

**U.S.S. TOPEKA (CLG8) REUNION ASSOCIATION, INC. (Rev. 2 6/8/2008)**  
**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 rang 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 buffet includes tossed salad, chicken fried steak, fried chicken, fried mushrooms, mashed potatoes, corn, country gravy, Texas toast, pecan pie, iced tea and coffee. 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](mailto:kspatz@optonline.net). Any suggestions or recommendations for the reunion are welcomed. See you in San Antonio!