

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 23, No. 1

March 2012

Officers:

Dan Moore, Chairman, Board of Directors; Dan Moore, President;
Gary Baker, Secretary-Treasurer;
Paul Stein, 2012 Reunion Chairman;
Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Gary Baker, Web Master;
Linda Roberts, Ships Store



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hope this newsletter finds everyone well. You will note that plans for the 2012 reunion in Madison are well underway. If you've never attended one of the USS Topeka Reunions, please consider joining us this year in Madison. Sharon and I first attended a reunion in Charleston in 2004. We enjoyed it so much we haven't missed one since. There is an article on the website submitted by our shipmate, Jack Clements, titled "Why we have reunions". It sums up with the statement:
I WAS A SAILOR ONCE. I WAS PART OF THE NAVY, BUT THE NAVY WILL ALWAYS BE PART OF ME.
Plan your 2012 vacation to join us in Wisconsin. Don't miss out on being an honorary "Cheesehead" for a week. See you there.

Dan



NEW MEMBERS (since November 2011)

Lawrence Way IC2 59-63
(Posthumous registration)
John Kleinmanns MT2 63-65
John Glenn MARDET 66-68
David Allen BM2 67-69
Jack Smith YN4 67-68
Glenn Pomykal LTJG 64-65
Dale Plueger FTM3 67- 69

TAPS

Tom Eagling GMC 60-63
William Montgomery CAPT 63-64
Edward Hunziker IC3 59-61
Donald Gerrick FTG1 60-62
Ronald McPhail RDC 67-68
Lawrence Way IC2 59-63
Gerry Schwartz IC2 59-63



USS TOPEKA 2013 REUNION

**Wednesday, August 23, to
Sunday, August 26, 2012**

Hotel: Radisson Hotel - Madison, 517 Grand
Canyon Drive, Madison, WI 53719.
radisson.com/madison

Paul Stein, our Reunion Host, is hard at work preparing for the 23rd Annual USS Topeka reunion. He may be contacted at USSTopeka2012@gmail.com for any questions or information.

The contract for the room rates and room block has been signed. Room rates are \$79.00 per night, double occupancy, breakfast included. Rooms are subject to a tax of 14.5%. For reservations call 1-800-395-7046 or (608) 833-0100. To ensure you receive the group rate please make reservations by July 27th, 2012, and mention that they are for the USS Topeka Reunion. It is very important that reservations are made under the USS Topeka Reunion banner so we can meet our room count commitment.



HOTEL SHUTTLE

If you are considering flying into Madison and renting a car at the airport, My suggestion is don't. Take the free shuttle provided by the Radisson and when you want a car both Avis and Enterprise have offices within a block of the hotel. This way you only need to rent the vehicle when needed and not pay the airport surcharges.

Let the hotel know 24 hours before your flight the flight number and scheduled arrival time. They will then track the flight and do their best to have the shuttle at the airport on your arrival. They will also be providing shuttle service to facilities within a

couple miles of the hotel. This includes a major regional shopping center and a multitude of fine restaurants. Just ask Paul for recommendations on local restaurants for most any taste and budget.

MADISON NAVY TRIVIA

The first official presence of the Navy on campus was the opening of the Navy Communications School on April 29, 1942. Today that facility is the home of the N.R.O.T.C. unit on campus and for our Gunners Mates there is a single 5 inch 54 mount inside the building.



WISCONSIN STATE CAPITOL

The Wisconsin State Capitol is located in the heart of downtown Madison on an isthmus formed by Lake Mendota to the north and Lake Monona to the south. Accenting the beauty of the Capitol building is the 13.5 acres of Capitol grounds on which it sits. During the summer, there are 15 flowerbeds on the grounds, containing over 25,000 annual plants. The grounds are also home to 154 trees, of which there are 30 different varieties.

The exterior of the Capitol is constructed entirely of White Bethel Vermont granite. This material compares to marble in whiteness and general appearance. It is the hardest and most durable stone used in the construction of the Capitol building.

