

FATHOM THIS!

The monthly newsletter from
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
**Celebrating 20 years as a national park:
1988-2008**

June, 2008

Issue #5

Winds, thick fog and occasional drizzles can mean only one thing: It's Summer in San Francisco! Join us this June for Family Fun Month as we celebrate 20 years as a national park. For us, maritime preservation and interpreting maritime history to the public is much more than a job. It is a defining part of our lives, and an honor to serve with you as stewards of our maritime heritage. You can be a part of this maritime community! The San Francisco Maritime National Park Association and the Friends of the San Francisco Maritime Library are your park's nonprofit member-supported partners. You are invited to join these organizations and become a partner in preserving our maritime heritage! (see websites listed in the links provided at the end of the newsletter)

For more information about the park, and for a complete listing of park programs and events, please call the Visitor Center at 415-447-5000, and visit the park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/safr/>.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

When the maritime unit of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area was designated a national park in 1988, it faced some daunting opportunities: preserving a museum, a fleet of historic vessels, and an historic district; and discovering its resources most significant stories (and then finding the best ways to tell them).

During the last twenty years, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park has had many accomplishments: from saving the *C.A. Thayer* to earning accreditation from the American Association of Museums. What's most exciting are the challenges that lie just over the horizon, including: completion of the Aquatic Park Bathhouse rehabilitation, reopening the Maritime Museum, and creation of a comprehensive Maritime Heritage and Learning Center.

We look forward to teaching another generation of visitors about America's rich maritime heritage!

-Kate Richardson
Superintendent, San Francisco Maritime NHP

JUNE IS FAMILY FUN MONTH

Start your summer family adventures in June with the park's multitude of family oriented programs. **Vessel admission fees** apply for shipboard programs, unless otherwise noted. Free to walk Hyde Street Pier. Free admission to the Visitor Center, corner of Hyde and Jefferson Streets, directly across the street from Hyde Street Pier. Fees for boarding floating historic vessels: Adults, \$5. Ages 15 and under, free. Free with national park passes. Tickets are good for seven days from date of purchase, and you need only one ticket per person to board all vessels open. The ticket booth is located halfway up Hyde Street Pier. Open daily, 9:30am-5:30pm. Last entry to Hyde Street Pier, 5:00pm. Last tickets to board ships sold at 5:10pm. **Please note new extended hours:** June 16 to August 16, 9:30am-6:30pm. Last entry, 6:00pm. Last tickets sold, 6:10pm.

ADVENTURES AT SEA: LIFE ABOARD A 19TH CENTURY SAILING SHIP

Daily, 2:15pm-3:00pm, aboard Balclutha. Vessel admission fees apply.
Take a guided tour of the 1886 square-rigged ship *Balclutha*. Discover the hardships and rewards of the sailors who fought for survival during the treacherous Cape Horn passage.

HISTORIC WATERFRONT WALKING TOUR: FROM GOLD RUSH TO NATIONAL PARK

Saturdays and Sundays, 10:30am-11:30am. Meets in the Argonaut Hotel lobby, adjacent to the Visitor Center. Free.

Stroll with a park ranger through The Cannery, Aquatic Park Historic District, Hyde Street Pier, and Fisherman's Wharf to discover the history of this vibrant area. The tour is one hour and covers approximately one mile, with some gently sloping and uneven terrain. Dress in layers, wear sunscreen, and walking shoes.

CAULKING A SEAM

Saturday, June 7, 3:00pm-3:30pm, aboard Balclutha. Vessel admission fees apply.

Watertight seams are essential on wooden decks of sailing ships. Park ranger Carol Kiser demonstrates the steps involved in caulking a deck seam.

BOOK TALK: "THAR SHE BLOWS"

Sunday, June 8, 1:30pm-1:45pm, at the Sailor's Den in the Visitor Center. Free.

Join a maritime librarian for an introduction to great books about whaling. She'll be spouting about Yankee whaling, the Eskimo boy Neeluk, and more.

MARITIME STORYTIME: "HOW I BECAME A PIRATE"

Saturday, June 14, 3:30pm-3:50pm, in The Maritime Store, located just left of the entrance to Hyde Street Pier. Free.

Park ranger Elizabeth Evans reads an adventurous pirate tale. Kid-sized chairs provided. Recommended for ages 3-8.

