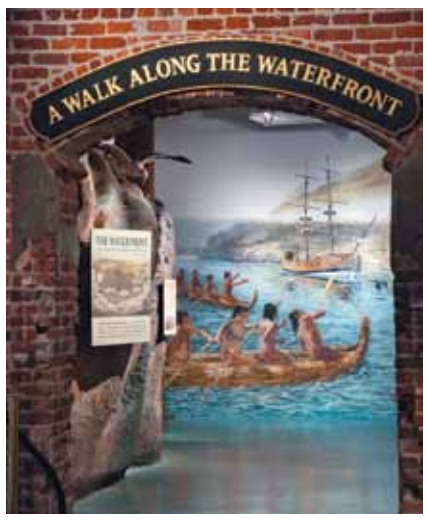
Park News

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The Maritime News

The Official Newspaper
of San Francisco Maritime
National Historical Park

September, October, November 2012



Photos from top left, clockwise: Blue Angels soar over *Balclutha*. America's Cup 45s racing in San Francisco Bay and the proposed race course. Photos: Gilles Martin-Raget and AC Media. Park Ranger with a school group on the pier. The entrance to *The Waterfront* exhibit in the Visitor Center. Park Rangers aloft on *Balclutha's* mainmast yard. Photo: Ray Hight. Park employee Erik Olson and Park volunteer Ed Neubuer in front of the steam donkey boiler on Hyde Street Pier. Other photos: NPS.

Fall Fun at the Park

The end of summer doesn't mean the end of activities in the park. There are still plenty of reasons to come down to the water this fall!

Beginning September 1, Hyde Street Pier will be transformed into the busy seaport of Shakespeare's *Illyria* when We Players present a unique telling of the Bard's *Twelfth Night* "starring" the ferryboat *Eureka* and square-rigger *Balclutha*. For dates and times of this comedic tale of shipwreck and reunion, please visit www.weplayers.org.

September also marks the beginning of the Park's 24th annual Sea Music Concert Series. On three autumn evenings *Balclutha's* decks will ring with driving chanteys and beautiful seafaring ballads. Don't miss the November showcase of three younger acts on their way to becoming traditional music legends!

The park's 1920 steam donkey boiler has also been testing its pipes, and its whistle will be singing each month at the entrance to Hyde Street Pier. Come to the pier and hear the story of how volunteers and staff brought the boiler back up to steam. See page three for details.

If you allow your eyes to follow the steam into the sky, you might think you see park rangers clambering through *Balclutha's* rigging. But it's no mirage – staff *have* begun regular aloft demonstration programs to show visitors how sailors set and furled square sails. You're welcome to stand on deck and bark your questions up like a First Mate!

Of course, in October you might also see the Navy's Blue Angels jetting by overhead. Fleet Week returns to the Bay October 4-8, and will include a special guest star this year: an America's Cup World Series race! The Aquatic Park Bleachers are a great spot for viewing the airshow, and the northern end of Hyde Street Pier might give you a glimpse of the World Series finish line.

Although back-to-school time isn't at the top of every kid's list, here in the Park we're excited to welcome back our crew of experiential educators. There may still be time to enroll your school class in fun learning adventures like boatbuilding, or an overnight stay aboard *Balclutha*. Visit www.maritime.org today!

And at any time, be sure to stop by the Park's Visitor Center and tour "The Waterfront." This permanent, multi-media exhibit leads visitors on a "stroll though time" where they can see, hear and touch San Francisco's historic working waterfront.

Welcome

Welcome to the Park! We have a busy season of traditional music, yacht racing, shipboard theater, jet planes, steam engines, maritime education, sailing, and new ranger programs for you to enjoy.

In September, the 1886 *Balclutha* stars in a We Players production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and screens John Huston's adaption of *Moby Dick*. The square-rigger will also welcome our 24th annual Sea Music Concert Series.

Rangers will be climbing the masts in a new aloft program that teaches park visitors how square sails are handled. And staff will explain the mechanics of steam power while running a 1920 wood-fired donkey boiler on Hyde Street Pier.

