



# The NASSCO Tidepool

A Collection of Environmental News from the Shipyard and Our Community

3RD QUARTER, 2004

08/27/04

## 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.

### Divers Wanted

By Steve Dykeman, Manager, Steel Assembly

As you pass between the tables you may notice NASSCO's newest diving team...Dumpster Divers that is, by the "recycling pros" of NASSCO.

The entire Assembly Department and especially people like James Zelazny (Production Supervisor pictured right) have been working very hard to recycle everything they get their hands on.

This started almost 2 years ago with beverage cans and bottles but quickly grew as we lead the yard as one of the first areas to recycle shop towels and burning/welding dust. We launched these recycling programs with clearly labeled containers and innovations like quick closing drum lids.

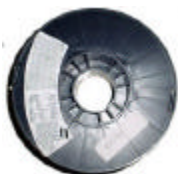


space, less trash and the feel-good factor of recycling, the department doggedly pursued the recycling these reels.

We quickly learned that the reels aren't made from a desirable form of plastic. It is what the industry refers to as a Class-6 type recyclable. It cannot be easily made into other things. In fact we learned that there are many toxins in this plastic that maybe released during the recycling process, so it seemed as though no one wanted to purchase or even take these reels off our hands. With landfills swallowing these reels in record numbers, the challenge was there and the search was on.



Today, department employees support recycling so well that dumpster diving is very rare, however other people passing through the area and don't use our separate containers for cans, bottles, shop towels, and welding flux core reels (pictured below) so when time permits, Assembly employees still go for the occasional dive.



As for our latest project, the department pursued the possibility of recycling flux core welding wire plastic reels since these make up 30% of the total volume of our trash. So for the sake of lay-down

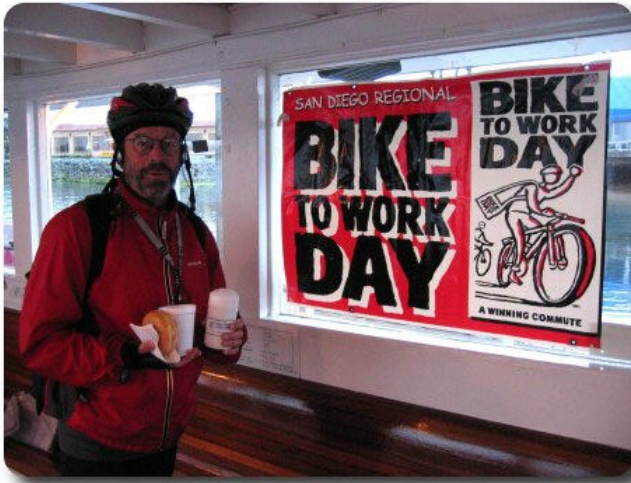
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## NASSCO Joins the Fun of Bike to Work Day

More than forty NASSCO employees joined in the fun of Bike-To-Work Day on Friday, May 21, 2004.

The Environmental Engineering Department gave away "Commitment to Our Environment" polo shirts to two lucky riders that entered our Bike-To-Work Drawing.

Jim Ferguson, Industrial Hygienist, Safety Department has been riding his bike to work for the last two years. Jim lives in Mission Valley and rides to Ocean Beach and then on to Point Loma where he makes his way to Harbor Drive and NASSCO. Jim's ride is 17.5 miles each way.



Mike Ayres, Staff Engineer in Blast, Paint and General Services participated in Bike to Work Day for the 9th time. Mike rode his bike to work, everyday, rain or shine for the last 9 years. Mike a resident of Coronado, rode his bike down to the Ferry Landing and then caught the ferry at 6:15 a.m. He then took a leisurely 15-minute cruise across the Bay to the Broadway Pier. From there he finished his ride with a quick run down Harbor Drive to NASSCO.

## NC4 Attends the Spirit of the Barrio Luncheon By Kacey Christie, Environmental Engineering Specialist

Members of the NASSCO Chollas Creek Cleanup Committee (NC4) who plan & participate in the three Chollas Creek cleanup each year were privileged to represent NASSCO at the Spirit of the Barrio Luncheon on Friday, May 21, 2004.

