

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 15, No. 2

June 2004

Officers:

Jerry Judge, Chairman, Board of Directors; John Reynolds, President; Jack Timmons, Secretary-Treasurer; Max Kaster, Reunion 04 Chairman; Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Imagine my surprise on Memorial Day weekend as I awoke to the shrill sound of a bos'n whistle and my wife screaming "hit the deck sailor". I looked out the window and their Anchored 500 yards from my front door was the USS Sacramento. I later learned that the Sacramento AOE-1 was a single supply system originated by Admiral Arliegh Burke. It combines the function of three logistics ships in one hull; fleet oiler (AO), ammunition ship (AE), and refrigerated stores ship (AFS). She has a top speed of 30 knots and is classified as a Combat Support Ship. Her engines came from the, never completed, battleship Kentucky and delivered in excess of 100,000 shaft horsepower to two 23-foot screws, the largest on any ship in the Navy.

On Memorial Day we had a great parade honoring Sergeant Brian Wood who gave his life for his country when his Humvee hit a land mine in Iraq, and Capt. Mike Manazir, the skipper of the Sacramento, was the Grand Marshall.

The Elk's Club hosted the sailors of the ship, and all veterans to a Bar-B-Q, free beer and all, bet you can't guess where I was? Yes we had a great Memorial Day in Redondo Beach, and it was great to celebrate it with the crew of this great ship, and to remember all the sacrifices our great military men have made since the beginning of our country. I hope you all had a wonderful Memorial Day as we did. See you in Charleston.

John Reynolds

NEW MEMBERS (SINCE APRIL)

Kenneth Weaver BM2 (61-62) Colorado Springs, CO
James Gallagher DKSJN (63-65) Lawndale, CA
Cliff Reymann MM3 (66-68) Kintnersville, PA
Doug Milbrath MM2 (66-68) St Frances, MN
Bob Nelson LT (61-63) Santa Barbara, CA
Kenneth Baquet LCPL (61-63) Chase, MI

BINNACLE LIST

Kenneth Noble (59-63), Bloomfield, CO
J. W. Perkins (63-65), Megargel, TX

TAPS

Stephan Archbold SKSN (60-63) Feb. 11, 2004
Granville, NY
Thomas Arnold MM3 (65-68) March 18, 2004
Spokane, WA
Joe Buda GMC (60-62) May 31, 2004 Garden
Grove, CA
Thomas Harris CSCS (65-67) Tallahassee, FLA
Eugene Ray DT1 (65-67) Bremerton, WA
Richard G. Young DT1 (60-??) April 6, 2004

LETTERS

Dear Kathy,

Congratulations or condolences, as the case may be, on taking over the task of writing the newsletter. As you know, writing any newsletter is easy IF you have enough material to cull through to fill up the pages. Therein lies the rub!

My partner got the enclosed from his newsletter from the USS Rich, DD820, a World War II destroyer. It is a great story and I hope you can use it somehow in your quest for material.

Good luck, Kathy

Sincerely,

Peter Reifsnnyder

LT, USNR

USS Topeka, 1960-62

Following is an excerpt from that newsletter:

“How to Simulate Being a Sailor”

(Perhaps your spouse will understand a few things after reading this.)

Have your neighbor come over each day at 5am, blow a whistle so loud Helen Keller could hear it, and shout “Reveille, reveille, all hands heave out and trice up”. Have your mother-in-law write down everything she’s going to do the following day, then have her make you stand in your back yard at 6am while she reads it to you. Submit a request chit to your father-in-law requesting permission to leave your house before 3pm. Empty all the garbage bins in your house and sweep the driveway three times a day, whether it needs it or not.

ATTENTION

When you call to make your hotel reservations, it is very important that you identify yourself as a member of the USS Topeka Reunion Association. If you take an AARP rate, or a travel club (i.e., Auto Club Rate or similar), or any other discount rate our association does not get credit for your room nights. We need all our room nights to be able to guarantee items given by the hotels remain free as stipulated in the contract. That includes the free use of the Hospitality Room. Please don't increase our costs to save a few bucks on a hotel rate. The rates we have negotiated are very competitive

WHO'S COMING TO CHARLESTON

The following are early-bird registrations for Charleston. There is still time to get your registrations in to Jack Timmons. All the information is enclosed with this newsletter.

