

THE PERISCOPE

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard news and information since 1942

June 2026



**BUILDING THE
FOUNDRY WITH
CAREER DAY**

From the Commander

Commander's Top 3

⚓ Across the waterfront, your ingenuity and deckplate execution are pushing multiple submarines ahead of schedule—from USS North Dakota (SSN 784) completing its integrated test program early, to USS Hampton (SSN 767) accelerating its timeline by building on the successes of USS Cheyenne (SSN 773). To ensure these teams can continue to excel, leadership is implementing ways to dismantle administrative barriers, including a work certification Model Line. Work teams, engineers, inspectors, and quality assurance personnel will use this Model Line to enable seamless, start-to-finish test release and final certification. This is about putting our work teams first: restoring authority to our deckplate experts, giving them their time back to do the job they're here to do, and trusting them to deliver first-time quality to get boats down the river.

⚓ The shipyard is refining operational safety through comprehensive equipment upgrades and enhancing our safety culture. Physical improvements on the waterfront include increased lighting along the walkways leading to parking lots, new crosswalk signals, and upcoming updates to fall protection status boards on the main ballast tanks. The occupational safety, health environment (OSHE) department is partnering with the supply department to continue upgrading personal protective equipment for mechanics by introducing A9-rated cut-resistant gloves. Together, these targeted upgrades along with your focus on job preparation and rapid learning, help ensure that you remain protected and mission-ready.

⚓ As PNSY nears completion of the 2025 action plans for the Defense Organizational Climate Survey (DEOCS), leadership is taking steps to improve our working environment. After reviewing the feedback from the Pulse on Portsmouth (PoP) survey, we hear you loud and clear on issues like burnout, stress and the need for professional development. In response, department leadership is implementing tailored action plans that provide greater recognition, mentoring and training.

Several departments are already making these improvements. The comptroller department has implemented biweekly alignment meetings and briefings, monthly staff updates and in-depth reviews of employee development plans. The information technology and cybersecurity office has 14 hiring actions underway to bolster the strength of the information technology team with more technical expertise and customer service support and develop a fiscal year 2026 workforce training plan. Additionally, the OSHE department is leading cultural improvements through regular auditorium safety presentations and safety committee meetings.



Capt. Jesse Nice,
88th Shipyard Commander

While we have more work ahead to always put you first, this progress reflects your dedication to our improvement. As you continue to proudly deliver on the Navy's mission, shipyard leadership is fully committed to matching that dedication by supporting you and continuously improving our operations.



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THE PERISCOPE

Shipyard Commander

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On the cover:

Student participating in hands-on demonstration at Career Day

Photo by:

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Pulse on Portsmouth



43% **Total Participation**

Opportunities for Improvement

Employee Development

Need greater value in DPMAP conversations.

Recognition

Workers feel unrewarded for their efforts.

Burnout

Unyielding stress leads to burnout or "quiet quitting."

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226 Years of Delivering Excellence

After two and a quarter centuries, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard endures. Present in good times and bad, through war and peace, the shipyard remains in its 226th year steadfastly committed to its mission: maintaining the U.S. Navy's attack submarine fleet in defense of the nation. Each day, the workforce represents an unbroken chain of service first forged June 12, 1800.

That legacy of craftsmanship began when Isaac Hull, commodore, the yard's first commandant in 1813, oversaw Portsmouth's first warship — the massive wooden 74-gun battleship USS Washington (1814). As technology advanced, the yard launched its first steam-powered vessel, USS Saranac (1848), and built the Civil War sloop USS Kearsarge (1861). In 1905, the shipyard served as the venue for the Treaty of Portsmouth negotiations, ending the Russo-Japanese War and earning President Theodore Roosevelt the 1906 Nobel Peace Prize.

The shipyard's undersea warfare mission began in 1917 with USS L-8 (SS 48), the first submarine built at a government shipyard. This expertise proved vital during World War II, when the workforce expanded to a peak of 20,445 personnel by 1943. Utilizing prefabricated hull sections, the shipyard reduced submarine build times from 469 days in 1941 to just 173 days in 1944. This remarkable efficiency culminated in a record-setting 1944, delivering 32 submarines and seven barges, earning the Army-Navy "E" Award. By war's end, Portsmouth completed 79 submarines — more than a third of the U.S. wartime fleet.

Post-war, the shipyard developed the teardrop hull of USS Albacore (AGSS-569) in 1953 and launched

USS Swordfish (SSN 579) in 1957, its first nuclear-powered submarine. As the Cold War intensified, the Navy embarked on a massive construction program to build the first fleet ballistic missile submarines as a vital nuclear deterrent.

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard honors the crew and civilians of USS Thresher (SSN 593), who perished at the very limits of technology in April 1963. Demonstrating profound resilience, just thirteen months later on May 12, 1964, the shipyard executed a historic "triple play" — commissioning USS John Adams (SSBN 620), launching USS Nathanael Greene (SSBN 636), and laying the keel for USS Grayling (SSN 646).

The construction era ended in 1971 with USS Sand Lance (SSN 660), transitioning the yard's mission entirely to the repair and modernization of the nuclear-powered attack fleet. This modern era was highlighted May 12, 2012, with the first major overhaul of a Virginia-class submarine, USS Virginia (SSN 774). Today, Portsmouth continues to expand capacity through the Multi-Mission Dry Dock 1 project and recently completed complex overhauls, including the first Los Angeles-class service life extension overhaul on USS Cheyenne (SSN 773).

"While the nation's call has evolved, our workforce continues to answer it with pride," said Capt. Jesse Nice, shipyard commander. "Your commitment to craftsmanship, technical excellence, teamwork, and mission accomplishments ensures that our historic shipyard remains an indispensable part of our nation's defense."

*Article by Joe Gluckert
Photo by Branden Bourque*



ESTAB. 1800
PROUD OF OUR PAST. READY FOR THE FUTURE.

A CUT ABOVE THE REST

Article by Alana Demo

Photo by Neil Boorjian

Since early 2026, the structural shop's shipfitting and welding team at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard accomplished multiple hull cuts with zero defects on USS Hampton (SSN 767). One notable achievement involved a section that was an exceptionally challenging weld, making it the first zero-defect hull cut in 16 years.

Delivering a zero-defect weld on such a difficult section drew high praise from the inspection team, as it greatly simplified and expedited their verification procedures. "It's inspiring to see what can be achieved when a team that holds themselves to a high standard and takes pride in their work gets the backing and resources they need," said Anthony Paone, non-destructive testing (NDT) inspector.

Much like Paone, the other members of the weld inspection team, including Max Wiese, NDT general foreman, Josh Hatch, NDT branch head and Doug Fowler, NDT supervisor, all agreed that this milestone was a testament to effective training, leadership and dedication of the hull cut team. While complex weld inspections typically require months of advance planning, the hull cut team's consistent zero-defect performance has mitigated scheduling risks and significantly accelerated inspection throughput.

"This particular hull cut section is notoriously demanding due to the sheer volume of the weld and the difficult overhead welding position, so achieving first-time quality is a massive win for the team," said Wiese. "A huge thank you to the hull cut team for the incredible dedication and commitment you bring every day."

