19th Century Seafaring Heritage Comes Alive This Fall

Maritime history comes vibrantly to life during this fall season. A variety of programs and classes will connect you to San Francisco’s past. Engage your imagination and muscles as you raise a sail or view the maritime art exhibition.”W. A. Coulter: A Master’s Brush with the Sea.”

In October, discover the park’s collection of historic vessels in Hyde Street Pier. Then, walk across the street to Hyde Street Pier and discover the park’s collection of historic vessels including the square-rigged Balclutha, ferryboat Eureka and steam tug Hercules.

Welcome

The National Park Service oversees 390 units, of which 58 are designated as national parks. Other unit designations include national monuments, historical parks, national memorials, seashores and battlefields. You are visiting a historical park, one that includes a variety of land-based and floating resources.

At San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park you can discover historic buildings and historic ships.

Come by the Visitor Center, housed in a historic brick structure, that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Visit the fine art exhibit, “W. A. Coulter: A Master’s Brush With the Sea.”

This fall we are offering a Sea Music Concert Series aboard the historic square-rigger Balclutha. Enjoy songs of the sea aboard a ship that carried cargo around the world, rounding Cape Horn seventeen times.

See you at the Park!

Kate Richardson
Superintendent
2006 Sea Music Concert Series

The Sea Music Concert Series returns to Hyde Street Pier this fall featuring performers from Ireland, New York City and Maine.

Now in its eighteenth 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 and banjo, sailors’ songs, traditional ballads and working chanteys.

This year’s performers include Dan Milner and Bob Conway from New York City, Cindy Kallet from the Maine coast, and Shay Black, eldest sibling of Ireland’s Black family of singers.

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 $35. For tickets call 415-561-6662 x12 or contact the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association at P.O. Box 670310, San Francisco, CA 94147-0310. Tickets are also available at the Maritime Store, 2905 Hyde Street, 415-775-2665. Go to www.nps.gov/safr for more information.

Hey Ranger!

What do you call that lady on Balclutha’s bow?

Some people refer to figureheads as “Nep-tune’s wooden angels,” and they have existed in all their amazing diversity since pre-historic times.

Author Peter Norton writes, “...the urge to decorate and embellish objects can be traced to the Old Stone Age. It follows that once man began to make boats he should decorate them.”

Most scholars agree that this tradition had its beginning in prehistoric Egypt with the carving of an all-seeing eye on the bow of a vessel. Through the ages, Norsemen, Phoenicians, Greeks, and Romans all had their particular designs and decoration.

The variety of motifs was endless and the evolution of figureheads was both complex and fascinating.

To the ordinary seaman, the figurehead symbolized his ship. It might refer to its spirit, courage or speed. It could mean something magical or religious. A sailor believed that the figurehead would protect his ship from the terrors of the deep and strike fear into the heart of an enemy.

In the 17th century, lion figureheads were common. During the 18th century, classical figures such as gods, goddesses and heroes from mythology were in vogue. By the late 18th and early 19th centuries, human figures became increasingly common. Norton states, “...the most common female figureheads depicted women in flowing robes of a vaguely classical origin, representing a town or a country, a nymph or goddess, a heroine or a queen.” Naval heroes, monarchs, political figures, the ship’s owner, or famous artists also adorned ships’ bows.

When Charles Connell, Balclutha’s builder, asked Robert McMillian, her owner, what kind of figurehead he wanted for the bow, McMillian opted for a “stylish, modern demi-woman.” (The figurehead on Balclutha’s bow is a replica, the original is safely stored in the park’s museum collection.)

During the 19th century, figureheads reached a high standard, but their days were numbered. They were going the way of those marvelous full-rigged ships they decorated. The Age of Sail was fast disappearing, steam was on the horizon, and those beautiful ships were unceremoniously being cut up and sold for scrap.

According to park employee Chris Jannini, “We’re fortunate that museums like Mystic Seaport, Salem Maritime, the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, England, and San Francisco Maritime had the foresight to save some of these figureheads so that future generations could see and marvel at their maritime heritage.”

By Kathryn Harrison, Park Guide

Celebrate National Public Lands Day Saturday, Sept. 30, 2006, at Hyde St. Pier with free admission to board the magnificent historic ships.

This year marks the 13th annual NPS Day. Set aside to honor the incredible diver's heritage of sea music.

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

Established in 1988, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park encompasses only 34 acres, but contains the most national historic landmarks of any unit in the National Park Service.

