

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 5, No. 3

September, 1994

Committee:

*Jack Connery, President; Dudley E. Cass, Secretary/Treasurer;
Dick Jolliffe, Assistant Secretary, Don Anderson, Reunion '95 Chairman
Jack Connery, Newsletter Editor*



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Reunions just keep getting better and better. I thought last year in Nashville was great. When Dudley and Ruth said this year would be better, I had a hard time buying into it.

But they were right. No reflections against Nashville Chairmen Ike and Linda Roberts and that program. But Reunion 94 was better. First of all, it was bigger. There were 120 Topekamen at the reunion; 230 people at the Saturday night banquet. Twice as big as Nashville. Topekamen came from 28 states, as far away as New Hampshire, New York, Virginia, and Georgia.

What made it bigger is that 297 new members have been added since Nashville. That's largely attributable to Dudley also, as well as Ernie Villamil and their membership drive. Another factor is the large number of Topekamen living in Southern California.

Dudley and Ruth put together a well organized committee. No details were overlooked. Contributing to the planning, hospitality room, preparation of food, decoration of banquet tables, planning and execution of the banquet program, the Ship's Store, and in the tours were:

Don and Pat Nellis
Egon and Helen Werdelman
Jerry and Ruth Judge
John and Mary Reynolds
Parky and Betty Parkhurst
Jim Ownby
Jim Willis
Dick and Julie Jolliffe
James Turner
Ron and Clare Smart
Irye Couch
Ron Zuccaro
Richard Fogarty
Gene McKinney
Ray Spatz

With a team like that, it had to be good. Thanks, gang.

And last, but not least: San Diego is a nice place to visit. The climate was a welcome change to the Midwest dog days of August.

I hope that all who were there enjoyed the reunion as much as I did. And those of you who weren't: I hope the excitement generated at this reunion will provide the spark to get you to Norfolk next year.

Finally, to Don and Joan Anderson, our 1995 Reunion Chairmen in Norfolk. There is a lot of help and experience available to you. Use it. Don't try to do it alone.

Sincerely,
Jack Connery



Even after 30 years, we still remembered how to do the Fantail Frolic. Here, the Andrews sisters entertain us as they did years ago on so many Sunday afternoons at sea.

FOR PLANKOWNERS

The Naval Historical Society informed Dudley Cass recently that the Topeka wood planking had been located, and that they had started to process your requests for a piece of the plank. If you have so requested, you should receive it by mid October.

If you have not received it by the end of October, or have not requested a plank, write to Mr. Norman Cary, Jr. at the Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C., 20374-0571.

For those who have not previously requested, include with your request a copy of your plankowner's certificate or some other form of proof that you were part of ship's crew at the time of commissioning. If you need help with that, Dudley Cass can provide you a page from the Commissioning program, which will serve this purpose.



1994 BUSINESS MEETING

The annual Business Meeting was held Saturday, August 20, at the Holiday Inn on the Bay, San Diego, Cal. Meeting highlights included:

- Election of Officers. Present officers were nominated to serve another year: Jack Connery, President; Dudley Cass, Secretary-Treasurer; and Dick Jolliffe, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. There were no further nominations. Present officers were elected by acclimation.
- Advisory Board Election: Irad Parkhurst's one-year term expired. He volunteered to serve another full term and was so nominated. There were no other nominations. Elected by acclimation. It was proposed and approved to add two new members to the Advisory Board. Egon Werdelman and Tom Victory were nominated and elected.
- Reunion 95 site: Proposed by the Site Selection Committee were Norfolk, Va., Long Island, NY, Charleston, SC, and a 3-day cruise from the East Coast. Additional sites proposed included San Juan, P.R., Clearwater, Fla., and Boston, Mass. These sites were reduced to four by elimination of Boston, San Juan and Charleston. Norfolk, Va., was selected in the second round of voting. The dates of August 24-27 were selected. This was later changed to August 17-20 because the later dates would prevent many from coming because of school. Don Anderson was selected as Reunion Chairman.
- Reunion 96. A committee composed of Jack Connery, Ron Zuccaro, Jim Ownby, Bob White, and Al An-sorge was formed to nominate sites in the Central States for the 1996 reunion.
- It was decided that locations to be proposed for reunion sites for the following year be published in the last newsletter prior to the annual meeting.
- The Membership assigned the Advisory Board the task of planning a Topeka Scholarship program. This planning is to include all facets of raising and disposing of scholarship funds. Funds in the Contributions Account will be used as seed money for the scholarship program.

- In recognition of Dudley and Ruth Cass's membership efforts during the past year, and all their work in planning and executing Reunion 94, it was approved that all of their hotel expenses would be paid by the Association.

