

# USS TOPEKA CLG-8

## Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 26, No. 2

July 2015

### Officers:

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

Gary Baker, Secretary-Treasurer;

Kathy and Ray Spatz, 2015 Reunion Chairman;

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

Pat Baker, Ships Store



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Both of our sons are currently serving in the Navy. Sharon and I subscribe to The Navy Times. It's very interesting keeping up with what is going on in our military. I know I'll probably honk a few of you off, but I don't think our military men and women are very well respected by some senior members of our government, and that's a damn shame. That attitude flows down. Think I'd better stop now.

Am I the only one that seems to be busier in retirement than when I was working full time? When I was working sometimes I couldn't wait 'til getting back to the office on Monday to rest. It seems like I have a half dozen projects going at all times. Maybe I rest too much.

This is the last newsletter before our upcoming reunion in Colorado Springs. Kathy Spatz has another great time in store for us. So, if you haven't registered yet, please get your forms to Gary Baker and reserve your room. Invite an old shipmate.

We are looking forward to Colorado Springs in September. We all know what new law is on the books there. I've never tried the "stuff" and have no plans now. Each of you are on your own. From what I've seen on TV the stuff is expensive. I use my extra money on beer.

Hoping we have a large turnout for the reunion and hope to see all of you there.

Dan

### New Members (Since March 2015)

Robert F. Maclean EN3 65-67  
Donald Pauley Capt USMC 62-64  
Thales (Buster) Hunsaker BM3 63-66  
Charles Turner RM2 64-67

### Taps

Stanley H. Bronowski IC2 63-65  
Charles V. Guenther GMM3 60-64



### Tips for acclimating to varied elevations:

- Drink lots of water
- Wear lip balm and sunscreen
- Avoid strenuous exercise the first day
- Dress in layers for maximum comfort at different altitudes
- Limit alcohol and tobacco use

## **REUNION DATES: SEPT. 15<sup>TH</sup>-20<sup>TH</sup> 2015**

### **COLORADO SPRINGS MARRIOTT**

5580 TECH CENTER DRIVE  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

Room rate \$114.00 per night with full hot breakfast buffet for 2 guests included. This rate is available 3 days pre/post of contracted dates.

The reunion membership voted at the annual meeting in Savannah to head to Colorado Springs in 2015. Once again Ray and I will be your Reunion coordinators.

Colorado Springs Municipal Airport (COS) serves the Colorado Springs area. Five airlines serve the airport: American, Delta, United, Alaska, and Allegiant. The airport is about 17 road miles from the Marriott.

Complimentary shuttle service is available from the airport to the Marriott for the USS Topeka group. Shuttle reservations must be made at least one week prior to arrival. For shuttle reservations contact Conventions Service Manager Ray Martinez at 719-268-4220, or e-mail at [martinez@marriottcoloradosprings.com](mailto:martinez@marriottcoloradosprings.com). Be sure to mention that you are with USS Topeka Reunion group when you make shuttle reservations. Have your airline, flight number, and arrival date and time available when you make your reservation.

### **REUNION ROOM UPGRADES**

As part of our room contract negotiations with the Marriott in Colorado Springs we were given five room upgrades, from a standard king/double to a junior suite. One of these will be given to our hard-working reunion hosts, Kathy and Ray Spatz, and the other four will be given to reunion attendees by lottery. Everyone who has made their room reservations by July 31, 2015 will be entered in the lottery pool and four names will be drawn. Make your reservations early, here's a chance for a free upgrade

### **GARDEN OF THE GODS**

Our visit to the Garden of the Gods will start with a 14 minute HD movie that will significantly enhance our tour of the Garden.

Following the movie there will be an opportunity to visit the shops that highlight:

- American Indian jewelry
- American Indian pottery
- Porcelain sculptures
- Books
- Postcards
- Toys
- Food
- Gifts
- And famous Fudge made in their very own kitchen!

We will then return to bus with a trained Colorado naturalist who will give a 45 to 60-minute tour of the Garden of the Gods Park. This is a great follow-up to the theater program.

Following the tour we will return to the famous glassed in Café to enjoy lunch while enjoying a performance by the Native American Dancers. The dancers represent 4 generations of family members from the Pawnee, Flandreau Santee-Sioux, Crow Creek Sioux and Cheyenne River Sioux tribes, the Native American dances and stories come from several different tribes of the Plains region.



Following the Garden we will travel to Historic Old Colorado City. This city was founded in 1859 and is located on the west side of Colorado Springs. It was the first capital of the Territory of Colorado and the center of early settlement in the Pikes Peak region and designated a National Historic District in 1982. Our visit will be free time to enjoy the old brick structures, quaint alleyways that provide the setting for small thriving shops, boutiques, fine and cultural jewelry and galleries.

## **ROYAL GORGE ROUTE RAILROAD**



Established in 1879 - The Royal Gorge Route Railroad combines Colorado history, spectacular scenery, and unique dining options on a leisurely 2-hour journey through the breathtaking scenery of the Royal Gorge. The railroad is Colorado's oldest scenic railroad and has brought back a touch of class to the industry with a choice of six classes of service, including Colorado's only lunch & dinner trains. The Royal Gorge Route is located in Canon City, Colorado just 45-minutes southwest of Colorado Springs and 2-hours south of Denver.

The Royal Gorge Route Railroad was reestablished in the fall of 1998 and has become a premier destination attraction carrying over 100,000 guests through the Royal Gorge each year. This scenic railroad provides a quality experience, combining the spectacular scenery of the Royal Gorge, the nostalgia of 1950's train travel, with unique dining options and exceptional service. The Royal Gorge Route has been instrumental in preserving this breathtaking canyon and ensuring a vital part of Colorado history will be passed along to the next generation.

