



The NASSCO Tidepool

A Collection of Environmental News from the Shipyard and Our Community.

3RD QUARTER, 2003

08/29/03

Environmental Engineering Mission Statement

NASSCO Environmental Engineering is dedicated to maintaining an Environmental Management System that continually strives to go beyond regulatory compliance.

NASSCO Environmental Engineering is committed to conducting all operations in a manner that safeguards the health and safety of all employees and the public, preserves natural resources, and protects the environment. This commitment to protecting the air, water, and land is carried out through energy conservation initiatives, recycling programs, and on-going process improvements.

NASSCO Considered a Good Neighbor

By Greg Cox, Chairman of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors



Over the years, NASSCO has proven to be a company that cares about the community that we all share. The County of San Diego has come to rely on NASSCO as a good neighbor and an outstanding corporate citizen for your active leadership role, support and participation in efforts to protect the environment. Since many of NASSCO's efforts may not

garner the great deal of public attention that they rightly deserve, I am grateful to have the opportunity to highlight the company's important contributions to Barrio Logan neighborhood and to the environment.

Building a Better Barrio Logan

Over the past couple of years, NASSCO has been a leading partner in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Barrio Logan Environmental Justice Demonstration Project. One of only fifteen nationwide, this project brings together many agencies and public groups to improve air quality and children's health in NASSCO'S neighboring community. Lane McVey, NASSCO Vice President and

General Counsel, actively participates on the steering committee and Kacey Christie, NASSCO Environmental Engineer, leads as Chair of the project's Pollution Prevention & Compliance Assistance Task Force, a group that includes representatives from U.S. EPA, the Environmental Health Coalition, Southwest Marine, the Inner City Business Association, the County of San Diego's Department of Environmental Health, Hazardous Materials Division and Air Pollution Control District.

Working Together to Reduce Pollution from Auto Shops

Through education and partnership, the Task Force has promoted pollution prevention efforts among businesses in Barrio Logan, and their efforts are working! An Automotive Industry Pollution Prevention Workshop last year educated area businesses about air emission regulations, worker safety techniques and ways to reduce sources of hazardous waste by substituting safer products for a number of commonly used chemicals like solvent parts washers, brake cleaners and aerosols. The Workshop also offered information about spill prevention and dry floor cleanup methods in both English and Spanish. The Automotive Industry Workshop was such a tremendous success that another one is being planned for the Barrio Logan area.

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NASSCO IS RECOGNIZED BY THE U.S. EPA

On July 9, 2003 NASSCO was recognized by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for participating in the Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Environmental Management Systems Pilot Program. Additional members of the General Dynamics Marine Division that were also recognized for their participation in this program were Bath Iron Works and Electric Boat. One of our Team Members, Southwest Marine, Inc. was recognized for their participation as well.



In partnership with the US EPA, the participating shipyards developed a model guide for shipyards to follow in order to prevent pollution through the implementation of an Environmental Management System.

The US EPA does not require companies to implement an EMS (Environmental Management System), but, recognizes it as a means for companies to demonstrate their commitment to prevent pollution and continuously improve their environmental performance.

Did you know that December 12, 2003 is the third anniversary of our ISO 14001 Certification?

13th Annual Operation Clean Sweep

By Kacey Christie, Environmental Engineering Specialist, ext. 7963



On Saturday, June 7th, NASSCO volunteers consisting of employees, customers, subcontractors, family and friends joined the other shipyards, Continental Maritime and Southwest Marine, Inc. in participating in the 13th Annual Operation Clean Sweep

Operation Clean Sweep is an annual Bay clean-up event organized by the San Diego Port Tenants Association. NASSCO was again one of the sponsors for this event. Traditionally volunteers from the shipyards clean-up Cesar Chavez Park at the foot of Cesar Chavez Parkway in Barrio Logan. In addition to cleaning the park bayside, shipyard volunteers cleaned a portion of the Chollas Creek bed at



32nd & Main Street in order to prevent pollution from entering San Diego Bay.