Rather than working independently, welders and inspectors are now stepping onto the deck plate together. By conducting real-time, side-by-side assessments and discussing solutions on the spot, they have built a strong, supportive relationship. As a result, this partnership allows the teams to deliver first-time quality, eliminating delays, and proving that PNSY's workforce is at their best when they work as one team.

Success on the deck plate relies on the tight-knit partnership between the hull cut welding and shipfitting shops. Because their roles are so closely linked — with shipfitters delivering precise cuts and welders seamlessly executing the final fit—constant communication is vital. Coordination runs incredibly smooth due to the solid relationship the team has with each other and between supervisors and production personnel.

Fundamentally, at the core of this great achievement, are the people involved who were exemplary in carrying out this high level of expertise. Bruce Tardiff, hull cut welding supervisor, and Steve Andrews, hull cut shipfitter supervisor, are younger leaders who worked in the roles they now lead. Their energy and strong connection with their teams have contributed to the pride and dedication these two shops have in their work. Their expertise has filtered through to their team which has set them up for success.

Tardiff had the authority to build a high-performing team by assigning and training personnel based on both technical aptitude and team chemistry. Securing a dedicated group with a shared commitment to the work fostered a culture of deep mutual trust, high morale, and strong working relationships. This internal synergy ultimately paved the way for their historic, zero-defect performance, aligning the team's daily efforts directly with the broader mission.

"This hull cut section is one of the largest hull cuts that requires a multi-step process and takes hundreds of pounds of wire," said Aaron Economou, structural shop superintendent. "The team accomplished this great achievement through incredibly hard work, high standards, innovation for weld sequencing, and getting the right materials and weld wire to the welders to do the job right. The hull cut team has completed many hull cuts recently with zero defects; they are setting a very high standard of efficiency and quality that benefits the mission and shows us what right looks like as a shipyard."



North Dakota Changes Command

Article by MaryJane Walsh

Photo by Neil Boorjian

A change of command ceremony for USS North Dakota (SSN 784) was held at the shipyard auditorium Friday, May 15, during which Cmdr. Towney “Trey” Kennard III, was relieved by Cmdr. Christopher Marolt.

Capt. Jason Deichler, commodore, Submarine Squadron TWO, presided over the ceremony. Capt. Mike Hollenbach, Virginia-class program manager, was the keynote speaker.

Kennard assumed command of North Dakota, Aug. 31, 2023. A native of Marietta, Georgia, Kennard graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and was commissioned through the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) scholarship program.

“Congratulations to my friend Trey on a successful run on North Dakota,” said Hollenbach. “Trey’s dedication to his team and to the mission has been vital to North Dakota’s success during its maintenance availability. We wish you all the best in

your well-deserved new role at Special Operations Command in Tampa.”

Under Kennard’s leadership, North Dakota earned the 2024 and 2025 Battle “E” (Battle Efficiency) awards, which recognize the crew’s superior warfighting readiness performance and efficiency.

Marolt is a native of Kansas City, Missouri, and graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering. He was commissioned through the NROTC program and holds a Master of Science in Engineering Management from Old Dominion University.

North Dakota, a Virginia-class nuclear-powered fast-attack submarine, was commissioned Oct. 25, 2014, and is the second U.S. warship commissioned under the name North Dakota, the first being a World War I battleship USS North Dakota (BB-29).

North Dakota is currently undergoing scheduled maintenance work and system upgrades.



Pictured l to r: Cmdr. Christopher Marolt, prospective commanding officer; Cmdr. Trey Kennard, commanding officer; Capt. Jason Deichler, commodore, Submarine Squadron TWO; Capt. Michael Hollenbach, Virginia-class program manager.



Submarine Squadron TWO Changes Command



Pictured l to r: Lt. Mara Morhouse, Vice Adm. Rick Seif, commander, Submarine Forces; Capt. Jason Deichler, commander, Submarine Squadron TWO; Capt. Michael Poplawski, prospective commander, Submarine Squadron TWO.

Submarine Squadron TWO conducted a change of command ceremony at the shipyard Friday, May 29, during which Capt. Michael Poplawski relieved Capt. Jason Deichler as commodore, CSS 2.

“Partnering the skilled professionalism of the ships’ commanding officers and their crews with the expertise of the shipyard workers, I hand over this command with full confidence,” said Deichler. “We pushed the boundaries on how we return our apex predators to the Navy — the embodiment of the Foundry supporting the Fleet — world-class and battle-ready.”

Since Deichler took command July 12, 2024, CSS 2 has reset expectations, delivering USS Texas (SSN 775) ahead of schedule and in time for its Sailors to be home for the holidays. USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) completed the first-of-its-class engineered refueling overhaul, returning it back to the fleet ensuring the U.S. submarine force remains the most lethal force in the world. The undocking of USS North Dakota (SSN 784) in February 2026 marked a significant milestone in supporting the Navy’s focus on combat-ready platforms and increasing operational availability.

Vice Adm. Rick Seif, commander, Submarine Forces, was the presiding officer and keynote speaker. “Your time at Submarine Squadron TWO has been an overwhelming success,” said Seif. “You have mentored our future leaders and trained our battle-ready Sailors. You have pushed the boundaries of innovation, and

ensured our submarines return to the fleet combat ready.”

Deichler’s next duty assignment is chief of staff to Vice Adm. Robert Gaucher, director, Submarine Programs at the Washington Navy Yard. He will oversee the non-nuclear construction of Virginia- and Columbia-class submarines, working with the Maritime Industrial Base. Poplawski, a native of Austin, Texas, is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. He reports as commodore of CSS 2 after serving on the Joint Staff, Deputy Director for Regional Operations and Global Force Management as Division Chief for Joint Operation Division Indo-Pacific Command.

“I’m excited to join the superb team at Submarine Squadron TWO, in partnership with the extraordinary talent of our submarine crews and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard workforce, to deliver modern, lethal, and ready combat power back to the fleet,” said Poplawski.

Submarine Squadron TWO was first established in New London, Connecticut, in the late 1930s. In 1941, CSS 2 was shifted to the Pacific Fleet, where it operated during World War II. Following the war, the squadron was re-established in New London. Among its most notable ships were the first nuclear-powered submarine, USS Nautilus (SSN 571), and the Navy’s only nuclear-powered deep submersible research vessel, NR-1.

Article by MaryJane Walsh. Photo by Neil Boorjian.

Career Day

2026



On May 28, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard hosted Career Day 2026, welcoming students and young adults to explore the skilled trades and professions that support the Navy's mission. The event served as a key opportunity to strengthen the future workforce pipeline.

Capt. Jesse Nice, shipyard commander, provided welcoming remarks to the students to launch the day of activities. "Every day, thousands of dedicated civilian and military personnel come together to support a mission larger than themselves," said Nice. "That mission depends on skilled tradespeople, engineers, planners, administrators and professionals from nearly every background. Today, you will see presentations from many of these people. These are folks who make up the highly skilled workforce forging the success of this shipyard and this mission."

Alongside their escorts, students received presentations from several departments and engaged in hands-on exploration of various trades, such as trying the virtual reality welding simulator

at the welding shop, testing their strength using mechanical advantage with the riggers, touring learning centers and even entering a diver submarine rescue compression chamber.

