THE PUMP ROOM

The Mare Island Base Newsletter

Our Creed: "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. We pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution."

Volume XXVI Issue 8 August 2026

Commanders Corner August 2026

Ahoy Shipmates:

Found this while surfing the internet, thought I would pass it along for our Country's 250th Birthday.
We were all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance one day, when our teacher walked over. This little old teacher, Mr. Lasswell was his name. He said, "I've been listening to you boys and girls recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester and it seems as though it is becoming monotonous to you. If I may, may I recite it and try to explain to you the meaning of each word.

I - Me, an individual, a committee of one.
Pledge - Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.
Allegiance - My love and my devotion.
To the Flag - Our standard, "Old Glory", a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there's respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts "Freedom is everybody's job".
United [of the] - That means that we have all come together.
States [**of America**] - Individual communities that have united into 50 great states. 50 individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose, all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that's love for country.
And to the Republic for Which It Stands
Republic - A state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.
One Nation - Meaning, so blessed by God.
Under God - endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.
Indivisible - Incapable of being divided.
With Liberty - Which is freedom, the right of power to live one's own life, without threats, fear, or some sort of retaliation.
And Justice - The principle or qualities of dealing fairly with others.
For All - Which means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.

All base members should turn in a ballot no matter how many names are on the ballot.

Fair Winds and Following Seas.
Steve

MINUTES OF July 18, 2026 MEETING

Vice Commander Gary Peterson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by our Creed.
Opening prayer was given by Base Chaplin/ViceCmdr Gary Peterson.
Thank you to the Ladies for lunch.
Base COB, AL Cole read the lost boats for the month of July and rang the bell, then added one bell for Joe Johnston plus one bell added for Tom Hanby, both recently left on eternal patrol and one last bell was rang for all the rest of our past departed shipmates on eternal patrol.
Roll-call of all attending members with boat/year qualified.
Last month's base meeting minutes were accepted as written.
Treasurer, Bill Dornik read the treasury report for July. It was accepted by base group.
July Birthdays; David Bracket & John Douglas Jr.

Sick Call:

- Paul Larry in on-going hospice care
- Bill Putman still in hospice care at home
- Patricia Harris improving & should be back next month

Correspondence:

- None

Committee Reports:

- Brian Woodson (VVMB Counsel Building Subvet Rep) gave an update on the latest Vallejo Vets Building accomplishments, issues, needs & over-all status and also the wrongful death lawsuit filed against VVMB & the county. Brian also apologized for the Bar being closed for our July meeting (today) due to VFW closing it off for their emergency meeting needs & has voiced his displeasure to the VFW and building manager, as this affects the building's revenue stream and our groups meeting enjoyment .
- Tim Carlisle (National Senior Vice-Commander) gave a USSVI update including; **1.** New USSVI.org website bug fix status (mostly all addressed) & dues collection issues resolved. **2.** National Convention in Corpus Christi Texas Sept 6 thru 11 is coming up, if going please register for hotel before their 30-day cutoff. **3.** National Officer & Bylaw Changes voting is going great; please vote by end of August. Link is on USSVI.org website & ballots were also sent out via email. Vote even though positions are mostly uncontested to show participation & potential bylaw change. **4.** Base Activity Reports for MI Base have been submitted. These reports are important for National USSVI to make important decisions based on the information provided by all Bases.

Unfinished/Old Business:

- Base Pasta Feed is scheduled for Saturday, September 19th 12:00PM at Hayward Veterans Hall and several **volunteers are still needed** for kitchen help & to cook. We also need volunteers to help with the setting up the day before the event. This will take place as our regular meeting for September. **Please get involved.** Bill Dornik (Treasurer) has the tickets that you can obtain at $25 each.

New Business:

- We plan to look into conducting our monthly meetings to include a ZOOM conference option as well as in person participation, to accommodate members who are unable to travel to our base meetings . More to come on that.