There was an excellent turnout this year of over 50 volunteers from NASSCO. I'd like to send a special thank-you to our customers and subcontractors. The success of the Chollas Creek event would not have been possible without Pacific Ship Repair, who donated the use of a crane and brought along a large contingent of volunteers. The crane was invaluable in pulling up the 100+ tires and 50+ shopping carts from the creek bed.

Two additional NASSCO subcontractors volunteering for the cleanup were Performance Contracting Inc. and PDS Construction. I would also like to extend a special thank-you to the volunteers from the crew of the USS Belleau Wood, that was dry-docked at NASSCO.

After two grueling hours in the mud, the volunteers were rewarded with a free BBQ at Pepper Park in National City. The Navy Band, entertained us with some great jazz, while the kids enjoyed frisbees, balloon-animal clowns and two jumping rooms.

If you missed this event, the next clean-up event that NASSCO participates in will be during National Pollution Prevention Week (NP2W), Saturday September 20th see Page 8 for more details.

Upcoming ABS Audit of NASSCO's EMS

Did you know that NASSCO's EMS (Environmental Management System) is evaluated every six months by ABS (American Bureau of Shipping)?

This evaluation is in the form of an audit in accordance with the ISO 14001 Standard to which our EMS was certified on December 12, 2000.

These audits occur every May and November. In our last audit in May, NASSCO performed well with just two minor non-conformances. The following departments had zero findings during this audit and were awarded "Commitment to Our Environment" certificates by Environmental Engineering:

- Blast, Paint & General Services
- Machine Shop
- Safety
- SOC 1
- SOC 3

This was the third time in a row that the Blast, Paint, and General Services Department was found to be in conformance with the standard during an ABS audit! Great Job!

The next audit will be November 11-13th. To prepare for this audit, please review your work instructions, E-Grams # EMS 01 through 04, and the BMP's (Best Management



Blast, Paint & General Services Department

Practices) that apply to your work area.

Reminder - The following BMP's apply to all NASSCO employees, customers, team members, subcontractors, and suppliers:

- BMP#101 - Container Labeling
- BMP#110 - Universal Waste
- BMP#204 - General Yard Clean-up
- BMP#408 - Parking Lot Housekeeping

Meet Your Hazmat Coordinators: Art Gonzalez

By Chad Haza, Environmental Administrator, ext. 8826

Art Gonzalez is the HazMat Coordinator for a large section of our yard which includes the Grit Blast/Paint Pit, Buildings 51,42,17, 73 and the Carpenter's Shop. A large responsibility in very capable hands. Art has made career in shipbuilding, prior to our yard he was employed as a painter for 10 years at a shipyard in Long Beach up until it was shut down which prompted him to find work further south. When he came to NASSCO he continued painting for another 5 years in various locations throughout the yard. Now five years ago, he took up a position working in the Paint Tool Room where he can still be found today.

For the past five years, Art has been a Hazardous Materials Coordinator which he finds very gratifying. Art has always had a good sense of environmental commitment and concern, but being a coordinator has only strengthened his commitment. Since being a Coordinator his concern for our environment stretches past the perimeter of NASSCO and is carried through him in his lifestyle. He'll commonly point out and take action against items that he has learned have a detrimental affect on the environment such as picking up plastic six-pack rings on his walks along shorelines.

The hardest part of being a coordinator for him is transferring the same commitment that he has to others around him. Understanding that old habits are hard to break he is a constant reminder to others for NASSCO's environmental issues, he knows in time some people will follow suit.

Art was originally from Mexico but very early in his life, at the age of three, his family moved to Los Angeles where he grew up. He lived in Long Beach for some time before following work to San Diego. He's lived in Southern California his whole life and really enjoys the people that reside in this region. Although he longs for the days before the population grew to what it is today. A quiet man, Art



finds relaxation in sketching and drawing marine vessels on the open sea. He also likes to take long walks for exercise and relaxation. A pride in his life is his teenage son currently in high school.