In October, the Aquatic Park bleachers will be the best seat in town to watch the Navy's Fleet Week celebration. And this year, an America's Cup World Series event has been added to the card. Between the racing Blue Angels and flying 45s, you may need to hang onto your hat!

Craig Kenkel
Superintendent

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There are still plenty of reasons to come down to the water this fall!

2 Logbooks Discovered

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The wonderful world of clam chowder. See the back page for a rhyming recipe from the 1700s.

Park Website:
www.nps.gov/safr

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San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

Established in 1988, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park encompasses 34 acres, and has the most National Historic Landmarks of any unit in the National Park Service. In addition to the fleet of historic ships at Hyde Street Pier, the park includes the Aquatic Park Historic District (Maritime Museum, beach, lawn area, and bleachers), a Visitor Center and a research library (in Fort Mason Center).

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The Maritime News September, October, November 2012 Volume No. 38.

Collections Corner

Kaiulani Logbooks Discovered

BY EDWARD LeBLANC, ARCHIVES SPECIALIST

A ship's logbook is a daily journal on the condition and location of the vessel, weather reports, and the daily activities of the crew. In some cases, accounts of a crew's insubordination and jailing are made. Captain H. G. Wigsten kept such a journal for a trip from Aberdeen, WA to Durban, South Africa to Hobart, Tasmania as master of the *Kaiulani*, a three-masted sailing vessel built in 1899. The handwritten journal in two volumes was part of the recently donated Harold D. Huycke collection. Huycke was one of the foremost maritime historians with a special interest in the last voyages of commercial sailing vessels in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The logbooks date from 1941-42, very late in the century for a commercial sailing vessel to be operating. With the onset of World War II commercial vessels of any kind were in short supply and the Hammond Lumber Company of San Francisco had a load of lumber in Aberdeen, WA that needed to be delivered to Durban, South Africa. *Kaiulani* was pressed into service after having been idled for several years following a career in the Hawaii sugar trade and, under the name *Star of Finland*, in the Alaska salmon trade.

Sailing under the flag of Panama, this was the last American crew to sail around Cape Horn in a commercial square-rigged sailing vessel. The 20 men included two notables who later were early pioneers of San Francisco Maritime NHP: Karl Kortum, founder, chief executive and curator; and Harry Dring, conservator of ships.

In the logbooks Captain Wigsten describes inclement weather, repairs to the sails and vessel, and a couple of medical emergencies including the Captain's contraction of a skin infection. He also describes with candor his increasingly acrimonious relationship with the crew that resulted in the men being jailed for desertion. Here are but a few entries from the 1942 log while the ship was at Hobart:

August 19, Wednesday, 6:45 a.m. "I went forward to crews quarters and informed them of the situation that ship had to be moved out to anchorage in stream, which they all refused to do… Navy people came aboard and Navy vessel alongside…Ship's crew in meantime put all their baggage on to the wharf and deserted ship."

August 24, Monday, 12:30 "All of deserters taken into custody by military and locked up."

September 22, Tuesday "The 10 deserters released by Court on grounds that I had not reported desertion in writing to Navy Commandant instead of to the military. So therefore it was not desertion, although crew threw all their baggage on to the wharf and walked off the ship at about 7:30 a.m. in front of Navy people and everyone else on the wharf."

September 23, Wednesday "About 11 a.m. crew with their baggage brought out to vessel by Navy launch."

October 6, Tuesday 1:30 p.m. "American flag hoisted. All agreement with USA Army representative Major Lindsey signed up." 6:40 pm "Anchors away – departure" From Hobart, *Kaiulani* was towed to Sydney and converted into a barge.

Kaiulani was built by Arthur Sewall & Company of Bath, ME in 1899, and named for Victoria Kawekiu Kaiulani Lunalilo Kalaninuiahilapalapa, heir to the Hawaiian throne. [Lyman, John "The Last American Square Rigger", Mast Magazine, June 1950].

The collection contains another *Kaiulani* logbook kept by Capt. R. Kabel during a 1900-02 voyage from Bath, ME to Honolulu. The logbooks are available for viewing at the Maritime Library in the Harold D. Huycke collection, HDC 1600; SAFR 22224, Series 3.01; files 100, 102. An additional reference source is at the Online Archive of California, www.oac.cdlib.org. Further information for this article was found in HDC 1600 Series 3.02, *Kaiulani*, Allan K. Hulme records.

