

## February 2008 Monthly Email Newsletter

Welcome to the launching of the monthly email newsletter from San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, your National Park Service site on San Francisco's historic waterfront. Here and in future issues you will find updates on ship restoration, ranger-led programs, library presentations featuring maritime historians and world sea adventurers, sailing and boatbuilding classes, traditional sea music programs, children's activities, costumed living history, and other events and news. We invite you to visit and take part in these programs! Feel free to forward this newsletter in whole or in part, or enter into blogs. This list is never sold or loaned, and you may cancel at any time by emailing [peter\\_kasin@nps.gov](mailto:peter_kasin@nps.gov).

Here are a few of the programs happening in February. For a complete schedule of programs, please see the park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/safr>. For further information on the park and its programs, please call the Visitor Center at 415-447-5000.

### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Celebrate Black History Month all through February. African Americans have played a major role in our maritime history. From the earliest days of our nation to modern times, African Americans built, crewed, and captained ships, fought in naval battles, invented shipboard tools, and helped develop maritime music. We invite you to visit and take part in these family programs:

#### **African Americans in the Maritime Trades**

View this exhibit of rare photographs from our collection, and learn about African American officers, sailors, cooks, longshoremen and shipbuilders. Shown daily throughout February in the Visitor Center, 499 Jefferson Street, at Hyde Street. Visitor Center open daily 9:30am-5:00pm. No fee.

#### **William Shorey: Whaling Ship Captain**

Ranger Carol Kiser presents an audio-visual program on the extraordinary life of William Shorey, the only Black whaling ship captain on the West Coast.

Sundays, February 10 and 24, 1:00pm-1:30pm.

In the Visitor Center Theater, 499 Jefferson Street, at Hyde Street. No fee.

#### **Chanteys: The African American and Caribbean Connection**

Join park ranger Peter Kasin and park volunteer Richard Adrianowicz in a program of African American and Caribbean based work songs of sailors, stevedores, oarsmen, and fishermen. The choruses to these songs are easy to sing, and you are encouraged to sing along.

Saturday, February 23, 3:00pm-3:45pm.

Aboard the historic sailing ship *Balclutha*, berthed at Hyde Street Pier. Ships admission: Adults, \$5, under 16, free. Free with national park passes (show pass at Hyde Street Pier ticket booth).

### **Maritime Routes of the Underground Railroad**

Learn about African enslavement, the Middle Passage, the slave trade between Europe, Africa, and the Americas, and stories of escapes by ships as routes to freedom. National Park Service Underground Railroad Project Pacific West Region director Guy Washington presents an audio-visual program on this compelling aspect of Underground Railroad history. Sunday, February 24, 2:00pm-2:45pm.

In the Visitor Center Theater, 499 Jefferson Street, at Hyde Street. No fee.

### **AT THE J. PORTER SHAW LIBRARY**

Throughout the year, our maritime research library presents evening public presentations by historians, authors, and sea adventurers.

JoAnn Semones, author of *Shipwrecks, Scalawags, and Scavengers: The Storied Waters of Pigeon Point* will present the history of this local landmark on Saturday, February 9, 6:00pm. Donation: \$5, members, \$4. Reservations: 415-561-7040, or email [melani\\_van\\_petten@partner.nps.gov](mailto:melani_van_petten@partner.nps.gov).

### **SMALL BOAT SHOP UPDATE**

Small craft curators Bill Doll, John Muir, and Jason Rucker, along with volunteers, are putting the finishing touches on the restoration of the Bear class boat *Merry Bear's topside* deck, and are getting her interior built out. In addition, the park's new work boat is getting her final fittings. Both are on display in the Small Boat Shop for you to view, watch the work, and talk with curators and volunteers.

### **BALCLUTHA UPDATE**

Winter work mode means chasing down deck leaks between rain storms and regular checking of mooring and gangway. Rigging crewmember Chris Jannini reports that the ongoing big projects are installation of a new fore t'gallant/royal mast, and replacement/installation of anti-slip treads on all of the ladders. You can view the mast, under construction, in the lower (auto) deck of the ferry *Eureka*. Come down and watch the rigging crew and volunteers work at traditional methods of shipboard maintenance. We also offer daily guided tours at 2:15, where you can discover daily life aboard this 19th-century Cape Horner.

