

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 33, No. 2

July 2022



Officers:

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

Greetings Shipmates

Hello from Western New York. We have had a typical really cold and crummy April but May was much better. I am busy getting my outside chores done and am looking forward to a little trout fishing now that the weather has warmed up. I hope you are all well and enjoying the Spring weather wherever you are. Cathy and I have all our reservations set for the Portland reunion and can't wait to travel again. Cyndi and Dan have made great plans and this should be one of our best reunions ever. Whether or not you have ever toured New England don't miss this one!

For those of you who may not have heard, our long time President's wife and our good friend Sharon Moore passed away on May 8th after a short illness. I am sure that all of us wish Dan and his family all the best during this difficult time. I've realized that, while life must go on, memories of our friends and loved ones go on forever.

Some of you may have heard that the USS Sullivans which is at the Naval Park here in Buffalo sank at the pier this spring. Those of you who came to the Buffalo Reunion may remember touring this historic ship. She was listing to starboard about 30 degrees and things looked really bad. Divers discovered and patched over 50 small holes and the ship has been pumped out and is now sitting upright. The museum is doing clean up and trying to save as many historic documents and artifacts as possible. The permanent solution to save the ship is currently being determined. Some ideas include building a coffer dam around the ship and displaying it out of the water or towing it to Erie PA (the closest drydock) for repairs. Moving the ship would require temporarily relocating

the other 2 ships on display. I did not realize that Tin Cans have much thinner hulls than other Navy vessels which is part of the problem. Fortunately, some local businesses have expressed interest in helping to save the ship. I hope they are successful as the loss of this historic vessel would be very sad.

I have never visited Portland myself but have talked to many friends who have vacationed in this area, everyone said they had a great time visiting this historic city and the surrounding area. Great food, lots to do and see. I want to encourage all who are able to come in September. Please get your registration forms to Gary and make your hotel reservations as soon as possible.

In closing a special thanks to Cyndi and Dan for all of your hard work on this year's reunion. Also, to Gary and Pat Baker as well as Kathy Spatz for their constant support and work on behalf of our group.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Portland.

Fair winds and Following Seas

Gus

Editors note: I heard from Cyndi Johansen that there will be a fantastic welcome package unlike any other we have had; full of goodies that she thinks everyone will use and love. There will be several give away items all in one great backpack!

Thank you, Cyndi, I am so looking forward to Portland after 3 years of no reunions.

New Members (Since March 2022)

Ronald Wolf SF3 66-69
James Orrico DC3 63-67

Taps

Michael Thompson SN 67-69
John Wilms DK2 65-67
Ransel Begin GMG3 63-66
Rudy McAfee LT 62-65
Will Hays LT 60-61
Gerald Hakari EM2 60-61
George Brown SN 62-64

Reunion Dates:

Monday, September 12, 2022 through Friday, September 16, 2022

Cyndi and Dan Johansen are our hosts for the Portland reunion. Cyndi grew up in Northern Maine, and has lived in Portland so she knows the area quite well. She and Dan are going all-out to make this a memorable reunion. E-mail them [Here](#) or call them at 970-568-7742 for any questions or information.

Located on Main Street, South Portland, Maine, right off Interstate 95, the Best Western Merry Manor Inn invites you to come relax with us at one of Portland Maine's finest lodging facilities. Our group rates are \$116 (Taxes included) for single King and double Queen rooms. **Reservations must be made by August 15th, 2022.** The group rate is good for 3 days before and after the reunion. **Hotel reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at 207-774-6151. Be sure to ask for the USS Topeka CLG-8 Reunion group rate.**

The Merry Manor Inn specializes in military reunions, and has a long list of very satisfied military reunion customers.

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

Check In: 3:00 p.m. **Check Out:** 11:00 a.m.
Airports: Portland International Airport 4 miles
Free parking

Who is coming to Portland, ME (as of 6/20/22)

Gary and Pat Baker
Al and Cathy Gustafson
Harvey and Susan Hershkowitz
Peter, Yvonne/Tanya Houseknecht
Dan and Cyndi Johansen
Lewis Loudon
Eddie Luevano
Linda Roberts
Ray and Kathy Spatz
Rita Starr

Clambake and Kennebunkport

Tuesday September 13

Today's tour starts with a trip to Len Libby 's Candies located just south of the Best Western Merry Manor Inn on Route #1. There you can enjoy an ice cream or purchase some of their world-famous candy while you visit with "Lenny The Moose," a 1700-pound moose made out of milk chocolate.

After Len Libby's we will drive to Foster 's Downeast Clambake where we will enjoy an old fashion Maine Clambake with clam chowder, steamed clams and mussels, whole Maine lobster, corn on the cob, potatoes, onions and blueberry cake. Chicken is available for anyone who cannot eat lobster. During lunch you will be entertained by one of Maine's local artists. Foster's also has a great gift shop with all kinds of unique gifts.

