

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 benefit@mareislandnva.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

The recent downturn in the real estate market has affected sales of new homes on Mare Island, as well as the rest of the country. When homes were first offered on Mare Island, they were sold almost faster than they could be built! These days, home sales have dropped quite a bit.

Although home sales on Mare Island have indeed slowed, there are only four of the more than 200 single-family homes built still available. Also, there are several Town Homes on the market, if that fits your needs or lifestyle.

The housing market may be experiencing some trouble, but commercial businesses on Mare Island are flourishing. Nearly 100 businesses, ranging in size from a one-man entrepreneur to a company employing dozens, continue to thrive in the ready-made industrial complex. It is inspiring to witness so much positive industry and activity on Mare Island.

Annual All-Hands Meeting

Monday, October 10, 2007
Building 435 (2nd floor), Mare Island
5:00pm – 6:00pm

Bring a friend!

President's Corner

Ralph McComb

The annual NYA All-Hands meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 10, 2007, at 5:00pm in Building 435 (second floor) on Mare Island. This is your chance to interact with the Board of Directors and see what the NYA has planned for the future. Please plan to be there. We look forward to seeing you!

Some of our local members may have read some disturbing articles in recent issues of the Vallejo Times-Herald regarding the running of the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF). I encourage all of you to remember that Ken

Zadwick, MIHPF President, has selflessly given thousands of hours of his time to make sure the legacy of Mare Island Naval Shipyard is preserved for future generations. His hard work, and the hard work of a large group of very dedicated individuals, has resulted in the opening of the Building 46 museum (full of fascinating memorabilia and shipyard artifacts), as well as docent-led tours of historic buildings (St. Peter's Chapel, for one) and a large number of weddings held in beautiful, historic settings. Ken Zadwick is an interesting character and the driving force behind the MIHPF. In my opinion, he deserves your support and appreciation for his many efforts to bring the dream of the MIHPF to life.

**Lou Burgelin
Former NYA President**

Former, longtime NYA President Lou Burgelin has been ill and in the hospital recently.

If you would like to send a card or note, please send mail to: NYA, P.O. Box 2034, Vallejo, CA 94592

Around Mare Island...

New Mare Island Naval Shipyard Website Unveiled!

This year, the Mare Island Naval Shipyard website has taken on a new look. This FREE web site is available to everyone (although ex-Shipyarders, as well as their families and friends, may find it of special interest!).

As of September 2007, the site has recorded more than 6,000 hits—with more than 900 guests registering on the site. Some of the exciting, user-friendly features include:

1. A database of ex-Mare Island members, and searches for members along with a memorial listing of deceased Mare Islanders;

2. Services including a calendar of events, newsletter information, posted notices and chat availability—this is an interactive portion to which anyone can contribute

3. A “Where in the World” feature that includes a world map and the ability for guests to indicate where, throughout the world, they are now located.

4. Guest Book Registration for all ex-Mare Islanders.

5. Internet links to other websites, including the NYA home page

6. Charter member section for web site ‘plankowners’ who wish to voluntarily contribute to funding the site

We encourage you to visit the new Mare Island Naval Shipyard web site at <http://www.minsy.com/menuindex.html> and use some its features. After you’ve had a chance to review the site, there is a ‘Mini-poll’ that you can fill-out, indicating your opinion of the site.

Report on 3rd Annual Free Luncheon for All Mare Island Businesses.

On August 9 at Mare Island’s Morton Field, several hundred people, including many NYA members (Historic Park Foundation volunteers, Island Energy, Weston, etc.), attended a luncheon sponsored by Lennar Mare Island and Kennedy-Wilson Properties. The luncheon included catered barbecued chicken and ribs, and a free chance at winning one of about two dozen door prizes that included many gift certificates and other donations from Vallejo/Mare Island businesses. As an added attraction, many classic vehicles were displayed at the entrance to Morton Field by the ‘Boyz Under the Hood’ Vallejo Car Club.

Report on the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Mare Island Naval Ammunition Depot.

On Friday and Saturday, August 10 and 11, a celebration was held at the south end of the ex-Shipyard to celebrate the sesquicentennial of the establishment of the Mare Island Ammunition Depot, the U.S. Navy's first naval arsenal in the Pacific. The celebration was open to the public, and hundreds of people attended the two-day celebration. Building A-167 was the focal point for the event, where many historical displays were available for public viewing. There were also many guided tours, birding walks, and other hiking opportunities for those who attended event. Tours included the Mare Island Cemetery, founded in 1858 as the first Naval Cemetery in the Pacific, the grounds of residences at the Ammunition Depot and Archeological Explorations. During the celebration, St. Peters Chapel and the Mare Island Museum also were open to visitors. The event coordinator was Myrna Hayes, and sponsors included Arc Ecology, Weston Solutions Inc., CS Marine Constructors, ECC, Lennar Mare Island, Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District, Greater Vallejo Recreation District, the Sierra Club and Sue Lemmon (NYA Director and Shipyard Historian).

