

USS TOPEKA CLG-8 Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 6, No.3

July, 1995



Committee:

*Jack Connery, President; Dudley E. Cass, Secretary/Treasurer;
Dick Jolliffe, Assistant Secretary, Don Anderson, Reunion '95 Chairman
Jack Connery, Newsletter Editor*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As you can see from the reunion schedule, Don and Joan Anderson have an outstanding program scheduled for us. That part of the country, especially the Williamsburg area, is a history book in itself. There is so much history there that all ought to see it. If you haven't, now is a good time, and if you have, come join us and see it again.

Please get your registration in as soon as possible so that the Anderson's will be able to make all of the final arrangements. And don't forget to make your hotel reservations.

This will be my last month as President. I have certainly enjoyed the last two years. We have come a long way since those early planning months of 1989, and I am proud to be a part of that growth. TOPEKA Men are certainly a fine bunch of people with whom to be associated.

If the "management" will permit, I will continue to edit the newsletter each quarter. I wish the best to my successor.

Jack Connery

1995 SLATE OF OFFICERS

The Board of Advisors has composed the following slate of candidates for 1995-96 offices for presentation at the general meeting.

Officers:

President: John Reynolds (61-66), Redondo Beach, CA.

Secretary-Treasurer: Dudley Cass (61-64), Bonita, CA.

Assistant Secretary: Dick Jolliffe (64-66), San Diego, CA

To the Board of Advisors:

Jack Connery, (64-66), Bixby, OK; Jerry Pennington, (63-64), Temple City, CA.

Nominations of other candidates will be accepted from the floor.



Elegant Lobby of the Norfolk Waterside Marriott

WELCOME ABOARD (SINCE MAR., 1995)

C.H. Charlson, LTJG (59-61), Eau Claire, WI
Ivan Deist, LCPL (63-64), Audubon, IA
Vincent Petti, RM3 (59-63), Colorado Springs, CO
Alex Amavisca, BM3 (59-61), Moorpark, CA
Patrick Doyle, RM3 (60-63), Lowell, MI
Roger Norgaard, FTM3 (59-63), Milan, IL
Cleo Zehner, SN (60-61), Cedar Rapids, IA
Edward Hunziker, IC2 (59-61), Seattle, WA
Joseph Ouimet, SK3 (60-64), Las Vegas, NV
Jesse Southall, Jr., MM3 (62-64), Bay City, TX
Steve Firmender, SN (66-68), Stanhope, NJ
Gerald Kohl, FTG3 (60-61), Appleton, WI
David Small, RD1 (62-66), Denton, TX.

TAPS

Charles B. Kress Jr., (late 1960's), April 2, Attleboro, MA.

REUNION 95 SCHEDULE

The following is the general schedule for reunion events. See reverse side of registration form for other attractions in Norfolk.

Cruise books and pictures will be available for viewing in the Hospitality Suite. At times to be announced, mementos such as ball caps, tee shirts and mugs will be available for sale.

Snacks and beverages available in the Hospitality Suite are paid for by the reunion fee.

Thursday, 17 August

0900 Hospitality Suite Opens. Beverages and snacks available.

0900-1600 Check-in/Registration
Tour information/sign up for tours
Visit old friends/make new ones
Tell Sea Stories

TBA (PM) Board of Advisors/Officers Meeting

Friday, 18 August

0700 Golf Outing at NAS Oceana, Virginia Beach (Golfers contact Don/Joan Anderson at 703-491-4883 prior to 1 August so he can arrange sufficient tee times.)

0800-1700 Williamsburg/Jamestown tour (Min. 30)

0900 Hospitality Suite Open. Beverages and snacks available.

1900-2100 Southern Cook-in: Hors d'oeuvres consist of Cajun catfish, buffalo wings, North Carolina barbecue, cornbread and hush puppies and a side of beef. Cash bar. A photographer will be available for individual pictures. Dress casual.

