

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 26, No. 3

November 2015

Officers:

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

Gary Baker, Secretary-Treasurer;

Ruth Judge, 2016 Reunion Chairman;

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

Pat Baker, Ships Store



FROM THE PRESIDENT

If you missed our reunion in Colorado Springs, you missed a wonderful time. The accommodations, tours and food were great. A big thanks to Kathy and Ray Spatz, Pat and Gary Baker for all the hard work they put in. Without folks like them, there would be no reunions.

Now that being said, some of us were disappointed with the turnout. We had an average of 65 for the buffet and banquet. The DD O'Brien held their reunion at the same time, but had a larger turnout than us. I publish notices in the American Legion magazine, VFW magazine and the Cruiser Association magazine. We send newsletters and constantly update our website. I don't have answers to improve our attendance. **HELP!!!!** Everyone has a directory. How about contacting an old shipmate and inviting them?

The 2016 reunion will be held in Sedona, AZ. Ruth Judge is already working on all the details. Sedona is a very beautiful area and we again expect to have a great time. There will be information forthcoming as plans come together. **WE NEED YOU THERE!!!!!!!!!!**

A special thanks to Cyndi Johansen for giving everyone a little pot at the banquet.

Happy holidays to all.

Dan

NEW MEMBERS (SINCE JULY 2015)

Bryan Laney ETR3 64-65

Agripino Mallari SF1 61-64

Niles Seaberg YN3 64-67

TAPS

Daniel L. Callihan GMSN 61-62

Edward M. Loughry LTJG 64-66





USS TOPEKA 27TH ANNUAL REUNION

Sedona, Arizona

Sunday 09-25-16 to Friday 09-30-16

Radisson Poco Diablo Resort

Sedona has many names, The Verde Valley, Oak Creek Canyon and the Most Beautiful Place in the World!

Our reunion is booked at the Radisson's Poco Diablo (little devil) Resort which offers 3,300 square feet of indoor space and 2,500 square feet of outdoor space. We will have our Buffet on the Canopy Patio that overlooks the beautiful grounds which include an executive golf course, running streams, beautiful fountains and gorgeous red rocks. The Resort is located in close proximity to a variety of area restaurants and shops. The Resort restaurant is open daily along with full room service. The 10th Hole Lounge offers large screen TV and exceptional food.

All the guestrooms are spacious, featuring private balconies or patios, luxurious guest robes, flat screen TV, work station with high-speed internet, mini-refrigerators, coffee makers and resort amenities. In addition there are four tennis courts, heated swimming pool, an outdoor whirlpool, fitness center and on-staff massage therapist.

Sedona sits at an elevation of 4,500 feet with towering red rock mountains that provide some of the most inspiring scenery in the southwest. Some of the rock formations you will enjoy are Cathedral Rock, Bell Rock, Courthouse Rock, The Three Wise Men, Tea Pot, Snoopy and many others. The grandest spectacle of them all is the Chapel of the Holy Cross, a non-denominational chapel built in 1953 that defies the rocks with its man-made beauty. There are some great hiking trails up to the rocks, also several Indian Vortexes which are "power points" of energy. These vortexes are outlined by a circle of rocks; there is one at Bell Rock, Boynton Canyon, Airport Mesa and Cathedral Rock. Explore Uptown Sedona where you can experience many

unique shops, galleries and dining. On your own Jeep excursions are a fantastic way to enjoy the beautiful red rocks.

TOURS:

MONDAY: Fort Verde State Historical Park and Yavapai/Apache Museum and Visitors Center at the entrance to Montezuma Castle National Monument. Fort Verde was built in 1871 to subdue the Indians...a sad exhibit of American History.

TUESDAY: Historic Jerome, Arizona. In 1876 mining started in Jerome with just a few settlers and the historic United Verde Copper Mine began. In 1883 it was given the official name of Jerome, with approximately 500 in population. In 1894 William A Clark built a smelter and Jerome became the 4th largest city in Arizona. Once they discovered ore beneath the smelter, it was closed down and a larger smelter rebuilt in the company town of Clarkdale. By the 1950's the ore was mined out and the mine closed. In 1953 Jerome was considered a Ghost Town with very few living there. In 1962 Jerome had a rebirth with artists and is now thriving. Tour will include Jerome, Clarkdale, and Tuzigoot National Monument with Indian ruins from those that lived in the valley 2 millennium ago.