Happy 
St. Patrick's Day



PRIVATE DINNER CRUISE **on THE BETTY LOU**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23RD
6:15pm – 10:45pm

There has never been a better way to experience Madison than this! From the deck of the Betty Lou, listen to the sound of the lapping waves and feel the breeze on your face. Whether you are standing on the open deck or relaxing in the spacious cabin, you will have the best seat in town! The yachts are fully equipped and the experienced crew is prepared to make your cruise a carefree event to remember. Don't forget your camera– this is a great way to see Madison from a whole different point of view.

Enjoy first class views of the skyline, including the State Capitol, Governor's Mansion, Monona Terrace and the University of Wisconsin Campus. Behold miles of scenic natural shoreline, including Governor Nelson State Park, as well as dramatic lake front estates. The 3 hour cruise includes a full dinner buffet with Sirloin Beef Tips and Broiled Salmon.

We depart from the Radisson at 6:15pm and will return at 10:45pm. Tour includes deluxe motor coach transportation, Outta Here! Travel escort, private charter on board Betty Lou Cruise yacht, buffet dinner, tax, tip and non-alcoholic beverage. There is a full service cash bar available. Just \$80 per person!

WEATHER

Weather is a major topic in Madison; Madisonians love to talk about weather! But for a place ranging in temperatures between -20 to 100 the topic does deserve some attention. Madison summers are for the most part very sunny and pleasant. The surrounding marshlands can bring the humidity up quite high and some days turn into scorchers.



THE HOUSE ON THE ROCK

The House on the Rock is the grand vision of Alex Jordan, who believed that sights and sounds were the most effective means of stimulating the senses. He wanted guests to question his creation, to come to their own conclusions and to turn his world of dreams into their own. The Attraction has room after room of some of the world's most unique and eclectic collections which has amazed thousands of visitors each year.

HOSPITALITY ROOM

The hospitality room will be open daily starting at 7:00am. The room will be closed during the Friday evening buffet and the Saturday Banquet. This is where you need to go for registration, the ship's store, photos, cruise books and visiting with other shipmates.

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, newsletter and directories, "upfront" reunion expenses, and the cost of maintaining the TOPEKA website on the internet. Dues should be sent to: Gary Baker, 1240 Lonesome Pine Lane, Billings, MT 59105

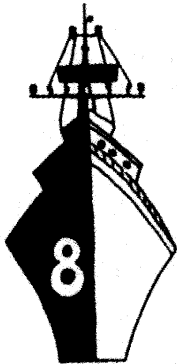
Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor
USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION

C/O Kathy Spatz

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South Hempstead, NY 11550

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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 at the 2012 Reunion. 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 **CALL**

New! Men's Shirts **CALL**

Navy - Med

Orange - Med L

Older Shirts

White - Med XL \$15.00

Navy - Med 15.00

Ping It Blue - Med **CALL**

Jackets

DriDuck - MED **CALL**

Navy - MED **CALL**

Assorted items available

Ball Caps \$12.00

Cold Drink Holders 3.00

Coffee mugs w/Topeka emblem 4.00

Topeka Note pads (5 pack) 4.00

License Plate Holder 2.00

New items available every year!

**USS TOPEKA (CLG8) REUNION ASSOCIATION INC.
2012 MADISON REUNION HIGHLIGHTS
Reunion coordinators: Paul and Joyce Stein**

Reunion Dates: Wednesday August 22nd through Saturday August 26th 2012. Room rates, as available, may be reserved 3 days before and after contracted dates. A lot of us arrive at least one day early, Tuesday and depart on Sunday.

<u>TOUR/EVENT</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>INFORMATION</u>
Hospitality Room	Tuesday	Evening	Set up/open early evening
Wine and Roses Tour	Wednesday	9am-3pm	Wine/Cheese tasting
Board meeting	Wednesday	4pm	Board business meeting
House on the Rock Tour	Thursday	8:45pm-4pm	Enjoy a Wisconsin cookout
Lake Dinner Cruise	Thursday	6:15pm-10pm	Private charter, buffet dinner
This is Madison Tour	Friday	8:45am-3pm	Capital, Veterans museum
Dinner Buffet	Friday	6pm-8pm	
Membership Meeting	Saturday	9am-11am	Group photos after meeting
Banquet	Saturday	6pm-9pm	

Tours: Wednesday, August 22nd: Tour A 9am-3pm- Wine and Roses.

