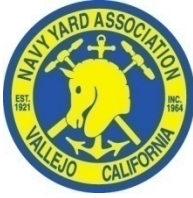


# The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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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 [vcillum@hotmail.com](mailto:vcillum@hotmail.com) (use subject line "NYA Bulletin Board")

### 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: Dotty Mufich; (707) 226-3642

### 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](mailto:aalgreen@napanet.net)

Navy Yard Association following the efforts of a dedicated group of employees in the creation of the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) in 1920. Throughout the many years, the NYA has continued to look for benefits for our members not always available to the Federal work force. Please help us keep your Navy Yard Association strong and vibrant by renewing your membership today. You can do even more by bringing in a new member (surely there are other ex-Mare Islanders out there who are interested in staying in touch with the continuing legacy of Mare Island)!

What better way to celebrate a milestone than a celebration?! Not only will we commemorate the 90 years since establishment of the NYA, we are going all out also by celebrating the 157<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mare Island Naval Shipyard and in commemoration of the fact that 15 years have passed since the closure of the Shipyard. Hey, those are some serious milestones. So, come join us on Saturday, September 17, 2011, at the Mare Island Museum, Building 46, from 11:00am to 3:00pm. Those of you who join us will enjoy tasty antipasto, mouthwatering Tri-Tip and Barbeque Chicken, along with savory side dishes, anniversary cake, and refreshing cold drinks. To keep you entertained, feel free to roam the museum and check out their constantly-evolving exhibits. Then, it's on to raffle prizes! If you joined us in 2010, you'll remember that we had some fantastic raffle prizes. This year's raffles prizes won't disappoint! Advance tickets will be required (you want there to be enough tasty food for everyone, right?).

## President's Corner

Ralph McComb

Welcome to the 2011 Membership Drive.  
This year marks 90 years since formation of the

Be sure to read the article in the next column describing the successful efforts by Allied Defense Recycling (ADR) to dismantle Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet ships. NYA members warmed up their pens and sent dozens of letters to their

Congressional representatives asking that this work be kept local. Now, the first two reserve fleet ships have been towed to Mare Island for dismantling. Several ex-Mare Islanders have been hired, and ADR looks to expand their hiring as the work gains momentum.

Finally, take a look at the article regarding NYA Past President Dennis Kelly and his spearheading of efforts to find a new home for a very rare part of Mare Island's history, the USS OLYMPIA.

Lastly, I'd like to wish our friend, NYA Director, and Shipyard Historian, Sue Lemmon a speedy recovery following her recent fall. Best wishes, Sue!

## **Around Mare Island...**

Bruce Christensen

### Past NYA President Dennis Kelly Leads Effort for 1800s U.S. Warship OLYMPIA

Dennis Kelly is working closely with retired Admiral Skip McGinley (former Mare Island Naval Shipyard Production Officer) in an effort to save the last remaining steel-hulled ship from the Spanish American War, the Navy Cruiser USS OLYMPIA. The ship was built at the Union Iron Works in San Francisco in 1892, after which it was outfitted at Mare Island Shipyard—including a dry dock period in Dry Dock 1. The ship then operated out of Mare Island until 1895 when it was deployed to the South Pacific, where it saw action in the Spanish American War and is best known for its conquests in the Battle of Manila Bay.

Dennis is working with other NYA members to determine the extent of the refurbishment required for the OLYMPIA to be towed from its current location in Philadelphia, PA, to the San Francisco Bay Area. This task will require aggressive pursuit, because there six groups throughout the U.S. that are attempting to acquire the OLYMPIA. The current focus of the effort remains alignment with a non-profit entity to

facilitate fund-raising and the gathering of endorsements.

In February 2011, Dennis, along with NYA Past President Bruce Christensen, met with several groups interested in preserving U.S. Navy history in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. The meetings included representatives from the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (re: OLYMPIA), the Historic Ships Memorial at Pacific Square (re: Battleship IOWA), and Historic Naval Ships Association/San Francisco Maritime National Park Association (re: WWII submarine POMPANITO and liberty ship JEREMIAH O'BRIEN). The main topics of discussion included potential Bay Area sites at which the OLYMPIA might be displayed, either as an independent museum or in conjunction with another historic U.S. Navy vessel.

