



The Journal

National Naval Officers Association
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter



October 2010

West Coast Naval History

Naval Shipyard Mare Island



Located 25 miles northeast of San Francisco, the Mare Island Naval Shipyard (MINS) was the first U.S. Navy shipyard established on the Pacific Coast. The Napa River goes through the Mare Island Strait and separates the peninsula shipyard (Mare Island, California) from the main portion of the city of Vallejo. MINS made a name for itself as the premier west coast submarine port as well as serving as the controlling force in San Francisco Bay Area shipbuilding efforts during the World War II.

The base closed in 1996 and has gone through several redevelopment phases, which includes 52 buildings declared a National Historic Landmark District in 1975.

The Navy purchased the original 956 acres of MINS in 1853 and commenced shipbuilding operations on September 16, 1854 under the command of Commander David Farragut, who would later gain fame during the U.S. Civil War Battle of Mobile Bay, when he gave the order, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!" MINS served as a major Pacific Ocean repair station during the late 1800s, handling American, Japanese, and Russian vessels in the course of duty.

By 1901, MINS, Union Iron Works, was contracted out by John Philip Holland's Boat Company to build two Adder-class

Continue West Coast Naval History, Page 3,



2009-10 SFBA Chapter Executive Board President: CAPT Donald Flowers, USN Retired

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From the President's Pen...



With the help of the recruitment, scholarship, professional development, and community outreach committees, the chapter is on track to yet another outstanding year.

I am proud to announce that our membership is again growing, and I would like to welcome PFC Adolph Keyes, Jr., USA, ENS Alicia Taylor, USCG, and CWO4 Richard Williams, USN to the chapter membership.

At last report, the scholarship committee is again engaged with McClymonds High School faculty in an effort to find other qualified applicants eligible to compete for the 2011 Hadwick and Lily Thompson Scholarship Award. The 2010 award recipients were outstanding and are now enrolled at Bay Area universities.

The professional development committee is busy developing the curriculum for the 2011 OER Professional Development Seminar and two chapter membership recruitment drives and as an added bonus, is exploring options to provide quarterly intermediate training at the monthly chapter meetings.

The community outreach committee is busy exploring opportunities whereby the chapter can host school visit at Coast Guard Island.

I am excited about the current year and the challenges that we have set for the chapter. I am especially pleased to see all of the chapter membership engaged in meeting our national mission and chapter objectives and goals. I would also like to take this opportunity to echo the sentiments of the national president CAPT Anthony Barnes, USN, and the western region vice president, LtCol David Everly, USMC, whom have expressed their sincere appreciation for your continued service and support of the NNOA mission.

"Together we can do great things."

CAPT Don Flowers
U.S. Navy Retired
SFBA Chapter President

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Cover Story: Mare Island Naval Shipyard

Managing Editor: Adolph Keyes alkeyes@comcast.net

Contributors:

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NNOA Mission

National Naval Officers Association actively supports the Sea Services in the development of a diverse officer corps through recruitment, retention, and career development. NNOA is essential in maintaining operational readiness by providing professional development, mentoring, and support of cultural awareness. NNOA establishes and maintains a positive image of the Sea Services in communities and educational institutions.

In the News



LCDR James Haskins, USN, RET is Ordained Deacon. Chapter members support LCDR Jim Haskins, USN RET at his Ordination Service, September 12th at the Bay Area Christian Connection Church (BACCC), Oakland, California. Servant Brian K. Woodson, Senior Pastor charged the Deacons to not run ahead or lag behind but to partner with Jim in leading the church congregation. Retired Pastor of Allen Temple Baptist Church, Oakland and world renowned author Reverend Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr. made a surprise appearance and performed the laying of hands ceremony. Pictured from (l to r): Lori Ann Haskins-Williams, daughter; SFBA Chapter President, Captain Don Flowers, USN, RET; Denise McCallaCreary; Servant Brian K. Woodson, Sr., Senior Pastor BACCC; LCDR Jim Haskins, and Ethel Haskins. *Submitted by: CDR Denise McCallaCreary, USN RET.*

Mare Island Naval Shipyard; continue,

(later A-class) submarines. They were known as USS Grampus, A-3 and USS Pike, A-5 and were the first U.S. Navy submarine built on the West Coast.

