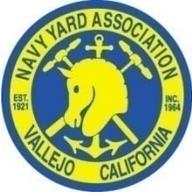


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



President.....Ralph E. McComb, Jr.
Vice President.....Jim Porter
Treasurer.....Lloyd Mahan
Benefits Officer.....Robin Leong
Recording Secretary.....Sonya Domingo
Executive Secretary.....Veronica Laird

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Volume X, Issue 4

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Published Quarterly

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. **Send an e-mail to Veronica Laird at vcullum@hotmail.com (use the subject line "NYA Bulletin Board")**

Shop 64 Breakfast Meeting

Rotating between Vallejo, Suisun, Fairfield, Vacaville, & Napa
Third Friday each month at 9:00am
POC: Jim Davis; (707) 226-1119

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 Center, 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: Dotty Mufich; (707) 226-3642

Mare Island Historic 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 Sardine Can, 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

Nuclear Engineering Luncheon

Locations vary each month
Each Friday at 11:30am
POC: Allen Green; aalgreen@napanet.net

President's Corner

Ralph McComb

Happy Holidays to you and yours. I wish you all of joys of the season.

This year has been a good—but quiet—year for the NYA. We have much for which we are thankful. The *quiet* part for us is that we did not hold any large events this year—just a simple All-Hands meeting during our regular Directors meeting in October. The *good* part for us is that we've kept up our membership numbers (despite the passing of many of our good friends and former coworkers) and several of our past members have returned to get caught up on progress made around the Shipyard.

Also on the good news side is the excellent progress made by past NYA President Dennis Kelly on behalf of the NYA and that of the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation to rescue and bring to Mare Island the vintage 1890's warship, USS OLYMPIA. Sincere thanks to Dennis for being the well-respected champion of this very worthwhile cause. The latest news on OLYMPIA and many of the other goings-on at Mare Island can be found later in the newsletter.

Another bit of good news for us has been the revitalization of our website! The newly-designed site went "live" in early December and has been eagerly awaited by our members. The new site was designed by Sue Laren of Laren Net Works, and content will be updated by Executive Secretary Veronica Laird. Please be sure to check out the new site at the same address (www.mareislandnya.com) and send us your comments. We are always looking for ways to keep our close knit group closer.



Finally, it's always my pleasure to wish all of you and your loved ones the happiest of Holiday Seasons and sparkling New Year. May every one of you have a healthy and blessed 2013.

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

The following are some of the current goings-on around Mare Island:

Allied Defense Recycling (ADR) is now doing business as Mare Island Ship Yard, LLC

The Vallejo Times Herald reported that the former USS WABASH; the 38th obsolete vessel to leave the Suisun Bay, was docked at Mare Island on November 13 for hull cleaning. The WABASH served as a WICHITA-Class Navy replenishment oiler after its 1970 construction in Quincy, Massachusetts, until its decommissioning in 1994. It served during the Vietnam War with 46 supply replenishments to the fleet in 1972 alone. The USS WABASH arrived at Suisun Bay Mothball Fleet in 1997. Upon completion of the hull cleaning work by Mare Island Ship Yard, LLC, the vessel will be towed from Vallejo through the Panama Canal to Esco Marine in Brownsville, Texas, for dismantling. The Times Herald also reported that in November, the Golden Gate Ferry "SAN FRANCISCO" had been dry-docked at Mare Island, along with the World War II era tugboat, USS HOGA. The "SAN FRANCISCO" is the first commercial ferry to undergo work in the dry docks at Mare Island. As reported in the NYA September 2012 newsletter, the HOGA is undergoing repairs necessary to permit the craft to make the journey from Vallejo through the Panama Canal and up the Mississippi River to North Little Rock, Arkansas, to be displayed as a museum.



Navy League Council No. 1 Holds Annual Dinner on Mare Island

On October 14, 2012, the O'Kane Division Sea Cadets were honored at the Mare Island Museum during the annual fundraiser to support the Sea Cadet Program. The namesake of the honored Sea Cadet division is Admiral Richard O'Kane, Medal of Honor recipient and hero of the World War II Submarine Service.

