

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 18, No. 1

March 2007

Officers:

Jerry Judge, Chairman, Board of Directors; John Reynolds, President;
Jack Timmons, Secretary-Treasurer; Dan Moore 2007 Reunion Chairman;
Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi, sports fans, I hope you are as excited as I am about the coming reunion. Things are shaping up for a great time for another Baka Hachie Bash. I hope you can all make it. It is great when our whole Topeka family can get together to share our experiences of the past year.

There is so much to see in Indianapolis it's hard to decide what choices to make during our stay. We are treated each Memorial Day weekend to the famous Indianapolis 500 race. I have always wanted to see it, but at least it will be possible to visit the Motor Speedway. I would think.

A "must experience" is a journey to the world-famous Indianapolis Motor Speedway and Its Hall of Fame Museum.

The enormity of the 260,000 seat Speedway-home to the Indianapolis 500, the All State 400 at the Brickyard and the Formula One U.S. Grand Prix-must be seen to be believed and bus rides around the track and guided tours of the facilities are offered for a fee whenever the track is not in use.

At the Hall of Fame Museum, approximately 75 cars are displayed, representing a widely diversified collection of early day passenger cars, European sports cars, motorcycles and other special interest vehicles, plus more than one-third of all the Indianapolis 500 winners. Also on display are trophies, photographs, helmets, uniforms, goggles and other artifacts. A historic video is shown every 20 minutes in a 48-seat theater at no additional cost. Currently featured is an exhibit honoring Indiana's own NASCAR champion Tony Stewart

I'm down for that.

Hope to see you all in September.

God Bless

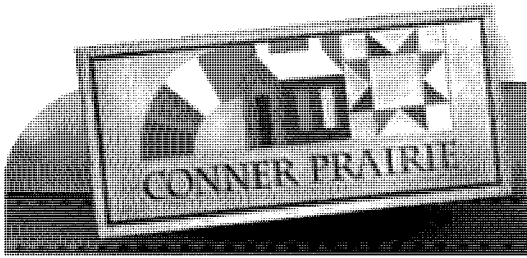
JR



The Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame Museum, located five miles northwest of downtown Indianapolis on the grounds of the famous Indianapolis Motor Speedway, is recognized as one of the most highly visible museums in the world devoted to automobiles and auto racing.

In 1987, the museum and Speedway grounds were honored with the designation of National Historic Landmark. Constructed of pre-cast cement and Wyoming quartz, the facility encompasses 96,000 square feet of museum and administrative office space. Museum display space measures approximately 30,000 square feet. A glass canopy above the main display floor provides year-round natural light. The building also houses two Speedway gift shops, the track's photography department and other offices.

An air-conditioned snack shop and departure area for bus tours of the historic 2.5-mile oval is located near the museum's front doors. About one-third of the museum's estimated 250,000 annual visitors tour the museum during May, the month of the annual Indianapolis 500-Mile Race.



WHAT TO EXPECT

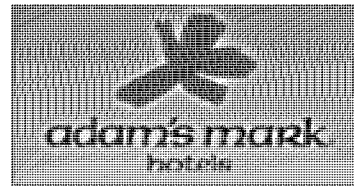
Encounter the past at one of the nation's most exciting outdoor history museums! Travel back in time in our five unique historic areas:

- Live the farm life in 1886 Liberty Corner.
- Walk in the shoes of a pioneer in 1836 Prairietown.
- Tour the beautiful 1823 Conner House.
- Strike a deal with the fur trader at the 1816 Lenape Indian Camp.
- Work and play in PastPort, our hands-on discovery area.

Costumed residents will guide your way, and you'll feel right at home. Staff wearing blue Conner Prairie shirts will help you make connections between the past and present, and answer your questions.

THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MEMORIAL

The memorial pays tribute to 3,459 Medal of Honor recipients, an award given by Congress for military valor. The memorial represents 15 different conflicts, ranging from the Civil War through Somalia and is composed of 27 curved glass walls, each 7-10 feet high. Each day at dusk, the memorial's sound system plays recorded stories of medal winners or of the conflicts in which they fought. The one-acre memorial is located on the north side of downtown's Central Canal in White River State Park.