Photo, above, left: *Kaiulani* becalmed possibly in the doldrums somewhere between South America and Africa, circa 1941-42. Photographed by crew member Bill Bartz. SAFR 22224 HDC1600, Series 12.1.01, File Unit 01, Item 011.1 Top: Two-volume logbook from the 1941-42 *Kaiulani* voyage.

A Volunteer's View of the Visitor Center

BY DAVID CURTISS, PARK VOLUNTEER

With 35 years of sailing experience behind me, we finally sold our sailboat. That same day I announced to my employer that I was retiring. The costly hole in the water was no more. Yet, one of my bucket-list items was to stay involved with sailing and what better place for this frustrated history major to use an academic, as well as a sailing background, but by volunteering at the park's Visitor Center (VC).

I was soon working in the VC behind the information desk and thinking what a great match. It has been, but not in the way I thought it would be. I've discovered "Visitor Center" to park personnel means a well thought out information resource and exhibits setting. The words "visitor center" to people who drop in means we represent San Francisco. I needed to develop my conceirge skills to supplement my nautical knowledge. For several weeks I have been keeping a list of what people most frequently ask me at the desk. At the top of the list: Bathroom, bathroom, bathroom…where is it??? How to get to Alcatraz, the Golden Gate Bridge, Pier 39 and the sea lions, the cable car, and Ghirardelli Square? What should we do here? Why is it so cold and windy? Where do I stamp my National Park Passport? What should we do in San Francisco? I like this question as it gives me a chance to point them in the direction of the pier and talk about the park.

Each time I volunteer I have at least one different experience. I've also been keeping track of some of the stranger questions I get: "Where can I buy a used fish net?", "Please call the police, someone is following me.", "Where can I park my 35-foot fifth-wheel that is next to the building? It's a national park, after all.", and "Where can I find out if my great grandfather sailed into San Francisco Bay in 1898?" I found that I could actually help on that one. Go to www.nps.gov/safr/historyculture/genealogy-research-at-sf-maritime-nhp.htm or call the Maritime Library, 415-561-7030.

So why do I return? I enjoy the people. Each week it seems there is a different group. One week everyone seems to be from Wisconsin. The next, it's Taiwan, Germany, Florida, or San Diego. It's fun to get them talking about where they're from and their view of San Francisco. In the process we often end up talking about the park. Sometimes a visitor will linger like when a former merchant marine sailor shared his thoughts about the changes that he had seen after a lifetime at sea.

And, at least several times a day, someone will come by the desk, their eyes alive, and say, "What a great exhibit!" They are referring to *The Waterfront* exhibit in the back-half of the VC. When I ask what they liked, some have trouble putting it into words, but one person summed it up by saying, "It's like I was there!" And then there's the little boy from Thailand who asked if we had a pirate ship. I directed them out to the pier and *Balclutha* served as a viable substitute and seeing him run from bow to stern, his father in tow, meant that he too got what he wanted from visiting the park.

For information about volunteering call 415-561-7160 and visit www.nps.gov/safr/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm.

Visitor Information

Dates and Hours of Operation:

***Hyde Street Pier*, located at Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30AM to 5PM. Last pier entry at 4:30PM.**

***Visitor Center*, located at the corner of Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30AM to 5PM.**

***Maritime Museum (in the Aquatic Park Bathhouse Building)*, located on Beach Street at the foot of Polk Street. The building is open from 10AM to 4PM daily.**

***Maritime Library*, located on the third floor of Building E in Fort Mason Center (auto entrance at Buchanan Street and Marina Blvd). The library is open Tuesday–Thursday, 1PM to 5PM. For other open hours call 415-561-7030 and visit www.nps.gov/safr/historyculture/museum-collections.htm.**

Contact Information
General Park Information: 415-447-5000
Pacific West Info Center: 415-447-0463
USS *Pampanito*: 415-775-1943
Park Website: www.nps.gov/safr
Association Website: www.maritime.org
Library Friends: www.maritimelibraryfriends.org

Entrance Fee for Historic Vessels: $5
Free for supervised children under 16.
Free with Federal Interagency Annual, Senior, Military, Access Passes, and San Francisco Maritime NHP Annual Pass.