2100 Hospitality Suite Reopens.

Saturday, August 19

0900 Williamsburg Pottery Factory/Clothing Outlet Tour

0900 General Meeting: Election of officers, selection of 1996 reunion site, etc.

After Meeting: Group Picture on Hotel Winding Staircase

After Group Picture: Hospitality Suite opens. Beverages and snacks available.

Ship's Visit: There will be a Navy ship at the downtown waterfront (close to hotel) open for general visiting.

1800 Cocktail Party: Cash bar.

1900: Banquet. Will include Presentation of Colors, Recognition of new Officers, and a few remarks by a former Commanding Officer.

2030-Midnight: Disc Jockey and Karoke

Sunday, August 20

0900-1200 Hospitality Suite open. Farewells.

LETTERS

Dear Dudley and Ruth:

Well, it's better late than never. First of all, I wanted to take this time to say to both of you what a wonderful job you both did on our last reunion in San Diego. The warmth you gave to all the new members made us feel very welcome.

After looking at the new members list under my name, I see you have me listed as a BT3 (67-68). It should be BT2 (67-68).

Thank you again. See you in Virginia if all goes well.

Alonzo and Georgette Simmerman (67-68)

Dear Ed:

Thanks for reminding me. 1995 dues enclosed. Was wondering if there are any future plans for a reunion in the Pacific Northwest, ie Seattle, Tacoma, Bremerton.

Bill Bradley (60-61)

Ed note: Bill, I hope so. I wanted to go there last year, but by vote of the membership, we went to San Diego. Next year, at our reunion in the Midwest, we will select a West Coast site for 1997.

Dear Ed:

I was a radioman aboard TOPEKA from February, 1960-December, 1963. I keep in touch with Lloyd Libby who was also a radioman. He sent me a copy of the February, 1995 newsletter. I did not know this association existed.

I can't tell you how excited I am. I also talked with Dick Walker about the August reunion, and I would love to attend and see old friends. I have so many fond memories of my experiences aboard TOPEKA.

Patrick J. Doyle (60-63)

Dear Ed:

Those 60's seem so long ago, but after reading letters from guys I remember like John Hojaboom, Joe Peregrine, Robby Robbins, Larry Patriquin and Joe Heency, faces and times I hadn't thought of for many years come back to me.

My good buddy and running mate was Dominick Musto from Pittson, PA. He may have moved to New Jersey. Would anyone know anything about him?

I have a son, Mike, and his wife Lori, who are career Navy and stationed in Rota, Spain.

Some of us aren't too crazy about flying, so how about a reunion closer to the center of the country?

Parker Butcher (63-66)

Dear Ed:

I just received the May, 1995 Association newsletter, saw my name in the newcomer column and felt an explanation was in order.

One evening about six months ago, while bowling in my league here in Portland, Ore., I noticed a gentleman bowling in the league next to us wearing a TOPEKA T-shirt. I cannot remember his name other than "John" something. He told me about the association. I explained my history with the ship, and he sent you my name. My story follows. (*Ed Note: See "Remember When. . .?"*)

If my experience qualifies me as a member of the Association, I would be more than happy to send the appropriate dues. I would also like to have a copy of the directory. I will not be able to attend the reunion in Norfolk, as much as I would love to, but I'll be looking forward to comments about it in future issues.

Bob Williams (1960)

REUNION 96 SITES

The Site Selection Committee for the 1996 reunion, to be held in the Central U.S., will present the following sites for consideration at the annual meeting in Norfolk.

Albuquerque, NM
Kansas City, MO
San Antonio, TX
St. Louis, MO
Topeka, KN.

ABOUT THE BELL

Ed Note: The first issue of the newsletter this year carried a picture of the ship's bell, as it stands in the civic square in the city of Topeka, Kansas. That picture prompted the following letters.

Dear Ed

The picture of the ship's bell resting in Topeka Kansas (last newsletter) got my attention.

I am an over-the-road truck driver out of Denver. I had a layover in Topeka, and decided to check out the bell. I took some time and polished it. I later received the enclosed letter from the City of Topeka. (*See next letter.*)

Enclosed are my 1995 dues.

