

USS TOPEKA CLG-8 Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 11, No. 1

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Committee:

*John Reynolds, President; Jack Timmons, Secretary/Treasurer;
Al Jefferis, Assistant Secretary; Dudley Cass, Reunion 00 Chairman;
Jack Connery, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Y2K bug is now dead, but the Topeka Reunion Association lives on. The committee, consisting of Ruth and Dudley Cass, has wasted no time, and things are already in place for another great reunion. It's fitting that the year 2000 reunion comes back to where it all started.

San Diego is awaiting our return, and it puts a new meaning to the old saying "what goes around comes around."

What will make the reunion great is you. As you have probably figured out by now it's not the fancy programs, nice facilities, or even the expense of the reunion that makes it great. It is that magic ingredient, the friends and members of the association coming together as a family to share memories and ideas that make it all a success. That is why our past reunions have been so successful and why reunion 2000 will also be a great one. So let's all come together in August and make this one a real barnburner.

John Reynolds

TAPS

John Hojaboom, GMG1 (60-68); September 18, 1999, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Frank L. Pinney, Jr., Commanding Officer, (1959-60); October 20, 1999, Kilmarnock, Virginia.

Fred Godwin, GMG 2 (1959-62); December 1998, Vancouver, Washington.

BINNACLE LIST

James Bond, YN3 (64-67), recovering from a severe auto-pedestrian accident.

Dick Jolliffe, LT (64-66); recovering from surgery, San Diego.

Don Cameron, LT (60-62), San Diego.

Carol Buse, LTJG (64-66), Reedsport, OR

NEW MEMBERS (SINCE OCTOBER 1999)

Raymond McHugh, MM2 (59-63), Glenshaw, PA
Clarence Cyr, RDSN, (61-64), La Marque, TX
John Mann, RD1 (67-69), San Antonio, TX
Fred Willson, Jr. MM2 (59-63), Nova Scotia, Canada
Gary Dungan, SN (62-64), Jackson, NJ
Cecil Hankins, FN (61-65), Reeds Spring, MO
Michael Hight, RD2 (60-62), Avon Park, FL
Tony Allocca, DK2 (68-69), Bristol, CT
Gene Mann, RDCS (60-63), Brandon, MS
Richard Nicholas, IC2 (68-69), Pompton Lakes, NJ
Ransford Begin, GMG3 (63-66), Allagash, ME
Jim (James), Stanton LTJG (67-68), Mercer Island, WA
Raymond Lane, YN3 (61-62), Carpinteria, CA
Lawrence Granback, GS3 (59-60), Midlothian, VA
Paul Anderson, LCDR (61-63), King George, VA
Larry Baxter, SN (67-68), North Las Vegas, NV
Carlton Leslie BTC, Hattieville, AR
Charlie Marsh, ET2 (60-63), Marietta, GA.

2000 DUES ARE DUE

Dues for 2000 are \$15.00 and should be sent to Jack Timmons. Checks should be made payable to the USS Topeka Reunion Association. If you have not paid them, please take care of this matter. Dues are used to pay for printing and mailing of this newsletter four times a year, the annual directory, and other administrative expenses. A 2000 directory will be sent after dues payment is received.

To save a little, you can pay \$60 to cover dues for the next five years.

Should you want to send a little extra, it will be included in a donation to the Navy Home in Pascagoula, Miss., at the end of the year. In 1999, the Association donated \$562.40 to the Navy Home. Should you want, you may also pay ahead. Some have paid through 2000.

This is the only dues reminder you will see in this newsletter. The address label on this newsletter will indicate whether or not you have paid.

REUNION 2000

Arrangements for the San Diego Reunion are going well. General information follows. The May Newsletter will have complete details and contain the reunion registration package.

Reunion Date: Wed., Aug 16 to Sun. Aug 20

Hotel: Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92186. Rates: \$89/night (plus 10% room tax), good Sunday Aug. 13 through Tuesday Aug. 22 for those who want to come early or stay longer. Parking at the hotel is \$1/day. (For comparison, The Holiday Inn on the Bay, where we had our last San Diego reunion, wanted \$109 per day plus \$13/day for parking.) Internet information on the hotel may be found at <www.towncountry.com>.

The hotel is 6 miles from the airport (\$8.50 per person airport shuttle, or \$15 taxi fare for 2-4 people); 3 miles from Sea World, 3 miles from the famous San Diego Zoo. The hotel is adjacent to the Riverwalk Golf Course, and also adjacent to Fashion Valley Mall, one of San Diego's premier shopping malls. The San Diego Trolley and Bus Terminal is adjacent to the hotel grounds. The major attractions in San Diego are easily accessible by trolley/bus, and the fares are extremely economical, especially for Seniors.