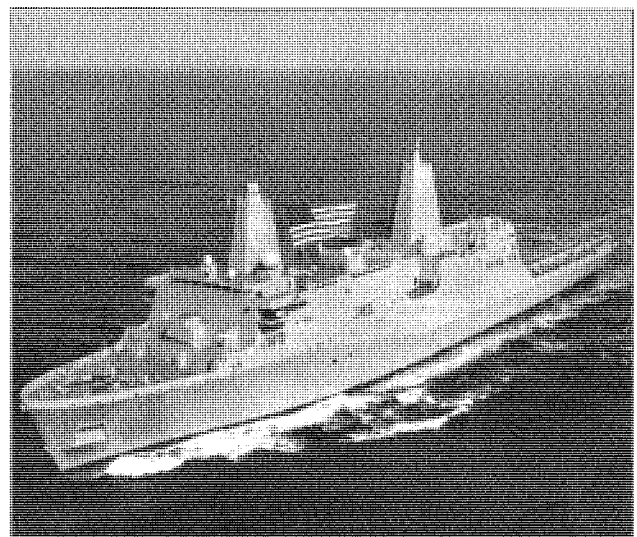


The Adam's Mark Hotel (Airport location) is located .25 miles from Indianapolis International Airport, only 8 minutes from downtown and is convenient to most major highways. A complimentary hotel shuttle is available for service to the airport and immediate local area.

Make your own reservations by calling 317-248-2481 or toll free 1-800-444-2326. Identify yourself as being a member of the USS Topeka (CLG-8) Reunion Association to receive the contracted rates. Deadline for reservations to receive these rates is August 13th, 2007. Be sure if using the 800 number to identify the correct Adam's Mark Hotel (Airport location).

USS NEW YORK (LPD-21)

The USS New York was built with 24 tons of scrap steel from the World Trade Center, seven tons of that metal were melted down and cast to form the ship's "stem bar", part of ship's bow where vessel cuts the water. The 684 foot USS New York is designed for missions that include special operations against terrorists. She will carry a crew of approximately 360 sailors and 700 combat ready Marines. The ship also survived Hurricane Katrina. The motto of the USS New York is "Never Forget".



New Members

(SINCE NOVEMBER 2006)

Jerry Williams GME3 (65-67) Knoxville, TN
David Kloosterman RD3 (67-69) Denver, CO
Joseph (Joe) Smith SN (61-61) Brunswick, GA
Richard W. Zelenuk RMSN (65-66) Arlington, TX
James Kemp SN (67-68) Pearl River, LA
William Wallace MM3 (59-62) Grants Pass, OR
Howard Swensen ETR3 (60-62) Wenatchee, WA
M. Joseph Rutter BT3 (66-68) Haddon Twnship, NJ
Henry Shaffer SN (60-61) Jefferson Hills, PA
William F. Cherry GMG3 (66-69) Little River, SC
Barry L. Baker RM2 (67-69) Palmdale, CA
Jim Armstrong MT3 (61-63) Woodstock, NY

TAPS

“Gus” Volker Kleinfeld SM1 (65-66) 11/16/06
Bernard Visser GMC (59-62) 11/06
Leonard Van Gembert ET1 (63-65) 7/24/06
Stephen P. Ramsey, Jr. ET3 (63-65) 8/10/1995



There are no official words to the music of Taps, but here are some of the more popular verses:

*Day is done, gone the sun,
From the hills, from the lake,
From the sky.
All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh.*

*Fades the light; And afar
Goeth day, And the stars
Shineth bright,
Fare thee well; Day has gone,
Night is on.*

*Thanks and praise, For our days,
'Neath the sun, Neath the stars,
'Neath the sky,
As we go, This we know,
God is nigh.*

2007 DUES

Dues of \$20.00 for 2007 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.

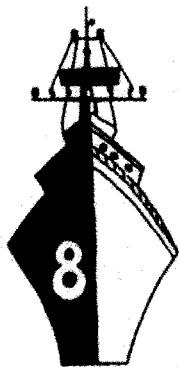
If you have not paid your dues for 2007, please take care of this matter. Dues are used to pay for the printing and mailing of this newsletter three times a year, printing and mailing the annual directory of members, the costs of maintaining the web site, postage of letters and some “upfront” reunion expenses.

If you are interested in saving money, you can pay \$80.00 to cover dues for the next five years (saves \$20) and you will get a new directory in January each year. If you have already paid a lesser amount this year, no further action is required.