Mare Island Naval Shipyard also took a commanding role in civil defense and emergency response on the West Coast, dispatching warships to the Pacific Northwest to subdue Native American uprisings. MINS sent ships such as *Wyoming* south to Central America and the Panama Canal to protect US political and commercial interests. Some of the support, logistics and munitions requirements for the Spanish-American War were filled by Mare Island. MINS sent men, materiel and ships to San Francisco in response to the fires following the 1906 earthquake. Arctic rescue missions were mounted as necessary. Ordnance manufacturing and storage were two further key missions at MINS for nearly all of its active service, including ordnance used prior to the American Civil War.

MINS made big waves with a major shipbuilding effort during World War I. MINS holds a shipbuilding speed record for a destroyer that still stands, launching the USS *Ward* in just 17½ days in May-June 1918. Mare Island was selected by the Navy for construction of the only US West Coast-built battleship, the USS *California*, launched in 1919. Noting the power of underwater warfare shown by German U-boats in WWI, the Navy doubled their Pacific-based submarine construction program at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard by founding a submarine program at MINS in the early 1920s.

On January 1, 1918, the Marine Detachment of Mare Island won the Rose Bowl, defeating the US Army team fielded by Camp Lewis by a score of 19-7. One year later they appeared in the Rose Bowl again, this time losing by a 17-0 score to a Great Lakes Naval Station team that included future football legends George Halas, Paddy Driscoll and Jimmy Conzelman.

During World War II, MINS reached peak capacity for shipbuilding, repair, overhaul, and maintenance of many different kinds of seagoing vessels including both surface combatants and submarines. Up to 50,000 workers were employed. Mare Island even received Royal Navy cruisers and destroyers and four Soviet Navy subs for service. Following the War, MINS was considered to be one of the primary stations for construction and maintenance of the Navy's Pacific fleet of submarines, having built seventeen submarines and four submarine tenders by the end of hostilities.

Mare Island Naval Shipyard expanded to over 5,200 acres (21 km²) in its service life and was responsible for construction of over 500 naval vessels and overhauling thousands of other vessels. Though it remained a strong contender for continued operations, MINS was identified for closure during the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process of 1993. Naval operations ceased and the facility was decommissioned on April 1, 1996.

The California Conservation Corps, Touro University, and numerous commercial and industrial businesses are currently leasing property aboard the former naval shipyard. In May 2000, the Navy completed the transfer of a former housing area called Roosevelt Terrace using

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USS Mariano G. Vallejo, SSBN 658 control room.



Above: Historic electronics used on the USS Vallejo, SSBN 658. Below: CDR Adolph Keyes, USCG Retired views historic items of interest at the Artifacts Museum at Mare Island.



An Historic 2010 Joint NNOA/ANSO Professional Development and Training Conference

By all accounts, the first every joint NNOA/ANSO Professional Development and Training Conference can be dubbed an extreme success. This year's conference was hosted by the Tidewater NNOA Chapter under the theme "*Passionate Partners In Achieving The Possible – Now And In The Future*". It would be hard pressed to argue that this year's conference fell short of its goals, with the highest attendance ever recorded in the history of both organizations. Seven hundred and sixty-three (763) officers representing all three branches of the Sea Services assembled for four days to engage in insightful discourse pertinent to the promotion of diversity throughout the ranks of the Coast Guard, Navy, and Marine Corps.

Throughout the conference, each attendee was challenged to go beyond his or her comfort zone and be more than a spectator through active participation. Senior members of each service offered some insight on the ongoing challenges faced by their respective branch. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James Conway, offered some interesting statistics in that, today, 36% of our country is minority; 31% of the Marine Corps are minority; and 12 of 85 general officers are minority generals. Admiral Robert Papp, Commandant of the Coast Guard, admitted that the Coast Guard has been rightly criticized for its lack of diversity and its civil rights program, but these are areas which are being fixed. Admiral Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations commented that the officers' corps does not reflect the face of the nation, and that it is of paramount importance in an effort to stay relative.

