

# 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 Veronica Cullum or send e-mail to [benefit@mareislandnya.com](mailto:benefit@mareislandnya.com)

**Shop 38 Luncheon**  
 Country Kitchen Restaurant, Vallejo; 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday each month  
 POC: Rudy Lukes, (707) 643-3225

**Vallejo Chapter of NARFE Meeting**  
 Florence Douglas Senior Center, 333 A mad or St., Vallejo; 2<sup>nd</sup> 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;" 3<sup>rd</sup> 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; 1<sup>st</sup> Monday each month at 12:00 noon  
 POC: John Hoffman, (707) 642-4925

**Concord Naval Weapons Station - Reunion Picnic**  
 Saturday, September 18, 2004  
 Buchanan Park in Pittsburg, CA  
 POC: Dan Meckfessel, (925) 825-8207

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Mare Island Reunion Golf Tournament**  
 Friday, August 6, 2004  
 Marshall Canyon Golf Course, La Veme, CA  
 Price: \$75. Includes lunch, as well as dinner at the golf course following tournament  
 POC: Louie Munoz II, (909) 599-5750 or e-mail to [louiem@webtv.net](mailto:louiem@webtv.net) (Money due by July 24)

often-asked question: "Why should I join the NYA?" I thought I'd take this opportunity to share some of my thoughts on membership with the NYA.

This issue contains as much information as is currently available on the planned celebration of Mare Island's Sesquicentennial, and your NYA is playing a major role in the planning of this memorable occasion. That's one of the first reasons to belong to the NYA—we strive to be a part of the continuing history of Mare Island, which has played such a major role in our lives.

The NYA continues to offer a dental plan that is competitive with many of the plans offered to Federal employees and/or retirees. We publish this quarterly newsletter—which keeps you "in the know" about what's happening on Mare Island and with her former employees. We are constantly looking for new, valuable discounts for our members. We represent the NYA and its membership at local political events. We are always on the alert for legislation affecting current and former Federal employees and pass this information to our membership. We partner with NARFE to exchange ideas. We also play a substantial role as board members of the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation and the Solano County Salvation Army.

## **President's Corner**

Ralph McComb

As we move closer to the Mare Island Sesquicentennial celebration, I've considered an

In short, the NYA still exists because we care. We value our membership, and we will continue to provide the information and sense of camaraderie you've come to expect. I'm honored

to serve as President of such an organization and thank you for your continued membership.

Please note this year's membership promotion later in the newsletter. We are once again offering box seats at the horse races, including same day admission to the 2004 Solano County Fair and Horse Races. We hope to see you there!

Also, we're still accepting "most memorable moments" submissions. Send us your most memorable experience of Mare Island—**50 words or less**, please. You may submit it to us via mail to the address at the top of this newsletter or via e-mail to [benefit@mareislandnya.com](mailto:benefit@mareislandnya.com). (If you choose the e-mail option, please use the subject line: "Mare Island Memory.") The deadline for submission is July 31, 2004.

## **Mare Island Sesquicentennial Celebration!**

### **HISTORY:**

In September 2004, Mare Island Naval Shipyard will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the establishment of the Base by the United States Navy in 1854, under the command of Commodore David G. Farragut.

Mare Island Naval Shipyard, in addition to being the first Navy Base to be established on the West Coast of the United States, participated in many Naval "firsts" during its distinguished history. Among some of the noteworthy firsts of Mare Island Naval Shipyard are:

- 1857 Constructed the first Navy ship on the West Coast - USS Saginaw.
- 1870 Constructed first Navy Hospital on the West Coast.
- 1891 Built first graving dock on the West Coast - Dry Dock #1 was completed.
- 1892 Built first golf course on a West Coast military facility.

- 1911 Installed the first landing platform aboard a Navy cruiser - USS Pennsylvania; (aircraft successfully landed on the platform in San Francisco Bay)
- 1912 Constructed the Navy's first electric powered ship - USS Jupiter
- 1914 Converted first Navy ship from coal power to oil - USS Kanawha
- 1922 Constructed the first Navy aircraft carrier - USS Langley
- 1941 Received first radio communication to mainland United States reporting the bombing of Pearl Harbor

### **PLANNED EVENTS:**

The celebration of the Shipyard's 150th Anniversary will be held over a two-day period on September 16 and 17, 2004, at Mare Island. Please mark your calendar with the current celebration events scheduled, as follows:

