

# USS TOPEKA CLG-8

## Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 19, No. 2

June 2008



### Officers:

John Reynolds, Chairman, Board of Directors; John Reynolds, President;  
Clare Smart, Secretary-Treasurer; Ray Spatz, 2008 Reunion Chairman;  
Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Howdy partner! Can't wait to get to Texas. I never thought I would ever say that, but as I listen to some of my friends talking, in my favorite VFW watering hole, they say so many good things about San Antonio that I can't wait to spend some time deep in the heart of Texas.

I also hear great things from Ray and Kathy as they spend time working to prepare good times for us in September. They do everything right. Remember the great time we all had in New York. We can't thank them enough for all their hard work in making these reunions a thing to remember. We will remember this reunion as we did the Alamo, which just happens to be there also. (Oh! John you are so corny)

A special thank you goes to Clare Smart for taking over the hardest job the reunion association has, which is the job of sec/tres. It is so wonderful to have people like her who will step up to the plate when we need them. It is people like her who keep the ship afloat. Thanks again Clare.

And what would we do without Ruth Cass who makes sure everything goes right with the hotel people. With these people at the wheel we know all is well and our ship will arrive at the harbor on time.

As some of you know John Keith has had a battle with cancer. I spoke to him on the phone, and he is very encouraged that the Dr. got it all and that all is well with him. Great news John! Our prayers are with you, and we hope to see you in Texas.

I hope to see you all in Texas. Yawl come, hear.

JR

### NEW MEMBERS (since March 2008)

Larry Newcomb CS3 (66-68) Lancaster, PA  
Raymond E. Danes JOC (64-68) Susanville, CA  
James Hollett EM3 (64-64) Portland, OR  
Peter Nash BM3 (60-63) Conroe, TX  
Steve Williams ETR2 (67-68) Heber City, UT  
John Kirstein MM2 (61-64) Wausau, WI  
Steven Taylor ETR2 A(67-68) Twain Harte, CA  
William Srader EM2 (66-67) Shingle Springs, CA  
Trevor Hall EM2 (67-68) South Lake Tahoe, CA  
William "Bill" Crum RD3 (59-61) Layton, UT

### TAPS

#### Departed Shipmates

Paul Wuorenmaa LT 04/15/08  
Richard Annis SN June 1970  
Robert Hale SN 08/03/04  
Donald Hayworth MM3 05/15/07



## ***"The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing.***

It is quite appropriate to fly the flag any and every day of the year. The Flag Code (§174d) does outline certain days on which it is especially important and desirable to fly the flag:

- New Year's Day (January 1st)
- Inauguration Day (January 20th)
- Lincoln's Birthday (February 12th)
- Washington's Birthday (3rd Monday in February)
- Easter Sunday (Varies in early Spring)
- Mother's Day (2nd Sunday in May)
- Armed Forces Day (3rd Saturday in May)
- Memorial Day (Last Monday in May)
- Flag Day (June 14th)
- Independence Day (July 4th)
- Labor Day (First Monday in September)
- Columbus Day (2nd Monday in October)
- Navy Day (October 27th)
- Veterans Day (November 11th)
- Thanksgiving Day (4th Thursday in November)
- Christmas Day (December 25th)
- Other Days as proclaimed by the President of the United States
- Birthdays of States (Based upon the date of admission to the Union)
- Various State holidays

## **WHO'S COMING TO SAN ANTONIO (AS OF JUNE 6, 2008)**

Gary Baker  
Matt Fitzpatrick  
Michael Hight  
Lewis Loudon  
Ron Smart  
Ray Spatz  
Jack Timmons  
Bud Zimmerman



## **GETTING AROUND SAN ANTONIO**

Downtown travel is a breeze on the VIA Trolley, an open air, authentic reproduction of a rail streetcar which traveled the streets of San Antonio more than 50 years ago. Four streetcar routes stop at downtown locations, including the Alamo, the Spanish Governor's Palace, La Villita, Sunset Station, the Southwest School of Art and Craft, the Institute of Texan Cultures, the King William Historic District and downtown shopping. The downtown streetcar station at Convention Plaza provides convenient access for travelers.

