

USS TOPEKA CLG-8 Reunion Association Newsletter

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Committee:

*John Reynolds, President; Jack Timmons, Secretary/Treasurer;
Al Jefferis, Assistant Secretary; Jerry Craig, Reunion 01 Chairman;
Jack Connery, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here are seven good reasons to plan to go to Reunion 2001 in Atlanta, Oct 10-14.

Always good people there.

Total host bar open day and night.

Lots of good food (arranged by the loving hands of Ruth Cass & Co.)

A good time guaranteed.

Never a disappointment for anyone.

Tons of sea stories told day and night.

A time to enjoy some good southern hospitality, with grits for breakfast.

For more information, tune in to Atlanta's website. It's great: WWW.Atlanta.com

John Reynolds

TAPS

John F. Courtney, MM3 59-62, Charlotte, NC, February 14, in Boston, MA.

NEW MEMBERS (SINCE NOVEMBER)

Doug Wilburn, LTJG (64-66) Fairfax, VA
"Russ" Russell, Astrab BT3 (60-62) New Windsor, NY
Chapin "Chuck" Brooks, LTJG (64-68) Las Vegas, NV
Jerry Johnson, GMG2 (66-67) Long Beach, CA
John Stark RD2, (59-62) Shippensburg, PA
Ray Billings, SFMI (63-65) Forest Hill, MD
Gerald Keathley, EM3 (62-63) Charlotte, NC
Vince Gomez, RD3 (66-68), Albuquerque NM.

MOVING? MOVED? WAS YOUR NEWSLETTER FORWARDED?

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

2001 DUES ARE DUE

Dues of \$15 for 2001 are due and should be sent to Jack Timmons, 2661 Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, CA 92106-1121. Checks should be made payable to the USS Topeka Reunion Association.

If you have not paid your dues for 2001, please take care of this matter. Dues are used to pay for the printing and mailing of this newsletter four times a year, printing and mailing the annual directory of members, the costs of maintaining the web site, postage for letters, and some "upfront" reunion expenses.

The current 2001 Directory will be mailed to you after the dues have been received. If you are interested in saving money, you can pay \$60 to cover dues for the next five years (saves \$15) and you will get a new directory in January each year.

Please send dues to Jack Timmons

Should you want to send a little extra with your dues payment, the extra amount will be included in an annual donation to the Navy Home in GULFPORT, MS, after the Reunion each year. Last year we sent the Navy Home a donation of \$530 from our membership.

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

LAUGHLIN MINI 2001

Looks like as many as 30 might show up for the Mini reunion in Laughlin, Nevada, from Sunday, March 4, to Tuesday, March 6. Ruth and Dudley Cass will host the get-together. They will be staying at the Flamingo Hilton. (The rates there are \$17-\$34, depending on the view.) But stay at any hotel you like. The room rates are cheap Sunday thru Tuesday!

Completely informal and casual, BYOB and snacks; Happy Hour at the Casses' will be Sunday and Monday at 4 pm. Then we'll go to dinner somewhere, and maybe take in one of the hotel stage shows.

Please call or email Dudley or Ruth if you can join this rowdy SoCal bunch.

ATLANTA 2001

Start planning now for our annual get together at the Atlanta Airport Crowne Plaza Hotel October 10-13. Jerry Craig just about has everything nailed down and it looks like it will be a tremendous reunion, as they always are.

The Crowne Plaza is a 350-plus-room hotel located one-half mile from the airport and 8 miles from downtown, where all rooms are complete with coffee makers, irons, full sized ironing boards, hair dryers and other amenities, all for \$89.00 a day. You can also relax at the pool and sun deck, work out in the fitness center, or watch a sporting event on TV in the Lobby Lounge. Jerry says there are 20 restaurants within walking distance of the hotel.



Shipmates have a great time at reunions. Here, Lew (RD3 61-65) and Alva Loudon of Omaha, Neb., enjoy a conversation with an old friend at the San Diego reunion.

Free shuttle service to the airport and to the Atlanta metro transit system (MARTA) is available. These rates are good October 7-14 for those who want to come early and stay late.

We have a 1200-square-foot room reserved as our hospitality suite where we will meet, greet and tell war stories.

Here is a sampling of the optional tours that Jerry already has lined up:

Coca-Cola Museum, Underground Atlanta, CNN Center, Centennial Park

This is an afternoon and evening tour where the first stop is a self-guided tour of the Coca Cola Museum with many exhibits and mementos dating from its Atlanta beginnings to the present.

