

The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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NYA Bulletin Board

If you wish to reach more than 700 of your fellow NYA members, this bulletin board is available for your use to post information. Contact Connie Raguindin or send e-mail to benefit@mareislandnya.com

Shop 38 Luncheon
Vallejo Elks Club, 2nd Wednesday each month

Vallejo Chapter of NARFE Meeting
Florence Douglas Senior Center, 333 A mad or St.,
Vallejo; 2nd Tuesday each month at 2:00pm.
POC: Helen Zajac; (707) 644-7565

Napa Chapter of NARFE Meeting
Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St., Napa, last
Wednesday each month at 1:30pm.
POC: Dick Champion; (707) 253-7242

Mare Island Historical Park Foundation
Mare Island Quarters "A;" 3rd Monday quarterly (Jan,
Apr, Jul, Oct) at 10:00am
POC: Ken Zadwick, (707) 557-1538

Navy League
Red Lobster Restaurants, 1180 Admiral Callaghan Ln,
Vallejo; 1st Monday each month at 12:00 noon
POC: John Hoffman, (707) 642-4925

President's Corner

Ralph McComb

2004 Membership Drive. This issue kicks off our 2004 Membership Drive! This year, we will continue our incentive program to bring in new members. We hope to offer incentives such as a day at the Solano County Fair and box seats at the horse races, or other interesting, imaginative ideas our Officers and Directors may have. So, be sure your name is included on the application form of anyone who joins because of you. We'll announce the members who qualify and how to collect the incentive award in the June 2004 issue of the newsletter.

Mare Island's Sesquicentennial

Celebration. The City of Vallejo, Navy League and Navy Yard Association are involved in the planning stages of celebration marking the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Mare Island Naval Shipyard on September 16, 2004. At a recent planning meeting in which I participated, the Honorary Chairman, Vallejo Mayor Anthony Intintoli, announced that Lou Burgelin will serve as the chairman of the committee for this celebration.

The most critical issue to arise is funding. With the current economy in California, much of the funding for any planned events must come from corporate sponsorship and private donations. Several plans to raise funding for this celebration (and to recognize contributors) are in the works, including plans to design and issue a commemorative coin in varying metals. One suggestion for recognizing those who donate money for this event would be to publish the names of contributors in a program. We encourage anyone who wishes to contribute to send a check or money order, made payable to "MI 150," in care of John Hoffman, P.O. Box 3370, Vallejo, CA, 94590.

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) is organizing volunteers for the Sesquicentennial Celebration. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please contact the MIHPF at (707) 557-1538.

Tribute to George Stewart. Former Mechanical Group Superintendent (Code 930)

George Stewart passed away recently. It is my privilege to take this opportunity to honor George, who also served four terms as President of the Navy Yard Association. During his 35-year career, George served in many organizations dedicated to the “improvement and continued existence” of naval shipyards, including the National Association of Navy Shipyards, the Naval Civilian Administrators Association and the NYA. At his retirement, he received the Navy’s second-highest award for civilians—the Superior Civilian Service Award.

On a personal note, George was a well-respected manager, a great person to work for, and an outstanding NYA president during his terms. He will be missed.

Send us your most “memorable experience” of MINS. With the advent of Mare Island’s 150th birthday, your Officers and Directors think we have a great idea to help commemorate the event. Send us your most memorable experience of Mare Island—**50 words or less**, please. You may return your submission with your membership materials or submit it to us via e-mail to benefit@mareislandnya.com. (If you choose the e-mail option, please use the subject line: “Mare Island Memory.”) The deadline for submission is April 30, 2004.

We will publish the 150 most memorable moments in the September issue of the newsletter. We all had so many, varied experiences through the years. This ought to provide us all with a nostalgic walk down memory lane.

Support the DRUM effort. On page 5, we’ve re-printed a letter by Ken Zadwick of the Naval Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) requesting financial support for the DRUM project. There are a lot of worthwhile projects out there, and this is one of them! The MIHPF has worked tirelessly to realize the goal of returning the ex-USS DRUM (SSN 677) to Mare

Island as a museum. Congress has authorized the return of DRUM to the MIHPF, but there’s still a lot of work to do to make this happen. Please give Ken’s letter your attention, and, if possible, your support in this worthy endeavor.

Characters Saloon Annual Mare Island Party!!

Friday, April 2, 2004

3:00pm - ?????

315 Tennessee Street, Vallejo, CA

Come see all your friends and
former co-workers!!

Food and a Keg of Beer Provided!!

(Donations to offset cost are appreciated)

Membership update

Jim Porter

I offer a hearty “Welcome” to our new members, with special thanks to those who encouraged them to join. Remember: If you bring in more than one new member, you’re eligible to receive another gift!