WEDNESDAY: Sedona area tour with a visit to Chapel of the Holy Cross and lunch in Uptown Sedona. Dinner Buffet at Poco Diablo.

THURSDAY: Annual meeting of USS Topeka members, group pictures and then free time. Dinner Banquet at Poco Diablo.

****NOTE:** Trip to the Grand Canyon. This is a 2 hour trip up and 2 hours back, if you never been there it is a breathtaking experience. I can get different size vans for the tour, if there is enough interest it can be arrange for any day instead of scheduled tours. Please email me at rajtr@cox.net if you are interested.

Room rates:

Traditional Room \$139; Deluxe \$149; Poco King \$169; plus a 13.4% local tax and a \$10.00 per day resort fee.

Reunion reservation information, including on-line reservation link, and reservation phone number is available on the 2016 Reunion page on the USS Topeka Association website at <http://usstopekacglg8.org>.

WHO CAME TO COLORADO SPRINGS

John Attey and Sandra
Gary Baker and Pat
Edward Bennet and Quay
James Bennet and Sharon
Parker Butcher and Jean Bredensteiner
Dudley Cass and Ruth
Douglas Cox
Jerry Craig
Jay Davis and Tana
Charlie Deering and Jill
Albert Gustafson and Catherine
Jim Henslee
Mike Hight
Arnold Hoel and Marion
Daniel Johansen and Cyndi
Terry Jones and Patty
Ruth Judge and Barbara, Claudia, Gilby (Her 'Posse')
Dave Kloosterman and Sylvia
Ken Kucin and Irene
Cal Ladd and Joan
John McCabe and Diane
Daniel Moore and Sharon
Jerry Pennington and Leanne
Robby Robbins and Bell
Ray Spatz and Kathy
Jimmy Starr and Rita
Paul Stein and Joyce
Jerry (Vic) Tanner and Patricia
Bill Thompson and Gail
Jean Timmons
Ted Van Hintum and Tricia
John Woolston and Bridgett
Bud Zimmerman and Ellen

Ray and I truly enjoyed hosting the reunion in Colorado Springs. The Marriott was a pleasure to work with and very accommodating. The breakfast was just wonderful and a great start to our busy days of touring.

All the tours were terrific, the favorite being the Royal Gorge Railroad. Having lunch included in each tour was a bonus also and made for a relaxing day.

We want to give a huge thanks and hugs to Pat and Gary Baker, you are just wonderful to work with.

Hope to see you all next year in Sedona, AZ!

SHIP'S STORE

All clothing items are out of stock and have been discontinued. The store will continue to stock ball caps, lapel pins, jacket patches, and license plate frames.

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

Please check the mailing label on the newsletter for your dues status. If you are not paid through 2015 you will not receive the 2016 Member Directory or any newsletters in 2016 until your dues are current. Dues in arrears are forgiven, so any past dues paid now are applied to the 2016 calendar year. Dues are \$20.00 per year or \$80 for 5 years. Dues should be made payable to USS Topeka CLG-8 Association and mailed to Gary Baker at the address shown on address page of the newsletter.

ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL REPORTS

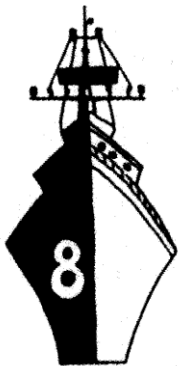
The annual financial reports are sent to the president and board members every January. They are also presented to the members at the business meeting during the annual reunion. All members of the association are entitled to the reports, and if you would like a copy e-mailed to you, please contact Gary Baker at gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org to be put on the mailing list. Here's your opportunity to see where your dues money goes!

AGENT ORANGE UPDATE

The U. S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claim has ruled against the VA saying their contention that Da Nang harbor was not an inland waterway for purposes of presumption of Agent Orange exposure was 'capricious and arbitrary'. The VA now has to re-define the line between inland waterway and deep water harbor. This gives some hope to those who had their claims for Agent Orange denied. Here's a link for more information on this ruling: <https://www.hillandponton.com/da-nang-harbor-case/>. Be sure to also click on the BLOG button on this site for more recent updates, and advice on filing claims.

USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION

C/O Gary Baker
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TEMP – RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Harold Jackson, Dan Moore, John Reynolds, Ray Spatz

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Cyndi Johansen on the Falcon Football field!

