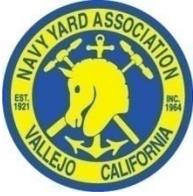


# The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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Volume XIII, Issue 1

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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

## 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)

## Shop 51 Annual Luncheon

Building 46 Museum  
Friday, September 18, 2015 at 12:00noon  
POC: Richard Karr (more information coming soon)

## Shop 31 Annual Luncheon

BLDG 46 Museum  
Sat., Sept. 26, 2015 @ 1130am  
POC: Sam Shultz, John Chamberlin, [chament@att.net](mailto:chament@att.net)

## President's Corner

Ralph McComb

This quarter's newsletter has a lot of interesting news!

First, there's an article from NYA Past-President Dennis Kelly, who is currently spearheading an effort on behalf of the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation to have the buildings and artifacts maintained by the Foundation added to the National Park System. Dennis is working very hard to make this initiative a reality, preserving the best of Mare Island.

Also included in this issue, by Bruce Christensen, are many of the other activities going on around Mare Island. Bruce does a terrific job of keeping us informed about the day-to-day news on Mare Island.

Something of special interest is included for those of you who sent in your names to win movie passes or a ticket to our group event to an A's game in August: Benefits Officer Robin Leong's column includes the names of the winners! On May 26, Robin, Recording Secretary Sonya Domingo, and her daughter (and straight-A-student!), Isabella conducted the drawing of winners' names, which was recorded on video. Congratulations to all the winners! You can see the live drawing and announcement of winners on our website.

On a more serious note, **we had to change the date of our Annual All Hands to October 10**, due to a minor scheduling error on my part. I hope that doesn't mess up your plans, and **we look forward to seeing you on Saturday, October 10.**



If you already sent in your slip telling us you'd be there on October 3 (and, you still plan to attend on October 10), you don't have to do anything.

As a reminder, this year's All Hands meeting won't include anything formal; we merely want to make sure we have enough food for everyone, which is why we need your RSVP.

Don't forget! If you want to join us for the A's game in August, we need your head count and your money. **We've extended the deadline to pay for your tickets until July 15.** Tickets are \$30 each and include a replica jersey. Tickets are selling fast and are first-come, first-served, so make sure to reserve yours today.

I wish all of you a wonderful summer!

## **Congratulations to Our Own Robin Leong!**

At the Point Blue Conservation Science's Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 17, 2015, at Chileno Valley Ranch in West Petaluma, our own Benefits Director, Robin Leong, was awarded Point Blue's Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award.

Robin has been active in birding and conservation for more than 30 years. His passion has taken him all over the world, and he is very respected for his many contributions to conservations organizations. We are lucky to have Robin as part of the NYA Officers and Board of Directors. Well done, Robin!

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

Bruce Christensen

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

## **Navy Vessel Departs from Mare Island**

The United States Navy Ship (USNS) Montford Point arrived at Mare Island in early January for a two-month availability. It completed repairs and departed on April 25, several weeks beyond its scheduled completion date. The ship is a Military Sealift Command Mobile Landing Platform and during its stay, the 765-foot-long vessel held a prominent place on the Mare Island Strait waterfront. The repair work was performed by the Mare Island Dry Dock Company.

## **Vallejo Post Office Named For Former Mare Island Employee**

The Vallejo Times Herald reported that on March 14, 2015, the U.S. Post Office located at 100 Admiral Callaghan Lane was officially named for Philmore Graham, a former Mare Island Nuclear Engineer. The naming was the result of a crusade by Congressman Mike Thompson, and the dedication ceremony at the post office was attended by Thompson, Mayor Osby Davis, and Omega Boys and Girls Club Executive Director, Rey Amador, along with about 150 family members and friends. Philmore Graham founded the Omega Boys Club in the 1960s and continued working with the club's boys and girls for nearly 50 years. He passed away on June 12, 2014, at the age of 75.

## **Mare Island Building 755 is now a Pile of Rubble**

In late March, demolition of the former Navy Nuclear Power School located at the northern-most end of Mare Island began. Since the shipyard closed in 1996, the building had become a major eyesore for traffic passing on Highway 37. Because of the potential for hazardous materials being encountered, those working on the building dismantling were required to wear protective clothing, which made for extremely slow progress in tearing down the building. By the end of May, only steel rebar and chunks of concrete remained in the building foot-print.

