

The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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Treasurer.....Lloyd Mahan
Benefits Officer.....Robin Leong
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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 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: Elsie Babcock; (707) 643-7914

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

Sardine Can restaurant, Vallejo
First Wednesday of each month 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

2008. Look for more details a little later in this newsletter!

New Shop 38 display at Historic Park Foundation Museum. Former Shop 38 employees are exploring the idea of creating a special display area in the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation Museum highlighting Shop 38. The display would include a tooling area, along with a simulated work area typical of those found onboard a ship when Mare Island Naval Shipyard was in operation. Anyone interested in brainstorming this worthwhile idea should attend the Shop 38 retirees' luncheon held the second Wednesday of each month (see the NYA Bulletin Board in this newsletter for luncheon details).

Lennar Mare Island files for Bankruptcy. Those of you who are local to the Solano County area may already know that Lennar Mare Island filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Sunday, June 8, 2008. This closely follows on the City of Vallejo's Chapter 9 bankruptcy filing on May 23, 2008. Although Lennar's bankruptcy filing was unexpected, it does not necessarily reflect the current reuse situation on Mare Island. In fact, key Lennar work on projects such as environmental cleanup, commercial leasing and property management, and planning and entitlements will continue during the filing proceedings.

President's Corner

Ralph McComb

Summer is nearly upon us, and your NYA is working diligently on plans for our NYA Barbeque in October (to be held in conjunction with our annual All Hands meeting). This barbeque is free to all NYA members (in fact, *only* NYA members are invited). The event will include an election of the three Officers whose terms will expire at the end of

Historic Park Foundation Update

Bruce Christensen

St. Peter's Chapel. The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) has struggled recently to find ways to reduce the costs associated with the Mello-Roos tax on properties that MIHPF

leases from the City of Vallejo. Recently, the property “footprint” for Chapel Park was reduced by 75 percent. The Foundation will now maintain St. Peter’s Chapel and the approximately one-half acre of grounds upon which the Chapel is located. This action will result in a tax savings of several thousand dollars per year, as well as a water bill savings of several hundred dollars per year. This change will not, however, affect the public’s access to and use of the Chapel and the surrounding grounds.

Membership update

James Porter

Currently, NYA membership stands at 607—steadily progressing towards our 2008 membership goal of 700. Dental membership stands at 341 members.

Becoming a member of the NYA means that you are interested in what’s happening with Mare Island and future development plans; hearing what’s being done to preserve the legacy of the Shipyard’s history by the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation; and want to stay touch with former co-workers. For many of us, Mare Island was more than a job. It was a community, with a rich history and a strong, enduring bond. The naval base and shipyard may be closed, but Mare Island’s rich history will continue for future generations.

Welcome to new members Don DeSoto (gift membership from Mark DeSoto); Wilma Cassity (gift membership from Pat and Ron Brosio); Jerry Laird (gift membership from Veronica Laird); Nancy Mahoney (L. Burton Mahoney); and Krystil J. Porter (gift membership from James Porter). Thanks for joining!!!

Welcome back to returning members: P. C. “Desert Rat” Clark (from 2006---recruited by Charlie Johnson) and Lou Dupont (from 2006).

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

The NYA offers our sincere condolences to the family of Ronald Shanks, who passed away June 1, 2008. Although the following people were not NYA members, they were part of our Mare Island family. We offer our sympathies to the families of recently deceased Mel (Ed) Frohrib, Maudye Morris, Robert Sheridan, and Robert Wheelan.



Benefit Officer’s Column

Robin Leong

Retired DOD Civil Servant Identification Cards. One of the benefits we have offered is to facilitate applications for the Federal Civil Servant’s Identification Card (Standard Form 55), more commonly known as your “retiree card.” The retiree card allows DOD retirees access to military bases and their Moral, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) facilities and services. For a time, these cards were issued on Mare Island, but more recently we have been sending these card requests to Frank Sharkey at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS), Bremerton, WA.

A major hurdle to using this card has been that some bases have begun denying entrance to retiree card holders (especially, Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, CA). In investigating these access issues, we had been told that a new badge would soon be available. However, that has not happened. At the request of NYA Director

Gordon Triemert, I investigated this with Frank Sharkey at PSNS. Following is an excerpt from Frank's reply:

“The NYA has provided a process for obtaining Retired DOD Federal Civil Servant's I.D. cards. The I.D. card was a Civil Service Commission (CSC) Standard Form 55, authorized in 1973. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) replaced the Civil Service Commission in 1978. At this time, OPM does not recognize the SF-55 as a government form.

