USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 12, No. 3 **August, 2001**

Committee:

John Reynolds, President; Jack Timmons, Secretary/Treasurer;
Al Jefferis, Assistant Secretary; Jerry Craig, Reunion 01 Chairman;
Jack Connery, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The news travels fast on the old grapevine. The other day Jerry Judge went to play golf. He was all alone and asked the starter if there was anybody he could play with. It was a slow day and the starter said there was nobody at that time.

Jerry waited for a while, but nobody showed up. Finally the pro said he was going out and asked Jerry if he would like to play with him.

The pro asked him what kind of a game he played, and Jerry told him he played very well but had a little trouble getting out of sand traps. Well they played the front nine, and Jerry played very well. The pro congratulated him.

Then they turned onto the back nine. Jerry hit a screamer that went into the sand trap. When they got to the trap Jerry took out his sand wedge and hit the ball out of the trap onto the green and the ball ran into the hole. The pro looked a little surprised and said to Jerry, "I thought you said you had trouble getting out of traps?"

"I do," Jerry replied. "Please help me out."

John Reynolds

TAPS

Jack Mansfield, Captain, Commanding Officer (62-63): August 24, 2001, Silverdale, WA.

Fred "Blackie" Mann, BM1 (64-66); February 25, 2001, Helotes, TX.

Bill Ratliff, LCDR (63-65); June 1, 2001, La Mesa, CA.

John Campbell, LT (61-63); July 10, 2001, Waco, TX.

Charlie Brocklesby, SN (65-67), Dec 7, 2000, Goleta, CA.

NEW MEMBERS (SINCE MAY)

John Minners (68-69) Hudson, NY
Jim Bugert QMSN (67-68) Ossian, IN
Arthur Terstage,Sr. RMSN (63-67) North Olmstead, OH
Ray (Raymond) Ragiel SK3 (59-61) Loxahatchee, FL
Dr. Charles Kozarski FTM3 (64-66) Grand Rapids, MI
Charles Mitchell ET2 (62-65) Hansville, WA
Kenneth Bradshaw FTG2 (68-68) West Haven, UT
Logan Sharrah, LCDR (65-66) Murrells Inlet, SC
Byron Ready, SN (60-61) Byron, MN
Lonnie Burch, SNPN (63-66) Kingman, AZ

WE ARE INCORPORATED

The Reunion Association is now a California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation. We have received IRS notification that we are exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code.

John Reynolds appointed Don Nellis, Dudley Cass and Jack Timmons as a Transition Committee to facilitate the transition from being a reunion association to being a Corporation.

The Transition Committee developed proposals to be considered by the Board of Advisors relating to corporate affairs, including proposed bylaws.

The draft bylaws was presented to the Board of Advisors at a meeting August 18, and after minor changes, the bylaws were approved.

The proposed bylaws were mailed, along with a ballot, to all eligible voters (members in good standing with dues paid) during the week of August 20.

Ballots must be postmarked no later than September 12 and returned to Jack Timmons to be counted.

The Board of Advisors continues to work on development of a slate of candidates for the Board of Directors to present to the membership at the annual meeting in Atlanta.

Upon incorporation, all property held by the association became irrevocably dedicated to charitable purposes and no net income or assets of the corporation can benefit a director, officer or any member thereof.

In addition, the association cannot carry on propaganda, attempt to influence legislation, or support a candidate for public office.

The association has received tax exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service under Section 501©(19) of the Internal Revenue code.

In the last newsletter, it was reported that when we obtained this status, donations would be tax decuctible. This is not true.

IRC Sect 401 C (19) Veterans Organizations has a specific question which must be answered in the affirmative for deductions to be tax deductible. The requirement is that 90 percent or more of the members must be war veterans. We do not meet that requirement. It seems that too many of our shipmates who came aboard at commissioning were "post Korea," and got out of the service prior to Vietnam. The same applies to those who came aboard after the 1965-66 cruise and served on the ship in the Atlantic Fleet.

MANSFIELD MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service for Captain Jack Mansfield, Commanding Officer, 1962-63, will be held at 10 a.m., October 5, at the Bangor Naval Station chapel, Silverdale, WA. Captain Mansfield died August 24.

It would be fitting if shipmates in the Seattle area, especially those who served with him, could attend this service as representatives of the USS Topeka Reunion Association.

Either Dudley Cass or Jack Timmons will have the latest information.

