

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 21, No. 2

June 2010

Officers:

John Reynolds, Chairman, Board of Directors; John Reynolds, President;
Dudley Cass, Secretary-Treasurer;
Ruth & Dudley Cass, Reunion Chairman;
Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master;
Linda Roberts, Ships Store



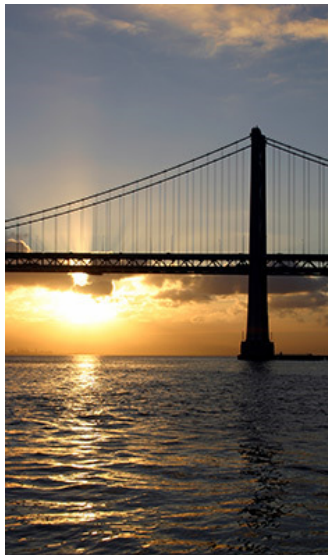
FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 21st gathering of the USS Topeka Reunion Association will soon be upon us. San Francisco is no stranger to Topeka sailors. Baka Hachi spent many days in San Francisco during her deployments. We are happy to report that the response by shipmates has been much better than we expected, and we are seeing great support for our 21st reunion in this great city by the bay. The tours are filling up fast, together with the hotel room nights. We are hitting the Double Tree Hotel just before the conventioners start coming on the 19th. If you haven't registered yet I would advise you to do it ASAP.

Ruth and Dudley are busy working out all the kinks so we will have smooth sailing during our stay in Frisco. Besides the great tours they have lined up, the BART is at hand to take those of us who wish to venture out on our own to Ghirardelli square, Haight Ashbury, Alcatraz to name but a few of the wonderful places to see. The best part, of course, will be to get together to spin a few yarns, tell a few sea stories in the hospitality room, and maybe hoist a few (just an after thought).

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

JR

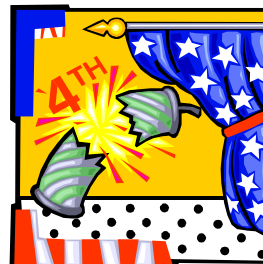


NEW MEMBERS (since March 2010)

George Kolessar RD3 59-62 Smock, PA
William Dempsey GS3 60-61 Griffin, GA
Carl Shipley LCDR 68-69 Texarkana, TX
Marvin Irish RD1 65-66 Gig Harbor, WA (CruDesFlot staff)
Frank Gray, BM3 63-66, Virginia Beach, VA
Jim Huffman, ETN3 63-64 Cupertino, CA

TAPS

Raymond Geibe SM2 59-63 2008
Larry Geibe SM3 60-64 5/16/10
Don Ervin QMC 60-61 5/10
David F. Bills SN '60 '10



HAPPY AND SAFE
FOURTH OF JULY!

Make Hotel Reservations Soon for San Francisco Reunion.

In order to avoid problems in making hotel reservations, and allow more time for solving any problems which occur, make your reservations **soon** for the reunion.

We have updated our room requirements at the hotel from attendance information members have provided. There should not be problems with reservations for the days Tues Sep 14 thru Sat Sep 18 for those who have submitted their attendance information and make their reservations soon. Sounds like those who wait until July-August to make their reservations may find no rooms are available.

The days-before (Sep 12-13) and days-after (Sep 19-20) reservations have availability problems. We only have a few rooms available before (Sun-Mon at \$119). And there are no more rooms available for Sep 19-20 because there is a LARGE (~15,000) convention crowd coming into San Francisco on Sun Sep 19 which will impact all the hotels.

No Free Breakfast for Members Not Booked with USS Topeka Group.

The free breakfast buffet (Wed thru Sat), and special rate (\$5) for auto parking is available only to members booking their rooms with the USS Topeka group package at the Doubletree hotel central reservation system.

