

# USS TOPEKA CLG-8

## Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 14, No. 1

March 2003

### Officers:

Dudley Cass, Chairman, Board of Directors; John Reynolds, President; Jack Timmons, Secretary-Treasurer; John Keith, Reunion 03 Chairman; Jack Connery, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

A few of us just spent some time in Laughlin having a few, and trading stories. It was a great time. During one of our sessions we talked about some of the past reunions. We discussed various ideas about how and where to have future reunions.

It seems to be getting harder to find people who are willing to host a reunion. In the past we have had great reunions because of the willingness of so many good people who have given their time and talents to make the reunions the successes they have been. I guess what I am trying to say is that we seem to be struggling a bit in getting people to come forward and indicate their desire to host a reunion in their favorite city.

There is so much more to it than just calling a hotel and booking the reunion. There are many details that have to be worked out well in advance. That's why we try to set the dates two years in advance so we can put all the pieces together before the final date. This helps to eliminate last minute snags.

So far, we are still hoping we can get something set up for our "04" bash. We are asking anybody who is interested in trying their hand at hosting one to contact Jack Timmons for a set of guidelines prepared to assist in planning a reunion."

It may be that we are getting to the place where we might want to cut back to every two years instead of each year. We would appreciate getting some of your inputs on this matter and hope to get some fresh ideas for future dates.

John Reynolds

### TAPS

Bill Hart, Lieutenant (60-62), Westminster, SC

Robert Stodulski, SK3 (64-67), Mechanicsville, VA

J.V. (Moose) Warren, MM3 (66-69), 1997, West Frankfort, ILL

Arthur Terstage, RMSN (64-67), June 16, 2002, North Olmsted, OH.

### NEW MEMBERS (SINCE NOVEMBER)

Barry Ernst MMFN (59-61) Buffalo, MO  
Pat Clymer LCpl (65-67) Grand Junction, CO  
Jim (James) Humphrey YN3 (65-67) Simsbury, CT  
John West RM2 (63-63) Seaford, DE  
Robert Radosevich EM3 (60-61) Collinsville, IL  
Bob Reynolds CYN3 (65-66) Applegate, CA  
Clifford Graham EM3 (64-67) Coos Bay, OR  
Michael Moffett ETC (66-68) Foresthill, CA.

### NELLIS-OWNBY ARE AILING

In the past, it's been this newsletter's policy to acknowledge illnesses and deaths in the Binnacle and Taps List. It's different this time.

If this Association has founders, they are Don Nellis and Jim Ownby. There were others that signed on and helped, but if weren't for the organizational skills and enthusiasm of Ownby and Nellis, we may well not be going to Portland this year, or talking about the good times we've had in San Diego, Branson, Norfolk or other places.



Don Nellis



Jim Ownby

For those of you who don't know them, Nellis was Weapons Officer from 1963-65. He left Topeka to command a destroyer where he had at least one tour in Vietnam on the gun line. He had a second command and retired as a Captain. Ownby finished out WWII on PT boats and joined Topeka in 1962 as an LDO Lieutenant and was Gunnery Officer. After

leaving Topeka in 1965, he finished his career as an instructor at Fleet Training Center San Diego, and retired as a Lieutenant Commander.

Retiring to the San Diego area, they stayed in touch over the years. Often at lunch, they would reminisce about Topeka and the good memories. At one of these lunches in 1989, Nellis commented about the number of Topeka sailors in southern California and said, "Why don't we have a reunion?"

Ownby replied, "Why not?" They brought people like Cass, Reynolds, Judge, and Parkhurst into the fold and went to work, sending announcements to newspapers, and military related publications around the country. They set a goal of having a reunion in two years. Six months later, they were so successful that they shortened the timetable by a year and scheduled the first Topeka reunion in August 1990, in San Diego, hosted by Dudley Cass. Nellis was elected president at that first meeting and Ownby was on the Board of Advisors. Nellis remained as Chairman of the Board until the association incorporated two years ago. Ownby remained on the Board until that same time.

