

# USS TOPEKA CLG-8 Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 3, No. 4

September, 1992

## Committee:

*Don Nellis, President; Dick Jolliffe, Vice President;  
Dudley E. Cass, Secretary/Treasurer; Jim Carey, Reunion '92 Chairman  
Jack Connery, Newsletter Editor*



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from San Diego. Everytime I see or hear from Dud Cass, he tells me our membership is expanding. Last I heard, we have over 300 members. That's great news. Something is working for us.

Apparently the guest list for our Washington D.C. reunion is not moving on "fast forward." Let's put out the word. Again I urge anyone going to contact old shipmates and get them moving toward the Marriott Courtyard in October.

As we have mentioned before, Jim Carey and his Reunion Committee have a great time planned for the D.C. bash. The hotel (Marriott Courtyard in Arlington, VA) is centrally located for doing the town. Great cocktail parties will mix drinks and sea stories, and a top-notch dinner is set for Saturday, October 17. Come one, come all.

Lest we forget, there will be a Reunion Association Business Meeting Saturday afternoon. The main topics are election of officers for 1993, the '93 reunion site, and deciding the question of our group teaming up with the TOPEKA (CL 67) Group for a reunion. Anyone desiring to run for an office give me a call or drop me a line.

That's it for now. See you in D.C. Pass the word. Let's have a great crowd. I know we will have a great time.

Don Nellis



## IN THE POT

Nine are now in the pot for the reunion drawing -- a drawing for reunion fees and hotel accommodations for two, or cash equivalent -- worth \$325.

All they've had to do is find a TOPEKA shipmate not already on our roster. For each one found, that's another ticket in the pot.

Thus far, the nine include Jack Kehoe, Ray Kraft, Peter Minickiello, Roger Heron, Ernie Kershaw, Tom Victory, Martin Meier, Erin Endicott and Weldon Zimmerman. Note that four of these guys are new to our Association since July 1. BRAVO ZULU.

And for the rest of you troops. It's not to late. Just locate a shipmate and send the name and address to Dudley Cass. You too can be eligible to win.



## REUNION 92

Reunion 92, October 15-18 in Washington, D.C., is shaping up to be a good one. With Jim Carey, Dick Slye, John Bianco, Pat Roth, Jerry Dunn, Jim Howard, and Bill Montgomery working on it, it's got to be good.

The Hospitality Room will be open daily. When you check in, ask for the room number. Here is the basic schedule:

**Thursday, Oct. 15:** Arrive, get re-acquainted. 6 p.m.: Welcome aboard cocktail party (cash bar) at the Marriott Courtyard.

**Friday, Oct. 16:** Sightseeing as desired. A tour of the Pentagon has been arranged for our group. More info on that Oct. 15. See note on reunion form.

See comments below about getting tour tickets to the Capitol, White House, FBI, etc.

6 p.m.: Fantail Frolic with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres on fantail of USS Commodore JOHN BARRY at the Washington Navy Yard. Transportation to be decided Friday p.m. The U.S. Navy Museum is just across street from the pier area. Might



and what they are used for, and a request for personal information to be included in the directory. All too frequently, after providing that information, we never hear anything more from the new member.

What we need to know is - - what is it that "turns them off?" I have listed possible "turn-offs" below. You new guys please let me know what you think:

- **"Don't see any names I remember."**

**Comment:** We are a growing association. In March of '90, we had 17 names in our directory. In August of '92, we have 313. It takes time and work to locate TOPEKAmen, but with your help, we will, and every year, you will see more names you remember.

- **"Too many khakis."**

**Comment:** There is no "gold" or "stripes" at the reunions. Everybody is on a first-name basis. The only reason we print the rate or rank a person had on the TOPEKA, and the period he served on board, is to make it easier for people to figure out if they know him or not. It is a fact that the current association officers, the newsletter editor, and the current reunion chairman are former officers from TOPEKA, but these positions are open to anyone nominated and elected at the business meeting held at the annual reunion. In '90 and '91, key positions in the reunion committee and the position of association vice president were filled by former E-6/7/8s and CWO's. Presently, a PO3 is on the committee to recommend a reunion site for '93. Look at the list of attendees this year. Looks to me like a pretty good balance of all paygrades. The Association is definitely not intended to be dominated by khakis.