A major plus for the hotel is the fantastic Hospitality Room reserved for our use. We are going to be on the top floor of the East Tower, in the LaPavillion Lounge, formerly one of the hotel's bars. It has about 1600 sq. ft of space. Light and airy, it's surrounded by glass on 3 sides, and doors open for fresh air ventilation. The bar, with all its stools, and behind-the-bar storage, etc., is still there. It is decorated with wallpaper, wood paneling and trim, step-up and step-down alcoves, upholstered furniture, plus the normal tables and chairs.

Tentative Reunion Schedule. We recommend you plan on arriving Tuesday because there are plenty of things you will want to do Wednesday through Saturday. There are easily accessible shopping malls. Golfers, bring your clubs - we have many golf courses, including the one adjacent to the hotel and the nearby Navy golf course at Admiral Baker Field. The world-famous Balboa Park, the San Diego Zoo, Sea World, The Fleet Aerospace Museum, and the automotive museum, are all a short trolley/bus ride away. For the international experience, take the trolley to Tijuana, Mexico, and try the shopping and bar hopping on Revolucion Ave. See the Navy "grays" from the Harbor Cruise, or by a visit to the 32nd St. Naval Station. We plan on getting discount tickets for the popular attractions through the Navy Base for your use, and we will provide details on how to get there, using the public transportation, or driving your own vehicle.

Wednesday: Open day for check-in, golfing, doing the attractions on your own. For the evening, visit Historic Old Town, the original "downtown" of San Diego; dinner at the Casa de Bandini Mexican Restaurant (voted San Diego's best Mexican restaurant), followed by a great musical comedy "Forever Plaid" in the Old Town Theatre.

Thursday: Open day for golfing, doing the attractions on your own. An Advisory Board Meeting at 3 p.m. For the evening, a Harbor Dinner Cruise on San Diego Bay.

Friday: Open day for golfing and doing attractions on your own. For the evening, a cocktail mixer hour at 6 p.m., followed by a "Picnic Buffet" at 7 p.m. (at the Hotel).

Saturday: Reunion Business Meeting at 9 a.m., followed by group pictures. "On your own" the rest of the day. For the evening, cocktail hour at 6 p.m., followed by a sit-down banquet and short program at 7 p.m.

Sunday: Check out and "Aloha" until next year.

Hospitality Room - Focal point of the Reunion. We have a fantastic room for the Hospitality Room - you will enjoy meeting and talking with your shipmates there. It will be open at 7 a.m. every morning with fresh coffee, donuts, bagels, juice, milk, and toast. Will be open every day until midnight except during the hours of the Friday night mixer/buffet, and the Saturday night cocktail hour/banquet. Alcoholic, non-alcoholic beverages, coffee, and snacks will be provided.

Registration will be there; the Ship's Store will be set up, and tables will be available for display of TOPEKA memorabilia, photos, cruise books, etc.

Information on San Diego attractions, and "how-to-get-there" will be available.

Need more information? Have Questions? Contact Dudley Cass at 3028 Bonita Woods Dr., Bonita CA. 91902; telephone 619-267-3123; or email <BonitaRCDC@aol.com>. Any suggestions or recommendations for the reunion are welcomed. See you in San Diego!!

TOPEKA SHIP'S MODEL

Dudley Cass has an offer from a friend to build a scale model of the TOPEKA for the Association. This friend builds ship models as a hobby. The problem is, he needs a set of plans.

If anyone has any drawings or plans that would be of help to a builder, please contact Dudley.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

That's what the banner moving across our Web Page says about contributing your favorite memory to the forthcoming revision to Baka Hachi 1959-69. And it's true. **Time is running out.**

Jack Connery is receiving many inputs to include in the Baka Hachi revision. **BUT NOT ENOUGH.** There are still a lot of stories yet untold about life on Topeka. If you know one (and you all do), put it on paper and send it to Jack Connery. If you have pictures to go along with it, even better.

Still lacking is information about the last Med cruise and to a lesser extent, the first Med cruise. He has only little on the trip to Boston and the final days leading up to decommissioning and decommissioning day itself.

Jack would also like to include stories from the wives and kids who were left behind when we went off on long deployments.

Don't worry about not being a good writer. Jack will edit and rewrite as necessary. If it is a true story (and they all are), and you don't want to put your name on it, let Jack know.