A San Francisco Hotel Perfect for Business or Pleasure

Overlooking the scenic San Francisco Bay, the Doubletree Hotel San Francisco Airport in Burlingame, California is located just two miles south of San Francisco Airport (SFO), offering location, value and service, as well as:

- 24-hour airport shuttle service - Drops off near BART light rail line for an easy and inexpensive way to travel to downtown San Francisco
- Complimentary transportation service to downtown Burlingame
- A newly remodeled fitness center
 - Complimentary golf club rental to our guests

- Bayside jogging and walking trail
- Driving range at the adjacent Burlingame Golf Center
- Hotel library
- Complimentary, 24-hour Business Center
- All 388 of our guest rooms are WiFi accessible (minimal charge) and 150 of those guest rooms will also be hard-wired for HSIA (minimal charge)
- Delicious dining at Chutney Grill & Lounge serving breakfast, lunch and dinner daily

All Rooms Feature

- High-speed Internet access
- Sweet Dreams alarm clock radio with MP3 connectivity
- Cable TV with pay-per-view movies and complimentary HBO
- Iron and ironing board
- Hairdryer
- Coffeemaker with complimentary coffee and tea
- Individual climate control
- Electronic door locks
- USA Today delivered each weekday morning
- Complimentary 24-hour self-service business center
- Automated Teller (ATM)
- Baggage Storage
- Car Rental Desk
- Concierge Desk
- Gift Shop
- Local Area Transportation
- Lounge
- Luggage Hold
- Multi-Lingual Staff
- News Stand
- Room Service
- Safety Deposit Box



WHO'S COMING SAN FRANCISCO

	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
Joan Anderson		1	1	1	1
Jesse Aragon	3	3	3	7	7
Gary Baker	2	2	2	2	2
Jack Bock				2	2
Ernest Boutte'		2	2	2	2
Phillip Brooks				2	2
Parker Butcher		1	1	1	1
William Carver		2	2	2	2
Dudley Cass	2	2	2	2	2
Jerry Craig	2	2	2	2	2
Walter Crane		1	1	1	1
William Crum	1	1	2	2	2
Erin Endicott		2	2	2	2
Albert Gustafson	2	2	2	2	2
Steven Hall		2	2	2	2
James Henslee	2	2	2	2	2
Harvey Hershkowitz			2	2	2
Michael Hight	2	2	2	2	2
Arnold Hoel	2	2	2	2	2
Paul Hulette			1	1	3
Harold Jackson	2	2	2	2	2
Daniel Johansen	2	2	2	2	2
Terry Jones		2	2	2	2
Ruth Judge	1	1	1	1	1
John Kehoe	2	2	2	2	2
John Keith		2	2	2	2
Norm Malmberg	2	2	2	2	2
Daniel Moore	2	2	2	2	2
Donald Nelson		2	2	2	2
Loy Nix	1	1	1	1	1
Kenneth Noble			2	2	2
Irak Parkhurst			2	3	3
Jerome Pennington	2	2	2	2	2
Roseann Peragine	1	1	1	1	1
Gale Pfund				2	2
John Reynolds	2	2	2	2	2
Joe Ripley		2	2	2	2
Robert Robbins		2	2	2	2
Linda Roberts	1	1	1	1	1
Paul Ruby			2		2
Austin Schroder		2	2	2	2
Ronald Smart	2	2	2	2	2
Raymond Spatz	2	2	2	2	2

Jimmy Starr	2	2	2	2	2
Paul Stein	2	2	2	2	2
Jack Timmons	2	2	2	2	2
Tracy Tipton	2	2	2	2	2
Ernesto Villamil	2	2	2	2	2
Richard Wallace		2	2	2	2
Egon Werdelman	1	1	1	1	1

Aircraft Carrier USS Hornet Museum at Alameda.

