox.net) for any questions or information.

The contract for the room rates and room block has been signed. Room rates range from \$99.00 per night for an inside room to \$119.00 for a Deluxe King to \$139.00 for a mini-suite. There are a limited number of inside handicap accessible rooms for \$99.00. Reservations for these should be made as soon as possible. Rooms are subject to a tax of 15.065%. For reservations call (877) 342-0742. You must ask for the USS Topeka rate. The group rate is valid for three days before and after the reunion.

### **Question: WHY TWO BOAT TRIPS IN ONE DAY?**

Many people wanted to have the experience of going to Catalina Island (just 22 miles across the sea) We had it scheduled for Tuesday and the Harbor Dinner Cruise on Wednesday HOWEVER when working with the Catalina Channel Express, our contact person, Jeri said, " Tuesday - Big Cruise Ships put into Catalina Harbor for the day and it is really really over crowded, is there anyway you could go a different day?" We decided that having fewer people in the Harbor would make for a much better day for us to enjoy Catalina Island. There are many tours, shopping areas, glass bottom boat ride, golf cart self guided tours, Arcade of Family Fun Zone, just lounging on the beach and more, for you to choose from to make your day enjoyable. We will leave the Island at 3:45 PM, get back to The Queen at 4:45 PM. The tight squeeze is being ready for the shuttle at 6:30PM to take us to the Spirit Dinner Cruise.

There is not another earlier return boat as we are there after Labor Day and the summer schedule is no longer in force.

It will be a really fun packed day and evening of slowing cruising and delicious food. Let's enjoy!

### **AIRPORTS TO THE QUEEN MARY**

Los Angeles (LAX), Long Beach (LGB), John Wayne- Orange County (SNA)

Long Beach is the closest, Los Angeles the next and John Wayne is 35 miles away.

LAX and LGB are served by SUPER SHUTTLE (Blue Vans) 1-800-258-3826. You can Google them and make reservations on line or call and register over the phone. You can make round trip reservations

SNA is served by PRIME TIME SHUTTLE ( Red vans) 1-800- 733-8267. You can do the same as above in making reservations.

### **BOARDING THE QUEEN**

Have your reservation confirmation sheet ready to show the person at the dock entrance. You will be WELCOMED, told which elevator to use to get to the main lobby. Check in, receive keys and map of the ship. TOPEKA REUNION CLG8 - BEGINS!

### **WHO'S COMING TO LONG BEACH**

Pat and Gary Baker  
Quay and Ed Bennet  
Sharon and James Bennet  
Eleanor and Ernest Boutte  
Susan and Phil Brooks  
Ruth and Dudley Cass  
Beverly and Daniel Callihan  
Jerry Craig  
Walter Crane  
William Crum  
Tana and Jay Davis  
Gloria and Bill Dorsey  
Martha and Jessie Dupre  
Barbara and Erin Endicott  
Kelley and Vince Gomez  
Catherine and Al Gustafson  
Peggy and Jim Henslee  
Michael Hight  
Marion and Arnold Hoel  
Yvonne and Peter Houseknecht  
Diane and Harold Jackson  
Cyndi and Daniel Johansen  
Ruth Judge  
Jean and Ernest Kershaw  
Irene and Ken Kucin  
Joan and Cal Ladd  
Roger Lauer  
Lewis Loudon  
Sharon and Dan Moore  
Eileen and Donald Nelson  
Leanne and Jerry Pennington  
Mary and John Reynolds

Bell and Robbie Robins  
Mimi and Courtney Rudin  
Diane and Joe Rutter  
Diane and Richard Schuder  
Charles Shields  
Ronald Smart  
Joyce and Paul Stein  
Jean Timmoms  
Susi and Mike Wanderschneider  
Lora and Douglas Weeks  
Bridgett and John Woolston  
Ellen and Weldon Zimmerman



## **OPT OUT?**

You have the opportunity to opt out of receiving the Association Newsletter.

Why should you want to opt out of receiving the newsletter?

Opting out does not mean you don't want to know what's happening with the association. You will be able to get the news on the website and it will be with color pictures.

Opting out will save the association money that can be used for other things.

Opting out does not reduce or increase the efforts of the Association Newsletters editors job. It does not reduce or increase the efforts of the web-masters job either. The newsletters have been published on the Topeka site for sometime and will continue.