To demonstrate the collective effort and diverse capabilities required to execute the mission, tenant commands and supporting organizations such as Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, Naval Branch Health Clinic and Navy Child and Youth Programs staffed booths for students to explore. "That's one of the amazing things about this island — from emergency services and security personnel to medical professionals at the clinic, every organization here plays a critical role. Every career field matters. It is truly one team, one mission," said Capt. Bryan Kupyar, commanding officer, Naval Support Activity Maine, who addressed students during their visit.

"The most important missions in this country rely on strong partnerships, strong communities and strong people — and that starts

with awareness and interests from students like you,” said Kupyar. “As you continue exploring today, I encourage you to ask questions, pick the brains of the folks behind this mission and think about where your own talents and interests could take you.”

One individual behind the mission, Becky Correia, continuous training and development trainer, expressed the joy of sharing her work with the young minds as she represented her department to the students. “It was exciting to see the kids and present to each of the groups. They had great questions and seemed eager to learn about the career opportunities available here,” said Correia. “Many of the students’ parents are shipyard employees as well, so it was exciting for them to learn more about their parent’s jobs.”

Career Day 2026 was led by the PNSY STEM Outreach Program and was made possible by a significant number of passionate volunteers. “Welcoming students aged 13 and older for a day of career exploration was an incredible experience.

The energy was electric, especially as a sea of stars-and-stripes hard hats wove through the shipyard,” said Tiffany Towing, STEM Outreach program manager. “We owe a massive thank you to our more than 150 volunteers who took time out of their busy schedules to share their passion and expertise. Their efforts connected the next generation with our vital mission and showed them what true craftsmanship it takes to complete our work.”

As students departed the shipyard, they left with a deeper understanding of the many professions that contribute to the Navy’s mission and the collective effort required to accomplish the mission. The event showcased the people, skills and partnerships that make PNSY’s mission possible, while highlighting the teamwork behind supporting the Navy’s fleet.

Article by Hanna Lanoie

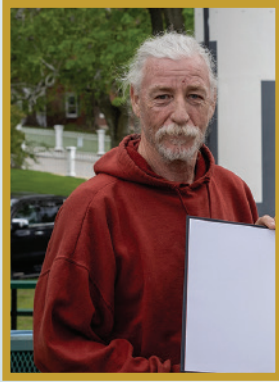
Photos by Branden Bourque & Jason Saucier



Students exploring the career pathways at the shipyard with a specific focus on STEM disciplines and trades.

2026 LENGTH OF

50 YEARS



Ernest Bahmer
Code 938



Richard Luke
Code 300N

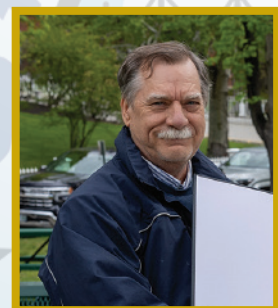
45 YEARS



Jacqueline Agnew
Code 522



Gerard Courtois
Code 2301



Henry Fones
Code 295

40 YEARS



Stephen Fahey
Code 2300

THANK YOU FOR

SERVICE AWARDS

35 YEARS



Patrick Moore
Code 2063



Glen Sell
Code 999

NOT PICTURED

Gerald Coyman
Code 532

Wayne Galloway
Code 967

30 YEARS



Bernard Bernier
Code 1333



William Sherman
Code 957



Aaron Suhy
Code 1393

NOT PICTURED

Robert Lesmerises
Code 2380

Michael Murphy
Code 1053



Scott Wirtz
Code 967

YOUR SERVICE!

Photos by Neil Boorjian

Serving the Silent Service Early or On Time

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Detachment – San Diego (PNSY DET-SD) has delivered 15 consecutive availabilities early or on time since October 2025. Most recently, achieving an on-time deployment of USS Scranton (SSN 756) to support operational needs in the Pacific.

The PNSY DET-SD workforce has maintained this high level of performance despite challenges, demonstrating unwavering dedication to the mission and the fleet.

Even as project schedules increased with two or three concurrent availabilities taking place at one time, PNSY DET-SD leadership effectively prioritized tasks to ensure mission execution. With Shipyard Commander Capt. Jesse Nice's three lines of effort as their guide, the team has cultivated expertise, executed authority at the appropriate levels and employed innovative methods to execute work.

"Our focus has been on building team alignment. Not just between shops and codes, but between Ship's Force, squadron, the base and other service providers. We all must work as a team to meet the operational tempo of intermediate-level maintenance. Our team identified several areas where we needed to improve our lines of authority, responsibility and accountability," said Tony Giles, PNSY DET-SD director. "When we started to close these gaps, we saw improvement in team understanding and have seen an improving trend for the past number of months."

This emphasis on clarity of roles and accountability at the organizational level has also shaped how the team approaches planning and execution of work packages.

"Above and beyond the great work that the detachment's employees have been executing, this planning team has leveraged what work is essential to the mission and right-sized the work package to focus on critical work," said Cmdr. Christopher Roche, production management assistant. "By not overcommitting in the initial planning phase, the detachment is able to maintain flexibility and accommodate the inevitable growth of emergent work requirements."

This combination of realistic planning and relentless teamwork forms the foundation of the detachment's impressive 15-availability streak. By defining clear lines of accountability and authority during the initial planning phases, leadership has built an incredibly resilient organization. Ultimately, PNSY DET-SD continues to prove that a united, strategically focused workforce is the most critical asset in overcoming adversity and sustaining operational success.

"We can do amazing things with a relatively small team, especially with the support we receive from every department in Kittery when times get tough. It requires constant effort and focus to ensure we are operating with the right mindset to meet the needs of fleet maintenance, keeping our boats ready for tasking," said Giles. "Building stronger relationships with our partners and within our own ranks has been a critical piece of the improvements we have seen." Bravo-Zulu to the PNSY DET-SD team!



Article and Photo by Jason Saucier



HISTORIAN KICKS OFF PNSY LECTURE SERIES

Joe Gluckert, shipyard historian, delivered his popular “Sails to Atoms” lecture at Kittery’s STAR Theatre, May 14, 2026. The audience braved a rainy night to learn about the role and achievements of the shipyard in times of war and peace. This local history lecture kicked off a series of PNSY talks scheduled throughout 2026.

“The Kittery Community Center and STAR Theatre are excited to help bring these free lectures to the community,” said Jeremy Paul, Kittery Community Center director. “They provide a wonderful opportunity for the public to connect with Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the U.S. Navy while learning more about the shipyard’s rich history and its critical ongoing mission supporting submarine overhaul, repair and modernization.”



Up next in the series is an executive-level command overview, a “Connect to the Fleet” brief, and the “Franklin Shiphouse Revealed: Archaeological Investigations at PNSY” lecture.



