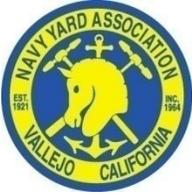


# The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



President.....Ralph E. McComb, Jr.  
Vice President.....Jim Porter  
Treasurer.....Lloyd Mahan  
Benefits Officer.....Robin Leong  
Recording Secretary.....Sonya Domingo  
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## NYA Bulletin Board

If you wish to reach more than 500 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](mailto: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

### Vallejo Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Florence Douglas Senior Center, 333 Amador St., Vallejo  
Second Tuesday of each month at 1:15pm  
POC: Robin Leong; [robin\\_leong@netzero.net](mailto:robin_leong@netzero.net)

### 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

### Delta Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Denny's at Hwy 4/Somerville, Antioch  
First Monday of each month at 12pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Sep)  
POC: Bob Martin, (925) 458-1260

### Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Mare Island Quarters "A" or "B"  
Fourth Monday quarterly (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct) at 10:00am  
POC: Ken Zadwick; (707) 557-1538

### Nuclear Inspectors' Luncheon

The Sardine Can, Vallejo  
First Tuesday of each month at 11:30am  
POC: Lea Zajac; [ldzajac@aol.com](mailto:ldzajac@aol.com)

### 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](mailto:aalgreen@napanet.net)

## President's Corner

Ralph McComb

Welcome to our September newsletter! Despite a long-term drought, a significant earthquake near Napa that did quite a bit of damage, and all the other not-so-pleasant stuff we have to deal with, I hope you had an opportunity to enjoy yourself over the summer months.

Speaking of the recent Napa earthquake, its effects were felt all the way over at Mare Island and shook things up quite a bit, as you'll read about further in Bruce Christensen's column. Joyce Giles, Mare Island Museum Manager, has a complete compilation of earthquake-related articles in Building 46 for those who didn't get a chance to see the local news. Both Joyce Giles and Ken Zadwick, President of the Historic Park Foundation, appeared several times highlighting the damage to buildings for which the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation is responsible.

On another note, this is a reminder that we are not having a reunion this year. Instead, we are saving up for a large event in 2016 to commemorate the 20-year anniversary of the closure of Mare Island Naval Shipyard—an event that forever changed the lives of thousands of families, as well as the local economy. We have some special plans in the works to commemorate this event (hey, it's time for some new t-shirts, too!).

The Navy Yard Association bylaws state that there must be a Board of Directors' meeting that is open to all of our membership annually. Typically, that meeting is held during the regularly-scheduled Directors' meeting October. This year,



due to the Columbus Day holiday, our **“all hands” meeting will be held day on Monday, October 13, 2014, at 5pm in the Mare Island Museum, Building 46.** All members are welcome to attend (and, light refreshments will be served).

***Heard through the grapevine...***

**There is an upcoming Shop 17 get-together that will be held at the Napa Black Bear Restaurant.**

**Does anyone out there have any details on this event (such as when and where)? If so, please contact Robin Leong at [robin\\_leong@netzero.net](mailto:robin_leong@netzero.net), or (707) 643-1287, and we'll happily share that information in our next newsletter (or on our website if the event occurs before December 2014).**

## **Around Mare Island...**

Bruce Christensen

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

### **August Earthquake Damages Historic Mare Island Buildings**

On Sunday, August 24, 2014, at 3:20 a.m., an earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale—with the epicenter between Vallejo and Napa—struck a powerful blow to some of the historic buildings on Mare Island. Essentially, all of the mansions on Walnut Avenue suffered some damage, mainly consisting of brick fireplace chimneys collapsing. Damage also occurred inside several mansions in the form of broken water lines and falling plaster. A ruptured water line at Quarters ‘A’ flooded the ground floor. Once the broken pipe was isolated, the drying-out process—conducted under the direction of Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) President Ken Zadwick required most of the day to complete.

A brick wall at the Mare Island Museum (Building 46) suffered severe damage when bricks became dislodged near the building roof. The Museum and the mansions on Walnut Avenue were all ‘red-tagged’ by the City of Vallejo pending further inspections and evaluations.

