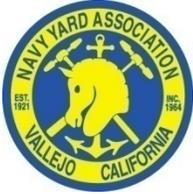


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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NYA Bulletin Board

If you wish to reach more than 600 of your fellow NYA members, this bulletin board is available for your use to post information. Contact Veronica Laird or send e-mail to benefit@mareislandnya.com

Shop 64 Breakfast Meeting

Rotating between Vallejo, Suisun, Fairfield, Vacaville, and Woodland
Third Thursday each month at 9:00am
POC: Parry Benton; (530) 666-1639

Shop 38 Luncheon

Denny's, 4355 Sonoma Blvd (Hwy 29/37 intersection), Vallejo
Second Wednesday of each month (except July/August)
POC: Rudy Lukes, (707) 643-3225

Vallejo Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Florence Douglas Senior Cntr, 333 Amador St., Vallejo
Second Tuesday of each month at 1:15pm
POC: Bill Lewis; (707) 643-6032

Napa Chapter of NARFE Meeting

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

Mare Island Historical Park Foundation

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

Nuclear Inspectors' Luncheon

The Front Room restaurant, Vallejo
First Wednesday of odd months at 11:30am
POC: Dick Barlow; (707) 642-6022

Ocean Engineering Luncheon

Sports Bar inside the Marriott Hotel, Napa
Last Wednesday of each month at 11:30am
No POC at this time

Nuclear Engineering Luncheon

Locations vary each month
Each Friday at 11:30am
POC: Allen Green; aalgreen@napanet.net



President's Corner

Ralph McComb

Welcome to the 2010 Navy Yard Association Annual Membership Drive!

Not everyone can say they belong to an organization formed nearly 90 years ago solely for the benefit of its members—the employees and retirees of Mare Island Naval Shipyard. Now, nearly 90 years later (and more than 13 years after the closure of the Shipyard), this group is held together by a crane inspector, a civil engineer, a welder, two ex-secretaries, and a marine machinist, along with the guiding support of a nuclear engineer. A group with a writing staff of one (Veronica) unparalleled by many groups of much larger size. A group with officers and directors who ask for nothing in return, yet keep things running smoothly, notify members of items or events that may be of interest to them, and strengthen the connections with each other. This group organizes fantastically fun annual events (Sonya) at little or no cost to members (and with great food!). And, this group supports the preservation of the rich artifacts from their past through the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation. Sounds like a group worth be a part of, doesn't it? Please help us make this a successful membership drive by renewing your membership for 2010. And, tell a friend (or 10!) that they should join, too!

In 2010, the NYA Officers have decided to keep the annual all-hands business meeting a little less elaborate by hosting a social hour following the business part of the meeting that is free to all members and one guest each. Complimentary non-alcoholic beverages and hors d'oeuvres will be

served. This event is currently scheduled for October 9, in the Historic Park Foundation Museum (Bldg 46), and advance reservations will be necessary. They can be obtained by sending us an e-mail or a note by regular mail no later than September 30, 2010. Hope to see you all there!

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

ex-USS VALLEJO Shipmates to Hold Reunion at Mare Island

There were 227 shipmates who responded to the 2011 Reunion Survey; and Vallejo has officially been selected as the host city! SSBN 658 Web Master Jim Carter noted, "We are sure the presence of the sail and other components of our boat played a key role in the decisions of our shipmates." The date has been set for the July 4th weekend in 2011. In the voting by VALLEJO shipmates for the site of the reunion, San Diego ran second, and Bremerton took third place.

Web Master Carter reports that the Reunion Committee Chairman Jim Huston (Committee Member - Groton 2008) is in the process of contacting those who expressed an interest in helping with this event. Shipmate Chris Farver is returning as a Committee Member for the 2011 Reunion. Chris chaired the reunion committees for Charleston and Groton.

As always, information will be posted to the USS VALLEJO web site as it becomes available. Stay tuned to: www.ssb658.org

Please Send a Letter in Support of Shipbreaking in Dry Docks 2 & 3

California Dry Dock Solutions proposes to use Dry Docks 2 and 3 on Mare Island to dismantle Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet Ships (from the December 2009 NYA Newsletter). In January 2010, Congressman George Miller stated, "I hope a competitive bid will emerge in the Bay Area to clean and recycle more ships; there are more than enough

ships for both places." More than 50 Reserve Fleet ships remain, and those are currently scheduled to be towed over 3,000 miles through the Panama Canal for dismantling at a Texas shipyard.