Building 755 became the Shipyard Training Center when the Nuclear Power School departed in the 1970s and, after Mare Island Naval Shipyard was placed on the base-closure list, the building became the Priority Placement Center to assist with the outplacement of Mare Island employees.

### **Mare Island Walking Tour Map**

In March, the Vallejo Times Herald reported the completion of a walking tour map of Mare Island. The map, titled “*History Speaks: A tour of some of the many architectural gems on Mare Island*” documents more than 20 different historic areas and buildings on the former naval base and was created by local citizens Debbie Lamb, Pearl Tranter, and Brendan Riley. Copies of the map can be obtained at the Mare Island Museum (Building 46) located at 1100 Railroad Avenue on Mare Island and also at the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum and the Vallejo Ferry Building.

### **Former Mare Island Employee to Exhibit “Yardbird” Paintings**

In April, the Vallejo Times Herald reported that former Mare Island Shop 72 Rigger, Stan Golovich, will be displaying some of his reflections of ‘life at the shipyard’ on canvas. The artwork is on exhibit at the Umpqua Bank located at 976 Admiral Callaghan Lane in Vallejo from May 4 through June 26. In addition to showing Mare Island “yardbirds,” many of the renderings contain historic Mare Island landmarks.

### **Mother’s Day Visitors Welcomed to Mare Island Coal Sheds**

The Coal Shed Studios, located on the Mare Island Waterfront, were the scene of a Mother’s Day weekend open house. The event featured artwork displayed by local artists, and those who attended were also treated to an array of food and wine.

This was the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mother’s Day Open-Studio weekend event at the Coal Sheds, so

mark your calendar and make plans to attend the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual on Mother’s Day 2016. To learn more, visit: [www.coalshedstudios.com](http://www.coalshedstudios.com)

### **Mare Island Causeway Repairs Required**

On May 7, the Vallejo Times Herald reported that the structure of the causeway bridge has severely deteriorated over time, and the City of Vallejo has provided temporary shoring. However, the western approach to the bridge has been deemed structurally deficient by state inspectors, requiring replacement to maintain its integrity, including seismic vulnerability and public safety. The City of Vallejo has approved \$1.9 million for repairs to the west-end approach to the bridge. Repairs to the bridge, which was built in 1934, will start in June, but no date for completion of the work has been given. It is estimated that the entire project will cost around \$3.5 million with the bulk of the cost coming from the California Department of Transportation.

Traffic Flow: During the repairs, ***one-way west-bound traffic*** entering from the east end via the Tennessee Street Gate will be allowed to cross the bridge. ***No east-bound traffic*** will be allowed on the bridge. ***All vehicles exiting from Mare Island will go through the North Gate*** while structural repairs are being performed on the west end of the bridge.

### **Naval Station Treasure Island History**

Prior to the construction of Treasure Island (via dredging), the natural Yerba Buena Island was used by the U.S. Military beginning in 1866 for defensive fortification. The Navy began conducting training on Yerba Buena Island in 1898. Treasure Island was constructed on the shoals of Yerba Buena Island in 1936 and 1937 using sand and silt from the San Francisco Bay and was the site of the Golden Gate International Exposition in 1939 and 1940. Prior to World War II, the Navy obtained Treasure Island and it became a major naval personnel processing center. The base continued to provide training, administrative support and

housing to the U.S. Pacific Fleet until it was closed in 1997.

Since closure, the 403 acre Treasure Island has undergone studies, investigations and clean-up. Currently, more than 1,800 people live on Treasure Island.

## **NYA Director Attends Congressman Thompson Gala**



On Sunday, May 24, more than a 1,000 people showed up for a celebration of Congressman Mike Thompson's 25 years of public service, held at

an upscale winery in Napa. Also present at the event was Benefit Officer and Director Robin Leong. Robin participated in the event on behalf of both the Navy Yard Association and the National Associate of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE).

While at the celebration, Robin took the opportunity to talk with Congressman Thompson and urge his strong support for the initiative gaining momentum to achieve National Park status for Mare Island. He also thanked the Congressman for his support of NARFE (which benefits all retired Federal employees).

## **Mare Island Historic Park Foundation**

Dennis Kelly

### **Campaign to Add Mare Island to National Park System Moves Forward**

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation, the nonprofit organization responsible for the historic buildings and artifacts at the former U.S. Navy shipyard, is moving forward with an

aggressive campaign to add the site to the National Park System. National Park status would preserve the area, which represents nearly 150 years of United States history, for future generations.