Our new members are: Eugene F. Combs, Howard J. Gee, Manny Griego Jr., Thomas Percy, Gerald L. Schiefferly, and Doyce G. Sneed (all recruited by Robin Leong); Rie Cooper (a former member recruited by Bruce Christensen); and returning former member Willie L. Preston.

We offer our sincere sympathies to the families and friends of members who have recently passed away. They include George Stewart, Georgie Hamilton, Joseph Duran, Alfred Hodge, Earl Brown, and Thomas Franzoia.

Current membership stands at 652, with 451 having dental plan memberships. We also have the e-mail addresses of 177 of our NYA members.

Your NYA Officers and Directors, as always, continue to look for ways in which to provide more benefits to our members and more support to our communities, as well as continuing efforts to increase our membership. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how we can better serve our members and our communities, or if you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact your Directors or send us e-mail at benefit@mareislandnya.com.

Volunteers Needed!

If you are interested in volunteering with the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation, please call (707) 557-1538

Benefits Officer's report

Robin Leong

This month's column will be relatively short. I'd like to remind you all that the NYA offers dental benefits for all active and retired Federal workers. Recently, we added a new dentist in both Vallejo and Fairfield. Unfortunately, we've been unable to contract the services of another Napa dentist, since our rates are beneficial to our members and not the dentists.

Our newest Director (and daughter of former Director Gordon Duquette), Sonya Domingo, has graciously offered her services as a Notary Public for the benefit of our members. Please refer to the Benefits page for information on how to make an appointment for notary services.

In recent months I have sent out timely e-mail messages on a variety of current and

emerging topics, including encouraging you to protect your own retirement benefits by writing letters to your Congressional representatives; reminders on the deadline to apply for your rebate on MicroSoft products; and a notice that the History Channel was broadcasting a showing of "Blind Man's Bluff" (a video of the book by the same name on submarine espionage that includes a lot of footage on the boats we worked on at Mare Island). If you did not get these messages, it is because I do not have your current e-mail address, or you (or your e-mail service) might have blocked my address as it may appear as "bulk" or "junk" e-mail (I send it "bcc" in bulk and my e-mail address is robin_leong@netzero.net). PLEASE SEND ME YOUR current e-mail address. We will never provide your address to outside entities. The NYA Newsletter is issued quarterly, and many events occur in between issues. E-mail updates are a great way to pass on information that would otherwise never make it into the newsletter.

We have captured the attention of a lot of retirees by providing information on how to obtain their retired DOD card, as well as NYA membership. Pass the word to your fellow Mare Island retirees, especially at reunion events! Let them know that the NYA—and dental benefits—still exist!

For your convenience, we are again providing the instructions on how to obtain your retired DOD card. Call Helen Morgan at (707) 562-3374 for the P.O. Box to send your SF-50 (showing you retired from Mare Island). Note: Helen may already have your form or she may know you personally, so you may not need to send it to her. However, you will have to send her your birth date and current vitals, such as height, weight, color of hair (no cheating!), color of eyes, and a passport photo (I get mine at CSAA—two for \$6). She will enter the information you provide, mount the photo on the Form 55, and obtain an authorizing signature. Helen will then mail the card to you. Once you have the card, it is your responsibility to sign it

and have the card laminated. There are many great travel benefits available to retirees with this card. If you'd like information on those travel benefits, please refer to previous issues of this newsletter or send an e-mail request to me.

4th Annual
**DAFFODIL
HIGH TEA**

SATURDAY, MARCH
20th & SUNDAY,
MARCH 21st

Tea & Music at Historic
Mansions, Mare Island
Seatings 12 Noon & 3 pm

Chapel Programs 10 am
& 1 pm

\$25 Donation
For Tea & Chapel
Program

TICKETS: VALLEJO NAVAL & HISTORICAL MUSEUM, 734 Marin St.
VALLEJO CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU, 945 Mare Island Way
INFORMATION: 707-649-9464 or 707-645-8003
Chapel and Quarters are wheelchair accessible

**A BENEFIT TO PRESERVE MARE ISLAND'S HISTORIC
ST. PETER'S CHAPEL & ITS TREASURED
COLLECTION OF TIFFANY WINDOWS**

And then there was Yesterday

Sue Lemmon
Mare Island Shipyard Historian

OLD RIVALRIES

During the five years between 1921 and 1926 an annual athletic rivalry was staged between the white collar employees of the Supply Department and those of the Industrial Department (Design, Planners, Stenos, etc.) These two factions were competitive in a manner hard to imagine.

The entire community participated in combats scheduled for one big week in March of those years. A few events were held on Mare Island but most were conducted in Vallejo where they attracted large audiences.