Other lecture topics over the four days covered subject area to include but not limited to: Time Management, FITREPs/Promotion Boards/Career Management, NROTC Scholarship, Homeland Security Master's Program, and Mentoring and diversity from the Senior Officer Perspective.

In conjunction with the conference, the NNOA held its general elections. Captain Antony Barnes, USN was elected the new National President for a two year term, relieving Captain Bernard Jackson, USN. *Submitted by: LTJG Miguel Augustin, USCG*



LTJG Miguel Augustin, USCG and CDR Denise McCallaCreary, USN Retired share a moment at the conference Banquet



Since 1980, the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) has made a commitment to the educational development of youth residing in the San Francisco Bay Area. This contribution involves a number of highly successful programs, including; youth mentoring, academic tutoring, and awarding of financial scholarships to college bound high school seniors.

Hadwick and Lily Thompson Scholarship Award Criteria

Eligibility Requirements: Bay Area high school senior entering an accredited college or university during the 2010-2011 academic year are eligible. You must be a U.S. citizen and have a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scales (or equivalent). **Please submit your completed package to the address listed below no later than 01 April 2011.** Scholarship recipients will be notified no later than **07 May 2011.**

Details of Award: This one-time award aims to grant an ethnic-based scholarship to a student entering college as a freshman during the 2010-2011 academic year. The recipient will be selected and announced in May 2011.

Award Amount: \$1000

Package Requirements: You are required to submit the following:

- A completed application
- An official high school transcript (with school's official seal).
- Two Letter(s) of recommendation from an individual you know, such as a school official (principal, guidance counselor, coach, etc...) or an official from an organization. These letters should address your potential academic performance at the collegiate level. It should also state your relationship to the official and note any noteworthy/significant accomplishments.
- Three Counselor/Teacher Evaluation Form(s). Evaluation forms must be mailed by the individual completing the evaluation directly to NNOA. (It is recommended that you provide a stamped, pre-addressed envelope to individual completing evaluation to expedite mailing of the document).
- A typed 100 to 300-word essay discussing your educational and career goals
- A current photograph (3" x 5" minimum). Photos will not be returned.
- Copy of ACT and SAT results

Failure to submit ALL requested information will result in disqualification. Students submitting incomplete packages will be notified. All qualified applicants will also be notified of eligibility for an NROTC scholarship.

Mail completed application packages to:

**National Naval Officers Association Bay Area Chapter
Attn: Ms. Cassandra Y. Johnson
100 Grand Avenue #602
Oakland, California 94612**



Showcased at the 2010 Mare Island Hot Rods Unite Car Show, this beautifully restored 1965 Chevrolet El Camino, owned by Adolph and Denice Keyes, is photographed in front of Quarters 'A' mansion at historic Mare Island.



1932 Ford Roadster, owned by John Ranacis

Hot Rods Unite

September 11th, 2010 Mare Island, CA
A Benefit for the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Hosted by the Mare Island Artifacts Museum, the Vallejo classic car club "Boyz Under The Hood" showcased 27 of their cars at the 2010 Hot Rods Unite Car Show.

Now a home for the Boyz Under The Hood to store, repair, and restore vintage cars, historic Mare Island was also the primary site location providing the backdrops for the 2010-11 Boyz Under The Hood calendar, and proudly showcased CDR Adolph and Denice Keyes' beautiful 1965 Chevrolet El Camino in front of historic Quarters "A" on mansions row built about 1900.

The highlight of the show however was the famous Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) 1955 Chevy memorial, built as a tribute to those whom remain missing in action from the Vietnam War. Showcased inside the Artifacts Museum along with 3,000 artifacts, the POW/MIA memorial was an awesome tribute and clearly illustrated the name of every POW and those still missing in action. The car is solid black with the names etched in silver/white.