In late March 2011, Dennis plans to attend a summit conference in Philadelphia, PA, where the OLYMPIA is currently displayed. Representatives from each of the six groups that are vying for the OLYMPIA are expected to be in attendance at this summit conference.

The NYA is playing a part in the efforts to find a new home for OLYMPIA. If you are interested in supporting this effort, you can send a donation in care of the NYA in any amount. Simply write "USS OLYMPIA" in the memo line of your check, and send it to the NYA, PO Box 849, Vallejo, CA 94590.

### Longtime Mare Island Employee Eddie Martinez Turns 100

On February 17, 2011, past Mare Island Service Group Superintendent Eddie Martinez celebrated his 100th birthday. Eddie worked at Mare Island Naval Shipyard from 1928, when he hired as an apprentice rigger, until his retirement in 1971. During that time, he had two service-breaks away from Mare Island—the first when he joined the Navy to serve in WWII, and the last when the Navy called him back into action during the Korean War. In addition to his career at Mare Island, Eddie

served on the Vallejo City Council and was Vice Mayor in the late 1960s.

Eddie's great-great-grandfather, Ygnacio Martinez, was a soldier in the Spanish Army and was the Army Commandant at the Presidio in San Francisco from 1822 to 1831. Ygnacio was elected Mayor of San Francisco in 1837. He received a 17,761 acre land grant, Rancho El Pinole, which included the Alhambra Valley, from Governor Juan Alvarado. After Ygnacio's death in 1848, a town was laid out in the Alhambra Valley by a U.S. Army surveyor and was named Martinez in Ygnacio's honor. In 1849, the Vicente Martinez Adobe Ranch House was built within the town limits by Ygnacio's son. The Adobe structure still remains on the site at 4204 Alhambra Avenue in Martinez to this day as California Historical Landmark Number 511.

#### There's a New (Old) Ship in Mare Island's Dry Dock 3!

On February 3, 2011, the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) ship, SS SOLON TURMAN, was towed from the Suisun Bay and docked in Dry Dock 3 at Mare Island for dismantling!

On February 18, both Dry Docks 3 and 4 were officially re-dedicated in a Reopening Ceremony attended by local, county, state, and federal officials. Local ship dismantling company, Allied Defense Recycling (ADR), has the contract for dismantling both the SS SOLON TURMAN and the SS PRESIDENT. The PRESIDENT arrived at Mare Island from Suisun Bay in March. These are the first MARAD ships to be dismantled on the West Coast and in the San Francisco Bay Area.

During the Dry Dock Reopening Ceremony, ADR Chief Operations Officer, Jay Anast, indicated that the company planned to hire more than 100 employees for the ship dismantling work. Once the dismantling effort is in full operation, the company plans to expand its business into ship repair and ship construction which, if

successful, would bring a significant number of additional jobs to the area.

During the Ceremony, the MARAD Director reported that 17 ships had now been towed from the Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet and, because of the Mare Island effort, MARAD will meet their next milestone of removing a total of 20 ships by September 30, 2011; one ship (SS PRESIDENT) to Mare Island and two ships towed to Texas. The cost to tow a ship approximately 5,000 miles is about \$1 million and, during the tow, more than 200,000 gallons of fuel are burned.

### **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Characters Saloon Mare Island Reunion Friday, April 1, 2011**

For the 15<sup>th</sup> 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!*

### **Mare Island Historic Park Foundation**

Bruce Christensen

#### Become a 'Partner' in the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation!

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) is now offering Partnerships to encourage community as well as out-of-area support. The MIHPF is a not-for-profit 501(C)(3) charitable

Foundation and, as such, all partnership donations are tax-deductable.

Attached is an application for partnerships at the individual, family, student and Out-of-State levels. The partnership plan allows free admission to the Mare Island Museum and to the Museum Library, 10% discount in the Museum gift shop and many other benefits.

If you are interested in becoming a MIHPF Partner, please complete the attached application and remit to MIHPF; Attention: Partnership, 1100 Railroad Avenue, Vallejo, CA 94592.