The newsletter is published as a PDF document on the website and can be downloaded and printed. The website will give you the date of the latest newsletter on the home page just to the left of the ships seal.

The savings to the association can be significant.

If you prefer to receive the Newsletters as in the past, do nothing, and it will continue to be mailed to you.

## **ANNUAL DUES**

Annual dues, for the calendar year, are \$20 or \$80 for five years. Although dues are requested, they are not mandatory. The dues, however, are used to cover expenses such as the preparation and mailing of letters, newsletters and directories, and the cost of maintaining the TOPEKA website on the internet. Dues should be sent to: Gary Baker, 1240 Lonesome Pine Lane, Billings, MT 59105.

Your dues status is shown on the newsletter and member's directory mailing label. If you haven't received the newsletter or directory and want to check on your dues status, E-Mail Gary at [gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org](mailto:gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org).

## **USS TOPEKA SHIP'S STORE**

The transition of the store from Linda Roberts to Cyndi Johansen is complete, and the USS Topeka CLG-8 Ship's Store is now open!

The Ship's Store page has been completely redone and there are now color photos of everything in the inventory and a downloadable PDF order form.

## **NEW ITEMS IN THE SHIP'S STORE:**

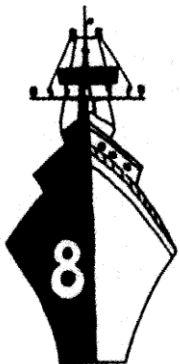
Check out the new items Cyndi has added to our store. We have 2 new styles of tee shirts in white and navy; we also have a very cool ship lapel pin.

She has also added more hat inventory as well as the new low profile hats as some of you had requested.

Please visit the web site and take a look; I am sure you will find something that appeal to you. Thank you for supporting the store!

## USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION

C/O Gary Baker  
1240 Lonesome Pine Lane  
Billings, MT 59105



**TEMP – RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

### NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### Board of Directors

Dan Moore, 56619 Wedgwood Ct N, Elkhart, IN 46516;  
574-295-5156 [Dan56619@aol.com](mailto:Dan56619@aol.com)

#### Board Members:

Gary Baker, Dudley Cass, Jerry Craig,  
Ken Noble, Dan Moore, John Reynolds, Ray Spatz

#### President

Dan Moore, 56619 Wedgwood Ct N, Elkhart, IN 46516;  
574-295-5156 [Dan56619@aol.com](mailto:Dan56619@aol.com)

#### Secretary-Treasurer

Gary Baker, 1240 Lonesome Pine Ln., Billings, MT 59105;  
406-252-4546 [gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org](mailto:gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org)

#### 2013 Reunion Coordinator

Ruth Judge, 68 E. Sierra Way, Chula Vista, CA 91911;  
619-422-0761 [rajtr@cox.net](mailto:rajtr@cox.net)

#### Newsletter Editor

Kathy Spatz, 503 Olive Blvd., So. Hempstead, NY 11550;  
516-385-5712; Email [kspatz@optonline.net](mailto:kspatz@optonline.net)

#### Webmaster

Gary Baker, 1240 Lonesome Pine Ln., Billings, MT 59105;  
406-252-4546; [gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org](mailto:gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org)

#### Ships Store

Cyndi Johansen, 7225 Kit Fox Drive, Wellington, CO 80549;  
970-568-7742; [cjohansen@usstopekaclg8.org](mailto:cjohansen@usstopekaclg8.org)

**USS TOPEKA (CLG8) REUNION ASSOCIATION INC.  
2013 LONG BEACH REUNION HIGHLIGHTS  
Reunion coordinator: Ruth Judge**

**Reunion Dates: Monday, September 16, 2013 through Friday, September 20, 2013.** Room rates, as available, may be reserved 3 days before and after contracted dates. A lot of us arrive at least one day early, this year Sunday and depart on Saturday.

<b>TOUR/EVENT</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b>
Aquarium of the Pacific	Tuesday	9am-1pm	Tour at your own pace
Catalina Island	Wednesday	9am-4:30pm	Tours on your own
Spirit Dinner Cruise	Wednesday	7pm-9:30pm	Dinner Cruise
USS Iowa Tour	Thursday	9am-3:30pm	Self guided tour
Dinner Buffet	Thursday	6:00 pm	
Membership Meeting	Friday	9am-11am	Group photos after meeting
Banquet	Friday	6pm-9pm	

**Tour Details:** For the tours listed, all admissions, fees, gratuities are included in the tour price. The cost of **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**, when listed, is not included in the price of the tour.