REMEMBER AND HONOR MEMORIAL DAY

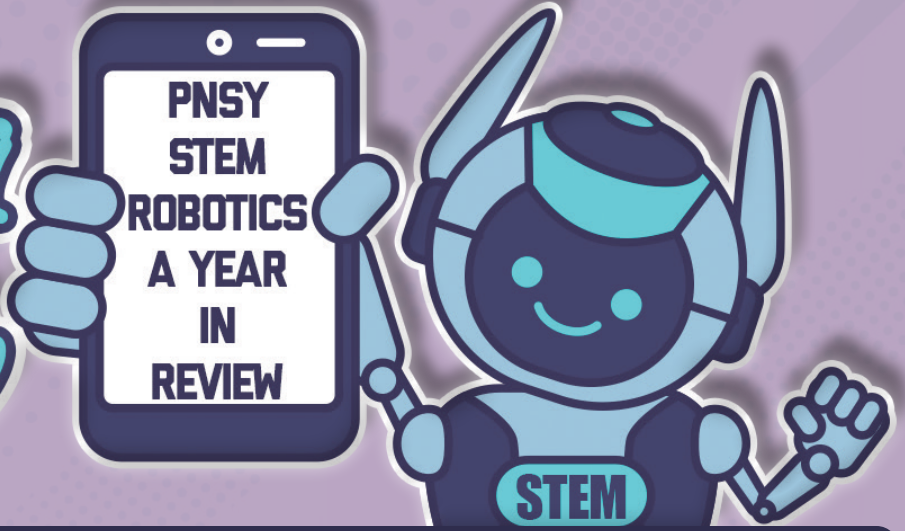
On May 25, 2026, Capt. Jesse Nice, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard commander, provided the keynote address to commemorate Memorial Day and honor those who sacrificed their lives for the nation inside the welcome center at Albacore Park, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

"We have witnessed again and again the powerful force of freedom and its determination to take root even where there seems to be no hope. It thrives because of the men and women we honor on Memorial Day."

*— Capt. Jesse Nice,
shipyard commander*



That's a Wrap



Article by Alana Demo

Photos by Branden Bourque & Neil Boorjian

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Outreach Program closes another successful year supporting elementary, middle and high school robotics teams from across Maine and New Hampshire.

During the 2025 – 2026 school year, PNSY supported 43 teams with a total of 515 students through mentorship and coaching.

Aligning these teams with shipyard mentors allowed them to be eligible recipients of Department of War STEM grant awards. Shipyard mentors successfully applied and were awarded \$54,440 in grant funding that went directly to the schools, to help teams offset the costs of registration and materials.

The tangible impact of these mentorships and grants is best exemplified by the extraordinary season's accomplishments!

VEX Robotics team the Thunder Chickens from Scarborough High School, competed at the 2026 VEX Robotics World Championship that took place at the America's Center Convention Complex in St. Louis, Missouri. The team finished out the year by receiving three awards for skills, design and innovation.

PNSY co-hosted Maine's inaugural FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) qualifier match in partnership with the Town of Kittery and team-host the Blue Potato Lobsters, FTC team from Berwick, Maine. Twenty-two teams participated, and the FIRST community is seeking to make this an annual event.

Capt. Jesse Nice, shipyard commander kicked off the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) district qualifier with opening remarks at the University of New Hampshire. Six PNSY mentored teams participated in this high-level event. The Robo Rangers from Traip Academy in Kittery, Maine placed second at this competition and went on to compete at the Premier Event Championship in West Springfield, Massachusetts.



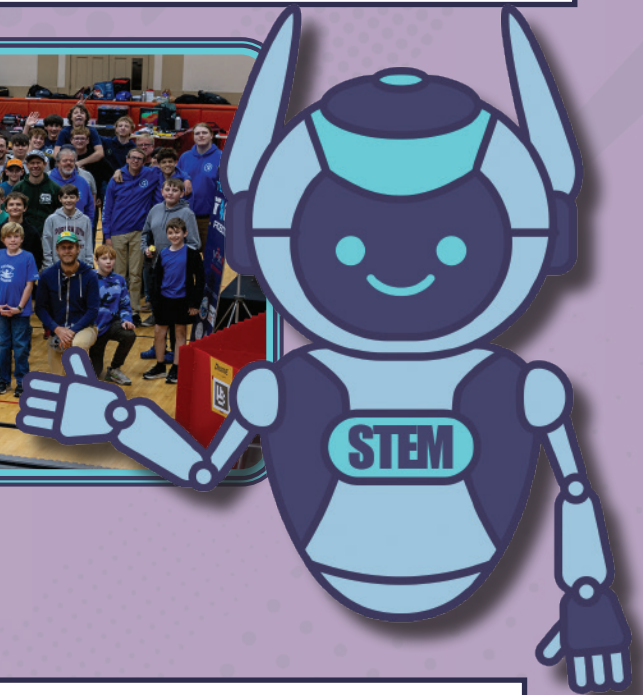
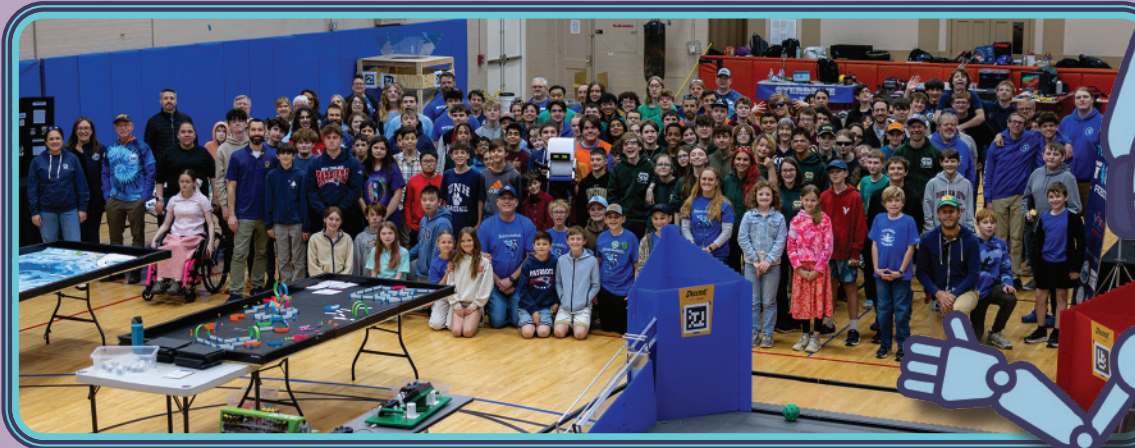
Students participate in the fifth annual robotics expo hosted by PNSY.

Additional Team Success Stories:

- FIRST LEGO League team RoboSharks (Kittery, Maine) – Placed second at the Maine State Championship
- FTC team CyberSharks (Kittery, Maine) – Placed first at the Maine State Championship and participated at the Premier Event Championship
- FTC Blue Potato Lobsters (Berwick, Maine) – Participated at the Premier Event Championship
- FTC Hilda the Builda (Greenland, New Hampshire) – Participated at the Premier Event Championship

To celebrate the successful season of robotics, PNSY hosted the fifth annual robotics expo in the gymnasium. All shipyard-supported teams were invited to showcase their hard work and celebrate a successful season of robotics. It was large turnout of students from the surrounding middle and high schools.

Many of the students have been participating in robotics from the early grades right up through high school, like Diya Sridharan from Oyster River High School, whose team, Overdrive, was in attendance at the expo. “I started robotics when I was in third and fourth grade with FIRST LEGO League (FLL). Then I did the FTC program in middle school, and went on to be on the FRC team, so robotics has had a big impact on me. I’m very grateful for that experience, and this FRC program here has done a lot for me in the way of technical and personal growth.”