USS VALLEJO Sail Relocation to Alden Park

Fundraising for moving the USS VALLEJO (SSBN 658) sail into the northeast corner of Alden Park (corner of 8th Street and Railroad Avenue) is underway. The "S(ave) O(ur) S(ail)" effort has raised \$25,140 (\$21,416.50 from crew members and \$4,723.50 locally) of the \$35,000 needed to construct a concrete foundation to support the 40-foot long sail and have the sail moved to its new Alden Park location.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to the SOS Fund, please mail your tax deductible donation check or money order made payable to "Save Our Sail MIHPF" to: Save Our Sail, 257 Cottonwood Drive, Vallejo, CA 94591 or go to the internet at [www.SaveOurSail.com](http://www.SaveOurSail.com) and donate using PayPal.

Become a Plankowner of the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation!

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) continues to offer its Plankowner Program to those interested in preserving and displaying the history of Mare Island. As a reminder, the MIHPF is a not-for-profit 501(C)(3) foundation.

Those interested in becoming a Plankowner may do so at any of the following levels:

Ensign.....	\$25+
Lieutenant.....	\$100+
Commander.....	\$500+
Captain.....	\$1,000+
Rear Admiral.....	\$5,000+
Vice Admiral.....	\$10,000+
Admiral.....	\$20,000+
Other.....	\$_____

To enroll in the Plankowner Program, please send your tax deductible donation check to:

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation  
328 Seawind Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94590

To donate by VISA or Mastercard,  
Call: 707-280-5742

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 707-280-5742 and leave you contact information or send an email to: [kenzad01@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kenzad01@sbcglobal.net) or [JIG313@aol.com](mailto: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.

## Membership update

James Porter

Welcome to our 2011 Membership Drive! Currently, NYA membership stands at 607, while our dental plan membership stands at 290 members.

Enclosed with this membership drive issue of the newsletter and your membership card is a membership form in case you know someone who would like to join. Perhaps you'll mention that the NYA has a competitive dental plan available to Federal employees and retirees (and their dependents)?

**NOTICE TO THE FOLLOWING DENTAL MEMBERS: Patricia E. Heady, Frank A. May, William J. Nelson, James F. Ray, Jr., Lashaun "Nina" N. Tyson, and John D. Wilson.** 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](mailto:robin_leong@netzero.net).**

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Philmore Fisher, who passed away on December 6, 2010; Wesley Gibson, who passed away on January 4, 2011; Rudolph Jones, who passed away on April 28, 2010; and Donald Rice, who passed away on December 15, 2010.

We warmly welcome new members: Lionel Brown and Clinton Collier.

Welcome back to returning members Gale McCune (2002) and Davis Godsey (2000—recruited by Dennis Kelly).

Remember to let Robin Leong know if you've brought in any new members, so you can get your recruitment award!

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

Of course, the biggest news recently is that Mare Island dry docks are once again playing host to ships! Dry Docks 2 and 3 are being used for dismantling work on Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet ships. This is great news for the local economy, and we're all wishing the greatest success to Allied Defense Recycling (ADR) in gaining future dismantling contracts.

As with other exciting and timely news, members who have shared their e-mail addresses with us received e-mail notice about this breaking news, including several job opportunities with ADR of which NYA President Ralph McComb was aware. While both Ralph McComb and I received many inquiries about potential jobs, the best way to find out about employment with ADR is to go down to their Mare Island office and inquire directly with them. This timely information is a great illustration of the value of being on our NYA member e-mail group. We keep you updated with the latest info, and we never share your e-mail address with anyone. If you'd like to join other NYA members in getting time-sensitive information relative to Mare Island, please send your e-mail address to [robin\\_leong@netzero.net](mailto:robin_leong@netzero.net). I try to contact members if my e-mails bounce back, but often the phone number I have is disconnected. It's very important that we have current contact information for our members. Don't forget to update us if you move or change your phone number.

This newsletter is being sent to some of you who discontinued your NAONE dental plan with us in the hope of getting you to continue your membership with the NYA. As a reminder, you must be a member of the NYA in order to sign up for either the Pre-Paid or Blue Shield Dental Programs. When you left the plan, the \$1.25 per month for NYA membership ceased. Please rejoin our association. Thanks!

Another benefit you are sure to enjoy is attending this year's Mare Island Reunion sponsored by the NYA. Please see the other articles in this newsletter about the specifics.

