



The Maritime News

The Official Newspaper
of San Francisco Maritime
National Historical Park

December, January, February 2008/2009

Balclutha Heads to Dry Dock



Welcome

While some parks mark the changing seasons with red and gold foliage, here at San Francisco Maritime we cycle our historic vessels into drydock to fix the effects of winter storms and buffeting tides.

Our 1886 *Balclutha* takes her turn this December, and her holiday gifts will include portholes, spars, and mooring lines. *Balclutha* will return and re-open to the public in March.

We are very proud to report that our 1895 *C. A. Thayer* received a 2008 California Governor's Historic Preservation Award. You can read more about the work inside this issue, but please stop by the schooner itself and ask about our progress on the fore and aft deckhouses!

Although visits to national parks tend to drop off during this season, our slate of fun and educational programs are a good reason to get off the couch -- and out the door! The air may be crisp, but the Bay is beautiful. Join us for Christmas at Sea, African American History Month programs, or our maritime history lunch-time lecture series.

Kate Richardson
Superintendent



If you visit the park this winter, and walk out on Hyde Street Pier, you might notice that something is missing. Something Big!!

In December the steel ship *Balclutha* will be towed to a shipyard in Alameda to be dry-docked for regular maintenance. The work is expected to take about 60 days. The ship was last hauled-out in 2002, and she is due for painting and inspection of her bottom.

The work will include cleaning the bottom plating, and an overall sand-sweep (a lighter version of sand blasting) from keel to rail cap (steel piece on top of the bulwark, painted yellow in the photo above), with some localized sand blasting. The hull plating will be tested for thickness, and any bad pits or rivets filled or welded. The hull will be prime-coated prior to repainting with enamel and anti-fouling bottom paint.

While the ship is in the yard, various other repair projects will be carried out. The steel yards will be sent down for inspection, repair and recoating. Damaged sections of the pipe railing around the upper decks will be repaired. Portions of the poop deck planking are to be lifted to allow repair of deteriorated steel framing. The bronze portholes will be removed and the surrounding plate repaired, to insure a watertight installation. As with any shipyard period, how much work we actually get done will depend on the conditions we find.

While the ship is in the yard, our childrens experiential learning program, run by the park's Cooperating Association, will shift to another vessel. These overnight



programs will continue on the *Bill of Rights*, a beautiful, wooden, 136 foot-long, two-masted sailing schooner, moored in *Balclutha's* place at Hyde Street Pier. For more education program information call 415-561-6662, x. 30.

The work will also impact the cargo exhibit in the 'tweendeck, requiring a lot of shifting around of the tightly-packed materials.

The *Balclutha* will return in early 2009, looking good in her fresh new paint, and we will return to the week-to-week work of keeping her that way.

By Stephen Canright, Park Curator,
Maritime History

Photo, top: *Balclutha* at Hyde Street Pier. Photo, left: *Balclutha* during her last dry-docking in 2002. As in 2002, the entire hull will be painted with a grey primer coat. Red anti-fouling paint will be applied at the waterline and below. The black and white coats (see photo above) will then be added. Some of the buff-colored yards, that lie perpendicular to the masts, will be sent down for inspection and recoating. NPS Photos

How does a dry dock work? A tugboat nudges the ship into the water-filled dry dock. The water is slowly pumped out, allowing the keel to settle onto the carefully placed bilge and keel blocks. Scuba divers are in the water to insure the blocks are properly aligned to support the 1700 ton ship. The side or "wing wall" tanks of the dock are then pumped out fully and the ship is left sitting dry on her blocks.

1 *Balclutha* Goes to the Dry Dock

Balclutha heads to the dock for a check-up, repairs, and a fresh coat of paint.

2 Schooner *C. A. Thayer* Wins State Preservation Award

Three-year rehabilitation project wins prestigious award in the field of historic preservation.

4 What if Your Family Lived Where They Work?

What??? Live in an office building, a hospital, a supermarket? But what if you lived 100 years ago and your Dad was the captain of a sailing ship?

Balclutha Goes to Drydock ...1

Superintendent's Message...1

Visitor Information...2

Thayer Wins Award...2

Events and Programs...3

Activity Page for Kids...4

Park Map...4

Today in the Park...4



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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 Landmark District (Bathhouse building, urban beach, lawn area and bocce ball courts), a Visitor Center and a research library (in Fort Mason Center).

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The Many Lives of the C. A. Thayer

When Clarence Thayer's business partners named a schooner after him in the 1890s, they couldn't have known that the vessel would help build San Francisco, serve in two World Wars and still be afloat more than 100 years later. It's possible they might have considered a more colorful name.