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

Reservations
Reservations for school groups and other educational groups must be made at least two weeks prior to your visit. Please call 415-292-6664.

Accessibility Information

Programs in the Visitor Center, on Hyde Street Pier, and in the library are accessible. Accessibility to programs on the ships varies. For detailed information, please call the Visitor Center, 415-447-5000, or http://www.nps.gov/safr/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm.

Permits
Special Use Permits require at least a one month notice and application. Filming permits are arranged on an individual basis. Please call 415-561-7049.

Music, Tours, Events, Lectures and Living History

Please turn to the back page for today's schedule.

NEW PROGRAMS

STEAM-POWERED DONKEY ENGINE DEMONSTRATION
Sundays, September 16, October 21 and November 18, 9:30AM-3PM engine running, 11AM ranger talk. At the entrance to Hyde Street Pier. Free.
Join us for a demo and ranger talk about the donkey engine. Used ashore and aboard ship for loading cargo, raising anchor and setting sails, learn what is involved in steaming-up the boiler and operating this historic piece of machinery.

RANGERS IN THE RIG
Sundays, September 30, October 28 and November 25, 11AM. Aboard Balclutha *at Hyde Street Pier. Weather permitting. Vessel admission (under 16 free).*
Join park rangers aboard *Balclutha* for aloft demonstrations about the work of sailors in the rigging. Whether setting and furling sail or celebrating an occasion, working aloft included toil and fear as well as joy and excitement. ☺

WE NEED SHELTER!
Saturdays, September 8, October 6 and November 3, 3-3:30PM. In The Waterfront *exhibit in the Visitor Center. Free.*
If it weren't for ships...Find out about the major part ships played in solving the lack of housing during the Gold Rush in San Francisco. ☺

SHAKESPEARE ON HYDE STREET PIER

Duke Orsino (Charlie Gurke) aboard *Balclutha*.
Photo: Mark Kitaoka

The We Players are performing Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* at the pier. This classic comedy begins with a tragic shipwreck and the pier will be transformed into the busy seaport of Illyria. Matinee and evening performances will run Friday through Sunday, September 1–October 7, 2012. For ticket information visit www.weplayers.org.

We Players is a local collective which presents performances that transform public spaces into realms of participatory theatre. They create theatre using predominantly classical texts and weave the narrative elements of each play with the unique stories of each site. Past productions have included staging *The Odyssey* aboard schooner *Alma*, *Hamlet* on Alcatraz Island, and *Macbeth* at Fort Point National Historic Site.

☺ FUN FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM

PROGRAMS

BIRDS OF THE BAY
Saturdays, September 15 and October 20, and Sunday, November 18, 10-11AM. Meet at the entrance to Hyde Street Pier. Free.
Meet at the entrance to Hyde Street Pier for this 90 minute walk. All levels are welcome with a brief orientation for new bird watchers. We will view water, shore, citified, and migratory birds on this easy stroll. An orientation to spotting birds, and to using guidebooks and binoculars is included. Dress in layers with sun hat and sunscreen. Bring your own guidebooks and binoculars if you have them. ☺

ANIMALS OF HYDE STREET PIER
Sept. 26, 3:30PM; Oct. 12, 13, 25, 3:30PM; Nov. 8, 1:30PM, and 11, 23, 34, 25, 3:30PM. Meet at the end of Hyde Street Pier. Times vary due to tides. Free.
Come experience a whole different world you might not realize exists at Hyde Street Pier. Be prepared for squishy, slimy, and squirty creatures. ☺

CRAFTS FOR KIDS
Saturdays, September 29, October 27, and November 24, 3PM. Meet at the entrance to Hyde Street Pier. Free.
Want to learn a little about life at sea and try your hand at making a maritime craft? Come on down to the pier and join us! ☺

MARITIME STORY TIME: THE TALE OF HENRY AND HARRY
Saturdays, September 22 and 29, and November 3, 1-1:30PM. Meet in the Visitor Center. Free. Ages 6-12.
Join in this fun-filled, interactive program about two stowaway kittens aboard the *Balclutha*. Find out what it was like to be a feline sailor in 1887. ☺

