

## **FATHOM THIS!**

The monthly newsletter from  
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park  
Celebrating 20 years as a national park: 1988-2008

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Issue #6

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Greetings from your national park on San Francisco's historic waterfront. July at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park brings warmer weather, visitors from around the world, lots of family activities at Hyde Street Pier, and new seasonal employees to serve you. We continue fee-based public sails on San Francisco Bay aboard the 1891 scow schooner *Alma* every Thursday and Saturday, 12:30-4:00, and invite you to experience that and all our public programs. For more information, including admission fees, please call the Visitor Center at 415-447-5000, or visit the park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/safr>. *Alma* reservations may also be made by calling the Visitor Center. Links to park websites and sites of related organizations are provided at the end of the newsletter. We hope to see you at Hyde Street Pier this summer!

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### FESTIVAL OF SAIL

Wednesday, July 23 through Sunday, July 27. At various locations on the San Francisco waterfront. Ticket prices vary. Information and ticket prices: <http://www.festivalofsail.org>.

On July 23-27, San Francisco's waterfront is transformed into a celebration of our international seafaring heritage! Produced by the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, the Festival Of Sail will bring our maritime heritage to life, beginning with a parade of ships through the Golden Gate on Wednesday,

July 23, 2:00-4:00pm. The weeklong festivities will include ship tours and excursions, live music, exhibits, and activities for adults and kids, as the waterfront is host to several themed festival villages. Bring family and friends, and discover your seafaring past, present, and future.

### Villages

Hyde Street Pier and Aquatic Park will host the Marine Education Village, with fun family activities highlighting the role of San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park in preserving our maritime history. Justin Herman Plaza and the Ferry Building will be the site of the International Village, honoring the immigrant experience and the many cultures that make up the people of San Francisco. The Green Village, located at Pier 30/32, will be dedicated to linking the Age of Sail to today's movement toward a greener, sustainable relation with the world's oceans. Exhibitors representing environmental, fair trade, organic foods, and other organizations will be offering eco-friendly services and ideas you can use long after the festival.

### Vessels

*Lynx, Bounty (1960 replica), Kaisei, Nina, Seaward, Gold Star, Nehemiah, HMCS Oriole, Robert C. Seamans, Californian, US Coast Guard Cutter Eagle, Gas Light, Barracuda, Bay Lady, M/V California Hornblower, M/V Empress Hornblower, Fireboat Phoenix, SS Jeremiah O'Brien, Alma, Balclutha, and Pampanito.*

### Volunteering

Be a direct part of producing this grand event! If you would like to volunteer for the festival, please email [fosvolunteer@filco.com](mailto:fosvolunteer@filco.com).

### Tickets, Schedule of events, and more...

For more information, including a complete schedule of events, ship photos, and ticket prices, please see the festival website at <http://www.festivalofsail.org>.

### 1901 WATERFRONT STRIKE REENACTMENT

Saturday, July 12, 12:00-1:00, repeated at 3:00-4:00. On Hyde Street Pier. Free admission for pier activities. Admission to board historic ships: Adults, \$5. Ages 15 and under, free. Free with national park passes. Tickets good for all ships open, and is good for seven days from date of purchase.

From July 13 to October 2, 1901, San Francisco's waterfront was shut down by sailors, teamsters, and longshoremen striking for better pay and working conditions. Experience the sights and sounds of San Francisco history through this Living History Program reenactment. Hear impassioned speeches and voice your own opinion! Join the march as strikers implore ships' crews to join their ranks. Watch as soldiers arrive to maintain order and see a ship's captain defy the strikers. The Living History reenactment connects you with your maritime past in a direct, dramatic way.

The day's Living History activities begin with a sail raise aboard the *Balclutha* at 11:00am. All are welcome to lend a hand! At 11:45am, in front of the Demo Shed, just inside Hyde Street Pier's entrance, Living History player Malcolm Rigby will give a 15-minute orientation to the strike activities, with historical

background on the issues that were at stake. Noon is zero hour for the strike. Action begins at the pier entrance, with strikers assembling and handing out signs for the march down the pier (you're welcome to carry a sign).

There'll be speeches and heated arguments between strikers, a captain, and a ship owner, highlighting the issues and strong emotions surrounding the strike. At 2:00pm, in the Lewis Ark houseboat, there'll be a Ladies Tea salon, where Victorian women will discuss the strike and other issues of the day. You are welcome to join the discussion! Also at 2:00pm, sailors aboard the *Balclutha* sing songs during their "dogwatch," when they have some respite from their daily shipboard tasks. If they're out of earshot of officers, there may be some defiant labor songs. Come sing along on the choruses, and lead a song or two yourself (remember, please, it's 1901 or earlier for song choices). The strike program repeats at 3:00pm (Ladies Tea and Dogwatch at 2:00pm only).