For nearly 20 years the volunteer foundation has worked diligently to tell Mare Island's story. Established in 1854 by the iconic Admiral David Farragut, the shipyard played a critical role in United States history, from the development of the West Coast to the defense of the United States in times of great national crisis.

"The time has come for this important historic site to take its rightful place in our history," said President Kenneth Zadwick. "The National Park System is a stellar organization that does an outstanding job educating public about the importance of historic sites as well as preserving and protecting buildings and artifacts. A site as rich with history as Mare Island deserves a permanent place in our national heritage."

The all-volunteer organization recently completed an in-depth review of a study conducted by the National Park System in 2011. The study authenticates the historic importance of the shipyard and urges wide-spread community support to move the effort forward.

To that end, the foundation has kicked off a letter writing campaign to key stakeholders soliciting their support. Letters seeking endorsements from local, regional and national community organizations, as well as elected officials, are in the mail.

Public support also is critical to the success of the effort. "Widespread community support is very important," said Dennis Kelly, volunteer project manager of the initiative. "We know that there are many former shipyard workers and family and friends of shipyard workers still in the region, as well community organizations and civic groups who understand the importance of Mare Island. We are asking them to step up and express their support by sending an email or a letter to the foundation." The emails and letters will be used to

demonstrate broad-based community support for the initiative and will play a key role in building legislative support.

Emails can be sent to [mareislandhistoricpark@gmail.com](mailto:mareislandhistoricpark@gmail.com). Letters should be addressed to: Mare Island Historic Park Foundation, Dennis Kelly, Project Manager, National Park Initiative, 1100 Railroad Avenue, Vallejo, CA 94592.

To learn more about Mare Island and its place in America's history, visit the Mare Island Museum ([www.mareislandmuseum.com](http://www.mareislandmuseum.com)). The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third full weekends of the month.

*About the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation: The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation is a volunteer, nonprofit organization established in 1995 to preserve and present to the public the history of the West's first naval base and shipyard. The Foundation cares for four buildings in National Historic Landmark District: St. Peter's Chapel: built in 1901 and renowned for its Tiffany stained glass windows; Quarters A and Quarters B, two of 13 colonial revival mansions built to house Navy officers and their families; and Building 46, built in 1855 and the home of the Mare Island Museum. [www.mareislandmuseum.org](http://www.mareislandmuseum.org)*

*Like us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/MareIslandMuseum](http://www.facebook.com/MareIslandMuseum), follow us on twitter @MareMuseum.*

## Membership update

James Porter

Current membership stands at 466, of which 227 are dental plan members.

Welcome new members Dan S. Patrick and David M. Patrick (recruited by John Patrick). Welcome back to Donald DeSoto (member from 2008, recruited by Mark DeSoto).

Thanks very much to Ron and Patricia Brosio, James Carpenter, and Richard Hoffmann for their donations to the NYA. We appreciate your support!

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Wallace Walter Mattie; Richard Fockler; Viktor Beuhler; and Allan "Peppy" Fortes;

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!) Not only does it reduce our environmental footprint and save money, receiving the newsletter electronically allows you to easily search and retrieve information. I think we call that a win-win-win-win situation!

### REMINDER:

In case you have not yet renewed your membership for 2015, here are the MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INSTRUCTIONS

If your newsletter includes a card strip with your contact information noted on the left-hand side, here's what you need to do:

1. Review the data on the card.
2. Mark any changes or corrections directly on the card.
3. Cut the card on the dotted line, and keep your membership card.
4. Return the contact information portion of the card strip, along with your \$15 membership dues, in the self-addressed envelope provided.

If your newsletter contains your membership card ONLY, your dues are collected electronically.

## Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

### And the WINNAH is!

As your Benefits Officer it gives me **great** pleasure to announce the winners of our drawings held on May 26, 2015.

Here are the winners of a free ticket to the August 23 A's vs Rays baseball game: Nestor Aliga, Gary Ballard, Keith Domingo, John Dunn, Darrell Harrington, John Hoffmann, Phyllis Honodel, Jerry Laird, Norm Owens, and Larry Ramey.

For those that could not make the baseball game or are out of the area, we offered another opportunity to win something of equal value. The winners of two free Cinemark movie passes are: Deborah Bonderow, Debra LaPalm, Donald Nelson, John Patrick, James Porter, George Pitta, Jim Thornton, Gordon Triemert, Tom Watson, and Lea Zajac.