Cont…

- Official Base Officer Nominations are open for new Base Commander, Base Vice-Commander & Base Treasurer. Base Commander nomination given is (Gary Peterson), Base Vice-Commander nomination given is (Hank Hobbs) & Base Treasurer nomination given is (Walt Young). No other nominations were stated. Ballots will be included in this month's Pump Room edition. Please have your vote in by Saturday October 17th. Vote even if there is only one candidate to show Base participation & activity. Note: Appointed positions; Secretary (Ron Troutner), COB (Al Cole), POC (John North) will remain in place for 2027-2029 & we have a new position of Pump Room Newsletter Editor in which (Greg Luce) has volunteered. Hank Hobbs has also volunteered to take over as Chaplin.

Announcements:

- Suggestion from one of the Bases in the recent Base/District-Commander meeting was to focus attention of USSVI organization to Junior ROTC, Sea-Scouts or Sea-Cadets, rather than the Caps-4-Kids program. Hospital access after covid is difficult for Caps-4-Kids.
- USSVI College Scholarships are available for both college & trade schools and can be acquired by both children & grandchildren of USSVI Submarine Veteran member's families. Go to https://ussvi.org for information & link to apply. Tim Carlisle (National Senior Vice Commander) chimed in and stated that over $200,000 in awards at $2500 apiece have been given out so far this year.
- Brian Woodson (VVMB Counsel Building Subvet Rep) announced that our USSVI August meeting will be moved into the Annex due to a large Veterans Eye Clinic schedule sponsored by VFW taking place in the main rooms of the building.

Good of the Order:

- Nothing mentioned

The 1st 50/25 cash raffle was won by Jerry Longmire!
The 2nd 50/25 cash raffle was won by Trisha Peters!
Quilt donated by Vallejo Piece Makers Quilters Club was raffled & won by Dominik Boncare!
Bottle of Wine raffle was won by Hank Hobbs!
Next official Base meeting will be August 15th at 11:00 in the building Annex.
Closing prayer was given by Gary Peterson.
A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

Mare Island Base, Ballott for Elected officers. For the office term of 2027 to 2029

___ Base Commander: Gary Peterson
___ Base Vice Commander: Hank Hobbs
___ Base Treasurer; Walt Young

Write-ins for any office _____

No matter if there is only one person running for an elected position all base members should turn in a completed ballet no later than
Saturday October 17th

Appointed Base Officers for 2027 – 2029 are;
Pump Room Editor, Greg Luce
Base Point of Contact, John North
Base Secretary, Ron Troutner
Base Chief of the Boat, Al Cole
Base Website Monitor, TBD (to be determined once base website is up)
Base Chaplin, Hank Hobbs

Please bring your completed ballot to the next Mare Island Base meeting or e-mail it to the MIB Point Of Contact John North or you can snail mail it to the Vallejo Veterans Hall at 420 Admiral Callaghan Ln. Vallejo CA. 94591. Please label it Attention Mare Island Base USSVI.

Mare Island Base Officers & Contacts

Commander:

Steve Paganelli (650) 766-2156 2370 Rosewood Dr. San Bruno, CA 94066
spagnel@prodigy.net

Vice Commander:

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imppete@att.net

Secretary:

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rontroutner@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

William Dornik (707) 315-6090 751 Rollingwood Rd. Vallejo, CA 94591-5707
wdornik@sbcglobal.net

Chaplain:

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Storekeeper:

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Barry J. Wyatt (916) 600-1425 6039 Dublin Way, Citrus Heights, CA 95610
SacSubVet@barrywyatt.com

Western Region Director:

Pete Juhos (916) 208-0667 194 Big Valley Rd. Folsom, CA 95630-4648
dsv3.ss1@gmail.com

Mare Island Base Facebook Page: Facebook.com/Mareisland.USSVI

Mare Island Base Website: ***"Temporarily inactive"***

PASTA FEED

Benefiting the

California Lost Boat Memorial Fund

Pasta: <u>There will be vegetarian gravy on the pasta with the peppers and sausage on the side.???</u>

For tickets call

Bill Dornik: 707-644-4746
Jim Garvey: 408-250-4040
Mike O'Brien: 650-743-9894

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19

NEW TIME !!!!

