

# FATHOM THIS!

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

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Peter Kasin, Park Ranger  
Newsletter Editor / Writer

## Contributors:

Phil Erwin, Shipwright  
Elizabeth Evans, Park Guide  
Ted Miles, Historian  
Melani Van Petten, Library Friends Assistant

Welcome to the September issue of **Fathom This!** San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park invites you to walk Hyde Street Pier and board the fleet of historic ships, research your maritime heritage at the park library, take in ranger-led tours and demonstrations, tour the renovated Bathhouse Building, join in the singing at our monthly evening Chantey Sing on the first Saturday of every month, sail aboard the 1891 scow schooner *Alma*, and hear some of the world's leading sea chantey singers in concert aboard *Balclutha*. For a complete listing of park programs, plus photographs and articles, visit the park's website, [www.nps.gov/safr](http://www.nps.gov/safr). This link, and others, is provided at the end of the newsletter. Feel free to forward this newsletter, and enter it, in whole or in part, into blogs. To receive **Fathom This!**, or to cancel, please email the editor at [peter\\_kasin@nps.gov](mailto:peter_kasin@nps.gov). Your name and email address is never sold or loaned.

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## 20TH ANNUAL SEA MUSIC CONCERT SERIES

Geoff Kaufman Saturday, September 27, 8pm. Aboard *Balclutha*.

For the past 28 years, Geoff Kaufman has been leading audiences to find truth, humor, and beauty in folk music. Whether singing aboard the *Sloop Clearwater* on the Hudson River, or at music festivals in North America and Europe, Geoff has entertained and touched audiences far and wide. Above all, at the core of Geoff's performances is his rich tenor voice and his exuberant love of singing and enticing audiences to sing along. Geoff accompanies himself on guitar and concertina. Join us as we bring back the series' first-ever performer.

**Ida Red** Saturday, October 18, 8pm. Aboard *Balclutha*.

Veteran sea music performers Alison Kelley (The Johnson Girls, The NexTradition), Craig Edwards (Forebitter), Daphne Glover (The Windlasses) and Erica Smith have teamed up to form this exciting and innovative maritime folk music band. Accompanying themselves on fiddle, banjo, and guitar, and singing a cappella, they have taken traditional songs through the spinner of modern influences and the byways of America, and have wrung out a new kind of folk.

*Tickets: \$14 general, \$12 San Francisco Maritime National Park Association and San Francisco Maritime Library Friends members. Discount general ticket for both concerts: \$24. For more information, and for reservations, please call James Meyer at the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, 415-561-6662, ext. 33. Tickets may also be purchased in person at The Maritime Store, at the entrance to Hyde Street Pier. Store hours: Weekdays, 10am-6pm. Sat/Sun, 9:30am-5:30pm.*

Join the park in celebrating 20 years of presenting the world's finest performers of traditional and contemporary music of the sea! The annual Sea Music Concert Series has indeed reached its 20th season. The brainchild of then San Francisco Maritime NHP park ranger Celeste Bernardo, the series intended to bring to Bay Area audiences one of the most compelling ways of interpreting maritime history and lore, through presenting the world's finest performers of maritime music; singers and instrumentalists known both for their musical ability and their knowledge of maritime music and history.

Held aboard the *Balclutha*, Geoff Kaufman, then foreman of Mystic Seaport Museum's music programs, was the series' first performer. Also in the series that year were master singer Louis Killen, singer/scholar Bob Webb, and singer/scholars Stuart Frank & Mary Malloy. After the success of the premiere series, the park decided to host another one in 1990, and hasn't looked back since! After Celeste Bernardo left San Francisco Maritime NHP in early 1992 for her new position at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and then on to national parks in Massachusetts, ranger Revell Carr guided the series through the next several years, bringing in East Coast performers Jeff Warner & Jeff Davis, local heroes Holdstock & Macleod, and renowned folk singer/songwriters Gordon Bok and Tom Lewis, to name just a few. When Revell left for graduate school in 1996, I (your newsletter editor) was handed the responsibilities of coordinating the series, and it has been, and remains, a great honor to be involved with this wonderful part of the park's programming. Over its 20 year history, Cliff Haslam, Tom Lewis, Louis Killen, Warner & Davis, Celeste Bernardo, Dan Milner & Bob Conroy, The Johnson Girls, John Roberts, Scottish fiddle master Alasdair Fraser, John Conolly (England), Jerry Bryant, Cindy Kallet and Grey Larsen, Gordon Bok, fiddlers Athena Tergis & Laura Risk, Forebitter, Irish singing legends Robbie O'Connell and Shay Black, Jill King, Goux & Sulanowski, The NexTradition, St. Elmo's Choir, Pint & Dale, Tom Lewis (BC, Canada), Richard Grainger (Yorkshire, England), The Windlasses, Jon Bartlett & Rika Ruebsaat, Oak, Ash & Thorn, David LoVine, Revell Carr, Holdstock and Macleod, Mainbrace (Wales) and many others, have brought to the series their ability to connect with their audiences, bringing maritime history to life through songs and instrumental music.

Come discover your maritime heritage through its music. We hope to see you at one or both concerts this Fall! Your support of these concerts helps keep maritime music alive.

## IN THE MARITIME LIBRARY:

### From Viking To Victorian: A History of Iron In Shipbuilding

*Saturday, September 6, 6pm. In the Maritime Library, located in Lower Fort Mason, Bldg. E, 3rd Floor. Reservations and donation information: 415-561-7040 or email [melani\\_van\\_petten@partner.nps.gov](mailto:melani_van_petten@partner.nps.gov).*

Norwegian maritime historian and ship restorer Olaf Envig will give a presentation on iron shipbuilding, and will sign copies of his new book, *From Viking To Victorian: A History of Iron in Shipbuilding*.

-Melani Van Petten, Library Friends Assistant

The library has two new books:

*The P&O Lines On Historic Postcards* by Philip Rantell. Great reproductions of the ships. *Graveyards Of The Pacific: From Pearl Harbor To Bikini Atoll*, by Bob Ballard. World War II as it deserves to be remembered.

-Ted Miles, Historian

## C.A. THAYER UPDATE

The timbers for the Aft House have arrived at last! We will be loading the initial batch of wood onto the vessel's deck in the first part of the month. Meanwhile, the final disassembly of the Aft House trim is nearing completion, and we are getting down to "the bones," enabling the shipwrights to establish a reconstruction game plan. The crew will begin constructing patterns of the timbering and drifting (giant nail) layout of the bulkheads (timber walls) using strips of plywood. After completion, demolition and replacement will begin. Finally, while the annual painting continues inboard, a second crew will move outboard using the floating work dock and begin working on preparing and renewing the hull.

-Phil Erwin, Chief Shipwright, *C.A. Thayer*

## FAREWELL FROM PARK GUIDE ELIZABETH EVANS

To all of the wonderful staff, partners, volunteers, and park visitors - I would like to wish you all the best as I'll be saying goodbye to the Hyde Street Pier at the end of August. I will be leaving with gratitude for the multitude of challenges and opportunities San Francisco Maritime has to offer. I'm moving on to a new Park Ranger position in Sausalito where I'll be specializing in environmental education at the San Francisco Bay Model. If you never walked through the Model, or explored the old Marin Ship structures of the 1940's - come on up, and I'll give you a tour.

-Elizabeth Evans, Park Guide

## 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 member-supported cooperating association.

<http://www.sanfranciscomaritimelibraryfriends.org> The park library's member-supported cooperating association.

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

<http://www.corsair-viking.org> The San Francisco Sea Scouts, our partner at Aquatic Park.