LETTERS

Dear Ed:

Glad I found you guys. I was just surfing the web. I have contacted other shipmates I know and they should be contacting you.

I was on board from 1966-decommissioning. I was an FTM3 and worked on the SPQ 5 and 42 radar.

I am the Mayor in our community (Ridgely, TN) and a local businessman. Not much free time.

P.D. "Puppy Dog" Johnson (66-69)

Dear Ed:

It finally happened! Of course, by snail mail, but the Naval Historical Society Center, Washington Naval Yard, Washington, D.C. 20374-5060, does have pieces of planking from the Topeka and will donate a piece to a plank owner with proper identification. It takes about four months (at least it did in my case).

I thank Jack Connery, Dudley Cass, Jack Timmons and Jim Wilson (president of the CL 67 Association) for their efforts and guidance in obtaining this piece of history for my husband, Ray. He was really surprised. Neither of us actually knew if it was possible to obtain a "plank" of the U.S.S. Topeka after all these years.

Ray was unaware that I had written to the Department of the Navy in to inquire about the deck planking. All is well that ends well, and this story ends well. Thanks again.

Melissa McHugh
wife of Ray McHugh, MM2 (59-63)

Dear Ed:

My children and I really appreciate the Reunion Association. We all enjoy reading the newsletter. I am almost blind now, but I always have someone read it to me. A few years back, you sent a calendar with 12 pictures of the Topeka that we still enjoy.

Armond really enjoyed his time in the Navy and the children and I enjoyed the travel. My oldest son told me just a few days ago that he would not change anything about those years.

God Bless you all.

Jeannine M Peterson
widow of Armond Peterson, PC1 (63-65)

Dear Ed:

I was reading a recent newsletter with my usual enthusiasm and came upon the letter "Name this Country," from Jack Bock (62-65). I'd like Jack to know that, unlike him, I find these numbers to be invigorating. Due to these numbers and other similar statistics, I now sleep well knowing that the "Cold War" is over and that we no longer need to be looking over our shoulders.

Kudos to Peace.

Ed Hunziker (59-61)

Reunion Update

- **Coming early?** If you are planning on coming in early (before Wednesday), the Crowne Plaza is full (Sunday through Tuesday). However, the hotel will accept your reservations and place you in a nearby Holiday Inn. They will then move you into the Crowne Plaza on Wednesday. For early reservations, ask for Linda Montgomery or Maggie Browning.
- **Phone number**: Do not use the 800 number listed in the May newsletter. Make reservations by calling 404-768-6660. If coming in early, don't forget to ask for Linda or Maggie.
- **Deadlines**: Deadline for making hotel reservations at the association rate is September 14. Registration for the reunion should be in to Jack Timmons by August 29.
- **A DeJay** will provide music Saturday night for dancing.
- **The Ship's Store** will be open. (See article elsewhere in this newsletter.)
- **RV Parking**: There are no campgrounds in immediate area of hotel, but there are some within few miles. Anyone wishing to locate campground, contact Jerry Craig at 770-386-2041 and he will help you locate one. The hotel has parking available for RV's but no hookups.
- **Directions**: If driving to Atlanta, locating the hotel is a piece of cake, according to Jerry Craig. The airport and the hotel are located on the south side of Atlanta just off Virginia Ave. Exit on west side of I-85 at Virginia. Hotel is visible from highway. Entrance to parking lot is IMMEDIATELY past the exit ramp from southbound I-85.

Moving? Moved?
Was your newsletter forwarded?

Then drop a card to Jack Timmons and let him know your new address.

Ship's Store in Atlanta

Because of a schedule conflict, Jack and Jill Connery may not be coming to Atlanta. However, the Ship's Store will be open with a full range of Topeka merchandise.

Ike and Linda Roberts, (65-68), will open and operate the ships store. Their willingness to volunteer is appreciated. Orders already paid for will be packaged separately and shipped with store stock to Ike and Linda at the hotel.

The merchandise offered this year is the same as last year.

Who's Coming to Atlanta

Registrations are lagging a bit. Just too many things going on during the summer. Now that things have settled down, it's time to mail the registration form, make hotel reservations, and complete travel plans for the October 10-14 reunion. Here's who have signed up thus far.

