Collections Discovery Room Opens In Visitor Center

Did you know that the Park holds collections of books, oral histories, sea chanties, photographs, letters, diaries, logbooks, maps, tools, toys, folk art and paintings that can expand your understanding of Pacific Coast maritime history? Do you know that these collections (and a library) are available for you to use and are located in Building E in Fort Mason Center?

The new Collections Discovery Room, which is located in the Visitor Center, is a portal where visitors can find out more about the park’s rich collections and how to use them to learn more about maritime people and events. Visitors are invited to sit in comfortable chairs and browse maritime books and periodicals—a sample of what is found at our library in Building E. With charts and maps visitors can explore oceans, bays, and rivers.

Tables provide space to open gray archival boxes and read other people’s mail, diaries, logbooks, letters, vessel plans, and photographs, while learning different ways to probe these “primary sources.” Because these are copies, and dust-free, nobody will sneeze. People can also learn how to get copies from our holdings stored at Building E. By studying the “stuff” of everyday lives, visitors can better understand the everyday life of sailors, captains, builders, longshoremen, fishermen, and whalers. The everyday objects from everyday folks in our collections include tools, toys, folk art, paintings, equipment, and models.

Put on headphones at the Seafaring Sound Station and listen to sea stories, folkloric oral histories, sea chanteys, photographs, letters, books and vessel plans. People can also ask questions about the collections, 415-561-7030.

Collections staff will offer programs on why maritime history matters and why we collect and preserve archives and artifacts. Librarians, archivists, curators, and conservators will talk about understanding the past through the library, archives and museum artifact collections. We’ll also show the public how to access and research the collections and how to preserve personal collections.

All of the resources in the Collections Discovery Room will change and grow over time so that there will always be something new to discover. Please call the Library reference desk to check on the hours the Discovery Room is open and to ask questions about the collections, 415-561-7030.

Welcome!

In 1988, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park was created. As part of that process, enabling legislation was drafted that stated the primary mission of the park.

That mission includes the preservation and interpretation of the nation’s Pacific Coast maritime heritage, including the history of the trades, technology and traditions of the peoples who lived on or through the sea.

Perhaps just words on paper, but they are ones we return to again and again as we manage the park. These words help us to continually create ways for our visitors to interact with their maritime heritage.

This fall please stop by the newly-opened Collections Discovery Room in the Visitor Center. There you can listen to sea stories and oral histories, look at historical maps and charts, and read diaries and sea logs.

Visit the between deck of the Balclutha where an interactive exhibit about the cargos she carried, and the people who worked on her, is unfolding.

Attend a Sea Music Concert and experience the unique camaraderie of singing with others.

See you at the park.

Kate Richardson
Superintendent

Collections Discovery Room ...

1 Collections Discovery Room Opens in Visitor Center

2 Sea Music Concert Series

The Sea Music Concert Series returns to Hyde Street Pier this fall featuring performers from England and the East Coast of the United States.

4 Boatload of Maritime Activities for Children

Sailors’ crafts, traditional music, sail raising and a shipshape Junior Ranger Program—fun for all ages, but especially for kids and families.

Collections Discovery Room...
2005 Sea Music Concert Series

The Sea Music Concert Series returns to Hyde Street Pier this fall featuring performers from England and the East Coast of the United States. Now in its seventeenth year, the concert series continues the musical tradition of San Francisco Maritime, bringing together performers and audiences to enjoy the rich heritage of sea music. These three evening concerts aboard the historic ship Balclutha promise to include elegant instrumentals on guitar, banjo and concertina, sailors’ songs, traditional ballads and working chanteys.

This year’s performers include Richard Grainger, from the northeast coast of England, Gordon Bok, who grew up in Camden, Maine, and Jeff Warner, whose musical interests range from the Outer Banks of North Carolina to New England. All concerts are presented at 8:00pm at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park aboard the historic vessel Balclutha, moored at Hyde Street Pier at Fisherman’s Wharf.

Tickets for each performance are $14. A money-saving season ticket is also available for $39. For tickets call 415-561-6662 x33 or contact the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association at P.O. Box 470310, San Francisco, CA 94147-0310. Tickets are also available at the Maritime Store, 2905 Hyde Street, 415-775-2665. For more information go to www.nps.gov/safr/concert.html

Hey Ranger!

One of the most frequently asked questions of park rangers on the Hyde Street Pier is why do we refer to ships as “she?”