According to Phil Erwin, project shipwright for the *C.A. Thayer* restoration, the *Thayer* probably had an expected working life of 25 years. "As a human endeavor, she contains a lot of sweat equity," Phil said. "The fact that she's still around is pretty incredible."

The *Thayer* has had a busy history. By bringing wood and food to San Francisco, she helped build the growing city before and after the 1906 earthquake and fire. She transported lumber and coal during World War I and was an ammunition barge during World War II. In 1950, she was the last large sailing vessel to make a commercial voyage from the West Coast.

After extensive repairs, the San Francisco Maritime Museum opened the *Thayer* to the public in 1963. More recent renovations continue today at the Hyde Street Pier, and are expected to be complete in four to six years. Phil and his team are now restoring the aft deckhouse. Future projects will include restoration of the sailing rig and the forward deckhouse.

When completed, the *Thayer* will look much like it did before the restoration work began, but with a few differences. The forward deckhouse will be slightly smaller, in keeping with its original design.



The hold will contain updated exhibits that will teach visitors about the *Thayer's* history. The restoration has also returned

the *Thayer's* deck lines, which had flattened after years of settling, "to a proud, ship-like shape that curves up toward the bow," Phil said. Will she sail again? "That's the intention," Phil added.

Visitors to the Hyde Street Pier can watch the restoration work and go below deck.

"It's a rare opportunity right now to see the anatomy of a large wooden ship," Phil explained. Visitors may also ponder what they would have named this schooner back in 1895.

By Brian Cooke, Park Volunteer

Photo inset: Phil Erwin, shipwright, was selected to receive the National Park Service Western Region Cultural Resource Award for leading the on-going preservation work on the *Thayer*. Photo above: Restoration of the aft deckhouse. NPS Photos

Rehabilitation Project Continues in Aquatic Park

With the completion of the roof and window repairs to the Aquatic Park Bathhouse, we are moving into the next phase of the rehabilitation of the Aquatic Park National Historic Landmark District. This phase includes replacement and repair of the poured concrete bleachers that are adjacent to the Bathhouse building, as well as upgrades to the underground complex.

As you walk around the park you may notice some paths are altered, especially along the Promenade which parallels the beach. During construction, visitor activity along the Promenade will be limited to pedestrians and persons walking non-mo-

torized vehicles. There are informational signs posted around the park. Please take a moment to read them as they will help you chart the best route around the construction zone. At times, the movement of construction equipment and activity may temporarily close the Promenade.

Please check the park website www.nps.gov/safr for project updates. This phase of the rehabilitation project is expected to last 12 to 18 months.

For more information on the restoration of the Aquatic Park Bathhouse, go to www.nps.gov/safr/parknews



Thayer Project Wins Governor's Preservation Award

The California State Office of Historic Preservation has announced that a 2008 Governor's Historic Preservation Award will be given to San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park to recognize the rehabilitation of the schooner *C.A. Thayer*. This three-year rebuild project, replaced some 85% of the schooner's deteriorated wooden structure. The work maintained a high standard of originality, with all new material precisely duplicating what was replaced. The *Thayer* was one of 11 projects recognized state-wide at a ceremony held in Sacramento on November 21. Photo: *Thayer* passing beneath the Bay Bridge on April 11, 2007 on her voyage back to the park, with the assistance of a tug boat just visible on the starboard aft side. NPS Photo

Visitor Information

Dates and Hours of Operation:

Hyde Street Pier, located at Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30AM to 5:00PM (Last pier entry at 4:30PM.)

Visitor Center, located at the corner of Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30AM to 5:00PM.

Aquatic Park Bathhouse Building, located on Beach Street at the foot of Polk Street. The building was closed in July 2006 for major renovation. The Senior Center, located in the building, remains open. For scheduled building tours, call the Visitor Center, 415-447-5000.

Maritime Library, on the third floor of Bldg. E in Fort Mason Center (auto entrance at Buchanan Street and Marina Blvd), is open to the public by appointment: Monday-Friday (1PM-4PM), and the 3rd Saturday of the month (10AM-4PM). Call 415-561-7030.

No-Fee Areas

Visitor Center, Hyde Street Pier, Aquatic Park Historic Landmark District, and the Maritime Library (Fort Mason Center).

Boarding Pass (Entrance Fee for Historic Vessels): \$5

Free for supervised children under 16. Free with Federal Interagency Annual, Senior, and Access Passes, and San Francisco Maritime NHP Annual Pass.

