

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 25, No. 1

March 2014

Officers:

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

Gary Baker, Secretary-Treasurer;

Jerry Craig, 2014 Reunion Chairman;

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

Cyndi Johansen, Ships Store



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hard to believe it's already March. Our winter in northern Indiana was brutal this year. I envy you that live in warmer climates, although many of you had abnormal weather also. Looking forward to April when the fish (hopefully) are biting.

With great sadness we lost Mary Reynolds this winter. She and John had worked numerous hours over the years on behalf of our reunion association. We shall miss her and wish the best for our friend John.

The topic recently came up regarding who should have access to our membership information. Gary Baker, our secretary and treasurer, says our bylaws state that the directory is available only to our members and to be a member you must have served on the USS Topeka CLG-8. Please do not share with anyone just looking for a mailing list.

If you haven't noticed, on the website, Gary has obtained copies of the Topeka's deck logs from the 1965-66 WestPac deployment. He has had numerous requests for them.

Want to take this opportunity to thank Gary Baker for all his work on behalf of the association. The secretary-treasurer position is a BIG job. Also big thanks to Dudley Cass who served in the position for many years. THANK YOU !!!

Keep in mind we have a great ships store managed by Cyndi Johansen. Some day if we reach the point of diminishing return, we may have to consider closing it.

Sharon and I are looking forward to seeing everyone in Savanna this fall. Have a great Spring and Summer.

Dan

NEW MEMBERS (since November 2013)

Gary Derks IC2 59-61

Joseph S. Voyles BM3 68-69

Sonny Wetherington ICFN 62-64

William I. Doyle MR3 62-65

Frank A. Buzzel RD3 61-65

Harold W. (Bill) Thompson SK2 64-67

Gary Nemece BT3 67-69

TAPS

Mike M. Angulo CWO3 65-67

Charles R. Bigham BT3 63-65



SAVANNAH, GA FOR 2014

Reunion Dates:

Wednesday, September 24, 2014 to Saturday, September 27, 2014

The personable Jerry Craig is our host for the 2014 reunion at the historic Inn at Ellis Square in downtown Savannah, Georgia.

The Inn at Ellis Square is located in the heart of Savannah's Historic Riverfront District. It is located in the Guckenheimer Building which was built in 1851. The building was renovated in 2006, and won the Historic Preservation Award from the Savannah Historic Foundation.



GETTING TO SAVANNAH

With easy access via highway, rail and air, you can add accessibility to Savannah's long list of selling points. Whatever mode of transportation you choose; you'll have no trouble getting your group to and from Savannah.

Air Service

Located just 15 miles from Savannah's Historic District, the [Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport](#) offers 11 non-stop destinations and approximately 84 daily flights in and out of Savannah. Scheduled airlines include American Eagle, Delta, JetBlue, United Express and US Airways. We hope to expand the number of cities served with direct flights in the coming year. with potential to expand in the future.

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Driving to Savannah

Getting to Savannah by car is easy and enjoyable, with plenty of scenic Georgia beauty to take in along the way. Savannah is best accessed via Interstate 95 (North/South) or Interstate 16 (East/West).

Savannah by Rail

Many groups find that [Amtrak](#) is a fun, convenient and affordable way to travel. Savannah is a major stop on Amtrak's Palmetto and Silver Service lines between New York and Miami. The Silver Star and Silver Meteor provide daily service to and from Savannah. Sleeper cars and sightseeing lounge cars are available.

On the Bus

Savannah is a hub for [Greyhound Bus Lines](#), so your guests can access Savannah by bus from all over the United States, Canada and Mexico.

FORT PULASKI NATIONAL MONUMENT



Fort Pulaski National Monument offers visitors the chance to experience many interesting and exciting activities year-round. Fort Pulaski itself is a large-scale outdoor exhibit. The main structure, together with outlying works including demilune, drawbridges, ditches, and dikes, is a fine example of historic military architecture.

Indoor exhibits highlight the history of Fort Pulaski from the fort's construction, to its eventual fall due to advancing military technology.

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 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.

NEWS ITEM:

In order to assist shipmates with VA claims, the association has obtained the deck logs for January through May of the '65 – '66 WestPac cruise.

These logs cover the period that Topeka was off the coast of Vietnam providing gunfire support for military operations ashore. The logs have been put on the website and can be viewed and downloaded and saved, (or printed) from there

MESSAGES

Gary:
Cindi Johansen thinks that you might know the names of the unknown plank owners or that you might know who can throw some light on who they are?

