

# USS TOPEKA CLG-8

## Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 27, No. 2

July 2016

### 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

The 2016 reunion in Sedona, Arizona is fast approaching. I'm a little disappointed with the number of registrations thus far. Ruth Judge has planned a great event for us. You will be visiting one of the most beautiful spots on the planet. Sedona is about 4,300 feet above sea level (Altitude Sickness generally occurs around 8,000 feet) and the temperatures in late September will be highs in the 70's to low 80's and lows around 60. The resort we're staying at is really nice. So, let's get registered, please. We want each and everyone to attend.

A reminder to all is that we have a web-site and Facebook page. They are:

<http://www.usstopekaclg8.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/USS-Topeka-Clg-8-Association/288604944574666>

Gary Baker is constantly updating the web-site with current information. Also hopefully soon there will be more information coming regarding Agent Orange and the Blue Water bills.

As we get older sometimes we need to make changes in our life style. I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row. But, I did decide to stop calling the bathroom "the John" and renamed it "the Jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning. Now, the biggest lie we tell ourselves is: "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it". Special thanks to Kathy Spatz and Gary Baker for putting together our newsletter each quarter.

Hope to see you in Sedona. If you have any questions please feel free to call Ruth Judge, Gary Baker or myself.

Dan

### NEW MEMBERS (SINCE March 2016)

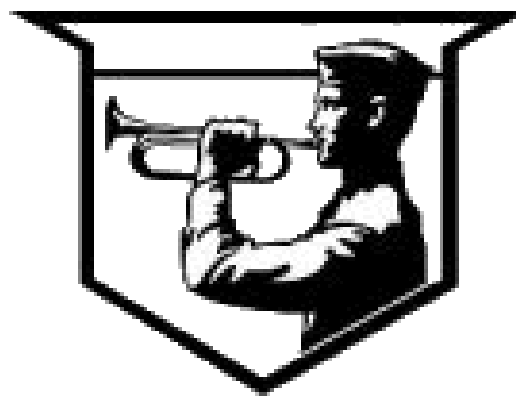
David A. Ritter EM2 59-63

Michael Funderburg CPL 64-67

### TAPS

Kenneth W. Noble RD2 59-63

Ronald C. Smart RD3 59-62



## USS TOPEKA 27TH ANNUAL REUNION

### **Poco Diablo Resort Sedona, Arizona**

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

Room rates:

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

Any updated reunion reservation information is available on the USS Topeka Association website at <http://usstopekaclg8.org>.

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

Our reunion is booked at the 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:

### Tour A

**MONDAY:** SEDONA (FOUNDED 1902) Sightseeing this beautiful area. Featuring Boynton Canyon, history of movie making in Sedona, Indian Lore, Chapel of the Holy Cross, Cathedral Rock on the Magic Trolley with a break for **Lunch on your own** and shopping in Uptown Sedona.

### Tour B

**TUESDAY:** FORT VERDE (FOUNDED 1871) State Historical Park with docents to guide us in the history of the Fort and even a lesson in making Adobe Clay with Ranger Robert.

**Lunch on your own** in Quaint Camp Verde (menus in the hospitality room) and then a visit to Montezuma Castle National Monument.

Since this is a National Park they were not able to reduce the entrance fee of \$10 **BUT** many of you have Golden Age Passes with lifetime admission to all National Parks SO you and 3 others can go in on one pass. Gary mentioned this in his reunion registration, if you have a pass please bring it, if not you can buy one here, or there is a small museum you can wait in. We will count the number of passes times 3 and that many people can go in free. If you have one **PLEASE BRING IT WITH YOU!**

### Tour C

**Wednesday:** JEROME (founded 1871)

Officially named in 1883 with 550 residents, by 1903 there were 15,000 residents and by 1953 a ghost town with about 100 residents. **Lunch at the highly recommended MILE HIGH CAFÉ**, we who visited can vouch for this.

**CLARKDALE (FOUNDED 1912)** A Copper Smelting Town built by William A. Clark and totally owned by the company with houses and businesses assigned by the company. **This evening Buffett 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 arranged for any day instead of scheduled tours. Please email me at [rajtr@cox.net](mailto:rajtr@cox.net) if you are interested.

### **Who's Coming to Sedona?**

Updated 06/18/2016

Pat and Gary Baker  
Jerry Craig  
Tana and Jay Davis  
Catherine and Al Gustafson  
James & Peggy Henslee  
Ruth Judge and her Posse (Barbara, Claudia and Gilby)  
Sharon and Dan Moore  
Mimi and Courtney Rudin  
Kathy and Ray Spatz  
Jeanne Timmons  
Chris and Mike Thompson

### **MEMBERSHIP AND DUES**

Our dues-paying membership continues to decline. As of June, we only have 174 members whose dues are paid through 2016 and beyond. Normally members who haven't paid dues for the past two years are dropped from the newsletter and directory mailing lists. In an effort to regain some of our dues-paying members, the July newsletter is also being sent to those members who paid dues in 2013 or 2014 but haven't kept current since then. Past dues are forgiven, so any dues received now are applied to the current year. Dues are \$20 annually or \$80 for five years.