#### **Thursday, September 16, 2004**

- 1100 Dedication of the 150th Anniversary Memorial Monument in Alden Park
- 1200 Mare Island Naval Shipyard Reunion sponsored by the Navy Yard Association

#### **Friday, September 17, 2004**

- 1400 Installation and Dedication of a wood carving of the Navy Medal of Honor commemorating the 150th Anniversary at St. Peters Chapel
- 1700 Sesquicentennial Banquet at the Mare Island Officer's Club

Due to space limitations in some of the Shipyard facilities, the numbers of attendees at selected events will be limited and admission will be by ticket only. Further information regarding reservations for the events will be available in August 2004.\*

## SESSQUICENTENNIAL SOUVENIRS:

There will be several items made available to commemorate this historic event. Currently, commemorative coins, postal cachets, programs/tickets, shirts and caps are being designed and will be sold during the celebration. Information regarding the availability of 150th Anniversary souvenirs can be obtained in August 2004.\*

**\* For information, contact the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, the Mare Island Historical Park Foundation, the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce, the Vallejo Convention and Visitors Bureau or the Navy Yard Association.**

Contributions are still being (gratefully) accepted for the Mare Island Sesquicentennial celebration. 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.

## **MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION!**

This year, the Navy Yard Association will once again sponsor seats in the Clubhouse Box Seats section of the 2004 Solano County Fair and Horse Races. Any member who brings in a new (or former) member will receive a ticket for a Clubhouse box seat, sponsored by the Navy Yard Association, at the horse races. This ticket also includes same-day admission to the fair. If you bring in two new members, you'll receive two tickets/fair admissions. ***This promotion runs through July 11, 2004 (the starting day of the Solano County Fair).*** For information or to claim your ticket, please contact Ralph McComb at (707) 987-3850, Robin Leong at (707) 643-1287, or Veronica Cullum at (707) 557-5160.

## **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: Donald A. Fenton (recruited by Bruce Christensen); Vern Goodrich, Nyla J. Orozco, Pauline Pabinguit and Lucille A. Saumell (all recruited by Helen Morgan!); Stephen W. Morgan (recruited by Pamelyn Morgan); Joyce Scharf and Donald G. Steinke (recruited by Gerald Tagert); and Fred Waters (recruited by Rie Cooper).

With the 2004 membership drive, the NYA sent a newsletter and membership dues renewal information to many former members. We're very pleased to see the following former members who've renewed this year. The number in parentheses following each name denotes the last year of their membership. Please welcome back Walter Allen (1996); Oscar J. Arriaga (1996); Robert "Benny" Benevento (1997); Richard Cross (1998, recruited by Rie Cooper); Louis Dupont (2000); William George, Jr., (1995, recruited by Renee Kershner); Shirley Gotro (1997, recruited by Charles Butkus); John R. Grant (1996); Virgilio D. "Blue" Ibarra (1999) recruited by Robin Leong); Samuel W. Irving (2002); Ronald R. Leneker (2000); Stephen McKenzie (2000); Stephen McKenzie (2000); Lynne M. Pearson (1999, recruited by Veronica Cullum); Raymond J. Richetti (1998); Erig F. Scharff (1997); Alfred E. Smith (1999); David Sterk (2000); Joseph V. Valdez (1999); and Ed Wylie (1997).

We offer our sincere sympathies to the families and friends of members who have recently passed away. They include Judith Logar, Maralyn Allen, Leonard Cushing, Donald B. Lausten, George Van Dolson Jr., and Richard Ackman.

Current membership stands at 626, with 457 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](mailto:benefit@mareislandnya.com).

## **Benefits Officer's report**

Robin Leong

### *Important News for Dental Plan Members!*

Wells Fargo Bank is once again updating their computer systems. For those members with automatic dental dues deduction, the payment will be deducted from your account on July 1. Please check your statements to ensure the correct amount was deducted. During the switch-over, our dental plan administrators will be on a well-deserved vacation, and their temporary office support will accept questions or concerns directed to their office (800-892-4912).

**Security Alert Lowered at Travis AFB.** With the recent lowering of security alert levels, retirees are once again able to enter Travis AFB without a sponsor. This means you can pick up discount tickets to a variety of Southern California venues at Bldg 863. Hours of operation are: Monday through Friday, 8am to 6pm; Saturday, 9am to 1pm. For example, Disneyland tickets are just \$42 for adults and \$32 for children for one day, and \$72 for adults for two days. Call Kathy Sembly at (707) 424-5659 for more information. (*Thanks to Art Padilla for getting this information to me.*) Also, you should be able to order books detailing places to go where you can use your DOD retiree card (mentioned in previous newsletters).

