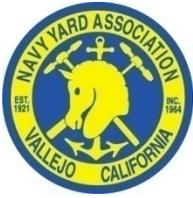


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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 (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 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

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

Welcome to 2016 Membership Drive edition of the NYA Newsletter! This is a very special year, and we have so much to both recognize and honor as we plan for our "Closure Plus 20 Years" reunion event in October, as well as celebrating the 95th birthday of the Navy Yard Association!

Here are some details on the reunion as they have come together thus far: First, the date. The reunion will be held Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 11am until 2pm. Next, the location of the event is Quarters A, the former Shipyard Commander's Residence. Fans of the Mare Island Museum have nothing to fear. The museum will be open for reunion attendees, so folks can see the latest displays and improvements. (By the way, those Shop 31 guys are doing a heck of a job recreating a submarine control room for a display!)

Lunch will be available starting at noon; and the Air Force Band is scheduled to perform. In addition to chatting with your friends and former co-workers and enjoying their company, there will be souvenirs, exciting raffles, and door prizes.

Advance notice is most appreciated (how else can we make sure we have enough of the tasty food we'll offer?). The bonus for advance notice is the cost. Advance tickets are \$5 for NYA members plus one guest. For additional guests and non-members, the cost is \$15 each (and includes membership through the end of the year). Walk-ins on the day of the event will be \$10 for NYA members and \$15 for non-members. Please plan to

reserve your tickets as soon as possible! There's a tear-off at the end of the newsletter. Just fill it out and drop it in the mail to us. We'll add you to the list!

We hope this year's event will be truly memorable for everyone. Now, the rest is up to you. So, come join us, bring a friend or the family, and have a fantastic time. Hope to see you all there.

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

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

Changes to Zoning Requirements Accommodate Tasting Rooms on Mare Island

In December 2015, the Vallejo Times Herald reported that the Vallejo City Council gave approval to remove the prohibition for having on-site tasting rooms, which are associated with wine and beer manufacturing operations, within 1,000 feet of one another. The action allowed the Mare Island Brewing Company to open on the Mare Island waterfront and Vino Godfather Winery to operate a wine tasting room inside the historic mansion Quarters "O" on Walnut Avenue.

It is believed that, in addition to those beer and wine businesses already at Mare Island, this new ordinance will attract other similar manufacturers who have already shown interest in relocating to Mare Island

What in the World?



Is it a dragon preparing to charge?



Is it a snake after swallowing an oil derrick?

Anyone who may have observed Dry Dock 2 (near the Blue Goose, stiff-leg derrick crane) from either the Vallejo or Mare Island side between December 2015 and March 2016 couldn't miss the large white plastic 'sculpture' emerging from the dry dock. This is the massive cover erected over a Naval Facilities (NAVFAC) Engineering Command floating crane being repaired by the Mare Island Dry Dock Company in Dry Dock 2.

In February 2016, representatives from the Mare Island Dry Dock (MIDD) Company, including Executive VP Christina Snyder; Operations Manager Dale Lacey, and Tanya Wigger (former Shop 38 employee at our own ex-Mare Island Naval Shipyard) attended the NYA Board of Directors meeting. They described the successes that the company has had since moving to Mare Island in 2013.

In the first three months of 2016, Mare Island Dry Dock LLC wished fair winds to the outgoing National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) Oscar Elton Sette and welcomed the NOAA Rainer to the shipyard. Also onboard are the USCGC George Cobb and the ACOE Dredge Essayons. These contracts represent Mare Island Dry Dock LLC's ongoing commitment to renew maritime commerce and foster job creation on Mare Island, as well as to infuse money into the local economy and attract visitors to the working historic waterfront.

Mare Island Dry Dock LLC has grown rapidly in the recent past; and they are working on a "get to know us" outreach program and hope to

implement a training program to further grow their work force.

Retired Navy Captain Reviews Historic Significance of Prison Building 84

In December 2015, the Vallejo Times Herald Opinions ran a letter by Rodney Watterson, Captain USN (Retired) from Hampton, NH. The letter was written to validate the historical significance of the Mare Island prison building, which was built in the 1860s and operated as a prison for 75 years, from 1871 until it closed in 1946. The only two other Navy prisons operating in the late 1800s and early 1900s were the Boston Navy Yard prison which opened in 1888 and the Portsmouth, NH prison which opened in 1908.

The 75 years of operation by the Mare Island prison was the longest continuous operation by any naval prison. The Boston Navy Yard prison building continues to be used as an attractive office building and the Portsmouth prison is a commanding structure overlooking Portsmouth Harbor.