Subject group picture has 9 plank owners depicted. The second row has Ernest Kershaw, 2nd one from the left, and Dan Johansen, 2nd from the right end. First row has an unknown plank owner in a white blazer jacket, Austin Schroeder in the middle, and me in the right end in a white shirt. The other five are not known to me; however, subject newsletter reports that there were more than nine present for the Long Beach reunion; subject newsletter also reported as being at the 2013 Topeka reunion: Michael Hight, Charles Shields, Douglas Weeks, John Woolston, James Bennet & William Crum.

Question is who are the other unidentified plank owners in Subject photo?

Your fellow shipmate,
Joe Ripley



Kathy,

Don't know if you need fillers for Newsletter, but we had this encounter and decided to share it with you.

While traveling cross country following the Thanksgiving Holiday we stopped in the small town of Mountain Home, Idaho. We decided to have dinner in a road house near our motel.

As we savored our salad a gentleman approached our table and asked if I was Bud Zimmerman. Much to my surprise it was Dan Johansen who was also traveling, to visit his son in Oregon.

He joined us for dinner and we had our own mini-reunion on a winter night in a most surprising place.

His parting words were "Hope to see you in Savannah".

DID YOU KNOW?

Q: Why is River Street Lined with cobblestones?

A: Actually, those are ballast stones. Centuries ago, ships unloaded their balancing weights in order to make room for shipments of natural resources harvested from Georgia. Those discarded stones now line the streets.

Q: What iconic adventure novel is set partially in Savannah? A: Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island.

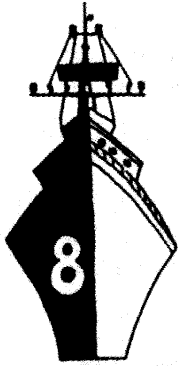
Q: Why do tombstones in Colonial Cemetery show that some people lived hundreds of years?

A: During the Civil War, bored Union troops encamped in the cemetery re-carved the dates.

Q: What beverages were illegal when Savannah was founded? A: Rum and beer. How the times have changed!

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

Board Members:

Gary Baker, Dudley Cass, Jerry Craig,

Harold Jackson, Dan Moore, John Reynolds, Ray Spatz

President

Dan Moore, 56619 Wedgwood Ct N, Elkhart, IN 46516;

574-295-5156 Dan56619@aol.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Gary Baker, 1240 Lonesome Pine Ln., Billings, MT 59105;

406-252-4546 gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org

Savannah 2014 Tour Information

Tour "A" Eighth Air Force Museum, Tybee Island, Fort Pulaski

Wednesday September 24

Our first stop is Eighth Air Force Museum that features aircraft and exhibits tracing the history of the Eighth Air Force from its inception in 1942 at Hunter Field in Savannah, through WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm.

Our bus will then take us to scenic Tybee Island for lunch, shopping, and exploration on your own.

Next stop is historic Fort Pulaski an excellent example of 19th century military architecture

Tour Time: 8:30 AM (Bus Departs 9:00 AM)

Duration: Return to hotel at 4:00 PM

Cost: \$33.00 per person

More Information

Eighth Air Force Museum: <http://mightyeighth.org/>

Tybee Island: <http://tybeeisland.com/>

Fort Pulaski: <http://tybee.com/tour/pulaski.html>

Tour "B" Old Town Trolley Tour

Thursday September 25

Tour scenic Savannah by trolley and experience over 270 years of history on the Old Town Trolley Hop On - Hop Off Tour in Savannah. Join your tour conductors as they relate the stories, sights and landmarks of Georgia's First City. This tour includes all-day Hop On - Hop Off access so you can tour at your own pace. Hop off at any of the 15 convenient stops situated close to all popular attractions, shops and restaurants. When you're ready, just re-board and resume your tour. Trolleys depart from all stops at least every 20 minutes. Start your tour Thursday morning at a time of your convenience at the trolley stop on Ellis Square near the hotel.

Lunch on your own

Includes:

All-day trolley pass with unlimited Hop On - Hop Off access

Exciting fully narrated tour

Sightseeing at over 100 points of interest

Discount coupons to attractions, restaurants, and gift shops

Cost: \$29.00 per person

More Information : <http://trolleytours.com/Savannah/>

Tour "C" Savannah Riverboat Dinner Cruise

Thursday, September 25

This dining cruise includes dinner, live entertainment, and an unforgettable view of Savannah. Enjoy some of the staff's favorite dishes. Make sure you save room for one of the delicious "southern" desserts. After dinner, dance to tunes from the 50's to the 80's played by one of our riverboat entertainers. Be sure to make your reservations early to guarantee your space on this popular cruise.