Reservations/Permits

Reservations for school groups and other educational groups must be made at least two weeks prior to your visit, call 415-561-6662, ext. 30. Special Use Permits require at least a one month notice and application. Filming permits are arranged on an individual basis, call 415-561-7170.

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

Music, Tours, Events, Lectures and Living History

MUSIC

CHANTEY SING

Saturdays, December 6, January 3 and February 7, 8PM-MIDNIGHT. Free. Aboard a historic vessel at Hyde Street Pier. Reservations required: call 415-561-7171 or email 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.

MUSIC OF THE SEA FOR KIDS

Saturdays, December 20, January 17 and February 14, 3PM. Aboard Eureka 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. ☺

HOLIDAY EVENT

CHRISTMAS AT SEA

Saturday, December 13, 3:00PM. Aboard the historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free). Evening program begins at 6PM. For information 415-447-5000. Bring the family down to Hyde Street Pier for an old fashioned holiday. Music, refreshments, ornament-making, and a visit from Santa (by boat) will be part of the fun from 3PM to 4:45PM. Then, beginning at 6PM, the park's costumed Living History players will take you back to a bygone era, where you will meet and talk with the Captain and passengers on the Eureka ferryboat, the shipwrights making toys in the boatshop, and San Francisco society aboard the Ark houseboat. It all happens during a lamplit tour of the vessels decorated for Christmas 1901. Reservations required for the 6PM program, call 415-447-5000. ☺

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

THE SAGA OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM SHOREY
Sundays, February 8 and 22, 3PM. On Hyde Street Pier. Free.

A series of slides will introduce you to the extraordinary life and accomplishments of the only Black whaling ship captain on the West Coast. (Call the Visitor Center, 415-447-5000, for the exact location.)

MARITIME ROUTES OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Sundays, February 8 & 22, 1:30PM. On Hyde Street Pier. Call the Visitor Center for the exact location, 415-447-5000. Free.

A presentation on the use of ships as routes to freedom on the Underground Railroad. The California Gold Rush, West Coast whaling, stories of escape, and uncovering lost stories will be included.



Join the Friends of the San Francisco

Maritime Museum Library and help support the J. Porter Shaw Library at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. The Friends welcome members who are interested in maritime books, photos, oral histories and maritime lore. Membership includes reduced admission to Friends' events, free admission to the Pier, and discounts on book, photo, and vessel plan purchases at the library and the Hyde Street Pier Store. To contact the Friends, call 415-561-7040.

CHANTEYS: THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CONNECTION
Saturday, February 28, 1PM. Aboard Eureka at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission.

Discover African American and Caribbean-based maritime work songs. Park Ranger Peter Kasin and volunteer Richard Adrianowicz sing chanteys of sailors, stevedores, whalers, and fishermen. The choruses to these work songs are easy to sing and everyone is encouraged to sing along. ☺

PROGRAMS

HISTORIC WATERFRONT WALKING TOUR: FROM GOLD RUSH TO NATIONAL PARK
Saturdays and Sundays, December, January, and February, 10:30AM. Meet in the Argonaut Hotel lobby (495 Jefferson St.), adjacent to the Visitor Center. Free.

Over the last 160 years, industrial and recreational uses changed the environment of San Francisco's northern waterfront. Stroll with a Park Ranger to discover the history of this vibrant area on a walking tour through the Aquatic Park Historic District, the Cannery, Hyde Street Pier, and "Fish Alley" at Fisherman's Wharf. The tour is one hour and covers approximately one mile, with some gently sloping and uneven terrain. Dress in layers, wear sunscreen, and walking shoes. ☺

GUIDED TOURS OF THE 1939 AQUATIC PARK BATHHOUSE BUILDING

Thursdays and Saturdays, December, January, and February. Tour begins at 11:00AM. Meet at the entrance to the Bathhouse Building (Maritime Museum), 900 Beach Street, at the foot of Polk Street. Free.

Join a Park Ranger for a tour of the first floor of this newly restored Works Progress Administration-era building. Learn about the unique architecture, the stunning murals and artwork, and the recently completed renovation work.

LIFESAVING AT THE GOLDEN GATE
Saturdays, December 27, January 10, and February 7, 3PM-3:45PM. Meet in the Visitor Center. Free.

In San Francisco's maritime heyday, countless lives were saved by the brave men of the Lifesaving Service. Join us at the Visitor Center exhibit and view the tools of the trade while learning about the Lifesaving Service. ☺

EUREKA ENGINE ROOM TOUR
Sundays, January 4 and February 15, 3PM. Meet on Eureka's gangway. Vessel admission (under 16 free).