COSTUMED LIVING HISTORY

The 2nd Saturday of each month is Living History Day. Step back into the year 1901 as you board the historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier. This month's program features a re-creation of a shipboard wedding, ministered by the master (captain) aboard *Balclutha*. Other activities include a morning

Balclutha sail raise, where you'll be invited to haul on a line and raise a staysail to the rhythm of a sea chantey; a Victorian salon in the houseboat, and a sailors "dogwatch," when *Balclutha's* crew has some time to relax and entertain each other with songs. You'll be invited to sing along! Please call the Visitor Center at 415-447-5000 for specific times of all the day's programs and tours.

THE WORK WAS HARD AND THE WAGES LOW: A SINGING TOUR OF BALCLUTHA

Saturday, June 21, 3:00pm-3:45pm, aboard Balclutha. Vessel admission fees apply.

Find out how sailing ship crews sang their way through their days during this tour of *Balclutha*, led by park ranger Carol Kiser. Join in on the singing if it suits your fancy!

MUSIC OF THE SEA FOR KIDS

Saturday, June 21, 3:00pm-3:45pm, aboard Balclutha. Vessel admission fees apply.

History comes alive for kids in this special program, where the songs are geared for younger ears.

STAND BY TO ANSWER BELLS

Saturday, June 21, 1:00pm-1:45pm. Meet at tugboat Hercules's gangway. Vessel admission fees apply.

Park rangers demonstrate how the captain in the pilothouse communicated with the crew below in the engine room. Try your hand at the voice tubes, bells, and engine telegraph.

CRAFTS FOR KIDS

Saturday, June 28, 3:00pm-4:00pm. Meet the rangers at the demo shed, just inside the Hyde Street Pier entrance. Free.

Want to learn about life at sea and make your own signal flags? Rangers will show you how, with paper, colored pens, and other materials.

BIRDS OF THE BAY

Sunday, June 29, 9:30am-11:30am. Meet the ranger at entrance to Hyde Street Pier. Free.

View shore, migratory, citified, and resident birds on this easy stroll. Bring binoculars, bird books, and dress in layers.

KIDS FUN PAGE

Be sure to see the new "kids fun page" in the Maritime News section of the park's website: <http://www.nps.gov/safr/>.

SAIL ABOARD THE ALMA

Saturdays, 12:30-4:00. Fees: Adults ages 16-61, \$35, seniors ages 62 and over, \$30, ages 7-15, \$20, ages 6 and under, free. Purchase tickets at booth, then meet at entrance to Hercules's gangway.

Immerse yourself in history aboard the National Landmark scow schooner *Alma* on a three-hour sail around San Francisco Bay! Take in dazzling views, learn about San Francisco's riveting maritime history through onboard ranger talks, and haul on lines to raise sails. The last of her kind, the *Alma* will transport you to a long-ago era in this unique, hands-on program. Tickets may be reserved in advance by calling the Visitor Center at 415-447-5000. Tickets are then paid for and picked up sailing day only, at the ticket booth halfway up Hyde Street Pier (opens daily 9:30am). Please pick up tickets by 11:00am. Boarding begins 12:30pm, sail begins 1:00pm. Dress warmly, in layers.

RESTORATION UPDATES

BALCLUTHA

Ship Preservation Specialist Chris Jannini reports.

All Summer long watch for riggers working at great heights in a rig near you.

Projects will be:

---Send up the new Fore T'gallant Royal mast (currently on display aboard the ferry *Eureka*).

---Send down Mizzen T'gallant yard, Royal yard, and T'gallant/Royal mast and all wire.

---Refurbish painted spars (on the poop deck).

---Send up Mizzen T'gallant/Royal mast and rigging.

C.A. THAYER

Thayer's Chief Shipwright Phil Erwin reports.

The *Thayer* received her bi-annual coat of deck oil the last week of May, and hatchboards are now receiving theirs. Work on annual care and upkeep will continue throughout the coming months and will include painting inner bulwarks, rail caps, and waterways, and the re-coating of the outer hull above the waterline to the rail and to the water below the water load line. Meanwhile, we continue to work on upgrading the interpretive signs onboard and look forward to the much anticipated aft house rebuild materials.

The *C.A. Thayer's* decks are open for self-guided and ranger-led tours during her rehabilitation (vessel admission fees apply). Come aboard, talk with shipwrights about her rehabilitation, and discover her careers in the lumber trade, and in the Alaska salmon and salt cod trades.