On the menu:

- Signature River Queen Seafood Au Gratin
- Beef Top Sirloin
- Almond Crusted Boneless Pork Loin
- Peel & Eat Shrimp
- Seasonal Vegetables
- Assorted Fresh Salads
- Fresh Fruit
- Assortment of Desserts
- Iced Tea or Coffee

Tour Time: Leave hotel at 6:00 to walk to riverboat terminal. (About 4 blocks)

Duration: 6:00 - 9:00 PM. Boat departs at 7:00 PM

Cost: \$64.00 per person

More Information: <http://savannahriverboat.com/>

Tour "D" Daufuski Island

Friday September 26

Relax to the soothing sounds of the water as we travel by ferry from Hilton Head to Daufuskie Island. Our first stop is Freeport Marina. Here the oyster shell path leads us through the beautiful grounds and by the Old Daufuskie Crab House. Self-guided tour of the island on golf carts. Explore the beautiful beach, walk along the shore path, shop, or just relax. Watch for abundant wildlife, birds, and dolphins as we ferry back to the mainland. Ferry and golf cart rental is included in tour price. Lunch on your own.

Tour Time: 8:30 AM (Bus departs at 9:00 AM)

Duration: Return to hotel at 4:00 PM

Cost: \$78.00 per person

More Information: <http://www.daufuskiefreeport.com/tours-adventures.htm>

2014 REUNION REGISTRATION
USS Topeka CLG-8 Association
25th Annual Reunion, Savannah, GA September 23-27, 2014

Name _____ Number in party _____
 Staying at the reunion hotel: Inn at Ellis Square? _____
 What nights? Check: Tue ___ Wed ___ Thu ___ Fri ___ Sat ___
 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) (Name tags are provided free for first time attendees. For replacement name tags there will be a charge of \$4.00 per tag, payable at the reunion): Initial ___ Replacement ___

(Older pin-on and clip-on type name tags can be upgraded with magnetic clasps at no charge – contact Gary Baker at the reunion)

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

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

	Number Attending	Price (Per Person)	Cost
<u>Members and Adult-Guests, All four days</u> (Includes Buffet and Banquet)	_____	\$134	_____
<u>Members and Adult-Guests, Not all four days</u>			
Wednesday	_____	\$14	_____
Thursday	_____	\$14	_____
Friday (Includes Buffet)	_____	\$37	_____
Saturday (Includes Banquet)	_____	\$69	_____
<u>Guests (Not already included above) for only the Thursday Buffet and/or Friday Banquet</u>			
Friday Buffet:	_____	\$23	_____
Saturday Banquet:	_____	\$55	_____
		Total Reunion Fee	_____

Banquet Entrée Choices (give number for each)

Sliced Prime Rib _____
 Baked Marinated Salmon Fillet _____
 Vegetarian Plate _____

(Continued on Reverse Side)

Topeka 2014 Savannah, GA Reunion Registration (continued)

<u>Tour</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Cost</u>
“A” 8th Air Force Museum, Tybee Island, Fort Pulaski Wed 9 AM – 4 PM	_____	\$38	_____
“B” Old Town Trolley Thu (9 AM – 3 PM)	_____	\$30	_____
“C” Riverboat Dinner Cruise Thu 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM	_____	\$64.	_____
“D” Daufuskie Island Fri 9:00 AM – 4 PM	_____	\$78	_____
		Tour Cost	_____
		Reunion Fee (From First Page)	_____
		Total Cost	_____

Tours A & D are limited to 55 persons due to the size of the bus, so make your reservations early.

Deadline for payment and receipt of above costs is August 22, 2014, but please make your arrangements as soon as possible.

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: Inn at Ellis Square

Address: 201 W Bay Street, Savannah, GA 31401 Telephone: 912-236-4440

For Reservations, call the hotel room reservation department at **1-912-236-4440**, or toll free at **1-877-542-7666**, and ask for extension 147. Request the group rate for **USS Topeka Reunion**. Deadline for reservations is August 14, 2014, 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 \$104/day for a king double, and \$126/day for a king suite (Plus room tax of 13 % and a city charge of \$1.00/day)

The above group room rates will also be honored 2 days before and 2 days after the contracted dates (Sept 22 thru Sept 29).

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