Sightseer Special, VIA bus route 7 Funston Place, is a bus route that makes stops at several destinations that represent the rich tapestry of culture and history in San Antonio. Some locations visited by bus route 7 include:

- VIA's River Walk Streetcar Station
- The Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center
- The Alamo
- San Antonio Museum of Art
- The Japanese Tea Garden
- Brackenridge Park
- San Antonio Zoo
- Trinity University
- University of the Incarnate Word
- The Witte Museum
- San Antonio Botanical Garden

Schedules are seasonal and based on each location's hours of operation.

VIA's Downtown Information Center (260 East Houston) is open six days a week, Monday - Friday 7 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Other Information Centers are located at Crossroads Mall, Randolph Park & Ride and Ingram Transit Center. Operating hours are 7 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2:30-6 p.m. Please call 210-362-2020 for information on all VIA services or visit [www.viainfo.net](http://www.viainfo.net), where you can download a sightseer's brochure.



# Interesting San Antonio Facts

- **Thriving:** Third fastest-growing city in America and the seventh largest U.S. city.
- **Popular:** More than 26 million people visit San Antonio each year. The city is centrally located between the east and west coasts.
- **Venerable:** One of the American West's oldest cities settled in 1731 by sixteen Spanish families from the Canary Islands. San Antonio's rich history surfaces in its architecture, neighborhoods, food, culture and traditions. The King William neighborhood is one of the oldest historical districts in Texas.
- **Urban:** Hundreds of hotels, restaurants, night spots and shops line the city's urban core including the magical River Walk below street level.
- **Green:** Sixty-eight miles of urban hike and bike trails and over 11,000 acres of urban parks. The U.S.'s second oldest park, San Pedro Park, is in San Antonio.
- **Sunny:** Three hundred days of sunshine annually and an average temperature of 70 degrees.
- **Affordable:** The most affordable city in America, for both those who live here and those who visit.
- **Safe:** One of America's safest and best "walking" cities.
- **Artsy:** One of the top 25 cities in the country for the arts, according to *American Style* magazine. *Travel Smart* magazine ranks San Antonio as one of the most culturally fascinating cities in the U.S.
- **Kid Friendly:** Sea World® San Antonio is the world's largest marine life adventure park, Schlitterbahn, nearby, is the world's best water park according to the Travel Channel, and Six Flags® Fiesta Texas® is one of the most visited attractions in the state.
- **Top Visitor City:** *Travel + Leisure* named San Antonio as one of America's favorite cities. San Antonio has some of the state's most visited attractions and festivals: The Alamo, The River Walk, Sea World® San Antonio, Six Flags® Fiesta Texas®, San Antonio Zoo; Fiesta San Antonio.
- **Top Restaurant:** Le Rêve was named Texas' best restaurant and one of the top 50 restaurants in America by *Gourmet* magazine. Biga on the Banks was named

one of America's Best Restaurants by *Gourmet* magazine.

- **Top Golf:** More than 40 public and private golf courses. Tapatio Springs Golf Resort has ranked as a Texas top ten spot for over a decade. Toughest golf shot: Pecan Valley golf Course, No. 18, Par 4, 18 yards.
- **Top Basketball:** The San Antonio Spurs won the NBA Championship in 2007, 2005, 2003, and 1999.
- **Top Zoo:** Third largest zoo in the U.S. with over 3,500 animals. The San Antonio Zoo also shelters more than 230 endangered species.
- **Top Shopping:** San Antonio's El Mercado shopping district is the largest Mexican market outside Mexico. The nearby San Marcos Outlet Mall was ranked 3rd best shopping mall in the world by ABC's "The View."



Dinner cruises are phenomenal ways to enjoy the River Walk. I hope you will all join us on Thursday, September 18 for the River Walk dinner with the boat tour. Trust me you really don't want to miss this tour!

