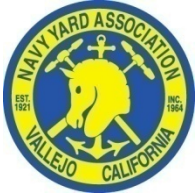


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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Vice President.....Jim Porter
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

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

ending the reign of a Shipyard that had been part of the community and our lives for more than 100 years.

Your NYA affords an opportunity for old friends, co-workers, and those who just enjoy Mare Island to keep in touch with each other and what's happening on today's Mare Island. So that we can see whose hair has turned gray and have a great time doing it, we've not only secured the ever-improving Mare Island Historical Park Foundation's Building 46 museum, we've added some tasty food, exciting raffle prizes, and memorable tokens to whet your appetite for this year's Mare Island Reunion!

The Mare Island Reunion/NYA annual membership event will be held on **Saturday, October 10, 2009, from 12:00noon until 4:00pm, in the Mare Island Museum (Building 46) on Mare Island.** In addition to frosty non-alcoholic drinks, we offer Antipasto, Caesar Salad, Spaghetti and Garlic Bread—all catered by our very own Sonya Domingo and Veronica Laird!

Advance tickets are strongly encouraged (how else can we make sure there is enough delicious food for everyone—not to mention the raffle prizes?).

Advance Purchase:

\$ 5 per person (Members)
\$10 per person (Non-members)

At the Door:

\$10 per person

President's Corner

Ralph McComb

It seems almost another lifetime when Mare Island was open and thriving and we all worked together. However, it was only 13 years ago on a blustery April day that the Navy closed the gate,

Please mail your check or money order (made payable to the NYA) to P.O. Box 849, Vallejo, CA 94590-0084. Tickets will be available for pick up “Will Call” style on the day of the event. **The deadline for securing your advance reservations is Thursday, October 1, 2009.**

What makes this year’s reunion/annual membership event special? **Raffle prizes!** Raffle tickets will be sold for \$1 each or an arm’s length for \$10 (so, bring that friend with a long arm!). The grand prize will be a 42-inch flat panel HDTV!! Not only are there exciting raffle prizes, but there will be cool NYA give-aways all tucked into an NYA bag that’s biodegradable!

Now, if I sound excited, it’s because I get to help make this event a reality! If you want to help, too, please contact one of your NYA Officers or Directors.

Hope to see you at the Reunion!

We Need You!

On the day of the Reunion, we’ll need extra volunteers to staff the ticket table

If you’d like to volunteer, please contact one of your NYA Directors

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

Mare Island Dry Docks 2 and 3 may see action

A local company, California Dry Dock Solutions, Inc., is proposing to reuse Dry Docks 2 and 3 and adjacent waterfront areas to provide services to accomplish ship re-fit and maintenance, repair, overhaul, new construction, and dismantling.

The initial phase of the proposed project would involve the dismantling of four decommissioned naval ships currently berthed in the Suisun Bay Mothball Fleet.

An initial study prepared by the City of Vallejo pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determined that the dismantling of these ships will **not** have a significant effect on the environment.

On Monday, November 2, 2009, at 7:00pm, the Vallejo Planning Commission will hold a public hearing regarding this project in the Vallejo City Council Chambers, City Hall, 555 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo. Project plans may be reviewed at City Hall prior to the public hearing to determine impacts of the project. Questions and/or comments regarding the project may be submitted to Michelle Hightower at the above address.

Remedial Action at Mare Island Waterfront

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) informed the Vallejo Community of the Remedial Action Plan for Black Granular Material (BGM) located in the soil between Dry Docks 1 and 2, up to a maximum depth of 11 feet. BGM is composed largely of loose furnace ash, coal ash, and metal debris (including lead) generated from foundry, smelting, or blast furnace operations. It is believed that these materials were placed in the site as structural or general fill during the construction of the sea wall berth in this area.

The primary remedial action is the placement of an asphalt cap over the entire area, followed by monitoring of groundwater in the area and on-going institutional controls.

This remedial action raises a concern for the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) in that the USS VALLEJO sail is now displayed on the parcel between Dry Docks 1 and 2. The cost to move the sail will be significant, and neither funding for the move nor an alternate location for displaying the sail is currently available.

“Mare Island in Transition”

On September 19, 2009, the Vallejo Naval and Historic Museum located at 734 Marin Street in

downtown Vallejo will open an exhibit by Pearl Jones Tranter, entitled “Mare Island in Transition.”

The exhibit will feature recent photographs of Mare Island’s unique buildings and landscapes, highlighting the changes in the physical environment since the Naval Shipyard closed in 1996.

The opening reception will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 PM on Saturday, September 19, and the “Mare Island in Transition” exhibit will continue through December 2009.

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Bruce Christensen

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.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

A World War II LCS(L) (Landing Craft Support Ship) has been tied up at the foot of “A” Street on Mare Island for about two years. Ships of this class were known as the *Mighty Midgets*, carrying more firepower per ton than any other ship in the Navy. A small group of volunteers have been working to restore it for tours and possible cruises. The ship will be based at Mare Island.

Anyone is welcome to view the ship on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The ship will be available for tours more often once the work is complete.

We need skilled shipyard people—particularly pipefitters, electricians and marine machinists (although all trades are needed). Every bit of help would be appreciated. This could be the last ex-Naval ship to be worked on at MINS.

Anyone interested should visit the ship or call John Kelly at 707-552-0674 or 707-304-1237 for information.

