

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

Shop 38 Luncheon

Country Kitchen Restaurant, Vallejo;
Second Wednesday of each month
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 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

Nuclear Inspectors' Luncheon

Sardine Can Restaurant, Vallejo Waterfront (South of Mare
Island Causeway)
1st Wednesday each month at 11:30am. POC: Dick
Barlow; (707) 642-6022

President's Corner

Ralph McComb

Over the past several months, your NYA Officers and Directors have discussed methods by which we might better support our members—as well as our community—by offering the opportunity to get involved in issues of interest. One area in which we have had universal interest is supporting—or just saying Thanks!—to the men and women serving our country in the military. To that end, we have been in contact with the 63rd USAR (who currently call Mare Island their home) to find out

how we could be the most effective in showing our support. Two of the many suggestions that came up (and that none of us had thought of) are: (1) finding a way to show our appreciation to the families left behind, who spend at least part of each day in fear for their loved one(s); and (2) doing something that demonstrates that the U.S. Armed Forces are made up of fine young men and women wanting to make a difference. The Board is working on ways in which we could do this, as well as other ideas for our Mare Island detachment, and we invite you to join in this effort. Please send in your ideas for this or any worthwhile cause that would promote the ideals for which the NYA and Mare Island stands. You can send mail or e-mail to the addresses listed at the top of this page.

Plans and preparations are underway for an employee Reunion on April 1st 2006, commemorating the 10 years since the Shipyard closed. Also offered will be a booklet highlighting the most recent past of Mare Island and the Navy Yard Association, including the accomplishments of the SSPTS detachment, businesses that have sprung up and some that didn't last too long, the Sesquicentennial celebration, and much more. We are looking for individuals or groups that are interested in serving on one of the subcommittees in helping make these efforts the best they can possibly be. Please feel welcome to contact me or one of the committee chairs listed below with your ideas, suggestion or available times.

April 2006 Reunion - Subcommittees

Facilities Set-up

Ken Zadwick

Program Development

Rudy Bali & Sue Lemmon

Clean-up

Bob Yeasted

Memorabilia Sales

Bruce Christensen & Gordon Triemert

Food

Ken Zadwick

Entertainment

Rudy Bali & Sue Lemmon

Tickets (sales, collection, access)

Sonya Domingo & Mary/Jack Rutland

Advertisement/Publicity

Doug Ghiselin

Security

Mary Ann Fitzpatrick

Parking

Howard Fitzpatrick

Corporate Sponsors

Ralph McComb

Tours

Zen Zadwick

DRUM Display

Bruce Christensen

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Bruce Christensen

ex-USS DRUM. As has been reported in the past, due to the workload at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, the reactor compartment will not be removed from the ex-DRUM—the last nuclear submarine built at Mare Island—until 2007. This will, of course, provide the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation with more time to raise the funds necessary to bring the ex-DRUM to Mare Island. The Vallejo Convention and Visitor's Bureau has committed to assist in raising the funds for the towing of the ex-DRUM from Puget Sound (the estimated cost for the 1,000 mile tow is \$350,000).

ex-USS HORNET. You may have heard that the ex-HORNET is looking for a new home after losing its mooring berth in Alameda. The Maritime Administration (MARAD) has

agreed to tow the HORNET to any location in the Bay Area in order to make room for MARAD ships that will be berthed at Alameda. Those responsible for the ex-HORNET have requested berthing space at Mare Island—for at least 2 years—while a permanent home for the ship can be found. One problem in bringing the ex-HORNET to Mare Island is the need for a berth of 30-plus feet deep, as most of the berths at Mare Island have silted-up to a depth of 20 feet or less .

Ten-Years-After-Mare-Island-Closure**Reunion.**

An employee reunion commemorating the closure of Mare Island Naval Shipyard is planned for Saturday, April 1, 2006; 10 years to the day after the official closure date of the Shipyard. The Navy Yard Association is working in cooperation with the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation to host the reunion in the old Pipe and Copper Shop, Building 46. The shop was the setting for the 150th Gala Anniversary Banquet—held in September 2004—celebrating the establishment of Mare Island Naval Shipyard. Building 46 is the site of the Mare Island Historic Park Museum and has room to comfortably accommodate 300 to 400 people for a variety of events, such as the planned reunion. We are asking all Mare Island ex-employee groups that meet throughout the year to publicize and attend the 2006 reunion. More than 200 people attended the Mare Island reunion held at Quarters A in September 2004, and we are hoping to double that number at the 2006 reunion. Additional details regarding the reunion will be provided in future editions of the NYA Newsletter and on the website.

Volunteers Needed. For those of you living in the greater Bay Area, there are many volunteer jobs available that would greatly assist the Historic Park Foundation. These jobs range from tour guides and docents at the historic structures/areas of Mare Island to gardening tasks at St. Peters Chapel, Quarters A & B and Building 46, as well as inventorying and cataloging shipyard artifacts to be displayed at Building 46. The Historic Park Foundation and the NYA are

grateful for the gardening assistance by some of the NYA members at Quarters A on Saturday, May 28. The few dedicated workers made a significant dent in the weeds recently produced by Mother Nature. If you can volunteer or need more information, either call the NYA office at 707-562-1812 (leave a message), or call Ken Zadwick at 707-557-0662.

Membership update

James Porter

Currently, NYA membership stands 631, which may be a little short of our 2005 membership goal of 650 but is closer than we were at this point last year. Dental membership stands at 399 members. As a reminder, Dental Plan members must renew their NYA membership annually. If you have not already done so, please take the time to send in your membership dues.