The NYA has drafted a sample letter for your consideration to be sent to your local, state and/or federal representative(s) requesting that this work be performed at Mare Island. Please use this example (below) to compose your own letter in support of keeping this shipbreaking effort in our own backyard.

"Dear _____

I am writing to you to express my sincere concern over recent articles in the local area newspaper (Vallejo Times Herald) regarding the efforts to recycle the "mothball" or "ghost" fleet in Suisun Bay. These articles describe that contracts have been granted for disposal of three of the ships (Rider Victory, Winthrop Victory, and Mission Santa Ynez); which would be great news for the suffering economy in Solano County and the surrounding Bay Area, EXCEPT these three ships will be dismantled in Texas! I believe that THIS WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE LOCALLY! A local company received Vallejo Planning Commission approval in November 2009 and has been attempting to obtain permits to conduct this work at the ex-Mare Island Naval Shipyard. The expertise, labor pool, and the necessary facilities for this work can be found right here in the Bay Area!

Is there really a good reason to redirect this work and the jobs that it would create to Texas? Is it fair to the part of the country that has harbored these decomposing vessels for dozens of years to send the money and jobs to another state, including the exorbitant taxpayer cost to clean and transport the vessels more than 3,000 miles for dismantling?

There are approximately 50 ships left in the fleet in Suisun Bay. What can you do to make sure this work (and the jobs it will create) stays in the Bay Area?"

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Bruce Christensen

ex-USS VALLEJO Sail – we need your help!

For some time now, the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) has had the sail of the ex-USS MARIANO B. VALLEJO (SSBN 658); and there is a need to find a suitable permanent location for the sail on Mare Island.

The Museum Planning Group, a subset of the Mare Island Museum Advisory Committee, is currently putting together a proposal to present to the MIHPF Board as to where and how the sail should be displayed. In order to do that, the group is asking former shipyard workers for ideas on how best to display and preserve this special bit of Mare Island history. **If you have ideas you'd like to share, please send them to Jack Tamargo at jtamargo@pacbell.net.**

MIHPF Needs Volunteers

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) is the major force in the maintenance and preservation of historic properties and promotion of Mare Island's past.

Do you have a few hours each week when you can volunteer as a docent, tour guide, or to do gardening or maintenance work in the Mare Island Historic District? If so, the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) will be glad to put you to work!

Some of the sites for which the MIHPF is responsible are the St. Peters Chapel, Officers' Mansions (Quarters A and B), the Mare Island Museum (Building 46), and the grounds surrounding each of these sites. If you wish to volunteer, please call 707-557-0662 or 707-326-5275 and leave you contact information or send an email to: kenzad01@sbcglobal.net or JIG313@aol.com.

Also, anyone interested in becoming a member of the MIHPF Board of Directors is cordially invited to attend the next Board Meeting as a guest. **The meeting will be held on Monday, April 26, 2010 at 10 AM in Quarters A on Mare Island.**

If you would like to help support the continuation operations of the MIHPF, you can join those of us who have already become Plank Members. The membership donation levels are as follows:

Local	- \$25
Out-of-state	- \$20
Family	- \$50
Supporting	- \$100
Patron	- \$250
Sponsor	- \$500
Benefactor	- \$1,000
Life Member	- \$5,000

Membership benefits include reduced admission to the Mare Island Museum, discounts at the Museum gift shop, and many more. For further information, contact the Foundation President, Ken Zadwick, at 707-557-0662; email him at kenzad01@yahoo.com; or send your membership donation to: 328 Seawind Drive
Vallejo, CA 94590

14th Annual Characters Saloon Mare Island Reunion Friday, April 9, 2010

For the 14th year, Characters Saloon will host its annual Mare Island Reunion. This exciting event will include free beer and heavy appetizers (provided by Characters Saloon); donations are gratefully accepted on the day of the event.

Come join your former co-workers for a beer and some great reminiscing!

Call (707) 553-8503 for details.

Hope to see you there!

Membership update

James Porter

Currently, NYA membership stands at 636, while our dental plan membership stands at 307 members. Thanks to the many NYA supporters who are getting the word out that we are still here and going strong. Please continue to mention that the NYA has a competitive dental plan available to Federal employees and retirees (and their dependents).