- Net Worth Report (as of August 25, 1994):

ASSETS	
Reunion Fund	\$2,928.79
Resale Items Fund	(287.76)*
Contributions	272.00
Operating Fund	4,368.29
Total Assets	\$7,281.32

LIABILITIES	0.00
=====	=====
NET WORTH	\$7,281.32

*Negative balance because it does not include value of inventory.



1995 CALENDAR

Development of a 1995 Topeka Calendar has been tabled--at least for this year. Perhaps 1996.

There are several reasons for this, all of which were considered. An opinion expressed in a Board of Advisors Meeting was that we probably would not sell more than 200. The cost per copy of printing such a small number would be relatively high.

The real reason, however, is that Jack Connery has just run out of time. First of all, he is in the process of changing over computer systems, both software and hardware. That transition is making it difficult for him to keep up with his day-to-day workload, much less complete the calendar project.

Jack is also in the process of remodeling his home, which is consuming most of his free time. And last, but most important, and probably more time consuming, Jack is getting married in October.

So, the calendar is on hold until 1996. If you have already paid for a calendar, Dudley will retain that money in a calendar fund unless you indicate otherwise.

For those of you who submitted materials (cruise-books, pictures, slides, newspapers, etc) for use in developing the calendar, Jack will contact you concerning disposition.



LETTERS

Dear Topeka Crewmen:

I am pleased to have the opportunity to extend greetings to the USS Topeka (CLG-8) Reunion Association as you gather to celebrate your fifth reunion.

The years of service you have devoted to your country must be a source of great satisfaction to you. Dedicated individuals such as yourself are the source of America's strength.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful reunion.

Sincerely,
Bob Dole
United States Senate

Dear Ed:

It gave me great pleasure to receive your call. You were very kind to remember this old fossil--or should I say barnacles? The last two years have not been the best for me, but friendship, particularly that from shipmates, has been a great help.

I know your San Diego reunion will be an outstanding one, particularly with so many shipmates from that area. We east-coasters roasted and drowned this summer, and a taste of San Diego weather would be wonderful.

Sincerely,
Frank Pinney, Jr.

Dear Dudley:

Thanks again for a great reunion. Your lovely wife Ruth and you put on a reunion that will set the mark for excellence that all the rest can use as a guide for events in the future.

My wife Jean and I had a great time. Since Jean never did put a lot of stock in this "Navy Stuff," I was pleased to find she really enjoyed meeting some of the old salts, and if it's possible, I think she had an even better time than I did.

Thanks again guys, you did a great job!!!

Sincerely,
Jack Timmons

Dear Ed:

We will be on our way to Australia at reunion time. We'll spend our 39th wedding anniversary in Hervey Bay, just north of Brisbane. We've been trying to get to Australia for some time and perhaps the third time will really be a charm.

In June, we were in Portland and went to the Rose Festival. The Chancellorsville was there. We wanted to go aboard but their general visiting schedule did not coincide with ours.

Sorry to miss the events this year, but Australia takes precedence. Be assured that as we move south, we won't do a tour of the NBC studios. It didn't work in 1990 and there's no reason to tempt fate.

Best regards to all,
Robby and Bell Robbins

TAPS

Tom Buell, Commanding Officer, 64-65, April, 1994, Coronado, CA.



REMEMBER WHEN . . . ?

Monkey Mountain Remembered--December, 1965.

While docked in Subic Bay, I was asked if I would like to go TAD to Danang, Vietnam. Within 15 minutes, I was packed and on my way to Clark AFB. Two hours later I was on a C-120 and over the South China Sea.

When I arrived in Danang, nobody could decipher where I was suppose to report or where the command in my orders was located (COMSEVENTHFLT NLO, CTE 70.2.1.2 Danang). A few hours later, I reported to a newly formed command located on a remote Air Force Base atop Monkey Mountain. The objective was to coordinate and track all U.S., South Vietnamese and civilian aircraft.

Our accommodations were located at the base of the mountain. We lived in tents with mosquito netting and carried M-16's everywhere we went. We traveled the winding road up Monkey Mountain to the radar site in a canvas covered troop truck and wore a combination of Navy and Air Force uniforms. We spent some time in bunkers when shooting lit up the night, and always had to be aware of snakes.

After 45 days, I was relieved by another Topeka Radarman and we passed each other in transit. Ironically, I rejoined the Topeka in Manila and we went straight back to Danang and cruised in the bay below Monkey Mountain.

Ken Kuchin, RD2
1964-66



REUNION 95

Now that San Diego is behind us, we can start thinking about 1995, or at least block out dates on the calendar.

Reunion 95 will be in Norfolk, Va., August 17-20 at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott Hotel. Rooms are already blocked out with the hotel.

The hotel is located on the waterfront at 235 East Main. Telephone number is (804) 627-4200. Room rates are set at \$85.00 plus tax.