Membership update

James Porter

Thus far, we have more than 50 reservations for this year’s Mare Island Reunion! Keep up the good work in spreading the word—the more the merrier!

Currently, NYA membership stands at 608 (well on our way to this year’s goal of 637!), while our dental plan membership stands at 331 members.

We offer our sincere condolences to family and friends on the loss of Robert Biniek’s wife, Lois (4/29/2009)—Bob and Lois were married for 62 years; and NYA member Daniel Dever, former RPQ in Code 321 (8/22/2009).

Welcome to new member Robert P. “Bob” Boucher (Bob Biniek); James W. Davis, Donald R.

Grant, and Stanley Hitchcock (Robert Smith); and Darrell Harrington (Bruce Christensen). Welcome back to returning members: James N. Schallon (from 1999, recruited by Bob Boucher); and John Thompson (from 2007, recruited by Robin Leong).

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

(I sincerely hope to see those NYA members who have recruited new (or returning) members at this year's Reunion so they can pick up their recruitment award tokens!)

Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

News on Benefits

Several of our members must be gearing up for home improvement projects, because I've been getting requests for the Kelly-Moore discount card. (I wonder if they are like me—just hoping that the paint will jump from the can to the wall all by itself.) The discount cards are easy to get: just e-mail me or call me at (707) 643-1287, and I'll send you the card. Or, come to the Mare Island reunion and pick one up!

If you've shared your e-mail with the NYA, you received the message I sent out on July 7, 2009, namely that I've received some new information from NYA Director David Mathews about getting a DOD retired ID for everyone—and that it's not just for those who retired from Mare Island! The card may be requested by employees who retired from *any* DOD component/organization. A copy of the flier attached to my e-mail will be posted on the NYA website in the near future.

The most convenient locations at which to obtain the card in the SF Bay Area are Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield or the Coast Guard base on Alameda's Government Island. Check the NYA website for other locations. Note that you will need to provide proof of your latest pay rate (most recent SF 50), a State or Federal ID (such as your driver's license or U.S. passport), along with on more form of ID. The DOD Retiree Card is valid for 4 years. Those who have already obtained the Mare Island retired employee's card should note that that card should not expire.

One of our intrepid members decided to go to Travis Air Force Base to see if they had the new form available. Of course, the Travis folks were surprised to see someone asking for this form, and it was not available at that time. However, we can still obtain retired identification cards for those who retired from Mare Island. You need to send your vitals (i.e., date of birth, color of eyes, color of hair, weight, height, a copy of your form 50 stating that you retired from Mare Island, and a passport photo, along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: NYA, PO Box 849, Vallejo, CA 94590-0084.

Dental Plan News

The Pre-Paid Dental Plan brochure has been updated and posted on the NYA website. We expect that an updated Blue Shield brochure will be posted on the website in the near future.

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 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

Mare Island Reunion

A *great* benefit of NYA membership is the opportunity to participate in the NYA-sponsored Mare Island reunions at a reduced cost! Members will pay only \$5 for admission this year, while non-members (including non-member spouse's or family members) will pay \$10 (which is still a great bargain if you think about it!). In addition to the succulent food offered in the setting of the historic Mare Island museum, we are offering a variety of exciting raffle prizes along with free goodies in eco-friendly, biodegradable NYA bags! I look forward to seeing everyone there!

And then there was yesterday

Sue Lemmon, Shipyard Historian

Nostalgic November.

During months of November, eight ships were launched at Mare Island, beginning with Water Barge #25 on Nov. 8, 1815 and the last STONEWALL JACKSON on the 30th of 1963. While the biggest event was probably the launching of CALIFORNIA on November 20, 1919, for sheer melodrama it would be hard to surpass the last November launching.

Thomas Jonathan Jackson was a Confederate General held in great reverence during the Civil War. Born in 1824, he was orphaned early and earned a West Point appointment. He earned the sobriquet of "Stonewall" at the first battle of Bull Run. As reported after the battle, he and his brigade of Virginians stood, when assaulted, "like a stone wall." He was accidentally shot by his own men during the battle of Chancellorsville in the

spring of 1863 and died a few days later. At his bedside were his wife and only daughter, Julia, whose name was borne by the sponsor of the submarine.

Plans for an elaborate program for launching STONEWALL JACKSON had been prepared several weeks before but were completely changed when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963. Frantic phone calls questioned if the proposed launching would take place as planned or postponed.

Given the "go ahead" signal from Washington, launching plans were modified. Programs for the launching had already been printed, featuring a portrait of Stonewall Jackson against a background of the Confederate flag, a striking red, white and blue souvenir.

The programs included a small black bordered box entitled IN MEMORIAM – PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, the addition of a prayer to be offered by LCDR O'Leary (CHC), USNR, followed by The Navy Hymn.

The night before the launching a "glue party" was held in the Shipyard Commander's office where a dedicated crew worked until nearly midnight pasting small black ribbons to each of the 10,000 programs.

Over 4,000 people witnessed the somber occasion as young Miss Julia McAfee crunched a bottle of champagne on the ship that bore the name of her great great grandfather.

The SSBN (634) was the third U.S. Navy ship to be named for General Thomas Jonathan Jackson, and the 504th ship built at Mare Island. It was decommissioned at Bremerton on February 9, 1995, following thirty years of service in which it completed eighty-two deterrent patrols, twenty of which were Polaris.

There was irony in the fact that both Stonewall Jackson and President Kennedy had died young, and as the result of gunshot wounds.