HISTORIC WATERFRONT WALKING TOUR: FROM GOLD RUSH TO NATIONAL PARK
Saturdays and Sundays, 10:30-11:30AM. Meet in the Argonaut Hotel lobby (495 Jefferson St.), next to the Visitor Center. Free.
Stroll with a Park Ranger to discover the history of this vibrant area on this mile-long tour through the Aquatic Park Historic District, the Cannery, Hyde Street Pier, and "Fish Alley" at Fisherman's Wharf. ☺

ADVENTURES AT SEA: LIFE ABOARD A 19TH CENTURY SAILING SHIP
Daily, 2:15PM. Aboard Balclutha *at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free).*
Join 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. ☺

ALONG THE WATERFRONT
Sundays, September 16, October 21, and November 18, 1PM. Meet in the Visitor Center. Free.
Join Volunteer Warren Riley for an illustrated talk on changes to the San Francisco waterfront. Learn how historical events, such as the discovery of gold in 1848, contributed to the transformation of the waterfront over more than 100 years.

LIGHTHOUSES OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY
Sundays, September 16, October 21, and November 18, 3:15PM. Meet in the Visitor Center. Free.
Join Volunteer Warren Riley for a program on the role of lighthouses in the development of San Francisco. Learn about the history, equipment, and unique people who ran the lighthouses.

HERCULES ENGINEERING TOUR
Sundays, September 23, October 21 and November 18, 2PM. Meet at the gangway on the Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free). Tour includes climbing 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. ☺

SMALL CRAFT COLLECTION TOUR
Saturday, September 8, 10:30AM–12:00PM. Free. Call 415-292-6664, or email mgardner@maritime.org, to make a reservation and for directions to the warehouse.
We'll tour the collection of nearly 100 historic boats, stored in a warehouse in Alameda, talking about history, design and construction. Bring a bag lunch.

TOUR OF THE WW II SUBMARINE USS *PAMPANITO*
September 4 & 20, October 2 & 18, and November 1 & 27, 2PM. Meet at the submarine located at Pier 45, Fisherman's Wharf. Call 415-775-1943 for ticket prices.
Join a park ranger for an on-board historic talk about this Balao-class submarine (SS-38). Now a museum and memorial, the vessel made six patrols in the Pacific during WWII. The talk will emphasize stories about dramatic events during those patrols.

GO SAILING ON SCHOONER *ALMA*
Sept. 1 6, 8, 13, 20, 22, 29; Oct. 20, 27; Nov. 10, 17. Departs promptly from the pier at 12:30 pm and returns at 4 pm. $40 for adults, $30 for seniors, and $20 for children ages 6–15. Children age five and under free.
Sail the Bay aboard this historic vessel while park rangers tell stories about waterfront history. For more information, please call 415-447-5000. ☺

MUSIC

CHANTEY SING
Saturdays, September 1, October 6, and November 3, 8PM-MIDNIGHT. Free. Aboard a historic vessel at Hyde Street Pier. Reservations are required: call 415-561-7171 or peter_kasin@nps.gov.
Sing traditional working songs aboard a historic floating vessel. Bring a mug for hot cider served from the ship's galley.

LIVING HISTORY DOGWATCH: MUSIC OF THE SEA FOR KIDS
Saturdays, September 8, October 13 and November 10, 3PM. Aboard Balclutha *at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free).*
Join the park's living history players where history comes alive for kids in this special program where songs are geared for younger ears and singing along. Ages 7 and up. ☺

NEW!!
BEGINNING CHANTEY SINGING: A WORKSHOP
Saturdays, September 29, 2-4PM. Aboard Balclutha *at Hyde Street Pier. Fee Free Day. Reservations required: call 415-561-7171 or peter_kasin@nps.gov.*
If you want to learn about sea chanteys and start singing them, then this workshop is for you! Learning songs by ear emphasized but lyric sheets will be provided. ☺

24TH SEA MUSIC CONCERT SERIES
Saturdays, September 15, October 20, and November 17, 8PM. Aboard Balclutha *at Hyde Street Pier. For information call, 415-561-7171.*

FLOATING FILMS ON THE PIER
Saturday, September 29, 8:30PM. Aboard Balclutha. *Donations.*
Moby Dick breaches in SF! The SF Maritime National Park Association will be showing *Moby Dick* aboard historic *Balclutha*. Come enjoy the pier after dark. Please RSVP to events@maritime.org or call 415-561-6662.