Thomas Alesi, RD3 (59-62), New Fairfield, CT
Don Anderson,ET2 (62-64), Woodbridge, VA
James Bennett, RDSN (60-61), Bella Vista, AR
Ernie Boutte, RD3 (62-65), Stockton, CA
Bill Carver, BM3 (60-63), Toms River, NJ
Dudley Cass, LTJG (61-64) Bonita, CA
Jerry Craig, FTM2 (66-69) Cartersville,GA
Donald Everitt, SM3 (60-63) Pittsburgh, PA
Harvey Hershkowitz, CYNSN (64-66) San Diego, CA
Michael Hight, RD2 (60-62) Avon Park, FL
Norbert Howe, SDC (60-60) Lakewood,
Jerry Judge, FTCS (63-66) Chula Vista,CA
John Keepper, LTJG (61-65), Lake Bluff, IL
Calvin Ladd, MM3 (63-66), Minnetonka, MN
Tom Lee, GMT3 (60-62), Cassopolis, MI
Ronald McPhail, RDC (67-68), Winter Park, FL
Donald Nelson, BT2 (64-66) Brooklyn Center, MN
Loy Nix, GMM1 (59-62) Flowery Branch, GA
Ken Noble, RD2 (59-63), Louisville, CO
Joe Nolan, SMC (64-66) Cumming, GA
Jerry Pennington, RD3 (63-64), Fallbrook, CA
Jim Pflieger, LTJG 62-65) Hellam, PA
Robert Plake, HT1 (59-61) Indianapolis, IN
Richard Ramsey, GMCM (62-64), Lutz,FL
LeRoy Servin, BM3 (62-64), Apache Junction, AZ
Alonzo Simmerman, BT2 (67-68), Stockton, CA
Ron Smart, RD3 (59-62), Turlock, CA
Jack Timmons, LTJG (64-65), San Diego, CA
Leonard Van Gemert, ET1 (63-65) Myakka City, FL
Richard Wallace, SMSN (60-63) Halifax, MA
Bud Zimmerman GMT1 (59-62), Bremerton,WA.

AND ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Four retired veterans are walking down the street. When they see a sign that says "Veterans Bar," They go in. The bartender asks what they will have and they all ask for a martini. He delivers the drinks and says, "That will be 40 cents."

They can't believe their good luck. They finish the drinks and order another round and the bartender again says, "That will be 40 cents." This whets their curiosity, so they ask the bartender, "How can you afford to serve martinis for a dime apiece?"

The bartender replies, "I guess you've seen the decor here. Well, I am a retired Navy Master Chief Boatswain's Mate and I always wanted to own a bar. Last year I hit the lottery for $45 million and decided to open this place for real veterans. Every drink costs a dime - wine, liquor, beer all the same."

They notice four guys at the end of the bar who haven't ordered anything. They ask, "What's with them?"

The bartender says "Oh, those are retired Navy Captains. They're waiting for Happy Hour."

Submitted by Jack Bock (62-65)

NAMES/TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Chairman, Board of Advisors
Don Nellis, 12735 Abra Dr., San Diego, Cal., 92128; Telephone 858-487-4595.

President
John Reynolds, 916 Esplanade, # 107, Redondo Beach, Cal., 90266; Telephone 310-540-7817; E-mail: canrc@hotmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer
Jack Timmons, 2661 Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, CA, 92106-1121; 619-224-8928; E-mail: JETimmons@aol.com

2001 Reunion Coordinator
Jerry Craig, 7 Spring Street, Cartersville, GA; 770-386-2041. Email: Jcraig9@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Editor
Jack Connery, 9814 E. 83rd Pl., Tulsa, Ok., 74133; 918-459-8918; Fax 918-459-9758, E-mail JJConn@AOL.com.

Ship's Store
Jill Connery, 9814 E. 83rd Pl., Tulsa, Ok., 74133, 918-459-8918; Fax 918-459-9758, E-mail JJConn@AOL.com.

Web Master
Ken Noble; 613 Fairfield Ln., Louisville, Co., 80027. 303-665-7468. Topeka@usstopekaclg8.org

USS Topeka Website
http://www.usstopekaclg8.org

USS TOPEKA (CLG–8)
Reunion Association Newsletter
c/o Jack Connery
9814 E. 83rd Pl.
Tulsa, Ok74133

ATLANTA 2001 REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

Reunion Date: Wednesday October 10, 2001 to Sunday October 14, 2001.

