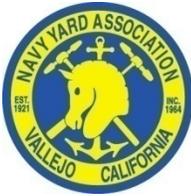


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



President.....Ralph E. McComb, Jr.
 Vice President.....Jim Porter
 Treasurer.....Lloyd Mahan
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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 vcillum@hotmail.com (use subject line "NYA Bulletin Board")

Shop 51 Annual Luncheon!

Mare Island Museum, Bldg. 46
Friday, September 24, 2010 -11:30am-2:00pm
 POC: Tom Chulick; (707) 642-8712) or
 Rich Karr, (707) 643-9008

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

As you'll read in the next column, a lot of hard work has been completed towards bringing some of the work of dismantling the Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet to Mare Island. Now, Allied Defense Recycling (ADR) is looking for the workforce that will be needed to accomplish the work should it be awarded to ADR. They'll need shipfitters, marine machinists, marine electricians, and various other trades and support staff positions. Anyone interested should simply fax their resume to Gary Whitney at (707) 782-0566.

We're all looking forward to seeing our members and their guests at next month's annual All-Hands meeting and combined social hour. As mentioned before, the NYA Officers have decided to host a social hour following the business portion of the meeting that is *free* to all members and one guest each. Complimentary non-alcoholic beverages and refreshments will be served. **The meeting—which includes the election of officers—and social hour (including door prizes!) will be held from 12:00noon until 3:00pm on Saturday, October 9, in the Historic Park Foundation Museum (Bldg 46).**

Advance reservations are required; reservations may be obtained by sending an e-mail to robin_leong@netzero.net or calling (707) 643-1287 no later than October 1, 2010. After October 1, there will be a \$5 charge for both the member and guest (if any). Reservations are needed so that we may offer refreshments to all, so please let us know you'll be there. See you next month!

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

Progress being made to Dismantle Reserve Fleet Ships at Mare Island

In August, a local company, Allied Defense Recycling (ADR), also doing business as California Dry Dock Solutions, signed a lease for Dry Docks 2 and 3 at Mare Island—capping a two-year effort toward the dismantling of the 46 remaining Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet Ships designated as “non-retention” vessels. ADR has also obtained approval to dredge the Mare Island Channel to allow the ships to enter the dry docks, but will not start dredging until they have a contract to dismantle one or more reserve fleet ships. The Maritime Administration has committed to removing 28 of the worst polluting vessels by late 2012. Currently, 4 ships due to be scrapped are up for bid; AMERICAN RACER, AMERICAN RELIANCE, HESS, and DAWN. The next available date for commencement of dredging operations Mare Island is November 1, 2010.

In the meantime, a Brownsville, Texas-based ship recycler will start work on the 11th ship to be removed from the fleet in the past year, the FLORIKAN. The cost to tow (5,000 miles through the Panama Canal), remediate and dismantle the ship is approximately \$900,000.

What’s Happening with regard to the Mare Island Plating Shop?

Plating operations were conducted in Building 225 (located near the Mare Island waterfront) for more than 50 years, resulting in leakage of toxics from the floor drains to the underground soil. The plume from this leakage encompassed the soil beneath Buildings 101 and 273, along with the soil beneath the Plating Shop, Building 225 (IR Site 15). To characterize the area, over 600 soil samples, 50 soil vapor samples and more than 800 groundwater samples were collected from approximately 200 locations in the area. Sample results showed contamination present at

concentrations exceeding state mandated acceptance levels for planned commercial and industrial land use.

The California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) has considered 7 different cleanup alternatives for the site. At the present time, it appears that Alternative 6 will be recommended for accomplishment. This alternative includes:

1. Excavating selected soil areas in and around Building 225, disposing of excavated soil offsite and capping the remaining area in and around the building with concrete or asphalt.
2. Treating contaminated groundwater by a combination of methods, including Monitored Natural Attenuation (for chromium, carbon tetrachloride and chlorinated ethanes), Enhanced In-Situ Bioremediation (for chlorinated ethanes), and installing a permeable reactive barrier (PRB) in the plume area.
3. Recording and implementing a Land Use Covenant for IR Site 15.

Before making a final decision, DTSC has requested public comment by no later than September 23, 2010. If you wish to view an electronic version of the IR-15 FS/RAP, visit DTSC’s Envirostor web site at: <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>. Enter “Vallejo” in the city section (box) and select “Mare Island Lennar” from the list of sites.

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Bruce Christensen

National Park Status Update

Congressman George Miller visited Mare Island in July as the result of the letter sent to him by Vallejo Mayor Osby Davis in May 2010, requesting that the necessary actions be initiated to assess the desirability of establishing historic

portions of Mare Island as a unit of the National Park Service. NYA and MIHPF Board of Directors member Howard Fitzpatrick prepared the request letter to Congressman Miller that was signed Mayor Davis.

