USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 17, No. 2 May 2006

Officers:
Jerry Judge, Chairman, Board of Directors; John Reynolds, President;
Jack Timmons, Secretary-Treasurer; Dudley Cass 2006 Reunion Chairman;
Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Just got back from a busy board meeting at Jerry Judges' in San Diego so I thought I would give you some tid-bits of news from the meeting. One of the major items on the agenda was the replacement for Jack Timmons as sec/tres. Jack has done a tremendous job over the years and we hate to see him give up the job, but we understand his desire to get a little relief after all the years of tireless service he has rendered to the association. We do have good news. Our new sec/tres. will be Mrs. Joan Anderson. Joan is a wonderful lady and will bring lots of class and charm to the job. So give her a big bucca hatchi thank you when you see her at the reunion in San Diego.

Also many thanks to Kathy Spatz who works out all the kinks in our newsletter each quarter gets it to the printer to be mailed out to all our shipmates. We are, however running into a financial problem as our dues paying members pay for the Newsletter. The problem is we have twice as many on the mailing list as we have dues payers. We have had to increase our dues to $20. That still won't cover it, but if we could pick up some more dues payers it would solve the problem.

The San Diego reunion is shaping up quit well. Ruth and Dudley Cass are right on top of things and this is going to be a great reunion. Lots of great tours are planned and if you miss it you will be sorry forever. See ya there. jr

John Reynolds

NEW MEMBERS (since February 2006)

William Merchant RM3 (61-64) Portland, OR
George Scheinost FTG2 (67-68) Plymouth, MN
Jim Chiello PN3 (68-69) Rochester, NY
Brock Inglehart EM2 (65-68) Richland, MI
Jack Blythe ICC (65-68) Silver Springs, NV
Neil Huffine BM2 (68-69) South Bend, IN
Robert Habell HM (62-64) La Habra, Ca

TAPS

Paul Boyd BT3 (63-64) Cumberland, MD 11/04/04
Raymond Conley FTG3 (60-64) Westminster, CO 4/18/06

REUNION 2006

The USS Topeka CLG-8 2006 reunion will be hosted by Ruth and Dudley Cass in San Diego, CA. The reunion hotel is the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108. The dates for 2006 are Wednesday, August 16th through Saturday, August 19th. Room rates are $99.00 single or double plus applicable tax. Make your own reservations by calling **1-800-772-8527** and make sure you identify that you are with the Topeka Reunion. **The cutoff date for the rates is July 23, 2006.** We will have a hospitality suite in the East Tower. This site is the same as our 2000 reunion. Please plan on arriving early and enjoying in 2006!

USS TOPEKA SSN-754

USS TOPEKA SSN-754 will be in San Diego during the time of our reunion. We plan to invite TOPEKA to provide a Colors Guard for presentation of the colors, and remain as our guests at the Saturday night banquet, and invite the Commanding Officer, CDR Rich Correll, and the Chief of the Boat (and their wives) to be our guests at the Reunion Banquet.

TOWN AND COUNTRY

LOCATION

The Town and Country is located in the heart of San Diego-Mission Valley, only seven miles from San Diego International Airport, downtown shopping, dining and entertainment. The resort is also 10 minutes from Sea World, the San Diego Zoo, sparkling beaches, bays and the most convenient location to all city sites and famous attractions.

GUEST SERVICES

- Concierge
- Business Center
- Bella Tosca Day Spa
- Gift Shops
- Avis Rental Car
- Valet Service
- Beauty Salon
- Barber Shop
- Multilingual Staff
- Ice Machines
- Adjacent to Fashion Valley Shopping Mall
- Assistive devices for persons with disabilities

Please send your dues to Jack Timmons, 2006 dues $15 or $60 for 5 years.

Old Town Trolley Tours of San Diego

See the best of San Diego on the Old Town Trolley. Come along with San Diego's best tour conductors as they combine colorful anecdotes, humorous stories and well-researched historical information into a fast moving two-hour narrative that's both entertaining and educational.

Join us as we turn back the pages of history and relive San Diego's early days as it became the Birthplace of California. In Old Town San Diego (sometimes called the "Jamestown of the Pacific"), you will experience early Americana with its distinctive "West Coast Style" Spanish flavor.