Sincerely,
John DeFord (64-67)

Dear Mr. DeFord:

I saw you checking out the bell and wondered, what on earth! Quite frankly, I haven't given much thought to the condition of the bell over the years.

Come Spring, I'll have my staff polish the bell. Then we will spray it with urethane to protect the shine.

I do appreciate your concern and your pride in having served on USS Topeka. If I can be of further assistance on this matter, don't hesitate to call me at (913) 295-3959 or write me at this address.

Stuart Yoho
City of Topeka
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Ed:

Last year, when you were having fun in San Diego, I couldn't be there. But, because of other circumstances, I had the pleasure of being in Topeka, Kan., during the same time period.

While there, my wife and I visited the Combat Air Museum, where I found many items of USS Topeka memorabilia (both Cruiser and Submarine). It was a moving experience to see these things on display. I wished I was with you, but I had a piece of Topeka you didn't have.

I was also photographed in the Civic Center Square with the bell. The person in charge of the Air Museum told me the bell would be moved to the museum in the near future.

There were many other things to do in Topeka and my thought was this might be a nice place for a future reunion.

Harold (Buddy) Haley, Jr. (63-65)

Dear Ed:

I enjoyed seeing the Topeka Bell as it now occupies a spot in the Civic Center Plaza, Topeka, Kan.

In looking through my scrapbook of the Topeka, I found an interesting article which described using the bell as a setting for baptism on Easter Sunday in May, 1962.

Baptized were Peggy Lyn DeLapp, daughter of BM2 and Mrs. DeLapp, Deborah Ann Vaughn, daughter of CS1 Julius and Mrs. Vaughn; Gregory John Proctor, son of PNCA David and Mrs. Proctor; and James Kenneth and David Hugh Parrish, sons of LT K.W. and Mrs. Parrish.

Hal R. Sessions, Chaplain, 62

HOME PORT CHANGE

The USS TOPEKA (SSN 754) will change home ports from San Diego to Pearl Harbor in February, 1996.

REMEMBER WHEN . . . ?

While a junior in high school in Spokane, WA, I, along with several of my classmates, joined the Naval Reserve and began attending regular drills which lasted until graduation in June, 1960. Right after graduation, prior to going on active duty, a "special detail" was made available to anyone who wanted to go.

A new ship, or rather a converted WWII cruiser, the USS TOPEKA, was just coming out of the yards on the east coast and was to be sailed from Norfolk to Long Beach by way of the Cape, and we were invited to be part of the crew for this trip. I jumped at the opportunity, never having been out of the city of Spokane.

We were flown to Norfolk, about 30 of us I think, and boarded the almost completed missile cruiser just in time to set sail for San Juan. As an untrained Seaman, I was assigned to the deck division under the watchful eye of a First Class Boatswain Mate named Butler. I will never forget that man as long as I live, and not for just his array of tattoos. Among other things, he taught us the joys of sunrise holystone parties, how to paint "battleship gray" in a stiff breeze so that it doesn't ripple, and more importantly, how to tell a "good" San Miguel from a green one before it was too late. This lesson failed me in San Juan, and I paid the price for two days. I still have the local newspaper from Curacao, in the Dutch West Indies, which shows TOPEKA tied up to their pier, the first Naval warship to visit in 11 years.

When a hurricane down around the Cape caused us to be diverted through the Panama Canal and we thought that our Equator crossing was going to be canceled, I was among the renegade pollywogs who threw most of the trappings overboard. Then, when we were told that the Captain had obtained an enroute delay in order for us to

make the crossing off the coast of Ecuador, I was among the troublemakers who began kidnapping Shellbacks and storing them in a compartment below the mess deck. We were found out, naturally, and our victims took great delight in seeking us out during the crossing ceremony.

Speaking of the ceremony, guess who was awarded the role of Neptunus Rex - - you guessed it, Bos'n Butler. The shampoo he gave me with a quart of mustard almost cost me my whole head of hair. I don't remember the name of the Chief whose belly button I had to kiss but he enjoyed it much more than I did, and thanks to the "Royal Doctor," I haven't been able to eat oysters since. It took several days to heal and the in-port time in Acapulco certainly helped.