Accompanying Congressman Miller for the visit were members of the National Park Service, Vallejo City Officials, and representatives of Lennar - Mare Island. During the tour, the group visited Dry Dock 1, St. Peters Chapel, Officer's Quarters A and B, and the Mare Island Cemetery.

Although Mare Island was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1975, Miller has indicated that achieving National Park designation is a long process. Many of the early buildings are worthy of National Park Service designation and assistance; however, feasibility studies are necessary to determine if becoming a National Park is the best means of protecting these historic resources.

Although a preliminary report on Mare Island's attractions is due by the end of September 2010, a full study by the Park Service is expected to require several years.

ex-USS VALLEJO Sail Relocation to Alden Park

The ex-USS VALLEJO (SSBN 658) sail will be relocated from the head of Shipbuilding Ways 2 to the northeast corner of Alden Park (corner of 8th Street and Railroad Avenue). A fundraising effort entitled "S(ave) O(ur) S(ail)" is underway to raise \$35,000 to construct a concrete foundation to support the 40-foot long sail and have the sail moved to its new location in time to host several hundred of ex-USS VALLEJO's former shipmates at a July 2011 reunion at Mare Island.

When complete, the display is envisioned to include a plaque with historical information pertaining to the ex-USS VALLEJO and members of its crew. Future fundraising will include the sale of 'pavers' containing the donor's name to be placed around the perimeter of the sail. Some of the pavers may also be used for memorializing family and friends associated with Mare Island. To

this end, \$18,614 of the needed \$35,000 for the relocation has already been donated!

The ex-VALLEJO crew members have contributed 87% (\$16,288), while local Solano, Napa, Contra Costa and Sonoma Counties have contributed 13% (\$2,326). Hopefully, the local donations will increase to match donations from former crew members. If you wish to contribute, mail your tax deductible donation check or money order made payable to "Save Our Sail MIHPF" to:

Save Our Sail
257 Cottonwood Drive
Vallejo, CA 94591

or, go to www.SaveOurSail.com and donate using PayPal.

Become a Plankowner of the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation!

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) continues to offer its Plankowner Program to those interested in preserving and displaying the history of Mare Island. As a reminder, the MIHPF is a not-for-profit 501(C)(3) foundation.

Those interested in becoming a Plankowner may do so at any of the following levels:

Ensign.....	\$25+
Lieutenant.....	\$100+
Commander.....	\$500+
Captain.....	\$1,000+
Rear Admiral.....	\$5,000+
Vice Admiral.....	\$10,000+
Admiral.....	\$20,000+
Other.....	\$_____

To enroll in the Plankowner Program, please send your tax deductible donation check to:

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation
328 Seawind Drive
Vallejo, CA 94590

or, if you want to donate using your Visa or MasterCard, call (707) 557-1538

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.

Membership update

James Porter

Currently, NYA membership stands at 591 (just shy of our 2010 goal of 635), while our dental plan membership stands at 295 members. Membership renewals are still trickling in, but we really need to get the word out to our lapsing members to renew now. The reunion last year brought in quite a few new members—proving the profound power of word of mouth! Enclosed with this issue of the newsletter is a membership form in case you know someone who would like to join. Perhaps 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 Gaylon Kephart, who passed away on March 6, 2010.

Welcome back to returning members: David C. Frei (1996; recruited by Linda Frei) and George S. Hausch (2001; recruited by Charlie Johnson).

Remember to let Robin Leong know if you've brought in any new members, so you can get your recruitment award!

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

NOTICE TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

**Patricia Heady
Frank May
James F. Ray, Jr.
LaShaun "Nina" Tyson**

We do **NOT** have your current mailing address; thus, we cannot send important information to you. If you see this notice, please forward your current mailing address to Robin Leong at (707) 643-1287 or via e-mail to robin_leong@netzero.net). Also, if another member who happens to know one of the listed members sees this, please let them know that we can no longer reach them. *Thank you!*

Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

Go "Green" and get your Newsletter via E-Mail!

We've had terrific response from our membership, and I'm thrilled to report that we now have 64 members (including all of your NYA Officers and Directors!) signed up to receive this newsletter via e-mail. This is a double benefit—it saves on printing fees, paper, postage, returned-mail fees, is an easy way to keep past issues, AND it reduces the impact to the environment. Why don't you consider going "green," too? If you're interested, 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 simple 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). We routinely receive at least 5-8 newsletters returned as undeliverable.

Benefits

One of our most popular benefits is FREE notary public service. This service is most graciously provided by NYA Officer and Director Sonya Domingo. Recently, Sonya and her husband made a choice to be greener by reducing their commute and moving closer to where they work, and they now reside in Richmond. To make an appointment for notary service, you can reach Sonya by phone at (510) 260-0429 or via e-mail to K-S-Domingo@sbcglobal.net. Please remember to give Sonya a minimum of 24 hours notice for notary appointments.

