

# **FATHOM THIS!**

**The monthly newsletter from  
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park**

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September brings warm weather to San Francisco, and a month of many programs on Hyde Street Pier, in the Maritime Museum, Maritime Library, and on SF Bay aboard the 1891 scow schooner *Alma*. For information on all the programs and events the park has to offer, please see the park website [www.nps.gov/safr/](http://www.nps.gov/safr/), the website of the park's cooperating San Francisco Maritime National Park Association at [www.maritime.org](http://www.maritime.org), and the website of the park's cooperating Library Friends at [www.maritimelibraryfriends.org](http://www.maritimelibraryfriends.org). Come visit us and enjoy your national park on San Francisco's historic waterfront!

Fathom This! is sent monthly. Feel free to forward it, in whole or in part, and enter it into blogs. To receive it, or to cancel, please email the editor at [peter\\_kasin@nps.gov](mailto:peter_kasin@nps.gov). Your name and contact information is never loaned or sold.

## **CHANTEY SING 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

*Saturday, October 1, 11:30am-4:45pm, on Hyde Street Pier and aboard historic ferry Eureka, and 8:00pm to midnight, aboard Eureka. No fee. Reservations required for evening chantey sing: [peter\\_kasin@nps.gov](mailto:peter_kasin@nps.gov), or 415-561-7171. All performances and evening chantey sing wheelchair accessible.*

Join us as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the park's monthly chantey sing! During the day, enjoy traditional sea music, performed by singers and instrumentalists who have participated in the chantey sings throughout its history, from two venues on Hyde Street pier, and aboard the historic 1890 ferry *Eureka*. At 8pm, join the evening chantey sing.

Since 1981, the chantey sing has been a free to the public sing-along of chanteys - the work songs of sailors, longshoremen, oarsmen and fishermen - and other songs of

seafarers and seafaring communities. Led by a park ranger, all are welcome to lead songs, or sing along on the choruses. The choruses to these work songs are repetitive and easy to pick up by ear. The lyrics often express universal themes; bravery, fear, longing for a better life, and they tell of seafaring adventures: of storms and the dangers of rounding Cape Horn, of the joys and curse of drink, of love and longing, captains and "bucko" mates, of historic events, and of far-off lands.

A San Francisco tradition, the monthly chantey sing has been featured on television shows such as Bay Area Backroads, and has garnered "Best of the Bay" awards from the San Francisco Bay Guardian (1997, 2011), "Best of SF" awards from SF Weekly (2005, 2010), and a "Best of the Bay Area" award from San Francisco Magazine (2005).

#### **Daytime performances:**

Performers will include Shay Black, Holdstock and Macleod, Skip Henderson, Celeste Bernardo, The Dogwatch Nautical Band, Salty Walt and the Ratlin' Ratlines, The Barbary Ghosts, Brass Farthing, Sons of the Buccaneers, The Lighthouse String Band, Riggy Rackin, Malcolm Rigby, Kasin and Adrianowicz, Talitha Phillips and Friends, Amelia Hogan, David Lovine, Autumn Rhodes, The Chantey Sing Rangers, Raymond Tsang, Kathy Daskal, Benjamin Wachs, Miriam Rubenson, Kate Chaitin, Steve Canright, John Slaymaker, Nathalie Reginster, Susan Walsh, Jim Nelson, Alice Watts and Billy Higgins, Melani Van Petten and Sarah Brody, Mark deHaas, Jeremy Friedenthal.

Performance times and locations available in advance by emailing [peter\\_kasin@nps.gov](mailto:peter_kasin@nps.gov), and on day of performances from volunteers at the entrance to Hyde Street Pier.

#### **Evening chantey sing:**

The 30th anniversary sing will be held aboard the ferry *Eureka*. Entry begins 7:30pm. Chantey sing begins 8pm. Free, and reservations required. Reservations and information: [peter\\_kasin@nps.gov](mailto:peter_kasin@nps.gov), or 415-561-7171.

#### **FLOATING LIVE THEATRE: HOMER'S *THE ODYSSEY* ABOARD *ALMA***

*Alma* boarding 12:30, leaves Hyde Street Pier 1:00. Performances September 17, 18, October 1, 28, 29, November 4, 5, 11, 12, 17. Limit: 40 persons per performance. For prices, advance reservations, and other information, please see [www.weplayers.org](http://www.weplayers.org). Pre-paid parking at Ghirardelli Square can be arranged at [www.maritime.org](http://www.maritime.org), or 415-561-6662.

