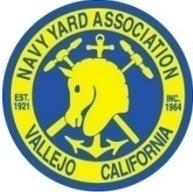


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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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 vcullum@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: 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

On May 20, 2010, a hearing was held in Oakland, CA, by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) on whether to decide to open two of the dry docks on Mare Island. The hearing was one hour out of the five-hour schedule. Present at the hearing were approximately 80 people, plus staff (17 of the BCDC members were there).

The BCDC staff gave a 15-minute presentation, followed by a 15-minute presentation by California Dry Dock Solutions (Allied Defense Recycling). The presentations were followed by a Q&A session and a public comment period (at which 11 people spoke in favor of opening the dry docks). Vallejo Mayor Osby Davis was in attendance, along with a couple small business owners. The vote was unanimous to grant the needed dredging and operating permits.

While there are still some hurdles to jump (comment periods with both NOAA and Fish and Game, etc.), it is expected that the dredge window (August 1 to October 15) will be met. Check out the CDDS website at californiadrydocks.com for up to the minute information.

I would like to thank my fellow NYA members who attended the hearing on May 20 and spoke out in support—especially Vic George, owner/operator of EG Engineering, for his tireless efforts on this project.

We're looking forward to seeing our members at the annual All-Hands meeting and social hour. As mentioned in the last issue, the NYA Officers have decided to host 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. The meeting, which includes election of officers, and the social hour are scheduled for 12:00noon until 3:00pm on Saturday, October 9, in the Historic Park Foundation Museum (Bldg 46). Remember that advance reservations are necessary; reservations may be obtained by sending an e-mail to robin_leong@netzero.net or a note by regular mail to our PO Box no later than September 30, 2010. Hope to see you all there!

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

Dismantling of Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet Ships by Texas Company Continues

During the month of May, the 7th of the more-than-50 Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet Ships was transported from California to Texas. California Dry Dock Solutions is making headway in obtaining the necessary permits and approvals to allow starting ship break-up work at Mare Island. However, unless there are changes in current plans by the Maritime Administration, the remaining Reserve Fleet ships will continue to be towed over 3,000 miles through the Panama Canal for dismantling at a Texas shipyard.

It is vital that this ship-breaking work remain in California. The draft letter provided by the NYA in the March newsletter is update and included below for your consideration to be sent to your Local, State and/or Federal representative(s) requesting that this work be performed at Mare Island. Because this effort is very important to the future of Mare Island and our economy, please use this example to compose your letter in support of keeping this ship-breaking effort in the Bay Area.

"Dear _____

I am writing to you to express my sincere concern over articles in the local area newspaper (Vallejo Times Herald) regarding the efforts to recycle the "mothball" or "ghost" fleet in Suisun Bay. Currently seven of the ships in Suisun Bay have been towed to Texas for dismantling. 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

USS VALLEJO Sail to Be Relocated to Alden Park

In April, the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) Board of Directors voted to relocate the USS VALLEJO (SSBN 658) sail from its current location at the head of Shipbuilding Ways 2 to the northeast corner of Alden Park (corner of 8th Street and Railroad Avenue).

The goal is to raise funds to construct a concrete foundation to support the 40-foot long sail and have the sail in position to host several hundred USS VALLEJO ex-shipmates expected to attend the July 2011 reunion at Mare Island. The completed display is envisioned to include a plaque

with historical information regarding the VALLEJO and members of its crew.

Fund raising for the construction of the foundation in Alden Park will include the sale of 'pavers' that will include the donor's name and be placed around the perimeter of the sail. It is expected that some of the pavers will also be used for memorializing family members and friends associated with Mare Island Naval Shipyard.

A fund raising effort, titled "S(ave) O(ur) S(ail)" has been launched with 100% of the proceeds going directly to the sail fund. If you are interested in contributing, please contact John Chamberlin at chament@att.net or mail to: 1173 Third Avenue, Napa, CA 94558

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation Seeks National Park Status

On May 19, 2010, Vallejo Mayor Osby Davis sent a letter to Congressman George Miller requesting that the necessary actions be initiated to cause the National Park Service (NPS) to perform a Reconnaissance Survey to assess the desirability of establishing portions of Mare Island as a unit of the National Park Service.

The letter states that Mare Island served the country as a naval shipyard for more than 140 years and was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1975. Many of the early buildings still exist and are worthy of National Park Service designation and assistance.