As was indicated in the December 2015 NYA newsletter, concerns over levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) found in Building 84 may require the structure to be torn down. Retired Captain Watterson has requested that the Vallejo Architectural Heritage and Landmarks Commission (AHLC) at least consider a compromise to demolishing the entire prison building that would allow the smaller original brick structure built in the 1860s to be retained because it was the first 'purpose-built' Naval prison in our country.

Touro University California Dedicates New Clinic in January 2016

The Vallejo Times Herald reported that on January 20, 2016, Touro University dedicated a Transitional Research and Student Health Clinic on their Mare Island campus. The grand opening was held at Building H-89, which was once a Navy prosthetic limb clinic. This multi-million dollar

investment by Touro University is primarily intended to provide facilities for top medical researchers in the field to focus on conducting research on obesity, metabolism, and diabetes.

During the dedication, Touro's Western Division CEO and Senior Provost, Shelly Berkeley, said, "Research is such an important part of Touro's mission, and having this new facility will provide our students and faculty with enhanced opportunities to conduct research on topics of great importance to all of us in California while also enhancing the educational experience."

Mare Island Causeway Repairs Completed

After more than six months of one-way (east to west) traffic on the Mare Island Causeway while structural repairs were being performed, the bridge reopened to two way traffic on Monday, February 1, 2016.

Distillery to Open on Mare Island

In February 2016, the Vallejo Times Herald reported that The Splinter Group will establish a distillery for its line of whiskeys in the waterfront Building 45 on Railroad Avenue, right next to the Mare Island Museum. The initial move-in and distillation work will happen in 2016, with tasting room and tours to follow. Built in 1864, Building 45 was once used by the Navy for apprentice training, and in the later years, it was used as the photography lab as well as to house waterfront support personnel.

The Splinter Group was founded in 2014 and produces Straight Edge Bourbon Whiskey and Slaughter House American Whiskey, which was awarded a gold medal at the 2015 "Whiskies of the World" competition.

Flyway Festival Celebrates 20 Years of Activities

During the weekend of February 20 and 21, the San Francisco Flyway Festival once again played host to thousands of enthusiastic bird watchers and wildlife

enthusiasts on and around Mare Island. This popular event was free to all who attended, and there were a wide variety of vendors displaying vast assortments of goods for various outdoor activities. The Chairperson for the event was Myrna Hayes, who has worked tirelessly to make the event a success year after year.

Updates on the Development of Mare Island

The following business status was provided in the Lennar Mare Island (LMI), LLC Progress Report dated February 2016:

Rehabilitation and Preservation Efforts Underway at Coal Sheds

Lennar Mare Island (LMI) has put more than 70 historic buildings, representing over 1.5 million square feet of historic resources, back into productive reuse. In addition to several ongoing rehabilitation efforts, construction at the iconic Coal Sheds located along the Mare Island Strait is expected to commence in 2016.

These historic landmarks on Mare Island, the Coal Sheds built between 1901 and 1903, are being rehabilitated in a way that preserves the features that make them so important to the Island's Naval history.

The Mare Island reuse plan calls for these structures to be used as a mixed-use commercial complex, intended for a variety of businesses including existing users, artists, small manufacturers, food and beverage companies, and specialty retailers.

The structure consist of nine coal sheds featuring distinctive roof trusses that form a unique shape that is instantly familiar along the Mare Island waterfront. Work on the Coal Sheds is anticipated to begin in late 2016 and take more than two years to complete.

Waterside Work Nearly Complete on Ferry Facility

The San Francisco Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) has completed landside work near the location of the former Vallejo-Mare Island Ferry slip just north of Shipbuilding Ways 1. The new North Bay WETA Operations and Maintenance Facility on Mare Island includes three new full-service berths (capable of accommodating maintenance as well as passenger service activities). In addition, there are two maintenance berths, one of which can be used for large-scale repairs requiring a land-based crane for heavy lifts.

The landside improvements included the reuse of historic Building 165 for shop and office space, in addition to being a fueling facility and a new warehouse.

Construction work is expected to be substantially complete to allow the facility to open this summer. Limited passenger service from Mare Island to downtown San Francisco is anticipated to begin by late 2016.

Electrical Infrastructure Upgrades

The Mare Island utility provider, Island Energy, is working hard to upgrade Mare Island's aging electrical infrastructure to meet growing demands from residents and business. This work has included laying new electric lines, installing new components and upgrading electrical capacity to accommodate new and expanding commercial customers on Mare Island. Island Energy crews will be performing this construction in the streets and throughout island during the upcoming months.

