

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 33, No. 1

March 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

Welcome to 2022! I hope that this message finds everyone safe and healthy. Perhaps this year will bring the end of the COVID restrictions and allow us to get back to almost normal. I was very sad to see the New Orleans reunions canceled and really missed seeing my Topeka shipmates and friends. I hope we will be able to finally meet in New Orleans in the Spring of 2023.

I know that we were all saddened to hear that our longtime President and friend Dan Moore was stepping down. I would like to join many others in thanking Dan and Sharon for their many years of work and dedication to our organization. My first Topeka reunion (Indianapolis) was hosted by Dan and Sharon and they made me feel welcome right away. They were a lot of the reason I kept coming back. Thank you again, Dan and Sharon for your hospitality, hard work and leadership.

I am honored to have been selected to serve as President of this great organization. Thanks for everyone's support and I look forward to keeping our heritage alive. As I was thinking about what to say in my first newsletter message, I could not help but think of my earliest memories of the Topeka. It was the spring of 1967 and I was fresh out of Boot Camp and A School. I reported aboard on the Mole in Long Beach and was assigned to the After Fireroom. We soon departed for refresher training, my first time out to sea. All of the old salts soon had me assigned to "mail buoy" watch and other important tasks. I did learn that walking around topside on a pleasant southern California day was a lot better than sweating in the boiler room so I didn't really mind. Although it has been almost 55 years, I still have many fond memories of being out to sea, standing endless

underway watches, and visiting ports around the world. I will never forget my many shipmates and the adventures we shared. I hope that those of us who remain can continue to get together for many years to come. I am proud to say that the Topeka still remains a large part of my life.

I am really looking forward to this year's reunion in Portland, it should be a great one. New England coastal scenery is beautiful especially in the fall. Dan and Cyndi Johansen, our hosts this year, have made excellent plans and I know all who attend will have a great time. Please make your reservations early.

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 for their unending support and work on behalf of our group. See you all in Portland.

Fair winds and Following Seas

Gus

NEW MEMBERS (NONE SINCE NOVEMBER 2021)

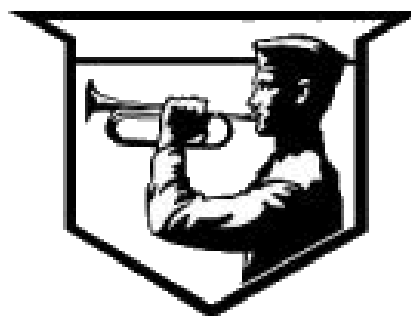
Taps

Tom Stumpf CAPT USMC 64-66

Charles Dykeman LT 65-66

John McCabe LT 66-68

Michael Thompson SN 67-69



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.



Check In: 3:00 p.m. **Check Out:** 11:00 a.m.

Airports: Portland International Airport 4 miles

Free parking

Tour "A" 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)



Tour "B" 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)

Tour "C" 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

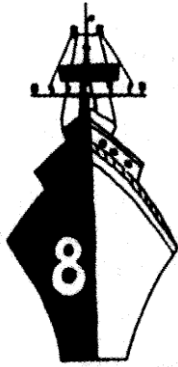
Cost: \$62.00 per person (Lunch on your own)

2022 YTD Financial Report

A brief summary of our finances 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	\$10.00
Operating Fund	\$15,783.35	\$16,003.35
Reunion Fund	\$4,886.67	\$4,565.67
Ship's Store	\$2,250.80	\$2,288.80
Total	\$22,930.72	\$22,867.82

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



TEMP – RETURN SERVICE REQUEST

NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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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. 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 2022' (or higher) you'll be dropped from the mailing list and won't receive the annual directory or any further newsletters.