For our members who would like a do-it-yourself tour of a historic "Navy Gray", the USS Hornet is located at Alameda, across the bay from Burlingame. The Hornet (CVA/CVS) was built and operated in the same era as Topeka. Keith Hedley, a former Radar man on the Galveston (CLG), is a docent on the Hornet, and has agreed to be the speaker at our reunion banquet. He says "the fully-restored CIC and Radio Central spaces are very similar to what CLG-8 had. The equipment - which is almost all there - is exactly the same type/models as on all of the CLGs. Not only will any RD and RM feel like they have stepped into their work space on the Topeka, any snipe will tell you the Hornet restored Main Control and Engine Room is only missing the heat and noise".

Other restored areas include the bridge and chart house, mess decks, CPO mess, living spaces, and MARDET compartment. On display are dozens of ship exhibits, several aircraft and many historical displays from WW II through the Apollo 11 & 12 recovery operations.

Public transportation (BART to downtown Oakland, + 3.5 mile taxi ride to the Hornet) is available to get you there. (About 1 hour travel time) Hornet hours 10am-5pm every day.

Admission: Adults \$14. For the 65+ folks, it's \$12.

Those interested may contact me (Dudley Cass), and if there are several interested, we might set up a group visit. Keith has said he will conduct personal tours for Topeka association members, for a "couple beers or a Mai-Tai at the local Tiki bar". More information on the Hornet is available on the website www.uss-hornet.org.

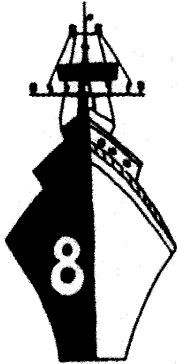
USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION

C/O Dudley Cass

3028 Bonita Woods Drive

Bonita, CA 91902-2019

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NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Board of Directors

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

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President

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Ships Store

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

SHIPS STORE

Most of the merchandise will be available in San Francisco. 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. (Items subject to change)

Ladies Shirts

White	\$19.00
Cardigan Baby Blue	\$20.00
Scoop Neck Blue	\$16.00
V-Neck L. Pink & Pistachio	\$16.00

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
Red w/pocket M	21.00

Men's Shirts

Dessert Moon	34.00
Nike Blue	31.00

Jackets

Red Jackets	\$36.00
Ping-Canvas	\$48.00

Assorted items available

Ball Caps	\$12.00
Cold Drink Holders	4.00
Coffee mugs w/Topeka emblem	5.00
Topeka Note pads (5 pack)	4.00
License Plate Holder	3.00

Reunion San Francisco September 14-18 2010

San Francisco, here we come! We've been to San Diego, Long Beach, Portland, and Seattle – now for the Jewel of the West Coast! San Francisco is rich in history from the Great Quake, the construction of the Western end of the first continental railroad, thru the Gold Rush days, the building of the Golden Gate Bridge, and into the present with the development of nearby Silicon Valley, the high-tech industrial capitol of the world. and is beautifully located - surrounded on three sides by the Pacific Ocean and the San Francisco Bay, near the famous wine country of Napa and Sonoma valleys, the Giant Sequoia forests at Muir Woods to the North, and at the Santa Cruz area to the South, Come, see your shipmates, and enjoy San Francisco!

The date for the reunion is Tuesday Sep 14 thru Saturday Sep 18 2010. Mid-September weather is fine in the San Francisco area! We can expect sunny days and very comfortable temperatures. You may like a light jacket or sweater for the evenings.

Reunion Tours and Events

Tour/Event	Day	Time	Comment
Hosp. Room	Tue	PM	Setup and Open Hosp Room
Sonoma Wineries	Wed	9a-3p	Tastings and tour
Board Meeting	Wed	4p	Board business meeting
City Tour	Thu	9a-3p	Highlights of San Francisco
Harbor Dinner Cruise	Thu	5p-11p	California Hornblower
Muir Woods Tour	Fri	9a-3p	Lunch/shop stop Sausalito
Friday Buffet	Fri	6p-8p	Cocktail hour, "Home at the Ranch" Buffet
Membership Meeting	Sat	9a-11a	Group photos after meeting
Saturday Banquet	Sat	6p-9p	Cocktail hour, banquet, program

The hotel is the Doubletree Hotel San Francisco Airport in Burlingame, 17 miles from downtown SFran, and 2 miles south of the SFran airport on Airport Blvd. The hotel provides 24/7 shuttle service (free) to and from the airport.