*Bravo Zala
Kellen!*



Kellen Brown, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard STEM Outreach program manager and FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) coach for Shapleigh Middle School, Kittery, Maine, was honored with the Compass Award at the FTC New Hampshire State Championship. This award recognizes an adult coach or mentor who provides outstanding guidance and demonstrates Gracious Professionalism. This award is given to a mentor or coach nominated by their FTC team via a 40-60 second video submission. Brown's team's video spoke about his incredible coaching skills and his above-and-beyond efforts to enhance the student experience. Great job Kellen!



June is PTSD Awareness Month

More than eight million American adults each year experience post-traumatic stress disorder.

- PTSD can develop after a frightening event where severe physical harm occurred or was threatened.
- PTSD is characterized by debilitating physical and emotional symptoms.
- Effective treatments help people reduce symptoms of worry and numbness, cope with frightening memories and develop healthier behavioral responses.
- Seek professional assistance through your program if you struggle with PTSD.

Call your Employee Assistance Program at 1-800-450-1327 (TTY 711) or visit MagellanAscend.com (use Principal Core) for helpful resources.

Magellan
HEALTHCARE.

For more information or resources call ext. 2672



Scan the QR code to visit your member website for more information.



safeTALK

suicide alertness for everyone

sign up now in:

Waypoints

Search for 00-DON SafeTALK

Upcoming Classes

Sept. 29, 2026

Go to Waypoints for more information.

safeTALK is a training program that teaches participants to recognize and engage persons who might be having thoughts of suicide, and to connect them with community resources trained in suicide intervention.

For inquiries on safeTALK:
PNS_C1180@us.navy.mil



Miracle at the Fire Station

Op Ed by Christopher Gouette, NSA Maine fire chief

On April 27, a standard shift change at the Naval Support Activity Maine (NSA Maine) fire station in Cutler, Maine, quickly turned into a life-or-death situation, ultimately resulting in the successful revival of a man who had gone into cardiac arrest.

The morning routine was abruptly interrupted when a frantic woman pulled her vehicle directly up to the fire station, pleading to help her ailing husband. As firefighters approached the vehicle to assess the situation, they quickly realized the extreme gravity of the emergency — the man's heart had stopped.

Springing into action, the team immediately removed the patient from the vehicle and initiated CPR. The member in charge requested Machias Ambulance while the firefighters established what is known as pit-crew CPR, a highly choreographed, rapid-response method of resuscitation designed to maximize efficiency and minimize fatigue.

The life-saving effort was unexpectedly bolstered when an off-duty NSA Maine firefighter, who happened to be driving by at that exact moment, stopped his vehicle and seamlessly entered the rotation for chest compressions.

The fire department deployed its Automated External Defibrillator (AED), analyzed the patient's condition and administered an initial shock. The intervention briefly worked, and the man's pulse returned. However, the victory was short-lived; the pulse was lost again, forcing the crew to restart CPR and deliver a second shock from the AED.

When Machias Ambulance arrived, the two emergency response teams merged their efforts. Following a prolonged period of CPR during which

the situation appeared increasingly bleak, a turning point occurred when the patient's heart restarted and maintained a steady, beating rhythm.

Though his heart was beating, the patient remained unconscious and in critical condition. He was immediately loaded into the ambulance for transport. Demonstrating their ongoing commitment to the patient's survival, a Cutler firefighter rode along in the ambulance to continue life-saving measures alongside the Machias paramedic. The patient maintained his heartbeat throughout the transport and was successfully transferred to the emergency room team upon arrival.

This dramatic incident highlights the importance of rigorous CPR and AED training. The absolute dedication of the personnel at NSA Maine demonstrates the outstanding capabilities that Navy Fire brings not only to military installations but to the broader public they serve.

In recognition of their exceptional teamwork and decisive actions, the five firefighters involved in the rescue will be honored with a Life Saving Award.

NSA Maine fosters a safe, sustainable and resilient environment for our Sailors, civilian workforce and their families. Through excellence in logistics, infrastructure management and community partnership, NSA Maine will embody the Foundry for those who defend our nation. NSA Maine maintains the highest standards of integrity and innovation, securing the tactical advantage for the Navy's missions across the North Atlantic and beyond.





Shipyard 101

ANCHORED IN PRIDE

Article by Cat Davis
PNSY Photo Archive

The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard's mall has been the shipyard's gathering place for a long time. Shipyard workers gathered at the mall around 1861 for their oath of allegiance to the United States in the early days of the American Civil War.

It was also a place where war bond drives were held during both World Wars and where the Thresher Memorial Service was conducted April 15, 1963 just days after the submarine was lost with all hands aboard.

Today, the mall, an unofficial name commonly used by the workforce, is used for promotions, change of commands, retirement ceremonies, PROS on the Mall, and other events. It is a place where the shipyard workforce can come together, connect and support each other; a place of reflection, respect, honor, and pride.

"It is an island of respite," said Mary Clancey occupational safety, health and environment department head secretary. "I always pause on Charles Morris Ave. to look down through the production area. Standing there I can see the contrast of yellow cranes and a white church steeple against the blue sky framed by new and old buildings. That view captures the connection of a shipyard to its community. It is an intersection of past, present and future."

To commemorate PNSY's construction of three Fleet Ballistic Missile submarines between 1958 and 1965, the Squalus Memorial Chapter and the U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II presented a plaque to acting commander Capt. James B. Grady. The plaque, which accompanies a 30-foot Polaris missile model displayed in the center of the mall, and stands as a lasting testament to the shipyard's critical role in the Navy's mission.

The mall's plaques and monuments, like the USS Tallapoosa (WPG-52) anchor, honor key figures like Adm. Hyman G. Rickover and Adm. David Dixon Porter. Additionally, they pay tribute to the lost crews of the USS Sculpin (SS 191), and USS Squalus (SS 192), alongside shipyard employees who died in World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Joe Gluckert shipyard historian has an affection for the USS Sailfish (SS192), formerly known as USS Squalus, memorial. "The sail and conning tower of the Sailfish was installed on the shipyard mall in 1946 as a memorial to all 52 U.S. Navy submarines lost during the war," said Gluckert. "It is a powerful reminder of the sacrifices that were made during the war and the shipyard's on-going commitment to the Navy's submarine fleet."

The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard mall is a living testament to centuries of service, sacrifice and innovation. By preserving its monuments — from the towering Polaris missile to Memorial Park's commemorative bricks — the shipyard ensures the legacy of its military and civilian workforce is never forgotten. Each ceremony connects the shipyard's 1800 establishment to its modern mission, carrying past perseverance into every submarine returned to the fleet.

"The mall is a place that embraces the shipyard's and the Navy's history," said Jeff Koenig director of corporate operations, Submarine Maintenance Engineering, Planning and Procurement who has been working at PNSY for 17 years. "It brings me a lot of pride to be part of an organization that has such an exponential impact on our nation's security and history and the mall is a representation of that."

Better Together

Volunteers Team Up for Base Cleanup

U.S. Navy Sailors and employees of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard participate in Base Cleanup Day on the shipyard May 20. Photos by Branden Bourque and Neil Boorjian.



