

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@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

This year's Barbeque is a combination of our Annual All Hands Meeting, as well as a sincere "Thank you!" to all those who've kept us going for more than 12 years following the Shipyard's closing. We invite each member to bring a guest (remember to include a \$5 reservation hold for each additional guest; all reservation money will be returned to you at the Barbeque). Remember: the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation Museum in Building 46 will be available for tours.

Those of you who live across the channel from Mare Island may again see that once-familiar sight of ships entering Dry Docks #2 and #3. No, not to be made seaworthy and rejoin the fleet, but rather to be cut up for recycling by a group calling itself "Mare Island Ship Yard," a subsidiary of "Allied Defense Recycling." Working closely with this group and providing technical support is former SSPORT Deputy Director Victor George. The permit for operating the docks and pump houses was issued by the State of California on September 1, 2008. Now, the hard work of making everything ready and acceptable to all concerned parties has begun.

President's Corner

Ralph McComb

Planning is well underway for the NYA Members' Only Barbeque to be held on Saturday, October 4, 2008, at Alden Park on Mare Island. The Barbeque is FREE to all NYA members! *(Although we are asking for \$5 from each member (and for any guest(s) you will bring) in order to hold your reservation, your check will be returned to you on the day of the Barbeque.*

Shop 51 Annual Luncheon

Friday, September 26, 2008
Vallejo Elks Lodge - 2850 Redwood Parkway

For details, contact:
Tom Chulick – (707) 642-8712
or
Rich Karr – (707) 643-9008 or
RB_karr@yahoo.com

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

Job Growth on Mare Island. Lennar Mare Island (LMI) reported in their Summer 2008 Mare Island Progress Report that; "Today, as a result of the work done by LMI and the City, Mare Island is years ahead of similar military bases that were closed during the same period." Specifically, over the past year, the business community has increased by the addition of nine new companies, and eight of the existing companies have expanded their operations on Mare Island.

There are now more than 90 businesses located on Mare Island, and more than 2.5 million square feet of commercial and industrial space is occupied. After closure of the Naval Shipyard in March 1996, the initial replacement job growth was slow. However, since June of 1997—when there were approximately 800 jobs on Mare Island—Mare Island employment has continued to grow at an average rate of 14% each year to its current employment level of 2,085 workers.

The Times Herald reports, however, that the City of Vallejo is not quite as optimistic about the progress being made regarding employment at Mare Island. According to City officials, employment numbers are lagging behind the employment goals that were updated in 2004. At that time, it was projected that there would be a total of 2,631 workers by 2008. To meet this goal, 546 new jobs will need to be created on Mare Island by December 31, 2008.

Ship Work Reborn at Mare Island? Mare Island is being proposed as the most logical venue to help resolve the ongoing deposits of hazardous materials from Reserve Fleet ships currently moored in Suisun Bay. The Mare Island dry docks could be used to dock, remediate, scrap, and recycle the materials from the approximately 79 ships currently located in Suisun Bay. The problem is that a lease for the dry docks has to be negotiated with the island's master developer, Lennar Mare Island. Lennar indicates that such a large industrial

operation, especially one that might be noisy, would negatively affect the Island's residents and future housing business.

It was recently reported that; "A spokesman for the developer cited concerns of re-contaminating land that will one day be deeded back to the city." The article also disclosed some reasons that the ships are not being routinely dry docked to perform hull maintenance. Prohibiting factors related to dry docking include limited availability of dry docks and the resulting competition with other business, the structural integrity of the ships, and cost. "If a structurally unsound vessel is set down on blocks and the water drained away in a dry dock..., the ship could fall too far apart for a second move."

See the article in this newsletter by President Ralph McComb regarding a company who is willing to take on the challenge of recycling the ships from the Reserve Fleet.