The St. Peters Chapel stained glass windows appear to have survived yet another quake, although many of the pipes in the Chapel’s historic pipe organ were knocked out of their holders by the shaker. Volunteers from the MIHPF replaced the pipes and secured them, hopefully avoiding any further damage due to earthquake aftershocks.

Historic Building 118, located on the Mare Island waterfront, also suffered significant structural damage to the brick walls during the earthquake. The building was ‘red-tagged’ by the City of Vallejo, forcing the building’s occupant, Western Dovetail Cabinetmakers, to find a different location. The company has been on Mare Island for more than 10 years and hopes to stay on the former shipyard if suitable accommodations can be found.

### **Mare Island Golf Course Sold**

In May 2014, Konmer Venture, LLC, a Milbrae-based company, purchased the 18-hole Mare Island Golf Course for \$2.1 million. The new owners plan to add a hotel and restaurant to the property and market the facility for conventions, weddings, and social events.

The multi-million dollar project is expected to take several years to complete, but when finished, the facility is envisioned to be a stopping-off point for tourists from San Francisco on their way to the wine country. Access to this new tourist attraction will be supported in part by the new Mare Island Ferry stop currently under construction near Building Ways No. 1.

### **Former Mare Island Supervisor and Community Leader Passes**

On June 12, an outstanding citizen of Vallejo, Philmore Graham, passed away at the age

of 75. Philmore founded the Continentals of Omega Boys (and later Girls) Club in 1966, holding meetings in the garage of his home.

I knew Philmore personally for more than 20 years when we worked together in the Nuclear Engineering Department, as well as after the Shipyard closed. Many times at work, I recall Philmore saying that he needed to leave work immediately to “help one of his kids.” He wasn’t referring to his own children, but to the many youths in the community for whom he felt responsibility for their wellbeing.

Most who knew Philmore will agree that a person with his ability to inspire young people and make a difference in their lives only comes along once in a lifetime.

### **Bio-Science Research Making Inroads on Mare Island**

In July 2014, the Vallejo Times-Herald reported that Congressman Mike Thompson announced the awarding of a small business research grant of \$222,179 to Riptide Bio-Science, Inc., a new business on Mare Island. The National Eye Institute grant will go toward research for the treatment of Bacterial Keratitis.

Riptide Bio-Science shares a building located at 941 Railroad Avenue with MuriGenics, Inc., a bio-science company that relocated to Mare Island from Berkeley in 2009. Congressman Thompson’s office believes that the ongoing bioscience research taking place is a good start in the development of a bioscience industry cluster at Mare Island.

### **Mare Island Brewing Company Stages a Sneak Peak Opening**

On July 23, 2014, the Mare Island Brewing Company hosted a “soft” opening at their new tap-room located at the Ferry Building in Vallejo. Invited to the event were members of the Vallejo City Council, Lennar Mare Island (LMI) LLC, City of Vallejo Staff, Vallejo Visitor’s Bureau, Chamber

of Commerce, and Mare Island Museum Staff, along with others who were integral in getting the business started. Owners Ryan Gibbons and Kent Fortner held a “Happy Hour” and welcomed guests to sample their beers, which included Saginaw Golden Ale, and Coal Shed Stout. Stop by and try a glass of this local beer soon.

### **Demolition of Badge and Pass Building to be Expedited**

In June 2014, there was yet another fire started in Building 513, the former Badge and Pass Office located at the foot of Tennessee Street near the entrance to the Mare Island (Wichel’s) Causeway. After multiple building fires and many complaints about health and safety issues from surrounding neighbors, in July 2014, the Vallejo Times-Herald reported that the City of Vallejo had red-tagged the building for expedited demolition.

A contract not to exceed \$1.5 million will be negotiated with one of the contractors previously involved in demolishing buildings at the north end of Mare Island, and the City expects to have the building razed by the end of this year.