Congratulations to those who read our March 2015 newsletter, sent in their chits, and won! By the way, I want you to know that the drawings were done completely on the up-and-up. You can watch the live recording of the drawings on our website ([www.mareislandnya.com](http://www.mareislandnya.com)).

There's another chance to be a winner. We are holding our Annual All Hands meeting and open house on Saturday, October 10, 2015. So far, we have 147 members and guests signed up. The sign-up slip is included in this newsletter, and you can either mail that in to the NYA PO Box, or save yourself some postage and send your RSVP (and guest names(s)) to me via e-mail ([robin\\_leong@netzero.net](mailto:robin_leong@netzero.net)). Make sure to include all attendees' names, so I can make sure there's a proper name tag ready for everyone.

As a reminder, one of our most popular benefits is FREE notary public service. This service is most graciously provided by NYA Officer and Director Sonya Domingo. To make an appointment for notary service, you can reach

Sonya by phone at (707) 326-5275 or via e-mail to [K-S-Domingo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:K-S-Domingo@sbcglobal.net). Please remember to give Sonya a minimum of 24 hours' notice for notary appointments.

Several members have asked me to send them the information on getting a retired DOD identification card, so I've included that information again in this column, although you can always find this information in previous issues on our website.

### DOD Retiree Identification Card

When my DOD retiree identification card was stolen some time ago, I discovered there are changes to the process of obtaining the card. Hopefully, sharing my experience will save **you** some time

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.

Just a reminder that if you get a DOD retired Identification Card you can stay at the Hawaii (Big Island) Kilauea Military Camp with in the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park <http://www.kmc-volcano.com/> or at the Hale Koa Hotel on Oahu in Waikiki at a discounted rate. Having stayed there, I've been getting their e-newsletters <https://app.e2ma.net/app/view:CampaignPublic/id:1401009.12761753232/rid:9abca30a6c32f7ac7b9b0558ca93629f>

There are many other DOD facilities that you can use with this identification card. The military bases are realizing that retirees can provide a new revenue stream. Golf courses, bowling alleys, RV campsites, cabins and cottages are great to use when traveling around the continental USA. Use the Internet and go to <http://www.militaryliving.com/temporary-lodging-sales-page.html>

You can use those unused timeshares starting at \$349 (when reserving on the Internet) a week per unit (a unit can sleep 4 to 10) showed on <https://www.gettravelop.com/>. No Internet? No problem, call 1-(877) 867-3639 or (317) 805-9975 This usually does not work if you don't have flexible travel plans because condos to be rented eight months in advance are usually not available. But if you want to golf at Hilton Head, or

somewhere else around the world a month from now, that is when you might find them available.

Navy Yard Association  
Annual Open House  
October 10, 2015

Yes! \_\_\_\_\_ will  
attend and bring \_\_\_\_\_ guests!

Guest(s) Names:

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(Tear off and mail to the NYA address on page 1 *OR* save yourself the postage, and send your RSVP and the name(s) of any guest(s) via e-mail to [robin\\_leong@netzero.net](mailto:robin_leong@netzero.net))

California Tooling and Machining Apprenticeship Association, is sharing information about a distinctive opportunity

**Dan Sunia, Apprenticeship Program Coordinator, tells the NYA that the machinist apprenticeship program is holding a Manufacturing Summer Job Camp this summer.**

**If you know of anyone who is interested in the machinist or engineering career fields who have not had an opportunity to experience creating parts in a modern CNC machine shop, this is a very unique opportunity.**

**The program is designed for those who would like some Machine Shop experience. This program sets them up for an entry level position and possibly a California and U.S. Department of Labor Certified 4 yr. Machinist, CNC Machinist, Mold Maker, Tool & Die Maker, Maintenance Machinist, or 2 yr. CNC Technician Apprenticeship in the San Francisco Bay Area.**

**For more details, check out his website: [www.calmachinist.com](http://www.calmachinist.com). Also, flyers will be available at the Mare Island Museum.**

## Join the Navy Yard Association for a Day at the Ballpark

Oakland A's vs. Tampa Bay Rays

Sunday, August 23, 2015  
at 1:05pm  
O.co Stadium

Tickets are \$30 each for a seat on the Field Level in Section 106

With each paid ticket, you will receive an A's Replica Batting Practice Pullover!

Tickets are "first come, first served"

Purchase your tickets by no later than July 15, 2015

To purchase tickets, please contact Sonya Domingo at (707) 326-5275 or [k-s-domingo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k-s-domingo@sbcglobal.net)