As a part of NASSCO's on-going community outreach program, NASSCO is a Fiesta Grande Sponsor of the Spirit of the Barrio Luncheon. These donations support the Family Health Centers of San Diego (FHCS) which provides comprehensive, accessible health care services to residents and business in the San Diego area. The FHCS provides affordable health care for individuals at all income levels and focuses on the low-income medically underserved.

The guest speakers for the luncheon were John & Diane Brockington. John is a former All-Pro running back for the Green Bay Packers. He and his wife, Diane, shared their amazing story that led them to becoming a voice for organ donation. Diane actually donated one of her kidneys to save John's life.

Every person can save or improve the lives of over 50 people just by being an organ donor. To find out more about organ donation contact the US Department of Health and Human Services at [www.organdonor.gov](http://www.organdonor.gov) or via telephone at 1-888-275-4772.

The next Chollas Creek cleanup being planned by NC4 is California Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. To find out how you can join in the fun, please call me at 544-7963 or via email at [kchrist1@nassco.com](mailto:kchrist1@nassco.com).





## 1st Annual Urban Runoff 5K Run/Walk & Junior 1K

NASSCO is proud to be a sponsor of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Urban Runoff 5K Run/Walk and Junior 1K on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at Seaport Village, Embarcadero Marina Park North.

Urban runoff pollution accounts for 90 percent of the pollution found in San Diego's beaches, bays, creeks, rivers and reservoirs. Urban runoff is bacteria from yard waste, pet waste and dirt. Urban runoff is chemicals and pesticides from our homes, yards and businesses. And, it is oil, grease and metals from our cars. All of this pollution falls onto man-made surfaces and is transported by rain or water through our storm water conveyance system directly into the creeks, Bay, and beaches throughout San Diego County.

Urban runoff can be prevented. To address the growing problem of urban runoff, the City of San Diego, San Diego Baykeeper, San Diego City Schools, the Port District and others have joined together to create **Project SWELL - Stewardship: Water Education for Lifelong Leadership.**

Project SWELL is a hands-on, science-based water quality & pollution prevention curricula for San Diego fifth graders. Its goal is to foster a sense of stewardship that will help prevent pollution at its source.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Urban Runoff is a fund raising event in support Project SWELL. For more information or to register, visit the following website: [www.thinkbluesd.org](http://www.thinkbluesd.org).



The Urban Runoff genesis: "In the end, we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught."

- Baba Dioum, Senegalese Conservationist



## 14th Annual Operation Clean Sweep

By Kacey Christie, Environmental Engineering Specialist

On Saturday, June 5th, NASSCO volunteers consisting of employees, customers, subcontractors, family and friends joined the other shipyards; Continental Maritime and Southwest Marine, Inc. in participating in the 14th 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. Volunteers from the shipyards cleaned Cesar Chavez Park at the foot of Cesar Chavez Parkway in Barrio Logan and a portion of the Chollas Creek bed near 32nd & Main Street in order to prevent pollution from entering San Diego Bay.

There was an excellent turnout this year of over 30 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 possible without Pacific Ship Repair and Fabrication, who donated the use of two cranes and brought along a large contingent of volunteers. These two cranes were invaluable in lifting heavy debris such as tires & shopping carts from the creek bed.



After three grueling hours in the mud, the volunteers were rewarded with a free BBQ at Embarcadero Park adjacent to Seaport Village. The Navy Band entertained everyone with some great jazz, while the kids enjoyed clowns and two jumping rooms. Prizes were awarded for most unusual trash items found.

One of the strangest items found was an old telephone booth.

I'd like to thank the members of NASSCO Chollas Creek Cleanup Committee (NC4) which helped plan the event, Hugo Bermudez, Environmental Engineering Specialist; Chad Haza, Environmental Administrator; Erick Filbert, Logistics Services Coordinator; Rey Guerrero, Supervisor Warehousing; John McFadden, Production Associate, PDP Program; Victor Rincon, Painter; Paul Ruiz, Student Clerk, Environmental Engineer-

ing, and Ken Wright, Photographer.

If you missed this event, the next clean-up event that NASSCO participates in will be on California Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday September 18th. For additional information or to sign-up, contact Chad Haza, Environmental Administrator at extension 8826.