Don and Joan Anderson will be our Reunion Chairmen and hosts. Complete information will be provided after the first of the year.

REUNION 94 GROUP PICTURE

Copies of the Reunion 94 photograph (8 X 10 Color), shown in the picture page, are available from Dudley Cass.

Cost is \$10.00, which includes mailer and postage.

ADDRESSES FOR ASSOCIATION MATTERS

Newsletter inputs:

Jack Connery, 16334 South Lewis,
Bixby, Ok., 74008.

Dues, Member information, reunion information:

Dudley Cass, 3028 Bonita Woods Dr.,
Bonita, Cal., 91902.

Death or illness: Either Dudley or Jack.

TOPEKA Caps, Shirts, other Ships Store Items

Dick Jolliffe, 7453 Golfcrest Dr., San
Diego, Cal., 92119

SHIPS STORE

The following items are available from the Ships Store:

Ball Caps	\$8.00
White Shirts, Med. & Lg	15.00

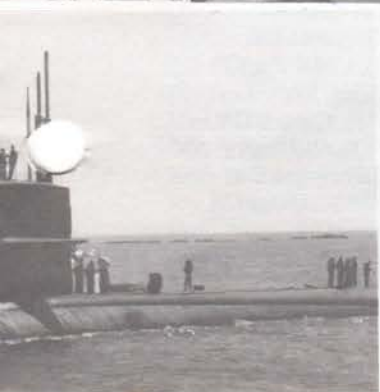
Add \$3.00 for handling and shipping. Contact Dick Jolliffe.



USS TOPEKA (CLG-8)
REUNION ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
c/o JACK CONNERY
16334 SOUTH LEWIS
BIXBY, OK 74008



BULK RATE
U S POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 717
TULSA, OK.





IF YOU WEREN'T THERE,

Paul Abrahams, LT (66-68), Punta Gorda FL
Marion Adams, YN3, 65-67, Olathe, KN
Don Anderson, ET2 (62-64), Woodbridge VA
Mike Angulo, CWO3 (65-67), Spring Valley CA
Al Ansorge, CDR (61-63), Mt. Vernon, IL
Jesse Aragon, BM1 (59-62), Anaheim, CA
Steve Archbold, SKSN (60-63), Dix Hills NY
James Ayres, RD2 (60-62), Necedah, WI
George Badger, LCDR (66-67), Alameda CA
William Balfanz, BM2 (60-64), Brooklyn Park, MN
Tony Barbaro, BMC (61-62), Poulosbo, WA
James Banks, EN2 (63-65), Tyler, TX
Bob Baron, LTJG (66-68), La Palma, CA
Ralph Beck, LCDR (66-68), Mission Viejo, CA
Mrs. Doris Bieber, LT (65-66), San Diego, CA
John Bockius, CS3 (60-61), Phoenix, AZ
James E. Bond, YN3 (64-67), San Angelo, TX
Robert A. Bond, DK3 (63-65), San Antonio, TX
Dan Bridgewater, SN (59-61), Louisville, KY
Phillip Brooks, MR2 (63-65), Cloverdale, CA

Jack Connery, LCDR (64-66), Bixby OK
Charles Cooke, SM3 (62-63), Santee, CA
Dan Cornia, HN (65-66), Yucaipa, CA
Irye Couch, BM1 (60-65), Grand Junction CO
Willard Cox, SK2 (61-64), Billings MT
Jerry Craig, FTM2 (66-69), Cartersville GA
Walt Davidovich, GMC (59-63), Poway CA
Greg Davis, LTJG (64-66), Lafayette, CA
James Dyer, MM2 (59-62) Union City, CA
Tom Eagling, GMC (60-63), Tuscon AZ
Erin Endicott, RD3 (61-63), Cove OR
Don Ervin, QMC (60-61), Chula Vista CA
Glen Erway, EM2 (64-66), Greeley CO
Bob Eyler, RM3 (59-62), Dyer, IN
Mike Faber, SK3 (62-64), Centralia WA
Francis Finerfrock, GMT2 (65-66), Pinellas Park FL
Robert Fletcher, SN (60-61), Danville CA
Richard Fogarty, SN (61-65), Mohave Valley, CA
Adam Gay, MM2 (63-65), Natchitoches LA
Mike Giampietro, EN3 (65-67), La Palma CA



REUNION 94, S

Tom Butler, SKC (62-64), Las Vegas, NV
Joe Buda, GMC (60-62), Garden Grove CA
Don Cameron, LT (60-62), San Diego CA
Keith Camp, BT3 (61-65), Placerville CA
Dick Campbell, LT (60-61), El Cajon CA
Dudley Cass, LTJG (61-64), Bonita CA
Earl Caywood, FTM1 (62-68), Huntington Beach CA
Gary Chambers, RM3 (63-63), Phoenix, AZ
Wally Clark, SK3 (63-66), Casper, WY
Jack Cochran, ETR2 (62-64), Tucson AZ