### **C.A. THAYER REHABILITATION UPDATE**

This 1895-built lumber schooner returned to Hyde Street Pier in 2007 after an extended drydocking to rebuild her hull. 20% of her older timbers were saved and rebuild of her deckhouses will soon be getting underway, as we await the delivery of new lumber. The principle behind her rehabilitation is that anything removed due to rot is documented and replaced with new wood, to be fitted exactly the same. This insures the integrity of her historic design. Currently, the interior of the aft deckhouse has been documented and removed. Late spring anticipates complete coating: topsides painted, including rails and waterways, and deck oiled. Watch for further monthly updates from her chief shipwright, Phil Erwin. You're invited to view her rehabilitation and talk with the shipwrights about their work. They will be glad to answer your questions. The shipwright shop is located on Hyde Street Pier. Due to safety concerns, the *Thayer* is not yet open for self-guided tours. Ranger-led tours, though, are available. Please call the Visitor Center at 415-447-5000 a few days prior to your visit to find out when a tour is scheduled.

### **ALMA UPDATE**

Looking ahead to May, the 1891 scow schooner *Alma* will begin her first full season of interpretive sails around the bay. You'll be invited to join in on line hauling, or just have a relaxing sail and learn about San Francisco's maritime history. For schedules and more information, please call the Visitor Center at 415-447-5000. Details to follow in future newsletters.

### **AQUATIC PARK BATHHOUSE (MARITIME MUSEUM) RESTORATION UPDATE**

The museum is currently closed for major renovation. The first phase of the project, renovating the roof and windows, is scheduled to be completed this year, in the late spring. A new elevator is being installed, which will provide full access to the 3rd floor. Restoration of the bleachers and underground structure is scheduled to begin this summer. As the bleachers project gets underway, restoration of the WPA era interior murals in the lobby of the museum building will begin. In the meantime, plans are underway to conduct ranger-led tours of the magnificent WPA artwork of the building's interior and exterior. Hilaire Hiler and Sargent Johnson were two of the artists on the WPA rolls who helped make this building into an artistic treasure. Watch for tour schedules in future newsletters. (Please note that the **San Francisco Senior Center**, housed in the building, remains open).

### **EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATE: PREPARING YOUTH FOR A CARIBBEAN SAILING VOYAGE**

The park, and its cooperating association, the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, are bringing to the pier as many young people as possible, and are very excited to be hosting the girls from the Tall Ship Education Academy this February, for two-thirds of their 18-week semester. The first six weeks will be spent in preparation for a six week voyage aboard a traditionally rigged ship in the Caribbean. The girls will be on Hyde Street Pier twice a week, engaging in intense classroom study and physical training. Towards the end of February, they will leave the classroom and get out on the water in the park's fleet of Pelican small boats to learn the basics of sailing and seamanship. We look forward to helping the crew prepare for such an exciting voyage! We will update you on boatbuilding projects they'll engage in after their return in April. The friendships, teamwork skills, and self confidence gained from this amazing experience could last a lifetime.

### **VOLUNTEERING**

Volunteers are always welcome and appreciated. To find out about volunteering in support of ship restoration, boatbuilding, the library, exhibits shop, interpretation, and in other departments, please call the Volunteer Coordinator at 415-556-1613.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

Looking ahead to upcoming monthly newsletters: Women's History Month programs / An article by assistant small craft curator Jason Rucker on a high school boatbuilding project / a profile of Alice Watts, celebrating her 25 years at the park as education program instructor, First Mate, and galley cook / launching of the Maritime Heritage Learning Center / beginning of this year's costumed Living History program / the park's Girl Scout

program / celebrating 20th anniversary as a national park / Festival of Sail / monthly restoration updates.

For complete listings of park events and of events presented by our park partners, please see these websites:

<http://www.nps.gov/safr>. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

<http://www.maritime.org>. San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, our park's member supported cooperating association.

<http://www.maritimelibraryfriends.org> Friends of the San Francisco Maritime Museum Library, our research library's member supported cooperating association.

Fair winds, and have a great February!