With a wide grin Art tells me that his favorite food is Mexican dish his mother used to make often

"mole pablano". His favorite location around San Diego is Coronado Island, he enjoys the waterfront parks and the boats and ships that can be seen from there. He also enjoys a TV show called "This Old House" a restoration/renovation home improvement show. His father is a carpenter and he spent some time in his past building homes so he feels this is where the attachment to the show is. Another pastime for him is following his baseball team, the Dodgers.

When asked the question about how he views NASSCO's overall environmental performance in the next five years. Art is very optimistic, in the present we are doing very well and it continues to improve. If put into a percentage of improvement since he has started working for NASSCO, Art brings up approximately 90 percent improvement, he claims with the introduction of ISO 9001 and 14001 to NASSCO, work practices have become more controlled and predictable which has greatly improved the way we treat the environment. So in the future Art is very optimistic. He believes there is room for improvement in the communication of the HazMat Coordinators to their areas. If they had more of a platform to speak and educate from, he believes that they could do more to help raise environmental awareness in their area.

Don't Throw Away Your Old TV's or Computer Monitors!

Did you know that you are not allowed to dispose of old, unwanted or broken television sets and computer monitors in the trash?



Television sets and computer monitors contain cathode ray tubes (CRTs) that convert electronic signals into visual images. These CRTs usually contain 2-10 pounds of lead, which is considered a hazardous material.

California law requires that unwanted CRTs be recycled at an approved facility or managed as hazardous waste.

To find a television or computer monitor recycling location near you:

- Call 1-800-CLEANUP (1-800-253-2687)
- Visit the Earth 911 website at www.earth911.org

Certain functional computer monitors or television sets may also be donated to charity organizations for their use. Please Contact your favorite local charity to arrange this type of donation prior to drop off.

You can prevent pollution as a consumer of electronic products by:

- Properly recycling electronic equipment.
- Delaying the purchase of new equipment, until a functional failure occurs.
- Requesting Take-Back options from your retailer.



For more information, contact the County of San Diego, Department of Environmental Health, Hazardous Materials Division at (619) 338-2222 / (800) 253-9933.

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Reducing Air Pollution from Ship and Boat Coatings

In addition, the Task Force is currently coordinating a Marine Coatings workshop for the ship and boatyard industry for September 19, 2003 at NASSCO's facility. This training event purposefully coincides with National Pollution Prevention Week, September 15-21, 2003, and its theme, "Its Time." To give a small example of the innovative thinking that NASSCO brings to the Task Force, recently members brainstormed a simple pollution prevention technique - by using elastic-banded plastic covers for opened paint cans, air emissions from open containers can be reduced.

As a result, the technique was approved by Air Pollution Control District and is now being implemented at local shipyards.

Promoting Green Business - Negocio Verde

The Task Force continues to look for ways to expand their opportunities to educate the community about pollution prevention. With the County, the group recently applied for funding to develop a San Diego Area Green Business

Program and proposes a Spanish-marketed Negocio Verde (Green Business) project for the Pueblo Watershed, which includes Barrio Logan and neighboring communities. Negocio Verde would impart the A, B, C's of pollution prevention utilizing Academia, Business and the Community to build and maintain environmental stewardship and long term sustainability for the area and particularly, improving the water quality of Chollas Creek. The project has adopted the tiny indigenous fiddler crab found in Chollas Creek as a symbol, hoping that community interest and concern for the threatened animal will increase awareness in pollution prevention.

The County of San Diego recognizes NASSCO's environmental stewardship efforts through their active leadership role, support and participation in the Barrio Logan Environmental Justice Pollution Prevention & Compliance Task Force, ISO 14001, Environmental Management System, and in addition, the San Diego & Imperial Counties Pollution Prevention Committee. As Chairman of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, I am pleased to have this opportunity to thank all the hardworking employees at NASSCO for your ongoing commitment to protect the environment. NASSCO is indeed a good neighbor.

Sophie's Center Cleans our Parking Lots

We all know how important it is to keep our Parking Lots clean in order to prevent trash, debris and other pollution from entering Chollas Creek or the



City's storm drains. NASSCO has recently contracted with St. Madeline Sophie's Center to help us accomplish this task.