In his book, Origins of Sea Terms, John G. Rodgers addresses the question and says that, “...it all appears to be happy guesswork.” He states, “A ship upon which one’s life could depend was as near and dear to a sailor as his wife and mother.” Balclutha rigger Chris “Tarbrush” Jannini certainly agrees, “When I’m on the water, my ship is everything; I keep her safe so she’ll keep me safe.”

Longtime docent Ray Witter believes that ships have “definite personalities.” He adds, “They can be cantankerous and difficult to deal with. Sometimes they don’t do what you want them to do.” John Rogers observed something similar when he wrote that, “A ship is as capricious, demanding and absorbing as a woman.”

Rodgers also notes that the Greek goddess of navigation was Minerva, and in her honor all Greek ships were considered as feminine.

Ranger Tom Jares observed, “When people first started to fish for a living, they thought of the sea as a mother because it provided for their sustenance. When they started to build ships to sail upon the sea, it naturally followed that they thought of their ships in the feminine as well.”

Maybe it all is “happy guesswork” but the best observation of all might be the one made by Fleet Admiral Chester A. Nimitz, “A ship is always referred to as she because it costs so much to keep one in paint and powder.”

By Kathryn Harrison, Park Guide
SF Maritime National Historical Park

Visitors Information

Dates and Hours of Operation
The Hyde Street Pier, located at Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30am-5:00pm—last entry at 4:30pm (October 17-May 30), and 9:30am-5:30pm—last entry at 5pm (Memorial Day–October 16).

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–October 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 Wednesday–Friday, and 1:00pm-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
Golden Age/Access Pass or Park Annual Pass.

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 Store: 415-775-1943

Usa Pampa/no: 415-775-1943
Park Website: www.nps.gov/safr
Association Website: www.marinetime.org
MUSIC
2005 SEA MUSIC CONCERT SERIES
October, November, December. Presented aboard the historic ship Balclutha. For more information see article at left.

CHANTEL SING
Saturdays, October 1, November 5 and December 3, 1, 3:30 pm. No fee. Abroad the historic vessel Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission required. Call 415-561-4653 for more information. Email peter_hasin@nps.gov

Singing traditional song works aboard a historic floating vessel. Bring a mug for hot cider served from the ship's galley.

MUSIC OF THE SEA FOR KIDS
Saturdays, October 15, November 19 and December 17, 2pm. Abroad Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 17 years). History comes alive for kids in this special program, where the songs are geared for younger ears and chosen especially for fun.

AGES 5 and up.

A SINGING TOUR OF BALCLUTHA
Sundays, November 6 and December 4, Noon. Abroad Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission required. Walk the decks of this 1886 sailing ship to locate places where shipboard songs were sung. Optional: help turn a capstan and a bilge pump while singing along.

HOLIDAY EVENT
CHRISTMAS AT SEA
Saturday, December 20, 1-3:30pm. Abroad the historic vessel at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 17 years). For information call 415-447-5000.

Bring the whole family down to Hyde Street Pier for an old-fashioned holiday. Music, refreshments, ornament-making & a visit from Santa will be part of the fun. Beginning at 1pm, the park's costumed Living History players will present a special holiday program aboard the ships.

PROGRAMS
ESPECIALLY FOR KIDS: A SAILOR'S LIFE
Saturday, December 22, 1-3:30pm. Meet at Hyde Street Pier entrance. No fee.

Learn a little bit about life at sea and then make a signal flag necklace! For kids of all ages. More details see the “Fun and Education for Younger Sailors” section on the back page.

PLEASURE Afloat
Sundays, November 20 and December 1, 2pm. In the Visitor Center. No fee.

Join a ranger-led tour of our small craft exhibits aboard the Balclutha. “What’s Your Pleasure, Recreational Boats of California.” Learn about hydroplanes, duckboats and more.

TO THE GOLD FIELDS BY SEA
Sundays, October 30 and November 27, 2pm. In the Visitor Center Theater. No fee. Meet in the Visitor Center theater to view slides of San Francisco’s 1849 Gold Rush transformation.

BORN AGAIN: THE MANY LIVES OF THE SCHOONER C.A. THAYER
Sundays, November 13 and December 18, 1pm. In the Visitor Center theater. No fee.

Adapting to multiple careers, the C.A. Thayer has survived for more than a century. Learn about the restoration of this 1895 West Coast schooner will preserve not only the vessel itself, but also a variety of vanishing maritime traditions.