Such a National Park at Mare Island would complement the Navy's other historical National Park located in Boston, Massachusetts, which displays our country's history of ship building and repair in the days of iron men and wooden ships featuring "Old Ironsides." A National Park at Mare Island would pick up the US Naval history in the 1850s and carry it through the age of nuclear submarines and surface ships.

In response to Mayor Davis' letter, on

June 7, 2010, Congressman George Miller sent a letter to the Director of the National Park Service asking that the NPS initiate the reconnaissance study at the Mare Island site, as described in Mayor Davis' letter. Further, Congressman Miller asked that the NPS provide his office with a copy of the report of their findings.

Future NYA newsletters will provide updates regarding the status of the National Park Service assessment.

Sincere thanks to esteemed NYA member Howard Fitzpatrick for drafting the letter for Mayor Davis to send to Congressman Miller. As we can all see, his efforts played a key role in garnering Congressman Miller's support.
Thanks, Howard!

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.

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

Membership update

James Porter

Currently, NYA membership stands at 564, while our dental plan membership stands at 299 members. Last year's final membership number was 694 (the first year we haven't lost any members!). Membership renewals are still trickling in, but we need to get the word out to renew. We hope you'll mention that the NYA has a competitive dental plan available to Federal employees and retirees (and their dependents).

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Terry L. Green, who passed away on January 21, 2010; to the family of C. "Pinkie" Julian, who passed away on May 22, 2010; to Sam Kaai's family; Sam passed away on May 29, 2010; to the family of John Hedgepeth, who passed on April 9, 2010; to the family of Gaylon Kephart, who passed on March 6, 2010; and to the family of Phil O'Neill (especially his wife Pauline). Phil, who passed away on February 12, 2010, was the Recreational Services Director at Mare Island for 46 years.

Welcome to new members: Jack L. Bradley (recruited by William D. Holmes); Joseph Farace (recruited by Robin Leong); William H. Holmes (recruited by William D. Holmes); Valerie Norton (recruited by Al Norton); and Daniel Sunia (recruited by Rudy Balli).

Welcome back to returning members: Roy A. Kaufmann (1989) and Norma Welch (2007).

The NYA sincerely thanks the following members for their generous donations: Pat and Ronald Brosio (in memory of Verlin (Casey) Cassity Shop 11 P&E, Type Desk, and Wilma Kaiser Cassity, Supply Dept, WWII). Thanks!

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?

We're pleased to report that 22 members have signed up to receive this newsletter via e-mail. This saves on paper, postage, returned mail fees, and it's an easy way to keep past issues without the associated pile of paper. Are there any other takers? If so, please send an e-mail to robin_leong@netzero.net with "Yes, I want my NYA Newsletter via E-Mail" in the subject line. It's as easy 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). Usually, we receive at least 5-8 newsletters returned as undeliverable. Your database manager really loves e-mail.

Benefits

Most of you know that we have available to our members discount cards good at your local Kelly-Moore Paint Stores. The discount card applies to more than just paint, too. NYA Director Rich Wright had a great experience recently at his local Kelly-Moore store. Here is his story:

“I recently had the opportunity to use my NYA benefit at the Kelly-Moore paint store in Novato. I was there to purchase paint for the exterior of my house. I didn’t even have my discount card with me; I simply showed the salesman a copy of the latest NYA newsletter as my proof of membership. The salesman immediately opened a cash discount account in my name that is on file at all Kelly Moore stores in any city. Once you have this account, they have a copy of the order and a color sample on file of any paint purchased. This eliminates the need to keep empty cans and labels around with all the paint “recipes” on them. You simply give each order a name like “master bedroom,” and it is on file for future purchases. Purchases can be made with cash, credit/debit, check, etc. Kelly-Moore is very good quality paint and with our NYA discount, it is a very good buy. They even tinted my primer to the final exterior color. With the info on file, simply call the store and the paint is ready for pickup.”

I am not knowledgeable about paint, like some former Shipyard employees, but many “in the know” tell me that Kelly-Moore is high quality paint. Please let me know if you would like to have a Kelly-Moore discount card, and I’ll mail one out to you right away.

Recently, I had several documents that required the service of a notary public. As you know, one of our most popular benefits is FREE notary public service. I, myself, utilized this benefit and saved a bunch of money—then promptly spent

it elsewhere, of course! Our notary is NYA Director and Officer Sonya Domingo. Sonya works full-time for the USDA, so you need to call ahead and make an appointment. You can contact Sonya via e-mail to k-s-domingo@sbcglobal.net or call her at (707) 645-8451.