## National Pollution Prevention Week 2004

By Ben Smith, Production Associate, Environmental Engineering Rotation

National Pollution Prevention Week (NP2W) is an annual event sponsored by the US Environmental Protection Agency designed to promote Pollution Prevention (P2) projects and awareness. During the week, there are numerous P2 events sponsored by local government environmental and economic development programs, industry associations, and environmental groups. The events highlight the importance of P2 as a way of doing business.

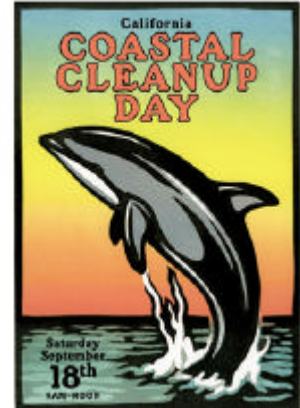
The goal of NP2W is to make the public and businesses conscious of Pollution Prevention (P2) information, opportunities and resources. It aims to highlight P2's ability to protect the environment while improving economic competitiveness.

NASSCO is proud to be celebrating National Pollution Prevention Week for the third year in a row. This year's NP2W will be kicked-off with a Chollas Creek Cleanup on the Saturday preceding NP2W (September 18<sup>th</sup>). Information on the Cleanup project and other events the week of September 20<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> are noted below.

### Chollas Creek Cleanup - Saturday, 9/18

NASSCO will join with *I-LOVE-A-CLEAN-SAN DIEGO* to kickoff NP2W by participating in the 20<sup>th</sup> 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. The total amount of trash collected weighed in at 699 pounds.

If you are interested in joining in the fun this year, please call Chad Haza, x8826 to sign-up.



### Environmental Slogan Contest - Monday, 9/20

NASSCO Environmental Engineering will present the 2004-05 NASSCO Environmental Slogan banner to the NASSCO Department that submitted the winning entry. All NASSCO Departments were eligible to submit an environmental slogan to be utilized throughout the year to promote pollution prevention.

### P2 E-Gram Training – Mon through Fri, 9/20-24

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



### Customer, Subcontractor, & Supplier Training – Wed & Thurs, 9/22-23



NASSCO's Environmental Engineering department will provide training to key customers, suppliers, and subcontractors on regulatory compliance and P2 (Pollution Prevention) in accordance with NASSCO's Environmental Management System.

Annually, over 100 organizations receive this training. Designated team members, subcontractors and suppliers will be given their Annual Environmental Performance Review (AEPR) during these training sessions. The AEPR program provides organizations a means of measuring their success in meeting NASSCO's Commitment to Our Environment. Organizations that actively pursue Pollution Prevention are awarded a 10-point bonus on their AEPR.

### NASSCO Environmental Star Awards - Friday, 9/24

This is the third year in which NASSCO employees nominated 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 by Mr. Vortmann at a Pizza Party Luncheon recognizing all nominees for their Commitment to Our Environment.





## A Store-bought Solution to Oil Pollution

By Steve Dykeman, Manager, Steel Assembly

SOC 3 recently procured a blast cabinet to use as a tool oiling station (pictured below). We added an air whip and a stand but it already came equipped with a piped drain for collection of the oil and basically went into service the same day it arrived.

The idea is to have full containment for oiling the tools. Anyone who has watched the process or done it for themselves knows that the oil has the tendency to fly all over the place when running a recently oiled tool.

The make shift box we were using before (pictured below) allowed oil to go everywhere including landing on the ground. This posed a real environmental problem if rain were to wash the oil into a yard drain etc. Recognizing the problem and the time we spent constantly cleaning up around this station we tried another home made solution where we installed a rubber curtains all around the box to try to catch the flying oil. That idea also failed us as most often the oil simply ran down the inside of rubber and still dripped on the ground. We also found the curtain got in the way so it was often pushed aside by the operator eliminating any protection it provided.

As it turns out people in SOC 5 were having similar problems. They contacted the Weld School asking them to build a solution. Jack Wekback in the Weld School thought that it would be much more cost effective, easier and quicker to



find something that already fits the bill. He came across a website that offered many options for small cabinets. Word spread to SOC 3 and we took it from there. We ended up choosing the product pictured below.

It wasn't the cheapest or smallest cabinet but it does have some advantages:

- There is only one door thus only one chance to leave a door open while the cabinet is in use.
- It is not the smallest cabinet leaving some room to maneuver a tool inside.
- It is still relatively inexpensive at \$119.99.