### **HUD Loan Being Sought to Demolish Eyesore Buildings**

In July 2014, the Vallejo Times-Herald reported that the Vallejo City Council approved a request for \$4.7 million of federal loan guarantees for demolishing derelict buildings on North Mare Island. An application will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requesting the loan guarantee. The funds, which could be available by 2015, will allow the demolition of approximately 30 unusable buildings located on the north end of Mare Island. This will hopefully clear the way for redevelopment in the area.

### **More Buildings at the North End of Mare Island Destroyed by Fire**

In August 2014, the Vallejo Times-Herald reported that the old commissary located between Walnut Avenue and Azuar Drive (formerly Cedar

Avenue) had burned down. This was the third fire at Mare Island's north end in as many weeks.

Just two weeks earlier, a building in the 400 block of Azuar Drive was destroyed by fire. For those familiar with the north end of Mare Island, this building (number 769) was one of three WWII wooden Navy barracks, numbered 769, 771, and 773 that stood in a row along Cedar Avenue. These recently burned buildings, i.e., the commissary and the barracks, were significantly consumed by the blazes when fire units arrived on the scene; therefore, to conserve water, the Fire Department took a defensive stance and made the decision to conserve water and allow the buildings to burn themselves out.

In the past, Buildings 769, 771, and 773 had been used by the fire department for training. Because squatters often camped in each of these buildings in recent years, it is suspected that they may have started the fires, although no injuries were reported as a result of the fires.

By the end of August, the City of Vallejo arranged to have the remaining two wooden barracks (Buildings 771 and 773) demolished—probably before they too were burned down—so after the August fires and demolitions, there are four less eyesores cluttering the landscape at the north end of Mare Island.

## **Mare Island Historic Park Foundation**

Bruce Christensen  
Dennis Kelly

### **City of Vallejo Approves New Location of USS VALLEJO Sail**

The Vallejo Times-Herald reported that on July 17, the Architectural Heritage and Landmarks Commission voted unanimously to authorize relocation of the sail of the nuclear submarine, ex-USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO, from its present location in Shipbuilding Ways 2 to in front (west

side) of the Mare Island Museum (Building 46) at 1100 Railroad Avenue.

For the past several years, John Chamberlin (Former Inside Machinist-Shop 31) and Bill Linne (Former USS VALLEJO crew member) have been the key individuals, along with other volunteers from the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation, in obtaining approval from the City to relocate the sail. Although more than \$20,000 has already been raised toward the effort to relocate the sail, a significant amount of funding is still required to complete the move.

To learn more about the project, go to [www.mareislandmuseum.org](http://www.mareislandmuseum.org) and click on “Save Our Sail.”

### **Mare Island Museum in the News**

In March 2014, both the Vallejo Times-Herald and the Contra Costa Times newspapers featured articles with photos about recent displays and activities inside the Mare Island Museum.

**On March 20**, a unique model of the USS ALBACORE (AGSS-569) was donated to the museum by Steve Cuff, who was employed as the Ship Superintendent during the construction of the Navy's ALBACORE at Portsmouth (New Hampshire) Naval Shipyard in 1954. The hull design of the ALBACORE was the design from which all of the Navy's modern, nuclear-powered submarines evolved—including many of the nuclear submarines constructed at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in the 1950s and 1960s.

**Later in March**, a news article was published describing the efforts of Vietnam veteran Bob Smith and his crew of volunteers at the Mare Island Museum in restoring a Vietnam-era Special Boat Unit 11 PBR (Patrol Boat, River). The PBR currently on display at the Mare Island Museum sat at the north end of Mare Island for nearly two decades before being rescued by Bob and his volunteer crew. After serving aboard a PBR in Vietnam, Bob worked at Mare Island Naval Shipyard as a Machinist and Planner and Estimator.

**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

Current membership stands at 518. Our dental plan membership is holding steady at 240 members.

Remember, membership in the NYA is required to enroll in the dental plan; however, you don’t have to give up your NYA membership if you no longer need the dental plan. All you need to do to stay connected with the NYA is pay your membership renewal fee of \$15.

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Tom Demgen, who passed away on July 8, 2014.