I hope to soon be able to offer our members a discount on services from NYA member Bruce Balbin's Smog Shop in Vallejo. In the meantime, Bruce offers fellow members a couple tips that could save you money:

1. Prior to a smog test, warm up your engine first by driving at least 10 miles. Your engine burns cleaner when heated.
2. Try using at least two tanks of Chevron Techron gas before a smog test. Techron gasoline contains additives that clean your engine—enhancing your engine performance and the odds of passing a smog test.

Sadly, the NYA recently lost our connection to obtaining a lifetime retired DOD identification card. However, you may still obtain the DOD Civilian Retiree Card (how to do this was outlined in our December 2009 issue and may be found on our website). Remember, this card is ONLY available to those who retired from a DOD facility. If you retired from another Federal entity (i.e., Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Interior, etc.), you cannot apply for this benefit.

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

Keel-Laying Kin

Laying a keel for more than one ship at a time was not unusual back in those heady days of multiple ship construction. Even so, events that took place on Mare Island on July 19, 1939, were a bit unique.

The sun came up as usual on that Wednesday morning, and Mare Island employees went off to work knowing that it was to be a special day. It was to be the first time that building a large ship and a smaller one would start on the same day. Civilians and high ranking visitors were getting ready to descend on the Island for the 11:30 event on Building Ways #1. Interest in launchings ran high—this was the largest ship to be launched at Mare Island since CALIFORNIA had been launched twenty years before and 2,000 people gathered to witness ceremonies that began with a concert by the Mare Island band.

A bugler sounded "Attention" and an invocation was given by CDR Charles Ellis, yard chaplain. Upon the order of Yard Manager CAPT I. I. Yates, riggers placed a section of the keel of USS FULTON (AS-11) in its proper position on the keel blocks. CDR Joseph McGilligan, Production Officer, inspected it and reported the "keel is well and truly laid." Thus began the huge job—estimated at \$12,000,000—of the big 529' 2", 9,000-ton Tender, FULTON. The excited crowd cheered.

Not only did they cheer, but the official party, guests, and spectators moved over to Building Ways #2 to witness the keel-laying of USS TUNA (SS-203). The Tambor class, 1,475 ton, 307' 2" sub was expected to cost \$6,000,000. At that point, the Mare Island Band played The Star Spangled Banner, and the second ritual was observed with an enlarged audience.

FULTON was named for Robert Fulton, an American inventor, and the keel was laid by seven young apprentices whose riveting efforts were much applauded.

The keel for TUNA, named for the large, vigorous, spiny-finned fish, was welded by Tim Dineen and A. A. Jennings who proved to be first class mechanics whose talents were appropriately recognized.

In order to permit yard personnel to witness the keel laying ceremonies, the commence work whistle was sounded at 1:15 instead of 12:45. It was a much appreciated half hour.

Both ships went on to successful careers, with FULTON gathering several honors earned mostly in the Pacific area. It was decommissioned at New London on September 30, 1991 and later sold for scrap. The big ship outlasted the smaller submarine by 45 years.

TUNA received seven battle stars for World War II service and also participated at Bikini Atoll in 1946 before being decommissioned on September 11, 1946. It was ultimately sunk on September 22, 1948.

FULTON serviced over 150 submarines during its career. Among those nurtured was TUNA, who first snuggled near FULTON at Mare Island on July 19, 1939.

Japanese Group Visits Mare Island

Veronica Laird, Executive Secretary

During the last week of August, a group that is part of the Japan America Grassroots Summit, an annual tour uniting approximating 200 citizens that alternates each year between locations in Japan and the United States, visited the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation's Building 46 Museum, St. Peter's Chapel, and Officers' Mansions, as well as the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, Vallejo City Hall, and the California Maritime Academy.

This year's visit was special in that it marked the 150-year anniversary of the first Japanese naval ship and the first Japanese diplomat arriving on the shores of the U.S., a voyage that ultimately served to open up international relations between the two countries.

Interestingly, Mare Island Naval Shipyard played a small but important part in that voyage. In 1860, the *Kanrin Maru* and *Powhatan* struggled through fierce weather before arriving in the San Francisco Bay. Both ships had suffered damage and traveled to Mare Island for repairs before continuing their respective voyages. Because Mare Island was the only naval shipyard on the West Coast, it was the logical choice for repairs—although historic Dry Dock 1 had not yet been built and the *Kanrin Maru* was repaired in a floating dry dock.

Visitors to the Mare Island Museum in Building 46 remarked on the interesting displays, and took many pictures of the building ways and dry dock areas.

NYA BENEFITS

BENEFITS	COST	WHAT TO DO	COMMENTS
LEGAL SERVICES			
 Notary Public	Free	To make an appointment, contact Sonya Domingo at (510) 260-0429 or send e-mail to k-s-domingo@sbcglobal.net	Please allow 24 hours - 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.