We bought one for starters and are current testing it on Table 2. We've learned some things in the process of testing for example, the air whip extending from the inside left must be approx. 28 inches long including the quick disconnect in order to be long enough to hook up the tool outside of the cabinet but not so long to tempt people to oil and run the tool outside of the cabinet. The reason for the need to hook up the tool up outside of the cabinet is that once the unit is first used, oil gets all over everything inside and makes it too slippery to hook up tools using the mounted gloves. Beyond that all seems to be working well, so SOC 3 is now ready to buy 4 more for the other tables.



Incase you would like to purchase the same, the unit is available from [Harborfreight.com](http://Harborfreight.com) item # 42202-3VGA.

## The Green Vehicle Guide (GVG)

By Sarah Adams, Volunteer Coordinator, I-Love-A-Clean-San-Diego

This EPA web resource at <http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicle/> states, "No matter what size vehicle you need, you may have greener options."

The GVG offers consumers the chance to research the environmental impact of their vehicle-purchasing decisions. When shopping for a vehicle, you can choose a vehicle that meets your needs AND has the highest scores for reducing both smog-forming air pollutants and greenhouse gases.

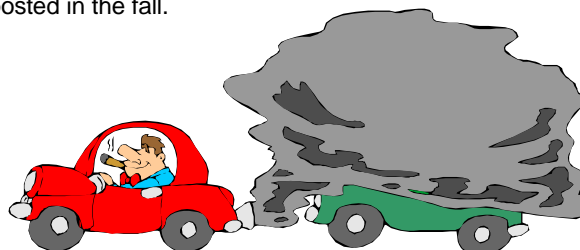
Three pieces of information about a vehicle's environmental performance are presented on the site:

- Air Pollution Score
- Greenhouse Gas Score
- Fuel Economy estimates

Be sure to check out the "*About the Ratings*" page, which provides helpful background information such as the following:

- The direct relationship between fuel economy and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Vehicles with a higher fuel economy save natural resources and create less carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas than vehicles with a lower fuel economy.
- Every gallon of gasoline burned puts 20 pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

The GVG rates models from the years 2000-2004; the "Q's and A's" page provides information on how to find reports on older cars. While there are a few rough spots in the online guide right now, the EPA is actively working to get all the kinks out and is planning several upgrades in the fall, including side-by-side vehicle comparisons. You can also look for the 2005 models' ratings to be posted in the fall.



## Satellites Observe Ways to Conserve

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



Satellite technology will soon be an integral part of water conservation efforts in San Diego. For the first time, the City of San Diego will use satellite imagery to help accurately determine water budgets for landscaped areas citywide. The project is a

joint partnership between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the City of San Diego Water Department.

AgriCast Company, the technical consultant, will turn the satellite imagery from multispectral color images into a functioning Geographical Information System (GIS) map. From this map, the Water Department can estimate overall water usage and determine how much water is needed to maintain the landscape.

"It is estimated that by properly watering existing landscapes, the overall water use in the City can be reduced

by at least 10 percent," said Dan Carney, Water Department Landscape Architect. "Information gained from this map could save consumers millions of dollars each year."

In addition to assisting water conservation efforts, the new map will provide information that can be used for environmental impact studies, fire prevention efforts, city planning, storm water runoff studies, and other applications.

This project began in June, 2004, and will be completed in one year.

*The Water Conservation Program reduces water demand through promoting or providing incentives for the installation of hardware that provides permanent water savings, and by providing services and information to help San Diegans make better decisions about water use. For more information about Water Conservation, visit [www.sandiego.gov/water](http://www.sandiego.gov/water) or call (619) 515-3500.*

## Quarterly APCD Inspection Results

By Dina Torgerson, Environmental Engineering Specialist

The San Diego Air Pollution Control District's inspector was at NASSCO on 7/26 and 7/27 for the quarterly inspection. **He found no violations of NASSCO's air permits or of the subcontractors' air permits.** He inspected the following areas and records:

- Wheelabrator's oxidizer including temperature and paint usage records.
- T-Beam Line's oxidizer including temperature and paint usage records.
- Plasma cutters.
- On-Block painting operations.
- USS Peleliu asbestos removal operations.
- USS Peleliu painting operations conducted by South Bay Sand Blast.
- BP2 abrasive blast operations conducted by SIPCO.
- BP2 painting operations conducted by NASSCO personnel.