In addition to the fleet of ships at Hyde Street Pier, the park includes the Aquatic Park Historic District (Maritime Museum, urban beach, picnic area and bocce ball courts), a Visitor Center and a research library (in Fort Mason Center).

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Visitor 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 1-May 27), and 9:30am-5:30am—last entry at 5pm (Memorial Day—September 30). The Maritime Museum (Aquatic Park Bathhouse Building), located on Beach Street at the foot of Polk Street. The museum is closed for major renovation work. For more information, call the Visitor Center, 415-447-5000.

The Visitor Center, located at the corner of Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30am-5:00pm (October 1-May 27) and 9:30am-7:00pm (Memorial Day—September 30).

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, 1:00am-5:00pm Wednesday-Friday, 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; call 415-447-5000. 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: 415-775-2665

Maritime Library: 415-561-7030

USS Pampanito: 415-775-1943

Park Website: www.nps.gov/safr

Association Website: www.maritime.org

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Music, Tours, Events, Living History and Classes

MUSIC

SPECIAL EVENT!
CHANTEY SING 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Saturday, September 9, 8:30-11:00. No fee. Aboard the historic vessel Eureka at Hyde Street Pier.

Reservations required. call 415-561-7171 or email peter_haas@nps.gov.

Join in the celebration of the 25th anniversary of this monthly San Francisco tradition. Sing along with Festival of the Sea performers and Park Rangers who have hosted the sings. This is a special sing and will be on the second Saturday of September to coincide with the park’s annual Festival of the Sea.

The event will be held aboard the historic ferryboat Eureka to accommodate a larger number of participants.

CHANTEY SING
Saturday, September 9, October 7 and November 4, 8:30-11:00. No fee. Aboard the historic vessel Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier (September and November will be held on Eureka). Reservations required. call 415-561-7171 or email peter_haas@nps.gov.

Sing traditional working songs aboard a historic floating vessel. Bring a mug for hot cider served from the ship’s galley.

MUSIC OF THE SEA FOR KIDS
Saturday, September 16, October 21 and November 18, 2:00-4:00. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free).

History comes alive for kids in this special program, where the songs are geared for younger ears and chosen especially for fun. Ages 7 and up.

PROGRAMS

NEW PROGRAM! THE MARITIME MUSEUM: IT’S PAST AND FUTURE
Saturday, September 23, 24 and November 4, Noon. Meet in the front of the building, 900 Beach Street, at the foot of Polk Street. No fee. This Art Deco-style building, completed in 1939, was closed on July 10, 2006 for restoration. The past and future of this special San Francisco landmark will be highlighted on a tour of the outside of the building and its surroundings.

CAULKING A SEAM
Sundays, September 17, October 29 and November 26, Noon. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission.

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

CRAFTS FOR KIDS
Saturday, September 23, October 28 and November 25, 1-3:30-2:30pm. Meet at the entrance to Hyde Street Pier. No fee. Learn a little about life at sea and make a maritime craft!

CRABBIN’ OFF A PIER IN THE BAY
Saturday, September 30, and October 14, 2:00. On Municipal Pier. See map on back.

FUN FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM

page for pier location. No fee.

Join a Park Ranger to learn the “how tos” of catching elusiv e crabs off the park’s Municipa l Pier. What are the regulations? What’s the best bait? Ring net or star net? How do you tell the difference between Dungeness, Brown Rock and Red crabs? Which crabs can you keep and which ones must you throw back?

ADVENTURES AT SEA: LIFE-ABOARD A 19TH CENTURY SAILING SHIP
Daily, 2:15pm. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission.

Join in a guided tour of the historic ship Balclutha. Discover the hardships and rewards of the sailors who fought for survival during the treacherous Cape Horn passage.

EUREKA ENGINE ROOM TOUR
Sundays, September 10, October 15 and November 5, 2pm. Meet on Eureka’s gang- way at vessel admission.

Take a special tour of the ferryboat Eureka’s engine room and get a close-up look at what makes a steam ferry run.

HERCULES ENGINEERING TOUR
Sundays, September 24, October 29 and November 26, 3pm. Meet at the gangway on the Pier. Vessel admission. Tour includes clombing moderately steep ladders and entering cramped spaces.

Explore the major engineering spaces and learn about steam engine technology and its effects on the working environment of the marine steam engineer.

THE OCEAN: BARRIER OR HIGHWAY?
Sundays, September 17, October 15 and November 12, 3pm.
In the Visitor Center.