Thanks to those of you who’ve asked us to send their NYA newsletter by e-mail! Now that we are paying first class postage on newsletters, we encourage everyone to have their newsletter sent by e-mail. (A side benefit is that the e-mail version of the newsletter is in color!) If all our members with e-mail addresses opted to receive their newsletters by e-mail, we’d only have to mail 178 newsletters (our mailing crew sure would appreciate that!). Also, if we have your e-mail address, Robin Leong can send you important, timely updates (the type of things that occur in between newsletters). Remember that we do not share our e-mail list with anyone.

## Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

Major kudos go to Recording Secretary Sonya Domingo for organizing the large group of members and friends for the July 20 Oakland A's baseball game. The responses from you were stupendous! This year, there were 91 members and friends attending, and everyone had a fabulous time (the A's won, of course!). The first 60 participants from our group received a Josh Donaldson jersey, and everyone had terrific seats in the lower level on the first base line. This is the second year we've organized a group event at an A's game, and it's turning out to be very popular. Why don't you consider joining us next year?

### Benefits

Our dental plan brochures will soon be posted on our website. However, you can always contact me or the dental plan administrators for more information.

Here is the contact information for our dental plan administrators, Integrity Administrators, Inc.:

Integrity Administrators, Inc.  
1787 Tribute Road, Suite E  
P.O. Box 13128  
Sacramento CA 95813-3128

Phone: 916-921-3388 or 800-562-9383  
Fax: 916-921-3383

E-Mail: [brentjones@integrityadmin.com](mailto:brentjones@integrityadmin.com)  
OR  
[kfranklin@integrityadmin.com](mailto:kfranklin@integrityadmin.com)

### DOD Retiree Identification Card

Recently, my retired DOD identification card was stolen, so I had to replace it. As with life, there were many changes to the process.

First, I recommend scheduling an appointment online at <http://www.travisfss.com/id-card-appointment/> or phone (707) 424-5604 or 424-8468. For this scheduled appointment, go to 540 Airlift Dr. Building 381 at Travis AFB. If you schedule an appointment using the <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil> site or by calling (707) 424-2345, you need to go to Travis AFB DEERS at 531 Waldron St, Bay G (Building 239). The main point here is to write down where you should go to get your DOD card when you make the reservation. Then, tell the badge and pass person where you need to go. Otherwise he might do as he did for me and direct you to the wrong place.

I went to Travis AFB, but there are other places in the San Francisco Bay Area you can obtain the retired DOD identification card. You can go to the US Coast Guard station in Alameda. Just Google "USCG Alameda," then click on "Personnel Support." Then, click on "ID cards." You'll be taken to the following site: <http://www.uscg.mil/baseAlameda/PSD/IDs.asp>

The PSD Customer Service Center is chartered with issuing ID cards. The location is: Coast Guard Island, Building 21, 2nd Floor (for elevator access use Campbell Blvd entrance). The main customer service center phone line is: (510) 437-3829. Also, you can make an appointment online at: <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil/> (note: this is the same website used for making appointments at Travis AFB).

Remember to bring two (unexpired) forms of ID to receive a new DOD retired ID card. One must be a state/government-issued photo ID. Please visit <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-9.pdf> for a complete list of acceptable forms. For first time retired DOD ID applicants you need your Standard Form 50 showing that you retired from a DOD entity.

## Internship Opportunity

The Glacier Society, one of the world's best-known organizations for maritime education and discovery, is establishing a fleet and presence in the Ft. Lauderdale area.

We are seeking two individuals to join our team. This is a golden opportunity for anyone who loves the water and wants a career in non-profit development.

Responsibilities will include:

- Interacting regularly and strengthening relationships with naval officers and individuals; corporations; community groups, and schools
- Scheduling and hosting events & trips
- Raising money and other outreach efforts
- Marketing: updating the website; writing and sending emails, database management, etc.

The qualified candidates must have an upbeat personality, proactive attitude, and excellent office communication skills.