EUREKA ENGINE ROOM TOUR
Saturday, October 22 and November 19, 2pm. Meet on Eureka’s gangway. Vessel admission. Tour Eureka’s engine room and get a close-up look at what makes a steam ferry run.

HERCULES ENGINEERING TOUR
Sundays, October 16, November 6 and December 4, 2pm. Meet at the gantry on the Pier. Vessel admission. Tour includes climbing moderately steep ladders and entering cramped spaces. Explore the major engineering spaces and learn about steamship technology and its effects on the working environment of the marine steam engineer.

THE OCEAN: BARRIER OR HIGHWAY?
Sundays, October 2 and November 13 at 2pm, and December 11, at 3pm. In the Visitor Center.

Was the ocean a barrier or a highway for the vessels Balclutha, Thayer and Hercules? Join a ranger for a thirty minute slide presentation to examine this question.

BIRDS OF THE BAY
Sundays, October 23, November 13 and December 1, 2pm. In the Visitor Center theater. No fee.

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

FROM THE ARCHIVES: A MARITIME PERSPECTIVE ON THE 1906 EARTHQUAKE AND FIRE
Saturday, November 12, 2pm. In the Visitor Center theater. No fee.

Join a ranger for a powerpoint presentation about the role of ships in the aftermath of the 1906 earthquake and fire.

SHIP RADIO DEMONSTRATION
Saturdays, October 29 and November 26, 10:30am-12no 1-4pm. In the Maritime Museum.

No fee.

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

MARITIME COLOR SKETCHBOOK
Saturday, October 8, 9:30am-4pm. Fee: $.55/person.

Develop a simple sketch from the park’s stunning waterfront views, then spend the day exploring a variety of techniques to add color and shading. Get tips on how to render boats and mix a maritime color palette, along with demonstrations on painting water surfaces and reflections. Individual and group critiques. Media: watercolor and color pencils. All levels welcome. For more information call 415-561-6662 ext. 30.

SML SMALL CRAFT COLLECTION TOUR
Saturday, October 15, 9:30am-2:30pm. Meet at the Small Boat Shop. No fee.

Bring a bag lunch and ride with us over to our small craft warehouse in Alameda. We’ll tour the collection of nearly 100 local historic boats, discussing interesting elements of their history, design and construction.

WOODEN BOAT REPAIR METHODS
Monday through Friday, October 10-15.

Fee: $600

Figure out what’s wrong and how to fix it. Working on three “patient” boats, students will first conduct a survey and disassemble the boats. Students will then make back-bone repairs such as stembands, frames, floor and bilge, stem repairs, keels, repair or replace stems, transoms, and planks. In addition, the instructor will demonstrate and share tips on tools and sharpening, woods, fastenings, caulk, bedding, priming & painting. For more information call Rich Hilsgier at WoodenBoat School, 201-359-4651.

AN INTRODUCTION TO BOATBUILDING
Monday through Friday, October 17-22.

Fee: $600

Students will build a 15’ Karl Stambaugh Bay Skiff utilizing marine plywood and epoxy; using a modified glue and screw type construction. Students will go step-by-step through the building stages. Discussions will focus on small craft design, setting up a one-man shop, proper hand and power tool usage and more. No prior boatbuilding experience required. For more information call Rich Hilsgier at WoodenBoat School, 201-359-4651.

MODELMAKING
MODELMAPLERS’ CLUB
Saturdays, October 15, November 19 and December 10, 9:30am. Meet in the Maritime Museum building basement. No fee.

The model ship building club meets the third Saturday of every month in the basement of the Maritime Museum. A model ship building class will be offered in 2006. For information, johnkowalla@comcast.net.

MODELMAPLERS’ WORKSHOP
Saturdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29; November 5, 12, and 19; December 3, 10 and 17. On the car deck of the Eureka.

Vessel admission. Join Kowalla on the Modelers’ Workshop on the car deck of the Eureka. The public is invited to stop by and watch the modelers in action. Special visits can be arranged by contacting John at johnkowalla@comcast.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 415-536-1613 or visit www.nps.gov/sanfrancisco/local/volunteer.html and join the crew!

AGE OF SAIL
The San Francisco Maritime National Park Associations’ award-winning education program. Age of Sail, is now booking programs for the school year. These programs offer hands-on, student-centered learning, and take place aboard the parks’ 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 history. Programs range in cost from $25 to $62 per student. For more information call Lucas Lineback at 415-567-4653, agosea@maritime.org or www.maritime.org/mmsaeeu.