- **"Reunion fee too high."**

**Comment:** At first glance, the \$80 reunion fee may seem to high. Here is what it includes:

- (1). The banquet meal, of course. And this is not a "rubber chicken" plate. It includes top-of-the-menu entrees with wine on the table.
- (2). Free beverages (alcoholic, non-alcoholic, and always a pot of coffee) and snacks in the hospitality room. This large room is set aside to accommodate visiting, swapping of sea-stories, message center, and be a place to relax, unwind, and enjoy.
- (3). Hors d'oeuvres for the Thursday evening Welcome Aboard reception, and for the Friday evening cocktail hour - - enough food so you won't have to go out for dinner.

- (4). Other miscellaneous expenses/services required to make lthe whole reunion a memorable event.

Are there other things? What more can we do to keep that interest up initially?

Dudley Cass



## FROM THE EDITOR

What does this association mean to you? It could and should be much more than just an annual reunion. Sure, that is important - - it's the main event - - where attendees get to put their feet up and remember. But it is only four days out of 365.

I got a letter from Parky Parkhurst the other day. One of the things Parky said was that he was really looking forward to having lunch with John Reynolds, and Chuck Beardsley during the next week. He added that Joe Heeney might be able to make it also.

In my opinion, this is what the association is all about. You don't have to wait until October to renew and build friendships with former shipmates.

And when you do, let me know, and we'll let the rest know in this newsletter.



## DUES

Thirty-five members have responded with dues since the July newsletter. Now, we have 123 of 260 "active" members who have paid their dues. If your mailing label has "D92" in the upper right hand corner, we have received your annual dues for 1992.

What is "active?" Anyone who shows interest in the Association by writing, calling, or paying dues within a reasonable time after they receive our newsletters.

"Active" members remain on our mailing list for newsletters.

## REMEMBER WHEN?

I don't remember exactly where or when. It was in the early 60's. I sort of remember it as being at the Gunfire Support Shore Bombardment Range in the Phillipines, but I can't be sure.

I was in Gun Plot so it must have been after I made Chief.

Anyhow, we were on station for a shore bombardment exercise and the Shore Spotter was on the radio giving us target coordinates. The first round went out and the Spotter came back with the coolest "fall-of-shot" correction that I ever remember hearing.

Something like: "If it is your intention to eliminate the Shore Spotter, recommend NO Change. (Fire for effect). Otherwise, Right 500, Add 2000."

Robby Robbins (60-65)

*(Ed Note: Robby will receive a check for \$25.00 for this contribution. Send your Remember When entries to the Editor).*



**USS TOPEKA (CLG-8)  
REUNION ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER  
c/o JACK CONNERY  
16334 SOUTH LEWIS  
BIXBY, OK 74008**





## TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION DUES/REUNION FORM

Complete and mail this form by 15 September to:

TOPEKA REUNION  
c/o Dudley Cass  
3028 Bonita Woods Dr.,  
Bonita, Calif., 91902  
Phone: (619) 267-3123

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

On TOPEKA from \_\_\_\_\_ (year) to \_\_\_\_\_ (year); Division/Department \_\_\_\_\_

Rate/Rank on TOPEKA \_\_\_\_\_.

I am enclosing annual dues of \$15.00. (Yes \_\_\_\_\_) (No \_\_\_\_\_). (A "D92" in the upper right hand corner of your address label will indicate that dues have been paid and credited).

I plan to attend the 1992 Reunion in Washington, D.C., Oct. 15-18 (YES \_\_\_\_\_) (NO \_\_\_\_\_).

If YES to above:

Reunion Fee (\$80 per person) enclosed (Yes \_\_\_\_\_) (No \_\_\_\_\_). If not, money must be submitted to Dudley Cass at the address above by 1 October. Make checks payable to TOPEKA REUNION.

