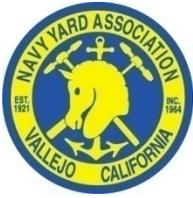


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 849, Vallejo, CA 94590-0084
 Street Address: Bldg. 535, Mare Island, Vallejo, CA 94592
 Voice Mail and Fax: (707) 562-1812
 Website Address: www.mareislandnya.com

Volume XIII, Issue 2

September 2015

Published Quarterly

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 (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

Napa Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St., Napa
 Last Wednesday of each month at 12:30pm
 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

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

Shop 51 Annual Luncheon

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

President's Corner

Ralph McComb

Welcome to our September 2015 edition. As always, I hope you find it a fun, informative read.

My only—and most important—job in this edition is to remind everyone of our open house, to be held **October 10th** at the Mare Island Museum, Building 46, from **Noon until 2pm**. It's free to all members and your guests; and we will be serving a light food menu—but no program or drawings this year. All we ask is that you let us know you plan to come in time for us to make sure we have enough food and drinks for everyone. Please RSVP by the end of September. In your March newsletter (and this issue, too!), there is a tear-off strip that says "Yes, (write in your name) will attend and bring (?) guests." Simply fill out the two blanks and include that strip of paper in the self-addressed envelope when you send in your dues. We already have **over 200** signed up and hope everyone who wants to come has the chance.

Okay, now that I've done my one job for this issue, I'd like to share some news about a couple members of our esteemed NYA Board of Directors:

First, thanks to Veronica Laird, for continuing to churn out a great newsletter every quarter, despite her hectic workload as the secretary to the NASA Ames Research Center in Silicon Valley. In May, she celebrated 30 years of Federal service!

Next, sincere congratulations to Sonya Domingo, who retires from Federal service in September—after 29 years—and joins the private sector in October. As you all know every time you enjoy yourself at one of our reunions, Sonya has some pretty impressive skills. After honing her abilities in the world of patent application regulations, she is leaving the USDA’s Agricultural Research Service to join a law firm in Sacramento. So, I want to acknowledge Sonya for all her hard work, first at Mare Island, then with Air Force Recruiting, and the Department of Agriculture; and I wish her every success in her future as she heads out onto the corporate world. The government’s loss is certainly the private sector’s gain. Way to go, Sonya!

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

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

Reserve Fleet Vessels Arrive/Depart from Mare Island

The USNS METEOR arrived the last week of July 2015 at Mare Island and was dry docked in Dry Dock #2. METEOR was built in 1965 by the Lockheed Shipbuilding and Construction Company in Seattle, WA, and was originally named the SEA LIFT (T-LSV-9). Manned by a civil service crew, SEA LIFT completed runs to the Far East with cargo consigned to Vietnam. It was renamed the METEOR (T-AKR-9) in 1975.



USNS METEOR

The USNS COMET arrived at Mare Island Berth 12 on August 5, 2015.

COMET was built in 1957 by the Sun Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company of Chester, PA. Crews of the COMET called it “the mother of all Roll-on/Roll-offs.” The Navy designation was originally T-AK-269, then T-LSV-7, and finally T-AKR-7. It was equipped with a stern-loading ramp and four side-loading ports that allowed vehicles to drive aboard. It worked on the circuit that linked Okinawa, Vietnam and Thailand. It was activated for Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and finally for the invasion of Iraq.



USNS COMET

Alco Iron and Metal Company Building Destroyed by Fire

The Vallejo Times Herald reported that on Thursday night, August 20, 2015, approximately 70 Vallejo Fire Fighters and fire fighters from surrounding communities responded to a 3-alarm fire at 629 Azuar Drive (former MINS Building 629). The fire was under control by 4am on Friday morning; however the building was totally destroyed. Alco Iron and Metal Company is headquartered in San Leandro, CA, and has occupied the Mare Island site as one of the anchor companies since the early 2000s.

BattleBots Competition Held on Mare Island

In late May 2015, the Mare Island Sports Center, located at 785 Walnut Avenue, was the site of the BattleBots' "Triumphant Return to TV" according to the Vallejo Times Herald.

The public was invited to attend 5 days of "the awesome spectacle of robot-on-robot, metal munching mayhem." To stimulate attendance, the TV show officials donated \$250 to any group or organization that brought 25 or more viewers to the daily tapings of the BattleBots shows. The shows that were recorded in May 2015 were scheduled to commence airing this summer on ABC television.

Mare Island Sports Center Gets New Turf

After hosting ABC's BattleBots Show (see above), the Mare Island Sports Center reopened in July 2015, with both indoor soccer fields sporting newly installed artificial turf. The Vallejo Times Herald reported that a significant portion of the \$87,750 cost of the turf installation was paid for by ABC TV, and the balance was covered by the Sports Center profits from the previous year's operation. The popularity of soccer in this area is clearly on the rise, with 15 men's teams, 22 boy's teams, and 17 girl's teams already signed up for the winter season at the Sports Center.