WWII SUBMARINE USS PAMPINTO
OPEN DAILY. At Pier 45, Fisherman’s Wharf. Fee: adults, $9-$12, $6 for 6-12, free for under 6; adult, over 62, $1, active duty military, $1. Family ticket, $20. Information: 415-775-2941. The Balao-class USS Pampinto (SS-383), 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.
Today in The Park

OCTOBER
1 Chantey Sing
Life in Nelson’s Navy
Weigh Anchor
Model Shop open
2 The Ocean: Barrier or Highway?
4 Association Oyster Challenge
8 Maritime Sketchbook class
Model Shop open
Fleet Weekend
9 Fleet Weekend
10 Wooden Boat class begins
15 Music of the Sea for Kids
Weigh Anchor
Small Craft Collection Tour
Modelers’ Club & Shop open
Sea Music Concert
16 Hercules Engineering Tour

17 Intro to Boatbuilding class begins
22 Especially for Kids:
A Sailor’s Life
Eureka Engine Room Tour
Weigh Anchor
Model Shop open
Tall Ships of San Francisco
23 Birds of the Bay
29 Model Shop open
Weigh Anchor
Ship Radio Demonstration
Association Heritage Awards
30 To the Gold Fields By Sea

NOVEMBER
5 Chantey Sing
Model Shop open
Life in Nelson’s Navy
Weigh Anchor
6 Singing Tour of Balclutha

MUSIC OF THE SEA FOR KIDS

Saturdays, October 15, November 19 and December 17, 2-3pm. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission.

WEIGH ANCHOR

Every Saturday in October, November and December (except October 8 and December 9), 10am. On Hyde Street Pier. No fee.

On board ship, sailors use the capstan to help them lift heavy objects such as the ship’s anchor. Join us for a hands-on demonstration of maritime teamwork. You’ll walk away with a knowledge of basic line handling and a sea chantey ringing in your ears.

DORY DRILL

Saturday, the day before for time, 415-447-5000. On Hyde Street Pier. No fee.

Grab a line and help raise and lower our little flat-bottomed row boat from the side of the pier in this hands-on demonstration of maritime teamwork. You’ll walk away with a knowledge of basic line handling and a sea chantey ringing in your ears.

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!

SATURDAYS ARE FOR KIDS AT HYDE STREET PIER

Look for other special kids’ activities on the program board next to the ticket booth on Hyde Street Pier.

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History comes alive in this special program where the songs are geared for younger ears and chosen especially for fun.

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM: NEW AND IMPROVED!

Pick up the FREE and newly improved booklet and explore the park’s historic ships. By completing the activities you will learn about seafaring history, become a steward of the national parks (a steward is one who takes care of parks) and earn a Junior Ranger badge! Booklets are available at the Visitor Center, Pier ticket booth and Maritime Museum. Good luck and have lots of fun!

OCEANFILM FEST SCHOOL PROGRAM

Thursday, October 27, 9:30am-2:30pm. At Hyde Street Pier.

A variety of activities for 4th and 5th graders will take place on the pier with films shown in the visitor center. Organizers include SF Maritime and the Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association. For information contact Tim_Campbell@nps.gov.

At the Park Association

12TH ANNUAL SHUCK AND SWALLOW OYSTER CHALLENGE

Tuesday, October 4, 5-8pm. West Plaza in Ghirardelli Square. $25 per person, proceeds benefit the Association. Call 415-561-6662 x11 for more information.

Compete to shuck and eat as many oysters as possible in ten minutes! The current record is just under 20. The judges’ panel includes members of the Association, Sterling James from Alice@97.3 (KLLC-FM) will be returning as this year’s Master of Ceremonies. Immediately following the event, a variety of oysters will be available for tasting, along with an assortment of wines in McCormick & Kuleto’s private function room.

6TH ANNUAL MARITIME HERITAGE AWARDS GALA AND AUCTION


The Association’s 6th annual Maritime Heritage Awards gala will be held at the beautiful and historic 1939 World’s Fair Deco building located on Treasure Island. This year’s award recipients, Senator Dianne Feinstein and Representative Nancy Pelosi, have been dedicated and tireless supporters of efforts to preserve the Balclutha and C.A. Thayer. The funds raised at our gala help to ensure the on-going restoration of these vessels as well as support education programs the Association conducts aboard the Balclutha and Alma.