Number of persons attending \_\_\_\_\_.

Name(s) desired on name tags \_\_\_\_\_

Choice/number of banquet entree(s): Beef/No. \_\_\_\_\_ Fish/No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Would you be interested in a tour of the Pentagon (Probably Friday) (Yes \_\_\_\_\_) (No \_\_\_\_\_)

How many nights will you stay at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: You must make your own reservations not later than 30 September. To make reservations, call the Marriott at (800) 321-2211 or (703) 549-3434; FAX (703) 549-0320. Be sure to tell them you are with the TOPEKA Reunion. Room rate is \$55 per night.





## COMING TO THE REUNION

The following have indicated that they are coming to Reunion 92, as of 1 September. Thirty-two have confirmed their attendance since the July newsletter. Check this out. There is someone there you'll want to see. If he's not on this list call him and both of you come. Plan on seeing them in Washington October 15-18.

It's not too late to sign up. You have until October 1, which is the deadline for submitting the reunion fee. We are confident that additional members will sign up during September. Use the form contained in this newsletter.

Several others have indicated "maybe." To finalize reunion planning, we must have an accurate count of how many will attend. If your name is here and you have changed your plans, please let Dudley Cass know.

Don Anderson, ET2, 62-65	Ray Kraft, LTJG, 59-62
Mike Angulo, CWO3, 65-67	Don Lamb, LTJG, 60-62
Jesse Aragon, BM3, 59-62	Richard Martin, FTCS, 61-64
George Badger, LCDR, 66-67	Mrs. Betty McGirr (Frank) LT, 62-64
Stan Bartnick, 1st LT, USMC, 63-64	Martin Meier, CSSN, 67-69
Roger Beukema, RM3, 60-63	Peter Minickiello, FTGSN, 60-63
John Bianco, LT, 64-66	Bill Montgomery, CAPT, 66-67
Richard Bihl, CAPT, 66-68	Don Nellis, CDR, 63-65
Ernest Blanton, LT, 62-64	Don Nelson, BT2, 64-66
Jack Bock, LTJG, 62-65	Jim Ownby, LT, 62-65
Bill Bundy, ENC, 60-62	Irad Parkhurst, FTCS, 63-66
Tom Butler, SKC, 62-64	Joe Peragine, CWO3, 59-66
Don Cameron, LT, 60-62	Gale Pfund, LTJG, 62-64
Jim Carey, LTJG, 62-65	Frank Pinney, Jr., CAPT., 59-60
Dudley Cass, LTJG, 61-64	Bernardo Pulido, SDCS, 63-66
Jack Connery, LCDR, 64-66	John Reynolds, MT1, 61-64
Jerry Craig, FTM2, 66-69	Isaac Roberts, IC3, 65-68
Walter Davidovich, GMC, 59-63	Paul Ruby, LTJG, 62-65
Jerry Dunn, LTJG, 63-65	William C. Sache, SF1, 60-63
Tom Eagling, GMC, 60-63	Dick Slye, LT, 64-66
Erin Endicott, RD3, 61-63	Ron Smart, RD3, 59-62
Edward Florence, SN, 68-69	Ron Smith, SK2, 62-65
Mrs. Donna Glenn, (Gene) LT, 62-64	Tom Stumpf, CAPT, USMC, 64-66
George Grupe, LTJG, 62-65	Tom Victory, SFCS, 60-64
Joe Heeney, CWO4, 63-66	Ernesto Villamil, DKCM, 63-65
Roger Heron, SN, 62-66	Bernard Visser, GMC, 59-62
Jim Howard, LTJG, 62-65	Egon Werdelman, CDR, 60-61
Dick Jolliffe, LT, 64-66	Ronald Zuccaro, SN, 67-68
Gerald Judge, FTCS, 63-66	Weldon Zimmerman, GMT1, 59-62
Max Kaster, ETNSN, 59-60	
John Kehoe, LTJG, 61-63	
Bob Kershner, LCDR, 63-66	