NOTICE TO THE FOLLOWING DENTAL MEMBERS: Charles A. Davis-Brown, Robert Guyman, Patricia E. Heady, Frank A. May, James F. Ray, Jr., Lashaun “Nina” N. Tyson. We do **NOT** have your correct mailing addresses, thus we cannot send important information to you. If you see this newsletter (or, if anyone reading this knows one or more of these folks), please forward the current mailing address to Robin Leong at (707) 643-1287 or via e-mail (preferred) to robin_leong@netzero.net.

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Gary Cecchini’s wife, MaryAnn, passed away on March 6, 2010. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the family and friends of Allen Norton, who passed in January; and Mary Pieterick, who passed in December.

Welcome to new members: William Eastwood and Ralph C. Petty (recruited by Victor Gasser), and Chris Shields (recruited by Tom Demgen).

Your NYA officers have adopted the following award schedule for recruitment of new members (awards subject to availability).

- Recruit 1 new member: Mouse Pad, key chain, decal, or tie-tack
- Recruit 2 new members: T-Shirt
- Recruit 3 new members: Hat
- Recruit 4 new members: Mare Island Clock
- Recruit 5 new members: Briefcase
- Recruit 7 new members: Watch

- Recruit 10 new members: NYA Jacket or Windbreaker

Benefit Officer’s Column

Robin Leong

A New Way to Receive this Newsletter?

Due to new bulk mailing rules, the cost of mailing the NYA newsletter is going up. Not only do we pay bulk-rate fees to mail the newsletter, we must pay first class postage for each newsletter returned because of a bad address (a regular occurrence due to members not notifying us when they move). As a result, we are searching for ways to alleviate this rise in mailing costs. One of the suggestions is to send the NYA newsletter via e-mail (Acrobat PDF). The benefits of this are that the file size is small, and it costs nothing to send via this method. Also, NYA past newsletters are posted on the NYA website.

If you would be interested in saving forests (and mailing costs!) and want to receive your NYA newsletter electronically, please send an e-mail to me with “Yes, I want my NYA Newsletter via E-Mail!” in the subject line, and ensure that you are using the e-mail address to which you want the newsletter sent.

Dental Plan News

If you are having problems with your dentist, you should first talk to your dentist. Next, discuss the issues with Premier Claims, and file a complaint form to document the issues. You may obtain copies of the complaint form in three ways: (1) Get a copy of the complaint form directly from Premier Claims. Their address and phone numbers are:

Premier Claims Administrators, LLC
P O Box 19338
Reno, NV 89511
Office: 775-324-5644
Toll Free: 866-565-7557
Fax: 775-786-9637;

(2) Download a copy from the NYA website at www.mareislandnya.com; or (3) Contact me, and I'll mail a copy to you. My street and e-mail addresses are:

Robin Leong,
336 Benson Avenue
Vallejo, CA 94590-3027
robin_leong@netzero.net

And then there was yesterday

Sue Lemmon, Shipyard Historian

Welcome, TOUCEY

Mare Island Naval Shipyard's first launching was on March 3, 1859. Eventually there would be twelve March launchings, but the first ship was named TOUCEY. Later the name was changed but on that brisk March day it was named after the Secretary of the Navy, Isaac Toucey.

The traditional bottle of wine was broken on the hull by the daughter of the Shipyard Commander, CAPT Robert B. Cunningham. Despite much correspondence between Vallejo and Washington, no mention had been made of what to call Mare Island's first vessel, and CAPT Cunningham decided to honor the Secretary of the Navy. Shortly thereafter the name was changed, and SAGINAW became the first of many craft launched at Mare Island.

The most popular months for launchings were April, October, and August (who shared the record with fourteen). The last Mare Island launching, USS DRUM, was in August 1970. It is hard to believe it has been almost forty years since such a Mare Island endeavor.

The next most popular months for launchings were May, June, and September with thirteen. The least popular was November, and the last one was STONEWALL JACKSON on November 30, 1962.

Back to TOUCEY – no record has been found of how he selected the name SAGINAW for

our first ship – and it came misspelled. Did he select it because of interest in certain Native Americans, or did he have a political connection with that thriving city in Michigan? In any event, if the ship had maintained its original name it would have honored a well respected statesman who served as a leading politician. As a Governor (Connecticut), Senator, and Attorney General, as well as Secretary of the Navy, he had a good reputation for his (almost) Mare Island first ship.