Willis Gwynn, SDC (64-66), Carson, CA
Joe Heeney, CWO4 (63-66), Torrance CA
Carl Hemenway, RM3 (62-64), Centralia, CA
Tom Hoard, LTJG (64-67), Ithaca, NY
John Hojaboom, GMG1 (60-68), Carson CA
Nathaniel Houseal, BM1 (60-63), Wellington NV
Norbert Howe, SDC (1960), Lakewood CA
Adam Howey, GM1 (59-62), Westminster CA
Paul Hulette, LT (66-68), Novato CA
David Iwatsu, DC3 (59-63), San Diego CA

How many faces can you match with n

HERE'S WHO YOU MISSED

Allen Jefferis, CDR (67-69), San Diego CA
Dick Jolliffe, LT (64-66), San Diego CA
Gerald Judge, FTCS (63-66), Chula Vista CA
Gus Kleinfeld, SM1 (65-66) Poway CA
Bryan Kohl, SN (63-66), Maplewood, MN
Ervin Kolodzik, BTC (60-67), Buena Park CA
Ken Kuchin, RD2 (64-66), Country Club Hills IL
Paul Ladd, SF2 (59-62), Vallejo CA
Tom Lascano, RD3 (65-67), Whittier, CA
Elwynn Laughorne, FTM1 (60-66), Garden Grove CA
Richard Malone, AG2 (64-67), Garden Grove, CA
Steve Manley, MM3 (66-68), San Diego, CA
Donald McFarland, PC3 (63-66), Oceanside, CA
Eugene McKinney, RM3 (62-63), Rocklin CA
Gary Minnis, GMSN (61-66), Overland Park, KS
John Mobley, CS2 (59-61), San Diego, CA
Don Nellis, CDR (63-65), San Diego, CA
Harvey Nelson, LTJG (64-66), Ridgcrest CA
Loy Nix, GMM1 (59-62), Flowery Branch, GA
William Noel, QMCM (64-66), Canoga Park CA

Ira Price, LTJG (64-66), San Diego CA
John Reynolds, FTM1 (61-66), Redondo Beach CA
Russ Richards, EM3 (64-67), Apple Valley CA
Joe Ripley, LTJG (59-63), Los Alamitos CA
Ike Roberts, IC3 (65-68), Hixson, TN
Paul Ruby, LTJG (62-65), San Francisco CA
Quentin Saracino, LTJG (67-69), San Diego, CA
Dick Schuder, RM3 (62-65), Mi-Wuk Village CA
Andre Seaton, RD2 (59-62), Reseda CA
Alonzo Simmerman, BT3 (67-68), Lodi, CA
Ron Smart, RD3 (59-62), Turlock CA
Ray Spatz, CS3 (68-69), Long Island NY
Jimmy Starr, CS2 (60-61), Topeka, KN
Jack Timmons, LTJG (64-65), San Diego CA
James R. Turner, SH1 (60-66), Nashville TN
Paul Velasco, MM3 (65-67), San Mateo, CA
Tom Victory, SFCS (60-64), Port Orchard, WA
Ernie Villamil, DKCM (63-65), Annapolis MD
Dick Walker, AG2 (66-68), Mendon, MI
Doug Weeks, RD2 (60-63), Canastota NY



SAN DIEGO, CAL.

Gary Noland, FTG3 (64-66), El Cajon CA
Charles Northrup, SK3 (60-61), Palm Harbor, FL
Jim Oehler, CWO2 (66-68), Las Vegas NV
Jim Ownby, LT (62-65), El Cajon CA
Irad Parkhurst, FTCM (63-66), Granada Hills CA
Larry Patriquin, FT2 (61-64), Barrington, NH
Jerry Pennington, RD3 (63-64), Temple City CA
Joe Peragine, CWO3 (60-66), San Diego CA
Gale Pfund, LTJG (62-64), San Francisco, CA
Wes Preston, ETN2 (65-67), Columbia MD

Dick Wemette, ENS (60-62) Chula Vista CA
Egon Werdelman, CDR (60-61), San Diego CA
Ben Wheatley, SN (59-61), Fairland IN
Bob White, LT (63-64), Joplin, MO
Dexter Wilson, CWO2 (66-69), Vallejo, CA
James Willis, HM1 (61-63), Chula Vista CA
John Woolston, FTG2 (59-62), Santa Ana CA
Weldon Zimmerman, GMT1 (59-62), Bremerton, WA
Thomas Zogoric, FTM2 (60-62), Merritt Island, FL
Ron Zuccaro, SN, (67-68), Rio Rancho NM.

mes? (Not all were there for the picture)