In that regard, there's a Topeka information pamphlet published years ago that contains Topeka Trivia such as number of pounds of potatoes cooked daily, gallons of water used daily, gallons of fuel per mile, etc. etc. Jack would like to use this pamphlet.

SHIP'S STORE REPORT

The following items are available. Please add \$5.00 for shipping. If you are on the internet, there is an order form on the Topeka web site.

Topeka note pads are great for honeydo lists, telephone notes, and shopping lists. Be the only one in town to have them, or if you live in San Diego, one of a select few.

The license plate covers are a great way to let people know you were on Topeka and will help in finding "lost" shipmates.

We are now ordering to supply Reunion 2000. If there is something you would like to see, let Jill Connery know.

- Adult shirts Navy, 2XL; Red 2 XL; and Green, Small, 2 XL \$25.00
- Ball caps 10.00
- Key Chains 3.00
- Topeka Jackets, size M, L 35.00
- Ship's Plaque (new design, w/name) 30.00
- Cold drink holders 5.00
- Topeka note pads (5 pack) 5.00
- License Plate Holders 4.00

LETTERS

Greetings from Sasebo, Japan, November 21, 1999

We are proud to once again sail the name USS TOPEKA throughout Asia. USS TOPEKA commenced a six month deployment on 4 November in support of the Seventh Fleet. Our missions are varied and we bring the full spectrum of capabilities that a modern nuclear attack submarine has to offer, including tomahawk cruise missile strike, antisubmarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, covert mining, and intelligence collection. We are proud to support the U.S. presence in this part of the world.

During our six months, we will spend up to 80 percent of the time underwater. Our 130 men are well trained and ready for any mission, and there are certainly plenty of possibilities. Much of this part of the world is, in some respects, the same as it was in the 1940's - - only the U.S. Navy has the capability to provide the presence and sustainment needed to bring peace and stability.

We are proud to carry the name USS TOPEKA on our fourth deployment to the WESTPAC. Thank you for your tremendous support of both our heritage and our Navy today. Please keep our ship in your thoughts and prayer.

CDR Mark Patton, Commanding Officer

Ed. Note: At 0000, 1 January, 2000, USS TOPEKA was at the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line. This placed half of the ship in the winter of 1999, and the other half in the summer of 2000.

Dear Ed:

I'm sorry to inform you that my father, Fred Godwin (GMG2 59-62), died in December, 1998 due to cancer. The May issue of the newsletter was forwarded to my wife and me from the old address we shared with dad.

Fred and Helen Godwin adopted me in the Philippines in 1966. He was stationed there in '65 through '68. He retired from the Navy in February of 1972 as a Chief Gunners Mate.

Daniel Godwin

REMEMBER THE DECK SWEATER?

Remember the Navy deck sweater that would keep you warm on cold mid watches, or on the Sea and Anchor Detail in the middle of winter? Would you like to wear one again?

Tom Bussell (62-66) found a place to get them. He now has his and is comfortable the rest of the winter. "It brings back many memories. It's the real thing" said Bussell. They are now available from Mass Army Navy, Irvine, Cal. for \$37.99. You can order one by calling 800-343-7749, or 949-250-9782; or Fax 949-9790.

**MOVING? MOVED?
WAS YOUR NEWSLETTER FORWARDED?**

Then drop a card to Jack Timmons and let him know your new address.

LAUGHLIN "MINI" MARCH 5-6, 2000

Dudley Cass has sent the following information on the annual Laughlin "Mini" Reunion:

Topeka shipmates, let's meet Sunday and Monday, March 5-6, at Laughlin, Nevada, for a Topeka get-together. We're arriving Sunday afternoon, and departing Tuesday morning; staying at the Riverside Hotel (phone 1-800-227-3849) where rooms (Internet Rate) are \$19 for "standard" room.

Feel free to go to any hotel you like. We hear some of you plan to stay at the Ramada Express, and the Flamingo Hilton, both of which are near the Riverside.

For information about Laughlin (hotels, shows, events, maps, restaurants, etc.) check out the Laughlin Visitor Bureau website: <www.visitlaughlin.com>. Bring your own snacks and drink for "Happy Hour" at the Casses' room (Riverside Hotel) Sunday and Monday afternoon.

Hope to see you in Laughlin! Please contact Dudley or Ruth Cass if you are planning to go, and/or if you have questions, Phone Dudley or Ruth at (619) 267-3123.

USS TOPEKA (CLG-8)
Reunion Association Newsletter
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