Tour the Mare Island Museum during NYA's October Barbeque. On Saturday, October 4, 2008, the NYA will host all members (and guest(s)) at an outdoor barbeque in Alden Park on Mare Island. As an added feature to this NYA event, free tours of the Mare Island Museum will be offered. Museum tours normally cost \$4 per person, so, in addition to free barbeque lunch, each member (and guest(s)) can save another \$4 by touring the museum during the day. At the end of this newsletter is an RSVP form for the barbeque so that we can get an accurate count to assure sufficient food is available. When you make your reservations to attend the barbeque, be sure to specify if you will be touring the museum, so that enough tour guides are available to handle the additional museum visitors.

Membership update

James Porter

Currently, NYA membership stands at 620—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 back to returning members: Calvin Potts (from 2005) and Sara Turley (from 1995).

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 few reminders:

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!

I am always open to trying for new benefits; if there is a benefit of interest to you that you'd like us to pursue, please let me know!

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)

Former Mare Islander Earns Top Honor at Retirement

A retirement ceremony for Barry Devine, head of the USS PARCHE-centered Ocean Engineering Program and former Mare Island employee, was held on June 26, 2008, in Washington State.

At the ceremony, Barry received the highest honor for Navy civilian service, the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award. This honor was a triple crown of career honors, as Barry had received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 2004 and the Superior Civilian Service Award in 1980. The citation signed by the Secretary of the Navy noted, in part, that "The mission success realized in the Navy's Deep Ocean Program is largely attributed to Mr. Divine's effectiveness as a superlative manager in a virtually unexplored field of technology."

The NYA and its members offer a resounding "Congratulations!" to Barry on his noteworthy career and his significant contributions to the Navy's ocean engineering program.

GLACIER SOCIETY Needs You!

The GLACIER SOCIETY's mission is to "Preserve the heritage of the United States' maritime exploration of the Polar Regions, provide an educational and reference source, train and educate youth."

One of the educational programs of the GLACIER SOCIETY is the Arctic Scout, a former U.S. Coast Guard Arctic survey boat, which is used in "educating youths in seamanship, basic marine sciences, and leadership skills." Qualified students have an opportunity to train and participate in humanitarian missions in the Arctic Region undertaken on the former Navy/Coast Guard icebreaker, Glacier.

The GLACIER SOCIETY recently received a grant of \$80,000, which will be used to fund the

first year of the Society's Youth Maritime Education Platform on board the Arctic Scout. However, such an ambitious educational program is need of further financial support to fund its continued goals. A major expenditure is the ever-increasing cost of fuel. If you are interested in supporting this worthwhile endeavor, please visit the GLACIER SOCIETY website and learn more the Society's programs. Their website address is: www.glaciersociety.org, or you may contact them directly at (866) ICE PLAY (423-7529) or via mail to Glacier Society, 905 Honeyspot Road, Stratford, CT 06615.

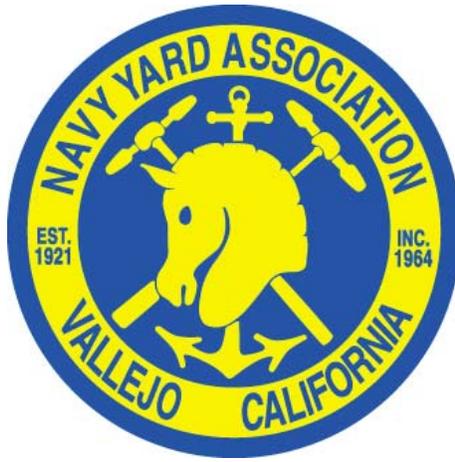
NYA Website

Are you a website "guru"?

Your NYA Officers and Directors are well aware that our website has been non-functional for quite some time. Part of the reason for that is that none of your Officers or Directors is a web expert, and we cannot afford to pay for a website designer.

We are looking for a volunteer who would be interested in updating and regularly maintaining our website. While much of the information on the website would not change often, we envision an electronic bulletin board that would announce events of interest to our membership, as well as a place for "news" items and a separate page for past issues of newsletters.

If you have the necessary expertise and would be willing to volunteer as our "Webmaster," please contact Veronica Laird at (707) 557-5160 or via e-mail to vcullum@hotmail.com.



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**