Submitted by: CDR Adolph Keyes, USCG Retired



A beautifully restored 1953 Chrysler New Yorker, owned by Bill and Darlene Rogers, is photographed near the Mare Island historic Artifacts Museum.



On display at Mare Island Car Show was the 1955 Chevy built as a tribute to the 2,211 POW/MIA servicemen of the Vietnam War. All POW/MIA names are shown on the car.

Mare Island Naval Shipyard; continue,

an "economic development conveyance"; a method to accelerate the transfer of BRAC facilities back to civilian communities for their economic benefit. The Navy is also transferring property at the shipyard to other government agencies such as Fish and Wildlife Service refuge, a Forest Service office building, an Army Reserve Center, a Coast Guard communications facility, and a Department of Education school.

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Publicly Supported Organization established in 1995, and the mission is to preserve and present to the public the history of the West's first Naval Base and Shipyard. The Foundation cares for four of the most historic buildings in Mare Island's National Historic Landmark District: **St. Peter's Chapel** (built 1901) - renowned for the beautiful Tiffany designed stained glass windows, **Quarters "A"** (built 1900) - Largest (10,500 sq. ft.) of the 13 colonial revival mansions located on Mare Island, **Quarters "B"** - A mansion of 7400 sq. ft also called the "*Captain's Mansion*", and **Building 46** (built 1855) - Originally a smithery, then the pipe shop, now the Artifacts Museum. Another part of the Mission is to create ship museum displays. MIHPF is caretaker for the sail of SSBN 658 Mariano C. Vallejo in its move to permanent display on Mare Island; and USS LCS-102 is now at the Mare Island Waterfront.

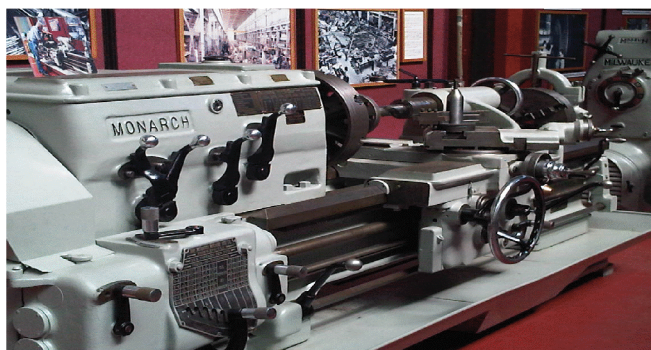
Commercial renovation of Mare Island continues at a slow pace. However, this former naval giant has many astounding stories to tell. The building walls and meticulously restored artifacts provide visitors with excellent memories and/or knowledge of past naval history. If possible, I encourage you to visit this historic military site. For a tour request go to www.mareislandhpf.org.



St. Peter's Chapel at Mare Island built in 1901 with its 29 Tiffany stained glass windows is the oldest west coast military Chapel. Maintained by the members of the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation, St. Peter's Chapel is used for weddings and religious ceremonies and celebrations.



Above: Navy Shipyard Mare Island bell commissioned in 1877 now finds its permanent home in the Artifacts Museum at Mare Island Historic Park. Below: Machine shop equipment and communications equipment from George Washington class submarine.



CLASSIFIED ADS



Hirshberg Foundation For Pancreatic Cancer Research *Lou Gertha Bonner Memorial Fund*

Lou Gertha Bonner is the mother of CDR Adolph Keyes, USCG Retired. She was born in Sep '37 in Rayne, LA. A spiritual person, Lou believed strongly in family values and achieving a quality education. Lou moved to California in '57 and worked in the Food Services Industry for 30 years. Her struggle with pancreatic cancer was brief, and she died at home with her family at her side in Dec '08. The family encourages you to join in the fight and donate to the research fund in her memory. Her URL: <http://wee.pancreatic.org/merorial/loubonner>



Richard Williams CWO4, U.S. Navy Officer Programs

Navy Officer Recruiting Station, East Alameda
2144 Clement Ave., Rm. 216
Alameda, CA 94501

Office: (510) 748-5382
Fax: (510) 522-1356
Cell: (650) 248-8983
Toll Free: (800) 345-6289
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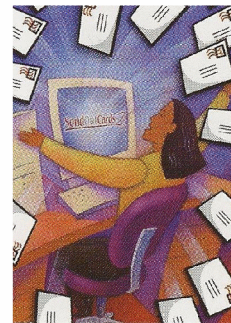
Western Region Vice President,
Lieutenant Colonel David Everly,
USMC, on your recent promotion.

