

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 19, No. 1

March 2008

Officers:

John Reynolds, Chairman, Board of Directors; John Reynolds, President;
Clare Smart, Secretary-Treasurer; Ray Spatz, 2008 Reunion Chairman;
Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Next stop Texas! Things are moving along quite well. The tours look very exciting and Kathy is working well with the folks at the hotel. Contracts are all signed and I hope *yawl will come, here*. Looking forward, there will be a presentation at the next meeting for the '09 reunion to be held in Chicago in Aug. or Sept. (to be voted on) I hope you are all thinking of places to go for future reunions. Without you we die. I am thinking about maybe Portland or Seattle again. We have been there before and both places were wonderful. What are you thinking? Please bring your Thoughts and druthers to Texas and we will iron them out at the next association meeting. Keep in mind that where we go must be in a reasonably close proximity to an airport.

It was sad to learn the passing of Dick Ramsey. He had been sick for a long time, but he was a real fighter. We will all miss him.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in San Antonia where we can all "remember the Alamo" together.



NEW MEMBERS

Lennis Weddle RM3 (65-68) Trafalgar, IN
Robert W. Parrish RM2 (68-69) N. Las Vegas, NV
Eugene Anderson RMSN (59-61) Beatty, NV
Daniel Johansen SN (59-61) Wellington, CO

TAPS

James D. Whisennand SF3 (65-67) 5/1/07
Dana Heater SN (66-68) 5/16/2007
Richard W. Ramsey GCMC (62-64) 12/5/2007
Joseph M. Hale RD2 (61-63) 1/31/08
Edward F. Hewitt SKC (63-66) 1/20/08
Ray McHugh MM2 (59-63) 2/20/08
Cliff Thallis ICFN (64-67) No date



ANNUAL DUES

Annual dues, for the calendar year, are \$20 or \$80 for five years. Although dues are requested, they are not mandatory. The dues, however, are used to cover expenses such as the preparation and mailing of letters, newsletters and directories, "up-front" reunion expenses, and the cost of maintaining the TOPEKA web site on the internet. Dues should be sent to Clare Smart, Secretary/Treasurer, 560 Meadowlark Drive, Turlock, CA 95382-1412.

REUNION HOTEL 2008

Our reunion hotel this year is the Holiday Inn and is downtown at the Market Square. The hotel is just 6 blocks from the River walk area and a convenient Trolley will take you there. The Inn is just 2 easily walked blocks to the colorful Market Square, which hosts many Mexican Shops and restaurants.

The accommodations include 314 guestrooms on 4 floors with most rooms featuring a balcony. These balconies will host the smokers in our group due to the smoke free laws in San Antonio.

The hotel offers an outdoor pool, sun deck, whirlpool, Kiddie Pool, work out room and gift shop. The Inn also has a full-service restaurant, The Trolley Stop and a cocktail lounge.

Transportation to and from Hotel
San Antonio International Airport (SAT)

- Distance: 10 MI
- Taxi Charge (one way): \$20.00
- Time by taxi: 15 minutes

Make your own reservations by calling 1-888-615-0725 and mention that you are with the USS Topeka Reunion Association. Rates are \$101 plus 16.75% room tax and will be honored Tuesday through Sunday. The cutoff dated for the rate is August 17, 2008.

GOLF

San Antonio has 300 gorgeous days of sun a year, so pack up the golf bag and hit the links. There are more than 40 golf courses and training greens between the city and the Hill Country that sport beautifully manicured greens and impeccable fairways. Whether your game is filled with eagles or bogies, San Antonio's courses will make you feel like a pro.



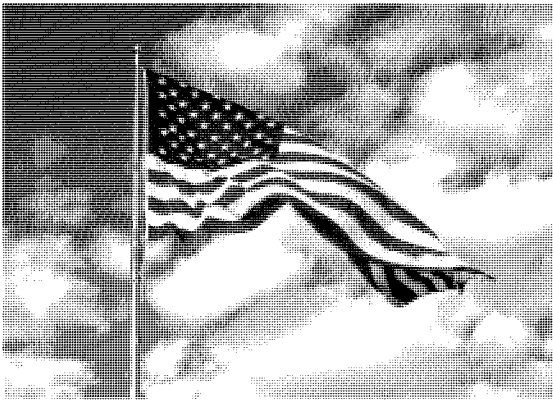
MARKET SQUARE

The rich culture of San Antonio abounds throughout the plazas of Market Square with family-owned cafes, working artists and the largest Mexican market north of the Rio Grande also known as El Mercado. From early morning until late at night, Market Square is alive with activity. Visitors browse through 32 shops at "El Mercado," and 80 specialty shops in the Farmers Market Plaza. Market Square is also the scene of many Hispanic festivals where food and beverage booths spring up alongside Guadalajara lamps while the sounds of mariachi music blends with the excitement of Mexican dances.