No host bar: 11:00

Lunch: 12:00

$25.00

Hayward Veterans Memorial Building
22737 Main Street (between C & D)
Havward, CA 94541

PRE-SOLD TICKETS ONLY

Make checks payable:
USSVI Mare Island Base

Lost Boat Memorial:
501(c)(3) EIN: 04-3788883

Coming Events

Mare Island Base Meeting August 15th , 2026 , 12 noon, Veteran's Memorial Building Vallejo, CA.
USSVI Annual Convention Corpus Christi Texas, September 6–11, 2026.
Mare Island & Dolphin Bases Pasta Feed Sept.19th 12 noon Veteran's Hall Hayward, CA

ANNUAL BOOSTERS

To become a booster, a donation of $60 per year or $5 per month is required

D. D'Ambrogio
J. Infanger
D. Boncore
W. Dornik
S. Paganelli
H. Hobbs
J. North
A. Cole
T. Kolda
W. Young

MONTHLY BOOSTERS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AUGUST

Al Cole
Terry Filson
Lee Major II
Gary Peterson
Dave Reis
Bob Whiteaker
Dennis D'Ambrogio
Michael Hudson
Michael McCoy
Larry Reinhart
Terry Silva

ETERNAL PATROL JULY

Tom Hanby / May 16, 2026

Sailor Rest Your Oar

Shipmates

U.S. Submarine Veterans Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS)
Each Year K4K Week is celebrated around Veterans Day (November11th).
Please contact Base Commander Steve Paganelli if you are interested in participating in this program.
Program Coordinator: John Riley (203) 668-9131 subvetss4kidss@gmail.com
United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation: Ken Earls (541) 879-3038
kenearls.ss@gmail.com
https://www.ussvcf.org/videos.html

2026 USSVI National Convention
September 6 - 11th, 2026
Corpus Christi, Texas
Registration Form Page 1

Use This Form Only if Paying by Check or Money Order. Use On-Line Form if Paying With Credit Card.
This is a Fillable PDF form. Download the form onto your computer. Click the cursor on the block to be filled in. Type in the applicable information. TAB to the next block or click the cursor on the applicable block.

Name (First):	(MI):	(Last):						
Name for Badge:	USSVI (✓ 1): Member		Associate		Guest			
Address:								
City:	State:	Zip Code:						
Phone:	E-mail:							
Base:	Position:							
Qual Boat:	Hull No:	Qual Year:						
Emergency Contact (Required):	Phone:							

Spouse / Guest 1

Name (First):	(MI):	(Last):					
Name for Badge:	USSVI (✓ 1): Member		Associate		Guest		
Emergency Contact (Required):	Phone:						

Guest 2

Name (First):	(MI):	(Last):					
Name for Badge:	USSVI (✓ 1): Associate				Guest		
Emergency Contact (Required):	Phone:						

Guest 3

Name (First):	(MI):	(Last):					
Name for Badge:	USSVI (✓ 1): Associate				Guest		
Emergency Contact (Required):	Phone:						

Note: The Registration, Challenge Coin and 50/50 fees are Non-refundable. You will receive your coins and remain eligable for 50/50 drawing. Refund requests for any of the above events must be made prior to August 01, 2026. Registration must be received NLT August 21st to guarantee seats at events and tours. After this registration can be made at the convention on space available basis.

Make Check/Money Order Payable to: United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. Memo: 2026 USSVI National Convention	Mail Registration Form (Pg. 1 & 2) and Payment to: 2026 USSVI National Convention PO Box 270100 Corpus Christi, TX 78427-0100

For Questions or Comments Please Contact

Barb Boyle 972-342-4761 barb.boyle@verizon.net	Glenn MacDonald 832-515-4825 gemlcdr@gmail.com	Rick Mitchell 512-639-0035 rick.ussvi@gmail.com

2026 USSVI National Convention
September 6 - 11th, 2026 Corpus Christi, Texas Registration Form Page 2

s Form Only if Paying by Check or Money Order. Use On-Line Form if Paying With Credit Card.