The hotel room rate is \$119 per night, single or double occupancy, (\$129 triple, \$139 quad) (plus 11.5% room tax) and includes a full breakfast buffet at no extra charge Wednesday thru Saturday morning. The \$119 room rate is available for 2 days before/after the reunion date, subject to availability. The sleeping rooms are large, well furnished, have very comfortable beds, and an excellent guest-controlled heating/AC system. The fifth floor has smoking guest rooms – the rest of the hotel interior is non-smoking. Handicap rooms are available. Hotel wheel-chairs are available for guests arriving or departing the hotel. 24/7 wheel-chairs must be arranged by the guest. Banquet/buffet/business-meeting rooms are on the first floor and open out to the courtyard where smoking is permitted. **See the reverse side of the registration form for hotel reservation information.**

Our Hospitality room is the 1350 sq ft Presidential Suite, which is very nicely furnished and decorated and has a wet bar. The Hospitality room will be setup Tuesday and will be open for check-ins Tuesday afternoon and evening, and will be open 7 am to 11 pm Wednesday thru Saturday, except during the Friday evening buffet and the Saturday evening banquet. The Hosp. Rm is where we visit, relax, swap sea-stories, look at cruise books. Coffee, beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and snacks will be available.

The hotel restaurant is excellent. We had breakfast, lunch, and dinner there and were pleased with the menu, prices, and quality of food and service. Our Friday buffet, and the Saturday banquet will be at the hotel. The menus:
Friday Buffet – Marinated Santa Maria Tri-Tip, BBQ Chicken Breast, Salad(s), Vegetables, Dessert, Coffee and Tea.
Saturday Banquet – Spinach Salad, choice of Entrees; Prime Rib, Dore Fillet of Petrale Sole, Stuffed Chicken Breast, or Vegetarian; Double-baked potato, vegetable, Dessert. Coffee, tea, choice of wine (by glass). No-host bar at both the events.

With advance notice, free RV parking (no hookups, limited number) is available nearby for hotel guests. Auto parking for guests is \$5 per day. A jogging/walking trail along the bay shore is just back of the hotel, as well as a golf driving range.

Airport Blvd, a short "hotel circle" containing about 8-10 large hotels and Benihana and Elephant Bar restaurants, is East of Hwy 101 along the bay - West of Hwy 101 is the Burlingame residential and business area.

Burlingame is a small town with lots of shops and restaurants, about 1-2 miles from the hotel. A Burlingame shuttle bus (free) runs every 45 minutes between the "hotel circle" and the Burlingame business district for those who will enjoy the small-town atmosphere for a leisurely walk and eating or shopping near our hotel.

We will be offering bus tours to downtown and other areas near SFran, but I'm sure we have members who will want to "do-the-town" on their own. For those, there is a BART station located at the airport, which provides excellent transportation to downtown SFran. Takes 32 minutes to go downtown to the Embarcadero station on Market Street. Costs \$8.10 one way regular rate – Senior Rate (65+) is just over \$3. BART runs about once an hour.

The Embarcadero is near the Oakland Bay bridge and near the heart of the downtown area. For 75 cents, seniors can take the MUNI F trolley out to the Fisherman's Wharf, which is one of the tourist favorites of San Francisco - lots of shops, restaurants, and near the famous cable cars of SFran. Double-decker tour buses operate out of Fisherman's Wharf for tours of the city – you can get off anywhere along the route and then reboard a later bus to continue the tour.

Tour Details: For the below tours, all admission, tasting charges, bridge tolls, and driver/guide-narrator gratuities are included in the price. The cost for your lunch is not included.