Location:

Glacier Society offices in Coral Springs

Commitment:

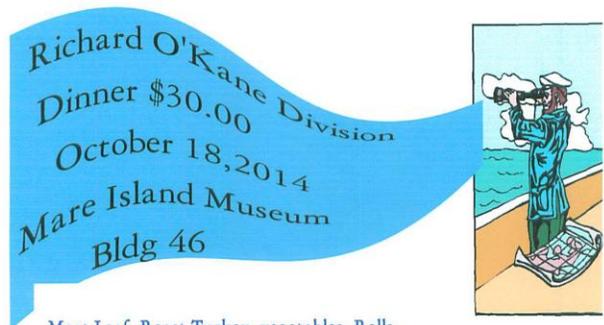
15-20 hours/week

Compensation:

School credit and experience. After completing the apprenticeship, there is a strong possibility of a paid position, but interns may not earn both school credit and money at the same time (no double dipping).

\*\*\*\*\*If interested, please submit your resume and cover letter at [GLACIERSOCIETY.ORG/INTERNSHIP](http://GLACIERSOCIETY.ORG/INTERNSHIP). No calls or personal visits, please\*\*\*\*\*

## SEA CADETS FUND-RAISER



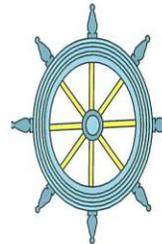
Meat Loaf, Roast Turkey, vegetables, Rolls,

Dessert, Coffee, Water, Apple Cider

Pasta Antipasto Salad

Hors d'oeuvres 4:00 PM Dinner: 5:00 PM

Golden Bear



SPONSOR A SEA CADET

Reservations: 707-642-4925

Checks payable to:

Navy League Council #1

P.O. Box 3370

Attn: John Hoffmann

Vallejo Ca. 94590

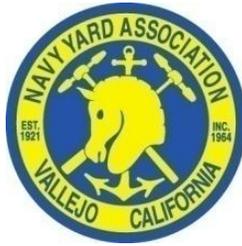


Catering by Ray Martin

### "Restore the Logo" Campaign Updates

Tom Watson provides the following updates on the efforts to restore the Mare's Head logo sign on the Wichels Causeway bridge (at the main entrance to Mare Island):

- The campaign kicked off on March 17, 2014.
- Recently, Tom Watson represented the MIHPF as one of four recipients of the Straits of Mare Island Rowing Association's 14th Annual Benefit Row, where the non-profit group presented a donation that more than matches the current amount raised! The presentation took place at the Vallejo Boats Work.
- The Straits of Mare Island Rowing Association (<http://www.somira.org/>) uses the Mare Island logo for their rowing club.



## NYA BENEFITS

BENEFITS	COST	WHAT TO DO	COMMENTS
<b>LEGAL SERVICES</b>			
 <b>Notary Public</b>	Free	To make an appointment, contact Sonya Domingo at (707) 326-5275 or send e-mail to <a href="mailto:k-s-domingo@sbcglobal.net">k-s-domingo@sbcglobal.net</a>	Please allow 24 hours - you will be contacted to set up an appointment
 <b>Living Trust</b>	10% off the prices posted on the website, at: <a href="http://www.giffordlaw.com">www.giffordlaw.com</a>	To make an appointment, contact Jean Gifford at (707) 453-1647 or (530) 759-9659	
<b>RETAIL/SERVICE DISCOUNTS</b>			
 <b>Kelly Moore Paint and Wallpaper</b>	25% off	To obtain the discount card, contact Robin Leong at (707) 643-1287	
 <b>Balbin Smog Shop Test ONLY Center</b>	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
<b>Handy Consumer Tips Emergent Benefits Job Announcements/Reunions</b>	No cost	Send your e-mail address to Robin Leong at <a href="mailto:robin_leong@netzero.net">robin_leong@netzero.net</a>	
<b>TRAVEL DISCOUNTS</b>			
 <b>Ambassador Travel</b>	Heavily discounted tours and cruises	Please contact Robin Leong at (707) 643-1287	

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](mailto:Robin_Leong@netzero.net).