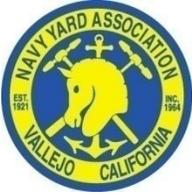


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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

Shop 38 Luncheon

Denny's, 1701 E. Monte Vista Ave., Vacaville
April 10, June 12, August 14, October 9, December 11
POC: Bill Cruz, stskills@castles.com

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 Museum Whitthorne Room
Last Monday of each month at 10:00am
POC: Mark Hutchings, (925) 609-9188

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

'Tis once again the season to count our blessings and give thanks to one another—along with our Creator. I'm certain we all have many and varied things to be thankful for and, like many of you my, list is long. For those of you who suffered because of the recent fires in Northern California, you are still in our thoughts and prayers.

For all, we wish you happiness and joy throughout the Christmas season and the entire year. We hope you enjoy our December NYA newsletter

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

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

Will Amazon End Up on Mare Island?

In October 2017, the Vallejo Times-Herald reported on a meeting being held between City of Vallejo officials and the Solano County Board of supervisors to discuss the development of North Mare Island (NMI). There have been a handful of false starts in the reuse of NMI, including the most recent failure of Faraday Futures, electric car manufacturer, earlier this year. Among the programs being discussed at the meeting are tax incentives which could stimulate interest in the 157 acres of land that has remained unused since the Navy departed from Mare Island in 1996.

Coincidentally, the Seattle-based internet giant, Amazon, announced in September 2017 that it is seeking a location for a second corporate headquarters. Vallejo leaders said that they intend to submit an application offering NMI as a location for the new headquarters. However, Amazon's need for an area that can accommodate up to 50,000 workers and their families might put more of a "strain" on the Mare Island/Solano County area than can be absorbed.

"Bumblebee" Makes a Noisy Entrance onto Mare Island

The first week of September 2017, the Transformer motion picture series started filming a spin-off movie, entitled "Bumblebee" at the Dry Dock 1 area of Mare Island. Over approximately a 10-day period during the evening hours, Paramount Pictures utilized low-flying helicopters and pyrotechnics for special effects while filming the movie. With little warning, residents along the Mare Island Strait were surprised when they virtually came 'under attack' as they attempted to get some shut-eye for the night. Although press releases warned residents that filming would be done during the night between 7 pm and 7 am, the helicopters were only allowed to fly until midnight. In fact, most of the helicopter scenes were completed before 10 pm. Following the filming on Mare Island, several additional days of filming for the movie were conducted in downtown Vallejo on Sutter Street between Capitol and Virginia.

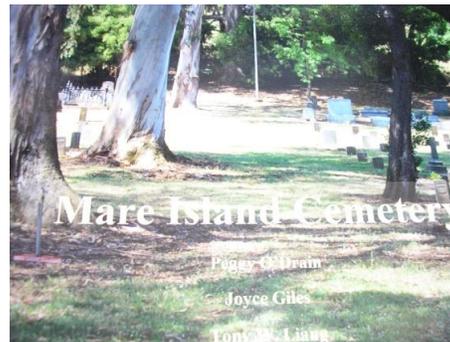
Be sure to watch for the showing of Bumblebee and you may see some familiar landmarks.

Mare Island Cemetery Receives Attention from Volunteers

In September 2017, more than 50 volunteers from around the region donated their services to help "spruce-up" the Mare Island Cemetery, which has fallen into disrepair over the more than 20 years since the Navy closed the Shipyard. Included in the group of volunteers was the Thom Bogue, Mayor of Dixon, and former

Vallejo City Councilman Tony Pearsall. The Times Herald reported that in order to access some of the graves, several truckloads of tree debris were removed from the cemetery grounds. On a "win-win" note, some of the Acacia tree trimmings from the cemetery were headed to the Oakland Zoo for the elephants and giraffes who love Acacia. Although many grave markers remain broken and in various states of disrepair, the volunteer clean-up work has made a significant improvement in the general appearance of the cemetery.

On a related subject, Mare Island Cemetery Historian Peggy O'Drain and co-author Joyce Giles have published the 2nd (and final) volume of the history of the Mare Island Cemetery (pictured below). Volume 2 is now available for sale at the Mare Island Museum for \$25. Volumes 1 and 2 provide a history of all persons interred in the cemetery based on information obtained through many years of research.

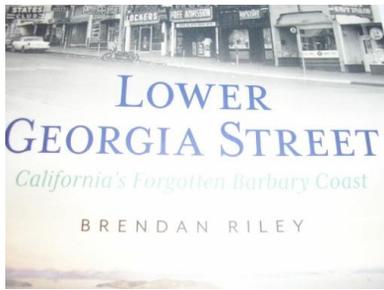


Mare Island Cemetery History, Volume 2

Other Books That Might Be of Interest to Former Mare Islanders

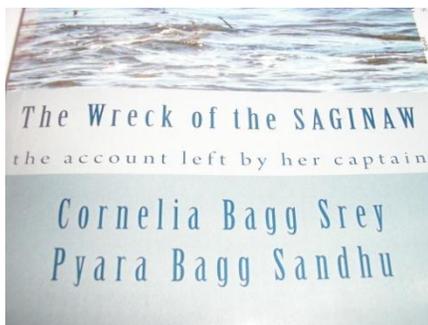
In 2017, there were two additional books published by local authors relating to Mare Island Naval Shipyard.

One book, entitled "Lower Georgia Street, California's Forgotten Barbary Coast," was written by Brendon Riley, son of the Vallejo Times-Herald Executive Editor, Wyman Riley, who joined the Times-Herald staff in 1941. Brendon's book captures the goings-on at lower Georgia Street from the 1800s until the area was razed in the 1970s.