So, what replaced the SF-55? When I worked at PSNS, the Shipyard issued PSNS retirement badges to their former employees. However, SUBASE Bangor and other organizations in the Puget area did not issue or accept the retirement badges from PSNS.

As was true at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, PSNS and the Regional Command have Labor Management Partnership Councils (LMPCs). The Region's LMPC, which works out of Bangor, requested the creation of a retirement badge for Bangor and the other bases. I looked into the use of the Form 55 ID card, and found out that it was no longer available. We ran the issue up the chain of command and have a new process, which is supposed to work everywhere in DOD.

DOD regulations allow retired DOD federal civil servants to use MWR facilities. The security side of DOD provided that it is up to a Regional Commander to allow or not allow retired DOD federal civil servants on a DOD base. The level of security is different—depending on the Mission, functions and, thus, security level of a base. If you get a badge from any Region, another Region that allows retired DOD Federal Civil Servants should allow you on the base. However, when traveling, it is a good idea to carry a copy of your retirement SF-50 if you want to use base facilities. Locally, our PSNS Badge and Pass Office gives 5-year visitor badges to former DOD federal civil servants who retired

from any DOD organization, and who have a retirement SF-50. The badge has been successfully used in other parts of the country and by other DOD services. For example, locally McCord AFB accepts our badge, but Ft. Lewis Army base does not accept it. However, the AFB is the base with a golf course.”

Some of you may well remember Frank. He worked in Human Resources at Mare Island and continued his Federal career at PSNS and then SUBASE Bangor. The NYA truly is grateful for his assistance in obtaining retiree cards for our NYA members. When he retires in August 2008, we will search for another authorizing official for this process.

The key to using DOD MWR facilities is this: carry a copy of your retirement SF-50 if you expect to visit a DOD base and either gain entrance to the base or access to the MWR facilities.

You might ask: “What are some of the MWR facilities you may use?” Golf courses, trailer hookups, exercise facilities, rental cabins, and the MWR discount ticket counter are just a few of the options available to you when traveling. There are books detailing the DOD MWR facilities available throughout the nation. I have found the easiest way to obtain these books is to ask an active or retired military service person.

Ambassador Tours. Long-time NYA members may recall the quarterly Ambassador Tours travel brochures that were mailed to your homes. The brochures listed discount rates on a wide range travel packages (specializing in cruises). NYA members enjoyed great discounts on some premium travel offers. Those mailings ceased around the time the Shipyard closed.

With the help of NYA member Mary Adamson (who contacted the sister-in-law of one of the owners), we learned that Ambassador Tours

now has a brand-new newsletter filled with travel information, advice, and exclusive travel packages and terrific rates.

Ambassador Tours has offered to send these newsletters to NYA members who are interested in vacation travel packages at affordable rates. Although in the past these travel brochures were sent to all NYA members regardless of their interest, the NYA is committed to protecting your privacy, and we have pledged never to sell or otherwise give away our members' mail or e-mail addresses. Therefore, if you would like to receive these excellent Ambassador Tours travel newsletters, please let me know via e-mail to Robin.Leong@netzero.net or by calling me at (707) 643-1287.

Google Ambassador Tours to find out about their fantastic and affordable travel packages. If you book travel through Ambassador, please mention that you are an NYA member!

Dental Plan Contact Information (Blue Shield and Pre-Paid). For your convenience, here are the contact numbers for our Blue Shield and our Pre-Paid plan administrators:

Blue Shield: (916) 851-3445
(Refer to "Offline Eligibility Group Number WN 3001")

FirsTier Administrators: (866) 565-7557
(Toll-free number)

And then there was Yesterday

Sue Lemmon, Shipyard Historian

Street Names. From its inception in 1854 until it closed in 1996, Mare Island Naval Shipyard had eighty-one men who earned top billing as leaders. They held various titles, including Commandant, Manager, and Commander. Starting with Farragut and ending with Cavender, thirty-one were honored by having streets named for them,

not only in the city of Vallejo but some on Mare Island. That equates to 38% of Mare Island leaders being singularly acclaimed.

Two of those so honored, McDougal and Louis Kempff, served twice as C.O.s, while two, Phelps and Kempff, had sons who followed their fathers as primary players on the M.I. team. Bragging rights probably went to Thomas Stowell Phelps who is honored by both a Tiffany window and a wall tablet in St. Peter's Chapel.