Currently, I am working on getting a discount from NYA member Bruce Balbin’s Smog Shop in Vallejo. He already offers a 10 percent discount to seniors; we’ll see what kind of deal I can negotiate for our members!

Dental Plan News

We have updated both the Prepaid and Blue Shield brochures and have posted them on our website. You can view them at 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; 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

Curious Questions

Many questions arise from visitors to Mare Island and Docents at the Museum are often asked about ships, shops, and where to get information about their relatives who worked here at one time. While answers are usually available, now and then a query arises that calls for a bit of research, like a recent request for explanation about the expression “Horse Latitudes.”

According to “Origin of Navy Terminology,” Horse Latitudes are located near the West Indies between 30 and 40 degrees north latitude and were noted for unfavorable winds that becalmed cattle ships heading from Europe to America. Often ships carrying horses would have to cast several overboard to conserve drinking water for the rest as the ship rode out unfavorable winds. Because so many horses and cattle were tossed to the sea, the area came to be known as the Horse Latitudes.

During preparations for our Reunion last October, President Ralph McComb used the expression “Ditty Bags” which was understood by most people, but raised a question for one visitor, and another research was required.

Ditty bag (or box) was originally called “ditto bag” because it contained at least two of everything: two needles, two spools of thread, two buttons, etc. With the passing of years, the “ditto” was dropped in favor of “ditty” and remains so today.

Before World War I, the Navy issued ditty boxes made of wood and styled after foot lockers. These carried the personal gear and some clothes of the sailor.

Over the years, ditty bag contents changed to include items such as a sewing kit, toiletry articles and personal items such as writing paper and pens.

Later still, recruits were given sea bags that included uniforms, shoes, tea shirts, coveralls, as well as shoes.

In addition they received a small mesh bag, approximately seven inches in diameter and fourteen inches in length into which were carried shavers, shaving gels and toothpaste and the inevitable copy of General Orders.

With the passing of time the label “ditty bag” was mostly forgotten. Back packs became the accepted means of transporting required personal items, as well as sleeping equipment. Members of today’s Armed Services most likely also carry a camera, cell phone and lap top.

The Navy Yard Association still utilizes ditty bags as Public Relations gimmicks. At the last reunion, the bags included items such as drink coasters, ball point pens, erasers, refrigerator magnets, key chains, and tape measures. They were selected by Board Members Sonya Domingo and Veronica Laird from catalogs of commercial firms who offer a multitude of items that can be personalized, such as identifying with Mare Island Naval Shipyard.

While the ditty bag era is mostly gone, there are still commercial enterprises that sell them. They come in various sizes; just check Google to learn what is still available.

In the meantime, enjoy the little items that feature our esteemed logo.

NYA BENEFITS

BENEFITS	COST	WHAT TO DO	COMMENTS
LEGAL SERVICES			
 Notary Public	Free	To make an appointment, contact Sonya Domingo at (707) 645-8451 or send e-mail to k-s-domingo@sbcglobal.net	You will be contacted to set up an appointment
 Living Trust	10% off the prices posted on the website, at: www.giffordlaw.com	To make an appointment, contact Jean Gifford at (707) 453-1647 or (530) 759-9659	
RETAIL/SERVICE DISCOUNTS			
 Kelly Moore Paint and Wallpaper	25% off	To obtain the discount card, contact Robin Leong at (707) 643-1287	
Handy Consumer Tips Emergent Benefits Job Announcements/Reunions	No cost	Send your e-mail address to Robin Leong at robin_leong@netzero.net	
TRAVEL DISCOUNTS			
 Ambassador Travel	Heavily discounted tours and cruises	Please contact Robin Leong at (707) 643-1287	
RECREATION DISCOUNTS			
Beaver Creek RV Park & Campground (North Coast/Lake County)	15% Discount on camping rates	Show your NYA membership Card	www.campbeavercreek.com
 Napa Wine Train	10% Discount (fare only)	For details, contact Robin Leong at (707) 643-1287	Not available Saturday/Sunday Lunch or Saturday Dinner
 Napa Valley Day Spa (Facials, body wraps, massage, manicures, pedicures, spa parties, etc.)	NYA Members receive a 10% discount	For details, call the Napa Valley Day Spa - (707) 258-9900	

If you would like to receive benefits updates via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Robin Leong at robin_leong@netzero.net.