

Welcome to the second E-letter from San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, your national park on San Francisco's historic waterfront. We look forward to a busy month of March, and invite you to board the fleet of historic vessels berthed at Hyde Street Pier, participate in interpretive programs, discover traditional methods of boatbuilding, ship restoration and maintenance by shipwrights, rigging crewmembers, small craft curators and volunteers, and view exhibits aboard *Balclutha* and in the Visitor Center.

Feel free to forward this newsletter, or enter it into blogs, in whole or in part. This list is never sold or loaned, and you may cancel at any time by emailing peter_kasin@nps.gov. For a complete schedule of park programs, please see the park's official website at <http://www.nps.gov/safr>. For more information, call the Visitor Center at 415-447-5000.

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COSTUMED LIVING HISTORY

Our costumed Living History players re-create life in the year 1901. Turn back the clock on the second Saturday of each month, on Hyde Street Pier, 11:00am-4:00pm, and enter a different world; a portal into our past. Talk with crewmembers aboard *Balclutha* and meet the ship's cook as he fires up the wood burning stove. Take part in a Victorian ladies salon, and join *Balclutha* sailors in traditional songs during the "dogwatch." In addition to these regularly scheduled events, most of the months have a themed event. Occasionally, the program goes a little back or forward in time from 1901, to interpret significant events in other years. In 2006, for example, during centennial observances of the 1906 earthquake and fire, the Living History players produced a re-creation of the massive waterfront evacuation of San Franciscans escaping the flames.

WHY 1901?

1901 was an eventful year for San Francisco. President William McKinley delivered a speech to San Franciscans only months before his assassination. San Francisco elected the first union labor mayor in U.S. history; Eugene F. "Handsome Gene" Schmitz. The city hosted a world's heavyweight boxing championship match, between Jim Jeffries, and his challenger, Gus Ruhlin. The waterfront was the scene of San Francisco's largest maritime labor strike up to that time, and the Chinese Telephone Exchange opened, bringing Chinese language phone service to this large and long-established community for the first time.

Many Americans in 1901 were experiencing growing prosperity, getting used to some leisure time, and sports were more popular than ever. The phonograph business was booming, there were 1.5 million telephones in use, and 8,000 automobiles in the country. Americans were fascinated by the novelty of motion pictures ("flickers").

All was not well, though. There was urban and rural poverty, poor working conditions in factories, mines and mills, and industrial accidents were common. Anti-Chinese discrimination and Jim Crow segregation were facts of daily life, and 105 African Americans were lynched that year. In May, a panic on Wall Street caused the stock market to crash.

1901 affords us the opportunity to interpret most of the historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier, as the *Balclutha*, *Eureka*, *Alma*, *C.A. Thayer*, and the Felucca and Chinese Junk fishing boats were all in service in San Francisco during that year.

Saturday, March 8, the Living History specially-themed event is a re-creation of a suffragette march (see details below in Women's History Month programs). Other months will bring re-creations of the 1901 San Francisco waterfront strike, President William McKinley's visit to San Francisco, and the colorful Crossing The Line ceremony, to name just a few events.

BECOME A LIVING HISTORY PLAYER

If you've ever fancied yourself a captain or captain's wife and children, a bosun, mate, or deckhand aboard a sailing ship, a ship owner, union representative, maritime craftsman, stevedore, cabin boy, crimp, Victorian

lady, or suffragette, then we may have a place for you! Interested? Please contact volunteer coordinator Terry Dorman at 415-556-1613, or terry_dorman@nps.gov.

CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March is national Women's History Month. Join us at Hyde Street Pier and in the Visitor Center for these family programs and exhibit, highlighting the varied and often overlooked roles women have played in maritime history.

Exhibit: Women Who Changed Maritime History

A photographic exposition illustrating the impact women have had on maritime history. Open daily, 9:30am-5:00pm, throughout March, in the Visitor Center, 499 Jefferson Street at Hyde Street. Free admission.

Votes For Women! Third Annual Living History Suffragette March

Saturday, March 8, 12:00pm, and again at 3:00pm

Turn back the clock to 1901 and experience a costumed re-creation of a suffragette march in support of voting rights for women. Hear speeches for and against female suffrage, and voice your own opinion as the march makes its way down Hyde Street and into Victorian Park! Meets on Hyde Street Pier. Free admission.

Victorian Ladies Salon

Saturday, March 8, 2:00pm

Join a salon of Victorian women as they discuss the issues of the day, in the year 1901. Topics range from corsetry, to U.S. involvement in the Philippines. Ask questions of them and join the discussion! Meets at the historic *Lewis Ark* houseboat, on Hyde Street Pier. Free admission.

Families At Sea

Sundays, March 9 and 16, 2:00pm-2:45pm.

