

A weekly publication of Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding-Newport News

⚓ *To take ownership of our future we will meet quality, cost and schedule commitments.*

## Newport News Authenticates *New Mexico* Keel

**N**ewport News hosted a keel authentication ceremony for the *Virginia*-class submarine *New Mexico* (SSN 779) on April 12.

U.S. Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, who represents Virginia's third district, served as the keynote speaker for the ceremony. "When this shipyard first opened, the number one priority was to build the best and most advanced ships in the world," Scott said. "Collis P. Huntington would be pleased to see the shipyard he founded over 120 years ago, not only still building ships but the best ships in the world."

Cindy Giambastiani is the ship's sponsor and served as keel authenticator for the ceremony. Giambastiani, the wife of retired



Welder **Kim Kerins** (X18) welds ship's sponsor Cindy Giambastiani's initials onto the plate. The plate will be permanently affixed to the submarine prior to its delivery to the Navy. *Photo Kathy McIntire, O36.*

Navy Admiral and former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff Edmund P. Giambastiani Jr., authenticated *New Mexico's* bow unit by chalking her initials onto a metal plate. Her initials were then welded onto the plate by Newport News welder **Kim Kerins** (X18). The plate will be permanently affixed to the submarine prior to its delivery to the Navy.

*New Mexico* will be christened later this year, and upon delivery to the Navy in 2009, will be the most modern and sophisticated attack submarine in the world, providing undersea supremacy well into the 21st century.

■ Look for more keel laying coverage on [Yardnet](#).

⚓ *To take ownership of our future we will increase collaboration with each other, our customers and suppliers.*

## USS *Enterprise* Arrives for Maintenance Work

**N**ewport News was awarded a contract valued at \$453.3 million for maintenance work on USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65) on April 11. The ship arrived on April 11 for a 16-month extended docking availability. The work includes overhaul, maintenance and repairs to the ship and ship's systems. This period of performance is the last scheduled dry docking of the ship prior to its inactivation.

"The entire Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding team looks forward to continuing our close working relationship with the officers and crew aboard USS *Enterprise*," said **Ken Mahler**, vice president, Navy Programs at Newport News. "At Newport News, we've been a continuous partner with the Navy on this ship for over 50 years. We look forward to working closely again with our Navy teammates to complete this important work on time and on budget."

USS *Enterprise* is the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and the only ship of its class. It was built by Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding and joined the U.S. Navy's fleet in 1961.



USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65) passes *George H.W. Bush* (CVN 77) and USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) at Newport News. *Photo by John Whalen.*

## Datebook

- ☑ **REMINDER:** Newport News' Environmental, Health and Safety Dept. (O27) is recruiting volunteers for an Aster seed hand-out on April 21 and the Christopher Newport Park clean-up on April 22.
- ☑ **April 14:** Newport News will host an American Red Cross Bloodmobile from 8 to 11:30 a.m. outside Bldg. 600. To schedule an appointment, call 8-8136.
- ☑ **April 15:** Newport News' Process Excellence Learning Dept. (O09) will offer Livelink training from 9 to 10 a.m. Contact: **Jennifer Cook** (O09) at 0-7690.
- ☑ **April 15:** Newport News' Contracts and Pricing Dept. (O19) will host annual Export/ITAR training sessions in Bldg 520-6, James River Room. Employees may register through [Learning Exchange \(LX\)](#).
- ☑ **April 15:** Newport News will host an American Red Cross Bloodmobile from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. outside Bldg. 902. To schedule an appointment, call 0-4698.
- ☑ **April 15:** Newport News' New Hire Community of Practice (NHCoP) will host a Management Open House at 3:30 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6. Contact: Zach Burger (O88) at: [Zechariah.D.Burger@ngc.com](mailto:Zechariah.D.Burger@ngc.com)
- ☑ **April 16:** Newport News' Propeller Club will host its annual Maritime Banquet at 6 p.m. at Plaza Point Suites in Newport News. Contact: Angie Browne (O64) at 8-5153.
- ☑ **April 18:** Newport News' Systems Engineering Dept. (E47) will host Configuration Management training at 8 a.m. in VASCIC. Register through [Learning Exchange \(LX\)](#).

**NORTHROP GRUMMAN**

Currents is published every Monday for employees of Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding-Newport News. Visit the [O29 Yardnet website](#) to submit a story. The deadline for submissions is noon Wednesday for publication the following week.

Editor: Lauren Green (O29), 0-3581

## Mahler and Hughes Appointed to New Positions

**N**orthrop Grumman Shipbuilding announced appointments to its Navy programs leadership team at Newport News on April 9.



**Mahler**

**Ken Mahler** was appointed vice president, Navy programs and **Jim Hughes** was named vice president, Aircraft Carrier Overhauls and Fleet Support.

As vice president of Navy programs, Mahler is responsible for all Navy work, including aircraft carrier design, construction, overhaul and fleet maintenance; submarine design, construction and fleet maintenance; Advanced SEAL Delivery System; Gulf Coast work-share efforts performed at Newport News; central planning; and integration activities. Mahler reports to **Matt Mulherin**, sector vice president and



**Hughes**

Newport News general manager.

"Ken is well-respected by our Navy customer for delivering on cost, schedule and performance commitments," Mulherin said.

"He will do an excellent job of leading our very talented and experienced Navy programs team."

Hughes is responsible for planning and executing aircraft carrier overhaul programs and fleet support work. He reports to Mahler.

"Jim's significant experience, education and demonstrated leadership will be a great addition to our leadership team," Mahler said. "He brings enthusiasm, commitment and a proven track record of customer satisfaction to this important position."

### ⚓ Health & Welfare Enrollment Presentations Scheduled

Northrop Grumman's Benefits Services Dept. will conduct presentations covering enrollment for the 2008-2009 health and welfare plans at 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on April 21 in Bldg. 520-6. Non-represented Newport News, ITS and CSL employees are invited. To enroll, call the Northrop Grumman Benefits Center at 1-800-894-4194.

### ⚓ Newport News Employee to Speak at SWE Event

The Hampton Roads section of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) will host a forum for students and professionals, from 6 to 8 p.m. on April 23 at the Omni Hotel in Newport News. **Chandra McCulley-Hooker** (M10), Kelley DuBois of Microsoft Corporation, Marisol Garcia of NASA Langley Research Center and Patricia Mead of Norfolk State University will be guest speakers. Tickets are \$35 for professionals and \$12 for students. RSVP to **LaDoris McLaughlin** (O04) at [LaDoris.McLaughlin@ngc.com](mailto:LaDoris.McLaughlin@ngc.com) or 0-7771 by April 16.

### ⚓ The Progressive Club to Host 80th Anniversary Outing

Newport News' Progressive Club will host an outing in celebration of the club's 80th anniversary from 4 to 9 p.m. April 26 at Knights of Columbus on Nettles Drive in Newport News. Members are required to pay \$45 club dues before the event. Non-members can purchase a \$10 trial membership. For more information, contact **Buddy Eagle** (O19) at 8-3850 or [Everett.Eagle@ngc.com](mailto:Everett.Eagle@ngc.com).

### ⚓ Rear Admiral to Speak at April 16 ASNE Meeting

The Tidewater chapter of the American Society of Naval Engineers (ASNE) will host a dinner meeting from 6 to 9 p.m. April 16 at Springhill Suites in Virginia Beach. Rear Adm. Jeffrey A. Brooks, director, Fleet Maintenance Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, will be the guest speaker. (There are dinner fees for members and guests.) RSVP by noon April 15 at: <http://www.asne-tw.org/asne/events.html>.