We will travel in a club car of our own, with the included lunch served at our tables.

Learn more about Colorado's most historic train route from your friendly server, who will also pick up your favorite drinks from this railroad's fully stocked bar, including locally produced wines from the award-winning Winery at Holy Cross Abbey (naturally this is an additional cost). You can make your way to the open-air car while enjoying both your beverage and breathtaking views.

### **Hospitality suite COS**

In preparing to stock the hospitality suite for the reunion in COS thought I would put it out there for suggestions on beverages and snacks. Email me any thoughts [kspatz@optonline.net](mailto:kspatz@optonline.net)

## **SHIP'S STORE**

The clothing close-out is in its final phase. All shirts are \$7.50, and the one remaining Jacket is \$20.00. All prices include postage. All clothing items will be brought to the Colorado Springs reunion and prices further reduced for the last time. Any inventory remaining after the reunion will be donated to a charitable institution. So, if you want a Topeka shirt, don't wait too long! There are still some Topeka drink koozy's, and some license plate frames that there is no demand for, and they will be given away at the reunion. The store will continue to stock ball caps, lapel pins, and jacket patches for the foreseeable future.

The ship's store is managed by Pat Baker. Her contact information is on the ship's store page of the website and the address page of the newsletter.

### **Membership and Dues**

Of the approximately one thousand active members of the USS Topeka CLG-8 Association there are only about one hundred seventy-five members whose dues are paid through 2015. Although dues are not mandatory to be a member of the association, they are the only source of funding for the day to day operation of the association.

Dues 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.

Your dues status is shown on the newsletter and the member's directory mailing label.

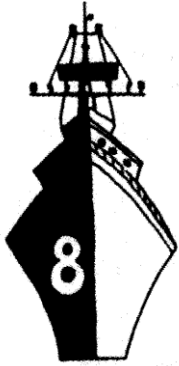
Ordinarily, members are dropped from the newsletter mailing list when dues are in arrears more than one year. On a one time basis, the July 2015 newsletter is also being sent to members paid through 2012 or 2013 in hopes of regaining some of our lost dues-paying members.

For questions regarding your dues status, E-Mail Gary Baker at [gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org](mailto:gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org), or call him at 406-252-4546. Dues are \$20 a year or five years for \$80. Dues should be sent to: Gary Baker, 1240 Lonesome Pine Lane, Billings, MT 59105.

## 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,  
Harold Jackson, 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)

#### 2015 Reunion Coordinator

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

#### Newsletter Editor

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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

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

**2015 REUNION REGISTRATION**  
**USS Topeka CLG-8 Association**  
**26th Annual Reunion, Colorado Springs, CO September 15-20, 2015**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number in party \_\_\_\_\_  
 Staying at Colorado Springs Marriott? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What nights? Check: Mon \_\_\_ 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
<b><u>Members and Adult-Guests, All four days</u></b> (Includes Buffet and Banquet)	_____	\$133	_____
<b><u>Members and Adult-Guests, Not all four days</u></b>			
Wednesday	_____	\$14	_____
Thursday	_____	\$14	_____
Friday (Includes Buffet )	_____	\$46	_____
Saturday (Includes Banquet)	_____	\$59	_____
<b><u>Guests (Not already included above) for only the Friday Buffet and/or Saturday Banquet</u></b>			
Friday Buffet:	_____	\$32	_____
Saturday Banquet:	_____	\$45	_____
<b>Total Reunion Fee</b>			_____

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

Broiled Top Sirloin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chef's Choice Tilapia \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vegetarian Wellington \_\_\_\_\_

(Continued on Reverse Side)

**Topeka 2015 Colorado Springs, CO Reunion Registration (continued)**

<b>Tour</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>“A” USAF Academy, Pioneer Museum</b> Wed 9 AM – 5 PM	_____	\$46	_____
<b>“B” Royal Gorge Railway</b> Thu (9 AM – 5 PM )	_____	\$88	_____
<b>“C” Garden of the Gods, Old Colorado City</b> Fri 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM	_____	\$53.	_____
	Tour Cost		_____
	Reunion Fee (From First Page)		_____
	<b>Total Cost</b>		_____

Tours 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 15 , 2015**, 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: Colorado Springs Marriott  
Address: 5580 Tech Center Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80919 Telephone: 1-719-260-1800

Our group room rates are \$114/day for a standard king/double room (Plus room tax of 9.63 % ) The group room rates will be honored from Sept 12 thru Sept 23. **Reservations must be made by August 22, 2015**

The preferred method of making reservations is on-line. Copy and paste, or type, this link in your browser: <http://www.usstopekaclg8.org/Reservations.htm> Reservations can also be made by calling toll free 1-800-932-2151. Be sure to ask for USS Topeka Reunion Block group rate. You will be asked for Arrival Date, Departure Date, Your Full Name, Number in your party, and Credit Card #.

Reservation made before July 31 will be eligible for a drawing for a free up-grade to a junior suite.

When using the on-line reservation link you will notice that it says no shuttle service available from Colorado Springs Airport. Ignore it, there is a complimentary shuttle for the USS Topeka Block group. **Shuttle reservations must be made at least one week prior to arrival date.** Call Conventions Service Manager Ray Martinez at 719-268-4220, or e-mail at [martinez@marriottcoloradosprings.com](mailto:martinez@marriottcoloradosprings.com). Be sure to mention that it is for the USS Topeka Reunion Block.

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)