Our deluxe motor coach will depart at 9am. We travel to the Wollersheim Winery in Prairie du Sac. The natural beauty surrounding the winery has been the backdrop for a remarkable historical heritage, one told in rich detail during the winery's guided tour. The tour points out interesting aspects of the property, which has earned a listing in the National Register of Historical Places. Following the tour, we get to taste a sampling of Wollersheim wines. The basic guidelines of wine tasting are explained.

Our next stop is Carr Valley Cheese. Carr Valley's Cheese makers are undoubtedly the best in the business with over 220 years of experience, crafting the world's finest cheddars and signature American Originals. Learn about the cheese making process and taste samples of the award – winning cheeses they are famous for.

Stroll through 16 acres of outdoor display gardens and an indoor, tropical conservatory at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. In the outdoor gardens, visit the Thai Pavilion and Garden. Olbrich's Thai Pavilion is the only one in the continental United States and the only one outside of Thailand surrounded by a garden. Stop and smell the roses in the Rose Garden which features innovative mixed borders of Midwest hardy shrub roses and perennials. Also stroll through other specialty gardens such as the Perennial Garden, Sunken Garden, and Herb Garden. We will have a guided tour as well as time to explore on your own. Just \$45 per Person

Thursday, August 23rd. Tour B 8:45am-4pm-House on the Rock We depart the hotel at 8:45am and make the scenic drive to the famous House on the Rock. Alex Jordan's awesome retreat built atop a chimney of rock opened to the public in 1960. The retreat was only the beginning. Your self-guided tour will invite you to explore dozens of unduplicated marvels, each a testament to Jordan's ingenuity and tireless energy. You'll see a giant fireplace, expansive yet cozy, and a boat-swallowing 200-foot sea creature. Aglow in a whirl of brilliance, the world's largest

Carousel displays its 20,000 lights and 269 handcrafted animals – not one of them a horse! More than 200 fully furnished doll houses will amaze and delight you. Experience room-rumbling performances by automated music machines including the awe-inspiring Mikado. Stroll the red-bricked Streets of Yesterday, admire lovely ivory carvings, suits of armor and sparkling crown jewels. Spend the morning here exploring.

We depart and go to the Old Feed Mill Restaurant in Mazomanie. Nestled against the bluffs of the Wisconsin River Valley, Mazomanie are an intriguing mix of history, nature, art and warm community spirit. The Old Fee Mill strives to replicate this unique blend of qualities in their business. Enjoy an old fashioned Wisconsin cookout– including brats, burgers, chicken and all the fixins'. Of course beverage, dessert tax and tip are all included! A great look at Old World Wisconsin at its best!

Just \$70 Per Person

Thursday, August 23rd, 6:15pm-10:45pm Dinner Cruise on Lake Mendota
See information on this tour in the main newsletter!

Friday, August 24th, Tour D, 8:45am-3pm This is Madison

Join us as we visit some of the places that make Madison the great place it is– to live in and to visit. A step on guide will give us a quick tour of the area– highlighting the history and mystery of this fine town. Our first stop is the Wisconsin Capitol building–the tallest building in Madison. We will have a docent guided tour and learn about the architecture and history of the capitol building.

From here we will go to the Wisconsin Veteran's Museum. The Museum is dedicated to the citizen-soldiers of our state. Employing exhibits, displays, and presentations, the museum's main galleries tell the story of Wisconsin men and women who served in America's conflicts from the Civil War to the Persian Gulf War..

Next is a visit to the University of Wisconsin Memorial Union where you can have lunch—maybe at Der Rathskellar or the Brat Stand? And don't forget to try some Babcock Ice Cream! After lunch we will continue with a short tour of the University area– including a drive by Camp Randall–home of the Wisconsin Badgers– but once used as a Civil War Training Camp and also as a stockade and hospital for confederate prisoners of war. .