GRUENE HALL

Gruene Hall is legendary. Not just because it's the oldest, continually operating dance hall in the state of Texas, but also because it has served as both a starting point and a warm limelight to some of the most prolific talent in American history. It has helped launched the careers of such musicians as George Strait, Lyle Lovett and Hal Ketchum, among others. This famous stage has also welcomed the likes of Bo Diddley, The Dixie Chicks, Jerry Lee Lewis, Garth Brooks and Willie Nelson. Gruene Hall has gone from hosting badger fights in the 1870s to being featured in such notable publications as Forbes, Newsweek and Women's Wear Daily. It has been the site of famous birthdays, such as baseball great Nolan Ryan's 50th, and the location of numerous music videos, commercials and movies. Of special note, the dance scene for the movie "Michael" starring John Travolta was filmed at the Hall.

The legacy of Gruene Hall continues to grow with the best live and Americana music featured year-round. Visit today and be a part of history in the making.



SALUTING THE FLAG

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla..) today praised the passage by unanimous consent of his bill (S.1877) clarifying U.S. law to allow veterans and servicemen not in uniform to salute the flag. Current law (US Code Title 4, Chapter 1) states that veterans and servicemen not in uniform should place their hand over their heart without clarifying whether they can or should salute the flag.

"The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one's military service," Senator Inhofe said. "Veterans and service members continue representing the military services even when not in uniform. "Unfortunately, current U.S. law leaves confusion as to whether veterans and service members out of uniform can or should salute the flag. My legislation will clarify this regulation, allowing veterans and servicemen alike to salute the flag, whether they are in uniform or not. "I look forward to seeing those who have served saluting proudly at baseball games, parades, and formal events. I believe this is an appropriate way to honor and recognize the 25 million veterans in the United States who have served in the military and remain as role models to others citizens. Those who are currently serving or have served in the military have earned this right, and their recognition will be an inspiration to others."

This Bill was passed July 25, 2007. Let your veteran friends know about the Passage of this Bill.

PROPER RESPECT FOR THE FLAG

- The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.
- The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.
- The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.
- The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery.
- The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.
- The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.
- The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.
- The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, or carrying, or delivering anything.
- The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.
- No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations.
- The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a **LIVING THING**. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.
- The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

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

First Class Prst.
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NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Board of Directors
 Jerry Judge, Chairman 68 E. Sierra Way, Chula Vista, CA
 91911; 619-422-0761; Email RAJTR@cox.net

Board Members: Dudley Cass, Jerry Craig, Jack Connery,
 Ken Noble, Ray Spatz

President
 John Reynolds, 916 Esplanade #107, Redondo Beach, CA
 90277; 310-540-7817; Email canrc@verizon.net

Secretary-Treasurer
 Jack Timmons, 2661 Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, CA 92106-1121;
 619-224-8928; Email JETimmons@aol.com

2007 Reunion Coordinator
 Dan Moore, 56619 Wedgwood N., Elkhart, IN 46516
 574-295-5712; Email dan56619@aol.com

Newsletter Editor
 Kathy Spatz, 503 Olive Blvd., So. Hempstead, NY 11550
 516-385-5712; Email kspatz@optonline.net

Webmaster
 Ken Noble, 14019 Summer Bay Lane, Broomfield, CO 80020;
 303-410-7150; Email kwnoble@usstopekaig8.org

Ships Store
 Linda Roberts, 7315 Valley Lane, Hixson, TN 37343-2207;
 423-842-5147; Email jlrob@aol.com

SHIPS STORE

Most of the merchandise will be available in Indianapolis. 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
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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	
Navy M – 1 left	\$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

U.S.S. TOPEKA (CLG8) REUNION ASSOCIATION. INC. (Rev. 1 1/15/2008)
SAN ANTONIO REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

Reunion 2008:

Reunion Coordinator(s): Ray and Kathy Spatz

Welcome to Historic San Antonio, Texas, the seventh largest city in the U.S. The city is a cultural gateway into the American Southwest. Famous for its Riverwalk, the Alamo, its Tejano Culture, and home to the SeaWorld San Antonio and Six Flags Fiesta Texas theme parks,

Thanks to Ray and Kathy Spatz, and Ruth Cass, arrangements for the San Antonio Reunion are going well. We have some excellent tours set up and the hotel is centrally located. General information follows.

Reunion Dates: Wed., September 17, thru Saturday, September 20, 2008. Most will depart on Sunday, September 21, 2008.