VISUAL INFORMATION SPECIALISTS RECOGNIZED IN 2025 NAVY PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARDS

The Navy Public Affairs Awards (NPAA) program recognizes outstanding achievements in communication efforts that advance Department of the Navy objectives. The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Public Affairs Office visual information team was recognized in five categories in the calendar year 2025 NPAA Awards.

PAO VIDEO TEAM: (L TO R) JOEL MESSER, JORDON JOHNSON, SCOTT HANSON



Second Place,
Video Production



PAO LEAD VISUAL INFORMATION SPECIALIST BRANDEN BOURQUE

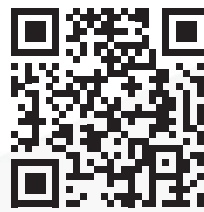
Third Place, Navy Civilian
Photographer of the Year



Second Place,
Video Story



Honorable Mention,
Photo-Portrait



PAO GRAPHIC DESIGNER JUSTIN BUCKLEY



Second Place, Navy Civilian
Graphic Designer of the Year



**SCAN THE QR CODES TO VIEW THE
WINNING PROJECTS!**

** Scanning of QR codes is PROHIBITED in NAVSEA controlled spaces, i.e., Security Islands, Controlled Nuclear Information Areas, Nuclear Work Areas, and the Controlled Industrial Area per PTMSHINST 5510.27B and PTMSHINST 5500.6A.*

NEW MEXICO PLAQUE HANGING



On May 13, 2026, the Naval Civilian Managers Association sponsored a plaque-hanging ceremony for the Virginia-class attack submarine USS New Mexico (SSN 779) outside Tirante Tavern. This traditional event officially marked the beginning of the submarine's major overhaul, and welcomed the officers and crew to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the surrounding seacoast community.

Portsmouth, New Hampshire, has been actively supporting New Mexico and its crew through the Host Community Program. This partnership fosters a strong community spirit, with Sailors volunteering in local projects and the community welcoming the crew's families by inviting them to local events, a relationship praised by Deaglan McEachern, Portsmouth mayor during the ceremony.



Pictured (l to r): Patrick Coleman New Mexico project superintendent, Deaglan McEachern, mayor of Portsmouth, NH; Cmdr. Joseph Kimock, New Mexico commanding officer; Capt. Jesse Nice, shipyard commander and Capt. Jason Deichler, commodore, Submarine Squadron TWO.

Article by Joe Gluckert. Photo by Neil Boorjian.

The Day We Will Remember

Ricky Rollins Talks Safety at PNSY

Over four days in early May, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard hosted keynote speaker Ricky Rollins, who gave a presentation he calls "The Day We Will Remember" on the importance of safety.

After 36 years of working in the steel industry, Rollins became a motivational safety speaker, sharing personal accounts of events that have affected him, family, friends and co-workers.

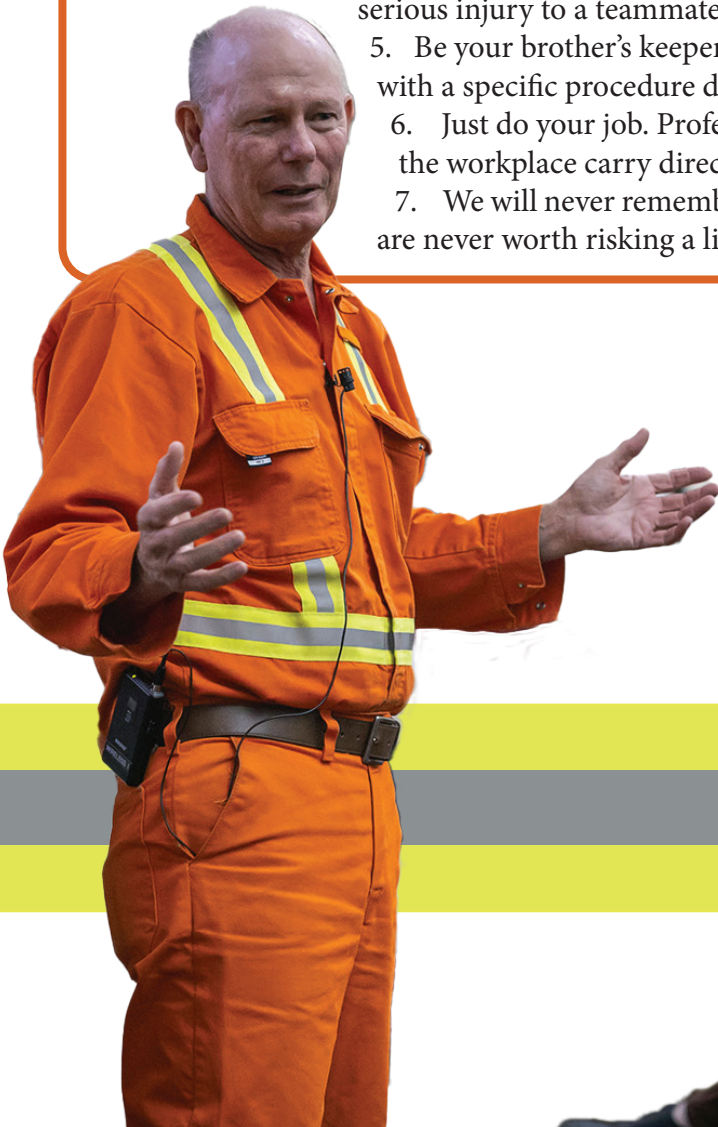
To a crowd of civilian and military shipyard workers, Rollins shared a few stories about severe injuries that he and his coworkers endured because they weren't taking the correct safety measures required for their job. Throughout the presentation, he focused on key themes that he summarized as "Ricky's Serious Seven" at the conclusion of his presentation.

Ricky's Serious Seven

1. Learn from others. If you or a co-worker has an idea to make a job safer, speak up or listen to their suggestions. Teammates understand their day-to-day work best. Use your influence.
2. Set a positive example. A choice made in a single second can have lifelong ramifications. Every individual must take responsibility to protect those around them.
3. Don't let ego, pride or stubbornness interfere with safe operations. Take time to plan correct procedures and never take shortcuts, regardless of experience level.
4. It's not about you — it's about making the right choice to put safety above everything for everyone to be safe. Prioritize the safety of the entire team. A moment of negligence is never worth the burden of explaining a serious injury to a teammate's family.
5. Be your brother's keeper — it takes two. Safety requires active partnership. Familiarity with a specific procedure does not mean it remains the safest or most effective method.
6. Just do your job. Professional execution requires safe execution. Individual choices in the workplace carry direct and lasting consequences.
7. We will never remember what we did that day. Production, time and financial metrics are never worth risking a life. Shortcuts do not justify the risk of serious or fatal injuries.

These seven guidelines serve as important reminders for every employee across the shipyard. Rollins urged the audience to carry these lessons forward into every shift, emphasizing that as the backbone of shipyard operations, everyone plays a critical role in looking out for one another and maintaining a safe work environment.

*Article by Alana Demo
Photo by Branden Bourque*



VANPOOL LISTINGS

Alfred/Lyman/Kennebunk/Sanford/Wells - CUNNINGHAM VAN, 10-hour van, 0600-1630, 5 days a week, 10 riders in a 15-passenger van. Contact Ken Cunningham: Call or text (207) 608-9402 or CunninghaVan@gmail.com.

