

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 28, No. 1

March 2017

Officers:

Dan Moore, Chairman, Board of Directors; Dan Moore, President;
Gary Baker, Secretary-Treasurer;
Al Gustafson 2017 Reunion Chairman;
Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Gary Baker, Web Master;
Pat Baker, Ships Store



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring, Summer & Fall.... Just seven months and we'll be gathering again in Buffalo, NY. The reunion schedule "Gus" has put together for us looks really great. Check it out and make your hotel reservations.

Our numbers were down at the Sedona reunion. The Board is asking for everyone to attempt to contact a shipmate and invite them to Buffalo. If you have never attended a reunion, make Buffalo your first. At least the tour of the Little Rock will bring back memories, mostly fond, I hope.

Really looking for the Niagara Falls trip. If you wish to see the Falls from the Canadian side, bring your passport.

A famous admiral and an equally famous general were fishing together when a sudden squall came up. When it died down both eminent warriors were struggling helplessly in the water. The admiral floundered his way back to the boat and pulled himself painfully in. Then he fished out the general, using an oar.

Catching his breath, he puffed: "Please don't say a word about this to anyone. If the Navy found I can't swim I'd be disgraced." "Don't worry," the general said. "Your secret is safe. I'd hate to have my men find out I can't walk on water." Have a great Summer.... See ya'll in Buffalo.

Dan

New Members (Since November 2017)

Richard Duree CS3 62-62

Taps

Allan Lyman PFC 66-68
Marvin Soderquist LCPL 66-6-
Ernie Kershaw BT2 59-63
James Mahoney HM3 59-61
Thomas Henrichs SHB3 63-69
Timothy Stickney IC2 59-62
Jack Walkins LTJG 62-64
Henry Snyder BT3 60-62
Gary Duncan SN 62-64
James Pflieger LTJG 62-65
Jack Bock LTJG 62-65



USS TOPEKA 28TH ANNUAL REUNION

Reunion Dates:

**Monday, September 18, 2017 through
Thursday, September 21, 2017**



Al (Gus) and Cathy Gustafson are our hosts for the 2017 reunion. They are long-time residents of Buffalo, so have an intimate knowledge of the Buffalo area and its attractions. Gus may be contacted at gus127@verizon.net or 716-648-5960 for any questions or information.

Our hotel is the beautiful newly-renovated Buffalo Millennium Hotel. Room rates are \$117.00 per night for a Deluxe Room, \$127 for a Deluxe Courtyard Room, and \$199 for a Suite. All rooms are subject to a 13.75% tax. Parking at the hotel is complimentary. The group rate will apply for two days before and after the reunion.

Reservations must be made no later than August 4, 2017. After that date the room block will be released and there is no guarantee you will be able to book a room. **Please** make your reservations as soon as you can. We have to let the hotel know 60 days before our arrival date if we can't make our room night commitment. Otherwise we'll be liable for penalties. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel reservation line at 1-800-323-3331. Be sure to ask for the USS Topeka Reunion group rate. The Courtyard and Suite rooms are based on availability, so make reservations for these rooms extremely early.

For early arrivals the hospitality room will be opened Sunday afternoon, September 17, at no extra charge.

Tour "A" Lockport Locks & Erie Canal & New York Beer Project

Experience "Life in the Past Lane" when you get on board for your cruise on the historic Erie Canal, a 363-mile waterway between the Hudson River with Niagara River and the Great Lakes and an important part of American history.



Your fun and informative cruise will take you past five of the original 1800's locks. Three million gallons of water will fill Locks 34 & 35, the only double set on the Erie Canal, and raise the boat 50 feet. You'll pass under Lockport's "Upside Down Bridge," Lockport's "Big Bridge" (the widest bridge in the U.S. at 299 feet wide), through the "deep rock cut" and under lift bridges. The lively narration by the Coast Guard Licensed Captains is also accompanied by crowd-pleasing canal music, popular during the 1800's.

New York Brewing Project Tour Experience

Our hour long all access tour includes a little history, science, laughs, and of course- BEER! Guests will enjoy 5 tastes of NYBP beers in a souvenir "Can style" logo tasting glass that you can sip during the tour, and an additional fifth 5 oz. sample at the end.



Tour "B" Niagara Falls State Park

Fun Facts About the Falls

- Niagara Falls is comprised of three waterfalls: American Falls, Bridal Veil Falls and Horseshoe Falls, also known as the Canadian Falls.
- Niagara Falls' vertical height is over 176 feet in some sections.
- The birth of Niagara Falls can be traced back more than 12,000 years to the end of the last glacial period. A great amount of water was released from the melting ice, draining into what is now the Niagara River and then plunging over the edge of the Niagara Escarpment, a cliff at what is now Lewiston, New York. The force of this plunging water wore away at rock layers creating the now Niagara Falls.
- During periods of peak flow in the summer and fall, more than 700,000 gallons of water per second pour over Niagara Falls.
- Four of the five Great Lakes drain into the Niagara River, (Superior, Michigan, Huron and Erie) before emptying into Lake Ontario. These five Great Lakes make up almost one-fifth of the world's fresh water supply.
- Niagara Falls is not the tallest waterfall in the world; however, the beauty of the falls comes from the height and the incredible volume of water running over the falls at a given time.
- Fish travel over Niagara Falls and most of them survive because of their ability to flow with the water and fall into the pool at the base of the Falls. Although they may be a bit shocked, fish can survive the Falls much better than any human.
- At one time, P.T. Barnum wanted to turn Goat Island (inside Niagara Falls State Park) into a circus ground.
- Energy from the Niagara River has been harnessed for hydro-electric power generation as far back as the mid-eighteenth century.
- Power generation facilities along the Niagara River supply more than one-quarter of all power used in New York State and Ontario.