On arrival in Long Beach, we were "detached" from TOPEKA and flown back to Spokane. A month later, I started two years of active duty. After two-months at Treasure Island, I was sent San Diego and reported aboard USS BENNINGTON (CVS-20), where I transitioned from SN to AN and entered into what would become a 20-year career as a Navy Air Traffic Controller, ending with my transfer to the Fleet Reserve in 1980.

My memories of TOPEKA and our brief time together are among the very best of my Navy career. I still have the photo album of the equator crossing, and my official Shellback Card.

Bob Williams

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



REUNION REGISTRATION
1995 Reunion, August 17-20
Marriott Waterside Hotel, Norfolk, VA

NAME _____ DATE _____

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Will you be staying at the Reunion Hotel? Yes _____ No _____. Hotel Rate is \$85 per night.

Sign up for Tour and Golf:

	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Number of Persons</u>
1.	Golf	0700 to 1400 Friday	_____
2.	Williamsburg/Jamestown Tour	0800 to 1700 Friday	_____
3.	Williamsburg Pottery Factory	0900 to 1700 Saturday	_____

Banquet Entrees:

Filet Mignon _____; Baked Salmon _____. (Indicate choice and number)

Reunion Fee:

Reunion Fees are prorated on a per day attendance. So, you pay for only what you get. This will be the third year we have done it this way, and it works extremely well, and is fair to all who attend.

Deadline for Reunion Fee is 24 July 1995
 Make checks payable to: "Topeka Reunion"
 Mail to: Dudley Cass
 3028 Bonita Woods Drive
 Bonita, CA 91902

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Price (each)</u>	<u>Number of Persons</u>	<u>Total</u>
Thursday	\$10	_____	\$ _____
Friday	25	_____	_____
Saturday	40	_____	_____
All three days	\$75	_____	_____
			TOTAL \$ _____

NOTE: *There is no charge for children 17 and under.
 **Reunion Fee is totally refundable if you have to cancel.

NAME TAG INFORMATION:

First Name (or Nickname) and last name will be on the name tags provided for attendees. Please print names to be used below:

First Name _____ Last Name _____

REUNION NOTES

1. Hotel Reservations - for the Norfolk Waterside Marriott are to be made directly through the Reservations Department (804-627-4200). Reservations must be received on or before 1 August 1995. Be sure to tell them you are with the Topeka Reunion. Rates are \$85 a night.
2. Parking Policy - Parking is available at the Main Street Parking Garage across from the hotel. A covered pedestrian bridge connects the parking garage to the hotel and convention center. The parking charges in 1994 were \$8 per vehicle, per night for self-parking and \$10 per vehicle for valet parking.
3. Tours and Golfing Outing -
 - Jamestown/Williamsburg combination tour cost \$31 per person
Date: Friday, 18 August 1995 0800 to 1700 (min. 30 people)
 - Williamsburg Pottery Factory and Clothing outlet \$15 per person
Date: Saturday, 19 August 1995 0900 to 1630 (min. 30 people)
 - Golf at NAS Oceana, Virginia Beach, VA (\$30 per person-approx.) Date: Friday, 18 August 1995, 0700 to 1400. Contact Don Anderson no later than August 1 so that tee times can be arranged.
Note: One military person required for each foursome. If there are not sufficient numbers of retired military to allow play at a Military Base other arrangements will be made at a civilian course. Golfers respond ASAP so there will be time to switch courses if necessary.
 - Other attractions (See Greater Norfolk Visitor's Guide)
Nautilus - The National Maritime Center
Bush Gardens
Mac Arthur Memorial
The Chrysler Museum
Virginia Zoo
Botanical Gardens
Ferry Ride to Olde Town Portsmouth
Virginia Beach
Norfolk Inner Harbor Cruise
Great Dismal Swamp
5. Anyone requiring additional information about Norfolk should contact **Don Anderson at 703-491-4883.**