Cargo is King! on the Ship Balclutha

Venture aboard the 1886 ship Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier and you are likely to see Park staff and volunteers “loading cargo” in scenes that bear a striking resemblance to those found in historic photographs and illustrations. Today, you can see an exciting new exhibit under construction that the Park Service will open to visitors this fall.

Visitors will descend into a mysterious world below deck, lit by cargo lamps and crammed with the sights and sounds of a different century. Over 650 hand sewn grain bags represent California’s “second gold rush,” the annual grain harvest that Balclutha helped transport to the people of Europe. More than 500 crates of canned salmon will be configured to represent the many thousands the ship brought to San Francisco every season from Alaska.

Park interpretive staff are busy researching and building unusual things like British glass crates, Belgian cement barrels and lumber destined for Australia’s silver mines. Historic fruit labels are being recreated and affixed to crates of California’s agricultural exports to Europe. You might even witness the traditional use of the ship’s rigging to land such cargoes aboard in preparation for the exhibit.

The cargoes are being installed in shipboard fashion and stowed tightly with wooden “dunnage” to prevent their movement at sea. The grain sacks are stacked against a wood and burlap lining to keep them safe and dry from condensation, and the stevedores who’ve loaded it have taken their shoes off to prevent damage to the precious cargo. Such attention to historic detail will help interpret and preserve our maritime heritage. So stop by to see a different time in the making. The time sailors once spoke of as the days when “Cargo was King!”

Welcome!

National parks are set aside for a variety of reasons. Some offer areas of spectacular natural beauty. Some are devoted to preserving our nation’s history. This park does a spectacular job of helping us to discover our nation’s maritime heritage. Exhibits, historic ships, small craft, ranger-led programs, sail raising demonstrations, access to historic documents and photographs, all make it possible to discover how our maritime past shapes the present, especially here on the Pacific Coast.

Please take a close look at this issue of the Maritime News. Inside you will find programs of interest for children and adults. The Small Boat Shop is offering an exciting selection of boatbuilding classes.

Are you looking for a fascinating place to spend some time volunteering? The park offers many ways to get involved. If working with the public appeals to you, please consider signing up for our April docent class.

Visit the Balclutha for a look at an exhibit under construction. The below deck area of the ship is being transformed to reveal the sights and sounds of a different century. Over 650 hand sewn grain bags represent California’s “second gold rush,” the annual grain harvest that Balclutha helped transport to the people of Europe. More than 500 crates of canned salmon will be configured to represent the many thousands the ship brought to San Francisco every season from Alaska.

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This is a diagram of the exhibit, “Cargo is King!”, currently under construction in the ‘tween deck of the full-rigged ship Balclutha. The exhibit is divided into sections interpreting Balclutha’s three main careers which were grain, lumber and canned salmon. On the port, or left, side of the vessel will be installed the types of cargo Balclutha carried on an outbound voyage, when leaving San Francisco. The starboard, or right, side will describe inbound cargo.

World Environment Day

From June 1–5, San Francisco will host the United Nations’ annual World Environment Day (WED) celebration. This is the first time in the event’s 33-year history that it will be hosted by a North American city. One hundred years from around the world will tour San Francisco, participating in activities staged around the theme of “Green Cities.”

On June 1 and 2, the park, in conjunction with our neighbors (including the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, the Dolphin Swimming and Boating Club, and the Aquarium of the Bay) will be producing displays, hosting exhibits and developing a new walking tour to highlight one of WED’s sub-themes, “Redesigning the Metropolis.” Along with our partners, we will be exploring how the Bay Area’s increasing urbanization has affected and changed the marine and maritime environment. Please join us!

Captain Patten

The West Coast Premier of the powerful screenplay, Captain Patten—drawn from the true story of Mary Patten’s extraordinary voyage of 1856—will be presented for one night only aboard Balclutha on Saturday, April 30th at 6 p.m. A lively company of San Francisco actors will bring you aboard the clipper ship, Nootse’s Car as she rounds Cape Horn under the hand of a courageous young woman of 19. Newly pregnant and alone, can she find a way to bring the ship, her desperately ill husband and a mutinous crew safely into San Francisco Bay? Written by Julie Clark Boak.


Captain Patten

See a Reading of the Screenplay Before It’s a Movie

Learn the stories preserved by the park’s collection of authentic 19th century vessels, and chart a new course as a steward of this unique, “floating national park.” Once trained, docents will share their knowledge with park visitors through formal educational programs and informal contacts.