Maid of the Mist



Tour "C" Buffalo Naval & Military Park

The Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park is a museum on the shore of Lake Erie in Buffalo, New York. It is home to several decommissioned US Naval vessels, including the Cleveland-class cruiser USS Little Rock, the Fletcher-class destroyer USS The Sullivans, and the submarine USS Croaker. Along with the ships, there are a variety of smaller vehicles, vessels, and aircraft on display at the park.

Who's Coming to Buffalo?

Pat & Gary Baker
Al & Cathy Gustafuson
Ruth Judge and her "Posse"
Sharon & Dan Moore
Kathy & Ray Spatz

Agent Orange Update

The 114th Congress adjourned without any action on Senate Bill S681 or House Bill HR969 (The Blue Water Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015).

Representative David Valado (Rep CA) has introduced HR299 (The Blue Water Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017) to the 115th Congress, and it already has 194 co-sponsors. No information yet on a Senate version of the bill.

I urge all of our members to go to <http://www.congress.gov>, enter HR299 in the search field and see if your representative is a co-sponsor of this vital bill. If they are not, go to <http://www.gov.congress/members> and find the contact information for your representative and ask them to co-sponsor or support HR299.

USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION

C/O Gary Baker
1240 Lonesome Pine Lane
Billings, MT 59105

TEMP – RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Ray Spatz

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Ships Store

Pat Baker, 1240 Lonesome Pine Ln, Billings, MT 59105
406-252-4546; pbaker@usstopekaclg8.org

SHIP'S STORE

The store will continue to stock ball caps, lapel pins, jacket patches, and license plate frames.

NEW! 6th Fleet and 7th Fleet bumper stickers have been added to the store inventory

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

As of February we only have 163 members whose dues are current through 2017 and beyond. If your dues are paid through 2016, you will still receive the newsletter, but please help keep our Association stay financially healthy and bring your dues up to date.

Past dues are forgiven, so any dues received now are applied to 2017. Dues are \$20 annually or \$80 for five years.

2017 REUNION REGISTRATION
USS Topeka CLG-8 Association
29th Annual Reunion, Buffalo, NY September 18-21, 2017

Name _____ Number in party _____
 Staying at Buffalo Millennium Hotel? _____
 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 name tag(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 ___
 Name 1 _____
 Name 2 _____
 (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.

	Number Attending	Price (Per Person)	Cost
<u>Members and Adult-Guests, All four days</u> (Does Not Include Banquet)	_____	\$76	_____
<u>Members and Adult-Guests, Not all four days</u>			
Monday	_____	\$12	_____
Tuesday	_____	\$12	_____
Wednesday (Includes Buffet)	_____	\$40	_____
Thursday (Does Not Include Banquet)	_____	\$12	_____
<u>Guests (Not already included above) for only the Wednesday Buffet</u>			
Wednesday Buffet:	_____	\$28	_____
<u>Banquet Entrée Choices (Give number for each)</u> (Due to price differences no last minute substitutions will be allowed.)			
Filet of Sirloin	_____	\$38	_____
Scampi Over Angel Hair Pasta	_____	\$38	_____
Chicken Cordon Bleu	_____	\$30	_____
Oriental Vegetarian Stir Fry	_____	\$24	_____

NOTE: Buffet and Banquet prices **Do Not** include tip.
 Please tip what you feel is appropriate for the service you received.

Total Reunion Fee _____

(Continued on Reverse Side)

Topeka 2017 Buffalo Reunion Registration (continued)

<u>Tour</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Cost</u>
“A” Lockport Locks & Brewery Mon (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM) (Lunch Included)	_____	\$65	_____
“B” Niagara Falls Tue (9:00 AM – 3:30 PM) (Lunch Not Included)	_____	\$38	_____
“C” Naval Park & USS Little Rock CLG-4 Wed (9:30 AM – 2:30 PM) (Lunch included)	_____	\$50	_____
	Tour Cost		_____
	Reunion Fee (From First Page)		_____
	Total Cost		_____

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

Deadline for payment and receipt of above costs is August 4 , 2017, 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: Buffalo Millennium Hotel
Address: 2040 Walden Ave, Buffalo, NY 14225 Telephone: 716-681-2400

Our group room rates are \$117/day for a Deluxe room, \$127/day for a Deluxe Courtyard room, and \$199/day for a Suite (Plus room tax of 13.75 %). The group room rates will be honored from Sept 15 thru Sept 23.

Reservations must be made by August 4, 2017. After that date the room block will be released and there is no guarantee you'll be able to book a room.

Hotel reservations can be made by calling the hotel reservation line at 1-800-323-3331. 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.