**E-Mail Information Recapped.** Following is a recap of information I've forwarded by e-mail to those members who've provided their addresses. This doesn't include the truly timely messages I've sent; for example, the announcement of the Annual Mare Island Reunion sponsored by Characters Saloon in April; announcements of the showing of Blind Man's Bluff on the History Channel; and the planned Concord Naval Weapons Station Reunion (in the Bulletin Board on the first page).

Many commented that the advice on how to detect a stroke was very valuable, as the person you pass this information to might save your life.

**Is it a Stroke????** This might be a lifesaver if we can remember three simple questions! Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, this lack of awareness can spell disaster. A stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now, doctors say any bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

- Ask the individual to smile.
- Ask him/her to raise both arms.
- Ask him/her to speak a simple sentence.

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 911 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

After discovering that a group of non-medical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions. They presented their conclusions at the American Stroke Association's annual meeting last February. "Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage."

**Identity Theft.** Recently, I sent an e-mail providing information on protecting your personal

identity/security. A corporate attorney sent the following out to the employees in his company:

- The next time you order checks have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them. If someone takes your check book they will not know if you sign your checks with your initials or your first name, but your bank will know how you sign your checks.
- When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the memo line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.
- Put your work phone number on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box, use that instead of your home address. Never have your Social Security number printed on your checks You can add it if necessary; but if you have it printed, anyone can get it.
- Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine, and copy both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel, if necessary. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. (I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel either here or abroad.)

There is no end to the woes you can face when trying to repair your good name and/or credit. These few, simple steps can help.

One key step is to keep the credit card numbers and the respective toll free numbers where you can easily retrieve them, so that you

know whom to call in the event your wallet is lost or stolen. Also, remember to file a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen. This will prove to credit providers you were diligent and is a first step toward an investigation. But here's the perhaps most important step (and I never even thought to do this!): Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they must contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

The numbers are:

Equifax: 1-800 -525-6285

Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742

Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289

and,

Social Security Administration (fraud line):  
1-800-269-0271

I hope I've passed some good information to you, because we at the NYA care about you. If you would like to get these notices via e-mail, please send me your e-mail address. Also, if your address changes, please let us know and remember not to block our/my address. You can send your e-mail address to me at [robin\\_leong@netzero.net](mailto:robin_leong@netzero.net) or [benefit@mareislandnya.com](mailto:benefit@mareislandnya.com). The NYA promises that we will never share or sell your e-mail address to anyone.

### **Volunteers Needed!**

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

## And then there was Yesterday

Sue Lemmon  
Mare Island Shipyard Historian

### HOW DID IT HAPPEN?

Sometimes we need to stop and question how we come to use certain words. Thanks to an old booklet that has come to our attention we can refresh our memories.

For instance, the word ENSIGN: This is the name given the Navy's junior most officer, and it dates to medieval times. Lords honored their squires by allowing them to carry the ensign (banner) into battle. Later these squires became known by the name of the banner itself.

In the U.S. Navy the lowest ranking officer was originally called "ensign" because he, like the squire of old, would one day lead troops into battle and was training to that end. It is still the lowest commissioned rank in the British army today.

When the U.S. Navy was established, the Americans carried on the tradition and adapted the rank of ensign as the title for its junior commissioned officers.

An ADMIRAL is the senior ranking flag officer in the U.S. Navy, but the title comes from the name given the senior ranking officer in the Moorish army of many years ago. A Moorish chief was an "emir," and the chief of all chief was an "emir-al." Our English word is derived directly from the Moorish.

In the Navy, from Hong Kong to Timbuktu, a popular nickname for Americans is YANKEE. Its origin is uncertain but it is believed to have been given by the early Dutch.

Early American sea captains were known but not revered, for their ability to drive a hard bargain. Dutchmen also regarded as extremely frugal, jokingly referred to the hard to please Americans as "Yankers" or wranglers and the nom de plum persists to this day.

For baseball fans, the word "Yankee" may have a more personal meaning and not used in a complimentary way when associated with Oakland ATHLETICS or San Francisco GIANTS.

## On Mare Island.....

The efforts to re-use existing facilities on Mare Island in a commercial setting have been quite successful. Lennar-Mare Island and Weston Solutions continue to market the property, and many businesses are realizing that Mare Island has a lot to offer.