## ANNUAL DUES

Annual dues, for the calendar year, are \$20 or \$80 for five years. Although dues are requested, they are not mandatory. The dues, however, are used to cover expenses such as the preparation and mailing of letters, newsletter and directories, "upfront" reunion expenses, and the cost of maintaining the TOPEKA website on the internet. Dues should be sent to Clare Smart, Secretary/Treasurer, 560 Meadowlark Drive, Turlock, CA 95382-1412

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

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**NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Board of Directors  
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Board Members: Dudley Cass, Jerry Craig, Jack Connery,  
 Ken Noble, Ray Spatz, Dan Moore

President  
 John Reynolds, 916 Esplanade #107, Redondo Beach, CA  
 90277; 310-540-7817; Email [canrc@verizon.net](mailto:canrc@verizon.net)

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 303-410-7150; Email [kwnoble@usstopekaelg8.org](mailto:kwnoble@usstopekaelg8.org)

Ships Store  
 Linda Roberts, 7315 Valley Lane, Hixson, TN 37343-2207,  
 423-842-5147; Email [ljrob@aol.com](mailto:ljrob@aol.com)

**SHIPS STORE**

Most of the merchandise will be available in San Antonio. 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.

**Ladies White Shirts**  
 Small, large \$19.00

**Polo 2003**  
 Navy/White XL, XXL \$20.00  
 White/Navy XL, XXL 20.00  
 Navy w/pocket XXL 20.00

**Polo 2005**  
 Navy M, L \$19.00  
 Med Blue L 19.00  
 Navy w/pocket M 19.00

**Jackets**  
 Old style  
 Navy M – 1 left \$30.00  
 2003 Micro Fiber  
 Navy XL, XXL \$36.00  
 Beige XL, XXL 36.00

**Assorted items available**  
 Ball Caps \$12.00  
 Key Chains 1.00  
 Cold Drink Holders 4.00  
 Coffee mugs w/Topeka emblem 5.00  
 Topeka Note pads (5 pack) 4.00  
 License Plate Holder 3.00  
 Ship's Plaque(new design, w/name) 25.00

**U.S.S. TOPEKA (CLG8) REUNION ASSOCIATION. INC. (Rev. 1 1/15/2008)**  
**SAN ANTONIO REUNION HIGHLIGHTS**

**Reunion 2008:**

Reunion Coordinator(s): Ray and Kathy Spatz

Welcome to Historic San Antonio, Texas, the seventh largest city in the U.S. The city is a cultural gateway into the American Southwest. Famous for its Riverwalk, the Alamo, its Tejano Culture, and home to the SeaWorld San Antonio and Six Flags Fiesta Texas theme parks,

Thanks to Ray and Kathy Spatz, and Ruth Cass, arrangements for the San Antonio Reunion are going well. We have some excellent tours set up and the hotel is centrally located. General information follows.

**Reunion Dates:** Wed., September 17, thru Saturday, September 20, 2008. Most will depart on Sunday, September 21, 2008.

**San Antonio Weather expected:** There is a 70% chance of sunshine in September. Average temperatures rang from a high of 90 degrees to a low of 68 degrees. September is when things cool off. Extremely high temperatures of 100 degrees or over are rare and usually in July, August and early Sept. Normal rainfall is 3 inches for the whole month. Use sun-protection if you're out on tours, etc.

**Hotel:** Holiday Inn San Antonio Downtown-Market Square, 318 West Durango Blvd, San Antonio, TX 78204. Rates: \$101 (Kings or Queens) + 16.75% room tax. Rates are good Tuesday thru Sunday for those who want more time in San Antonio. Free self parking, 210 car parking spaces in lighted area for registered guests. Bus and RV parking are available. The hotel is 10 miles from San Antonio Intl Airport (SAT) \$20 taxi fare, 15 Min by taxi. Hotel's check-in is 4:00 PM on the day of arrival and check-out is before 12:00 PM on the date of departure.

We will have a fantastic Hospitality room, large enough to handle our expected attendance.

You will make your own reservations. The cutoff date for the rates above is August 17, 2008. Reservation Phone: 1-888-615-0725. Make sure you tell them you are with the USS TOPEKA Reunion Association.