The rest is history. We've had 13 reunions in 11 cities. We've been on both coasts and in the central states. In August, we'll add Portland to the list and we get bigger each year, with over 1,000 shipmates on our roster.

We owe much of this success to Nellis and Ownby. Now they are both ailing, and they would like to hear from you - - their shipmates.

For the past 2-3 years, Nellis has had a congestive heart problem, which has slowed him down. Now, he has developed kidney problems. He just recently came home from two weeks in the hospital. Now, he goes back three days a week for day-long kidney dialysis treatments. His heart problem is stabilized, but for the most part, he is confined to the house.

Ownby's problems began about five years ago when a growth turned up on a kidney, and the kidney had to be removed.

He has been in and out of the hospital since, and this past September, was back with a bout of pneumonia. By December, he could no longer care for himself, and went into a nursing home, where his health continues to deteriorate. He has just recently moved to his son Mike's home in Lakeside, CA.

Both Don and Jim would appreciate hearing from you. Don's address is 12735 Abra Dr., San Diego, CA 92128, telephone 858-487-4595. Cards can be addressed to Jim Ownby at 14951 El Monte Road,

Lakeside, CA 92040-2630; telephone 619-443-2761. Jim's hearing has gotten progressively worse in the past few months so it is very difficult for him to talk on the telephone.

## PORTLAND, OREGON AUGUST 13-16



**Portland: This is a view we will have at Reunion 03 in Portland, Oregon. Come join us August 13-16 and we will relive again those days aboard Baka Hachi**

## LAUGHLIN NEVADA 2003

Ruth and Dudley Cass hosted another successful Laughlin Mini-Reunion in Laughlin, March 9-10, 2003. We enjoyed the Vicki Lawrence show Sunday evening and the Four Lads on Monday evening. The following persons attended the Mini-Reunion:

Don and Joan Anderson, Woodbridge, VA  
Dudley and Ruth Cass, Bonita, CA  
Tom and Jutta Eagling, Tucson, AZ  
Parky and Betty Parkhurst, Granada Hills, CA  
Jerry and Leanne Pennington, Fallbrook, CA  
John and Mary Reynolds, Redondo Beach, CA  
Joe and Rose Ripley, Los Alamitos, CA  
Jack and Jean Timmons, San Diego, CA  
Jim and Judy Van Sant, Oakdale, CA  
Tom Victory, Port Orchard, WA

And to the unknown good looking ex-sailor wearing a white Topeka shirt, standing in line for the Vicky Lawrence show and talked with John Reynolds. We are sorry you never made it to the Cass Hospitality room. You would have enjoyed it had we hooked up.

## ANOTHER TOPEKA LOGO



The Topeka Logo, as we know it, appears in the masthead of this newsletter. It was approved during a contest around the first WESTPAC deployment in 1961. There was an earlier one, probably during pre commissioning, which featured a Conestoga wagon. Another, featuring the "bow on" black and white image, used in the return address, appeared in the mid 60's. What is the background of this one? If you know, write to the editor, and it will be explained in the next newsletter.

### WEBMASTER CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Ken Noble was receiving so much "spam" at his Webmaster email address, he had to change it. Should you want to contact him regarding something on the website, email him at:

<KWNoble@USSTopekaclg8.org> or

<CLG8@USSTopekaclg8.org>

### NEWSLETTER MAILING PROBLEMS

We have had mailing problems with the last two newsletters, starting with the one mailed prior to the Denver reunion. Up to that time, our printer handled the mailing, and all newsletters were mailed First Class.

Because the printer handled all of the work manually (labor intensive), charges for this went up significantly. We had to find another source. So, we contracted with a direct mail house. The fees were right, but the service was not. The first one was mailed

bulk mail, and half had not received it at the Denver reunion, two weeks after it was mailed.