Following is a current list of Mare Island Tenants. At the request of several members, we now show the type of business (according to the master tenant list)

Alco Iron and Metal (Light Industrial)  
Architectural Metal (Design, fabrication, etc.)  
Aurora Manufacturing (Vinyl windows/ doors)  
Babcock Construction (Light construction)  
BattleBots (Repair station and storage)  
Berkeley Farms (storage/office)  
C.S. Marine Constructors, Inc. (marine construction/repair)  
California Conservation Corps (dormitory/classroom)  
California Department of Transportation (CalTrans)  
Cagwin & Dorward (MI landscape maintenance)  
California Drywall/Lathing Apprenticeship and Training (apprenticeship and training)  
California Manu Corp. (storing, surveying a cruise ship)  
Carpenter Group (light industrial)  
Cerberus & Company (workers comp. investigators)  
CH2M Hill Constructors (environmental consultants)  
Chaudhary & Associates (engineering, surveying, planning)  
Cooper Crane & Rigging (equipment storage)  
Curtis Coleman (furniture restoration, woodworking, reproductions)  
Davis Electric (electrical contractor)  
Delta Excavating (storage for underground site work)

Experteers (printing, sewing, distribution and sales of clothing)  
 Falcon Truck School (truck driver school)  
 FCI Constructors, Inc./Cleveland Bridge California, Inc. (bridge builders, retrofit work)  
 FRG Waste Resources, Inc. (document shredding)  
 Georgia House Graphics (graphics/printing)  
 Granberg International, Inc. (manufacturing and distribution of chain saw accessories)  
 Globalcrete, LLC (cementitious products, production and storage)  
 Gridley's Historic Ferry Boats (maintenance and repair of two ferry boats)  
 Home Depot USA, Inc. (training facility)  
 Island Energy (MI utility company)  
 Jeffco/ABC/FBC (heavy industrial, sand blasting and painting)  
 Juliano & Company (painting and coating)  
 Kiewit Pacific (fabrication/assembly, storage, and shipping of bridge components/materials)  
 Kinkisharyo Intemational (assembly of light rail vehicles)  
 Klamath Boat Company (manufacturer of small aluminum boats)  
 Latham Truss (heavy industrial, construction of building components)  
 Lennar Mare Island (Asset manager for MI)  
 Lords Fellowship Center (non-profit/homeless education and training program)  
 MACTEC (national engineering firm)  
 Mare Island Golf Course and Resort, LLC  
 Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (museum, weddings, tours)  
 Mare Island Technology Academy (charter school)  
 Meridian Architects, Inc. (architect design and consultation)  
 Miam Company (repair and store shipping quilts)  
 Minuteman Press (printer and graphics design)  
 Nextel of California, Inc. (wireless communication)  
 North Bay Construction, Inc. (general contractor)  
 North Pacific Group (light industrial plywood and lumber wholesaler)  
 Pacific Sports Center at Mare Island, LLC (indoor multi-use sports and family activity center)  
 PackagingARTS, Inc. (printing and packaging brokers)  
 R. G. Carter (light industrial equipment maintenance and repairs)  
 Refractory Engineering and Construction (administrative offices and equip. storage)  
 Reimer Associates (engineering office)  
 Renaissance Entertainment, Inc. (storage of props, materials related to the Renaissance Faire)  
 Scherer Trucking, Inc. (hauling dirt and aggregate)  
 Seaman's Training Center (merchant seaman training)  
 George G. Sharp, Inc. (repair/cleaning of ships, asbestos/hazmat removal)  
 Silk Road Transport (parking specialized tractor/trailer transport vehicles)  
 Solonics (light industrial assembly of electronic equipment)  
 Supreme Truck Bodies (truck body assembly)  
 Syar Industries, Inc. (transfer of stone and aggregate products from trucks to barges)  
 Theme Events, Ltd. (entertainment production services)  
 Timothy Rose, Artist (art studio and related activities)  
 Touro University (College of Osteopathic Medicine)  
 Transportation Commodities, Inc. (storage/distribution/maintenance for trucking company)  
 Tutor-Saliba (storage of structural steel for Richmond/San Rafael Bridge)  
 Vallejo City Unified School District (pre-school childcare; parent and adult education/training)  
 Vallejo Ferry Service  
 West Coast Financial, LLC (administrative offices; purchase/sale of residential property)  
 Weston Solutions (construction and environmental)  
 Wines Central LLC (wine bottling, shipping and storage)  
 XKT Engineering, Inc. (heavy industrial - steel manufacturing)