San Antonio Weather expected: There is a 70% chance of sunshine in September. Average temperatures range from a high of 90 degrees to a low of 68 degrees. September is when things cool off. Extremely high temperatures of 100 degrees or over are rare and usually in July, August and early Sept. Normal rainfall is 3 inches for the whole month. Use sun-protection if you're out on tours, etc.

Hotel: Holiday Inn San Antonio Downtown-Market Square, 318 West Durango Blvd, San Antonio, TX 78204. Rates: \$101 (Kings or Queens) + 16.75% room tax. Rates are good Tuesday thru Sunday for those who want more time in San Antonio. Free self parking, 210 car parking spaces in lighted area for registered guests. Bus and RV parking are available. The hotel is 10 miles from San Antonio Intl Airport (SAT) \$20 taxi fare, 15 Min by taxi. Hotel's check-in is 4:00 PM on the day of arrival and check-out is before 12:00 PM on the date of departure.

We will have a fantastic Hospitality room, large enough to handle our expected attendance.

You will make your own reservations. The cutoff date for the rates above is August 17, 2008. Reservation Phone: 1-888-615-0725. Make sure you tell them you are with the USS TOPEKA Reunion Association.

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.

Wednesday, Sept 17: Open day for check-in, doing attractions on your own and the afternoon tour shown below.

Tour A - The Greune Texas Adventure 4:00 PM till 9:30 PM.

Motor Coach pick up at hotel, to historic Greune, TX which is a restored turn of the 20th century town. Unique shopping, many specialty stores, antiques, and wine tasting shops. There are six excellent restaurants for your dining choices. Town Center has several old general stores, a pottery works and a Christmas store. There's time to enjoy with your friends and see the sights. At 7:00 PM we will visit "**Greune Hall**", the oldest dance hall in Texas. The band starts at 7:00 PM and we will have two hours to enjoy the music, beverages and dancing. **Cost is \$35 per person with dinner on your own.**

Thursday, Sept 18: Open day for doing the attractions on your own and the two tours shown below.

Tour B - The Best of San Antonio Tour 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. First stop is San Antonio Shoe Factory built like a 1910 General Store full of antiques, a car collection and old-time soda fountain. Everyone loves this store. Our next stop is the Spanish Mission Concepcion. The mission was started in 1731 and holds historic art and a wonderful story of Colonial Spain. Next we are to the famous Alamo mission fort with its historic Long Barracks and Chapel. Lunch is on your own at the River Center Mall or the Menger hotel buffet. As we depart downtown we will visit the "El Mercado" also known as the Mexican Market now a center for one of a kind shops with all the south of the border bargains. Cost per person is \$30 with lunch on your own.

Tour C - River Walk Dinner with Boat Tour 5:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Depart hotel at 5:30 PM and go directly to the River Walk boat landing. Relax and enjoy the lush tropical beauty of the San Antonio River and the fun of gliding past restaurants, shops, hotels and historical sites on your tour of the River Walk! After the tour we dock at the best Mexican Restaurant in the city. Your dinner follows cocktails at the Cash Bar and is served where you can overlook the boats and people traveling the river. You're great Mexican dinner includes salad and ice teas, state taxes and 18% gratuity at the restaurant. Package includes transportation, boat tour, guides and restaurant reservations. **Cost per person is \$45.**

Friday, September 19, 2008: Open day for doing the attractions on your own and the tour shown below

Tour D- 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. USS Topeka Reunion Association Tour. National Museum of the War in the Pacific and the Admiral Nimitz Museum. Your tour travels through the charming Texas hill country to Fredericksburg, the hometown of Admiral Chester Nimitz. The high point of the tour is the National Museum of the Pacific War. Included in this State Park is the Japanese Peace Garden. The George S. Bush Sr. Gallery of the Pacific War, which also tells the complete history of **WWII**. Also the Nimitz family Steamship Hotel owned by the Admiral's Grandfather and where the Admiral grew up. The museum tells the story of the Nimitz family in Fredericksburg. In addition there is an Aircraft Carrier hanger deck and the PT Boat museum that is first class. To top off this display of Naval History is the Plaza of the Presidents which tells the stories of all our Presidents who served in WWII as members of the military. Lunch is on your own at one of the fine German restaurants located on the main street within one block of the Nimitz Museum. After lunch you are free to return to any of the museums or enjoy shopping at the unique stores on Main Street. We will board coaches for our return trip at 2:30 PM with arrival at our hotel at 4:00 PM. **Cost is \$45 per person.**

Board Meeting 4:30 p.m.