A Different Launching

A launching of another type occurred on December 9, 1960. On that date twenty-one Mare Island shops were divided. Masters were chosen to direct seven groups. Irwin Whitthorne, Master, Machinery Outfitting Group (Shops 38, 41, 56); Eddie Martinez, Master Service Group (64, 72, 99); Ransom Getchell, Master Machinery Group (06, 31); Frank Minasian, Master Electric-Electronic Group (06, 51, 67); Thornton Bunch, Master Hull Structural Group (11, 23, 26, 81, 94); Donald Hughes, Master Hull Outfitting Group (17, 71); Russell Tye, Master Plant and Utilities Group (02, 03, 07).

Whitthorne: Outside Machinist,
Boilermakers, Pipefitters, Coppersmiths
Martinez: Woodworking, Riggers, Laborers,
Temporary Services
Getchell: Central Tool, Inside Machinists
Minasian: Ordnance, Electricians,
Electronics Mechanics
Bunch: Shipfitters, Blacksmiths, Welders,
Foundrymen, Patternmakers
Hughes: Sheetmetal Workers, Painters,
Sandblasters
Tye: Transportation, Utilities, Maintenance

The divisions launched in 1960 worked well until the Shipyard closed.

More Special Days

There is no dearth of excuses for naming special days – honoring outstanding citizens,

ground hogs, earth, religions, Mothers, Independence, labor; the list goes on.

One date not yet selected for remembering could be June 19. It was on that date in 1942 that the “Two-in-a-Family Rule” was suspended. Employment on Mare Island was then thrown open to those persons who until then had been barred from work on the Yard because of a ruling which prohibited more than two persons in a family residing in the same household from being employed in the Federal Service.

As a result of special efforts on the part of the Yard Management, the Civil Service Commission ruled that “for the duration it is possible to make temporary appointments without regard to the two in a family regulation.” Time came and went, and restrictions were eventually modified and lifted, but for many local citizens, the date June 19, 1942, was especially meaningful.

Perhaps some individuals will celebrate the 68th anniversary of the cessation of the “Two-in-a-Family” rule on Saturday, June 19.

NARFE - Working for YOU!

Helen Zajac, Region VII Vice President

Since there was no Cost of Living (COLA) this year, Congress gave each social security recipient a \$250 check to help offset the lack of a COLA, but nothing for the Federal Retiree. NARFE lobbyists worked with Congress to achieve a \$250 tax credit for Federal Retirees. Your tax credit may be received by filing a Schedule M on your taxes for 2009. The details are provided in the IRS Bulletin 721.

For those of you who have Medicare Part B, you may have noticed that your premiums increased from \$96.40 to \$110.50 for this year. This increase ONLY applies to Federal, State and Local Government Retirees who do not receive social security payments. On September 24, 2009, the House passed H.R.-3631, the Medicare Premium Fairness Act, which would protect over 1 million federal, state and local government retirees from the

Part B premium increase in 2010; however the Senate must also pass this bill before this inequity will be resolved.

NARFE has established a toll free number for you to use to call your Senators and request they approve this legislation.

The toll free number (866) 220-0044 goes directly to the Capitol Hill Switchboard, and is answered by an operator; you can then ask for Senator Boxer, and make another call to ask for Senator Feinstein. When you are transferred to the Senators office, here is a recommended statement for you to make: “I want to urge Senator _____ to pass the Medicare Premium Fairness Act HR-3631 which would protect over 1 million federal, state and local government retirees from the Part B premium increase in 2010.” Please make these calls; it only takes a few minutes of your time.

NARFE has received numerous calls from members wondering why their Federal tax withholding from their January 2, 2010, annuity payment was reduced. The Office of Personnel Management has informed us that the IRS changed the tax brackets into which people fall for 2010, expanding them from 6 to 8 and with different amounts. The amount of Federal tax withheld from retirees’ monthly payments is correct based on the withholding tables provided to OPM by the IRS. OPM also advised that inquiries regarding this change should be directed to the IRS as they are the government entity responsible for Federal tax matters.

NARFE continues to protect your earned benefits and is proud of the fact that in the past 17 years, there have been no cuts to your earned benefits. We hope to continue that record, with your support. If you are not a NARFE member, but would like to join, or would like more information, please contact me at (707) 644-7565.