

# USS TOPEKA CLG-8

## Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 26, No. 1

March 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

Although it's only March, preparations are well underway for the September reunion in Colorado Springs. Kathy and Ray will be providing updates frequently on our website. Some nice tours are already arranged. Hotel information is also available.

One of my favorite television shows is the "Five" on Fox. Last week the hosts were asked, "What was the most disgusting food they had ever eaten in their travels?" Bob Beckel said, "Baluts in the Philippines". Now, that's a word I hadn't heard in 50 years. No, I never tried one and not wanting to offend any of our Philippino shipmates, I have to say trying one is not on my bucket list. If any of you tried one, please refrain from telling me about it. For those of you who don't know what they are, Google it. Enough said.....

The hardest thing about writing this article is not to offend anyone. A number of topics are certainly taboo, as we are such a diverse group. We live in different regions of the country have our own interests and opinions about a number of subjects. That is what makes our group and our country great. When we were serving on the Topeka we all probably had different plans for the rest of our lives. Many of you became career sailors. I find that very admirable and wished I were receiving a monthly check like you. You earned it. Me, I was happy with my career choice. It was the right decision for me.

Sharon and I are looking forward to seeing everyone this September in Colorado. Although it pretty much signals the end of summer for us here in Northern Indiana we start planning the trip early as we always enjoy it. So, plan to meet us there!!!!

On a more serious note, you've probably heard that Montana is talking about banning yoga pants. (LOL) If they do, maybe Gary Baker will wear his in Colorado.

Remember: The best cure for sea sickness is to sit under a tree.

Warm regards to all.

Dan

### NEW MEMBERS (since November 2014)

Mike Thompson SN 67-69

### TAPS

Woody N. York LT 60-61

Matthew F. Fitzpatrick FTM3 63-65

Donald Habener RD1 59-62

Earl Caywood FTM1 62-68

William Balfanz CS2 62-66



## **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



### **AIR FORCE ACADEMY CADET CHAPEL**

Visit the United States Air Force Academy to see where young men and women are developed into leaders of character for our Air Force and nation.

Enjoy the natural beauty of the Front Range as you take a guided tour of the campus. During your tour, be sure to visit the Barry Goldwater Visitor Center to learn about the cadet experience, pickup a souvenir at the Team Store and tour Colorado's number one manmade tourist attraction, the Cadet Chapel.

After our guided tour of the Chapel and surrounding grounds we will enjoy lunch at the Falcon Club located on Academy Drive on the grounds of the Academy. I have decided on the Deluxe Deli Buffet for our meal.

After lunch we will travel a short distance to the Pioneer Museum in downtown Colorado Springs. The museum is the only institution in the area that comprehensively collects and exhibits the history of the Pikes Peak Region. It is housed in the elegant 1903 El Paso County Courthouse, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The exhibits include Journey to Pikes Peak, Behind the Lens: Photography in the Pikes Peak Region and Health in the Pikes Peak Region. This is a self-guided tour to allow you to take as much time or not on personal points of interest.

## **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.

### **EDITORS NOTE**

I am extremely excited about all the tours. Look for information on the Friday tour to Garden of the Gods and Old Colorado City in the next newsletter.

## **SHIP'S STORE**

The closeout of all clothing items continues in the Ship's Store. Prices have been cut again and all men's and women's shirts are now only \$7.50! The one remaining lady's jacket has been reduced from \$30 to \$20. These are some great bargains and all prices include postage!

The USS Topeka ball caps are now back in stock and are available for only \$12.

All prices include shipping and handling. Items can be ordered from the ship's store page of the website, accessible from the home page, ([usstopekaclg8.org](http://usstopekaclg8.org)). The store will continue to stock caps, lapel pins, and patches. Also, responsibility for the ship's store has been assumed 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 and forty 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.

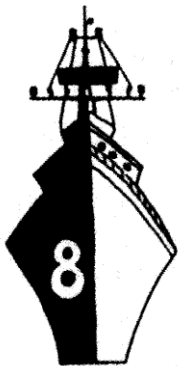
If you don't receive the newsletter or directory and want to check on your dues status, E-Mail Gary Baker at [gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org](mailto:gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org), or call him at 406-252-4546. Dues are \$20 a year or five years for \$80. Dues should be sent to: Gary Baker, 1240 Lonesome Pine Lane, Billings, MT 59105.

### **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.

## 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@optoline.net](mailto:kspatz@optoline.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.

	<b>Number Attending</b>	<b>Price</b> (Per Person)	<b>Cost</b>
<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)