For the evening, a cocktail mixer hour at 6 PM, followed at 7 PM by a "Buffet dinner at poolside at the hotel. This Italian dinner buffet features Minestrone Soup, a Garden Salad, Lasagna, Spaghetti & Meatballs, Chicken Fettuccine Alfredo, Shrimp, or Scallop Pesto Bow Tie, Green Beans Almandine, with Garlic Sticks, and Tiramisu with ice tea and coffee on request. A children's menu featuring a small fruit bowl with choices of Chicken Tenders with French fries or 6" two topping pizza w/ small portion of spaghetti or Hamburger Steak with mashed potatoes and a small lemonade is available.

Saturday: Reunion Business Meeting at 9 AM followed by group pictures. "On your own" the rest of the day. For the evening, cocktail hour at 6 PM followed by a sit-down banquet and short program at 7 PM. Dinner will feature Seared Salmon (Tender North Atlantic Salmon seared to retain it's natural juices) served with a creamy white sauce or Prime Rib (Prime rib with Aus Jus Sauce and Horse Radish) with tossed Green Salad. Baked Potato with sour cream, and a vegetable medley. dessert is Pecan Pie. Wines will be served with the dinner with choices of Chardonnay, White Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon or Merlot. There is a vegetarian plate option for those who wish that. A children's menu featuring a small fruit bowl with choices of Chicken Tenders with French fries or 6" two topping pizza w/ small portion of spaghetti or Hamburger Steak with mashed potatoes and a small lemonade is available.

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 AM every morning with fresh coffee, donuts, bagels, juice, milk, and toast. A light lunch will be available. Will be open 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 and "how to get there" will be available for San Antonio attractions.

Need more information? Have Questions?

Contact Ray /Kathy Spatz, 503 Olive Blvd., South Hempstead, NY 11550. Phone (516) 385-5712. E-mail kspatz@optonline.net. Any suggestions or recommendations for the reunion are welcomed. See you in San Antonio!

USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Association, Inc. Registration (Rev.1 1/15/ 2008)
San Antonio, TX. SEPTEMBER 17-20, 2008

Name _____ Number in party _____

Staying at the Holiday Inn- Market Square? _____

Emergency Contact: Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Any Handicap and/or Special Dietary Requirements? _____

Name(s) for nametag(s) (if you haven't previously received permanent nametag):

Reunion Fee: The Reunion Fee includes the costs of the Hospitality Room, the Friday night Buffet Dinner by the Pool, the Saturday night Banquet, and other fixed costs of the Reunion. Reunion Fee for adults attending all four days: \$120. For those not attending all four days: \$10 for Wed; \$10 for Thu; \$45 for Fri; \$60 for Sat. Adult Guests/Teens/Children at Friday Buffet Dinner: \$35/\$35/\$12; at Saturday Banquet Dinner: \$50/\$40/\$12.

Days Attending	Number Attending	Price	Cost
<u>All four days</u>	_____	\$120	\$ _____
<u>Not all four days</u>			
Wednesday	_____	\$ 10	\$ _____
Thursday	_____	\$ 10	\$ _____
Friday	_____	\$ 45	\$ _____
Saturday	_____	\$ 60	\$ _____
 <u>Adult Guests/Teens/Children.</u>			
Friday Picnic: Adult Guests	_____	\$ 35	\$ _____
Teens	_____	\$ 35	\$ _____
Children	_____	\$ 12	\$ _____
Sat Banquet: Adult Guests	_____	\$ 50	\$ _____
Teens	_____	\$ 40	\$ _____
Children	_____	\$ 12	\$ _____
		Reunion Fee Total	\$ _____

Banquet Entrée Choices (give number)
 Prime Rib _____ Seared Salmon _____ Vegetarian _____
Child's Plate Friday Chicken Tenders _____ Pizza w/Spaghetti _____
 or Hamburger Steak _____
Child's Plate Saturday Chicken Tenders _____ Pizza w/Spaghetti _____
 or Hamburger Steak _____

(Continued on Reverse Side)

TOPEKA 2008 San Antonio Reunion Registration (continued)

Tours:

Tour	Number	Price	Cost
"A" The Greune Texas Adventure Wed 4-9 PM	_____	\$35	\$_____
"B" The Best of San Antonio Tour Thu 9AM-2PM	_____	\$30	\$_____
"C" River Walk Dinner with Boat Tour Thurs 5:30-9:30PM	_____	\$45	\$_____
"D" Topeka Reunion Assoc. Tour Fri 9AM- 4 PM	_____	\$45	\$_____

National Museum of War, Japanese Peace Garden,
Nimitz family Steamship Hotel, Plaza of the Presidents
PT Boat Museum. Shopping.

Tours Cost Total \$_____

Reunion Fees and Tours Costs: Total \$_____

Deadline for Payment of above costs is August 17, 2008.

Make Checks payable to USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Assn., Inc. and mail to:

Clare Smart, 560 Meadowlark Dr., Turlock, CA 95382-1412