Lebanon/Berwick/S. Berwick -

AT BUS 1: Lebanon, ME (Upper Cross Road), Berwick (via Long Swamp Rd), Berwick, Berwick Park & Ride, South Berwick (via Rte. 236) 0600-1430, M-F (8 hour day shift).

AT BUS 2: Lebanon, ME (Town Hall Park & Ride), Berwick via Long Swap Rd & Berwick (Park & Ride), South Berwick (Rte. 236) 0600-1530 5/4/9 shift

Call Lee for details: ext. 4531, daytime cell (207) 703-3769, evening cell (603)312-7956

Biddeford - O'BRIENS VANPOOL: 0700-1530, Two vans, 1st picks up at Biddeford Park & Ride; 2nd picks up at Five Points Shopping Center in Biddeford. Pickups also available at homes on Village Lane, Westmore Ave. or near this area. Registered with TIP. Contact Mike: ext. 3737 or (207) 590-0546.

Biddeford/Saco - ACIN VANPOOL: 1st shift. Picks up at Biddeford Park & Ride, 10 passenger limit. Arrives on-yard by 0615. Contact Phil: ext. 1682 or (207) 423-6142.

Biddeford/Saco area - PERHAM VANPOOL: 1st shift, (2) vanpools. Meet at Biddeford Park & Ride. Second vanpool meets at Saco Park & Ride. Space available. Contact Chris: ext. 1821 or (207) 590-2378.

Portland/Saco - CHURCH VANPOOL: 1st shift, reliable drivers. Space available. Contact Randy: ext. 4790 or (207) 450-5824.

Dayton/Lyman/Kennebunk - DANLEY VAN POOL: (4) 15-Passenger vans with seats available. Can accommodate first shift 0600-1430 or 0630-1500. No out-of-pocket expense when enrolled in TIP. Contact Tyler: (207) 590-3279.

Biddeford - SWANK VANPOOL LLC: Two 15-passenger vans from Biddeford (1) 0600-1500 leaves Biddeford Park & Ride at 0500, (2) 0600-1530 5/4/9 Friday SDO leaves Biddeford Park & Ride at 0500. Please contact Kevin Swank 207-205-1311

Brunswick/Topsham/Yarmouth/Portland/South Portland - CRONIN VANPOOL: 1st shift 0600-1430. Reliable drivers, newer 12-passenger Chevrolet van. With Transportation Incentive Program, \$0 out-of-pocket cost. Space Available. For more info, call Kevin ext. 2531 or (207)837-3561.

Hollis/Waterboro/Alfred/Sanford/Wells - MADORE VANPOOL: 1st shift, via Rt. 117/202/4/109/I-95. Non-smoking. Riders wanted. Contact Cory: (207) 752-6019 or (207) 423-3774.

W. Newfield - NEWFIELD EXPRESS: 1st shift (0630-1530). 15-passenger. Multiple pickup spots include W. Newfield, Shapleigh, Springvale, Sanford, N.Berwick, Berwick, Contact Ben x5873 or sign up on TIPS directly. newfieldexpress@gmail.com, (207) 806-7043

Lebanon/Berwick/South Berwick - POPLAR HILL TRANSPORTATION LLC: 1st shift. Picks up at Lebanon Park & Ride, Berwick Park & Ride, and South Berwick Park & Ride. Contact Jake: (207) 608-3879 or email at poplarhillllc@yahoo.com.

Lebanon-North Berwick/Berwick/South Berwick/Eliot/Kittery - FARREN TRANSPORTATION: 1st Shift; On schedule means on yard by 5:40. 15-passenger van. Berwick, South Berwick Park & Rides. Will pick up along Little River Rd., or Rt. 236. Contact Dan: (207) 451-7092, (207) 475-6325, email RidewithFT@gmail.com.

Lebanon/Berwick/South Berwick - CRASHIN' BURNS TRANSPORT: 0630-1500/0645-1515 shifts. Free for TIPS participants. 10 passenger van. Space available, contact Ryan Burns: ext. 2786.

Springvale/Sanford/Berwick - MATHIEU VANPOOL: 1st shift. No overcrowding, 10 riders in a 15-passenger van. Dependable drivers, no out-of-pocket expense with TIP. 2 openings available, call Shawn: (207) 651-4975.

Gray - BENNER'S VANPOOL: 1st shift, (no stops). Accommodates 0600-1500 shift. Registered with TIP, no out of pocket expense. Contact Jason (207) 590-1955. Call or text.

Lebanon/Berwick/South Berwick - DEVOLL'S VAN POOLS: 1st shift, non-smoking, 15 passenger van that only takes 12 passengers, TIP participant, Lebanon Park & Ride, Little River Road, Lebanon Road, Beach Ridge Road, Rt 9 to Berwick, Rt 236 to shipyard. Contact Kip (H) 457-1241, (C) 451-3257.

Dayton/Lyman/Kennebunk - DANLEY VANPOOL: 15-passenger OVERTIME van with seats available. Accommodates 0530-1530 shift. No out-of-pocket expense when enrolled in the TIP program. Contact Tyler: (207)590-3279.

Lebanon/Berwick/South Berwick - DK TRANSPORTATION: 15 passenger van. Plenty of seats available! 10-hour shifts. 0600-1630. TIP participant. 1st pick up at Lebanon Park & Ride, into Berwick via Long Swamp Rd., stop at Berwick Park & Ride, into South Berwick via 236. Multiple stops along the way. Call or text Drew: (978)305-0537

Wells area - PERHAM VANPOOL: 1st shift. Meet at Wells Park & Ride. Space available. Contact Chris: ext. 1821 or (207) 590-2378.

Farmington, NH - GRANITE STATE TRANSIT 25- Passenger, leaves daily from old Fire Station downtown 0515, leaves from Shipyard Mall 1500. Contact Lee: (603) 781-3402.

Lebanon, ME - GRANITE STATE TRANSIT 32-Passenger, 3 pickup locations: Lebanon corner of Depot Rd. and Rt. 202, Berwick Park & Ride - corner of Sullivan St. and Wilson St., bus stop - corner of Norton St. and Main St., (across from B&T Bank) South Berwick. Leaves from Shipyard parking garage 1500. Contact Lee: Personal (603) 781-3402, Work (207) 451-7497. Contact Lee: (603) 781-3402.

Rochester/Milton/Farmington/Barrington - SEACOAST EXPRESS: 3 buses running daily covering 0500-1530, 0600-1430, 0600-1530, 0700-1530 and "5/4/9" shifts. Seacoast Express users can switch buses at any time throughout the month if they would like to work overtime, switch shifts or leave early. All buses leave from Rochester Home Depot parking lot. Vehicle available at shipyard if passengers have an emergency situation and need to leave early. For more information, contact Aaron: (603) 337-5137.