Admiral Richard O'Kane served as the Executive Officer of the USS WAHOO and Commanding Officer of the USS TANG, both submarines that were built at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. The TANG sunk more tonnage during World War II than any other US Submarine. NYA Members attended the dinner to help celebrate this very worthwhile fundraising event.

Mare Island Rail Service will Institute a Transload Commerce Plan

In a recent publication by the Mare Island Rail Service, they presented a plan outlining an exciting opportunity for Vallejo to return shipping to Mare Island that will result in new jobs and new revenues for the community by using many of the assets left by the Navy on Mare Island for reuse by the City.

Specifically, the areas being studied include:

- Maritime Commerce
- Land Commerce Via Rail and Truck
- Cargo Export/Import by Water
- Local Ship Services, Including Repairing, Rebuilding and Upgrading
- Local Manufacturing
- Local Warehousing
- Local Support Services

A key component to bringing the Mare Island Transload Commerce Plan to reality is to improve the Mare Island rail track system. These improvements include addition of a new rail circle track at the north end of the Island, upgrading and

modernizing the existing tracks, and the addition of new rail tracks on the south end of the Island in order to serve the southern deep water piers.

WWII Lost Submariners Honored

On October 13, an annual memorial service was held to honor the crewmen who lost their lives at sea on Mare Island-built submarines. The Mare Island Heritage Trust has hosted this free event for the past six years on or near the anniversary of the sinking on October 11, 1943, of the Mare Island-built submarine, USS WAHOO.

The ceremony commenced with a flag-raising at Morton Field on Mare Island, followed by the casting of a commemorative wreath into the Mare Island straits at Berth 10. The guest speaker for the event was Larry Maggini, former Submarine Combat Systems Engineer at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. The seven Mare Island-built submarines and crews that were honored (lost during WWII) include; USS POMPANO (SS 181), USS SWORDFISH (SS 193), USS GUDGEON (SS 211), USS TRIGGER (SS 237), USS WAHOO (SS 238), USS TUILLIBEE (SS 284), AND USS TANG (SS 306).

Design Division Retirees Hold Annual Holiday Warm-up Luncheon

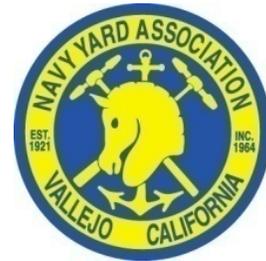
In November, more than 100 former Mare Island Naval Shipyard Design Division employees and guests held their annual luncheon to kick-off the holiday season. For the second year in a row, the event was held at the Mare Island Museum; with co-chairmen Tony Verducci and Jim Holland doing an outstanding job of overseeing the arrangements. Ample amounts of excellent food were provided for the luncheon by former Vallejo City Councilman, Ray Martin's Catering Service.



Welcome to the New and Improved NYA Website!

**Visit us at
www.MareIslandNYA.com**

- ✓ **Find all NYA Newsletters from 2003 forward!**
- ✓ **Downloadable/Printable Membership Forms**
- ✓ **Links to other interesting sites (we'll be updating that regularly!)**
- ✓ **One-click link to the latest information on the USS OLYMPIA project!**



Let us know what you think!

**Send your comments to
Veronica.Laird@gmail.com**

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Bruce Christensen
Dennis Kelly

Inside Machine Shop (Shop 31) Retirees Hold Annual Reunion on Mare Island

In September, a luncheon reunion attended by approximately 85 former Shop 31 employees and guests was held at the Mare Island Museum.

John Chamberlin, former Shop 31 General Foreman, was Master of Ceremonies for the event; and the retiree who traveled the furthest to attend the event was Harry 'Skip' Kister, who made the journey from the State of Washington.

Former NYA President Bruce Christensen was the guest speaker, providing the latest information on the joint effort by the NYA and Mare Island Historic Park Foundation to obtain the historic Navy ship, USS OLYMPIA.