No matter how many times it is included with this newsletter, members still call to ask for information about our benefits (this is NOT a problem for me, if you do not have a computer and the internet). Thanks to the great work by our Webmaster, Bill Strong, you can always check our website for the current information on NYA benefits! Also found on our website is the contact information for our dental plan administrator, as well as current dental plan brochures and the complaint form. Our website address is [www.mareislandnya.com](http://www.mareislandnya.com). Feel free to look around and some of our recent updates!

We've had terrific response from our membership, and I'm thrilled to report that we now have 79 members (including all of your Officers and Directors!) signed up to receive this newsletter via e-mail. This is a double benefit—it saves on printing fees, paper, postage, returned-mail fees, is an easy way to keep past issues, AND it reduces the impact to the environment. Why don't you consider going "green," too? If you're interested, please send an e-mail to [robin\\_leong@netzero.net](mailto:robin_leong@netzero.net) with "Yes, I want my NYA Newsletter via E-Mail!" in the subject line. It's as simple as that!

If you prefer that your newsletter be delivered by mail, please take a moment to ensure we have your current mailing address. New rules on bulk rate mail mean that your NYA is charged 44 cents for each piece of returned mail (in addition to the original cost of mailing). We routinely

receive at least 8-10 newsletters returned as undeliverable.

### Benefits

One of our most popular benefits is FREE notary public service. This service is most graciously provided by NYA Officer and Director Sonya Domingo. Recently, Sonya and her husband made a choice to be greener by reducing their commute and moving closer to where they work, and they now reside in Richmond. To make an appointment for notary service, you can reach Sonya by phone at (510) 260-0429 or via e-mail to [K-S-Domingo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:K-S-Domingo@sbcglobal.net). Please remember to give Sonya a minimum of 24 hours notice for notary appointments.

### Dental Plan News

The updated Prepaid and Blue Shield brochures are posted them on our website. You can view them at [www.mareislandnya.com](http://www.mareislandnya.com). While you are there, why not go ahead and print out a membership form, send it to a former Mare Islander, and tell them about our benefits!

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 of the complaint form from the NYA website at [www.mareislandnya.com](http://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](mailto:robin_leong@netzero.net)

## And then there was yesterday

Sue Lemmon, Shipyard Historian

### Why Portholes?

The question comes up fairly often: How come holes in the starboard side of a ship are called portholes instead of starboard holes? Many old timers will offer explanations, but actually the name “porthole” has nothing to do with its location. According to ORIGIN OF NAVY TERMINOLOGY, the word originated during the reign of Henry VI of England (1485). Apparently the king insisted on mounting guns too large for his ships and therefore the conventional methods of securing weapons on the forecastle and aftcastle could not be used.

A French shipbuilder named James Baker was commissioned to solve the problem. He solved it by piercing the ship’s sides so the cannon could be mounted inside the fore and after castles. Covers, gun ports, were fitted for heavy weather and when the cannon were not in use.

The English word “porte,” meaning door, was used to designate the revolutionary invention. “Porte” was anglicized to “Port” and later corrupted to porthole. Eventually, it came to mean any opening in a ship’s side whether for cannon or not.

### And What About Log Book?

The answer to another “how come” is explained in Navy Terminology. Today, any bound record kept on a daily basis aboard ship is called a “log.” Originally, records were kept on sailing ships by inscribing information onto shingles cut from logs and hinged so they opened like books. When paper became more readily available, “log books” were manufactured from paper and bound. Shingles were relegated to naval museums – but the slang term stuck. There is a lot to learn!



**USO 40s DANCE  
ARMED FORCES DAY**

**MAY 21, 2011**

**Mare Island Museum**  
1100 Railroad Ave. Mare Island  
707-557-4646 \* Pre-sold tickets only

Self tour of Museum 6:00-6:45pm  
Dancing and Entertainment 7:00-10:00pm

\* Featuring the “Dalt Williams Band”  
\* 1940’s Uniforms & Dress encouraged  
\* Refreshments and Snacks available

**Proceeds Benefit**  
Mare Island Historic Park Foundation  
\$30.00 Per Person  
\$25.00 Partnership Members & Seniors