While the men's athletic attire has changed over the years, clothing donned by female competitors appears highly outmoded by today's standard. In the 1920s a popular song went "Roll 'em, Girls, Roll 'em; Go ahead and Roll 'em; Go ahead and show your pretty knees!" And they did. Bloomers were accepted as quite respectable, thanks to Suffragist Amelia Jenks Bloomer who gained notoriety for wearing in public a short skirt and baggy trousers that became known as "Bloomers."

Over 400 employees participated in competitions in some form, and the events ran the gamut from a "beauty contest" to checkers to swimming to basketball.

The Vallejo CHRONICLE gave front page space daily to this event during the annual Indoor Meets. The paper dated March 1, 1926 reveals that on Monday evening the men's and ladies' bowling teams competed at Farragut Alleys, and on Monday and Tuesday evenings card games prevailed at San Pablo Hall featuring chess and checkers.

The Industrials won the ladies' bridge, men's duplicate and straight whist, the chess, and checkers. Supply took the cribbage, pinochle, and ladies' whist contests.

The Supply team swamped the Industrials in men's indoor baseball while the latter won the men's handball. Swimming competitions were held in the pool at the Industrial YMCA, later the Casa de Vallejo Hotel. While the "50-yard dash" and "100-yard breaststroke" are recognizable events today, the "dive and fetch" activates a bit of imagination.

In later years Mare Island employees engaged in a miscellaneous array of competitions off-Yard (golf, bowling, baseball), but there was little effort to establish competition between the Supply and Industrial departments. It was much easier to watch the pros on TV.



Mare Island Historic Park Foundation, Inc.

328 Seawind Drive
Vallejo, CA 94590
Phone (707) 557-1538

Congress has authorized the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation and the City of Vallejo to Return the USS DRUM, (SSN 677) to MARE ISLAND where she will become a museum at the Shipyard where she was built. The DRUM will be the only Cold War Frontline Sturgeon Class Nuclear Submarine to be placed on public display.

Now it is critical that we all invest in the process required by the Navy before the USS DRUM can make the journey from the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard at Bremerton Washington.

Much work has been done to prepare for the coming of the DRUM to the place where she was built in 1970. The DRUM was the last of 513 ships to be built at the yard founded by David Glasgow Farragut in 1854. The Foundation has in place long-term agreements to use berthing space at the Mare Island waterfront. Plans include final placement in the Historic Drydock No. I, opened in 1891 after 17 years of construction.


The USS DRUM will be the centerpiece of the National Historic Landmark established in 1975 to honor Mare Island's illustrious history in the service of our country. Mare Island will celebrate it's 150th birthday in September 2004.

The investment in the Drum project will bring many thousands of tourists to restore the economy lost when the Shipyard closed in 1996. A highly experienced consulting firm, Economic Research Associates, has confirmed these projections in a report about the DRUM display project.

The DRUM will join the Historic Landmark properties managed by the Foundation. These include the 1901 St. Peter's Chapel with it's 29 Tiffany Stained Glass windows, the Shipyard Commander's Mansion, the 1855, 50,000 sq. ft. Artifacts Museum, and the huge Mare Island collection.

There is only limited time to raise the needed funds. We must not miss out on the opportunity to save the DRUM from the cutting torch. This historic submarine represents a very important era in our Country's history. The display will honor the Submariners of the cold war, and the Shipyard employees who toiled to make her. Your generous donation or multiyear pledge will assure the success of the long efforts of all the donors and volunteers.

Sincerely,


Kenneth Zadwick, President

**NAVY YARD ASSOCIATION OF MARE ISLAND
2004 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

NOTE: If you, as a member of the NYA, recommend another individual who joins the NYA, be sure to fill in your name on the "Recommended by" blank of the membership application below, prior to returning it to the NYA to receive credit in the membership drive incentive program.

NYA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2004

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Recommended by: _____

Affiliation with Mare Island:

_____ Currently Employed at Mare Island: Government _____ Private _____

_____ Retired from Mare Island: Government _____ Private _____

_____ Actively involved with efforts concerning Mare Island, such as:

_____ Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

_____ US Navy or other Military (specify: _____)

_____ Navy League

_____ National Association of Retired Federal Employees

_____ Restoration Advisory Board

_____ Student attending College at Mare Island

_____ Not directly involved with Mare Island, but interested in the future of the Base

Please complete the above form and send it with a check or money order for \$15.00 made payable to "NYA" to: NYA, P.O. Box 2034, Mare Island Station, Vallejo, CA 94592

**My Most Memorable Experience at Mare Island Naval Shipyard
(50 words or less)**