In a recent study to locate streets named for significant leaders, it became apparent that the city of Vallejo was eager to honor local heroes, especially in the early days of World War II. Streets in the northwest Vallejo area commonly referred to as Roosevelt Terrace were named after McDougal, Cunningham, Gardner, and Selfridge, followed by Baldwin, Werden, McNair, Craven, Parrott, Rodgers, and McNair.

In following years, street honors were bestowed on Friedell, Woodson, Lyon, Haven, Crisp, Evans, Beach, and Klein. Also esteemed were Mayo, Russell, Miller, George, Kirkland, Laws, Reeves, Bagley, Tisdale, Lyon, Haven, Woodson and Morgan.

Street names on the Island changed in recent years to include 12th Street (now Bagley), and 9th (now Rickover—who was not a Mare Island Commander but surely a name to be recognized). More recently, 8th Street will now be designated Alden Park Avenue. While this is a notable nomination, it adds a bit of confusion over duplication of street names.

Farragut's name is applied to a rolling street that intersects with Wilson on the Vallejo waterfront overlooking the Causeway and north Mare Island, but searching for a street for Alden was a challenge. It is located in South Vallejo where it intersects with Lemon Street, with a view across the channel to south Mare Island.

Farragut's street connection with Wilson ties him with a famous U.S. President, but who was the Lemon that connects with Alden? It turns out that there once was a J. R. Lemon, County Treasurer in 1865, who owned land in south Vallejo; and this Lemmon can make no claim.

It should be noted that these street listings apply to Vallejo. Other communities have sometimes used these same names.

Recently we discussed the Mare Island logo, and wondered what happened to Walter Bayha, winner of the 1943 competition in assigning an emblem. We thank Ken Zadwick for sharing correspondence he had with a Chapel visitor in 1997. We learn that Bayha left Mare Island as an Electrical Engineer in 1945 then established a consulting engineering firm. He died in 1996. We also learn that he shared the \$975 War Bond with Vic Beyer, a draftsman who later joined Bayha in the latter's firm. Now, we wonder what happened to him?

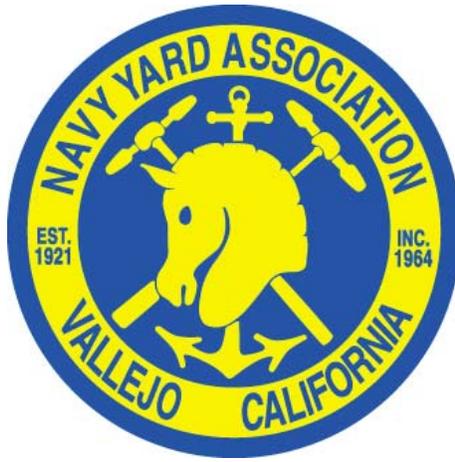
One thing is certain; the NEWSLETTER is being distributed.

***Tour the Mare Island
Museum during the
All Hands Barbeque in
October!***

As an added feature, ***free tours*** of the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation Museum will be offered! (Museum tours normally cost \$4 per person)

Wow! NYA members and a guest can get a fabulous and tasty barbeque luncheon AND free tours of the Mare Island Museum?! You simply can't pass this up!

There is an RSVP form on the next page where you can indicate whether you will be coming, whether you'll be bringing a guest, and whether you'd like a FREE tour of the Mare Island Museum. **Please RSVP so that we can ensure there are enough docent; for the tour; and enough tasty food for everyone!**



All Hands NYA Barbeque

When: Saturday, October 4, 2008

**Where: Alden Park, Mare Island
(8th St. between Walnut Ave. & Railroad Ave.)**

Time: 12:00noon – 4:00pm

Cost:FREE to NYA Members and a Guest

----- **PLEASE INCLUDE A \$5 CHECK
(PAYABLE TO NYA) FOR EACH RESERVATION
YOUR CHECK WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU UPON ARRIVAL AT THE BARBEQUE**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP: _____

Please note: We need your RSVP in order to make sure there is enough tasty food for everyone!

FREE TOUR OF THE MI MUSEUM? NO ___ YES ___ HOW MANY? _____

PLEASE RETURN YOUR RESERVATION FORM NLT 9/15/08 TO:

**MARE ISLAND NYA
PO BOX 2034
VALLEJO, CA 94592**