**“A” AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2013 - TIME OF TOUR: 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM**

LONG BEACH is home to more than 12,500 marine animals at the Aquarium of the Pacific. You can go behind the scenes, enjoy interactive exhibits, experience 3D technology with digital animation, hands-on experience and face to fish as Aquarium of the Pacific takes you on a tour to another world.

**LUNCH ON YOUR OWN.** Excellent food at the aquarium. This tour is taken at your own pace, because we will be using the Long Beach Free hop on and off bus. You can go into Long Beach, for multiple restaurants for lunch or make dinner plans for later. There is the near by Mall for shopping or just looking around. You can return to the Queen Mary for rest and relaxation in the Hospitality Suites whenever you choose.

**COST: \$18.00 THE AQUARIUM ENTRANCE FEE (LONG BEACH FREE BUS, AS YOU WISH BACK TO THE QUEEN MARY)**

**“B” CATALINA ISLAND - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2013 - TIME OF TOUR 9:00 AM TO 4:30 PM**

Just 22 miles from the mainland and one hour ride on the beautiful, sleek and fast Catalina Channel Express to famous Avalon Bay. There are so many things to do and see something for everyone: Tours of every kind, **ON YOUR OWN.** The Avalon Scenic Tour around the island is recommended, also the Glass Bottom Boat for sightseeing in the Ocean, rent a golf cart create your own tour and many more things that might strike your fancy. Wonderful shops, interesting sights, great food for **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**, many picture taking spots for beautiful memories and lovely beaches, all to make your visit to the famous Catalina Island one to remember! **COST: \$70.00 ROUND TRIP BOAT EXPRESS (INCLUDES SHUTTLE BUS TO CATALINA EXPRESS AND BACK TO THE QUEEN)**

**“C” SPIRIT DINNER CRUISE - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2013 - TIME OF TOUR 7: 00 PM TO 9:30 PM**

The 65foot Pacific Spirit Yacht is prepared to take us on a ride and **YOUR TOUR PRICE INCLUDES**; The Captain, Crew, Yacht, Food, Soft Drinks , Coffee **AND YOUR CHOICE OF ONE** - White wine, Blended Margarita, Virgin Margarita, Champagne, Sparkling Cider **PLUS** Cash Bar ( no minimum) **NOW THERE’S MORE** A BUFFET of Shrimp, Crab Claws and Legs, Norwegian Smoked Salmon, **READ ON**, Marinated Steak Skewers, Sesame Chicken Skewers, Swedish Mea Balls **YES, THERE IS STILL MORE**, Caesar Salad, Green Beans, Fresh Vegetables and Cheese for Dipping , **Finishing with** Mini New York Cheese Cake. **BUT WAIT IT ALSO INCLUDES** a beautiful Sound System for your Listening and Dancing Pleasure **AS WE TOUR THE LOS ANGELES AND LONG BEACH HARBORS. DON’T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!**  
**COST: \$69.00 FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE (IN THIS FANTASTIC ONCE IN A LIFETIME OFFER)**

**“D” USS IOWA TOUR - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2013 - TIME OF TOUR 9: 00 AM TO 3:30 PM**

The USS Iowa is called the **Battleship of Presidents** because no other battleship in our nation's history has been host to more U.S. Presidents than the Iowa. Now the members of the **USS TOPEKA** will board for their official **ALPHA SELF GUIDED TOUR**. In each of the main viewing areas there will be a docent to help with information and questions. **EACH USS TOPEKA VISITOR** will receive a pre paid **BOX LUNCH** which we will be able to enjoy in the crews Mess area. There is no other food available on the ship. The **BATTLESHIP IS NOT CURRENTLY ADA ACCESSIBLE**, so no wheelchairs but small walkers and canes are ok if used with care. This tour will require a lot of walking and we are advised to be sure that everyone wears walking shoes so they can enjoy the history of this battleship thru World War II and Korea. A glorious trip to a proud and beautiful lady, **BB61**.  
**COST: \$39.00 INCLUDES ENTRANCE FEE TO SHIP AND BOX LUNCH (ALSO SHUTTLE BUS FROM THE QUEEN TO USS IOWA AND BACK)**