Was there 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, September 10, October 22 and November 19, 11:30am-12:30pm. Meet at the Hyde Street Pier entrance. No fee.

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

MARITIME HEROCES IN THE 1906 EARTHQUAKE AND FIRE
Sundays, September 24 and October 1, 2pm.
In the Visitor Center theater.

No fee.

While San Francisco burned, sailors evacuated thousands of residents forced to flee to the shores of San Francisco Bay (at the present site of the park). Join a ranger for a slide presentation about these heroic efforts.

SMALL CRAFT ON HYDE STREET PIER Saturday, September 30, and Sunday, October 29, 2-2:30pm. Meet at the Small Boat Shop. No fee.

Join a Park Ranger for a special tour of the unique collection of small craft berthed on Hyde Street Pier’s floating docks.

SMALL CRAFT COLLECTION TOUR Saturday, November 4, 9:30am-2:30pm. Meet at the Small Boat Shop.

No fee. Reservations required, call the Boat Shop at 415-556-6031.

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.

COSTUMED LIVING HISTORY
A DAY IN THE LIFE: 1901 Saturdays, October 14 and November 11, 11:30-4pm. Aboard the historic vessel at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission.

Step into the past as you board our historic ships. Help the sailors on Balclutha raise the staysail in the morning and return for musical fun during the sailors’ afternoon dogwalk.

Learn about life in 1901 from the ferryboat passengers on Eureka, or join Mrs. Galan on the 4th houseboat for an afternoon tea to discuss the issues of the day. In November, join the sailors in their shipboard classroom, as they learn their "ABC’s" from the kind teachers of the 1901 Ladies’ Aid Society.

IN THE LIBRARY

NAVIGATING THE FLYING CLOUD Saturday, September 30, 6pm.
In the Maritime Library, Building E, Fort Mason Center.

Fee: $5 ($4 Library Friends and SFMNP Association).

San Francisco Maritime NHP Docent Kayta Barrows will portray Mrs. Eleanor Cressey, wife of Captain John Cressey of the clipper ship Flying Cloud, who served as the vessel’s navigator. Come meet Mrs. Cressey and hear about the excitement and danger faced by the women who voyaged around the world in the 19th century.

GRACE HOPPER — ADMIRAL OF THE CYBER SEA Saturday, October 21, 6pm.
In the Maritime Library, Building E, Fort Mason Center.

Fee: $7 ($6 Library Friends and SFMNP Association).

Admiral Grace Hopper, USN, began her career as a professor of mathematics at Vassar College, but joined the WAVES during World War II. Her biographer, Professor Kathy Williams, will tell the story of how she went down in cyber history as one of the creators of the U.S. Navy’s first computer system, was recalled to active duty at age 60, and became the oldest serving officer in the Navy at nearly 80.

The SHENANDOAH CRUISE Saturday, November 18, 12:30pm.
In the Maritime Library, Building E, Fort Mason Center.

Fee: $5 ($4 Library Friends and SFMNP Association).

Reservations: 415-561-7040.

The Confederate raider C.S.S. Shenandoah played havoc with the U.S. commercial fleet in the Pacific, capturing or sinking 38 ships and taking thousands of prisoners during her nine-month campaign of destruction. Join Park Ranger Tom Jares as he traces the 25,000-mile cruise of the Shenandoah, ending when the fired the final shot of the Civil War—three months after Lee’s surrender.

MODELMAKING

MODELMARKER’S WORKSHOP Saturdays, throughout the fall, 9:30am. On the car deck of the Eureka. Vessel admission.

The Hyde Street Pier Model Shipwrights are conducting ship model building classes in the small model shop on Eureka every Saturday. Classes begin at 9:30am. Anyone interested in building ship models is invited to participate. Participants will select and obtain a model and receive individual instruction during each stage of construction. Modelmaker Paul Reck, who has built models on display at the Visitor Center and St. Francis Yacht Club, will be the primary instructor. Please drop by any Saturday morning. For information, contact Tao Keane at kanefulota@sbcglobal.net.

VOLUNTEERS

Would you like to get involved as a volunteer? We have the perfect volunteer opportunity for you! Call the Volunteer Office at 415-556-1613, or visit www.nps.gov/safr and join the crew.

BOAT SHOP CLASSES
This class is held at the Small Boat Shop on Hyde Street Pier, 415-556-4031.

DIESEL ENGINE MAINTENANCE Saturday, October 28, 8:30-11:30am. Fee: $100.