Membership update

James Porter

Currently, NYA membership stands at 667—well on our way to our 2007 membership goal of 700. Dental membership stands at 375 members (including former NWS Concord and NAS Alameda dental plan members).

Membership in the NYA was once a privilege that offered many benefits. As an employee organization, we lobbied for shipyard employee rights and benefits—while offering competitive dental plans, pre-paid legal plans, and significant discounts at a wide variety of local businesses. For more than 80 years, the NYA was a respected and relied-upon entity that affected thousands of lives.

With the closure of the once-thriving Shipyard and Naval base, sadly, NYA membership has dropped to less than a thousand people (far fewer than our former heydays, when our membership numbered more than 10,000!). Does this mean the NYA has withered away!?! Absolutely not! We are still here....to keep you updated on the development of Mare Island, keep you in touch with old friends and co-workers, to appreciate Mare Island's legacy and continue to contribute to Mare Island's future. Our very affordable membership cost of \$15 keeps you in touch. Since you're reading this newsletter, you already know that! Why don't you consider encouraging former Mare Islanders who aren't already members to join (or re-join) the NYA?

The NYA offers our sincere condolences to the families and friends of both Charles "Jack" Scandlyn and Gerald Tagert, who passed away recently.

The NYA Directors try to keep the membership directory as accurate and up-to-date as possible. If you think we don't have your current e-mail address, please consider sending it to us. We will never sell or otherwise disclose your address to any third parties, nor will we send frivolous messages.

Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

General Benefits Update.

It must have been a busy home improvement season this summer! I'm happy to report that I continue to receive many requests for the Kelly Moore paint discount card (saves you 25% on paint and 10% on paint supplies). If you would like one of these discount cards (credit-card size plastic), please send an e-mail to me at robin_leong@netzero.net, or call me at (707) 643-1287.

We have a few discount coupons for Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo. The coupons,

valid through October 31, 2007, are good for \$15 off any adult admission Friday through Sunday or work as a “buy one-get one free” deal Monday through Thursday. If you would like any discount coupons for Discovery Kingdom, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: NYA, P.O. Box 2034, Vallejo, CA 94592.

General Dental Plan Reminders – Blue Shield.

If you are having trouble getting your claim paid, please contact Michelle Melendez, Blue Shield Customer Service Representative, at (916) 851-3445. Michelle is the Service Representative for the NYA’s Blue Shield plan.

To correctly identify your dental plan to the Blue Shield Customer Service/Claims Representative, please note we are “Offline Eligibility Group Number WN 3001.” We are an “Inventory Only” plan.

General Dental Plan Reminders – Pre-Paid Plan.

If you have any questions about changing dentists; changing banks for withholding; changing your dental status from family to single or vice-versa; signing up for a dental plan; canceling coverage; or complaints about a dentist, please contact First Tier Administrators. Following is their contact information:

First Tier Administrators
P.O. Box 19338
Reno, NV 89511

Phone: (775) 324-5644
Toll Free: (866) 565-7557
Fax: (775) 786-9637

If you wish to cancel coverage or change dentists, you may do that at any time. **However, your request must be submitted in writing.** Telephoning the NYA office or First Tier Administrators is **NOT** sufficient.

If you experience a change in your family status that necessitates a change in your coverage (marriage, divorce, dependent child eligibility), you must submit your request in writing and allow 30 days for that change to occur.

When life changes occur that could affect the premium amount deducted from your bank account, please remember to check your bank statements to ensure that the correct amount is being deducted. It is the **member’s responsibility** to promptly notify the plan administrators of deduction errors.

Whether you are a Blue Shield plan member or a Pre-Paid plan member, please remember: to ensure you receive prompt notification of dental plan issues, please be sure to notify me of any changes to your contact information (address, telephone number, e-mail address).

E-Mail Communications/Updates.

We have found that communicating through e-mail works well and allows us to get information to our members in a more timely fashion (than our regular quarterly newsletters). If you have an e-mail address please share it with me. If you have a SPAM blocker (who doesn’t these days?), please “allow” my e-mail address to send messages to you. My e-mail address is robin_leong@netzero.net. We do not share our list with anyone and closely monitor the messages we do send out for content, so we don’t bother you unnecessarily.