Tour at your own pace! Old Town Trolley Tours® allows you to get off at any of our convenient stops (close to all attractions). When you are ready just re-board and it's on with the tour. Spend as much time as you like as you make one complete loop.

You will see and can visit:

- Old Town State Park
- Seaport Village
- Horton Plaza
- Coronado Island
- Hotel Del Coronado
- San Diego Zoo
- Gas lamp Quarter
- San Diego Museum of Art
- Natural History Museum
- Aerospace Museum
- Lindberg Field
- Naval Station San Diego
- Balboa Park
- El Prado
- Heritage Park
- Star of India
- Whaley House...
- and much, much more!

Location:

Tour commences with boarding at any of the following stops:
1. Old Town State Park
2. Cruise Ship Terminal
2A. Midway Aircraft Carrier Museum
3. Seaport Village
4. Marriott Hotel and Marina
5. Upper Gas lamp
5A. William Heath Davis House
6. Coronado
7. San Diego Zoo
8. El Prado - Museums

Time:
Passengers can board the Trolley at any time between 9:00am and 4:40pm
Trolleys depart every 30 minutes from each location

Final Deployment

Topeka departed Mayport on 29 June and, after gunnery exercises at Culebra Island near Puerto Rico, she headed across the Atlantic. On 9 July, she relieved Columbus at Malaga, Spain, and began 6th Fleet operations. The warship's final deployment proved to be routine in nature. She visited ports all along the Mediterranean littoral and conducted operations in all portions of the middle sea from the Aegean and Ionian Seas in the east to the Riviera ports in the west. Spain, Italy, Greece, Turkey, and France — as well as the islands of Malta, Crete, and Majorca — provided her with interesting ports of call. Topeka concluded her assignment with the 6th Fleet on 9 December at Rots when she was relieved once again by Columbus. That same day, she headed for Mayport, arriving 10 days later. On 30 January 1969, Topeka steamed out of May-port and proceeded north for inactivation. After a stop at Yorktown, Va., to off-load her ordnance, she arrived in Boston on 5 February. There, she completed inactivation preparations; and, on 5 June, Topeka was placed out of commission. The warship was towed to Philadelphia and was berthed with the reserve fleet group there. On 1 December 1973, her name was struck from the Navy list; and, on 20 March 1975, she was sold to the Southern Scrap Material Co., Ltd., for scrapping. Topeka was awarded two battle stars for her World War II service and three battle stars for her Vietnam service.

USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION
C/O KATHY SPATZ
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Ships Store
Linda Roberts, 7315 Valley Lane, Hixson, TX 36743-2207; 423-842-5147;Email ILJRob@aol.com

SHIPS STORE

These items are available from the Ship's Store, order now and come to the reunion already dressed out. All orders should be sent to Linda Roberts at 7315 Valley Lane, Hixson, TN 37343-2207. Linda's phone number is 423-842-5147. Include $5.00 shipping with each order and make checks or money order payable to the Reunion Association and send to Linda with your order.

Polo Shirts 2000	
Grey 2M, Beige 1M	$25.00
Polo Shirts 2002	
Yellow XL only, Blue XL and XXL	$25.00
Ivory with pocket, XL only	$25.00
Polo Shirts 2003	
Navy M, XXL, White/Navy M, XXL	$26.00
Navy/Tan with pocket XL, XXL	$26.00
New style Nylon Jackets	
Navy 2XL; Hunter green 1 M or Royal blue 1 L	$35.00
Micro fiber 2003 Jackets	
Navy/Beige and Beige/Black	$36.00
Assorted items available	
Ball Caps	$12.00
Key Chains	3.00
Cold Drink Holders	5.00
Coffee mugs w/Topeka emblem	6.00
Topeka Note pads (5 pack)	5.00
License Plate Holder	4.00

Reunion 2006

Reunion Coordinator(s): Ruth and Dudley Cass

Thanks to Ruth, and Jack Timmons, arrangements for the San Diego Reunion are going well. In fact, it's looking like a repeat of the 2000 San Diego Reunion. Using the same hotel, and featuring some of the same events we had last time. But there's lot's of changes in San Diego, and in it's attractions, in six years, so you won't be bored with the "same old things". General information follows. The May newsletter will have more details and also contain the registration package.