IN THE LIBRARY

These programs are held in the Maritime Library, Building E, Fort Mason Center. For reservations call 415-561-7040 or melani_van_petten@partner.nps.gov.

A TALL SHIP FOR SF BAY
Tuesday, September 25, 6PM. Donation: $5 (general public); $4 (Library Friends and SFMNPA members).
Join Alan Olson, executive director of Educational Tall Ships, to hear about the non-profit group's plans to build a brigantine to be used for educational sailing programs on the Bay. Modeled on the innovative *Galilee*, it will be the first carbon-neutral sailing vessel of its size in the world, combining the best of both 19th and 21st century technology, and will train young people in the arts of boat building and design, as well as sailing.

HISTORY ON THE WATERFRONT
Tuesday, October 9, 6PM.
San Francisco Maritime NHP Curator of Maritime History Stephen Canright will present a slide lecture on the history of San Francisco's Southern Waterfront. Working south from Rincon Point down to the granite graving docks at Hunters Point, he will discuss the remarkable physical changes that took place along this stretch of waterfront, as well as its significant contributions to maritime industry and commerce.

COSTUMED LIVING HISTORY

A DAY IN THE LIFE: 1901
Saturdays, September 8, October 13, and November 10, 10AM-4PM. Aboard the historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free).
Step into the past as you board the historic ships and meet the sailors and citizens of San Francisco's waterfront. Visit the ship's cook in the galley, learn about life in 1901 from ferry passengers on *Eureka*, and join the musical fun on *Balclutha* at the 3PM dogwatch. In September there will be a 1901 picnic on the beach. During October join the seamens' friend society and in November welcome Hawaii's Queen Liliuokalani to the pier. ☺

Friends of the San Francisco Maritime Museum Library

Join the Friends and help support the J. Porter Shaw Library. Membership includes reduced admission to Friends' events, free admission to the historic ships, and discounts on books purchased at the library. For more information please call 415-561-7040.

Today In The Park

For more information about these programs, please turn to page three.

SEPTEMBER

1 Guided Tour of *Balclutha* (daily)
Alma sails, see pg. 3 for Sept. dates
Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Saturday)
Chantey Sing
2 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Sunday)
4 USS *Pampanito* Tour
8 Costumed Living History On The Pier
Music of the Sea for Kids
Small Craft Collection Tour
We Need Shelter!
15 Birds of The Bay
Sea Music Concert on *Balclutha*
16 Donkey Steam Engine Demo
Along The Waterfront
Lighthouses of San Francisco Bay
20 USS *Pampanito* Tour
22 Maritime Story Time
Floating Films moved to September 29
23 *Hercules* Engine Room Tour
25 Lecture in the Library
26 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
29 Fee Free Day
Maritime Story Time
Beginning Chantey Singing Workshop
Crafts For Kids
30 Rangers in the Rig