You will stroll through the original downtown district, now called Underground Atlanta before re-boarding the bus to Centennial Park to watch the evening light and music show of the Olympic Fountains. Afterwards, there will be time for dinner on your own in the CNN Center Food Court. Cost \$28.00

North Georgia Mountains, Dahlonega, Anna Ruby Falls and Helen, Georgia

Dahlonega, GA, is nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and is the site of the country's first gold rush - - 20 years before the 1849 California gold rush. We will visit the Gold Museum on the Square and browse in the many antique and craft shops in the quaint downtown historic district.

Next, ride to Helen for lunch on your own with plenty of time to browse in their shops. Helen is a re-created Alpine village popular with tourists from all over the world.

Last stop is Anna Ruby Falls, located in Unicoi State Park adjacent to Helen. Cost \$55.00 and includes bus, guide admissions and soft drinks.

Cyclorama, Downtown Atlanta, Stone Mountain Park

We will visit the famous 3-dimensional painting of the Battle of Atlanta, July 1864. There will be time to visit the Civil War Museum located in the building.

Next, we will drive through downtown Atlanta and the Druid Hills neighborhood on our way to Stone Mountain Park, Georgia's Number One Attraction, even considering the Falcons and Braves. This 3200-acre park surrounding a gigantic granite mountain offers something for everyone.

After a delicious southern buffet served in the Stone Mountain Inn dining room, choose two of the following attractions and view the Civil War Carving on the face of the mountain: sky lift, 19 building plantation, riverboat ride, train, antique car museum. Cost \$59.00

Looks like there is a piece of Atlanta for all of us. Put October 10-14 on your calendar now - - in ink - - and start making plans.

More information and registration forms will be available in the May newsletter.



"Who would have thought in 1960 that I would want to get together with these guys again in 40 years?" asks Steve Archbold, SKSN (60-63). But Steve and his wife Sandra, from Dix Hills, NY, look forward to coming back almost every year.

NAVY TERMINOLOGY FROM THE PAST

CUP OF JOE

Josephus Daniels (18 May 1862-15 January 1948) was appointed Secretary of the Navy by President Woodrow Wilson in 1913. Among his reforms of the Navy were inaugurating the practice of making 100 Sailors from the Fleet eligible for entrance into the Naval Academy, the introduction of women into the service, and the abolishment of the officers' wine mess.

From that time on, the strongest drink aboard Navy ships could only be coffee and over the years, a cup of coffee became known as "a cup of Joe".

TOPEKAMAN IN SUPER BOWL PARADE

Dick Ramsey (GMCM 62-64), of Lutz, Fla., a suburb of Tampa, is president of the Latin American Fiesta Association, and has been for years. This association was founded over 70 years ago to increase the dialogue between the "Anglos" and the various Latin communities.

Each year, young ladies of Latin descent vie for Court positions of Queen and four Princess slots. The association's Royalty makes public appearances throughout the year and participates in several parades. They have their own float, which Dick maintains on his property.

Since the association is the second oldest association in Tampa, the float occupied the second float slot in the Super Bowl Parade. On the float were the current Queen and her court, but behind it was President Ramsey in a convertible. "Can't say for sure what color it will be," says Ramsey, before the parade. "Convertibles are hard to come by at Super Bowl time."

As far as reunion associations go, Ramsey favors the Houston group. He was aboard that cruiser in WW II when she took two torpedoes. He likes Topeka, however and attends our reunions as his health permits. He is currently planning for Atlanta.

A few years ago, Dick asked how he felt about being around these young Latin Beauties. "They're too young for me," he replied. "But I sure like watching their mothers!" Now, he's leaning toward the grandmothers.

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.

Summer is coming! Time to stock up on a shirt or two. Everyone liked them last year. We also have a great quality jacket which is selling well.

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

Old Style Shirts:

Adult shirts, green, S, XXL \$22.00

Adult shirts, red, XL, 2XL 22.00

New Style Polo Shirts

White, or, Gray w/Navy Trim, Beige
w/Black Trim; Sizes, M, L, XL, 2XL 28.00

New Style Nylon Jackets

Hunter Green or Royal Blue, both w/Navy trim
Sizes M, L, XL, 2XL 46.00

Ball caps 10.00

Key Chains 3.00

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

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<http://www.usstopecacig8.org>



Normally, after a reunion, the newsletter publishes a group picture of Topekamen who attended. This year, after our 10th meeting in San Diego, it is the editor's pleasure to publish a picture of the ladies. These are the gals who stayed at home, took care of the kids, paid the bills and kept the lights on while we were off playing "sailor." It is a pleasure to recognize them.

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Reunion Association Newsletter
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