Gary Baker FT2 (63-65) Billings, MT
Matt Fitzpatrick FTM3 (63-65) No. East, MD
Michael Hight RD2 (60-62) Avon Park, FL
Harold Jackson, JR. BT2 (63-67) Pleasantville, PA
Gerald “Jerry” Judge FTCS (63-66) Chula Vista, CA
Calvin Ladd MM3 (63-66) Minnetonka, MN
Gary Noland FTG3 (63-66) Orangevale, CA
Larry Patriquin FT2 (61-64) Barrington, NH
Jerry Pennington RD3 (63-64) Fallbrook, CA
Robert Plake HT1 (59-61) Indianapolis, IN
Paul Ruby LTJG (62-65) San Francisco, CA
Jack Timmons LTJG (64-65) San Diego, CA
Leonard Van Gemert ET1 (63-65) Myakka City, FL

REUNION CITES / COORDINATORS

This year we will be selecting a Reunion City/Coordinator for the 2005 Reunion (Central U.S.) and selecting a Reunion City/Coordinator for the 2006 Reunion (Western U.S.)

Cities proposed for 2005 include Minneapolis, which was proposed by Mike Phillips at the 2002 Denver Reunion, and San Antonio, TX, which was proposed by Jill Connery at the 2003 Portland Reunion. Members indicated will be expected to present information supporting their proposal at the Charleston Business Meeting and a site will be selected by vote.

New Request: It would be useful prior to making your presentation to collect information to be presented to the members as to what the airfares currently (several airlines) are to the reunion city would be from representative cites on East Coast, Midwest, and West Coast.

Members present may propose cites in the Western U.S. for the 2006 Reunion, understanding that John Reynolds in 2003 had made a substantial proposal that this reunion be held in San Diego.

Ruth and Dudley Cass had indicated that they would be willing to be the Reunion Coordinators should that site be ultimately chosen by the members for 2006.

Remember, the goal is to sell the city and what it has to offer to the membership, and the person successful in selling his city assumes the role of reunion coordinator.

The desired sequence of events is that two years prior to the event, a prospective coordinator will be at the reunion to "sell" the membership on the city he is proposing. That is, explain to the membership what his city has to offer that would make them chose that city. Implicit with the selection of his city, that person assumes the role of reunion coordinator. During the next year, he will do the "leg work" to plan the reunion, select the hotel, choose tours, etc., lay out the schedule of events, using the association's "Reunion Guide" to assist him in his preparations. The coordinator will need to work closely with the Caterer and Secretary/Treasurer. At one year prior to the reunion, the coordinator will present his plan to the Board. Once approved, he will proceed to fill in all the details, getting timely information to the President, and the Newsletter Editor, etc. The Secretary/Treasurer and the Caterer will assist the reunion coordinator in contractual matters with the hotel, tour companies, etc.



Take a dip...

Charleston offers limitless attractions — including miles of breathtaking beaches — but one of its best sights is right at the Town & Country Inn & Conference Center. Our crystal blue, outdoor pool sits under a canopy of Southern blue skies and sunshine. Nearby, a picturesque gazebo waits for you to steal a moment in the shade with someone special, or sneak a nap after a fun day of touring.

2004 Dues are Due

Dues of \$15 for 2004 are due and should be mailed to Jack Timmons, 2661 Poinsettia Dr. San Diego, CA 92106-1121. Please make checks payable to the USS Topeka (CLG-8) Reunion Association, Inc.

Dues are used to pay for the printing and mailing of this newsletter, printing and mailing the annual directory of members, the costs of maintaining the web site, postage for letters and some of the "upfront" reunion expenses.

A 2004 Directory will be mailed to you after the dues have been received. If you are interested in saving money, you can pay \$60 to cover dues for five years (Saves \$15) and you will receive a new directory in January each year.

Should you want to send a little extra with your dues payment, the extra amount will be included in an annual donation to the Armed Forces Home-Gulfport (the former Naval Home) after the reunion. The address label on each newsletter will indicate whether or not you have paid your dues.

USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION
 C/O KATHY SPATZ
 503 OLIVE BLVD.
 SOUTH HEMPSTEAD, NY 11550-8012

First Class Prst.
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Tulsa, OK
 Permit # 2146



NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Board of Directors

Jerry Judge, Chairman, 68 E. Sierra Way, Chula Vista, CA 91911; 619-422-0761. Email RAJTR@cox.net

Board Members: Dudley Cass, Don Anderson, Jack Connery, Ken Noble, Tom Victory

President

John Reynolds, 916 Esplanade, # 107, Redondo Beach, Cal., 90277; Telephone 310-540-7817. E-mail Canrc@hotmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer

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2004 Reunion Coordinator

Max Kaster, 2520 Tiffany Trail, Cayce, SC 29033; 803-926-7475. E-mail mjmaster@ax2k.net

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

Ship's Store

Linda Roberts, 7315 Valley Lane, Hixson, TN 37343-2207; 423-842-5147. Email IJLRob@aol.com

SHIP'S STORE

These items are available from the Ship's Store, order now and come to the reunion already dressed out. Most of the merchandise will be available in Charleston. 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

Charleston SC 2004 Reunion Highlights

Reunion Dates: Wednesday, August 11, 2004 through Saturday, August 14, 2004, with most folks departing on Sunday, August 15, 2004. Try booking airlines early, quoted rates are high.

Hotel: The Town and Country Inn & Conference Center, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407. Sleeping Room Rates for King/Double Queen are \$82.00 Single or Double the quoted rates are quoted exclusive of prevailing local lodging tax, currently 12%. Quoted rates are offered, based on availability, to our attendees Saturday, August 07, 2004 through Saturday, August 14, 2004.

Make Your Own Hotel Reservations. Hotel Reservation **Deadline is July 15, 2004.** Please make reservations much earlier. Phone Number for Registrations: **1-800-334-6660.** Identify yourself as being a member of the USS Topeka (CLG-8) Reunion Association to receive the contracted rates. **Check-in time is 3 PM hotel time; checkout is 12-noon hotel time.** All reservations will be guaranteed with individual credit cards. Credit card number guarantee or first night's room and tax deposit (\$91.84) for all individual guest reservations. In the event of a no show, one night's room and tax will be posted to that credit card. Room rate includes free full American buffet breakfast in the Trotters Restaurant for each guest per day for the dates of the reunion only. The Town and Country Inn & Conference Center is perfectly located, minutes away from historic downtown Charleston, SC. It is 9 miles from Charleston AFB/International Airport (CHS). Drive time is 15 minutes. The hotel has 124 handsomely appointed guest rooms and suites. Low Country cuisine is available at the acclaimed Trotters Restaurant & Lounge. There is a fitness center, two pools and racquetball courts. All rooms have ironing boards & hair dryers. **Parking is free.** RV Parking is available on premises. Hookups are not available.

Airport Transportation: There is **NO** Complementary Airport Shuttle and no easy public transport from the Airport to the Hotel. Taxi typical minimum is \$15 plus tips. Senior discounts are available with some cab companies, ask the driver.

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: All tours leave from the Town and Country Inn & Conference Center.

August 11, 2004-Wednesday-Tour "A" Combination Land and Sea Tour: Bus loads at Town & County Inn and **departs at 11:45 AM Sharp.** Return to the hotel at **2:45 PM.** This 3-hour tour starts with a 90-minute bus tour cruising the historic districts. Enjoy your visit as our licensed guide drives you through narrow streets lined with townhouses of colonial planters. In a relaxing atmosphere they narrate over 300 years of American history as you can see where generations of patriots lived, worked and worshipped in some of America's oldest religious buildings. Fascinating stories of the American Revolution and the War Between the State will capture your interest. Your tour includes a 5-minute stop at the Battery (harbor overlooks). Bus takes you to the boat for a trip out to Fort Sumter for a one-hour tour of the Fort where the "War of Northern Aggression" really began. There are several steps to negotiate at Fort Sumter. **Cost \$25 per person.**

Thursday, August 12, 2004-Tour "B": Middleton Place Tour (Gardens, House, Plantation Stable Yards). Bus(s) load at the Town and Country Inn and **depart at 9:00 AM Sharp.** Middleton Place is one of South Carolina's most enduring icons - a proud survivor of the American Revolution, Civil War, changing fortunes and natural disasters. First granted in 1675, only five years after the first English Colonists arrived in the Carolinas, This historic landmark has history, dramas, beauty and educational discoveries for everyone. For over two and a half centuries, these graciously landscaped gardens have enchanted visitors from all over the world. **Planned return to the hotel at 1:00 PM. Cost** including bus, licensed guide (the driver) and gate fee to site which includes grounds and teas room: **\$55 per person.** There are air-conditioned areas at this site. An additional fee of \$10 per person to get into the house is not included.