Click the cursor in the Registration Qty block.Type in the number and press Tab. The total is computed automatically. and the cursor moves down 1 block. When complete, print both pages.

Date	Event		Cost	Qty	Total
A registration fee is required for every person 18or older attending any of the events below. <18 Free. Note that alcohol will be available.		Registration	$ 30.00		0
Sun 9/6	Corpus Christi Hooks Baseball Game and Dinner (Minimum 40)	1600 - 2200	$ 55.00		0
Mon 9/7	Fishing Trip #1 (GULF) Port Aransas	0600 - 1400	$ 80.00		0
	Texas State Aquarium Trip	0800 - 1200	$ 50.00		0
	Historical Sightseeing & WWII Heritage Trail Tour #1	0830 – 1200	$ 30.00		0
	Railroad Brewery Luncheon (min 45)	1230 – 1430	$ 35.00		0
	Welcome Aboard Party-Stadium Fare Popcorn, ballpark nachos, cracker jacks, hot dogs and pizza	1900 - Till	$ 35.00		0
Tues 9/8	Fishing Trip #2 (BAY) Corpus Christi (max 35)	0600 – 1300	$ 60.00		0
	Grand Excursion Tour	0830 – 1500	$ 40.00		0
	Beer - BBQ & Spirits Tour (max 40)	1130 – 1630	$ 70.00		0
	Buccaneer Cruise - Sight Seeing Sunset Cruise (max 35)	1800 - 2100	$ 45.00		0
	Texas Tease Sunset Bay Cruise (Sold Out)	1800 - 2100	$ 50.00	Sold Out	0
Wed 9/9	Historical Sightseeing & WWII Heritage Trail Tour #2	0830 - 1200	$ 30.00		0
	Holland Club Luncheon 1130-1330 This event is open for everyone!	Chicken	$ 45.00		0
		Beef	$ 45.00		0
	Spirits - BBQ & Beer Tour #2 (max 40)	1400 - 1830	$ 70.00		0
	Half-Way Night Party & Ice Cream Social	1900 - Till	$ 35.00		0
Thur 9/10	Mens and Ladies Luncheon 1100 - 1300	Chicken	$ 45.00		0
		Beef	$ 45.00		0
	Tolling Ceremony	1530 - 1630	Free		
	Post Tolling BBQ Dinner on the Lex	1700 - Till	$ 25.00		0
Fri 9/11	Annual Awards Banquet *Special diet request please contact convention Chair	Chicken	$ 60.00		0
		Redfish	$ 60.00		0
		Beef	$ 78.00		0
50/50 Tickets (Drawn at Awards Banquet Attendence not required)		Each	$ 5.00		0
Extra Door Prize Tickets (prizes to be given away at all hotel events) (Each registration gets one ticket, these are extra chances)		Each	$ 5.00		0
Challenge Coin (Pre Order price only) $20 at Convention till sold out		Each	$ 12.00		0
		Total (if paying by check or money order)		=	0

LOST BOATS / AUGUST

Please Fly Your Flag On Lost Boats Days

USS Bullhead (SS-332)

Lost on August 6,1945 with the loss of 84 crew members in the Lombok Strait while on her 3rd war patrol when sunk by a depth charge dropped by a Japanese Army p lane. Bullhead was the last submarine lost during WWII.

USS Flier (SS-250)

Lost on August 13,1944, with the loss of 78 crew members while on her 2nd war patrol. Flier was transiting on the surface when she was rocked by a massive explosion (probably a mine) and sank within less than a minute. 13 survivors, some injured, made it into the water and swam to shore. 8 survived and 6 days later friendly natives guided them to a Coast Watcher and they were evacuated by the USS Redfin (SS-272).

USS S-39 (SS-144)

Lost on August 13,1942 after grounding on a reef south of Rossel Island while on her 3rd war patrol. The entire crew was able to get off and rescued by the HMAS Katoomba.