MIHPF Museum Membership now Offered

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) has made a change to the former partnership program. The program is now known as Mare Island Museum Membership. Membership is for one year, renewable annually, and is fully tax deductible.

Attached to the back of this newsletter is an application for memberships at the individual, family, student, and out-of-state levels. Benefits of annual membership are unchanged and include free admission to the Mare Island Museum and to the Museum Library, 10% discount in the Museum gift shop, advance notice via e-mail of new exhibits or events sponsored by the foundation, free newsletter via e-mail, and helping to preserve the history of Mare Island Naval Shipyard.

If you are interested in becoming a Mare Island Museum Member, please complete the attached application and remit to MIHPF;

Attention: Membership, 1100 Railroad Avenue, Vallejo, CA 94592.

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

To donate by VISA or Mastercard,
Call: 707-280-5742

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 707-280-5742 and leave your 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 587, while our dental plan membership stands at 275 members. We're getting closer to our 2011 membership level of 605 members. As you can see in these newsletters, our members are our best recruiters (especially Carmen Merriman, who brings back at least two former members every quarter! Keep up the great work, Carmen!).

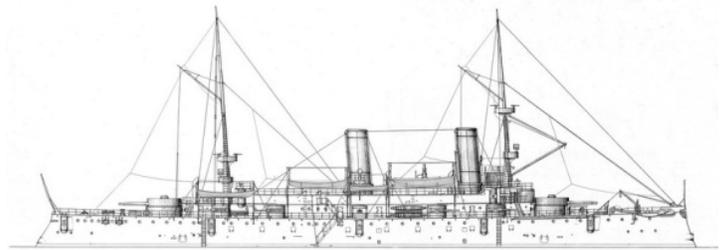
Welcome back to returning members Gordon M. Eaton (from 2000) and Al Lanier (from 2009) recruited by Carmen Merriman and Michael S. Dunn (from 2010).

Welcome new members Veronica Duquette (recruited by Sonya Domingo) and Gary R. Schindler (recruited by Howard Hitt).

We offer our sincere condolences on the loss of former NYA Vice President Don Cummings, who passed away on September 18 at his home in San Rafael with his loving wife of 57 years, Marge, at his side. Don served as the Vice President of the NYA for more than 10 years before his retirement from Mare Island in 1990. Don came to Mare Island Naval Shipyard when Hunters Point Naval Shipyard closed in 1974. In addition to Don's very active participation in the NYA during his years at Mare Island, many will remember him in his official Shipyard capacity as Head of the Training Resources Office, Code 150T.

Don was an active member of SIRS, loved trains, traveled often with his friends in the Rolling Roamers, and enjoyed his annual family camping trip. Wishing you fair winds and following seas, Don.

NOTICE TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS: Richard A. Armijo, Patricia E. Heady, Maryanne Homa, John A. Kamerzell, Timothy King, Frank A. May, William J. Nelson, James F. Ray Jr., and John D. Wilson. We do **NOT** have your correct mailing addresses, thus we cannot send important information to you. **If you see this newsletter (or, if anyone reading this knows one or more of these folks), please forward the current mailing address to Robin Leong via e-mail (preferred) to robin_leong@netzero.net or by phone at (707)**



643-1287.

Bringing Home the USS OLYMPIA (C-6)

Dennis Kelly, OLYMPIA Project Manager

The OLYMPIA project committee continues our work to acquire this great ship. More on that in a minute, but first a little history:

Captain Charles Gridley: On the morning of May 1, 1898, Commodore George Dewey would lean into the brass communication tube on the bridge of USS Olympia to say "You may fire when ready Gridley." With this phrase, the battle of Manila Bay from which the United States would emerge as an imperial world power commenced.

So who was Gridley?