**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.

**Wednesday, Sept 17:** Open day for check-in, doing attractions on your own and the afternoon tour shown below.

**Tour A - The Greune Texas Adventure 4:00 PM till 9:30 PM.**

Motor Coach pick up at hotel, to historic Greune, TX which is a restored turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century town. Unique shopping, many specialty stores, antiques. and wine tasting shops. There are six excellent restaurants for your dining choices. Town Center has several old general stores, a pottery works and a Christmas store. There's time to enjoy with your friends and see the sights. At 7:00 PM we will visit "**Greune Hall**", the oldest dance hall in Texas. The band starts at 7:00 PM and we will have two hours to enjoy the music, beverages and dancing. **Cost is \$35 per person with dinner on your own.**

**Thursday, Sept 18:** Open day for doing the attractions on your own and the two tours shown below.

**Tour B - The Best of San Antonio Tour 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.** First stop is San Antonio Shoe Factory built like a 1910 General Store full of antiques, a car collection and old-time soda fountain. Everyone loves this store. Our next stop is the Spanish Mission Concepcion. The mission was started in 1731 and holds historic art and a wonderful story of Colonial Spain. Next we are to the famous Alamo mission fort with its historic Long Barracks and Chapel. Lunch is on your own at the River Center Mall or the Menger hotel buffet. As we depart downtown we will visit the "El Mercado" also known as the Mexican Market now a center for one of a kind shops with all the south of the border bargains. Cost per person is \$30 with lunch on your own.

**Tour C - River Walk Dinner with Boat Tour 5:30 PM to 9:30 PM.** Depart hotel at 5:30 PM and go directly to the River Walk boat landing. Relax and enjoy the lush tropical beauty of the San Antonio River and the fun of gliding past restaurants, shops, hotels and historical sites on your tour of the River Walk! After the tour we dock at the best Mexican Restaurant in the city. Your dinner follows cocktails at the Cash Bar and is served where you can overlook the boats and people traveling the river. You're great Mexican dinner includes salad and ice teas, state taxes and 18% gratuity at the restaurant. Package includes transportation, boat tour, guides and restaurant reservations. **Cost per person is \$45.**

**Friday, September 19, 2008:** Open day for doing the attractions on your own and the tour shown below

**Tour D- 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. USS Topeka Reunion Association Tour.** National Museum of the War in the Pacific and the Admiral Nimitz Museum. Your tour travels through the charming Texas hill country to Fredericksburg, the hometown of Admiral Chester Nimitz. The high point of the tour is the National Museum of the Pacific War. Included in this State Park is the Japanese Peace Garden. The George S. Bush Sr. Gallery of the Pacific War, which also tells the complete history of **WWII**. Also the Nimitz family Steamship Hotel owned by the Admiral's Grandfather and where the Admiral grew up. The museum tells the story of the Nimitz family in Fredericksburg. In addition there is an Aircraft Carrier hanger deck and the PT Boat museum that is first class. To top off this display of Naval History is the Plaza of the Presidents which tells the stories of all our Presidents who served in WWII as members of the military. Lunch is on your own at one of the fine German restaurants located on the main street within one block of the Nimitz Museum. After lunch you are free to return to any of the museums or enjoy shopping at the unique stores on Main Street. We will board coaches for our return trip at 2:30 PM with arrival at our hotel at 4:00 PM. **Cost is \$45 per person.**

Board Meeting 4:30 p.m.

For the evening, a cocktail mixer hour at 6 PM, followed at 7 PM by a "Buffet dinner at poolside at the hotel. This Italian dinner buffet features Minestrone Soup, a Garden Salad, Lasagna, Spaghetti & Meatballs, Chicken Fettuccine Alfredo, Shrimp, or Scallop Pesto Bow Tie, Green Beans Almandine, with Garlic Sticks, and Tiramisu with ice tea and coffee on request. A children's menu featuring a small fruit bowl with choices of Chicken Tenders with French fries or 6" two topping pizza w/ small portion of spaghetti or Hamburger Steak with mashed potatoes and a small lemonade is available.