Cont…

USS Cochino (SS-345)

Lost on August 26, 1949 after being jolted by a violent polar gale off Norway caused an electrical fire and battery explosion that generated hydrogen and chlorine gasses. In extremely bad weather, men of Cochino and Tusk (SS-426) fought to save the submarine for 14 hours. After a 2nd battery explosion, Abandon Ship was ordered and Cochino sank. Tusk's crew rescued all of Cochino's men except for one civilian engineer. Six sailors from Tusk were lost during the rescue.

USS Harder (SS-257)

Lost on August 24,1944 with the loss of 79 crew members from a depth charge attack by a minesweeper near Bataan while on her 6th war patrol. Harder had won a Presidential Unit Citation for her first 5 war patrols and CDR Dealey was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously. Harder is tied for 9th in the number of enemy ships sunk.

Photos taken at the Submarine Birthday, Ball Monterey, CA

"Mother Onion"

by Bob 'Dex' Armstrong

The submarine tender, USS Orion (AS-18) was a floating wonderland of repair shops, supply distribution points, stores, medical facilities, and entertainment. The boredom of constant in port duty had turned all the personnel assigned to quarterdeck watches into poor, wretched, sorry excuses for human beings and rendered them completely devoid of the ability to exercise common sense. When diesel boat sailors transited this hallowed area, comments like "scarecrow navy", "friggin bums", and "riff raff" were thrown around in an indiscriminate manner.

It was a helluva lot easier to use the lower brow - kinda like the tradesman's entrance. The only problem with this point of entry were creatures called master-at-arms and bos'n mates... Strange forms of primitive life that roamed around on surface ships, spreading ill will and evil attitude.

Proper nomenclature and use of officially condoned and authorized Naval terms was very important to these high hashmark, brain-dead idiots. It was their 'Mother's Milk'... They used pirate movie vocabulary...
"Avast matey, there be a vessel on the leeward quarter, arrrgh..."
If it was a slow day and you wanted to wind up the organ grinder's monkey for entertainment, all you had to do was say, "Hey, Doc..."
(They hated to be called "Doc", "Hoss", or "Mr. Sailorman...")
"Hey Doc... How'd I get to where the officers do all their officer stuff?"
"Crissakes son, how long you been in the Navy?"
"Not long, Hoss, how 'bout you?"
"Long enough to know you're one (blanking) hopeless mother (blanker)!"

This was funny because I wasn't the fool who was about to jump out of his brogans and have a heart attack.
"Yeah Doc, last time I was over on your big boat, I think your officers lived upstairs at the end of a big gray hall with a lot of doors, fire extinguishers, pipes and electrical wire, and stuff..."

This kind of Naval sacrilegious talk could make all the veins stand out on the neck of any sonuvabitch with fouled anchors below his crow. And, if he went into one of those "In the OLD Navy..." routines, you had him. He would then throw terms at you like,
"Midships, th'wartships... 02 deck, up ladder, stb'd passageway, to the companionway aft of frame 32..."

Once they started tossing around that Charlie Tuna talk, their eyes lit up. For one fleeting moment suspended in time, this poor pitiful excuse for a human being became Popeye, Barnacle Bill, and the kid off the Cracker Jack box, all rolled into one seafaring clown act.
"Thanks buddy, I like that neat Navy talk... You musta paid a lot of attention to all that Navy silly shit in bootcamp... I'll bet your mama's real proud of you..."
By this time, even a certifiable idiot would unravel your act.
Once you got into 'Mother Onion', there were endless forms of things to do, to amaze and entertain yourself. Up off the boat deck was the radio shack. Radiomen have to go in and out of officer's country all the time, so they gotta be clean and neat. Radio shacks are the best places to steal white hats. Radiomen on the Orion never seemed to figure that out.

You could always go down to the forward area where the 'T' Division bunked down. There was a good chance you could find some intellectually stimulating literature laying around... Magazines with articles like, "I was an American sailor trapped on an island inhabited by sex-crazed Amazon women."

Cont…

This kind of historically accurate recounting of little details previously unknown, contributed to a rapid increase in one's Naval awareness.