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

USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION
 C/O KATHY SPATZ
 503 OLIVE BLVD.
 SOUTH HEMPSTEAD, NY 11550-8012

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Ships Store
 Linda Roberts, 7315 Valley Lane, Hixson, TX 36743-2207, 423-842-5147, Email LJRob@aol.com

SHIPS STORE

Most of the merchandise will be available in New York. All orders should be sent to Linda Roberts at 7315 Valley Lane, Hixson, TN 37343-2207. Linda's phone number is 423-842-5147. Include \$5.00 shipping with each order and make checks or money order payable to the Reunion Association and send to Linda with your order.

Ladies White Shirts	
Small, large	\$19.00
Polo 2002	
Yellow XL	\$20.00
Blue XL, XXL	20.00
Beige XL	20.00
Polo 2003	
Navy/White XL, XXL	\$20.00
White/Navy XL, XXL	20.00
Navy w/pocket XXL	20.00
Polo 2005	
Navy M, L	\$19.00
Med Blue L	19.00
Navy w/pocket M	19.00
Jackets	
Old style	
Blue L	\$30.00
Navy XL	30.00
2003 Micro Fiber	
Navy XL, XXL	\$36.00
Beige XL, XXL	36.00
Assorted items available	
Ball Caps	\$12.00
Key Chains	1.00
Cold Drink Holders	4.00
Coffee mugs w/Topeka emblem	5.00
Topeka Note pads (5 pack)	4.00
License Plate Holder	3.00
Ship's Plaque(new design, w/name)	25.00

INDIANAPOLIS, IN 2007 Reunion Highlights (Rev 2)

Reunion Dates: Wednesday, September 12, 2007 through Saturday, September 15, 2007, with most folks departing on Sunday, September 16, 2007. Eleven Airlines fly into Indianapolis. Try booking airlines early to get the best guaranteed rates.

Hotel: Adam's Mark Indianapolis. 2554 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46241. Sleeping Room Rates for Deluxe /Double, Handicapped Double or Deluxe King are \$79.00 Single, Double or Triple. The quoted rates are quoted exclusive of prevailing local lodging tax, currently 15%. Quoted rates are offered, based on availability, to our attendees Sunday, September 09, 2007 through Tuesday, September 18, 2007.

Make Your Own Hotel Reservations. Hotel Reservation **Deadline is August 13, 2007.** Please make reservations much earlier. Phone Number for Registrations: **317-248-2481 or toll free 1-800-444-2326.** Identify yourself as being a member of the USS Topeka (CLG-8) Reunion Association to receive the contracted rates. **If you use the toll free number, you will have to identify which hotel you are making reservations for. Reservations received after 30 days prior to the Reunion Start date will be on a space available basis and at the prevailing rates. Check-in time is 4 PM hotel time; checkout is 12 noon hotel time.** All reservations will be guaranteed with individual credit cards. In the event of a no show, one night's room and tax will be posted to that credit card. Adam's Mark Indianapolis is perfectly located, ¼ Mile from Indianapolis International Airport and eight minutes away from downtown Indy. The hotel has 407 Deluxe guest rooms and suites, which feature complimentary high speed internet access, plus top sleeping systems, voice mail, iron/ironing boards, hair dryer, room service and more.. There is a fitness center, and outdoor pool with sundeck. On the lobby level you can shop for unique gifts, local novelties and travel necessities at the gift shop. **Parking is free for registered guests.**

Airport Transportation: The hotel's web site says there is a Complimentary Airport Shuttle which can also be used for service to the immediate local area.

Reunion Schedule: We recommend you plan to arrive on Tuesday, because there are plenty of things you will want to do on Wednesday through Saturday. Most will plan a Sunday departure.

Tours: All tours leave from the Adam's Mark Indianapolis.

Wednesday - September 12, 2007-Tour "A" Cost \$30 per person including bus transportation.

War Monuments Tour: A tour of downtown Indianapolis' historic monuments. Some of the sites are: Soldiers and Sailors Monument including the Colonel Eli Lilly Civil War Museum, the American Legion Mall, USS Indianapolis, and the Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial which represents 3459 recipients of the Medal of Honor in 15 different conflicts from the Civil War through Somalia. Leave at 1 pm, return at 5 pm.

Thursday - September 13, 2007 - Tour "B" Cost \$35 per person including bus transportation.

