

# USS TOPEKA CLG-8

## Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 24, No. 1

March 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

We are always wondering where time has gone. It seems to pass more quickly as we age. That being said we are always looking forward to some future event. This year is no exception.

Spring hasn't arrived and I am already looking forward to our reunion in Long Beach this September. Ruth Judge has organized another fantastic lineup of events for us. I'm so excited, I could just pee. (As if I really need a reason).

I would recommend making your reservation on the Queen Mary soon. I expect a large turnout for this reunion.

#### "The Five Most Dangerous Things in the US Navy"

A Seaman saying, "I learned this in Boot Camp..."

A Petty Officer saying, "Trust me, sir..."

A Lieutenant JG saying "Based on my experience..."

A Lieutenant saying, "I was just thinking..."

A Chief chuckling and saying, "Watch this s\*\*t..."

At the Long Beach reunion, we will be voting on the location for the 2014 reunion. There will be three fantastic locations submitted (Eastern US) and not having been to any of them it's going to be difficult for me personally to pick one. So, if you want to vote, come to Long Beach.

One of the founders of our Reunion Association, Dudley Cass, is recovering from serious surgery. Dudley, a Board member, had also served the Association for years as Secretary-Treasurer. We wish him well and looking forward to seeing

him and Ruth in Long Beach.

Hope you all have a wonderful Spring and Summer and we'll see you in Long Beach.

Dan

#### NEW MEMBERS (since December 2012)

Robert Miller, 59 – 63, BT3, Pittsburgh, PA

Harry Anderson, 64 – 66, YN3, Carencro, LA

#### TAPS

Klaus Vondaggenhausen, 62 – 63, PFC



## 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.

## 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

## HER FINEST HOUR: A WWII TOUR



## WHO'S COMING TO LONG BEACH

Pat and Gary Baker  
Quay and Ed Bennet  
Sharon and James Bennet  
Susan and Phil Brooks  
Ruth and Dudley Cass  
Tana and Jay Davis  
Martha and Jessie Dupre  
Catherine and Al Gustafson  
Sandy and Steven Hall  
Peggy and Jim Henslee  
Marion and Arnold Hoel  
Diane and Harold Jackson  
Cyndi and Daniel Johansen  
Ruth Judge  
Jean and Ernest Kershaw  
Irene and Ken Kucin  
Sharon and Dan Moore  
Eileen and Donald Nelson  
Mary and John Reynolds  
Diane and Joe Rutter  
Joyce and Paul Stein  
Bridgett and John Woolston

## A SHOPPING EXPERIENCE UNLIKE ANY OTHER

The Queen Mary features an array of unique shops offering souvenirs, one-of-a-kind treasures, clothing, memorabilia, historic documents, artwork and more. Stroll around and explore...you never know what you may discover.

The Queen Mary's signature store, Stacks features a wide array of souvenirs, such as wine glasses, beer mugs, t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and apparel, as well as historical books and DVDs. Stacks is the ultimate resources for Queen Mary memorabilia and even employs a maritime historian to answer any questions you may have about the ship's illustrious history. Stacks is the home of our most popular and cutest signature item, Theodore "At Your Service" Teddy Bear, who is dressed in an exact replica of a 1936 Queen Mary bellhop uniform.



## 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.

## TOPEKA AND FACEBOOK

USS Topeka CLG-8 Association is now on Facebook. It will be used as an adjunct to the Topeka website to keep association members informed of items of interest regarding the association or website. To access Topeka's Facebook page enter **uss topeka clg-8** in the search field of your Facebook home page or copy and paste this link in your browser: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/USS-Topeka-Clg-8-Association/288604944574666>. Once you're there click on **Like** and you're ready. Anything posted on the page will now show up on your Facebook newsfeed.

## 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.

You dues status is shown on the newsletter and members 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.

Cyndi is closing out many old items to make room for new so there are some great bargains to be had.

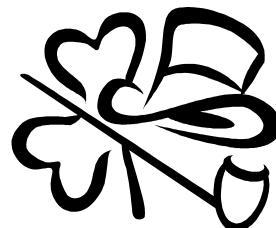
Check out the store on the website.

## EDITORS MESSAGE

The USS Topeka 2013 in Long Beach looks like it will be fabulous. Unfortunately Ray and I will not be attending, for an excellent reason. My second son James will marry the love of his life Courtney on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Expecting tons of Texas company!

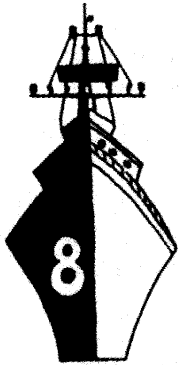
Please have a terrific time and take tons of pictures.

In Long Beach we will have a presentation for Philadelphia, PA for the 2014 reunion .



# 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

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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  
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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.

	Number Attending	Price (Per Person)	Cost
<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)