Recently, we sent out two e-mails to members who have given us their e-mail addresses. The first was to let everyone know of the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Mare Island Naval Ammunition Depot (held August 10-11); and the second was to announce a Shop 51 reunion (to be held September 28). These two notices were sent because the first event occurred between newsletters (our newsletters are published on a quarterly basis) and the September newsletter was a little too close to the Shop 51 reunion to give

planners enough time to receive all RSVPs. In short, e-mail notices of this type are an excellent "broadcast" method to notify our members of timely information (in between newsletters).

That being said, the problems we continually experience with this method of notification are e-mail returned as undeliverable (bad addresses, etc.) and e-mail "blocked" by the recipients SPAM filter. I engineer my e-mail distribution lists so that members receive it as a "bcc" or blind carbon copy (this prevents other recipients from seeing your e-mail address). Unfortunately, some Internet Service Providers (ISPs) treat e-mail addressed to a "bcc" as SPAM. Sometimes, I may have an old e-mail address. Quite a few of the e-mail addresses rejected by AOL (America Online) exhort me to remind the recipient that they haven't logged in to their free AIM Mail account and that they're missing out on all the features offered by AIM Mail. Whatever the reason, it is a simple process to add my e-mail address (robin_leong@netzero.net) to your list of accepted senders. Please take the time to do that, if you would. Alternatively, if you do NOT want to receive e-mail updates, simply drop me a line. If you use e-mail to let me know you don't want updates, be assured that I'll delete your address.

Since the last newsletter, I've had e-mail rejected from the following members: Arnold Lincoln, Milan Pittman, Ed Harris, Thomas Meissner, Joe Vizzini, John Johnson, Oscar Arriaga, Phyllis Bertoncini, Delores Ferrari, Matthew Barnes Jr., Tim King, Gino Del Chiaro, and Gene Schroeder. To those members, I respectfully ask that you either update your e-mail address with me or let me know that you want your address deleted from our database.

Wishing you a wonderful Fall season!

SHOP 51 ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Vallejo Moose Lodge

Friday, September 28, 2007 – 11:30a.m.

Price: \$15

Entrée Choices: Red Snapper, Roast Beef, or Chicken

Contact: Tom Chulick (707) 642-8712 or Richard Karr (707) 643-9008

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation Needs You !!

Volunteers are needed at the Mare Island Museum (Building 46), the Officers' Mansions (Quarters A and B), and St. Peters Chapel for the following tasks:

**Tour Guides, Docents, Gardening,
Maintenance, Cleaning, Artifact
Inventory/Cataloguing, Constructing
Museum Displays, Painting,
and other related jobs**

Take this opportunity to work with some ex-Shipyarders!

If you can spare a few hours a week, please contact Ken Zadwick at 707-557-0662 and sign-up!

ex-PARCHE Remembered

Veronica Laird

An NYA member recently forwarded to me an October 2004 article from a Washington state newspaper in which the decommissioning of ex-PARCHE (SSN 683) was described in haunting detail. My friend had received the article from a friend of his, and I wouldn't be surprised to find the friend-of-a-friend had received the article from yet another friend. That Shipyard co-worker grapevine is as effective as ever!

ex-PARCHE was both one of the least-known and one of the most decorated submarines in the fleet. She spent 30 years and 19 deployments as "America's top espionage sub." The time I spent working on the conversion team (I still have my t-shirt!) were the most fun I've had. The pride we all felt when PARCHE sailed away virtually a new submarine...well, I'd like to think that's one of the reasons we worked there. Being part of the history of Mare Island Naval Shipyard is a privilege I will always hold dear.

And then there was Yesterday

Sue Lemmon
Shipyard Historian

NAME GAME.

Can you match the name of the ship with the correct hull number?

NAME OF SHIP

HULL NO.

1 BLUEBIRD	a	17
2 BUSHNELL	b	168
3 CALIFORNIA	c	38
4 CHICAGO	d	121
5 GILMORE	e	642
6 HOWARD W. GILMORE	f	236
7 GRAYBACK	g	15
8 HALIBUT	h	305
9 KAMEHAMEHA	i	20
10 MONOCACY	j	44
11 NAUTILUS	k	3
12 NEREUS	l	29
13 PROMETHEUS	m	238
14 SAN FRANCISCO	n	12
15 SHAW	o	306
16 SILVERSIDES	p	16
17 SKATE	q	574
18 SPERRY	r	68
19 TANG	s	587
20 WAHOO	t	18

Quiz answers:

BLUEBIRD	d
BUSHNELL	g
CALIFORNIA	j
CHICAGO	l
GILMORE	t
HOWARD W. GILMORE	p
GRAYBACK	q
HALIBUT	s
KAMEHAMEHA	e
MONOCACY	i
NAUTILUS	b
NEREUS	a
PROMETHEUS	k
SAN FRANCISCO	c
SHAW	r
SILVERSIDES	f
SKATE	h
SPERRY	n
TANG	o
WAHOO	m