The training is presented over three consecutive Sundays, April 24, and May 1, 2005, from 10:30am to 4:30pm at the park. The course includes an additional eight hours of on-the-job training to be scheduled later in May.

There is no charge for the training. Reservations are required. To register or request more information, please contact Terry Dorman, Volunteer Coordinator, at 415/556-1613 or Terry.Dorman@nps.gov

If Ships Could Speak

An Introduction to Interpretation at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer docent at the park? This three-day training course will introduce participants to maritime history, the park’s historic ships and the art of presenting educational programs.

The course will include tours of the historic ships, park library and collections. Participants will learn how to prepare a compelling interpretive program.

Visitor Information

Dates and Hours of Operation
Hyde Street Pier, located at Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30am-5:00pm—last entry at 4:30pm (October 16-May 30), and 9:30am-5:30pm—last entry at 5pm (Memorial Day-Oct 15). The Maritime Museum (Aquatic Park Bathhouse Building), located on Beach Street at the foot of Polk Street, is open 10:00am-5:00pm, year-round. The Visitor Center, located at the corner of Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30am-5:00pm (October 17-May 30) and 9:30am-7:00pm (Memorial Day-Oct 16). The Maritime Library, located on the third floor of Bldg. E in Fort Mason Center (auto entrance at Buchanan Street and Marina Blvd), is open 1:00pm-8:00pm Tuesdays, 1:00pm-5:00pm Wednesdays–Fridays, and 10:00am-5:00pm Saturdays.

No-Fee Areas
Visitor Center, Hyde Street Pier, Aquatic Park Historic District (including the Maritime Museum) and the Maritime Library (Fort Mason Center).

Boarding Pass (Entrance Fee For Historic Vessels): $5.00

Reservations/Permits
Reservations for school groups and other educational groups must be made at least two weeks prior to your visit. At least one month’s notice and application for Special Use Permits is required. Filming permits are arranged on an individual basis.

Contact Information
General Park Information: 415-447-5000
Maritime Information: 415-447-2665
Maritime Library: 415-561-7030

USF Pomponio: 415-775-1043
Park Website: www.nps.gov/sfmar
Association Website: www.maritime.org
MUSIC

CHANTEY SING

Saturday, April 2, May 7 and June 4, 7:15 p.m.

Meet on the Visitors Center theater. No fee.

Chantey singing is a fun, participatory way to experience the sea songs of our maritime past.

TO THE GOLD FIELDS BY SEA

Sundays, April 3 and June 5, 7 p.m.

Meet in the Visitors Center theater. No fee.

A journey to the Klondike and the North West Coast by small sail.

ASSOCIATION EVENTS

JUNIOR VOLUNTEERS PROGRAM

Saturday, May 7 and Sunday, May 29, 2 p.m.

Meet at the gangway on the Eureka.

Tour Eureka’s engine room and get a close-up look at what makes a steam ferry run.

TOURS OF LUMBER SCHOONER

Eureka

Tours are every second and fourth Monday, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Join a ranger-led tour of our new 1895 West Coast schooner. Learn about the restoration of this century old vessel, and learning about West Coast lumbering history. This ship advanced the technology of shipbuilding techniques, will be able to put to sea, and plans ship and visit a historic video. Tour Eureka’s last commercial voyage. For more information, and an online map, visit http://www.nps.gov/safr/local/hytest.html or call the Park Visitor Center at 415-447-5000 for directions.

EUREKA ENGINE ROOM TOUR

Sundays, May 8 and June 19, 2 p.m.

Meet at the gangway on the Eureka. Vessel admission. Tour Eureka’s engine room and get a close-up look at what makes a steam ferry run.

HERCULES ENGINEERING TOUR

Sundays, May 8 and June 19, 2 p.m.

Meet at the gangway on the 1895 West Coast schooner. Vessel admission. Tour includes climbing moderately steep ladders and entering confined spaces. Explore the major engineering spaces and learn about steam engine technology and its effects on the working environment of the marine steam engineer.

THREE GREAT SHIPS

Saturdays, May 7 and June 18, 2 p.m.

The Maritime Museum. No fee.

1. K. Bruel designed three great ships which are all represented by wonderful models in the museum. Learn how each ship advanced the technology of shipbuilding.

BIRDS OF THE BAY

Saturdays, April 10, May 22 and June 12, 9:30 a.m.

Meet at Hyde Street Pier entrance. No fee.

See shore, migratory, citified and resident birds on this birdwalk. Bring binoculars, bird books and dress warmly.