Next came the November newsletter, which was a disaster. It was handled by the same mail house, but mailed First Class. It was late getting out, and got into the early part of the Christmas mail rush. About half of them were lost. With a few exceptions, it seemed that people west of the Mississippi did not get it. Neither the Post Office nor the mail house would accept responsibility. We reprinted half of them and re-mailed them in January. There were minor problems with that mailing.

So, with this issue, we are changing horses again. We have a new mail house and this issue will be mailed "First Class Pre-Sort." This will give us first class mail and a cheaper postage rate, and to a certain extent, it can be tracked. Here's hoping that our problems are solved.

### LETTERS

Dear Ed:

I would like to make a suggestion about adding Email addresses to the Reunion Directory. They might be useful.

Carl Markle, RM2 (1959-1962)

*Ed Note: When email became popular, we tried keeping email addresses in the directory. At first, it only took one page. However, because people change their email address so often, we could not keep up with it. Besides, an email directory, listing those who want to be listed, is available on the Topeka Website.*

### WHERE DID IT COME FROM? PORTHOLE

The word "port hole" originated during the reign of Henry VI of England (1485). King Henry insisted on mounting guns too large for his ship and the traditional methods of securing these weapons on the forecastle and aftcastle could not be used.

A French shipbuilder named James Baker was commissioned to solve the problem. He put small doors in the side of the ship and mounted the cannon inside the ship. These doors protected the cannon from weather and were opened when the cannon were to be used. The French word for "door" is "porte" which was later Anglicized to "port" and later went on to mean any opening in the ship's side, whether for cannon or not.

USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION  
 C/O JACK CONNERY  
 9814 E. 83<sup>RD</sup> PL.  
 TULSA, OK 74133

First Class Prst.  
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## NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Board of Directors

Dudley Cass, Chairman, 3028 Bonita Woods Dr.,  
 Bonita, Cal., 91902; 619-267-3123.

**Board Members:** Don Anderson, Jack Connery, Jerry Judge,  
 Ken Noble, Jerry Pennington.

### President

John Reynolds, 916 Esplanade, # 107, Redondo  
 Beach, Cal., 90277; Telephone 310-540-7817.

### Secretary-Treasurer

Jack Timmons, 2661 Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, Ca,  
 92106-1121; 619-224-8928; Email JETimmons@aol.com

### 2003 Reunion Coordinator

John Keith, 3334 N.E. 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Portland, OR 97212-  
 2627; 503-287-4073; Email: Keith-john@webtv.net

### Newsletter Editor

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

### WebMaster

Ken Noble, 14019 Summer Bay Lane, Broomfield,  
 CO 80020; 303-410-7150; Email CLG8@usstopekaclg8.org

### Ship's Store

Linda Roberts, 7315 Valley Lane, Hixson, TN 37343-  
 2207; 423-842-5147.

## SHIP'S STORE

Here's what's available in the Ship's Store. Order now  
 and come to the reunion already dressed out. However,  
 most merchandise will be available in Portland.

All Ship's Store Orders should be sent to Linda Roberts at  
 7315 Valley Lane, Hixson, TN 37343-2207. Linda's  
 phone number is 423-842-5147. The following is avail-  
 able:

### 2000 Polo Shirts

White or Gray w/Navy trim, Beige  
 w/Black trim; Sizes M, L, 28.00

### 2002 Polo Shirts

Beige w/pocket, Sizes M,L,XL,XXL 30.00  
 Yellow, Blue w/o pocket, M,L,XL, XXL 30.00  
 Ball caps 12.00  
 Key Chains 3.00

### New Style Nylon Jackets

Navy w/Burgundy trim; Hunter Green  
 or Royal Blue, both w/Navy trim; 46.00  
 Cold Drink Holders 5.00  
 Coffee Mugs w/Topeka emblem 6.00  
 Topeka Note Pads (5-pack) 5.00  
 License Plate Holders 4.00

Include \$5.00 shipping with each order. Make checks out to the  
 Reunion Association and send check or money order to Linda  
 Roberts.