OCTOBER

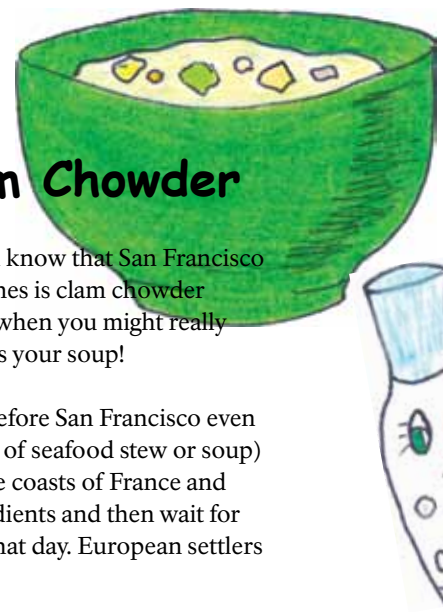
1 Guided Tour of *Balclutha* (daily)
2 USS *Pampanito* Tou
4-7 America's Cup World Series Races
6 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Saturday)
Fleet Weekend
We Need Shelter!
7 Fleet Weekend
Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Sunday)
9 Lecture in the Library
12 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
13 Costumed Living History On The Pier
Music of the Sea for Kids
~~Small Craft Collection Tour~~
Animals of Hyde Street Pier
~~Chantey Sing~~ moved to October 6
18 USS *Pampanito* Tour
20 *Alma* sails, see page 3 for Oct. dates
Birds of the Bay
Sea Music Concert on *Balclutha*
21 Donkey Steam Engine Demo
Hercules Engine Room Tour
Along The Waterfront
Lighthouses of San Francisco Bay
25 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
27 Crafts For Kids
28 Rangers in the Rig

NOVEMBER

1 Guided Tour of *Balclutha* (daily)
USS *Pampanito* Tour
3 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Saturday)
Maritime Story Time
We Need Shelter!
Chantey Sing
4 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Sunday)
8 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
10 Fee Free Day
Alma sails, see pg. 3 for Nov. dates
~~Small Craft Collection Tour~~
Costumed Living History On The Pier
Music of the Sea for Kids
11 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
14 USS *Pampanito* Tour
17 Sea Music Concert on *Balclutha*
18 Birds of The Bay
Donkey Steam Engine Demo
Hercules Engine Room Tour
Along The Waterfront
Lighthouses of San Francisco Bay
22 Park Closed: Happy Thanksgiving!
23 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
24 Crafts For Kids
Animals of Hyde Street Pier
25 Rangers in the Rig
Animals of Hyde Street Pier
27 USS *Pampanito* Tour

Page For Kids

The Wonderful World of Clam Chowder



By Park Guide Kristal Ip

Whether you're a lifelong resident or a first time visitor, you should know that San Francisco is crazy about food! One of the city's most famous and popular dishes is clam chowder in a bread bowl. It's a good meal any day of the week, but the time when you might really appreciate it is on a cool, misty afternoon when the fog is as thick as your soup!

Did you know that clam chowder has a history that reaches back before San Francisco even became a city? The earliest versions of chowder (basically any kind of seafood stew or soup) date back to the 16th and 17th centuries in fishing villages along the coasts of France and England. Villagers would prepare a large cauldron with soup ingredients and then wait for the fishermen to come back to add whatever seafood they caught that day. European settlers eventually brought chowder to America.

The first printed recipe of chowder was published on September 22, 1751 in the Boston Evening Post.

Directions for Making a Chouder

First lay some Onions to keep the Pork from burning,
Because in Chouder there can be no turning;
Then lay some Pork in Slices very thin,
Thus you in Chouder always must begin.
Next lay some Fish cut crossways very nice
Then season well with Pepper, Salt, and Spice;
Parsley, Sweet-Marjoram, Savory and Thyme;
Then Biscuit next which must be soak'd some Time.
Thus your Foundation laid, you will be able
To raise a Chouder, high as Tower of Babel;
For by repeating o're the Same again,
You may make Chouder for a thousand Men.
Last Bottle of Claret, with Water eno' to smother 'em,
You'll have a Mess which some call Omnium gather 'em*.