The Civil war connection continues as we visit Confederate Rest Cemetery and pay tribute to fallen soldiers. In April of 1862, over 1000 members of the 1st Alabama Infantry Regiment were brought to Camp Randall as prisoners of war. Over the next 2 months, 140 prisoners lost their lives (one prisoner was shot by a guard, the other 139 died from disease and/or their wounds.) They are buried at Forest Hill Cemetery in a section known as Confederate Rest. This is the northern most Confederate Cemetery in the U.S.

REUNION REGISTRATION
USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Association
23rd Annual Reunion, Madison, WI August 22-26, 2012

Name _____ Number in party _____
 Staying at the reunion hotel: Madison Radisson? _____
 What nights? Check: Tue ___ Wed ___ Thu ___ Fri ___ Sat ___ Sun ___
 Any Handicap and/or Special Dietary Requirements? _____
 Emergency Contact: Name _____ Phone () _____
 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. Event liability insurance, rooms for Reunion Host and Sect/Treas, banquet guests (Speaker and Color Guard), the costs of snacks and beverages in Hospitality Room, and the Friday night Buffet and 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/before Tuesday. No charge for Tuesday.

	Number Attending	Price (Per Person)	Cost
<u>Members and Adult-Guests, All four days</u> (Includes Buffet and Banquet)	_____	\$110	_____
<u>Members and Adult-Guests, Not all four days</u>			
Wednesday	_____	\$10	_____
Thursday	_____	\$10	_____
Friday (Includes Buffet)	_____	\$43	_____
Saturday (Includes Banquet)	_____	\$47	_____
<u>Guests (Not already included above) For Only the Friday Buffet and/or Saturday Banquet</u>			
Friday Buffet:			
Adults	_____	\$33	_____
Teens	_____	\$33	_____
Children (5-12)	_____	\$9	_____
Saturday Banquet:			
Adults	_____	\$37	_____
Teens	_____	\$31	_____
Children (5-12)	_____	\$9	_____
Total Reunion Fee Costs			_____

Banquet Entrée Choices (give number for each)

Prime Rib _____ Norwegian Salmon _____
 Stuffed Pork Chop ___ Vegetable Penne Lisce _____
 Child's Plate: Chicken Strips _____

(Continued on Reverse Side)

TOPEKA 2012 Madison, WI Reunion Registration (continued)

<u>Tour</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Cost</u>
“A” Wine & Roses Wed 9 AM - 3 PM	_____	\$45	_____
“B” House on the Rock Thu 8:45 AM – 4 PM	_____	\$70	_____
“C” Dinner Cruise on Lake Mendota Thu 6:15 PM – 10:45 PM	_____	\$80	_____
“D” This is Madison Fri 9 AM – 3:30 PM	_____	\$45	_____
		Tours Cost Total	_____
	Reunion Fees and Tours Cost Total		_____

Deadline for Payment and Receipt of above costs is July 23, 2012.

Make checks payable to USS Topeka Reunion Assn. and mail to:
Gary Baker, 1240 Lonesome Pine Lane, Billings, MT 59105-1646

HOTEL AND RESERVATION INFORMATION

Hotel: **Madison Radisson**

Address: 517 Grand Canyon Drive, Madison, WI 53719 Telephone: 608-833-0100

For Reservations, Call the hotel room reservation department at **1-800-395-7046**.. Request the group rate for **USS Topeka 23rd Reunion**. Deadline for this group rate is July 27, 2012.

Your will be asked for Arrival Date, Departure Date, Your Full Name, Number in your party, and Credit Card #.

Rooms may be reserved, as available, 3 days before, and 3 days after the contracted dates (Aug 22 thru Aug 26). Handicap rooms and smoking-allowed rooms may be reserved, as available.

Our group room rates are \$79/day for single/double occupancy; each additional adult is \$5 extra ; plus local taxes and fees, currently 14.5%.

If you have problems with reservations (e.g., rates, availability, etc.), call Gary Baker at 406-252-4546, or email him at gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org