**SPECIAL TOURS OF THE QUEEN MARY:**

There are special tours on the Queen that you can sign up for in the Hospitality Room. These are guided tours of places you have only read about. You can go behind the scenes, exploring the ships history. You can go on the Ghosts and Legends Tour or World War II Tour and hear about the Grey Ghost or the Fun and Interactive journey through the ships history and art work. There are even more places to go and see. There will be information in the Hospitality Room and Tours can be signed up for there as we need **20** to have a tour. There is time on **FRIDAY AFTERNOON** after the meeting and pictures that we can have a tour or tours scheduled. The person who does this will be working with me to set up some interesting ones. Ruth J

**2013 REUNION REGISTRATION**  
**USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Association**  
**24th Annual Reunion, Long Beach, CA September 17-20, 2013**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number in party \_\_\_\_\_  
 Staying at the reunion hotel: Queen Mary? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What nights? Check: Sun \_\_\_ Mon \_\_\_ Tue \_\_\_ Wed \_\_\_ Thu \_\_\_ Fri \_\_\_  
 Any Handicap and/or Special Dietary Requirements? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ (Confirmation will be sent by E-mail)  
 Name(s) for nametag(s) (if you haven't previously received permanent nametag):  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Reunion Fee:** The Reunion Fee includes the fixed costs of the reunion (e.g. Event liability insurance, rooms for Reunion Host and Sect/Treas, banquet guests (Speaker and Color Guard), buffet and banquet bartenders, and the costs of snacks and beverages in the Hospitality Room.

Monday is the setup day for the hospitality room which will be available in the afternoon and evening for those checking in on/before Monday. No charge for Monday.

	<b>Number Attending</b>	<b>Price (Per Person)</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b><u>Members and Adult-Guests, All four days</u></b> (Includes Buffet and Banquet)	_____	\$164	_____
<b><u>Members and Adult-Guests, Not all four days</u></b>			
Tuesday	_____	\$15	_____
Wednesday	_____	\$15	_____
Thursday (Includes Buffet)	_____	\$57	_____
Friday (Includes Banquet)	_____	\$77	_____
<b><u>Guests (Not already included above) for only the Thursday Buffet and/or Friday Banquet</u></b>			
Thursday Buffet:	_____	\$42	_____
Friday Banquet:	_____	\$62	_____
Childs Plate	_____	\$26	_____
<b>Total Reunion Fee</b>			_____

**Banquet Entrée Choices (give number for each)**

Flat Iron Steak \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grilled Salmon Fillet \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vegetarian Pasta \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child's Plate \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Chicken Tenders,  
 Fries and Fruit)

**TOPEKA 2013 Long Beach, CA Reunion Registration (continued)**

<b><u>Tour</u></b>	<b><u>Number</u></b>	<b><u>Price</u></b>	<b><u>Cost</u></b>
<b>“A” Aquarium of the Pacific</b> Tue 9 AM – 1 PM	_____	\$18	_____
<b>“B” Catalina Island</b> Wed 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM	_____	\$70	_____
<b>“C” Dinner Cruise</b> Wed 7 PM – 9:30 PM	_____	\$69	_____
<b>“D” USS Iowa Tour</b> Thu 9 AM – 3:30 PM	_____	\$39	_____
		Tour Cost	_____
		Reunion Fee (From First Page)	_____
		<b>Total Cost</b>	_____

Deadline for Payment and Receipt of above costs is August 7, 2013.

Make checks payable to USS Topeka Association. and mail to:  
Gary Baker, 1240 Lonesome Pine Lane, Billings, MT 59105-1646

**HOTEL AND RESERVATION INFORMATION**

Hotel: Queen Mary

Address: 1126 Queens Highway, Long Beach, CA 90802 , Telephone: 877-342-0738

For Reservations, Call the hotel room reservation department at **1-877-342-0742..** Request the group rate for **USS Topeka Reunion**. Deadline for reservations is August 14, 2013, but please make reservations as soon as possible.

Your will be asked for Arrival Date, Departure Date, Your Full Name, Number in your party, and Credit Card #.

Our group room rates are \$99/day for an inside room, \$119/day for a deluxe king, and \$139/day for a mini-suite (Plus room taxes of 15.065%)

The above group room rates will also be honored 3 days before and 3 days after the contracted dates (Sept 17 thru Sept 20). Handicap rooms may be reserved, as available.

If you have problems with reservations (e.g., rates, availability, etc.), call Gary Baker at 406-252-4546, or email him at [gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org](mailto:gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org)