## Portland 2003 Reunion Highlights

**Reunion Dates:** Wednesday, August 13, 2003 through Saturday, August 16, 2003, with most folks departing on Sunday August 17, 2003. **Please send your Reunion Registration forms in early.**

**Hotel: Doubletree Hotel Portland ~Lloyd Center.** 1000 NE Multnomah St., Portland, OR 97232-2163. Sleeping Room Rates are \$88.00 Standard; \$93 Premium (for single or double occupancy); \$269 Lanai Suite; \$465 Parlor Suite. Additional persons are \$10. The quoted rates are quoted exclusive of prevailing local lodging tax, currently 11.5%. Quoted rates will be offered, based on availability, to our attendees three days before August 12 and three days after August 16, 2003. Individual parking Day Fee is \$5 per day or \$2 per hour, which ever is less. Overnight parking fee is \$10 per day for overnight guests.

**Make Your Own Hotel Reservations.** The Doubletree Hotel Portland~Lloyd Center's **Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, July 23, 2003**. To receive the contracted rates, identify yourself as being with the USS Topeka (CLG-8) Reunion Association. All reservations will be guaranteed with individual credit cards. In the event of a no show, one night's room and tax will be posted to that credit card. **Early departure fee:** In the event a guest who has reserved a room within our reserved block of rooms check's out prior to the guest's reserved checkout date, the hotel will add an early departure fee of \$50. To avoid an early departure fee, guests should advise the hotel before or upon check-in of any change of their departure date. The hotel will inform all guests of the early departure fee at registration.

**Phone Number for Registrations: call 1-800-996-0510 and ask for USS Topeka (CLG-8) Reunion Association.** Check-in time is 3 PM local time; checkout is 12 noon. The Doubletree Hotel Portland Lloyd Center is in the perfect location, in the center of the city, just blocks from the Oregon Convention Center, the Rose Garden Arena and Memorial Coliseum. The Hotel is 9 miles from the Portland International Airport. Drive time is 20 minutes. The fifteen story hotel offers 476 beautifully appointed guest rooms and suites with quality amenities and views of downtown Portland or the Cascade Mountain Range. The Hotel offers two excellent restaurants, the Multnomah Grill and Eduardo's Mexican Grill and Cantina. The hotel is conveniently located within walking distance of the Oregon Convention Center, Rose Garden Arena and MAX light rail system (1 block away), which provides free transportation to most downtown locations. The MAX light rail system provides excellent airport transportation for only \$1.55 per person one way. Across the street is the fabulous Lloyd Center mall, featuring over 200 stores, 18 movie theaters, and an ice skating rink. The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry and the Washington Park Zoo are also nearby.

**Airport Transportation:** Taxi typical minimum cost is \$20. MAX light rail less than \$2.00 per person to one block from Hotel.

**Reunion Schedule:** We recommend you plan to arrive on Tuesday, because there are plenty of things you will want to do on Wednesday through Saturday. Most will plan a Sunday departure.

**Tours:** Reservations must be made with your Reunion Registration to guarantee your choices. **August 13, 2003-Wednesday-Tour "A": The Mount St. Helen's Tour –Full Day tour.** Bus(s) load at Portland Double Tree Hotel Lloyd Center at 7:45AM and depart at 8:00 AM sharp, with estimated return 5:00PM. Sights include Silver Lake Visitor's Center, Coldwater Lake Visitor Center and Johnson's Ridge (great movie at Johnson's Ridge.) These are three interpretative/viewing Centers that can be viewed for \$6 person total. (With Golden Eagle Pass free except Silver Lake is \$3.) Lunch at Hoffstadt Bluffs with Bar-B-Que chicken, potato salad, baked beans, Corn-on-cob and drinks for \$12.39 each tax and tip included. (Not included in tour price). Cost \$40 per person. Requires a minimum of 25 persons.