WELCOME NEW PARK STAFF

Courtney Andersen, Rigger

Courtney grew up in Orlando, Florida and has loved sailing ships since childhood. In 1987, while in Miami, he happened upon a replica of the *Bounty* and begged for a job. Hired on, he worked aboard as a tour guide and deckhand, highlighted by a three month New England sail in the summer of '91. While on his next job as an orchid greenhouse grower in Connecticut, he again ran into a sailing ship, this one a replica of Henry Hudson's *Half Moon*. He worked aboard for seven years, gaining extensive rigging experience, which led him to his next job: rigging consultant for the Pirates of the Caribbean movies! Courtney hired and supervised a crew to design and put together the rig for the movie ship. While working on the third movie, he hired our park's Chief Rigger Jamie White. Through Jamie, Courtney heard about a job opening for a rigger at the park. After a short term assignment here in 2007, he returned this year as a new permanent fulltime member of the rigging crew.

Sailing ships and their rigging have always fascinated Courtney. "You learn to tie your shoes, then move on to ships rigging." For Courtney, rigging represents "the perfect combination of art, science, and history." You'll find him aboard the *Balclutha*. Come aboard and meet him. He's glad to answer questions about the *Balclutha's* rig.

Brendan Wilson, Park Guide

Brendan, born and raised in Norwalk, Connecticut, has worked with the National Park Service at Adams National Historical Park, in Quincy, Massachusetts, and at the National Mall and Memorial Parks, in Washington, DC. There, he helped those visiting the monuments and memorials gracing the National Mall experience U.S. history on a grand scale.

He has a B.A. in History with a minor in Archeology from George Washington University, DC, and an M.A. in History with a concentration in Public History from Northeastern University, Boston. He worked for four years as a paralegal in Lower Manhattan, specializing in labor/employment law, before beginning his graduate studies. He also served an internship in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Brendan brings to his work a passion for connecting people with their maritime history. "The combination of growing up on the shores of Long Island Sound and an interest in history means that I have always had an interest in maritime history....I envision my time at San Francisco Maritime NHP as a chance to both grow as a member of the National Park Service and as an opportunity to further explore my interests in American, world, and maritime history."

Brendan is also an experienced Emergency Medical Technician. As a Park Guide, he leads interpretive programs, helps staff the Hyde Street Pier ticket booth, and serves on the Maritime History Training Committee and the Public Affairs Committee.

LOOKING AHEAD

FESTIVAL OF SAIL

July 20-27, along San Francisco's waterfront

San Francisco is host to an international ships parade and maritime festival! The San Francisco Maritime National Park Association is organizing and co-sponsoring this weeklong major maritime event. The July issue of Fathom This! will have a feature on the festival. Volunteers are needed. If you'd like to help and be a part of this international maritime welcome and extravaganza, please call the event director, Joanne Fedeyko, at 415-307-1382, or email her at jfedeyko@maritime.org. See the festival website provided in the links below.

20TH ANNUAL SEA MUSIC CONCERT SERIES

Celebrate 20 years of this San Francisco tradition! Tickets are now on sale for this Fall's Sea Music Concert Series. Join us for evenings of chanteys, ballads, and instrumentals in an intimate setting aboard the *Balclutha*, when we present some of sea music's finest performers in concert. Concerts begin 8:00pm.

Saturday, September 27, **Geoff Kaufman** brings his fine voice, his deep knowledge of maritime music and history, and 28 years of international performing experience. Saturday, October 18, the four-member group **Ida Red** performs, bringing their fresh approach to traditional music, honed during the New York City music scene of the 1990's. Singing a cappella and accompanying themselves on fiddle, banjo, and guitar, they are: Alison Kelley, Daphne Glover, Erica Smith, and Craig Edwards.

Tickets: \$14 general, \$12 San Francisco Maritime National Park Association and Library Friends members. Discount season ticket: \$24 for both concerts. To purchase tickets, and for more information, please call 415-561-6662, ext. 33. Tickets may also be purchased in The Maritime Store, located just left of the entrance to Hyde Street Pier. Performer bios and photos can be viewed on the park website (see links below). More details in future newsletters.

LINKS

<http://www.nps.gov/safr/> The park's official website

<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.festivalofsail.org> Festival Of Sail.

<http://www.hydestreetlivinghistory.org> The Living History program's volunteer-created website.