Indianapolis Motor Speedway & Museum Tour: See one of the world's largest, most varied collections of racing, classic and antique cars, featuring more than 30 Indianapolis 500 winning cars. The Tony Holman Theatre presents a 20-minute film depicting the history of the track and race highlights. The tour includes the entrance fee to the museum and a bus tour around the track. Leave at 9 am, return at 1:30 pm.

Thursday-September 13, 2007- Tour C. Cost: \$20 per person.

Join us for a relaxing evening of live music, entertainment and dancing (If you so desire) in the Hall of Champions Room located on the main floor of the Adams Mark Hotel.

Brenda Williams is a jazz vocalist in the Indianapolis area and has performed everywhere from singing the National Anthem for the President of the United States and many professional sports teams to

Indianapolis IN 2007 Reunion Highlights (continued) (Rev 2)

the American Cabaret Theatre. Brenda has been an opening act for other great performers such as Ray Charles, The Beach Boys, Lee Greenwood, and Chuck Mangione. Brenda has been spotlighted in the Indianapolis Woman Magazine, and has been slated to be one of the top people to watch in 2003 by the Indianapolis Star newspaper. She was also the second runner-up for Mrs. America, along with being noted with awards from the Actors Equity Association. Brenda brings a variety of music, entertainment and energy to the stage that will have you begging for more. She will be performing a number of songs from the 50's, 60's and 70's per our request. She will be performing from 7:00 until 10:00 pm.

Friday – September 14, 2007 - Tour “D”. Cost \$65 per person including bus transportation, and lunch. **Connor Prairie Visit.** Journey back to long ago and experience how life has changed. Travel to Indian camp, 1836 pioneer village, Victorian farm, hands-on discovery area, historic house and gardens. Connor Prairie is a fabulous outdoor living history experience. Workers and guides are dressed in early 1800 attire. A tram is available to move to and from attraction areas. The tour includes the entrance fee to Connor Prairie and a 19th century lunch prepared with a commentary. All dishes included in the buffet style lunch are made from early 1800 recipes. The included lunch menu includes: Fine bean soup, Roast pork & Sauerkraut, Corn pudding, Stewed apples, Corn bread & butter, Vinegar pie, Mint tea, coffee & water
Leave at 9:30 am, return at 4:30 pm.

Friday Evening - September 14: No Host Cocktail Hour 6:00 PM. - Friday Buffet Dinner 7:00 PM. Featuring Mid West Hoosier Barbeque with three entrees including Tri colored pasta salad, Pulled Pork Bar B queue served with buns, Deep Fried Catfish with hushpuppies, Beef Burgundy with Mushrooms. Also serving chilled watermelon on ice, mixed green salad with 3 choices of dressing, corn cobettes, Chuck wagon beans, Roasted New potatoes, Buttermilk biscuits, Corn muffins, Chef's dessert table, Coffee, Decaf, Tea and Iced tea. Hospitality Suite will be closed from 6:00 PM until after the dinner.

Saturday Morning - September 15: 9:00 AM Reunion Association Business Meeting in the Hospitality Suite. We have no members of the Board intending to retire, so current board members may/will be nominated for reelection. Presenters for the previously proposed site for the 2008 Reunion (East Coast Reunion) should be prepared to make a good presentation. Nominations will be accepted for the 2009 Reunion which should be another West Coast Reunion.

Board of Directors Meeting: To be held as the Chairman of the Board Directs to elect the President and replacement Secretary/Treasurer and to conduct what ever other business needs to be brought before the Board.

Saturday Morning – Time to be determined: Group Photos. Rest of the day on your own.

Saturday Evening, September 15: No Host Cocktail Hour 6:00 PM. Banquet Dinner 7:00 PM. The dinner menu includes Mixed Green Salad (With choice of dressings), Entrée: Choice of 10 Oz. Prime Rib Or Grilled Salmon with a Citrus Sauce Or Vegetarian Plate choices of Ratatouille in Phyla Cup, Served with a Couscous Salad Or Wild Mushroom & Goat Cheese Strudel, and Chef's Selection of Market Fresh Vegetables, and Baked Potato (Condiments include Butter & Sour Cream on the side), and Seasonal Vegetables. Dessert is Cheesecake with Strawberry Sauce. There will be freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee & Assorted Hot Teas. Wine choices (served at table) include Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot or White Zinfandel.