After dinner we will travel north along the coast of Maine to the coastal community of Kennebunkport, Maine where we will enjoy a two-hour guided tour of the area. During the trip we will see President Bush's (senior) summer home and we will visit the coastal villages Wells and Ogunquit. Our tour will take us past the Brickstore Museum, The Wedding Cake House, Franciscan Monastery and the Seashore Trolley Museum. During the trip we will also stop at the Lighthouse Gift Shop which features unique gifts and clothing featuring many of Maine's most famous lighthouses. After the tour we will drive back to the hotel.

Tour Time: 9:30 am – 5:00 pm

Cost: \$82.00 per person (Lunch included)

Maine Maritime Museum and Freeport

Wednesday September 14

Today we will board the bus and drive north to the ship building city of Bath Maine. Once in Bath we will visit the Maine Maritime Museum located on the historic Kennebec River. The Maine Maritime Museum features exhibits and displays that tell the history of shipbuilding in Bath and the state of Maine. In the late 1800's Bath was famous for building the largest wooden sailing ships in the world. Their 6-masted schooner, the Wyoming, was the largest wooden sailing ship ever built and five of the ten largest wooden ships ever built were launched at the Percy & Small Shipyard in Bath.

In the 20th century Bath became famous for producing some of the best destroyers, frigates and cruisers in the world. By the end of World War II Bath Iron Works was launching a new destroyer every two weeks. That tradition continues today at Bath Iron Works where they still build destroyers and cruisers for the United States Navy. While at the museum you will receive a guided tour of Bath Iron Works and you will then be free to explore the museum on your own. The museum has a very large section devoted to Bath Iron Work's contribution to the war effort during World War II.

After visiting the museum, we will drive to Freeport where we will enjoy lunch on our own and shopping at LL Bean's factory store and dozens of factory outlet stores. After lunch and shopping we will drive to the Maine Military Museum in South Portland, Maine. At the museum you will see exhibits from the Revolutionary War through the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. One of the exhibits at the museum is an exact replica of a cell at the Hanoi Hilton.

The museum is free, however \$5.00 of the cost for this trip is donated to the museum.

Tour Time: 9:30 am -3:30 pm

Cost: \$78.00 per person (Lunch on your own)



Portland Trolley Tour and Harbor Cruise

Thursday September 15

Today we will board the trolley for a 90-minute guided tour of Portland. During the trip you will drive through the Old Port Exchange, Portland's restored waterfront district, which features hundreds of shops, restaurants, lounges and galleries.

Some of the attractions that you will pass on the trip are the Victoria Mansion, the Portland Museum of Art, The Portland Observatory, the Eastern and Western promenades, the Longfellow House and the statue of Longfellow. One of the highlights of the trip is a visit to the Portland Headlight located at Fort Williams Park.

After our visit to the Portland Headlight, we will enjoy lunch and shopping in Portland's Old Port Exchange. After lunch we will board the Islander for a 90-minute narrated tour on Casco Bay. On the cruise you will get to see the islands of Casco Bay, the Portland Skyline and lighthouses along the rugged coast of Maine.

After the cruise we will board the trolley for the short ride back to the hotel.

Tour Time: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Cost: \$62.00 per person (Lunch on your own)

2022 YTD Financial Report

A brief summary of our finance's year to date. The association finances are looking good, no need to increase dues for the foreseeable future. If you would like a more detailed report e-mail Gary Baker at gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org

Account	12/31/2021	2022 YTD
Contribution Fund	\$10.00	\$0
(This fund has been folded in to the Operating Fund)		
Operating Fund	\$15,783.35	\$16,059.24
Reunion Fund	\$4,291.12	\$6,828.67
Ship's Store	<u>\$2,250.80</u>	<u>\$2,053.43</u>
Total	\$22,980.72	\$24,941.34

USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION
C/O Gary Baker
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Billings, MT 59105



TEMP – RETURN SERVICE REQUEST

NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Chairman, Board of Directors; President, Al Gustafson
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Dan Moore, Ray Spatz, Jay Davis

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Ship's Store

The store has USS Topeka ball caps, lapel pins, jacket patches, coffee cups, and license plate frames as well as 6th and 7th Fleet and Vietnam bumper stickers. **A generic Navy ball cap “We Own The Seas” has been added to the inventory.** Order forms and illustrations of items are on the Ship's Store page of the website. The store is managed by Pat Baker. Her contact information is on the ship's store page of the website and the Names and Telephone Numbers section of this newsletter.

Membership and Dues

Dues fund the day-to-day operation of the association. This includes the costs of publishing and distributing the newsletter and members directory, maintaining the website, and office expenses. Dues are \$20.00 per year or \$80.00 for five years. Your dues status is indicated on the address page of the newsletter. If it doesn't say 'Dues Exempt' or '**Dues Paid Thu 2021**' (or higher) you'll be dropped from the mailing list and won't receive the annual directory or any further newsletters.