Lower Georgia Street, California's Forgotten Barbary Coast

Another book, “The Wreck of the SAGINAW,” was written by Cornelia Srey, great granddaughter of Captain Montgomery Sicard. Captain Sicard was commanding officer of the first ship built at Mare Island, the USS SAGINAW, when it sank off Midway Island in 1870. The book provides a first-hand description of the sinking of the SAGINAW based on manuscripts written by Captain Sicard in 1885.



The Wreck of the SAGINAW

Both Lower Georgia Street, California's Forgotten Barbary Coast and The Wreck of the SAGINAW, along with many more Navy publications, are available for sale in the Mare Island Museum gift shop located at 1100 Railroad Avenue in Building 46 on Mare Island.

Factory OS is Betting on Modular Housing to Meet Critical Shortage

In October 2017, the San Francisco Chronicle reported that Factory_OS Chief Executive Officer Rick Holliday is betting that the future of multi-family housing in the San Francisco Bay Area may take shape in the cavernous 250,000

square-foot historic Building 680 (former Mare Island Naval Shipyard's Inside Machine Shop 31).

Holliday and his partner, Larry Pace, indicate that their assembly-line facility will be able to pump out pre-fabricated modules at a speed that will help to change how multifamily housing is produced on the West Coast.

The company just recently moved into their new Mare Island facility and already has five projects in the pipeline with more than 1,700 housing units for developments throughout the Bay Area. Holliday says; “We believe we can be 40 percent faster and 20 percent less expensive,” and added, “In hot markets like San Francisco, the saving could be 40 to 50 percent.”

Because of the unique waterfront location, Holliday believes that their housing unit projects could readily be sent up and down the coast on cargo ships from Seattle to San Diego to resolve some of the most severe housing shortage and cost problems.

Alstom Transportation Snags a Major Contract

In October 2017, the Vallejo Times Herald reported that Alstom Transportation, Inc., was awarded a several-year contract worth more than \$140 million from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to perform mid-life overhauls on 52 light rail vehicles. These are the trains that operate on LA's Blue-Green and Expo lines.

Alstom, a France-based international train car manufacturing company, currently has 40 employees on Mare Island. The site manager, Shawn Gavne, said the increased business at the Mare Island facility will require hiring at least 50 more people, including design engineers and industrial technicians.

The company opened its present facility in Mare Island's Building 599 in 2009, mainly because Mare Island was an industrial site with room to expand, and the surrounding community had a

labor pool with the necessary skill set for Alstom work.

Veterans Day Celebration at Mare Island Receives Front Page Coverage

In November 2017, the Vallejo Times-Herald ran two separate front page articles regarding the Veterans Day ceremony at the Mare Island Cemetery. The ceremony on Mare Island has been a continuing event sponsored by Navy League Council No. 1 each year since the Shipyard closed. As has been the tradition over the years, the Admiral Richard O’Kane Sea Cadets provided the color guard for the ceremony. While a wreath was placed at the memorial for the USS BOSTON by Navy League Council No. 1 President Ken Zadwick and Congressman Mike Thompson’s representative, Mel Orpilla, bugler Ronald Acquistapace from “Bugles Across America” played Taps. At the end of the program, cemetery historian Peggy O’Drain presented to the assembled crowd a brief history about the Mare Island Cemetery.

Membership update

James Porter

Current membership stands at 474, of which 194 are dental plan members. Please pass the word that the NYA is still here!

Welcome back to returning NYA member Jim Teresi (from 2009, recruited by Louis Freitas)!

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Jim Rookwood and John Bouldt.

Benefit Officer’s Column

Robin Leong

I was very pleased to receive a recent phone call from NYA member Penny Hicks—who read that we were discontinuing our free Notary Public service. As it turns out, Penny just renewed her commission and volunteers for the California Veterans in Yountville. Now, she is willing to provide free notary service for the NYA. She lives

in North Napa, so members needing notary service will need to travel to Penny. She can be reached at (707) 224-5494 (home), (707) 337-0077 (cell), or via e-mail to PenLHicks@aol.com to make an appointment.

I know I sound like a broken record, but I strongly encourage all of you Federal retirees to join the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE). They now have excellent webinars for members to help negotiate your finances if you still have monies in your TSP, ideas on working side jobs, and about Medicare and how to choose Part A, B, C, and D. You should all know that your annuity and medical plans were attacked by the President’s proposed budget. NARFE has the best lobbyist in Washington, and you can call an 800 number to voice your opinions to your legislator on bills that affect you. Find an existing member and join before the end of the year and the person who recruited you will get a rebate of \$20 on a \$40 membership. If you are retired, you can take your annual dues out of your annuity—the dues are just \$34—so you save \$6 annually.

Don’t forget to check out our Facebook page! Dennis Kelly continues to upload great stories, interesting facts, and all things Mare Island. This is a closed group, so just request permission to join. Once a member of the group, you can share your stories there, too. Visit us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1010509199018933/>

Please remember: If you have an e-mail address, and you would like to save storage space in your home, trees in our environment, and monies from our NYA treasury, please consider opting to receive your newsletter via e-mail. Just send an e-mail to me at robin_leong@netzero.net, with “I want my NYA Newsletter by e-mail” in the subject line. And, remember to add me to your safe senders list.

I wish you all Merry Christmas and a prosperous, healthy, and Happy New Year!