Hotel: **Crowne Plaza Atlanta Airport, 1325 Virginia Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30344** Rates are $89.00 (single or double occupancy.) (Plus sales and occupancy Taxes.) Rates are good from Sunday, October 7, 2001 to Sunday, October 14, 2001 for those who want to come earlier.
Make your own hotel reservations. **Deadline for hotel reservations is September 14, 2001.** To receive the contracted rates, you must identify yourself as being with the **USS Topeka Reunion Association**. Additional reservations will be honored on a space and rate available basis.
Phone numbers for reservations are:
404-768-6660; or fax at 404-766-6121.
The **Crowne Plaza Atlanta Airport Hotel** has 378 rooms with 2 suites and 12 floors. 11 Million-Dollar renovation completed Jan 1997. Amenities include Gift shop, ATM's, Dry-cleaning/Laundry, Coin laundry, Concierge. In room cable TV, Coffee/tea maker, complementary coffee/tea. Iron and Ironing board, alarm clock radio and hair dryer. Bar/Lounge and restaurant on site. Self parking available. Valet parking available at a charge. Pool. Safe deposit box. Full business center including copying svcs, PC Service,FAX service. Non-smoking rooms available. Advise hotel of handicap requirements when making reservations. Hotel is within walking distance to over 20 restaurants. The hotel is ½ mile from Atlanta's Hartsfield Airport. **Complementary Airport shuttles available 24 hours a day.** Hotel is 9 miles from downtown Atlanta. Golf is available nearby as well as at Ft. MacPherson Army base. Tennis nearby. Outdoor pool and workout/fitness center. Attractions include Six Flags over Georgia (15m), Atlanta Zoo (18m), Atlanta Braves Stadium (9m), Atlanta Motor Speedway (15M).

Reunion Schedule: We recommend you plan on arriving Tuesday, because there are plenty of things you will want to do Wednesday through Saturday. Golfers bring your clubs, there is discount golfing available at Fort MacPherson and other golfing reportedly close by the hotel.

Tours: All tours leave from the **Crowne Plaza Atlanta Airport Hotel**. Reservations for the tours should be made with your Reunion Registration to guarantee your choices. Requests made after August 29, 2001 will be attempted, the tour company's deadline is September 28, and we have to have them paid by October 2, 2001. Understand that the Tour Company requires a minimum number of persons on the scheduled busses. Book early. Tickets can be sold onsite based on seating availability.

Wednesday, Oct. 10-(4:00 PM – 9:00 PM)
Coca-Cola Museum – Underground Atlanta – CNN Center – Centennial Park.
Price is $28.00 per person and includes bus, guide, and admission.
First stop is a self-guided tour of the Coca-Cola Museum with its many exhibit and mementos dating from Atlanta's beginnings to the present.

Stroll through Atlanta's original downtown district, now called UNDERGROUND ATLANTA before reboarding the bus to Centennial Park to watch the 6:00 PM light and music show of the Olympic Fountains. Afterwards, time for dinner on your own in CNN CENTER FOOD COURT.

Thursday, Oct 11 (8:30 AM- 6:30 PM)
NORTH GEORGIA MOUNTAINS – DAHLONEGA- ANNA RUBY FALLS and HELEN, GEORGIA.
Price is $55.00 per person. Includes bus, guide, and admission to the Dahlonega Gold Museum and coolers of water and soft drinks on the bus.

Dahlonega, Georgia, nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains is the site of the country's first gold rush. Visit the Gold Museum on the Square and browse in the many antique and craft shops in the quaint downtown historic district.

Next, ride to Helen for lunch on your own with plenty of time to browse in their shops. Helen is a re-created alpine village popular with tourists from all over the world.
Last stop – ANNA RUBY FALLS located in Unioi State Park adjacent to HELEN.
Friday- see next page !!!

ATLANTA 2001 REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

Tours: (continued) All tours leave from the Crowne Plaza Atlanta Airport Hotel

Friday, October 12 (9:00 AM to 4:00 PM)

CYCLORAMA – DOWNTOWN ATLANTA –STONE MOUNTAIN PARK.
Price is $59.00 per person.

Visit the famous three- dimensional painting of the Battle of Atlanta July 1864. Time to visit the Civil War Museum located in the CYCLORAMA building.

Next, drive through Downtown Atlanta and the Druid Hills Neighborhood on your way to Stone Mountain Park, Georgia's #1 Attraction. This 3200-acre park surrounding a gigantic granite mountain offers something for everyone.