LIFE IN NELSON’S NAVY

Saturdays, April 16, May 14 and June 4, 3 p.m.

In the Visitors Center theater. No fee.

View a slide show about life in the British Royal Navy at the time of Nelson, featuring period food and clothing.

SHIP RADIO DEMONSTRATION

Saturdays, April 30, May 28 and 26, 2-4 p.m.

In the Maritime Museum. No fee.

Inside a replica WW II ship’s radio room, docents interpret the technology and explain the vital role ship’s radio operators played. They will also send a real radiogram message to you for anywhere in the United States!

FUNDAMENTALS OF BOATBUILDING

Monday through Friday, May 9-13

This course includes the craft of wooden boatbuilding and specifically focuses on plank on frame construction. You will work individually and also with others in the same class. If your class happens to finish a boat, you’ll launch it, and that is some fun! You’ll finish this class with a better understanding of the boatbuilding process. Beginners welcome! For more information, call Rich Hilsinger at WoodenBoat School, 207-359-4651.

THE HAND SEWN DITTY BAG

Saturday and Sunday, May 22 and 23, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Learn the basics of canvas work. The methods used to construct the ditty bag are the basic skills needed to sew a hand made sail. Students will learn some basic canvases, practice two sewing stitches, grommet making, the grommet stitch, roping stitch and the overhanging stitch for repairing tears. Fee includes: plans & instructions, one yard #10 canvas, thread, beeswax, two needle, twine, grommets and a palm. For more information call Patti Clark at 415-561-6662 ext 30.

KNOTS AND FANCY ROPEWORK

Saturday and Sunday, June 4 and 5, 10-11:30 a.m.

The staff uses role-playing and problem solving activities to teach California maritime history. Programs range in cost from $25 to $60 per student. For more information, call Patricia Clark at 415-561-6664 ext. 9.

VOLUNTEERS

MUSCLE SHIP

Volunteers work aboard a historic sailing vessel. Join the volunteer office at 415-561-4199 or visit www.nps.gov/safr/local/volp.html and join the crew!

INTRODUCTION TO BRONZECasting

Saturday and Sunday, June 11 and 12, 9:30-5 p.m.

Learn how to build a melting furnace, make patterns for hardware and cast them in bronze. Construct a furnace suitable for melting most non-ferrous alloys as well as basic blacksmithing. Patterns for cleats, earlocks, port lights, and other boat hardware will be made and cast in bronze. The casting session will focus on ship-patterns and core & drag casting. For more information call Patti Clark at 415-561-6662 ext. 30.

MODELMAKING

Modelers’ Club

Saturdays, April 16, May 21 and June 18, 10:00 a.m.

Meet in the building basement. No fee.

The model ship building club meets the third Saturday of every month in the basement of the Maritime Museum. For information, jandj@directon.net

MODELMAKING WORKSHOP

Saturdays, April 16 and 23, May 15 and 22, 10:30-4 p.m.

On the deck car of the Eureka. Vessel admission.

Join John Kowella builds the Modelers’ Workshop on the car deck of the Eureka.

AGE OF SAIL

The San Francisco Maritime National Park Association is booking Age of Sail programs for fall 2005. The Age of Sail family of programs offers hands-on learning and take place aboard the park’s historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier. Students develop skills in historical reasoning, critical thinking, teamwork and problem-solving. The staff uses role-playing and problem solving activities to teach California maritime history. Programs range in cost from $25 to $60 per student. For more information, call Patricia Clark at 415-561-6664 x 9.

WWII SUBMARINE US SAMPANTO

Open daily. At Pier 45, Fisherman’s Wharf.

For adults, $7; for seniors 60+, $6; under 6 free with adult. Over 62, $5; active duty military, $4; family ticket, $20. Information: 415-775-8434. The Balao-class US SAMPANTO (SS-838), a museum and memorial operated by the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, made six patrols in the Pacific during World War II. Admission includes a self-guided audio tour.

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MUSIC, TOURS, LIVING HISTORY AND CLASSES

CHINESE CANNERY WORKERS

Saturday, May 7 and Sunday, May 29, 2 p.m.

Meet on Balclutha’s main deck. Vessel admission (under 17 free).

History comes alive for kids in this special program, where the staff leads the younger ears and chosen especially for fun. Ages 5 and up.

ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

THE SCHOONER REGATTA

Saturday, April 16, May 21 and June 18, 9 a.m.

Meet at Balclutha’s main deck. Vessel admission.

Sailing to the vanishing maritime traditions.