### **GIVING BACK**

Over the past several years the association has accumulated a considerable surplus in the reunion fund. It is time to return some of this to our members. With the concurrence of the board of directors the association will absorb \$2,000 of the fixed costs of the 2016 reunion in Sedona. Hopefully this will alleviate some of the concerns about the higher costs of this year's reunion and stimulate attendance.

### **AGENT ORANGE UPDATE.**

The following was provided by Dennis Franklin DK3 65-66. Thanks, Dennis, for passing this along. I think we should all contact our Senators and urge their support for this.

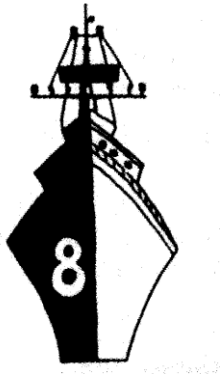
Agent Orange Reform in MilCon/VA Appropriations Bill (copied from the VNVets email)

The House approved an amendment to its version of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs (MilCon/VA) appropriations bill (H.R. 4974) that would extend presumptive service connection for conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure to Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) currently presumes any service member who had boots on the ground or served on Vietnam's inland waterways was exposed to Agent Orange. If these veterans experience health problems related to that exposure, they are eligible for VA disability benefits. The policy, however, denies this presumption to veterans who served off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam, even though many of these so-called "Blue Water Navy" veterans are experiencing the same exposure-related health problems as those who served inland.

The passage of this amendment, sponsored by Rep. Chris Gibson (NY), is a major step forward for Blue Water Navy veterans, who should be eligible for presumptive exposure to Agent Orange. The Senate passed its version of the MilCon/VA spending bill, without this provision. There will be a conference committee appointed to resolve the differences between the House and Senate bills. Members and others are strongly urged to use the FRA Action Center at [action.fra.org/action-center/](http://action.fra.org/action-center/) to ask their senators to support this House provision in the final version of the bill, which will be voted on by both chambers and, if approved, sent to the President to be signed into law or vetoed.

## 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)

#### 2016 Reunion Coordinator

Ruth Judge, 68 East Sierra Way, Chula Vista, CA 91911;  
619-422-0761 [rajtr@cox.net](mailto:rajtr@cox.net)

#### Newsletter Editor

Kathy Spatz, 503 Olive Blvd., So. Hempstead, NY 11550;  
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#### Webmaster

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#### Ships Store

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

### 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 you dues are current. Dues in arrears are forgiven, so any 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.

**2016 REUNION REGISTRATION**  
**USS Topeka CLG-8 Association**  
**28th Annual Reunion, Sedona, AZ September 25-30, 2016**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number in party \_\_\_\_\_  
 Staying at Poco Diablo Resort? \_\_\_\_\_  
 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) (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.

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

	<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)	_____	\$142	_____
<b><u>Members and Adult-Guests, Not all four days</u></b>			
Monday	_____	\$10	_____
Tuesday	_____	\$10	_____
Wednesday (Includes Buffet)	_____	\$53	_____
Thursday (Includes Banquet)	_____	\$69	_____

**Guests (Not already included above) for only the Wednesday Buffet and/or Thursday Banquet**

Wednesday Buffet:	_____	\$43	_____
Thursday Banquet:	_____	\$59	_____

**Total Reunion Fee** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Beef Medallions \_\_\_\_\_  
 Saguaro Salmon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chef's Choice Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

(Continued on Reverse Side)

**Topeka 2016 Sedona, AZ 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” Sedona &amp; Vicinity</b> Mon (9:30 AM – 2:30 PM) (Lunch not included)	_____	\$27	_____
<b>“B” Fort Verde &amp; Montezuma’s Castle</b> Tue (9:30 AM – 3:30 PM ) (See Note B)	_____	\$37	_____
<b>“C” Historic Jerome</b> Wed ( 9:00 AM – 3:15 PM ) (Lunch included)	_____	\$54	_____
	Tour Cost		_____
	Reunion Fee (From First Page)		_____
	<b>Total Cost</b>		_____

Space is limited on all tours due to the size of the buses, so make your plans early.

**Note B:** Tour “B” **Does not** include lunch. It also **does not include entry fee** to Montezuma’s Castle National Monument. It is part of the National Park System and many of you already have the Golden Age Passport which allows free entry to all national parks and monuments. The entry fee to Montezuma’s Castle is \$10.00 a person, but the Golden Age Passport is also \$10.00, and it allows lifetime entry to all the National Park System for yourself and three others. Passport may be purchased at the Monument. **If you already have a Golden Age Passport please bring it.**

**Deadline for payment and receipt of above costs is August 25 , 2016**, 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: Poco Diablo Resort  
Address: 1752 State Route 179, Sedona, AZ 86336 Telephone: 1-928-282-7333

Our group room rates are \$139/day for Traditional King or Double Queen room and \$169/day for a Poco King room (Plus room tax of 13.4 % and \$10.00 Resort Fee.) The group room rates will be honored from Sept 23 thru Oct 3. **Reservations must be made by August 25, 2016.**

Hotel reservations can be made on-line for the period September 25<sup>th</sup> through September 29<sup>th</sup>. Copy and paste, or type, this link in your browser: <http://www.usstopekaclg8.org/Reservations.htm>. Reservations can also be made by calling the hotel directly at 1-928-203-5923. Be sure to ask for USS Topeka Reunion group rate.

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).