St Madeline Sophie's Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of developmentally disabled adults by helping them gain self-sufficiency and fulfillment through meaningful work and personal expression.

The Sisters of the Society of the Sacred Heart opened the center in El Cajon in 1966, which today now serves approximately 200 individuals. The Group Community Work Program contracts with local companies providing the following services: Litter Abatement, Data Entry, Packaging, Laundry, Lawn Care, Bulk Mailings, and Janitorial Services.

In the 1970s the center began conducting art classes that became so popular that in January 2000 a second site

was opened in downtown El Cajon, *Sophie's Gallery*. This gallery is working art studio that serves 60 artists with developmental disabilities. Greeting cards designed and licensed by the artists of Sophie's Gallery are available for purchase on their website, www.stmsc.org.



"The mission of St. Madeline Sophie's Center is to empower adults with developmental disabilities to discover, experience, and realize their full potential as members of the greater community."

We are proud to have St. Madeline Sophie's Center helping us keeping our parking lots clean!

Meet Your Hazmat Coordinators: Delphi Duby

By Chad Haza, Environmental Administrator, ext. 8826

Delphi Duby is the HazMat Coordinator for Berths 9/10, 11/12, and Bldg. 40. Not only a HazMat Coordinator of two years but he also is very active in the Site Implementation Group for his area where safety concerns are addressed. Acting the part of both roles has enabled him to become very knowledgeable about industrial health and safety. Delphi cherishes the knowledge that he picks up from these roles as it makes him feel that he is in a position to make a difference.

He started his career at NASSCO 8 years ago in April of 1995. His first position was Material Handler for Outfit Production Control after two years he became a Material Supply Technician (MST) for the Plate Shop and later for Warehousing. For the past three years he is working as a MST on the repair berths. As a HazMat Coordinator for his area he is finding that overall environmental compliance is easily kept. Lately he has some difficulties with subcontractors complying with NASSCO's policies but he is there to make sure they stay in compliance. One issue of concern that affects both subcontractors and NASSCO personnel is the usage and disposal of the rags.

Outside of NASSCO Delphi's greatest interest and time goes into his family. He has two daughters and one son and in the near future Delphi's going to be a granddad, which he is very excited about. He also cares for one dog, a small dachshund and two cats. Besides his family Delphi has a home out in Alpine which he takes pride in its upkeep.

Originally Delphi was raised in Bridgeport, CT. When he was ten years old his parents moved the family to San Diego where he has been living ever since. San Diego is a great place to live for Delphi because of the weather.

Operation Seagull Rescue

Paul Ruiz, Environmental Engineering Clerk, ext. 8533

The day was June 19, 2003. It was a cloudy day with a slight northeast breeze coming in from San Diego Bay. Everything seemed quiet and calm. That was the day the rescue would be carried out at NASSCO. I am talking about Operation Seagull Rescue.

You might have heard around the yard or read an article published last quarter in this newsletter about a seagull that had made a nest and laid eggs on crane. Well, according to the *Migratory Bird Act*, no one is allowed to move a bird's nest until after its eggs are hatched.



Once the eggs hatched, John Martin, Environmental Engineering Specialist contacted an experi-



encing in Connecticut has made him appreciate the perfect weather we have here. In his late teens Delphi worked in forestry, traveling around to different state parks, this is where an environmental commitment was developed in him. He would see first-hand pristine conditions go downhill from careless disregard to our environment. Talking to Delphi you can tell it stills troubles him today.

Delphi is a steak & potatoes and the occasional lasagna kind of guy when it comes to good food, if he were really indulgent, crab & lobster would suit him well. He is also an avid book reader, his genre of choice is fantasy novels especially from authors of the likes of Tolkien. Basketball is the sport of choice for Delphi, specifically the Lakers of whom his wife is an avid fan of.

Recollecting from when he first started at NASSCO, Delphi really started to see an environmental awareness change in the yard about six years ago. At four years ago he believes is when it really started to kick in and he looks forward to the future because he knows it will only improve. Improving environmental communication in the yard for Delphi needs to start with the subcontractors, as this is where most of the problems arise.