We warmly welcome new members: Al Carey (gift membership from Bill Hughes); William Cassity (gift membership from Ron and Pat Brosio); Wilma Cassity (gift membership from Ron and Pat Brosio); John W. Johnson, Carol Kelly (recruited by Carmen Merriman), and Andrew L. Moothart (recruited by Leanna Moothart). Also, we welcome back former members Bill Holton (03) and Thomas J. McCabe (95)

The NYA offers its condolences on the deaths of former Mare Islanders Darrell Johnston (March 21, 2005) in Oceanside, CA; Alton Robinson (Dec 18, 2004) in Vallejo, CA; member Eric E. Tritch (June 27, 2004) in Vallejo, CA; and Richard Wilson (July 2004) in Vallejo, CA.

We offer our sincere, heartfelt thanks to Dennis McDaniel for his contribution of \$100 to the NYA!

The June 2005 Issue of NARFE Magazine included a "Letter to the Editor" regarding the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, which allows for a 10 percent discount on cell phone service for federal employees (both active and retired). While cell phone service providers are not responsible for making you aware of this discount, they must provide it when asked. Call your cell phone service provider today, if you are not already receiving this discount!

Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

It seems as though some of you have been reading your NYA newsletter. We have had new members recruited as a result of offering to process the DOD retirement card. And, current members have been asking about them, too! We have had requests from Rudy Balli, James Chan, Larry Doyle, John W. Johnson, Carol (Gormley) Kelly, Willie Preston, Eric Scharff, and Edward Tenney. Thanks for your interest in this benefit!

Don't forget—if you are traveling, check into getting those left over time share condos, and use your retired DOD card to make reservations. They can be had for about \$260 a week (I understand the price has gone up a little), have sleeping accommodations for as many as four, and have cooking facilities. A friend of mine recently utilized one near Orlando, FL, and this cut his cost significantly. Perhaps you may want to take a golfing week at Hilton Head or Honolulu. You can do the same there. Remember, this benefit is good not only in U.S. facilities but also to stay on base RV parks (if there is no heightened security alert at the time). Also, you can use the DOD retiree card at a base welfare and recreation office to get recreational benefits for the area. I did this at Fort Huachuca, AZ, on a birding trip. Going to the Grand Canyon? There are cabins at Ft. Tuthill in Flagstaff for \$55-65 a night.

Sorry to say, we are unable to offer DOD retiree cards to non-Mare Island retirees. Recently, I sent copies of the Form 55 to two members who retired from other than Mare

Island, and hopefully the facility they retired from will issue them a card. I know this worked for a former Shipyard employee who retired from the Marine base in Barstow, CA, so it is not an impossible request. If you find yourself in this category, please let me know. I will send you a copy of my card, so the facility you retired from may request that form. Usually, the human resources or personnel office is unaware of the existence of this form. *(As usual, your NYA Directors are "on the ball!")*

I continue to send out bulk e-mails offering timely information on events, etc., (especially information important to our retired members). Please, please take this opportunity to update or share your e-mail address. Send your e-mail address to robin_leong@netzero.net. Your e-mail address will never be disclosed to any other party.

And then there was Yesterday

Sue Lemmon
Shipyard Historian

SAN FRANCISCO STREETS

At least six San Francisco Streets were named for Naval officers, according to a book written by Henry C. Carlisle, a great, great grandson of Admiral McDougal—twice Commandant of Mare Island Naval Shipyard.

Ringgold Street was named for LT Cadwalader Ringgold, a member of the first exploring expedition in the Pacific in 1841. He commanded the USS PORPOISE and led a survey party mapping the Sacramento River as far as Colusa, and also parts of San Francisco Bay.

Sloat Boulevard took its name from COMMO John D. Sloat, who commanded the U.S. Navy squadron in Pacific waters (1846). He took Monterey July 7, 1846, and on his orders, CAPT John B. Montgomery landed and took Yerba Buena two days later. Sloat turned his command over to COMMO Robert F. Stockton and returned to the East. Stockton and

Montgomery likewise were honored with streets named for them.

CAPT Montgomery was commander of the PORTSMOUTH. While at Yerba Buena, he received orders from COMMO Sloat to occupy the town for the United States. Montgomery landed 70 men and raised the American flag at the plaza. Through LT Washington A. Bartlett, a junior officer on the PORTSMOUTH, he organized the local government in San Francisco. Montgomery remained in San Francisco Bay for five months in command of the district. A severe blow to the CAPT was the loss of his two sons, young naval officers, who started for Sacramento in a Navy cutter and were never heard from again. A thorough search failed to reveal any trace of the boat or crew of 12.

After San Francisco was secured by American forces, LT Bartlett was sent ashore by CAPT Montgomery to administer the local government of Yerba Buena as the first American alcalde, or chief magistrate. It was he who gave San Francisco its present name. Bartlett spoke Spanish and ordered the first comprehensive survey of the town. On January 30, 1847, he published an ordinance stating that thereafter Yerba Buena should be known as San Francisco. Bartlett Street honors him.

The old ship WARREN, Farragut's home for several months (1854-55), was active during the conquest of California and was in San Francisco for long periods. Its surgeon was Dr. William J. Powell.

After the occupation of Yerba Buena, Powell lived ashore where he established a "sanatorium" for sick sailors. It has been recorded that Powell was popular and a good entertainer, and even a good ventriloquist.

The next time you ride the cable car on Powell Street, give a thought to the Navy pioneer for whom it was named.