Mare Island Causeway Repairs Are Underway

The project to repair a 50-foot section of the original timber-trestle built in 1934 began on July 6, according to the Vallejo Times Herald.

As reported earlier, 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 repair work will continue through the end of 2015. During this time, the traffic flow on the bridge continues to be:

- West-bound traffic: One-way entering from the east end via the Tennessee Street Gate.
- East-bound traffic: No east-bound traffic will be allowed on the causeway 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.

Wine Tasting to Open in Historic Mansion on Officer's Row

In July 2015, the Vallejo Planning Commission approved a project to open a wine tasting room, bar, and gift shop in Quarters 'O' located on Walnut Avenue across from the Veteran's Administration Clinic. The business will be operated by Vino Godfather Winery, located in Napa. The date for opening the Wine Tasting operation has not been given; however, this information will be provided in the NYA quarterly newsletter when available.

Mare Island Brewing Company Offers New Commemorative Beer

In July 2015, to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the sinking of the USS INDIANAPOLIS (CA-35) on July 30, 1945, the Mare Island Brewing Company offered a specially-brewed "Survivor's Tale Pale Ale."

According to the Vallejo Times Herald, Mare Island Naval Shipyard was one of the last locations at which the INDIANAPOLIS put into port before delivering parts of the first atomic bomb, "Little Boy," that would eventually be dropped on Hiroshima. After delivering the bomb parts to Tinian Island, the INDIANAPOLIS was sunk by a Japanese submarine torpedo, resulting in the loss of more than 800 lives; there were 317 survivors.

Mare Island Brewing Company co-owners, Ryan Gibbons and Kent Fortner were able to produce this special brew and have the Survivor's Tale Pale Ale available for 14 (of the remaining 31) survivors who attended their annual reunion in July 2015.

MV CAPE ORLANDO Arrives At Mare Island

On August 26, 2015, the MV CAPE ORLANDO was docked in Mare Island Dry Dock #2 for repairs. Currently, the ship is assigned to a layberth at the former Naval Air Station Alameda, from where it can be activated in five days.

The ship was built at Kockums Varv Shipyard in Malmo, Sweden, in 1980 and was commissioned under the name MV FINNEAGLE. It was completed and delivered in 1981 and operated by Finlines Shipping as a merchant ship until 1983, when it was renamed AMERICAN EAGLE and chartered under long-term contract to the U.S. Department of Transportation. Since 1994, it is assigned to the Ready Reserve Fleet as the MV CAPE ORLANDP (T-AKR-2044).

Since 1994, as a Roll-on/Roll-off ship assigned to the Military Sealift Command, CAPE ORLANDO has played roles on transportation details in both the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.



CAPE ORLANDO ARRIVING AT MARE ISLAND



CAPE ORLANDO IN DRY DOCK #2 AT ARE ISLAND

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Bruce Christensen
Dennis Kelly

Save Our Sail (SOS) Committee Offers Memorial Tiles for Sale

The USS VALLEJO (SSBN 658) sail will be displayed in front (west side) of the Mare Island Museum, Building 46, in the near future.

In preparation for the display of the historic monument and to help raise funds for its construction, the SOS Committee is offering 8" x 8" memorial tiles which will be placed around the base of the sail. The inscriptions on the tiles may include up to six lines of text with up to 21 characters per line and each tile will be beige in color with black inscription and logo. The cost of a tile is \$250, which may be paid over 18 months. Individual and/or groups customize their tile by selecting a logo and choosing special wording (upper and/or lower case) for inscription on the tile. Logos include dolphins for crews of submarines, and the Mare Island Naval Shipyard logo for former employees and MIHPF volunteers (as long as the tile denotes that the person is a volunteer). Individuals and groups may also choose to have an American flag or "no logo" placed on

their tile. Mail your check or M.O. to Save Our Sail, MIHPF, 257 Cottonwood Dr., Vallejo, CA 94591.

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 479, of which 223 are dental plan members.

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Charles Salvini, Bert J. Whiteside, George Rose, Jr., and Richard Karr.

Welcome to new members John H Osborne Jr. recruited by Tom Cosso Jr. Welcome back to returning members Joyce Scharf (2007 gift membership from Judy De Haven) and Jim Millholland (2013 recruited by Tom Cosso, Jr.).

Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

In this issue, I offer a variety of tidbits to interest you.

Receive your Newsletter by E-Mail!

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. Another side benefit is that I can send you important, timely updates (the types of things that occur in between newsletters). Remember that we do not share our e-mail list with anyone. To sign up for e-mail delivery of the NYA Newsletter, just send me a note to robin_leong@netzero.net.

Need a Smog Certificate?