During the Age Of Sail, the feminine presence was not usually part of a ship's crew. However, it was common for a captain's wife and daughters to sail with him, often on long voyages, creating a family atmosphere. Discover family life at sea as park ranger Carol Kiser takes you on this specially-themed guided tour of the historic three-masted sailing ship *Balclutha*.

Meets aboard *Balclutha*. Ships admission fees apply: Adults, \$5, ages 15 and under, free. Free with national park passes.

HIGH SCHOOL AND GIRL SCOUTS BOAT BUILDING

Sailing Program Director Madeline Eustis reports on this month's projects

Bay Area youth are getting hands-on experience in boat building and small craft sailing. The Downtown High School will start an eight week boat building and sailing class. The students will build a rowing skiff from scratch, and learn how to sail small craft in the fleet of Pelican boats that the park maintains and operates. During the last two weeks of the month, Girl Scouts will also be boat building and sailing. In two one-week sessions, Girl Scouts will assemble two Bevin's Skiffs from boat building kits, one boat per week. The parts for the kit are made by students at the Alexandria Seaport Foundation, in Virginia. The Bevin's Skiff is primarily a row boat, which can also be rigged for sail. The Girl Scouts will also be learning to sail Pelicans, with the goal of gaining enough sailing knowledge to sail the skiffs they have built. For more information about boat building and sailing classes, please call MJ Harris at 415-215-6291.

IN THE MARITIME LIBRARY

The park's J. Porter Shaw Maritime Library houses a large collection of books, periodicals, photographs, films, and documents. Whether you're researching for an academic paper, or simply want to familiarize yourself with your maritime past in a reflective and supportive setting, the library is here for you. Research appointments are available Monday to Friday, 1:00pm-4:00pm, and on the third Saturday of every month, 10:00am - 4:00pm. Please call 415-561-7030 to schedule a visit. The library is also a venue for evening public presentations through the Klebingat Lecture Series. See just below for this month's program.

Klebingat Lecture Series: Adventure At Sea! Sailing Aboard The *James Craig* And Other Maritime Adventures

Saturday, March 22, 6:00pm. In the Maritime Library, Lower Fort Mason, Bldg. E, 3rd Floor. Wheelchair Accessible by elevator. Donation: \$5, Friends of the Maritime Library and San Francisco Maritime National Park Association members, \$4.

Jim Hogan will tell stories and present an audio-visual program on his trip to Australia and New Zealand, including sailing aboard the only 19th-century steel-hulled barque that regularly carries passengers; the restored 1874 Cape Horn sailing ship *James Craig*. Reservations: 415-561-7040, or email melani_van_petten@partner.nps.gov.

***C.A. THAYER* UPDATE**

The 1895-built *C.A. Thayer* is one of only two surviving West Coast sailing lumber schooners. At one time, several hundred lumber schooners plied the West Coast, supplying wood used in home building for California's fast growing population. In April, 2007, the *Thayer* returned to Hyde Street Pier after a three-year dry-docking to rebuild and restore her hull and main deck. Park shipwrights, along with volunteers, are rebuilding and restoring her deckhouses, captain and mates quarters, and rigging. You are invited to view the rehabilitation's progress, and talk with shipwrights Phil Erwin, John Conway, Diane Piagneri, and the *Thayer's* volunteers about their work. Ranger-led tours are also available. Please call the Visitor Center at 415-447-5000, 9:30am-4:45pm a few days before your visit to find out when a tour is scheduled.

The *Thayer's* chief shipwright, Phil Erwin, reports on this month's work

We have moved one complete overhead panel unit - removed earlier from a small starboard accommodation in the aft house - into the shipwright shop. This complex, multi-part assembly makes up the raised overhead panel joinery and house beam. We are assessing techniques for this stabilization, renewal, repair, and preservation of all of the interior joinery using these first assemblies as "guinea pigs." Our goal is to stop any organic decay, permeate the wood structure with borate preservative, fix marginally compromised wood structures with a penetrating poly-based product, and replace significant decay with good wood. Our mission is to preserve and re-install as much original fabric as possible, and, where necessary, install renewed joinery that is capable of holding a mechanical fastener and appropriate coatings.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are always welcome and appreciated. To find out about volunteering in support of ship restoration and maintenance, boat building,

the library, exhibits shop, interpretation, and in other departments, please call the volunteer coordinator, Terry Dorman, at 415-556-1613, or email terry_dorman@nps.gov.

LOOKING AHEAD

In future newsletters, an article by small craft assistant curator Jason Rucker on youth boat building projects / the park's Open House event / A profile of Alice Watts, celebrating 25 years as sea educator, mate, and cook / program highlights / restoration updates

For more information on the park, and our park partners, please view the websites below.

<http://www.nps.gov/safr> The park's official website

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

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