**Saturday:** Reunion Business Meeting at 9 AM followed by group pictures. "On your own" the rest of the day. For the evening, cocktail hour at 6 PM followed by a sit-down banquet and short program at 7 PM. Dinner will feature Seared Salmon (Tender North Atlantic Salmon seared to retain it's natural juices) served with a creamy white sauce or Prime Rib (Prime rib with Aus Jus Sauce and Horse Radish) with tossed Green Salad. Baked Potato with sour cream, and a vegetable medley. dessert is Pecan Pie. Wines will be served with the dinner with choices of Chardonnay, White Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon or Merlot. There is a vegetarian plate option for those who wish that. A children's menu featuring a small fruit bowl with choices of Chicken Tenders with French fries or 6" two topping pizza w/ small portion of spaghetti or Hamburger Steak with mashed potatoes and a small lemonade is available.

**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 AM every morning with fresh coffee, donuts, bagels, 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 Antonio attractions.

**Need more information? Have Questions?**

Contact Ray /Kathy Spatz, 503 Olive Blvd., South Hempstead, NY 11550. Phone (516) 385-5712. E-mail [kspatz@optonline.net](mailto:kspatz@optonline.net). Any suggestions or recommendations for the reunion are welcomed. See you in San Antonio!

**USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Association, Inc. Registration (Rev.1 1/15/ 2008)**  
**San Antonio, TX. SEPTEMBER 17-20, 2008**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number in party \_\_\_\_\_

Staying at the Holiday Inn- Market Square? \_\_\_\_\_

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 Buffet Dinner by the Pool, the Saturday night Banquet, and other fixed costs of the Reunion. Reunion Fee for adults attending all four days: \$120. For those not attending all four days: \$10 for Wed; \$10 for Thu; \$45 for Fri; \$60 for Sat. Adult Guests/Teens/Children at Friday Buffet Dinner: \$35/\$35/\$12; at Saturday Banquet Dinner: \$50/\$40/\$12.

<b>Days Attending</b>	<b>Number Attending</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<u>All four days</u>	_____	\$120	\$ _____
<u>Not all four days</u>			
Wednesday	_____	\$ 10	\$ _____
Thursday	_____	\$ 10	\$ _____
Friday	_____	\$ 45	\$ _____
Saturday	_____	\$ 60	\$ _____
<b><u>Adult Guests/Teens/Children.</u></b>			
Friday Picnic: Adult Guests	_____	\$ 35	\$ _____
Teens	_____	\$ 35	\$ _____
Children	_____	\$ 12	\$ _____
Sat Banquet: Adult Guests	_____	\$ 50	\$ _____
Teens	_____	\$ 40	\$ _____
Children	_____	\$ 12	\$ _____
<b>Reunion Fee Total</b>			<b>\$ _____</b>

**Banquet Entrée Choices** (give number)  
 Prime Rib \_\_\_\_\_ Seared Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_  
**Child's Plate Friday** Chicken Tenders \_\_\_\_\_ Pizza w/Spaghetti \_\_\_\_\_  
 or Hamburger Steak \_\_\_\_\_  
**Child's Plate Saturday** Chicken Tenders \_\_\_\_\_ Pizza w/Spaghetti \_\_\_\_\_  
 or Hamburger Steak \_\_\_\_\_

(Continued on Reverse Side)

**TOPEKA 2008 San Antonio Reunion Registration (continued)**

**Tours:**

<b>Tour</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>"A" The Greune Texas Adventure Wed 4-9 PM</b>	_____	\$35	\$_____
<b>"B" The Best of San Antonio Tour Thu 9AM-2PM</b>	_____	\$30	\$_____
<b>"C" River Walk Dinner with Boat Tour Thurs 5:30-9:30PM</b>	_____	\$45	\$_____
<b>"D" Topeka Reunion Assoc. Tour Fri 9AM- 4 PM</b>	_____	\$45	\$_____

National Museum of War, Japanese Peace Garden,  
Nimitz family Steamship Hotel, Plaza of the Presidents  
PT Boat Museum. Shopping.

**Tours Cost Total** \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Reunion Fees and Tours Costs: Total** \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for Payment of above costs is August 17, 2008.**

**Make Checks payable to USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Assn., Inc. and mail to:**

**Clare Smart, 560 Meadowlark Dr., Turlock, CA 95382-1412**