I once walked into a sophisticated, highly technical, state-of-the-art photo lab on the Orion. I found two highly placed members of the Naval establishment using massive carbon arc lights to cook frozen pizzas. I left with renewed faith and elevated confidence in the military preparedness of the Naval establishment - and two hot slices of pepperoni pizza.

There was a vicious rumor that non-rated men would go to the tender to dope off and waste time, endlessly screwing around to no particular purpose. Whenever some authority drunk keeper of the flame and all-Navy gatekeeper would come toward you with that "What in the hell are you doing here?" look in his eye... We would smile and launch a preemptive strike. "Pardon me Chief, where are we supposed to go to donate the blood you guys called for, to help those Taiwanese typhoon victims?"...

Hell, sometimes the old bastards went for it like a #5 dry fly. Most of the time though, they played 'Pin the Tail on the Wiseass'.

They were always blowing whistles and passing, "Now hear this..." bulletins over their 21 MC.

"Now hear this... Orion arriving..."

"Now hear this... Orion departing..."

"Now hear this... Uniform of the day for all ship's company not engaged on work details... Undress blues..."

Sometimes we'd get so damn depressed, we'd have to go the radio shack and steal another white hat.

On Orion, there was a weird cult of unsalvageable individuals known as postal clerks. Two occupations I never figured out - Orion postal clerks and people who raise nightcrawlers for live bait stores. Can you imagine a 30-year career sorting and bagging mail?

I once walked through a heavy machine shop. They had equipment there fully capable of turning out a prop shaft for the biggest ship afloat... Six guys were busting their ass turning out two-inch high monel metal chessmen. They had just completed what appeared to be five to six hundred rooks.

They had a ship's service and a geedunk that did a landslide business in steel belted hot dogs and stale potato chips. Hell, you could buy monogrammed lighters, pen sets, brooches, pendants, even little 'USN' dangly earrings to use as 'pogey bait' for that honey with loose panty elastic... or maybe a sonar girl...

In those days, the Orion was in a life and death race with rust. Bos'n mates were still considered to be part of the human race, and the submarine force had degenerated to the point it was sending forth emissaries to steal, scavenge and wholesale appropriate whatever was necessary to keep the petroleum-powered submersibles from taking up permanent residence in Davy Jones locker.

This was the point in Naval history where some enterprising genius discovered that if you cut the end out of a Trojan and rerolled it, you had a universal O-ring... And that you could waterproof your watch by dropping it into a Trojan and tying a knot in it. If you are saying to yourself, "Why in the hell would some sonuvabitch wanna do that?" You obviously never missed the last liberty boat and had to swim out to wherever your boat was swinging the hook. You could tell a frequent swimmer... He carried multiple rubbers and a laminated liberty card.

It was all too long ago in the land of DES SUB Piers.

"Editor's Note"

It has been brought to my attention that every 3rd Monday & Wednesdays of each month, there is Dinner served at the Vallejo Vets Hall for $15 a person.

Mondays are run by VFW & starts at 7:00PM.

Wednesdays are run by Post 550 at 6:00PM.

We need to RSVP ahead of time to Ray at Post 550. Phone: 720548-7148 You can pay by Zelle or cash at the event.

UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS INC. MARISLAND BASE
Application For Membership

Our Creed: "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their Country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward the greater accomplishments. We pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States and its Constitution."

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

BIRTHDATE: _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

BOAT QUALIFIED ON & DATE: _____

RANK/RATE ATTAINED: _____

CURRENTLY ON ACTIVE DUTY: YES ( ) NO ( )

USN or USNR RETIRED: YES ( ) NO ( )

OTHER BOATS SERVED ON (Name/Hull#/Dates): _____

_____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Annual dues are $10. Base Dues, and $40. National Dues. If you prefer you can renew 3 yrs. at $27. for Base Dues, and $113. National Dues, or 5 yrs. at $45. for Base Dues and $185. National Dues. Life Membership for National: Under 45=$750.00, age 46-55=$625.00, age 56-65=$450.00, age 66-75 =$300.00, age 76+ =$150.00. (Life Members must also pay Base Dues as stated above.) Please send your check made out to **Mare Island Base** to:

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Vallejo, CA 94591

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