Reunion Date: Wed., August 16, thru Sat., August 19.

San Diego Weather expected: No rain, low humidity, days in the 70s-80s, cooling off to the 60s at night. Inland (~10 miles from the ocean) 10 degrees warmer. Ocean temperature - (San Diego's "air conditioner") low 70s. Although cool, use sun-protection if you're out on tours, etc.

Hotel: Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92186. Rates: $99 (Single or Double) + 10.5% room tax. Rates are good 3 days before to 3 days after (Aug 13 thru Aug 22) for those who want more time in San Diego. Parking at the hotel is $1 per day for our group. The hotel is 6 miles from the airport ($9.50 per person airport shuttle, or about $20 taxi fare for 2-4 people), 3 miles from Sea World, 3 miles for the San Diego Zoo. The hotel is adjacent to the Riverwalk Golf Course, and to the Fashion Valley Mall, one of San Diego's premier shopping malls. The San Diego Trolley and Bus Terminal are adjacent to the hotel grounds. The major attractions in San Diego are easily accessible by trolley/bus, and the fares are extremely economical, especially for Seniors.

We will have the same fantastic Hospitality room we had in 2000 - the Lapavillion Lounge on the top floor of the East Tower. A former hotel bar, it has about 1600 sq ft floor space, surrounded by glass on 3 sides, lavishly furnished as you would expect an upscale hotel bar to be.

You will make your own reservations. The cutoff date for the rates above is July 23, 2006. Reservation Phone: 1-800-772-8527. Make sure you tell them you are with the USS TOPEKA reunion.
Internet information on the hotel may be found at **www.towncountry.com**.

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. Golfers, bring your clubs – we have many golf courses, including the one adjacent to the hotel and the nearby Navy course at Admiral Baker Field. Sea World, the San Diego Zoo, and Balboa Park, which has several museums – including the San Diego Aerospace Museum, and the Automotive Museum, are all a short trolley/bus ride away. For the international experience, take the trolley to Tijuana, Mexico, and try the shopping and barhopping on Revolucion Ave. See the Navy "grays" from the Harbor Cruise, or by a visit to the 32nd St. Naval Station. The San Diego Padres have a new downtown baseball stadium and will be playing home games during our reunion. We plan on getting discount tickets for the popular attractions through the Navy Base for your use, and we will provide details on how to get there, using the public transportation, or driving your own vehicle.

Wednesday: Open day for check-in, doing attractions on your own. Optional events: Temecula Winery Tour; and for the evening, visit Historic Old Town, the original "downtown" of San Diego; dinner at the Casa Guadalajara Restaurant, followed by a live show "Triple Espresso" at the Horton Grand Theatre

Thursday: Open day for golfing, doing the attractions on your own. Planning a Navy Gray shipboard tour (see "Optional Events" below). For the evening, a Harbor Dinner Cruise on San Diego Bay.

Friday: Open day for golfing, doing the attractions on your own. Optional event: Cabrillo Monument/National Park Tour. Board Meeting 4:30 p.m . For the evening, a cocktail mixer hour at 6 p.m., followed at 7 p.m. by a "Picnic Buffet" at one of the hotel's pool areas.

Saturday: Reunion Business Meeting at 9 a.m. followed by group pictures. "On your own" the rest of the day. For the evening, cocktail hour at 6 p.m. followed by a sit-down banquet and short program at 7 p.m..

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 a.m. every morning with fresh coffee, donuts, bagel, 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 Diego attractions.

Optional Events.

