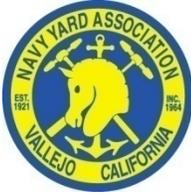


# The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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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

### Shop 38 Luncheon

Denny's, 1701 E. Monte Vista Ave., Vacaville  
Second Monday of each month  
POC: Bill Cruze, (916) 716-4661

### 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 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](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

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the summer weather.

In this issue of the newsletter NYA Director and MIHPF Director Bruce Christensen writes about a recent episode of "Mysteries of the Abandoned" on the Science Channel. What Bruce fails to mention is that he is included in the feature! Not only did he give an interesting and fact-filled interview, he is a natural in front of the camera. It was a real treat to see a story on national television about Dry Dock 1 and the key role Mare Island played in the defense of our great country.

If you have not yet renewed your NYA membership, please take a moment and do that? We value your membership!

## Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

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

### Mare Island's Historic Dry Dock 1 Featured on "Mysteries of the Abandoned"

On May 23, 2019, the Science Channel program, "Mysteries of the Abandoned," included a feature on the history of Mare Island Naval Shipyard's Dry Dock 1—from its construction in 1891, to its final use for docking and repairing nuclear submarines, to the Shipyard's closure in 1996.

The show highlights fascinating stories from around the world about how “engineering marvels, decaying cities, and empty factories that once stood on the cutting edge of design and construction”...are now abandoned, perhaps dangerous, or even deadly.

The story was rich with details of the building of Dry Dock 1, which took 20 years to complete. As a testament to the painstaking effort and quality work, Dry Dock 1 was the only structure undamaged in an 1898 earthquake that affected every building on Mare Island.



1878 - Landing granite blocks into Dry Dock 1, brought from the Foothills of California

The story also highlights the fact that the granite blocks used for the original construction of the west coast’s first graving dock remain intact and unchanged after more than a century, whereas the concrete additions made to increase the size of Dry Dock 1 in the 1960s have deteriorated significantly. The film shows the reinforcing steel rods protruding from the crumbling concrete for the dry dock work performed in the 1960s.

For those who missed the original airing in May, the Science Channel is repeating the episode several times over the next few months.



1891 – Completing construction of Dry Dock 1, (to be used during the Spanish-American War)

### **Mare Island’s Military Golf Course is For Sale**

The oldest military golf course west of the Mississippi River closed in February 2019 and remains closed as of June 10, 2019.

On March 22, 2019, the Vallejo Times-Herald headlines reported; “Mare Island Golf Course for Sale.” The asking price for the 18-hole course is about \$4.75 million. The Millbrae-based owners, Konmer Venture, LLC, bought the golf course in 2014 for \$2.1 million.

There have been several inquiries into the purchase of the course, although most of the interested parties consider the asking price to be too high. Some interested parties have suggested the property be developed to be other than a golf course, but the City of Vallejo says the property is zoned for a golf course and they want it to remain a golf course.

If the property is not sold by the end of this year, Solano County could sell the site at auction in order pay the more than \$600,000 in back taxes.

**Savage & Cooke Distillery Holds Community Open House**

On the afternoon of April 6, 2019, the Savage & Cooke Distillery hosted an open house to signal the opening of the facility for business.

The distillery is located in Mare Island’s historic Building 45, where the interior was beautifully renovated to support the distillery operations, while the exterior brick façade essentially remains as it was when the former shipyard was in operation.

More than 500 people attended the open house held at the head of Shipbuilding Ways #1, and guests were treated to pizza, sandwiches, barbeque, and coffee from local businesses—along with music by Darrell Edwards and his band.



Savage & Cooke Patio and Tasting Room located in Mare Island Building 45



View Looking East from Savage & Cooke Patio

Inside Building 45, Savage & Cooke spirits were available in the tasting room, and half of the proceeds from the tasting sales were donated to the Mare Island Museum.

Savage & Cooke is now open by appointment Thursday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm; call (707) 388-1864 for reservations.

