USS TOPEKA CLG-8
Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 12, No. 2 **May, 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

I just came from seeing the movie "Pearl Harbor". I suppose most of you have seen it by now. The movie, among other things, brought home to me just what a bad shape our Navy was in after the Pacific Fleet was almost completely destroyed.

However, in spite of the fact that we were in such bad shape, the country and the navy put its shoulder to the wheel and came back to prove it was the greatest navy in the world, As Admiral Yamamoto put it, "We have only awakened a sleeping giant".

As we meet each year to celebrate our ships reunion, it's more than just a party; its a time to share our stories and remember with pride the role our ship played in being part of the greatest navy in the world.

John Reynolds

NEW MEMBERS (SINCE NOVEMBER)

Kenneth Cushman MM3 (61-65) Pensacola, FL
Clarence"Wayne" O'Neal SK2 (66-69) Harwood, TX
Ronald Blackburn SK3 (66-68) Auburn, WA
Spiro Jankovich QM3 (63-65) Chicago, IL
Harold Jackson, BT2 (63-67) Pleasantville, PA
Gerald Schwartz IC2 (59-63) Upper Black Eddy, PA
James "BO" Garrison LCPL (61-64) Caro, MI
Gordon Decker ETR2 (65-66) Walnut, CA
Joseph Kavale Mdshpm (67-67) Portland, OR
"Wally" Holley STG3 (67-69) Goose Creek, S
Lawrence Pearce RD3 (64-66) Colton, CA
David Kuh SK3 (67-68) Honolulu, HI
John Minners, SN (68-69), Hudson, NY
Terry Schlenker, RD3 (65-67), Doraville, GA
Paul Gorham, BM3 (64-66), Calabasas, CA
Jim Clamp, QMSN (65-66), Ft. Worth, TX

TAPS

John A. McCamont, LCDR (61-63), Sept. 23, 2000, Kelso, WA

Marion Adams, YN3, 1965-67, April 14, 2001, Las Vegas, NV.

Jean T. Attey, RD3, 1962-65), May 29, 2001, Edwardsville, IL

INCORPORATION STATUS NEARER

Articles of Incorporation have been signed by the president and secretary/treasurer and filed with the state of California, asking that the Topeka Reunion Association be recognized as a California non-profit corporation.

Upon incorporation, all property held by the association will become 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 must also apply to the Internal Revenue Service for federal tax exempt status under Section 501©(19) of the Internal Revenue code.

When all is completed, one of the benefits to both the association and its members is that donations to the association will be tax deductible.

MOVING? MOVED?
WAS YOUR NEWSLETTER FORWARDED?

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

LETTERS

Dear Ed:

May 25, 2001

We just got a great surprise. The doorbell rang and it was Captain Jack Mansfield. He, son John and his wife, and daughter Judy Muller were in Pendleton for a reunion. My neighbor, John and Metha Yantis are relatives and he stopped by to see them. He only stayed a few minutes but he's looking great.

He walks with a bit of a limp, but is navigating just fine. They were on their way to dinner and then back to Pendleton. They will be here all weekend so we'll get to see them again. Works out great. Whenever he comes down he stops at the Yantis's and they call us and we come over there for a short visit.

Robbie Robbins, FTC (1960-65)

Ed Note: All of our shipmates who know Captain Mansfield will be happy to know that he is doing well. Thanks Robbie.

Dear Ed:

I lost a dear friend just before memorial day this year, and I just can't help reflect upon our friendship and the good times we spent in the last thirty or so years. Marion "Butch" Adams introduced me to the love of my life, about 30 years ago. I met Janice, through him, as well as Janice's sister, Connie, who would become "Butch's" wife for over 30. If I close my eyes, it seems only yesterday that my friend and I laughed and joked, about shipboard life on the Topeka.

Butch and I remained friends for all these years, and attended Topeka reunions together. Butch passed away on April 14 from complications of cancer, and the big guy's heart just gave out!

About a week before he died, Butch and I had a conversation about life and the Navy. Even though he was in pain, and in the final stage of cancer, he liked to talk about Topeka. "Ya know Bobby", he said, "looking back on my life, serving on the Topeka, and being around such a great group of guys, is something I will never forget. I'm sure going to miss you guys."

This memorial day, I reflected upon all the good times spent, with a great group of people, and a great group of officers, who kept this sailor out of harms way. I miss our fallen shipmates.

Robert A. Bond DK3 (1963-65)

SHIP'S STORE REPORT

Because of a schedule conflict, Jack and Jill Connery may not be coming to Atlanta. Discussions are in progress now as to what to do about the ship's store in Atlanta.

Should they not be able to come, it is likely that there will not be ships store sales as in the past. Rather, orders will be taken in advance by mail or internet, and only that merchandise (already sold) will be shipped to Atlanta.

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

Watch for further details in the August newsletter.

AND ON THE HUMOROUS SIDE

Airman Jones was assigned to the induction center, where he advised new recruits about their government benefits, especially their GI insurance.

It wasn't long before Captain Smith noticed that Airman Jones was having a staggeringly high success-rate, selling insurance to nearly 100% of the recruits he advised. Rather than ask about this, the Captain stood in the back of the room and listened to Jones' sales pitch.

Jones explained the basics of GI Insurance to the new recruits, and then said, "If you have GI Insurance and go into battle and are killed, the government has to pay $200,000 to your beneficiaries. If you don't have GI insurance, and you go into battle and get killed, the government only has to pay a maximum of $6,000."

"Now," he concluded, "which group do you think they are going to send into battle first?"

* * * * *

On the midwatch, the Officer of the Deck asked the starboard lookout what he would do if a man fell overboard.

"I would shout 'Man overboard'," the sailor replied.

The OD then asked what he would do if an officer fell overboard.

The sailor paused and thought, then said, "Which one Sir?"

What Atlanta is All About

2001 TRAVEL GUIDE

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Touch of Bavaria

helen

ALPINE HELEN
WHITE COUNTY

GEORGIA

STONE MOUNTAIN PARK

This is one rock you won't want to skip!

Stone Mountain, Georgia
Located 16 miles east of Atlanta.

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

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 6 PM, 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.

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:
Toll free – 1-800-2-CROWNE. Or 404-768-6660 with 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 !!!

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 $39 if attending the banquet. 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" – Coca-Cola Museum , Wednesday Underground Atlanta CNN Center, Oct 10 & Centenial Park	_____	**$ 28.00**	_____

4:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Includes bus, guides and admission.
Afterwards, Dinner on your own at CNN Center Food Court.

Tour "B" - North Georgia Mountains Thursday Dahlonega Gold Museum - Oct 11 Anna Ruby Falls & Helen, Georgia	_____	**$55.00**	_____

8:30 AM to 6:30 PM
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.

Tour "C" - Cyclorama – Friday Downtown Atlanta- Oct 12 Stone Mountain Park	_____	**$59.00**	_____

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
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.

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