THREE GREAT SHIPS

Saturday, April 9, May 15 and June 12, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Meet at the gangway on the Eureka.

Tour Eureka’s engine room and get a close-up look at what makes a steam ferry run.

INTRODUCTION TO BRONZE CASTING

Saturday and Sunday, June 11 and 12, 9:30-5 p.m.

Learn how to build a melting furnace, make patterns for hardware and cast them in bronze. Construct a furnace suitable for melting most non-ferrous alloys as well as basic blacksmithing. Patterns for cleats, earlocks, port lights, and other boat hardware will be made and cast in bronze. The casting session will focus on ship-patterns and core & drag casting. For more information call Patti Clark at 415-561-6662 ext. 30.

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Saturdays, April 16 and 23, May 15 and 22, 10:30-4 p.m.

On the deck car of the Eureka. Vessel admission.

Join John Kowella builds the Modelers’ Workshop on the car deck of the Eureka.

The public is invited to stop by and watch the modelers in action. For information, jandj@directon.net

VOLUNTEERS

HANDS NEEDED

Interested in woodwork, rigging, working with the public, library science or archives? Have we got the perfect challenge for you! Call the Volunteer Office at 415-561-4199 or visit www.nps.gov/safr/local/volp.html and join the crew!

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Today In The Park

APRIL
2 Chantey Sing
3 To the Gold Fields By Sea
9 Costumed Living History
A Day in the Life: 1901
Models’ Workshop
10 Birds of the Bay
Born Again: The Many Lives of the Schooner C.A. Thayer
11 Thayer tour at Alameda Point
15 Models’ Workshop
16 Music of the Sea for Kids
Life in Nelson’s Navy
Models’ Club
Models’ Workshop
Oar-Making class begins
17 Docent class begins
19 Half-Hull model class begins
23 Especially for Kids:
A Sailor’s Life
24 Docent class
25 Thayer tour at Alameda Point
30 Ship Radio Demonstration
Pleasure Aloft
Mary Patton Screenplay
Reading
MAY
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2 Principles of Lofting class begins
7 Chinese Cannery Workers
Three Great Ships
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Models’ Workshop
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JUNE
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Born Again: The Many Lives of the Schooner C.A. Thayer
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Music of the Sea for Kids
Models’ Club
Models’ Workshop
19 Hercules Engineering Tour
24 Models’ Workshop
25 Especially for Kids:
A Sailor’s Life
Pleasure Aloft
Ship Radio Demonstration
Models’ Workshop
27 Thayer tour at Alameda Point

Fun and Education for Younger Sailors

This is a special section of the Maritime News just for kids. Listed below are some opportunities at the park to create maritime crafts, to sing like a sailor and to become a Junior Ranger!

ESPECIALLY FOR KIDS:
A SAILOR’S LIFE

TEACHERS

Especially for Kids:
Music of the Sea for Kids
Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier: Vessel admission. History comes alive in this special program where the songs are geared for younger ears and chosen especially for fun.

CURRICULUM IS NOT JUST FOR TEACHERS

Are you interested in a painless way to learn about life at sea with character cards. This free program is available at the museum desk.

FAMILY ACTIVITY DITTY BAGS

Grab a rope handle and explore the Museum on this fun group “voyage.” Navigate through the exhibits (using a real compass), write a “radiogram,” compose messages using signal flags and roleplay about life at sea with character cards. This unique talents of each new trustee in an effort to continue to bring maritime history to life.

At the Park Association

WELCOME ABOARD!
The San Francisco Maritime National Park Association welcomes Thomas Thompson, Gregory Ryken and Jordan Truchan to the Association’s Board of Trustees. All three trustee candidates were unanimously appointed by the Board at their annual meeting in February.

Mr. Thomas Thompson is a maritime museum enthusiast and a long time supporter of the Association's mission and education programs, both at Hyde Street Pier and USS Pampanito. Mr. Gregory Ryken is an attorney, licensed to practice in California and the District of Columbia. Mr. Ryken has served on the San Francisco Architectural Heritage and the Ft. Point and Presidio Historical Association Boards. Mr. Jordan Truchan is President of American Ship Management, LLC and Patriot Contract Services, LLC. Mr. Truchan has over thirty years of experience in the marine transportation industry and holds an Unlimited Chief Engineers license.

The San Francisco Maritime National Park Association is happy to welcome the unique talents of each new trustee in an effort to continue to bring maritime history to life.

Students learn how to raise the staysail on Balclutha. Photo: NPS.

Music of the Sea for Kids
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