Captain Charles Gridley

He was Charles Gridley and the Captain of the USS OLYMPIA with the Navy rank of Captain. With over 30 years of service, Capt. Gridley had assumed command of the USS OLYMPIA on July 29 the previous year. When Gridley received Commodore Dewey's order, he then ordered that the OLYMPIA open fire. Her forward battery of 8-inch guns was fired immediately—signaling to the rest of the fleet to also commence firing. No American sailor would be killed on that day, whereas the Spanish Fleet would be decimated. By noon that day, Capt. Gridley had led the USS OLYMPIA in one of the greatest naval battles in history and his name had become a household word. Sadly, he would die in little over a month.

It was known that Capt. Gridley was suffering from severe illness prior to the American squadron's departure from Hong Kong for Manila Bay, but he had appealed to Commodore Dewey to be allowed to remain in command for the pending battle. It was a sign of the respect with which Dewey held Gridley that he agreed that Gridley should remain in command.

Unfortunately Gridley's medical condition was deteriorating so rapidly that several weeks after the battle, on May 25th the decision was made to

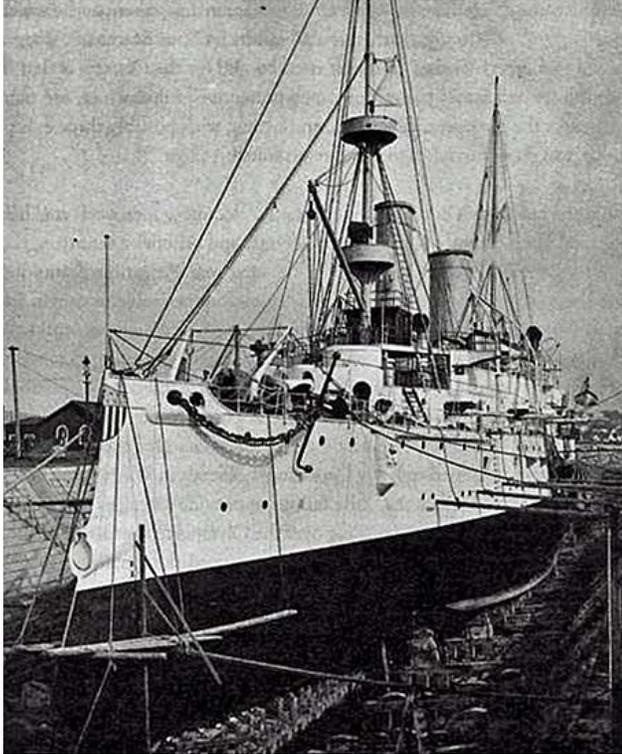
send him home aboard a transport. He would never make it and he died on June 5, 1898, as his ship entered the harbor of Kobe, Japan. When word of his death made it back to the Asiatic Squadron, the news hit like a "Thunderbolt" casting a sad gloom over all of the ships. Today, his remains are guarded by four captured Spanish guns in Erie, Pennsylvania.



Gridley Monument in Erie Pennsylvania

OLYMPIA Acquisition Status: On October 30, 2012, we submitted our "Interim Phase II Report" to the ship's owners. This was a required submission, and we are awaiting input from the owners regarding our report. There are now only two entities that are continuing pursuit of the OLYMPIA: our effort and an effort in South Carolina.

To date, we have demonstrated that the display of the OLYMPIA at Mare Island is **financially viable** (we have two economic feasibility studies supporting this conclusion); the **facilities are available** (we have secured a letter of intent to lease Dry Dock 1 which will allow us to display the ship safely out of water); and, we have established a **significant historical connection** between the USS OLYMPIA, the Asiatic Squadron—of which she was part—and the Bay Area and Mare Island. Therefore, the addition of the ship to the **Mare Island Historic Park Foundation's ongoing operations** is not only viable, but proper.



USS OLYMPIA in Mare Island Dry Dock 1 - 1895

What remains is to raise the \$10 to \$20 million required to capitalize our effort. When we overcome that hurdle, the USS OLYMPIA will be set to pass through the Golden Gate for the first time in 117 years since she last left Mare Island on an August morning in 1895. By displaying this important national asset in the place of her origin in the San Francisco Bay Area, we will be fulfilling the long held goal of the City of Vallejo and the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation to provide for such a ship display in Dry Dock 1.