Sanford/N.Berwick/S.Berwick - CCR EXPRESS: 1st shift (0600-1500) pickup at Hannaford-Sanford (0445), Bowling Alley-Sanford (0450), Hannaford- N. Berwick (0500). Aroma Joes-S. Berwick (0508). Either snooze or play on your phone on the way to and from work. Come give it a try. 100% Free ride to work with TIPS. Contact Milton: (207) 604-4936

Sanford/Springvale/points south - TURNER VAN POOL: Arrives 0545 am, departs 1500, 8-hr shift. Contact Herv: cell (207) 432-3779, email herveyturner@gmail.com

Waterboro/Alfred/Sanford/Wells - AB VANPOOL: 1st shift. Clean, comfortable, and reliable. Arrives on yard around 0615. No out-of-pocket expenses for TIP participants once enrolled. For more information, contact Cory: ext. 1442 or (207) 651-1526.

Dover - J.R.'s VANPOOL: 1st shift. Departs from Exit 9 Park & Ride at 0540. Large comfortable van, space available. Contact J.R.: ext. 1123 or (603) 749-1409.

Manchester/Epping - QUEEN CITY AND EPPING VAN POOL: Commute for free, picks up in Manchester and the Epping Park & Ride (Exit 7, Rt-101) First shift (0630-1530). 15-passenger van. No smoking or out-of-pocket costs, fees covered by TIP program. Call or text Pete, cell (603) 505-5508, home (732) 397-0429.

Waterboro/Alfred/Sanford/Wells - AB VANPOOL: 1st shift. Clean, comfortable, and reliable. Arrives on yard around 0615. No out-of-pocket expenses for TIP participants once enrolled. For more information, contact Cory: ext. 1442 or (207) 651-1526.

Dover - J.R.'s VANPOOL: 1st shift. Departs from Exit 9 Park & Ride at 0540. Large comfortable van, space available. Contact J.R.: ext. 1123 or (603) 749-1409.

Manchester/Epping - QUEEN CITY AND EPPING VAN POOL: Commute for free, picks up in Manchester and the Epping Park & Ride (Exit 7, Rt-101) First shift (0630-1530). 15-passenger van. No smoking or out-of-pocket costs, fees covered by TIP program. Call or text Pete, cell (603) 505-5508, home (732) 397-0429.

Rochester/Somersworth/Dover - PLATT VANPOOL: 1st shift 4/10s, 0600-1630. Main pickups are Rochester Park & Ride and Tuckers off Exit 9 in Dover/ Somersworth. Route starts from Parsonsfield, ME; Newfield, ME; and Wakefield, NH; so if you are in the north country, call for details. Contact John Platt ext. 2912; text or call (603) 923-3979; email jpe.john@gmail.com.

Rochester/ East Rochester - COPPS TRANSPORTATION 1st Shift 0630-1500. Leaving out of Rochester, stops in East Rochester and Lowes. Arrive on yard 0550, home by 1545. No out-of-pocket cost. Call Jesse: 207-451-0973.

Saco/Biddeford/Wells - WISE MAN TRANSPORTATION: 10-hour days, 0600-1630, 5 days a week, non-smoking, 25-passenger limo bus from the Park & Rides with no out-of-pocket fee after TIP reimbursement. Pick up **Saco-0450**,

Biddeford-0457, Kennebunk-0505, Wells-0515 arrive at shipyard-0545. 2nd bus running 8-hour shift, 0630-1500, in a non-smoking 32-passenger bus with no out-of-pocket fee if signed up on TIP. Pick up at Park & Rides **Saco-0520** and **Biddeford-0530**. Contact Brad: ext. 1228, (207) 219-2474 or nascardriver_39@hotmail.com

Shapleigh/Sanford/Wells -TRIPLE C&K TRANSPORT: 1st shift. No out-of-pocket expense for riders once enrolled in TIP. For more information contact Darrell: (207) 752-7886.

Hooksett/Candia/Epping/Exeter - CAPITAL CITY TRANSPORTATION: Commute for FREE with TIP debit card, servicing I-93, exit 11 and Rt. 101, exits 7 & 11, 1st shift (0600-1500) no overcrowding, 15-passenger van with bench seats, non-smoking. For more information call, text or on Facebook - Jeff (603) 682-6124.

Springvale/Sanford/Wells - FROMMIES FREIGHT LLC: 15-passenger van, 8-hour work days 0600 to 1430. Clean, comfortable and reliable. No out-of-pocket expenses once enrolled in TIPS program. Contact Mike: 207-608-9964 and/or frommiesfreightllc@gmail.com.

Springvale/Sanford/Wells - DAVID BOMBARO TRANSPORTATION: 1ST shift. Departs Springvale Public Library 0505, Guerrero Maya (formerly Back Street Grill) 0515, Wells Park 'n Ride 0530. Will pick up anywhere along Rt. 109. No more than 2 riders per seat. Nothing out of pocket when registered with the TIP. Seats available. Call or text David: 207-210-2626

Shapleigh/Springvale/Sanford/South Berwick - S.S. TRANSPORTATION: 1st Shift. 15-passenger van. 1st pickup at Pine Springs, Shapleigh 0445; Boonies 0500; foot of Mousam 0506; stops at Springvale Courthouse, Sanford Hannaford, Mardens, North Berwick Hannaford, South Berwick Town Hall. Contact Shawn (207) 459-9536.

Southern NH/Berwick/Kittery - COAST Bus- Public Transit Bus System - First arrival Gate 1 is at 0600, then 45 minutes past the hour every hour from 0745-2045. TIP-registered. Contact: COASTBUS.ORG, or call/text (603) 743-5777.

Springvale/Sanford/Wells - YCCAC **Shipyards Sprinter** Serving 2 shifts (0600-1430 and 0630-1500) For questions or driver qualifications, contact Kim at 207-459-2928 or email kim.engel@yccac.org

All advertisers listed take part in the Transportation Incentive Program (TIP).

For more commuter information or information on the TIP, or to add, remove, or edit an ad, check out the "TIP Transportation Incentive Program" section under the resources tab on the PNSY intranet or contact the TIP coordinator at ext. 3551 or 6335, or via email at: PNS_TIPS@us.navy.mil.

AWARDS

During the month of April, Portsmouth Naval Shipyards issued 1323 awards:

1128	On The Spot Awards
190	Time Off Awards
3	Special Act Awards
2	Special Act Awards for Qualifications
0	Safety Awards

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

During the month of April Portsmouth Naval Shipyards issued 29 disciplinary actions including:

Non-Bargaining Unit Employees (Supervisors)	
4	<i>Suspensions (14 days or less)</i>
1	<i>Termination/Removal</i>
Bargaining Unit Employees (Non-Supervisors)	
5	<i>Letters of Reprimand</i>
14	<i>Suspensions (14 Days or fewer)</i>
5	<i>Terminations/ Removals</i>

101 CRITICAL DAYS of SUMMER

Sun Exposure

- * *Use SPF 15 or higher regularly when outside.*
- * *Wear sunglasses with a UV400 rating or 100% UV Protection.*
- * *Limit your time in the sun, especially between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. when the sun's rays are the most intense. Seek shade when possible and consider wearing clothing that covers exposed skin.*



Heat Illness

- * *Extreme heat is temperatures above 90 degrees. Your body works hard to maintain a normal temperature in extreme heat, which can lead to injury or death.*
- * *Early recognition of heat-related illness symptoms followed by quick action is imperative to stop symptoms from progressing.*

