

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 33, No. 3

November 2022



Officers:

Al Gustafson, Chairman, Board of Directors and President

Gary Baker, Secretary-Treasurer

Pat Baker, 2023 Reunion Coordinator

Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor;

Gary Baker, Web Master:

Pat Baker, Ships Store

From the President

Greetings Shipmates

The Portland Reunion is now in the books. I hope all who attended had a safe journey home and are enjoying great fall weather. It is peak leaf viewing season here in Western New York and the weather has even been pretty nice. I think this would be my favorite time of year except it is quickly followed by our long winters. Time to find the snow shovels!

I am sure that all who attended this year would agree that this was one of our best reunions ever! I cannot overemphasize the great job that Cyndi, Dan and Cyndi's family Tess and Clark did putting this one together. I want to thank them all very much for their great planning and hard work. They even ordered up great weather for the week. I especially enjoyed the 2 boat tours, the lobster feast, and our singing bartender! The scenery was beyond spectacular. It was great to see and visit with shipmates I already knew and ones I had never met. I was very pleased to see new attendees this year. A great reunion for sure.

Next year we will be in Spokane Washington, hosted by Pat and Gary Baker. This is an area of the country where I have never been. I am really looking forward to the trip. As some of you may know I am a real rail fan and this will make a great train ride from Buffalo (except the train arrives in Spokane at 2 AM).

Please save the date for what I am sure will be another great reunion. Make your reservations as soon as possible and encourage other shipmates you may know to attend as well.

Good news, Dan Moore has agreed to stay on as a board member. We can sure use his wisdom and sense of humor. Thanks Dan.

In closing a special thanks to all who made the Portland reunion a great success including Gary and Pat Baker, Kathy Spatz as well as our hosts Dan, Cyndi and family.

Wishing everyone good health and Happy Holidays.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Spokane.

Fair Winds and Following Seas

Gus

New Members (Since July 2022)

Richard Gleason DK3 65-66

Fred Cobb FTM2 66-69

Taps

Dudley Cass LTJG 61-64

Peter Musitano FTM2 62-66

Jack Hendricks CWO2 62-64

Reunion Dates:

September 18th – September 22nd, 2023

2023 Spokane Reunion

The hotel contract for the 2023 Spokane reunion has been finalized and signed. We'll be staying at the Mirabeau Park Hotel and Convention Center in Spokane Valley, Washington.



Pat Baker is our host for the 2023 reunion, and she is busy lining up tours for the reunion. Tours under consideration are a dinner cruise on beautiful Lake Coeur d'Alene, a trip to the silver-mining town of Wallace, Idaho which includes a trolley ride and an underground tour of the Sierra Silver Mine, and a visit to a bordello museum in Wallace. A tour of some of the wineries around Spokane, including the most beautiful one, Arbor Crest Winery, which overlooks the Spokane Valley. Even people who don't drink wine will love the great scenery.

More reunion information will be put on the website and on our Facebook Group as it becomes available.

Portland, Maine Reunion



Our hosts for the Portland, Maine reunion, were Cyndi and Dan Johansen. A reunion we all enjoyed due to the hard work and time put in by our hosts!

Message from our host!

I would like to thank everyone for coming to the Portland reunion and making it a success. I loved Maine but of course I am partial being from there; I enjoyed being back and sharing it with all of you. We had a great time with the USS TOPEKA girls singing along with our entertainer which was a blast; thank you to all of you girls. Everyone was very kind to my family and I appreciated that as well. I was told by several motel workers that we were one of the most fun groups they had worked with, so again thank you for being a great group of folks. Lastly, even though it was a lot of work coordinating everything, I enjoyed getting to know everyone a little more which made me feel closer to each of you. Thank you again!
Cyndi

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Were our tour days, Tuesdays highlight for me was the clambake at Foster's Downeast Clambake. What a feast!

Wednesday, we visited the Maine Maritime Museum and heard about the shipbuilding history in Bath. We then boarded a boat and were able to see the present shipbuilding.



The Maine Military Museum is extremely interesting. One of the exhibits is an exact replica of a cell at the Hanoi Hilton.



Thursday took us to the Portland Headlight by land and by sea. Beautiful!



Who Came to Portland, Maine

- Sandra Attey
- Gary and Pat Baker
- Jerry Craig
- Charlie and Jill Deering
- Al and Cathy Gustafson
- Harvey and Susan Hershkowitz
- Arnold, Marion, Justin Hoel
- Peter, Yvonne, and Tanya Houseknecht
- Harold and Diane Jackson
- Dan and Cyndi Johansen
- Terry and Patty Jones
- Dave and Sylvia Kloosterman
- Cal and Joan Ladd
- Lewis Louden
- Eddie Luevano
- Bob and Gail MacLean
- Linda Roberts and Ladona Morrow
- Gerald and Marly Schiefert
- Ray and Kathy Spatz
- Rita and Deborah Starr
- Harvey and Dawn Stradley
- Gerald, Pat, Tina and Tammy Tanner

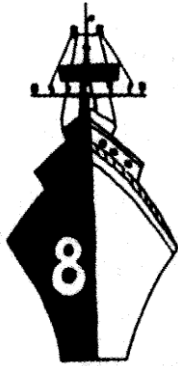
2022 YTD Financial Report

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

<u>Account</u>	<u>12/31/2021</u>	<u>2022 YTD</u>
Operating Fund	\$15,783.35	\$16,403.24
Reunion Fund	\$4,291.12	\$6,938.65
Ship’s Store	\$2,250.80	\$2,487.90
Total	\$22,980.72	\$24,941.34

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

TEMP – RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Chairman, Board of Director, Al Gustafson
Board Members: Arnold Hoel, Jerry Craig, Harold Jackson,
Dan Moore, Ray Spatz, Jay Davis

President Al Gustafson, 3668 Bonnie Lane, Hamburg, NY
14075; 716-648-5960; gus127@verizon.net

Secretary-Treasurer
Gary Baker, 20 Heather Drive, Billings, MT 59105;
406-252-4546; gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org

2023 Reunion Coordinator
Pat Baker, 20 Heather Drive, Billings, MT 59105
406-252-4546; pbaker@usstopekaclg8.org

Newsletter Editor
Kathy Spatz, 503 Olive Blvd., So. Hempstead, NY 11550;
516-697-8274; kathleenspatz@gmail.com

Webmaster
Gary Baker, 20 Heather Drive, Billings, MT 59105;
406-252-4546; gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org

Ships Store
Pat Baker, 20 Heather Drive, Billings, MT 59105
406-252-4546; pbaker@usstopekaclg8.org

Ship's Store

If ordering for Christmas please place orders by December 15th.

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.