For those of you who live in the Vallejo area, I just got my car smogged at Balbin Smog Shop on 1201 Tennessee Street in Vallejo, and it was a great experience! NYA member Bruce Balbin gives NYA members a discount, and his employee Randy helped get me through the process very quickly. I highly recommend his place to get your car's next smog certificate. Call (707) 647-1601 to see if a reservation is needed.

We're Losing Our Discount on Establishing a Living Trust

As mentioned in previous issues, Jean Gifford, the attorney who has offered NYA members living trust discounts for many years, is retiring. I have used her services for years, and he recently returned all of my records, and she gave me references for two lawyers if I ever want to make changes to my trust. In the meantime, she plans to continue working until her CA bar credentials expire. Please contact me, if there are any members

who can recommend another lawyer who might offer a discount on living trusts to our NYA members.

A Great Day at the Coliseum!

Those 55 members and guests who went to the Oakland A's vs. Tampa Bay Rays baseball game had a great time—especially the 10 members who won free tickets in our drawing. It was an exciting game, and the A's won 8-2.

Could you Benefit From This Class Action Settlement?

If you purchased Starkist Tuna between February 19, 2009, and October 31, 2014, you could receive free tuna or a refund in cash due to a Starkist class action lawsuit court settlement on behalf of all consumers for selling underweight cans of tuna. You can file a claim online or mail in the claim form that can be downloaded from this website:

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/29900630/starkist-tuna-refunds-money>

AARP Can Save you Money on Auto Insurance!

For those who do not already know this, AARP membership offers some real savings for your auto insurance. For drivers who are aged 50 and above, AARP offers an 8-hour Smart Driver™ course, which will get you a discount on your insurance. Check out the AARP website at: www.aarp.org/home-garden/transportation/driver_safety/ for more information.

Participating states offer price reductions or discounts on auto insurance to motorists who complete the AARP Smart Driver™ Course, whether in the classroom or by taking the online course.

In 35 states, automobile insurance companies **must** offer insurance discounts to people completing a classroom-based, state-approved driver-improvement course. Discounts

may vary based on the participant's age, driving record, and other factors. All participants are encouraged to check with their insurance agent before completing the AARP Smart Driver Course.

- The 35 states are Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming.

Additionally, 23 states and the District of Columbia require automobile insurance companies to offer insurance discounts to people completing a state-approved driver-improvement course that is conducted online.

- The 23 states are Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington, along with the District of Columbia.

My class in Benicia cost \$15 for AARP members and \$20 non-members, and I saved 10% from CSAAA (about \$130 per year!). These classes have been given in Fairfield, Benicia, and the Florence Douglas Senior Center in Vallejo. You can look for the closest class to you on the AARP website or by calling toll-free (877) 846-3299. The certification is good for three years. If you renew your Smart Driver class within two years after your certification, you can take a 4-hour update class (instead of the 8-hour class). The most important thing is not really the discount, but the information you'll learn that may save your life and/or the lives of others.

**NAVY YARD ASSOCIATION OF MARE ISLAND
2015 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

Do your part to support the Association that was “Created for Those Who Served and Continued by Those Who Care.” The NYA keeps you informed about the progress in the reuse of Mare Island and provides information regarding former employees of the Mare Island Complex. Join the NYA for the unbelievably low annual dues of \$15.00 and receive a quarterly newsletter providing updates about Mare Island, as well as listings of the many money-saving benefits that are available to NYA members. Help us to preserve the legacy of this great military base and the history that surrounds it, while bringing a new era to Mare Island with the promise of successful businesses, education, recreation and jobs for those living in the surrounding areas. Join with the hundreds of Mare Island supporters who are already members and send your membership application and dues to us TODAY!

NOTE: If you, as a member of the NYA, recommend another individual, who joins the NYA, you will receive a gift for your efforts. Multiple gifts are available for multiple members. Simply fill in your name on the "Recommended by" blank of the membership application below, prior to returning it to the NYA.

NYA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2015

Name

Mailing Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **E-Mail** _____

Recommended by: _____

Affiliation with Mare Island:

_____ Currently Employed at Mare Island: Government _____ Private _____

_____ Retired from Mare Island: Government _____ Private _____

_____ Actively involved with efforts concerning Mare Island, such as:

_____ Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

_____ US Navy or other Military (specify: _____)

_____ Navy League

_____ National Association of Retired Federal Employees

_____ Restoration Advisory Board

_____ Student attending College at Mare Island

_____ Not directly involved with Mare Island, but interested in the future of the Base

Please complete the above form and send it with a check or money order for \$15.00 made payable to “NYA” to:
NYA, P.O. Box 849, Vallejo, CA 94590-0084

Navy Yard Association
Open House
October 10, 2015 - 12noon to 2pm
Mare Island Museum, Building 46

Yes! _____ will attend and bring _____
guests!

(Tear off and mail to the P.O. Box on the first page by September 30)