**(Thursday and Friday tours and more continues on next page)**

## Portland 2003 Reunion Highlights (continued)

**August 14, 2003-Thursday-Tour "B": The Mount Hood Loop Tour- Full Day tour.** Bus(s) load at Portland Double Tree Hotel Lloyd Center at 7:45AM and depart at 8:00 AM sharp, with estimated return 5:00PM. Sights include Vista House, Multnomah Falls and other scenic falls, Columbia River Gorge, Hood River, Mount Hood, Timberline Lodge, and Bonneville Dam. Lunch not included in tour cost, lunch will be at Cascade Locks with scenic view. This is a beautiful scenic tour and includes passing through a National Forest. John and Mary Keith say this is the tour to see scenic Oregon. Cost \$40. Requires a minimum of 25 persons.

**August 15, 2003-Friday-Tour "C": The City Tour-Half Day tour.** Bus(s) load at Portland Double Tree Hotel Lloyd Center at 8:45AM and depart at 9:00 AM sharp. Return is estimated at 12:30 PM. Sights include the delightful Rose City, Waterfront Park, Chinatown, Rose Gardens, Japanese Gardens, and Pittock Mansion which is located in Pittock Acres park with excellent viewing (great view of the city from the mansion.) The Pittock Mansion is a restored French Renaissance mansion furnished with 18<sup>th</sup> Century European and American antiques. Rose Garden in Washington Park is free. Optional site fees Japanese Gardens: Seniors \$3, Adults \$5. Pittock Mansion Seniors \$4.50, adults \$5.25. Tour Cost is \$25 per person. Requires a minimum of 25 persons.

**Friday Evening- August 15:** No Host Cocktail Hour at 6:00 PM. Cocktails and Buffet Dinner - Oregon Room. Buffet Dinner at 7:00 PM. Featuring "**Chuckwagon Barbeque**". Includes Soup du Jour - Mixed greens with Ranch Dressing- Country Potato Salad- Honey-Horseradish Cole Slaw- Corn on the Cob - Ranch Style Beans - Spiced Rubbed Chicken with Bourbon Barbeque Sauce - Sliced Beef Brisket with Sesame Buns - Cornbread with Honey Butter - Apple Pie and Warm Berry Cobbler. Hospitality Suite will be closed from 6:00 PM until after the dinner

**Saturday Morning August 16:** 9:00 AM Reunion Association Business Meeting in a meeting room other than the Hospitality Suite. Tentatively to be held in the Mount Hood /Mount Saint Helen's Room. Site location to be confirmed. Presenters for Proposed sites for the 2004 reunion and 2005 Reunion should be prepared to make a good presentation. Nominations will be open for sites for the 2006 reunion. Hospitality Room Closed.

**Board of Directors Meeting:** Held upon completion of the Business meeting to elect the President and Secretary Treasurer and to conduct what ever other business needs to be brought before the Board.

**Saturday Morning** – Time to be determined: Group Photos. Rest of the day on your own.

**Saturday Evening, August 16:** No Host Cocktail Hour at 6:00 PM.- Cascade Ballroom. Banquet Dinner at 7:00 PM. The dinner menu includes choices of **Roasted Prime Rib of Beef**, with Rosemary Red Potatoes, Creamed Horseradish and natural juice, with spinach salad and desert or **Mesquite Grilled Salmon** with Mango Relish and Rosemary Red Potatoes, with spinach salad and desert. There is a **vegetarian option** available as well. The wine service will include choices of Copperidge Chardonnay, White Zinfandel and Cabernet Sauvignon. The Hospitality Suite will be closed from prior to 6:00 PM until after the dinner.

**Please come to the 2003 Portland Oregon Reunion and have a good time with our shipmates and other long term friends.**

# USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Registration Form

Portland, Oregon August 13-16, 2003 (Aug 17 departure for most)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Plankowner ? \_\_\_\_\_ Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_  
 Staying at the Doubletree Hotel Portland~Lloyd Center \_\_\_\_\_ (Yes or No)

Emergency Contact: Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_.