	Gate Price (adult)	Discount Ticket Price
Sea World Performing marine animals in many scheduled shows. Several new rides/shows since 2000.	$53	$44
San Diego Zoo. World-famous and world-class zoo. Animals in natural-habitat surroundings. Bus-tour and Sky ride included.	$32	$26
2-Hour Daylight Harbor Cruise. Narrated. Naval Station Piers out to Point Loma Harbor entrance.	$22	$9
Evening Dinner Cruise. 7-10 pm Thursday. Choice of entrees: Steak, or Grilled Chicken Breast, or Salmon, or Vegetable Lasagna, plus Special Child's Dinner. Sit-down dinner. No-host bar. Beautiful view of San Diego skyline at night. Bus transportation included.		$55 Adult/$40 Child
Old Town Trolley Tour. Narrated tour of Balboa Park/Zoo, downtown San Diego, and Coronado areas. Eight stops - you can get off at any stop, see what you want, then catch a later trolley. (2-hour tour if you don't get off the trolley.)	$28	$24
Temecula Winery Tasting/Tour. 6-hour tour to Temecula wine country, 50 miles North of San Diego. Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Likely wineries to visit: Maurice Car'rie, Van Roekel, Leonese Cellars, Wilson Creek, and nationally known Callaway. Most tasting requires payment ($5 and up) and you get to keep the wine glass. Lunch on your own. (20-person minimum for bus).		$25
USS MIDWAY Museum. Former USS MIDWAY (CVA-41) now berthed next to the Cruise Ship piers a block from the foot of Broadway. Tours, and aircraft display, fantail coffee/sandwich shop, gift shop.	$10	$9
San Diego Aerospace Museum. In Balboa Park. Aircraft and spacecraft from the 1900s to recent. Almost as good as the Smithsonian (in my opinion).	$9	$6
Maritime Museum. Includes Berkeley, an ancient Bremerton Ferry converted to a floating maritime museum, and old-time ships: the Star of India, the Californian, the steamship Medea, the HMS Surprise, and a B-39 Russian Sub. . A few blocks north of the Cruise Ship piers.	$10	$9

San Diego Padres Baseball. At the new PETCO stadium adjacent to the Gaslamp District and the convention center. On the trolley line. SF Giants 15-18 Aug, AZ Diamondbacks 19-20 Aug, and LA Dodgers 21-24 Aug. All evening games except Thurs 17 Aug, Sat 19 Aug, and Sun 20 Aug, which are afternoon games. Ticket prices range from $5 to $45 for the many seating areas. Info available on internet www.sandiego.padres.mlb.com. On the website, go to the "Tickets" area – you will find a seating chart for the stadium, and the ticket price for the 14 designated seating areas. On the registration form, fill in the date, the seating area, price of the tickets. I'll get you the tickets, and refund you the difference if they are available at discount through the Navy.

Navy "Gray" Tour. Since 9/11, access to Navy ships has been tightly controlled. We have requested authorization and scheduling of a Navy "Gray" for a tour for our group. The only cost would be for bus transportation ($12). Date/time to be determined.

Narrated Bus Tour Cabrillo Monument/National Park, Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, Veterans Monuments at Mt. Soledad and near Balboa Park, USS MIDWAY Museum.
5 hour tour 10am-3pm Friday. Includes admission to Cabrillo National Park and USS MIDWAY Museum. Lunch on your own, during or after the tour. $35 person.

Dinner at Casa Guadalajara, Live Comedy Show "Triple Espresso"
Wednesday eve. Fine Mexican food and Mariachi music at the Guadalajara in historic "Old Town". Followed by highly recommended comedy theatre "Triple Espresso" at the Horton Grand in the Gaslamp District. Bus transportation leaves hotel at 5:15p.m. Pay your own dinner. Bus and show at $42 per person.

RV Parks. If you want space in a RV park, make your reservations early! Some of those available include:

> Admiral Baker Field. (Navy retired with ID card). $21 a day. Reservations may be requested a maximum of 60 days in advance. 2-3 miles east of the reunion hotel. Phone (619) 556-5525.
>
> KOA Chula Vista. $46-$55 weekdays. $57-$58 weekends. About 10 miles south of the reunion hotel. Phone (619) 427-3601.
>
> Chula Vista J St. Marina. On the bay. $49-$65 daily. "Filling up now for August" (Feb 4). About 10 miles south of the reunion hotel. Phone (619) 422-0111.