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

BOOK TALK: "THAR SHE BLOWS"
Sunday, December 14, 1:30PM to 1:45PM. At the Sailor's Den in the Visitor Center. Free. Join a librarian for a whale of a tale about great books to read about whaling. She'll be spouting about Yankee whaling, the Eskimo boy Neeluk, and more. ☺

Accessibility Information



Programs in the Visitor Center, on Hyde Street Pier, and in the library are accessible. Accessibility to programs on the ships varies. Some areas of Balclutha and Eureka are accessible. Thayer and Hercules are not accessible. For detailed information, please call the Visitor Center, 415-447-5000.



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STAND BY TO ANSWER BELLS

Saturdays, December 13, January 31, and February 28, 3PM. Meet at Hercules's gangway on the Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free). Tour includes climbing steep ladders. Park Rangers will demonstrate how the captain atop the boat in the pilothouse communicated with the crew down below in the engine room. Help them use the voice tubes, bell and jingle system, and engine order telegraph. ☺

HERCULES ENGINEERING TOUR

Saturdays, December 6, January 24, and February 21, 3PM. 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.

BIRDS OF THE BAY

Sundays, December 7, and January 11, 9:30AM-11:30AM. Meet at the Hyde Street Pier entrance. Free.

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

ANIMALS OF HYDE STREET PIER

Saturdays, December 13 & 27, January 10 & 24, and February 7 & 21, 3 PM. Meet at the end of Hyde Street Pier. Free. Come experience and observe a whole different world you might not realize exists on Hyde Street Pier. ☺

SMALL CRAFT ON HYDE STREET PIER

Sundays, December 14, January 18, and February 1, 3PM-3:45PM. Meet at the Small Boat Shop. Free.

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

SMALL CRAFT COLLECTION TOUR

Saturday, January 10, 9:30AM-2:30PM. Meet at the Small Boat Shop. Free. Reservations required; call the Boat Shop at 415-556-4031. 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.

MODELERS' WORKSHOP

Saturdays, open throughout the winter, 9:30AM-4:30PM. On the car deck of the Eureka. Vessel admission. Membership in the Hyde Street Pier Model Shipwrights club is open to anyone interested in building ship models. Members are engaged in building their own models and also a unique model of the Freda, the oldest active sloop on the West Coast. Modeling techniques are demonstrated. For information, call the park's Volunteer Office at 415-556-1613.



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

COSTUMED LIVING HISTORY

A DAY IN THE LIFE: 1901

Saturday, December 13, 6PM-9PM. Aboard the historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free). Reservations required, please call 415-447-5000. Step back in time to Christmas 1901. See the Holiday Event entry on this page. ☺

IN THE LIBRARY

Programs are held in the Maritime Library, Building E, Fort Mason Center. Fee: \$5 (\$4 Library friends and SFMNP) For reservations call 415-561-7040 or melani_van_petten@partner.nps.gov.

BALCLUTHA IN THE MOVIES

Saturday, January 10, 6PM. Park Ranger Debbie Grace will recount the story of Balclutha's movie career that included a role in *Mutiny on the Bounty*, starring Clark Gable. This will be followed by a showing of *Souls At Sea*, a rousing story of the slave trade in the 1850s, that includes the *Star of Alaska* (ex-Balclutha) in a supporting role.

PRESERVING THE FREE CHINA

Saturday, February 14, 6PM. John Muir, the park's associate curator of small craft, will discuss the effort to preserve the historic Chinese junk *Free China* that sailed across the Pacific Ocean to San Francisco in 1955, manned by a crew of powerboat fishermen who had never sailed before.

LUNCTIME LECTURE SERIES

These talks are free, open to the public, and begin at noon. Bring along your lunch and enjoy some maritime history along with your sandwich.



SURVIVING CAPE HORNERS

Thursday, January 8, Maritime Library. Join historian Ted Miles and learn about a group of ships that had a human-like will to survive.

SMALL CRAFT AT HYDE STREET PIER

Thursday, January 22, Hyde Street Pier. Join Park Ranger Tom Jares for a special tour of the unique collection of small craft berthed at the pier's floating docks.

PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO HISTORICAL EXHIBITS AT PIER ONE

Thursday, February 12, Meet at Pier One. Join the exhibit creator, Nancy Olmsted, for a tour of these exhibits that emphasize maritime history and shoreside developments. Call Park Ranger Chris Edwards for information by 2/11/09; 415-556-5787.

GOLD, SILK, PIONEERS & MAIL

Thursday, February 26, Maritime Library. Learn about the achievements of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. Touchable artifacts will be part of the presentation.