## RESTORATION UPDATES

### 1895 SCHOONER C.A. THAYER

Thayer's Chief Shipwright Phil Erwin reports:

Annual maintenance continues with preparation and coating of the rail caps, inner bulwarks, and waterways. Meanwhile, we will be setting up for timber storage, layout, and fabrication areas on the aft part of the main deck in anticipation of commencing with the restoration of the aft house.

### 1907 TUGBOAT HERCULES

Facilities and Ships Supervisor John Schuster reports:

Volunteers are refurbishing the engine room machinery. The pilot house ladders, decks, and margin planking have been repaired. We have ordered safety valves, and new piping will be on the way. Following the installation of the safety valves, we will arrange for an inspection by ABS Houston. Once that is successfully completed, the boiler will be able to provide steam.

## MEET THE NEW PARK EMPLOYEES

The summer season brings a number of new employees to help connect you to your history and to help maintain our national maritime treasures. Here is who you will find on Hyde Street Pier and other areas of the park. We're very pleased to welcome such an enthusiastic and talented group of individuals!

### Robert Lee Fernandez, Maintenance Worker

A native of New Mexico, Robert's roots go back 300 years in New Mexico and the Southwest. He is bilingual, and loves to travel and visit the parks and museums of this country. He has worked for various parks, including Yosemite National Park and Fort Union National Monument. He has also worked for the U.S. Forest Service as an accountant. Robert is especially enthusiastic about his new seasonal job here, as he has always had an interest in the sea and seafaring. "I love the old ships and the stories about the sea. Coming to the coast for a few months is a welcome change for me. I look forward to a great season/experience here at Maritime."

#### Andrew Keller, Park Guide

After growing up in Los Angeles, Andrew graduated from Santa Clara University with a degree in History. He recently completed his first term of high school teaching. Andrew is "looking forward to an exciting and fun summer with the National Park Service here in San Francisco."

#### Keri Koehler, Collections Manager

Keri is new to the National Park Service, transferring from the corporate world where she spent over 12 years working for Wells Fargo, initially as a museum curator to eventually managing the company's corporate archives and historical collection. She holds an M.A. in Museum Studies and is also a certified archivist. She now serves as the Collections Manager in the Cultural Resources and Museum Management Division and is very pleased to be working at the park with a great group of people.

#### Donna Meletio, Park Guide

Originally from Dallas, Texas, Donna spent most of her time far from the sea, but has always harbored a deep interest in history, particularly maritime history, and is thrilled to be a part of the dedicated team at San Francisco Maritime NHP.

When she was not teaching writing courses at the University of Texas, she was sailing in the Gulf of Mexico or scuba diving off the coast of Honduras. She has also camped along the Amazon River and across the plains of Tanzania.

She is a published writer with a special interest in Folklore, and she earned her PhD in American Literature from LSU in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Most importantly of all, she mastered the art of making a serious pot of seafood gumbo.

#### Jessica Sims, Park Guide

Jessica Sims was born across the Bay in Oakland, CA, but spent a large portion of her time overseas, where her father has served active duty in the United States Air Force for almost twenty years.

She currently attends The historically Black University, Howard University, located in Washington, D.C. She is set to graduate with a Bachelor's of Art in Public Relations, and a minor in Fashion Merchandising. Her long term goals include starting a family and working on the editorial staff of a fashion magazine; however, her short term goals include teaching elementary school post-graduation, attaining her Masters in Business Relations, and marrying her fiancée. She looks forward to spending the summer here at Hyde Street Pier, and hopes to gain valuable experience at San Francisco Maritime NHP.

#### Noemesha Williams, Park Guide

Born and raised in San Francisco, and the oldest of eight, Noemesha is studying biotechnology, loves the outdoors, loves to travel with her fiancé, and loves to cook. She has a special interest in history, and Hyde Street Pier is "my favorite place in San Francisco."

## LINKS

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

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

<http://www.sanfranciscomaritimelibrary.org> The park library's member-supported cooperating association.

<http://www.festivalofsail.org> Official website for Festival Of Sail.

<http://www.hydestreetlivinghistory.org> The park Living History Program's volunteer-created website.

<http://www.corsair-viking.org> The San Francisco Sea Scouts, our partner at Aquatic Park.