After a delicious Southern Buffet served in the Stone Mountain Inn dining room; choose two of the following attractions and Memorial Hall, which faces the Civil War Carving on the face of the Mountain:

- **SKYLIFT**
- **19 BUILDING PLANTATION**
- **RIVERBOARD RIDE**
- **TRAIN**
- **ANTIQUE CAR MUSEUM**

Friday, October 12 Your Advisory Board Is Meeting at 4:30 PM. Location to be determined.

Friday, October 12 Evening: No Host Cocktail Hour 6:00 PM, Buffet dinner @7:00 PM

Featuring Fresh Green Salad, with choice of two dressings. Peach Bar-B-Q Chicken, Country Fried Steak, Mashed potatoes, Green beans, buttermilk biscuits with butter, Chef's choice for Dessert, Coffee, Iced Tea and sodas.

Saturday, October 13: Reunion Association Business Meeting at 9:00 AM, followed by group pictures.

On your own the rest of the day.

For the evening: **No Host Cocktail hour at 6PM, followed by sit down dinner banquet and short program at 7:00 PM.**

Dinner menu includes choices of Prime Rib, Ginger Seared Salmon, and Vegetarian Plate. Salad will be Mixed field green salad. Sides will include Baked Potatoes with butter, sour cream, and chives on the side. Rolls, butter, Coffee and Iced teas service. Wine will be served; the wine choices are Chardonnay, Merlot, and White Zinfandel.

For the golfers: Golf is available at Fort MacPherson that is nearby. They feature an 18-hole course, par 72, and price to be determined.

USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Registration

Atlanta, GA, October 10-14, 2001

Name_____Plankowner ? _____ Number in Party _____
Staying at the Crowne Plaza Atlanta Airport Hotel ?_____

Emergency Contact: Name _____
Phone(____)_____ .

Any Handicap and/or Special Dietary Requirements?_____

_____

Names for nametag(s) (if you haven't previously received permanent Nametags):

_____

Reunion Fee: The Reunion Fee includes the cost of the Hospitality Room, the Friday Night Buffet, the Saturday night Banquet, and other fixed costs of the Reunion. Reunion Fee for adults attending all four days: $105. For those not attending all four days: No charge for Wed; $12 for Thurs; $36 for Fri; and $57 for Saturday. For children attending the banquet;(12 and under) $19. For teenagers attending the banquet $39. No charge for children and teenagers unless attending the banquet.

Days Attending	Number Attending	Price	Cost
All four days	_____	$105	_____
Not all four days			
Wednesday	_____	$ 0	_____
Thursday	_____	$ 12	_____
Friday	_____	$ 36	_____
Saturday	_____	$ 57	_____
Children at Banquet	_____	$ 19	_____
Teenagers at Banquet	_____	$ 39	_____
		Reunion Fee Total	_____

Banquet Entrée Choices (give number)
Prime Rib_____ Ginger Seared Salmon _____ Vegetarian _____
Child's Plate (Ages 5 – 12) : _____ Children under 5 free_____
Golf at Ft. MacPherson (Tee time and Costs TBD) Thursday____ Friday____

(Continued on reverse side)

USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Registration (continued)

Group Events:

Event	Number	Price	Cost
Tour "A" –Wednesday, Oct 10, 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM Coca-Cola Museum, Underground Atlanta, CNN Center, and Centennial Park; Includes bus, guides and admission. Afterwards, Dinner on your own at CNN Center Food Court.	_____	**$ 28.00**	_____
Tour "B" – Thursday, Oct 11, 8:30 AM to 6:30 PM North Georgia Mountains, Dahlonega Gold Museum, Anna Ruby Falls & Helen, Georgia. Includes bus, guides, admission to Dahlonega Gold Museum and coolers of water and soft drinks on the bus. Lunch on your own in Helen, GA a recreated Alpine Village.	_____	**$55.00**	_____
Tour "C" –Friday, Oct. 12, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Cyclorama, downtown Atlanta, Stone Mountain Park. Includes bus, guides, Southern Buffet in Stone Mountain Inn Dining Room and view the Memorial Hall and two attractions from the list of Skylift, 19 Building Plantation, Riverboat Ride, and Antique Car Museum	_____	**$59.00**	_____

Tours Cost Total: _____

Reunion Fee (from other side) _____

Reunion Fee and Tours Costs: Total _____

Deadline for payment of above costs is August 29, 2001

Make checks payable to: USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Association

Please: Make a copy of this form for your files.

Mail this form and the payment checks to:

Jack E. Timmons, 2661 Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, Ca 92106-1121