☺ FUN FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM

Today In The Park

DECEMBER 2008

- 4 Bathhouse Building Tour (every Thursday)
- 6 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Saturday)
- Bathhouse Building Tour (every Saturday)
- Hercules Engineering Tour
- Chantey Sing
- Modelmaking Workshop open on Saturdays
- 7 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Sunday)
- Birds of the Bay
- 13 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
- Holiday Program
- Stand By to Answer Bells
- 14 Book Talk in the Visitor Center

- Small Craft on Hyde Street Pier
- 20 Music of the Sea for Kids
- 25 Park Closed; Happy Holidays
- 27 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
- Lifesaving at the Golden Gate

JANUARY 2009

- 1 Park Closed; Happy New Year
- 3 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Saturday)
- Bathhouse Building Tour (every Saturday)
- Hercules Engineering Tour
- Chantey Sing
- Modelmaking Workshop open on Saturdays
- 4 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Sunday)
- Eureka Engine Room Tour
- 10 Animals of Hyde Street Pier

- Lifesaving at the Golden Gate
- Balclutha in the Movies
- 11 Birds of the Bay
- 17 Small Boat Shop Collection Tour at Alameda
- Music of the Sea for Kids
- 18 Small Craft on Hyde Street Pier
- 24 Hercules Engineering Tour
- Animals of Hyde Street Pier
- 31 Stand By to Answer Bells

FEBRUARY 2009

- 1 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Sunday)
- Small Craft on Hyde Street Pier
- 5 Bathhouse Building Tour (every Thursday)
- 7 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Saturday)
- Bathhouse Building Tour

- (every Saturday)
- Animals of Hyde Street Pier
- Lifesaving at the Golden Gate
- Chantey Sing
- Modelmaking Workshop open on Saturdays
- 8 Maritime Routes of the Underground Railroad
- Saga of Captain William Shorey
- 14 Music of the Sea for Kids
- Preserving the *Free China*
- 15 Eureka Engine Room Tour
- 21 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
- Hercules Engineering Tour
- 22 Maritime Routes of the Underground Railroad
- Saga of Captain William Shorey
- 28 Stand By to Answer Bells
- Chanteys: African American and Caribbean Connection

Activity Page for Kids

What if your home was on a ship?

Have you visited your parents at their workplace? What if your family lived where they worked? That might happen if your father was the captain of a sailing ship. When sailing ships like *Balclutha* went to sea, sometimes the captain brought his family. Let's think about what life would be like on a sailing ship.

Balclutha would be at sea for five months without stopping at land, and away from home for over a year. You might sail around the world! You would spend most of your time on the ship. You would only be allowed in a small part of the ship – the family cabins and the deck above.

Do you think you could play sports or ride a bike while at sea? The ship would always be rolling – while you were sleeping, eating (Hold on to your plate and cup!), or doing anything. Imagine if your house was always rolling around and rocking back and forth? How would your life be different?

Balclutha was a working ship and so you had to stay out of the way of your father and the sailors. In nice weather you could go on deck, but in storms you would have to stay below. Do you have brothers or sisters? Are you an only child? What if you had no other kids to play with but

your brother or sister, or no other kids at all?

You would still have to go to school. Your parents would be your teachers. Lessons would be the same as today – math, science, history, and more. Seeing the world would be another lesson! Your father might teach you how to find your way using the sun and stars and a sextant. You might learn to help with the signal flags so your ship could send messages to other ships because there were no cell phones, radios, and no electricity of any kind.

No electricity?! That means no refrigerator! Think about the food in your refrigerator. None of that stuff could come with you on a long ocean voyage. You would eat like a sailor. Salted meat and no fresh bread, only hardtack, that sometimes had bugs in it. Yuck!

Ships can be very dangerous and it's easy to get hurt. What if you got sick? You couldn't go to the hospital. There were few medicines and some tasted bad! Your parents would be your doctor.



Kids were born on ships, too. A baby girl was born on *Balclutha* when the ship was sailing from India to San Francisco, so her parents named her Inda Frances. What if you were named for the place where you were born? Years later Inda Frances returned to the *Balclutha* after it had been restored.

Many people worked together to fix up *Balclutha*. That job continues today and that is why she is not at the park for few months. But she will return ready for kids to explore her again and learn what life was like at sea.

Kids' Page created by Brendan Wilson, Park Guide

This is the kids' room on *Balclutha*. Does it look like a kids' room? Why? Does it look like your room? How is it different? How is it the same? Can you find things that make this room special because it is on a rolling and rocking sailing ship?