The Hospitality Suite will be closed from prior to 6:00 PM until after the dinner. Please come to the 2007 Indianapolis, IN Reunion and have a good time with our shipmates and other long term friends.

USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Registration Form

Indianapolis, Indiana – September 12 thru 15, 2007 (Sept 16, 2007 departure for most)

(Rev 2)

Name _____ Plankowner? _____ Number in Party _____
Staying at the Adam's Mark Indianapolis (Yes/No) _____

Emergency Contact: Name _____
 Phone number (_____) _____.

Any Handicap and/or Special Dietary Requirements? _____

Names for Nametag(s) (if you have not previously received permanent nametags):

Reunion Fee: The Reunion Fee includes the cost of the Hospitality Suite, the Friday Night Buffet Dinner, the Saturday Night Banquet, and all other fixed costs of the reunion. Reunion Fee for adults attending all four days Wednesday thru Saturday: \$120. For those not attending all four days, \$10 for Wednesday, \$10 for Thursday, \$45 for Friday, and \$55 for Saturday. Children age 2 and under free. Children (3 to 12) \$20 for Friday and/or Saturday if attending the Buffet and/or Dinner Banquet, if the child's plate is selected. Otherwise, if the child elects to eat adult food, Teenager prices (defined below) apply. For Teenagers and children who eat adult food: \$35 for the Friday Buffet Dinner and \$45 for the Saturday Banquet. No charge for children or teenagers unless attending the Friday Buffet Dinner or Saturday Banquet. There are provisions for Guests for the dinners only, and no use of the hospitality room. Adult guests are \$40 for Friday Buffet dinner and \$50 for the Saturday Banquet and Program. These Adult guest prices are for your added guests, not for you and your spouse. Members and spouses who intend to use the Hospitality Suite pay regular prices.

Days Attending	Number Attending	Price	Cost
All Four Days	_____	\$120	_____
Not All Four Days			
Wednesday	_____	\$ 10	_____
Thursday	_____	\$ 10	_____
Friday	_____	\$ 45	_____
Saturday	_____	\$ 55	_____
Adult guest Friday @Buffet Only	_____	\$ 40	_____
Adult guest Saturday @Dinner Only	_____	\$ 50	_____
Children at Fri Buffet (child's plate)	_____	\$ 20	_____
Children at Sat Banquet (child plate)	_____	\$ 20	_____
Teenagers at Fri Buffet dinner	_____	\$ 35	_____
Teenagers at Banquet	_____	\$ 45	_____

Reunion Fee Total _____

Banquet Entrée Choices (Give Number(s))

Prime Rib of Beef _____ Grilled Salmon _____ Vegetarian _____

Child's Plate (ages 3 to 12) _____ Children under 2 Free _____

(Continued on Reverse Side)

USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Registration Indianapolis, IN 2007 (continued) (Rev 2)

<u>Group Events:</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>COST</u>
<u>September 12, 2007-Wednesday-Tour "A"</u> - War Monument Tour: afternoon tour 1 pm to 5 pm. Bus and tour guide included.	_____	\$30	_____
<u>September 13, 2007-Thursday - Tour "B"</u> – Indianapolis Motor Speedway & Museum Tour departing at 9 am returning approximately 1:30pm. Museum and track tour included.	_____	\$35	_____
<u>September 13, 2007-Thursday-Tour "C"</u> – Music, Dancing and Entertainment in the Hall of Champions Room in the Adams Mark Hotel.	_____	\$20	_____
<u>September 14, 2007- Friday - Tour "D"</u> – Connor Prairie visit. Depart at 9:30 am, return at 4:30 pm. Includes a 19 th century lunch.	_____	\$65	_____
Tours Cost Total			_____
Add: Reunion Fees from other side:			_____
Reunion fees and Tours Cost: Total Cost			_____

Deadline for payment of the above costs is August 13, 2007

While we want you to come, any registrations received past August 13, 2007 will be more difficult. There are deadlines that have to be met for the tours and payments have to be made to the hotel and tour company. Do the best you can. We will work with you to make your reunion a success.

Please make checks payable to: **USS Topeka (CLG-8) Reunion Association, Inc.** Please make a copy of the completed form for your files. Mail this form and the check for payment to:

**Jack E. Timmons
2661 POINSETTIA DR.
SAN DIEGO, CA 92106-1121**