Any Handicap and/or Special Dietary Requirements? \_\_\_\_\_

Any Auxiliary aids required: \_\_\_\_\_

Names for Nametag(s) (if you have not previously received permanent nametags):  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Reunion Fee:** The Reunion Fee includes the cost of the Hospitality Suite, the Friday Night Buffet Dinner, the Saturday Night Banquet, and all other fixed costs of the reunion. Reunion Fee for adults attending all four days Wednesday thru Saturday: \$105. For those not attending all four days, \$10 for Wednesday, \$12 for Thursday, \$35 for Friday, and \$55 for Saturday. For Children under 5, no charge. Children (12 & under) \$15 for Friday and/or Saturday if attending the Buffet and/or Dinner Banquet, if the child's plate is selected. Otherwise, if the child elects to eat adult food, Teenager prices (defined below) apply. For Teenagers and children who eat adult food: \$30 for the Friday Buffet and \$35 for the Saturday Banquet. No charge for children or teenagers unless attending the Friday Buffet or Saturday Banquet.

Days Attending	Number Attending	Price	Cost
All Four Days	_____	\$105	_____
Not All Four Days			
Wednesday	_____	\$ 10	_____
Thursday	_____	\$ 12	_____
Friday	_____	\$ 35	_____
Saturday	_____	\$ 55	_____
Children at Buffet (child's plate)	_____	\$ 15	_____
Children at Banquet (child plate)	_____	\$ 15	_____
Teenagers at Buffet	_____	\$ 30	_____
Teenagers at Banquet	_____	\$ 35	_____

Reunion Fee Total \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet Entrée Choices (Give Number(s))

Roasted Prime Rib of Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Mesquite Grilled Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Plate (ages 5-12) \_\_\_\_\_ Children Under 5 Free \_\_\_\_\_

(Continued on Reverse Side)

**USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Registration - PORTLAND, OREGON 2003 (continued)**

<u>Group Events:</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>COST</u>
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August 13, 2003-Wednesday-Tour "A" - The Mount St. Helen's Tour- Full day tour 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Bus and guide included. Interpretive Centers' fees and Lunch are not included. Lunch at Hoffstadt Bluffs for \$12.39, tax and tip included. Sights include Silver Lake Visitor's Center, Coldwater Lake Visitor's Center, and Johnson's Ridge and other scenic sights.

PRICE	_____	<b>\$40</b>	_____
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August 14, 2003-Thursday - Tour "B" - The Mount Hood Loop Tour-Full day tour 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Bus and guide included. Lunch not included. Sights include Vista House, Multnomah Falls and other scenic falls, Columbia River Gorge, Hood River, Mount Hood, Timberline Lodge, and Bonneville Dam. Lunch at Cascade Locks with scenic view.

PRICE	_____	<b>\$40</b>	_____
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August 15, 2003- Friday - Tour "C" - The City Tour- Half Day tour 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Bus and guide included, Optional site fees not included. Lunch on your own after the tour. Bus and guide included. No lunch. Sites include the delightful Rose City, Waterfront Park, Chinatown, Rose Gardens (free), Japanese Gardens and Pittock Mansion. Optional site fees for Japanese Gardens and Pittock Mansion not included.

PRICE	_____	<b>\$25</b>	_____
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Tours Cost Total \_\_\_\_\_

Add: Reunion Fees from other side: \_\_\_\_\_

Reunion fees and Tours Cost: **Total Cost** \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for payment of the above costs is July 16, 2003**

Please make checks payable to: USS Topeka (CLG-8) Reunion Association, Inc.

Please make a copy of the completed form for your files.

Mail this form and the check for payment to:

Jack E. Timmons  
 2661 POINSETTIA DR.  
 SAN DIEGO, CA 92106-1121