

FATHOM THIS!

The Monthly newsletter from
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

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Greetings, and happy holidays from everyone at San Francisco Maritime National historical Park, your national park on San Francisco's historic waterfront! Enjoy our annual "Christmas At Sea" celebration, and take in the many other programs your park has to offer. Information on all park programs and tours may be found on the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/safr/>, and on the website of our cooperating partner, the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, at <http://www.maritime.org> (see also links at the end of this newsletter).

Feel free to forward this newsletter, and enter it, in whole or in part, into blogs. To subscribe, or unsubscribe, please contact the editor at peter_kasin@nps.gov. Your name and email address is never loaned or sold to any outside organizations or individuals.

CHRISTMAS AT SEA

Saturday, December 12, 3:00-4:45pm, and 6:00-9:00pm. Aboard Balclutha (daytime activities) and on Hyde Street Pier, Lewis Ark (houseboat), Eureka ferry, and sailing ship Balclutha (evening Living History activities).

The park's annual holiday celebration features live music, refreshments, ornament-making, story reading, costumed characters from 1901, and a special visit from Santa Claus. Join us for this unique holiday experience! Here are the two portions to this program:

Daytime activities

Aboard Balclutha, 3:00-4:45pm. Ships admission fees apply: Adults, \$5, ages 15 and under, free. Free with national park passes. For more information, please call the Visitor Center, open daily, 9:30am-5:00pm. 415-447-5000.

The Dogwatch Nautical Band starts the festivities at 3:00pm, performing traditional sea chanteys with a holiday twist. Their spirited maritime music is popular with adults and children, and audience participation is definitely encouraged! Kids of all ages will enjoy the popular ornament-making activities and refreshments. As the band concludes its performance, park ranger Carol Kiser will read from a classic Christmas story. Another highlight of the celebration is the unique water-borne arrival of Santa Claus. Santa arrives by boat at approximately 4:20pm, and will listen to children's wishes until the afternoon portion of the program ends at 4:45.

Evening activities

On Hyde Street Pier and aboard Eureka and Balclutha. Tours leave pier entrance every 20 minutes beginning 6pm. Last tour leaves 8:20. Free, but reservations required. Space is limited. To reserve, please call the Visitor Center, open daily, 9:30am-5:00pm. 415-447-5000.

The park's costumed Living History Players takes you back to Christmas in the year 1901, where you will meet and talk with the captains, wives, and crews aboard historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier. Lamplit tours of the pier and vessels are led by a costumed nightwatchman, where you will be invited to take part in maritime Christmas traditions of Victorian-era houseboat families, ferry passengers, sailors, captains, and captains wives.

EXPLORERS SAILING PROGRAM WINS AWARD

We are pleased to announce that the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association's Explorers Sailing Program, an educational program held for youth aboard the historic scow schooner *Alma* has won the 2009 Sail Training Organization of the Year (smaller vessel category) award! The award was bestowed by Sail Training International at the International Sail Training and Tall Ships Conference in Istanbul, Turkey on Saturday, November 21. The conference was attended by 361 delegates from 31 countries. For more on the award, visit <http://www.sailtraininginternational.org/page.asp?partid=1157>. For more information on the Explorers Sailing program, visit it on the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association website at <http://www.maritime.org/nmmaedu8-explorers.htm>.

VOLUNTEER IN YOUR PARK

Volunteer Office located on Hyde Street Pier.

Support your park, learn new skills, and lend your own skills and knowledge by volunteering. Volunteers are needed in all departments, including helping at Christmas

At Sea. If you would like to find out more, please call the Volunteer Coordinator, Terry Dorman, at 415-556-1613, or email terry_dorman@nps.gov.

NEW IN HISTORIC DOCUMENTS

Lower Fort Mason, Bldg. E, 3rd Floor. For an appointment, please call the library desk: 415-561-7030 (see library hours below).

Research your maritime history through primary source documents that are collected, preserved, and open to you to discover, in the Historic Documents Department. Newly acquired are:

The Robert E. Blake collection of LASH (lighter aboard ships) documents (HDC 1584), has plans, manuals, and documents of West Coast innovations in development and construction of these ships. The "LASH" system made it possible to load barges (or "lighters") aboard larger vessels for transport through open seas. The Albert Freeman Pillsbury papers (HDC 1584) consists of documents, photographs, logbooks, correspondence, framed prints and photocopies about the life and career of this founding partner in the marine salvage businesses Pillsbury & Curtis, Inc. and Pillsbury & Martignoni, Inc.

THE MARITIME LIBRARY

Lower Fort Mason, Bldg. E, 3rd Floor. Open on the 3rd Saturday of every month, 10am-5pm. Also by appointment, M-F afternoons. 415-561-7030, or ring doorbell. Immediate appointments usually available.

The J. Porter Shaw Maritime Library is open for you to research your maritime history in a quiet, reflective setting on San Francisco's historic waterfront. The library has books, periodicals, historic photographs, videos and DVD's waiting for you to discover your heritage. Library staff is on hand to guide you through the extensive collection. The library also hosts the Klebingat Lecture Series, where maritime historians and adventurers give public evening presentations. Watch for announcements of programs for 2010 in future issues of Fathom This! and on the Library Friends website (see links below).

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.maritimelibraryfriends.org> The park library's nonprofit member-supported cooperating association.

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

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