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Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

Live Oak Masonic Lodge #61 will host an evening with Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. with guest appearance by junior airmen, Executive Director, COL Ben Henderson on November 11, 2010. The Social hours will start at 1800, dinner at 1845 followed by a presentation of the amazing African American pilots who fought in WWII. For reservation contact Adolph Keyes at (510) 374-8237, email: alkeyes@comcast.net; or Tillman Butler at tillmanb08@aol.com.

*There can be no change without a struggle...
There can be no forward progress without
recognition of the past...
Success is measured in varying degrees...
Vision is the impetus that fosters change and
cultivates the struggle necessary to promote the
passions of change...*

Commander Adolph Keyes, USCG Retired

Place Your Personal Ad

Advertise your business in *The Journal* newsletter. *The Journal* newsletter is circulated to national and local membership and military bases in several Bay Area counties four times a year. Let us advertise your business. Contact Adolph Keyes at alkeyes@comcast.net or (510) 374-8237 for more information.

2011 National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) Professional Development and Training

The 2011 conference will be hosted by the San Diego Chapter. The conference will be conducted August 1-5 at the beautiful Sheraton Hotel San Diego and Marina. Each Sea Service is expected to release a service message announcing the conference and encouraging attendance about March/April 2011 timeframe. Additional information can be found on the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) website at www.nnoa.org.

Start making plans now to attend this cannot miss event

Conference Volunteers Needed


Conference committees are always looking for volunteers to assist with photography, planning, coordinating, and general logistics. If you can help or know of a company or someone else who might be interested in helping with the conference, please contact the public affairs officer at the SFBA chapter at (510) 374-8237, email: alkeyes@comcast.net.

Annual SFBA Chapter Calendar:

Calendar Year 2010	
OCT 4-10 FLEET WEEK – San Francisco	<i>APR 30 – Chapter Quarterly Report – Tab E</i>
<i>OCT 30 – Chapter Quarterly Report – Tab E</i>	MAY 07 – Hadwick & Lily Thompson Scholarship Announcement
<i>OCT 31 – Chapter Annual Financial Report – Tab G</i>	<i>JUN 15 – Chapter Annual Report – Tab F</i>
<i>NOV 11 – Veterans Day Visit – Martinez VA</i>	<i>JUN 15 – Chapter Management Information Report – Tab D</i>
DEC – SFBA Christmas Celebration	JUL 31 – National Professional Development – <i>San Diego</i>
Calendar Year 2011	
JAN – MLK Breakfast, Monterey Chapter	<i>AUG 15 – Chapter Quarterly Report – Tab E</i>
JAN 30 – Chapter Quarterly Report – Tab E	<i>OCT 30 – Chapter Quarterly Report – Tab E</i>
FEB – Black History Month Observance – CG Island	<i>OCT 31 – Chapter Annual Financial Report – Tab G</i>
APR – Professional OER Training – CG Island	DEC – SFBA Christmas Celebration

* Monthly chapter meetings held second Tuesday of the month at CG Island Galley Special Events Room @ 1130.

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1055 AZUAR DRIVE
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DISCOVER....EXPLORE....
EXPERIENCE

FIRST ANNUAL

MARE ISLAND HISTORIC WALK

Sponsored By
Global Center for Success and the
Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Saturday, October 30, 2010
9:00AM – 2:00 PM

Event Tickets Go On Sale October 1st, 2010



GLOBAL CENTER FOR SUCCESS

