

FATHOM THIS!

The monthly newsletter from
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

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Welcome to San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park! We invite you to take in programs and exhibits during African American History Month to discover your maritime heritage. For information on all the programs and exhibits the park has to offer, and on the park's research library and documents department, please see the official park website at www.nps.gov/safr/, and the website of the park's cooperating San Francisco Maritime National Park Association at www.maritime.org.

Fathom This! is sent monthly. Feel free to forward it, in whole or in part, and enter it into blogs. If you would like to receive it or to cancel, please contact the editor at peter_kasin@nps.gov. Your name and email address is never loaned or sold.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Join us as we observe African American History Month throughout February with programs and exhibits. Information: 415-447-5000. See below for details.

EXHIBIT: AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE MARITIME TRADES

Daily, throughout February, in the Visitor Center, 499 Jefferson Street, at Hyde. Free. Photo exhibit about African Americans in maritime industries.

MARITIME ROUTES OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Saturday, February 5, 1:30pm, in the Visitor Center, 499 Jefferson Street, at Hyde. Free.
A presentation on ships as routes to freedom on the Underground Railroad. The California Gold Rush, West Coast whaling, stories of escape, and uncovering lost stories will be included.

CHANTEYS: THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CONNECTION

Saturday, February 12, 1:00-1:45pm, aboard Balclutha, Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission applies: Adults, \$5. Ages 15 and under, free. Free with national park passes.
Discover African American and Caribbean works songs of sailors, oarsmen, stevedores and fishermen. Join Park Ranger Peter Kasin and park volunteer Richard Adrianowicz and sing along on the choruses to these compelling chanteys.

THE SAGA OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM SHOREY

Sundays, February 13, 3:00pm, and February 27, 1:30pm, in the Visitor Center, 499 Jefferson Street, at Hyde. Free.
Park Ranger Carol Kiser presents a slide program on the extraordinary life and accomplishments of the only Black whaling ship captain on the West Coast.

AFRICAN AMERICANS AT SEA

Saturdays, February 19 and 26, 1:00-1:30pm, in the Visitor Center, 499 Jefferson Street, at Hyde. Free.
Join Park Ranger Tom Jares for a look at the lives of African American seamen during the Age of Sail. Discover the pivotal role they played in maritime history.

BIRDS OF THE BAY

Sunday, February 6, 10:00-11:00am. Meets at entrance to Hyde Street Pier. Free.
Information: 415-447-5000.
This guided bird walk is geared for children and beginning bird watchers. Walk with Park Ranger Carol Kiser to view shore, migratory, citified and resident birds on this easy stroll. Bring bird books, binoculars, and dress in layers.

IN THE LIBRARY: THE HUNLEY --- SAGA OF A CONFEDERATE SUBMARINE

Saturday, February 12, 6:00pm, in the Maritime Library, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. E, 3rd Floor. Donation: \$5 general, \$4 San Francisco Maritime National Park Association and Library Friends members. Information and reservations: 415-561-7040.
In an evening highlighting the library's film collection, join us for *The Hunley*, a drama about the first submarine to successfully sink a warship, starring Donald Sutherland and Armand Assante. After sending a torpedo into the powder magazine of the U.S.S. *Housatonic*, the C.S.S. H.L. Hunley vanished --- not to be seen again for 136 years. This dramatic version will be followed by the documentary *Raising the Hunley*, the story of the sub's dramatic rediscovery in 2000. A discussion of the differences between the fictionalized story and the documentary presentation will follow.

Research your maritime heritage in a quiet, reflective setting on San Francisco's historic waterfront. The Maritime Library is open to the public by appointment only, Monday

through Friday, and the third Saturday of the month, 1:00pm-4:00pm. Appointments: 415-561-7030.

WHERE'S ALMA?

The park's 1891 scow schooner *Alma* spent her early life hauling huge deck-loads of hay, lumber, salt, sand, gravel, oyster shell and all sorts of other non-perishable freight all over the Bay and Delta. These days, she carries middle school students and the general public around the Bay, where they learn traditional sailing and maritime history. By the end of the sailing season she's ready for her annual haul-out for rig and hull maintenance.

This year's haul-out is more substantial than the typical "shave and a haircut." Most haul-outs consist of bottom and topsides painting, and any minor repairs needed. This year, the transom (back end) is getting rebuilt, due to rot in the beams. The work is being done at Bay Ship and Yacht, in Alameda. The crew has removed the rot and started in on replacing the new beams. In order to remove the transom beam, much of the back end had to be disassembled. The shipwrights have now turned their talents to the complex reassembly of this intricate structure.

When *Alma* returns to the Bay, there will be a noticeable difference in the appearance of her transom. The park is taking this rebuilding as an opportunity to return the transom to close to the way it was originally built. At the end of this project, it's going to be extremely reassuring to know that *Alma* is solid again and ready to sail the Bay as she has for 120 years.

LINKS

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

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

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

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

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

<http://www.hydestreetlivinghistory.org> The 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.