Need more information? Have Questions?
Contact Ruth/Dudley Cass, 3028 Bonita Woods Dr., Bonita CA 91902. Phone (619) 267-3123. Email BonitaRCDC@AOL.COM. Any suggestions or recommendations for the reunion are welcomed. See you in San Diego!

USS TOPEKA CLG-8 Reunion Registration
San Diego, CA. August 16-19, 2006

Name _____ Number in party _____
Staying at the Town and Country Hotel? _____

Emergency Contact: Name _____ Phone (____) _____
Any Handicap and/or Special Dietary Requirements? _____

Name(s) for nametag(s) (if you haven't previously received permanent nametag):
_____

Reunion Fee: The Reunion Fee includes the costs of the Hospitality Room, the Friday night Picnic Buffet, the Saturday night Banquet, and other fixed costs of the Reunion. Reunion Fee for adults attending all four days: $130. For those not attending all four days: $10 for Wed; $10 for Thu; $45 for Fri; $75 for Sat. Adult Guests/Teens/Children at Friday Picnic: $40/40/15; at Saturday Banquet: $70/55/18.

Days Attending	Number Attending	Price	Cost
All four days	_____	$130	$_____
Not all four days			
Wednesday	_____	$10	$_____
Thursday	_____	$10	$_____
Friday	_____	$45	$_____
Saturday	_____	$75	$_____
Adult Guests/Teens/Children.			
Friday Picnic: Adult Guests	_____	$40	$_____
Teens	_____	$40	$_____
Children	_____	$15	$_____
Sat Banquet Adult Guests	_____	$70	$_____
Teens	_____	$55	$_____
Child Plate	_____	$18	$_____
		Reunion Fee Total	**$_____**

Banquet Entrée Choices (give number)
Prime Rib _____ Salmon _____ Vegetarian _____
Child's Plate (12 and younger) _____
(Chicken strips/fries/fruit cup/milk/cookie)

Golf Thursday AM (tee-time, cost TBD) ADM Baker _____
Friday AM (tee-time, cost TBD) ADM Baker _____

(Continued on Reverse Side)

TOPEKA Reunion Registration (continued)

Group Events

Event		Number	Price	Cost
"A"	**"Triple Espresso"** show Wed Eve	_____	$42	$____
"B"	**Harbor Dinner Cruise** Thu Eve	_____	$55	$____
	Children 14 and younger	_____	$40	$____

Entrée choice/number: Flat Iron Steak ____, Grilled Chicken Breast ____
Fresh Atlantic Salmon _____ Vegetable Lasagna _____

"C"	**Temecula Winery Tour** Wed 9-3	_____	$25	$____
"L"	**Bus Tour Cabrillo Monument**, Rosecrans National Cemetery, Veterans Monument(s), MIDWAY Friday 10am-3pm	_____	$35	$____
"M"	**Navy "Gray" Tour**. Active Navy Ship. (Ship/date/time to be determined by COMNAVSURFPAC "about June")	_____	$12	$____

Events Cost Total $____

Tickets

"D"	**Sea World** (adult)	_____	$44	$____
	Children 3-9	_____	$36	$____
"E"	**San Diego Zoo** (adult)	_____	$26	$____
	Children 3-11	_____	$17	$____
"F"	**2-Hour Harbor Cruise**	_____	$9	$____
"G"	**Old Town Trolley Tour** (adult)	_____	$24	$____
	Children 4-12	_____	$14	$____
"H"	**USS MIDWAY Museum** (adult)	_____	$9	$____
	Children 6-17	_____	$6	$____
"I"	**San Diego Aerospace Museum**	_____	$6	$____
	Child	_____	$3	$____
"J"	**Maritime Museum**	_____	$9	$____
	Child 6-12	_____	$7	$____

"K" **San Diego Padres Baseball**
Date of the game: _____ **Seating Area: _____
(num tickets) _____ **$___ $____
** Select seating area and ticket price from Padre website "www.sandiego.padres.mlb.com"

Tickets Cost Total $____

Reunion Fee, Events, and Ticket Costs: Total $_____

Deadline for Payment of above costs is July 10, 2006. Make Checks payable to TOPEKA Reunion Assn., and mail to:
Jack Timmons, 2661 Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, CA 92106