Interested? If you are interested in assisting with the important task of saving and bringing the OLYMPIA back to Mare Island, please donate to the MIHPF at <http://www.mareislandhpf.org/> and click on “ships,” “OLYMPIA,” or contact Dennis Kelly directly at drkelly107@gmail.com. Write to: 107 Lassen Pl, Petaluma, CA 94954 or call 707-778-0915.

Learn more about our effort at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AD2sAZ4nQrI>

Benefit Officer’s Column

Robin Leong

I hope you all had an enjoyable Halloween and a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Benefits

As is said, ‘tis the season to be giving; but in the hustle and bustle of this holiday season, have you thought much of giving something to yourself and your family? My point—and one of the best benefits the NYA offers—is that the NYA offers a 10% discount with Lawyer Jean Gifford for drawing up a living trust. A living trust can protect your loved ones if anything happens to you. This is just good sense, and I encourage you to “just do it! if you haven’t had one done yet

While attending the National NARFE convention in Sparks, NV, this past August, I learned about a great website to get discounted timeshare reservations. It is the same site used by people who have purchased memberships with Resort Condominiums International (RCI). At first, I thought you needed a retired DOD card in order to use the site, but it turns out all you need is a membership in the National Association for Retired Federal Employees (NARFE). So those of you who belong to NARFE may just go to www.gettravelop.com (even if you don’t have a retired DOD card).

It occurred to me that another valuable gift you can give to yourself and/or your spouse is membership in NARFE. To me, it’s a great way to band together with your fellow former Federal workers to try to protect what you earned through the years of your Federal service. NARFE is a powerful lobbyist for Federal retiree rights and benefits, as well as salaries for current Federal employees. As you would encourage your former Mare Island employees to join NYA, I also encourage you to do the same for NARFE. In fact, I recently gave a gift membership to my daughter who works for the National Park Service. Whenever I go through airport security, I drop off membership forms with the TSA employees. You

don't even have to be retired to be a member of NARFE!

Okay, okay enough preaching to the choir. I've also discovered that those with retired DOD cards can now go online and find out all of the DOD recreational facilities that are available to them. In the past, you had to purchase a book that listed all of the facilities and what they offered. Now, you can browse the list on the internet at <http://www.militaryliving.com/temporary-lodging-sales-page.html>. You can click on the icon of your interest: Military RV Camping, and/or Temporary Lodging. Then, click on the state that you will be visiting and the nearby facilities, and see what they offer—such as cabins (like the ones at Kilauea Military Camp and Barking Sands on Kauai), hotels (like the Hale Koa in Honolulu), RV hookups, golf courses, etc. This is so much easier than using an outdated book.

You can refresh yourself on how to obtain a DOD retiree card by checking out the December 2009 issue of the NYA newsletter on our website at www.mareislandnya.com (click on Newsletters).

We have 96 members signed up to receive this newsletter via e-mail. This is a true 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. If you haven't thought about it before, why don't you consider going "green," too? 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!

Remember to add my e-mail address (robin_leong@netzero.net) to your trusted sender list so that timely e-mail notices and newsletters can reach you. To protect your privacy, I send these notices via blind carbon copy. Unfortunately, some spam-blocker and e-mail settings block those types of messages. So, adding my address to your contact list will ensure speedy delivery to your in-box.

I wish each and every one of you a Very MERRY Christmas and a HAPPY New Year! Enjoy life, as it is so precious.

NYA BENEFITS

BENEFITS	COST	WHAT TO DO	COMMENTS
LEGAL SERVICES			
 Notary Public	Free	To make an appointment, contact Sonya Domingo at (707) 326-5275 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	
 Balbin Smog Shop Test ONLY Center	10% off	Contact the Balbin Smog Shop at (707) 647-1601	Other discounts may be available – call the shop and don't forget to mention that you're an NYA member
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	
 Vacation Villa	NYA Members receive a 25% discount	For details, go to: www.casadosdelfines.com	Villa located in the Cancun/Playa Del Carmen Mexico area

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.