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Bruce Christensen
Dennis Kelly

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

Mare Island Museum Participates in Museum Assessment Program Review

During the week of February 15, 2016, Directors and Staff members of the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) participated in a Museum Assessment Program (MAP) review sponsored by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). The MIHPF Chairperson for the study was Board Member John Chamberlin, who, along with Board Members Joanne Shively, Bill Linne, Tim Baskerville, and Museum Manager Joyce Giles, were key participants during the review.

The AAM review representative who led the three-day review process was retired Navy Commander Jeff Barta of the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC). Joining the MIHPF during the review process were representatives from the City of Vallejo, Vallejo City Council, Vallejo Chamber of Commerce, Lennar Mare Island, and Vallejo businesses.

The AAM report summarizing the review findings, along with recommendations for improvements, will be provided in March 2016.

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+

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 you contact information or send an email to: kenzad01@sbcglobal.net or JIG313@aol.com.

Also, anyone interested in becoming a member of the MIHPF Board of Directors is cordially invited to attend the next Board Meeting as a guest.

Membership update

James Porter

Current membership stands at 486, of which 210 are dental plan members.

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of George Agnew; James Millholland; Linda Frei; and our own beloved NYA Director, Bob Yeasted.

Welcome to new members Robert D. Hendricks, recruited by Rudy Balli; and Shari (Santos) Allen, recruited by Bruce Christensen. Welcome back to returning members Ernest Wilson (2010) and Lynn Webb (1999), recruited by Joyce Giles.

2016 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INSTRUCTIONS

If your newsletter includes an envelope pre-addressed to the NYA, here's what you need to do:

- 1. Review the data on the card strip to the left of your new membership card.**
- 2. Mark any changes or corrections directly on the card strip.**
- 3. Cut the card on the dotted line, and keep your new 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

We look forward to you renewing your NYA membership in 2016. This year's NYA reunion alone will be worth the renewal cost!

Here are a few words from your Benefits Officer:

Dental Plan

For nearly everyone, the opportunity to change your health benefit elections was in November-December 2015. However, if you're a current or retired Federal employee AND a member of the NYA, you can still get dental insurance through the NYA without waiting for the yearly open season. We offer three competitive plans: The first is the Prepaid plan, in which you see a dentist from one of our participating dental offices. The Prepaid plan includes no deductibles or claim forms and minimal out-of-pocket expenses. The second is the NYA dental program through Blue Shield of California, which includes the ability to choose your own dentist or one of the Blue Shield participating dentists. The third plan is the newest option, Dentassure, and it is more of a supplemental plan. New brochures are being reviewed and will soon be posted on our website (hopefully by the end of March).

Benefits

Don't forget that we still offer discount cards good for 25% off and the Vallejo Kelly Moore Paint Store. Just send me an e-mail (robin_leong@netzero.net) or call me at (707) 643-1287, and I'll send you a card.

Another excellent benefit for NYA members local to the Vallejo area is the discount offered by the Balbin Smog Shop at 1201 Tennessee Street in Vallejo. Everyone needs to get their car smogged at some point; why not get a discount on that?

The last benefit I'll discuss in this issue is how to utilize your retired DOD employee card. While I've never tried it myself, I've been told that card holders may use left-over rental time-share condos operated by Resort Condominiums International (RCI). It's certainly worth a try, with weekly rentals around the world for as low as \$309 per week, plus tax, for condos that can sleep up to six people.

At a recent NARFE National Conference in Sparks, NV, I saw a booth that offered government employee travel opportunities. The website is <https://www.heroesvacationclub.com/>. Don't give your money to your kids, spend it yourself!

Newsletter by E-Mail

More than 100 members now 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!

Also, 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.

Navy Yard Association "Closure Plus 20 Years" Reunion Saturday, October 1, 2016

**Yes! I'm an NYA member, and I
plan to attend the reunion!**

My name is _____.

**I will bring a guest, and their
name is** _____.

Enclosed is my \$5.

(Tear off and send in with your dues)

**Characters Saloon in Vallejo
315 Tennessee Street
is hosting their annual
Mare Island Reunion!**

Friday, April 1, 2016

Buffett and Beer Keg starts at 3pm

Donations are welcome.

**NAVY YARD ASSOCIATION OF MARE ISLAND
2016 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 money-saving benefits 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 - 2016

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 island.

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.