Delphi looks ahead into the near future and truly believes that NASSCO could achieve 100 percent environmental commitment especially if we keep heading in the direction we currently are.

enced bird rescuer from Sea World to relocate the nest and the newborn chick. After gathering the necessary tools and coordinating the operation, the rescuer got to work. It was a long struggle to carefully retrieve and secure the chick without getting it too frightened and not get attacked by the parents. But the rescuer pulled through.

Now came the hard part. According to the rescuer, the most difficult task is relocating the nest. Why? Well if you move the nest with the chick too far from its original location the parents might not recognize its own chick! John Wright, from the Rigging Department, was there helping and suggested moving the nest to an adjacent connex box. Luckily everything worked out GREAT! The chick is fine and the parents have accepted their new home atop of the connex box out near Berth 1 & 2. Good work everyone!

Teaching Kids Water Conservation

By Luis Generoso, Water Resources Manager, City of San Diego, Water Department

For many children water is the ultimate playground. From swimming pools to the ocean, kids have an innate love for playing in the water. But do your kids also understand the importance of water in everyday life? One way to teach them to value and respect water is to encourage them to conserve it.

“Spend some time with your children and teach them the importance of water and how this resource is very precious,” suggested Chris Robbins, Supervising Management Analyst for the City of San Diego’s Water Conservation Program. “By engaging them at an early age they can develop a solid foundation of water-wise habits that they will carry on for many years.”

Get kids involved. Start by having them turn off the water while they brush their teeth, or put trash in the garbage can instead of the toilet. Little steps can add up to big savings.

Here are some other suggestions to get your kids interested and excited about water conservation:

- Set incentives for your children to save water. Assign them to be the household water patrol and have them list ways on how water can be used more efficiently. Before you know it, your kids will be helping you save money on your utility bills.
- Visit the Water Conservation Exhibit at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center in Balboa Park. This interactive exhibit, sponsored by the City of San Diego Water Department & the San Diego County Water Authority allows children the opportunity to learn about the sources of San Diego's water, and the methods of delivering and processing water. For more information, contact the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center at 619-238-1233 or at <http://www.rhfleet.org/index.html>.
- Water conservation can be fun & educational with the Water Department’s Activity Book. Play fun games with your children, as you teach them how to save water around the house. To request a copy of the Water Conservation Activity Book, call 619-515-3500.
- Enjoy an afternoon strolling through the beautiful, water-conserving, landscapes and gardens at the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College. For information, call 619-660-0614 or log on to www.thegarden.org.



Additionally, parents can encourage their children’s teachers to incorporate water conservation into their curriculum:

- Call 858-292-3696 to have the “Splash Lab” visit your school. This San Diego County Department of Education and San Diego County Water Authority sponsored interactive mobile lab incorporates multimedia, computer analysis, hands-on experimentation, observation, and group problem solving to teach students about water quality, weather, and storm drain pollution.

Water conservation is a family affair. Everyone can pitch in to conserve water by doing their part in turning off the faucet when not in use, reporting and fixing water leaks, or not letting the garden hose run. If you make saving water a normal part of daily chores, practices, and learning, you can be a water-wise family.

For more information about Water Conservation, visit www.sandiego.gov/water or call 619.515.3500.

National Pollution Prevention Week (NP2W) is September 15-20, 2003

By Kacey Christie, Environmental Engineering Specialist, ext 7963

National Pollution Prevention Week is an annual event sponsored by the US Environmental Protection Agency designed to promote Pollution Prevention (P2) projects and awareness.

The goal of NP2W is to make the public and businesses aware of Pollution Prevention (P2) information, opportunities and resources. NASSCO is proud to be celebrating National Pollution Prevention Week for the second year in a row with the following events:



P2 Training for all NASSCO Personnel. - Monday, September 15th through Friday, September 19th

Throughout the entire week, all NASSCO employees will receive E-Gram (Environmental Gram) P2 (Pollution Prevention) Training. These E-Grams will focus on easy to implement ways for preventing pollution in the shipyard and at home.