Experience a sailing theatre production of Homer's *The Odyssey* aboard the park's 1891 historic scow schooner *Alma*. Presented by the theatre company We Players, in partnership with the park and with the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, each performance will take place on a three-hour sail around SF Bay, as the actors and crew weave real-time line handling with Homer's stirring account of weary seafarers striking sail for home. The sturdy deck will evoke Odysseus' sleek black triremes, and will help tell the unlucky sailor's tale of travel, exploration, and homecoming.

We players are a local collective which presents site-specific performances that transform spaces into participatory theatre. Their work highlights treasures of our local landscape and celebrates the historical importance and natural beauty of where they make art. They create unique stories of each site. Past performances have included *Hamlet* on Alcatraz Island, and *Macbeth* at Fort Point National Historic Site.

### **FLOATING FILMS SERIES: ON THE WATERFRONT**

*Thursday, September 15, in the Maritime Museum, 900 Beach Street, at Polk. Open seating begins 7:30pm. Movie begins 8pm. Donation: \$5 - \$15 suggested, at door. Information: [www.maritime.org](http://www.maritime.org), or 415-561-6662. Wheelchair accessible.*

Under Elia Kazan's direction, Marlon Brando gives a stunning multi-faceted performance as a longshoreman and former boxer who is blackballed and brutally beaten for testifying against the mobsters who took over his union, in this 1954 classic. Eva Marie Saint plays his love interest, Rod Steiger plays his brother, Lee J. Cobb is the mobster-run union boss "Johnny Friendly," and Karl Malden's character "Father Pete Barry" is based on the real life priest John M. "Pete" Corridan, who fought against waterfront crime and corruption, and for a democratic waterfront union, in the late 1940's and 50's.

### **KLEBINGAT LECTURE SERIES: THE TRUE STORY OF *MOBY DICK***

*Tuesday, September 20, 6:00pm, in the Maritime Library, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. E, 3rd Floor. Information and reservations: 415-561-7040. Wheelchair accessible by elevator.*

Join us for an evening with the library's video collection, both fact and fiction, as we explore film versions of Herman Melville's classic tale, followed by a documentary on the wreck of the whaling ship *Essex* in 1820, the incident that was the inspiration for Melville's story.

### **NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY**

*Saturday, September 24. Hyde Street Pier hours: 9:30am-5:00pm. Information: 415-447-5000.*

On National Public Lands Day, all federal public lands where entrance fees are normally charged, will be free to the public. At San Francisco Maritime, the \$5 fee to board the historic vessels berthed at Hyde Street Pier will be waived. Enjoy your public lands across the country on this fee-free day!

### **OPEN HOUSE**

*Thursday, September 29, 4pm-7pm, in the Maritime Museum, 900 Beach Street, foot of Polk Street. Information: 415-561-7006, or [www.nps.gov/safr](http://www.nps.gov/safr). Wheelchair accessible.*

Discuss plans and projects with park staff, and provide feedback and comments. There is no set program - arrive at any time, and stay as long as you like.

Information/discussion stations in museum lobby will be: 1915 steam schooner *Wapama* / Schooner *C.A. Thayer* and Municipal Pier / Maritime Library and Museum Collections / Bocce Ball Court project / America's Cup update / Volunteers, Docents, Living History, Park Partners.

### **LINKS**

<http://www.nps.gov/safr/> San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park.

<http://www.maritime.org> San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, the park's nonprofit member-supported cooperating association.

<http://www.library.nps.gov> The Maritime Library catalog.

<http://www.museum.nps.gov/safr/page.htm> The Maritime Museum catalog records.

<http://maritimelibraryfriends.org> The Maritime Library's nonprofit member-supported cooperating association.

<http://hydestreetlivinghistory.org> The park Living History program's volunteer created and managed website.

<http://mappingthepacificcoast.com> Travelling historic map exhibit, in the Maritime museum through October, 2011.

<http://www.weplayers.org> Local theatre company presenting *The Odyssey* aboard *Alma*.

<http://www.corsair-viking.org> The San Francisco Sea Scouts, the park's neighboring partner in Aquatic Park.