"A" Sonoma Winery Tour - Wednesday, September 15 9am-3pm

Bus to the Sonoma area for tastings at the Viansa, Jacuzzi, and Gloria Ferrer wineries and a tour at one of the wineries. Viansa features an Italian Marketplace, a wide choice of wines, a picnic area with a great view, and olive oil. Gloria Ferrer features sparkling wines – Sonoma Brut was one of their wines rated 90+ points. Jacuzzi (yes, it's the same family who built the hot-tubs) features Italian Varietals and olive oil. You can "google" these wineries on the internet. You will see beautiful vineyards, tour a winery, and taste some of California's best wines. Lunch stop near the Viansa winery. **Price (includes tasting fees) \$75 per person.**

"B" San Francisco Deluxe City Tour – Thursday, September 16 9am-3pm

Highlights of San Francisco including (but not limited to): Twin Peaks(PS), Mission Dolores, Lombard Street, Painted Ladies, Haight/Asbury, Palace of Fine Arts(PS), Golden Gate Park, Golden Gate Bridge Vista Point(PS). Note: PS indicates Photo-Stop. Pier 39 – 1.5 hour stop for lunch and shopping. Includes guide/narration.

Price \$50 per person.

"C" Hornblower Harbor Dinner Cruise – Thursday, Sep 16 Leave hotel 5:30pm – return hotel approx 10:30pm

Custom built in New Orleans in 1988, California Horn blower is one of the West Coast's largest and most luxurious dining yacht. 183 feet long, the ship features three spacious decks, mahogany bars, expansive promenade decks and a sky deck atop the vessel. The Hornblower departs Pier 3 at 7 pm, cruises from Pier 3 to the Golden Gate Bridge, returns to the Pier at 9:30pm. The dinner served: **Salad** – Avocado, Endive and Israeli Cous Cous Salad with Lemon Cilantro Vinaigrette. **Entrée (choice of one)** Chicken Breast Stuffed with Pesto, Feta and Provolone Cheese with Citrus Kalamata Olive and Tomato Salsa and Almond Rice Pilaf, **OR** : Spinach Basil Gnocchi with Sautéed Escarole and Broccoli Rabe and Lemon Asiago Cream. **Dessert:** Chef's Choice. **Price (includes transportation): \$120 per person.**

"D" Muir Woods National Monument – Sausalito Tour – Friday, September 17 9am-3pm

We have William Kent to thank for what is now Muir Woods National Monument, home of groves of Coastal Redwood, the tallest trees in the world (the tallest recorded to date is 379 feet tall – tall as a 35 story building). In 1905 Kent bought the Muir Woods property, 611 acres, for \$45,000. In 1907, he donated 295 acres, the core of the redwood forest, to the federal government, to thwart the city of Sausalito in a plan to dam the Redwood Creek and destroy the redwoods. In 1908 Teddy Roosevelt proclaimed it a National Monument. Come and see for yourself the beauty and magnificence of these sequoias! For easy walking, there is 1.5 miles of "almost flat" trail. 2 wheel-chairs are available for visitors on a first-come – first-serve basis. Smoking allowed only in the parking lot and the entrance plaza. After Muir Woods you will visit Sausalito for a 1.5 hour lunch/shopping tour. **Price \$50 per person.**

HELP! I need to know if you plan on coming, or not, by the first of April. Please email me, or mail a copy of the registration telling me your "intent" on coming to the reunion, and how many of your party will go on each tour. No commitment or money required right now. September is the peak of the visitor and convention business in San Francisco, and bus transportation gets scarce! Bus transportation has to be booked and reserved, and deposit paid soon. I need feedback from you NOW to determine how many bus seats I need to contract for. If you email, just send me your name, how many in your party, and how many seats you need for each of the tours "A", "B", "C", and "D". Email to DUDCASS@AOL.COM or mail to my address on the registration form. . If you're Not Coming, I'd like to know why. Thanks.

USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Association, Inc. Registration Rev. 1
21st Annual Reunion, San Francisco, CA September 14-18, 2010

Name _____ Number in party _____

Staying at the Double Tree Hotel San Francisco Airport? _____

What nights? Check: Tue ___ Wed ___ Thu ___ Fri ___ Sat ___ Sun ___ More? y/n

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 fixed costs of the reunion (e.g. Bartenders at the Buffet and Banquet, Event liability insurance, rooms for Reunion Coordinator and Sect/Treas, and Banquet guests – Speaker and Color Guard), and the costs of snacks and beverages in Hospitality Room, the Friday night Buffet, and the Saturday night Banquet.

Tuesday is the setup day for the hospitality room which will be available in the afternoon and evening for those checking in on Tuesday. No charge for Tuesday. Reunion Fee (per person) for members/adult-guests attending all four days (Wed thru Sat): \$120. For those members/adult-guests not attending all four days: \$10 for Wed; \$10 for Thu; \$45 for Fri; \$55 for Sat. Adult/Teens/Children Guests for the buffet and banquet only: Friday Buffet Dinner: \$40/40/20; Saturday Banquet Dinner: \$50/38/19.

Number Attending	Price	Cost
	(Per Person)	
<u>Members and Adult-Guests, All four days</u>		
_____	\$120	\$_____
<u>Members and Adult-Guests, Not all four days</u>		
Wednesday _____	\$10	\$_____
Thursday _____	\$10	\$_____
Friday _____	\$45	\$_____
Saturday _____	\$55	\$_____
<u>Guests of Members Above For Only The Fri Buffet and/or Sat Banquet</u>		
Friday Buffet: Adult _____	\$40	\$_____
Teens _____	\$40	\$_____
Children (3-12 yrs) _____	\$20	\$_____
Sat Banquet Adult _____	\$50	\$_____
Teens _____	\$38	\$_____
Children (3-12 yrs) _____	\$20	\$_____
Reunion Fee Total		\$_____

Banquet Entrée Choices (give number for each)

Prime Rib of Beef _____ Dore Fillet of Petrale Sole _____

Stuffed Chicken Breast with Cabernet Sauce _____ Vegetarian (Chef's choice of Pasta) _____

Child's Plate (w/ French Fries, Ice Cream, Beverage): Hamburger _____ Chicken Fingers _____

(CONTINUED ON REVERSE SIDE)

TOPEKA 2010 San Francisco Reunion Registration (continued)

Tours:

<u>Tour</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Cost</u>
“A” Sonoma Winery Tour Wed 9AM- 3 PM	_____	\$75	\$_____
“B” San Francisco Deluxe City Tour Thu 9AM-3PM	_____	\$50	\$_____
“C” Hornblower Harbor Dinner Cruise Thurs 5:30-11PM	_____	\$120	\$_____
“D” Muir Woods National Park Fri 9 AM- 3 PM	_____	\$50	\$_____
Tours Cost Total			\$_____

Reunion Fees and Tours Costs: Total \$_____

Deadline for Payment and Receipt of above costs is August 13, 2010.

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

Dudley Cass, 3028 Bonita Woods Dr., Bonita, CA 91902-2019

HOTEL AND RESERVATION INFORMATION

Hotel: DoubleTree Hotel San Francisco Airport
 Address: 835 Airport Boulevard, Burlingame, CA 94010 Telephone 650-344-5500

For Reservations, Call 1-800-222-8733 This is the Central Reservation System for ALL Doubletree hotels.
Deadline for reservations for our group rates: August 21, 2010

Information you will need to give them:

Name of hotel: “Doubletree Hotel San Francisco Airport”
Group Name: “USS Topeka” **Group Code:** “USS”
Arrival Date: _____ **Departure Date:** _____
Your Full Name _____ **Number in your party** _____
Credit card # _____

If you have problems with reservations (e.g., rates, availability, etc) Call Dudley or Ruth at 619-267-3123, or email dudcass@aol.com or bonitarcdc@aol.com.