**ex-USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO (SSBN 658) Sail Monument to be Dedicated**

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation, led by Board member and former VALLEJO crewmember Bill Linné, is in the final stages of preparation for the October 2019 dedication of the VALLEJO sail monument at Shipbuilding Ways #2 on the waterfront of Mare Island.

The VALLEJO was constructed at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in 1965-66 as part of the “Forty-One for Freedom” nuclear fleet ballistic missile submarine program. After being decommissioned at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, the VALLEJO sail was transported to the Mare Island waterfront in October 1995. The sail was later moved to its existing location in Ways #2, in the approximate location where the finished monument will be displayed—along with kiosks describing the history of the nuclear submarine.



USS VALLEJO Sail in Building Ways #2 and ready to be moved into position for the dedication

The dedication of the VALLEJO sail will coincide with a reunion of more than 200 former

USS VALLEJO crewmembers who served on the submarine after it was commissioned at Mare Island Naval Shipyard on December 16, 1966.

### **Code 950 (Formerly Shop 51) Holding the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Reunion at the Mare Island Museum**

The 41<sup>st</sup> Code 950 reunion will be held Saturday, September 7, 2019, at the Mare Island Museum, Building 46, 1100 Railroad Avenue on Mare Island. The event starts at 10:00am and ends at 4:00pm; food will be served at noon.

The cost is \$25 per person and is catered by 96H Brand Catering. The menu is 96H Original Tri-Tip, Sweet Whiskey Chicken, Hot Links, Potato Salad, Fruit Salad, Coleslaw, BBQ Beans, Dinner Rolls, Signature BBQ Sauce, and Dessert, plus domestic beer, local wine, soda, water and fresh, hot coffee.

In order to ensure enough food for everyone, please RSVP and send in your payment by August 31, 2019.

You may send your check—made payable to either Tom Chulick or Tom Watson—by mail (or, you can remit by PayPal to Tom Watson) to the address(es) below.

Tom Chulick	OR	Tom Watson
425 Keats Dr.		528 Diamond Hills Dr.
Vallejo, CA 94591		Rio Vista, CA 94571
707-642-8712		707-507-5249
<a href="mailto:Bldg742@gmail.com">Bldg742@gmail.com</a>		<a href="mailto:MareIslandLabor@gmail.com">MareIslandLabor@gmail.com</a>

All ex-Code 950 employees, friends and any ex-M.I.ers are invited, so please share this invitation!

If you have questions, contact Tom Watson at [mareislandlabor@gmail.com](mailto:mareislandlabor@gmail.com).

### **Membership update**

James Porter

Current membership stands at 405, of which 178 are dental plan members.

Remember, there is still time to renew your membership your membership for 2019-2020 (if you have not already done so).

Special thanks go out to those who donated money to the NYA. Thank you very much Michael Bowlin, Ron and Pat Brosio, James Carpenter, Ray Lingerfelt, and Joann Troup!!

Welcome to new members Mary Miller (recruited by Carmen Merriman) and Joann Troup (recruited by Penny Hicks).

We offer our sincere condolences to family and friends of Victor Gasser (March 2019); Michael Hansen (March 2019); and Audrey Nickoles (February 2019). On April 27, 2019, Betty Burgelin died at 101 years old. Betty (and her husband, Lou Burgelin) were longtime members and supporters of the NYA.

### **Benefit Officer's Column**

Robin Leong

I do not have news of any NYA benefits for this issue, but I would like to use this space to inform you about another amazing organization dedicated to the Federal employee: the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) association.

Like most Federal retirees, my annuity is my major source of income. Who is looking out for your retirement income and benefits? With approximately five million active and retired Federal employees, NARFE is a strong supporter, and their lobbying efforts make real differences in legislation supporting Federal employee and retiree pay and benefits. Membership is \$40 per year, and there is probably a local chapter in your neighborhood. NARFE offers discounts to members who bring in new members. Why don't you take a look for yourself? Visit them at [www.NARFE.org](http://www.NARFE.org).

As always, if you have any potential member's benefits to share, please do not hesitate to let me know.