He also reviewed NASSCO's yard wide paint records for the last three months; South Bay Sand Blast's paint records for the last six months; SIPCO's fuel usage records for the last six months; and NASSCO's NESHAP (National Emissions Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants) Report for July-December 2003.

**This is the fifth consecutive air inspection where the air inspector did not find any violations of the air permits!**

Thanks to everyone who has helped NASSCO maintain compliance with the air permits. A special thanks goes to Air Coordinators for all their efforts. NASSCO's Air Coordinators are: Don Edgington, Dave Gaccione, Tom Gresser, Dan Maes, Geno Martinelli, Marc Metzler, Frank Reyes, Dave Samudio, David Voigt, and Carl Whitaker. In recognition of their outstanding efforts, they were recently recognized by NASSCO's Environmental Engineering Department with "Commitment to Our Environment" shirts.

## Divers Wanted *(Continued from Page 1)*

We explored a manufacturer solution asking them to buy back the reels for single stage recycling where they would simply reload them with wire. Unfortunately the process of transporting the empty reels back to the manufacturer wasn't cost effective. Next, we contacted several recyclers in town to see who would take this Class-6 type plastic. Finally with the help of the Environmental Engineering one recycler stepped forward and agreed to look at the reels.

It was when this recycler came to NASSCO that we discovered that Rey Guerrero of Reclamation had just initiated such a recycling program. The Reclamation employees were pulling a limited number of the plastic reels out of the trash and getting \$20 per pound for them.

Our two departments quickly teamed-up to make this a win-win recycling

program. Rey arranged to have green dumpsters distributed throughout the Assembly Department so that the reels could be separated at the source and the Reclamation employees could eliminate dumpster diving themselves.



The real value is not the \$20 per pound or the fact that we experience a cost savings for less trash going to a landfill, but the knowledge that we are building a better, cleaner future through recycling.





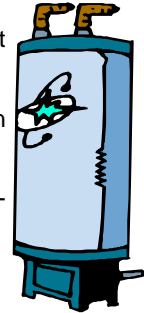
## Pollution Prevention (P2) Suggestions

By Ben Smith, Production Associate, Environmental Engineering Rotation

Pollution prevention (P2 for short) is a valuable tool for protecting the environment by eliminating the source of pollution. Many opportunities exist to prevent pollution in our own communities. "For the public, practicing P2 in the home, in the garden and on the road through activities such as using alternative cleaning methods, purchasing an electric mower and carpooling to work can help improve the quality of the local environment," says Kim Wilhelm, of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control. The following are more suggestions to help you protect the environment around your home and neighborhood.

### In Your Home:

- Use energy-efficient fluorescent lighting instead of incandescent lights. Fluorescent lights last longer and cost less to use than traditional light bulbs.
- Turn down your hot water heater. A temperature of 120 degrees should be hot enough, and can save considerable money and energy over the course of a year.
- To unclog a sink, use a plunger or a snake in place of a chemical drain cleaner. Or, try this recipe: pour ¼ cup baking soda down the drain, and then add 2 oz. vinegar.



### In Your Garden:



- Control weeds by hand picking them and then applying mulch from wood chips or grass clippings. The mulch reduces the need for chemical fertilizers.
- Eliminate bothersome snails by installing a "beer garden": fill a shallow pan with beer, sink it to ground level, and pick out the snails in the mornings.
- Reduce yard waste by grass-cycling: leave grass clippings on the lawn. Also, use native, slow-growing plants that do not require as much trimming as grass.

### In Your Car:

Maintain your vehicle. Have your car inspected regularly and repair all leaks promptly. Help reduce emissions and fuel costs by maintaining fuel efficiency by keeping your tires properly inflated.

- Use a commercial car wash to avoid sending untreated wash water into local waterways.
- Drive less by combining your errands into one trip and by car pooling. Consider other methods of transportation: public transit, a bicycle, or the shoe-leather express.



Pollution prevention is something you can do right now to help protect and preserve the environment. Help spread this information by telling your family, friends and neighbors about pollution prevention. For more information, contact the Office of Pollution Prevention and Technology Development at (916) 322- 3670, or visit [www.dtsc.ca.gov/pollutionprevention/index.html](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/pollutionprevention/index.html).

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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