

Wednesday April 28, 2010

9am departure 3pm return

**Vallejo Marina "K" dock
42 Harbor Way, Vallejo**

COST: \$60 EACH – BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH

RESERVATIONS:

510-527-9622 or 800-472-9942



Photos: National Archives, Pacific Region, Steve Farley, Sue Wilson

Aboard Dolphin Charters *Delphinus*

Explore the historic Napa River *Mare Island to Napa*

Bombs, Birds, Lighthouses, Ships, Wetlands and Wine

A cruise along the Napa River, once California's third busiest commercial river, is like a voyage into the past. Begin at the historic Vallejo and Mare Island Naval Shipyard waterfront and continue into a different world, one of vineyards, backwater homes, and some of the Bay Area's largest contiguous wetlands.

Join Captain Ronn Patterson, an experienced naturalist who guides tours to Alaska, Baja and the Bay Delta, and Myrna Hayes and Brian Collett, Mare Island Heritage Trust as you take in abundant bird life and learn the history of Mare Island and the Napa River.

As we journey first up the scenic Napa River, we may catch a glimpse of a pair of peregrine falcons perched or in flight near their nest as the boat passes under the Highway 37 bridge. A variety of hawk species are common and it is possible to see golden and bald eagles. Just up-river we pass White Slough designated as a

Globally Important Bird Area, and alongside the Sonoma/Napa marshes, one of the largest inter-tidal marsh restoration projects in the United States. As part of a flood control project for the city of Napa, the river is being restored to a Living River providing excellent waterbird viewing. As we near Bull and Edgerly Islands we'll see reminders of the era of duck hunting clubs, orchards, cattle ranches, boatworks and industrial operations that depended on the Napa River. The hills of the Carneros and Napa Valley winegrape growing regions come into focus as we near Napa's downtown waterfront.

On our return trip, we'll cruise in close to Mare Island for a rare visit along the historic shipyard's working waterfront. View osprey and herons nesting on light poles and cranes at the peak of nesting season. Learn about the Mare Island Navy Yard's long maritime and naval history dating back to 1854 when Commander David G. Farragut, later first Admiral of the U.S. Navy founded the first U.S. Naval

installation in the Pacific here. See the Navy's early air station site and the berth where one of WWII's most famous submarines, the USS Wahoo was launched and the submarine base where boats that served in the Pacific in WWII were repaired and retrofitted. We'll see the Navy's first hospital in the West and learn about the Marine Corps first training camp in the West founded in 1862. At the mouth of the Napa River lies the Navy's oldest west coast Naval Ammunition Depot founded in 1857, and its earliest naval cemetery in the Pacific, established a year later; along with the former ordnance workers houses set on the bluff above the river, they make up the Naval Ammunition Depot National Register Historic District, part of a new regional park—the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve.

Call 510-527-9622 or 800-472-9942

**FOR RESERVATIONS:
Visit Dolphincharters.com**