The instructor will explain basic 4-cyl diesel operation and show procedures for changing filters, bleeding fuel systems and making basic adjustments. Several engines will be on display. This is a “hands on” class. A minimum tool kit is required. Limited to ten students. For more information and a tool list, call Lucas Lineback at 415-567-4653.

INTRODUCTION TO BOATBUILDING Monday through Saturday, October 20-23. For information, contact Rich Heiser at 207-359-4651.

AGE OF SAIL

The San Francisco Maritime National Park Association’s Age of Sail education program is booking programs for the school year. These programs offer hands-on, student-centered learning, and take place aboard the historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier. Programs range in cost from $25 to $64 per student. For information call Lucas Lineback at 415-567-4653, agosaur@sfmaritimepark.org or go to www.maritime.org.

Sign Abroad at the Park Association

You can show your support for the Park through membership in the Maritime Park Association, our non-profit partner organization. Your membership dues, with preservation and education projects fee Park ships and collections. Membership comes with special benefits at each level, including the Sea Letter magazine, a free park admission, and Maritime Store discounts. For more information, call Member Services at 415-561-6662 x12, or go to www.maritime.org.

MUSIC, TOURS, EVENTS, LIVING HISTORY AND CLASSES

Music, Tours, Events, Living History and Classes
Today In The Park

SEPTEMBER
2  Modelmaking Workshop
3  The Maritime Museum: Past and Present
9  Festival of the Sea
25th Anniversary Chantey Sing
10  Birds of the Bay
Eureka Engine Room Tour
16  Music of the Sea for Kids
Modelmaking Workshop
17  Causing a Seem
The Ocean: Barrier or Highway?
Intro to Bronze Casting class begins
23  Crafts for Kids
Modelmaking Workshop
24  The Maritime Museum:
Past and Present
Maritime Heroics in 1906
Earthquake and Fire
Hercules Engineering Tour
30  Crabbin’ On Municipal Pier
Small Craft on Hyde Street Pier
Navigating the Flying Cloud
Modelmaking Workshop

OCTOBER
1  Maritime Heroics in 1906
Earthquake and Fire
7  Fleet Week weekend
Chantey Sing
Modelmaking Workshop
8  Fleet Week weekend
14  Costumed Living History:
A Day in the Life: 1901
Crabbin’ off Municipal Pier
Modelmaking Workshop

NOVEMBER
4  Small Craft Collection Tour
Chantey Sing
Modelmaking Workshop
5  The Maritime Museum:
Past and Present
Eureka Engine Room Tour
15  Eureka Engine Room Tour
The Ocean: Barrier or Highway?
21  Music of the Sea for Kids
Admiral Grace Hopper
22  Birds of the Bay
28  Crafts for Kids
Diesel Engine Maintenance class
Modelmaking Workshop
29  Causing a Seem
Small Craft on Hyde Street Pier
Hercules Engineering Tour

Fun and Education for Younger Sailors

A Moo-o-ving Experience

If you’ve ever visited our ferry boat Eureka, you know that it regularly carried people and automobiles. Did you know that it also carried cattle? In the early days of ferry boats on the San Francisco Bay, ranchers who had livestock to sell, brought their herds to San Francisco on board a ferryboat. One of the last ferries to carry cattle was our park’s steam ferry Eureka. Below is an account of what happened when the knots used to build the cattle’s rope pen weren’t quite strong enough.

“In the early 1920s, a rancher brought his cattle to town on the ferry Eureka from Sausalito. The event was to be one of the last of its kind and the crew was somewhat rusty in the correct procedure of attending to the bovine bureaucrats. The rope pen was inadequate, and the occupants boisterous and somewhat inquisitive. It didn’t take long for them to escape from their pen and begin a merry round of hobnobbing with the two-legged passengers. One thing led to another, and soon the cattle were climbing the stairs, demanding – and getting – attention in the restaurant, and herding a flock of frightened passengers hither and yon with wild disorder. The incident actually lasted just a few minutes and a series of stout ropes were pressed into service to restrain the cattle. While it lasted, the incident gave the ferry passengers a few exciting moments in the course of the trip across the bay.”


Cattle Scramble Word Puzzle

Find the highlighted words at left in the puzzle below. Once you’ve found all the words, write the unusual letters in the spaces provided and you will see a secret message!

**BOVINE**
**FERRY**
**MERRY**
**ESCAPE**
**CATTLE**

**EUREKA**
**RANCHERS**
**STOUT**
**FLOCK**
**SAUSALITO**

How to tie a figure-eight knot. Try tying this simple knot yourself.

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