Customer, Team Member, Supplier and Subcontractor Training - Monday - September 15th and Friday - September 19th

- Session A = Monday - Sept 15th from 8am to 11am (*Water Quality Emphasis*)
- Session B = Friday - Sept 19th from 1pm to 3pm (*Air Quality Emphasis*)

This course provides an overall awareness of environmental laws, regulations, and NASSCO policies and procedures that affect shipyard operations. The course topics include NASSCO's EMS, hazardous materials/waste management incident reporting, and emergency response at NASSCO.

This course is a mandatory annual requirement for customers, team members, subcontractors and suppliers **DESIGNATED** in accordance with Environmental Procedure Manual, Procedure No. 03, Environmental Training, Awareness and Competence.

If you require additional information on this course, please contact me at x7963.

*NOTE: Representatives from NASSCO Purchasing and/or Contracts are welcome to attend this course in order to gain insight into the environmental rules, regulations and policies the **designated** customers, team members, subcontractors and suppliers are subject to.*

San Diego & Imperial Counties P2 Committee and San Diego Green Business Program Joint Meeting at NASSCO - Tuesday, September 16th

NASSCO is hosting a joint meeting of the San Diego & Imperial Counties P2 (Pollution Prevention) Committee and the San Diego Area Green Business Program. NASSCO joined these committees in the last year as a means of pursuing our goal as *The Neighbor of Choice*.

This meeting will conclude of a tour of some of NASSCO's key P2 projects such as the Storm Water Diversion System, the filtration systems of the Plasma Cutters and the Automated Welding Lines, and the Containment Structures of the Blast & Paint & General Services Department.



NASSCO Environmental Star Awards - Wednesday, September 17th

Environmental Engineering developed and launched the First Annual Environmental Star Awards Program in 2002. This year, as with last year, NASSCO employees nominated those individuals, teams departments and organizations that demonstrate environmental excellence in their processes, attitudes, and actions. The Compliance Assurance Committee will choose the winners in each category and these awards will be presented during a Pizza Party Luncheon recognizing all nominees for their Commitment to Our Environment.

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National Pollution Prevention Week (NP2W) is September 15-20, 2003

By Kacey Christie, Environmental Engineering Specialist, ext. 7963

Marine Coatings P2 & Compliance Assistance Workshop

Friday - September 19th - 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Juneau Room, Alaskan Queen Barge

This course is being conducted by the *Barrio Logan Environmental Justice P2 & Compliance Assistance Task Force* of which NASSCO and Southwest Marine, Inc. are members. Additional organizations participating in this workshop are the Air Pollution Control District, Department of Environmental Health, Hazardous Materials Division, and the US EPA.

Attendance at this workshop is mandatory for NASSCO Team Members & Subcontractors that conduct Marine Coating Operations in accordance with an APCD Rule 67.18 permit. Lunch will be provided to those organizations staying on for ENV-06, Session #B.



Chollas Creek Cleanup - Saturday, September 20th

NASSCO will join with *I-LOVE-A-CLEAN-SAN DIEGO* and the City of San Diego, Storm Water Division to participate in the 19th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day sponsored by the California Coastal Commission. Last year, over forty volunteers, consisting of NASSCO employees, family, friends, and subcontractors cleaned the Chollas Creek bed area and the surrounding NASSCO parking lots. The total amount of trash collected weighed in at 1,310 pounds.

If you are interested in joining in the fun this year, please call me at x7963.



This newsletter is generated by the NASSCO Environmental Engineering staff and is intended for the enjoyment of its readers by providing information on a variety of environmental topics. Information and/or opinions expressed herein reflect the knowledge and opinions of the author and not necessarily the entire Environmental Engineering Department, NASSCO or General Dynamics.

If you are interested in submitting an article of environmental interest, or would like us to address one of your questions/concerns, please contact us at Environmental Engineering, Mail Stop 22A.

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