*Omnium-gatherum means an assortment

Drawings By Park Guide Noemesha Williams

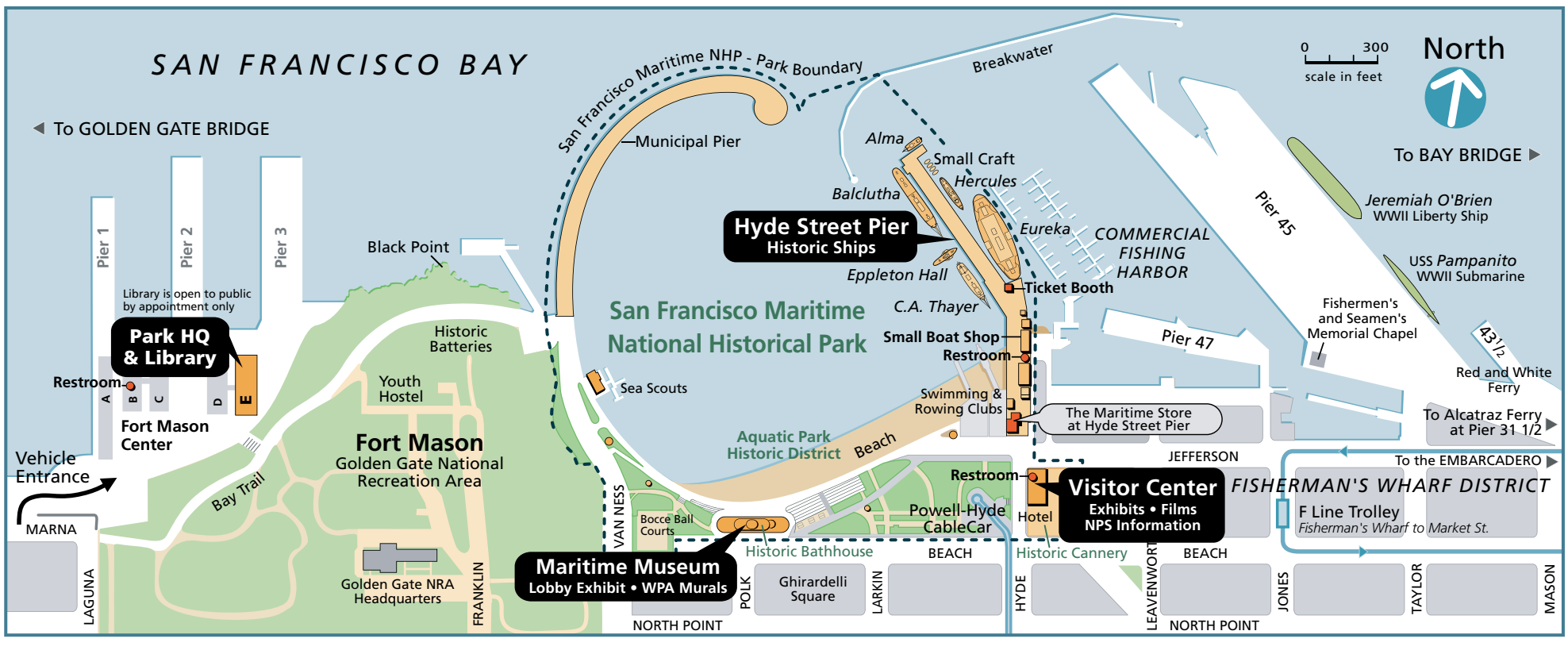
Chowder has always come in many different forms, based on the cultures that inspired them or the available ingredients. Today in the United States there are five main versions that are familiar to most people.

❶ New England Clam Chowder: This is the thick, creamy white chowder. It contains cream or milk, potatoes, and onions and is usually served with crunchy oyster crackers.

❷ Manhattan Clam Chowder: Instead of dairy, this chowder uses a tomato base, which accounts for the red color. The use of tomatoes was probably started by Portuguese immigrants.

❸ Rhode Island Clam Chowder: Rhode Island natives are particularly fond of this variety because it uses quahogs, a type of clam that is abundant in that state. There is no dairy or tomato in Rhode Island chowder and the broth is clear.

❹ Minorcan Clam Chowder: Settlers from Minorca, Spain came up with this variation in Florida. Like the Manhattan kind, it has a tomato base, but what makes it unique is the use of bell peppers and the datil pepper, which is very, very hot!

❺ Finally, we have the San Francisco style, which serves New England chowder in a sourdough bread bowl. Sourdough became popular in San Francisco when the French baker Isidore Boudin immigrated here in 1849. He created his own blend of sourdough and it has been popular ever since. These days, you can find "chowder in a bread bowl" all along Fisherman's Wharf and the Embarcadero, not to mention numerous restaurants around the city.

So there you have it! Try making chowder at home, using whatever ingredients you especially like, or ingredients that are unique to where you live. You don't need to use clams; fish, crabs, or even corn can be used. Maybe you can invent your own recipe that will become famous someday!