(Continues on next page)

Charleston SC 2004 Reunion Highlights (continued)

Thursday August 12 2004 – Tour “C”: Evening Harbor Cruise. Bus departs at 6:00 PM. Cruise embarks at 6:30 PM at Patriot’s Point. Underway 7:00 PM. This is a three-hour dinner cruise and harbor tour. Return to the hotel 10:30 PM. Enjoy a delicious meal as you cruise by the city’s beautiful and historic Battery homes, under the magnificent Cooper River bridges, and alongside the Port Terminals. The **Spirit of Carolina** features year around climate controlled dining salons, open observation decks, and a full service galley. Handicap-accessible restrooms are available. Experience a fabulous three course gourmet meal prepared to order onboard, tableside service, your favorite beverages, live entertainment and dancing. Menu selection will be made on board and always have Traditional Charleston She-Crab Soup and Spirit line Salad. Entrees always include choices of Grilled Beef Tenderloin, a Fresh Catch of the Day seafood selection, and a chicken dish, which might include Honey bourbon Glazed Stuffed Chicken. Sometimes the entrée choices include Sautéed Carolina Crab cakes or Low Country Shrimp and Grits. Assorted deserts not included in tour price are \$4.00. A vegetarian choice can be made available upon prior request. Dress is “Nice Casual” and High Heeled shoes are not recommended. **Cost: \$60 per person** including bus transportation to and from the embarkation point.

Friday, August 13, 2004 Tour “D” Patriots Point Tour, USS Yorktown, and Patriot’s Point Naval and Maritime Museum. – Half-Day tour. Bus loads at Town and Country Inn and departs at 9:00 AM sharp; with return before 1:00 PM. Patriots Point is home of USS Yorktown (CV-10) The Fighting Lady. The first USS Yorktown sank at the battle of Midway in June, 1942. Moored next to Yorktown is USS Laffey (DD-724) a WWII destroyer that survived Japanese kamikaze attacks off Okinawa on radar picket station #1 in April 1945. Also moored alongside is US Coast Guard cutter INGHAM (WHEC-35) which fought in convoy battles of the North Atlantic & sank a German U-boat. Also alongside is diesel attack boat USS CLAMAGORE (SS-343). After the ship tour, the buses can drop individuals off if they desire at 12:00 Noon at the famous Market in downtown Charleston for lunch/shopping and get back to the hotel on your own. The Bus(s) will return to the hotel by 12:45 PM. **Cost \$45 per person** including admission to the USS Yorktown.

Friday Evening- August 13: No Host Cocktail Hour 6:00 PM. - (Dining Room location TBD) Buffet Dinner 7:00 PM. Featuring **Southern Fried Chicken, Beef Burgundy, Ham Steak** and Pineapple rings, Scalloped Potatoes, Rice Pilaf, String beans Almandine, buttered kernel corn, Salad with choice of dressings, rolls and butter, coffee or tea. Desserts are bread pudding and lemon cake. Hospitality Suite will be closed from 6:00 PM until after the dinner

Saturday Morning August 16: 9:00 AM Reunion Association Business Meeting. Room location will be announced. We have no members of the Board intending to retire, so current board members may/will be nominated for reelection. Presenters for the two previously proposed sites for the 2005 reunion (Midwest Reunion) and 2006 Reunion should be prepared to make a good presentation. Nominations will be accepted for the 2007 Reunion, which should be another East Coast Reunion. The 2006 reunion location was tentatively decided to be San Diego at the 2003 Portland 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 14: No Host Cocktail Hour 6:00 PM. Location will be announced. Banquet Dinner 7:00 PM. The dinner menu includes choices of **Prime Rib of Beef** or **Filet of Salmon** with dill sauce. There is Garden Salad with choice of dressings, Roasted New Potatoes, Vegetable of the day, Rolls/butter, Coffee/Tea. Dessert will be Pecan Pie. The wine service will include choices of Delicato Chardonnay, White Zinfandel and Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The Hospitality Suite will be closed from prior to 6:00 PM until after the dinner. Please come to the 2004 Charleston, South Carolina Reunion and have a good time with our shipmates and other long-term friends.

USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Registration Form

Charleston, South Carolina, August 10-14, 2004 (Aug 15 departure for most)

Name _____ Plank owner? _____ Number in Party _____
 Staying at the **Town and Country Inn & Conference Center** (Yes/No) _____

Emergency Contact: Name _____
 Phone number (____) _____

Any Handicap and/or Special Dietary Requirements? _____

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: \$110. For those not attending all four days, \$10 for Wednesday, \$10 for Thursday, \$40 for Friday, and \$55 for Saturday. Children age 2 and under free. Children (3 to 12) \$22 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: \$33 for the Friday Buffet and \$33 for the Saturday Banquet. No charge for children or teenagers unless attending the Friday Buffet or Saturday Banquet. New this year by popular demand, there are provisions from Guests for the dinners only. Adult guests are \$35 for Friday Buffet dinner and \$45 for the Saturday Dinner and Program.

Days Attending	Number Attending	Price	Cost
All Four Days	_____	\$110	_____
Not All Four Days			
Wednesday	_____	\$ 10	_____
Thursday	_____	\$ 10	_____
Friday	_____	\$ 40	_____
Saturday	_____	\$ 55	_____
Adult guest Friday @Buffet only	_____	\$ 35	_____
Adult guest Saturday @Dinner only	_____	\$ 45	_____
Children at Buffet (child's plate)	_____	\$ 22	_____
Children at Banquet (child plate)	_____	\$ 22	_____
Teenagers at Buffet	_____	\$ 33	_____
Teenagers at Banquet	_____	\$ 33	_____

Reunion Fee Total

Banquet Entrée Choices (Give Number(s))
 Prime Rib of Beef _____ Filet of Salmon _____ Vegetarian _____
 Child's Plate (ages 3 to 12) _____ Children Under 2 Free _____

(Continued on Reverse Side)

USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Registration Charleston South Carolina, 2004 (continued)

<u>Group Events:</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>PRICE COST</u>
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August 11, 2004-Wednesday-Tour "A" -Combination Land & Sea Tour- Half day tour 11:45 AM to 2:45 PM. Bus and guide included. First a 90-minute air conditioned Bus tour of historic Charleston. A stop at the Battery. Boat trip to Fort Sumter and a one-hour tour of the Fort. Lunch is not included. Boat trip back to catch the bus and return to the hotel.

PRICE	_____	\$25	_____
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August 12, 2004-Thursday - Tour "B" - Middleton Place Tour- Half day tour 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Bus and guide included. Fee includes admission to the grounds. There are air-conditioned areas on the grounds. Lunch not included. The additional \$10 fee to get into the historic house is not included.

PRICE	_____	\$55	_____
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August 12, 2004-Thursday Evening - Tour "C" - Evening Harbor Dinner Cruise. Bus departs the hotel at 6:00 PM to embarkation point at Patriots Pt. Embarkation at 6:30 PM. Underway at 7:00 PM on the Spirit of Carolina for a three hour cruise around the bay and a wonderful dinner on board. The dining salon is air-conditioned. Experience a gourmet meal prepared to order on board. Disembark at 10:00 PM and bus will return you to the hotel.

PRICE	_____	\$60	_____
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August 13, 2004- Friday - Tour "D" - Patriot's Point and USS Yorktown Tour- Half Day tour 9:00 AM to 12:45 PM. Bus and guide included, Yorktown tour fee included. Following the tour of the ship, the bus will take us to the famous Market in downtown. An Option to have Bus drop you off to shop and have lunch, but on your own to return. Lunch is not included. The bus will continue to the hotel to arrive 12:45 PM.

PRICE	_____	\$45	_____
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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 June 30, 2004

While we want you to come, any registrations received past July 28 will be more difficult, since the Secretary/Treasurer is on vacation in South Carolina after August 3, 2004. There are deadlines that have to be met for the tours and a final payment to the Cruise line is required on August 2.

Do the best you can. We will work with you to make your reunion a success.

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**