



# The Maritime News

## A Nicer Place to Sit and Enjoy the View?



The east bleachers, seen above in panoramic view, are being rebuilt. The angled wooden pieces are forms for the new raker beams. The new steps will be supported by and built across these beams. Some sample steps are visible on the left between two of the raker forms. The contractor is testing different materials to build steps that match the historic steps as closely as possible. NPS Photo

**Y**ou may not have noticed, but we've been doing a little work on the bleachers, lately.

The ongoing work is the second phase of a significant capital investment to rehabilitate many of the Works Progress Administration (WPA)-built structures in the Aquatic Park National Historic Landmark District. The first project focused on the Bathhouse Building, which houses the park's Maritime Museum and the nation's oldest Senior Center. This project segment expands the work both east and west, through the curving bleachers and integral underground structures.

Although the construction may look like blunt concrete work, it's actually a delicate process that includes preserving historic fabric and features, and creating a living record of how buildings were built in the 1930s. (See the article on page two about a World War II era mural that was removed from under the bleachers before they were demolished.)

Modern techniques, materials and mixes make matching the historic "look and feel" of the bleachers a challenge, but cement workers made dozens of small test pours to come as close as possible. And later, the same crew will "stamp" exposed cement surfaces with boards to simulate the wood grain patterns left behind by traditional frames.

The underground areas between the bleachers and Beach Street are also being repaired. The southernmost underground walls have withstood sixty years of groundwater flowing toward the Bay, and the skylights can no longer support their glass panes. The project includes patches, waterproofing and new drainage systems, as well as newly fabricated skylights.

The project is scheduled for completion in October, 2009. When it's done, the park will begin returning some of the District's original landscape features, such as lining the skylights with small hedges, and restoring historic plantings around the bleachers. And the bleachers will once again be a most enjoyable place to enjoy the view.



Visitors walking their bicycles along the promenade. NPS Photo

### Safety During the Construction Process

One of the first things visitors notice is that the promenade is narrower – the safety construction fence extends several feet into the pathway.

Although the promenade will remain open throughout the construction project, bicycles must be walked along the portion directly across from the construction. Visitors riding their bicycles through this signed area are subject to citation.

For visitors who wish to ride their bicycles, the park offers an alternate route: up through the park to Beach Street, along Beach, and down a temporary, paved path to Van Ness Avenue. Thanks for your help!



**Welcome** to summer in San Francisco. We hope you brought a jacket!

If you are looking to escape the bustling crowds, an interpretive sail aboard our 1891 scow schooner *Alma* may be just the ticket. You can join a National Park Service ranger for a leisurely three-hour guided tour along the waterside of the San Francisco Waterfront. If you're feeling adventurous, volunteer to lend a hand with the sail!

We are currently testing a "cell phone tour" system, and I invite you to use your carryover minutes to learn more about specific park areas, resources and artifacts. Just look for the signs with a picture of a phone, call the number and type in the code. The call is free. Please give us your feedback!

This summer we again welcome three local elementary school teachers into the ranger uniform. The park offers educators a stipend (and a flat hat) to experience our resources firsthand, so that they can integrate National Park stories into their classrooms during the school year. If you spot them, please say hello!

In addition to seasonal staff, we are taking on a number of preservation projects. You are likely to see maintenance work all around the park, and we apologize for the inconvenience. Although repair of Aquatic Park's WPA-built bleachers (and underground spaces) is entering its final phase, we urge special caution while navigating around the construction zone.

This summer, the park offers a full slate of landside fun and educational programming for all ages. From living history reenactments, to children's crafts, to sea-chantey sing alongs: there are many ways to discover our park's resources, and learn about America's rich maritime heritage. Thank you for visiting, and have fun!

Kate Richardson  
Superintendent

### 1 Aquatic Park Improvements Continue

Aquatic Park National Historic Landmark District improvements continue through the summer.

### 2 A Wartime Mural Preserved

A World War II era painting done on a plaster wall under the bleachers, with water-soluble paints, has amazingly endured for 60 years.

### 4 A Park Where You Can Learn About History and Play on the Beach!

Have fun on a scavenger hunt around the park! Turn to page four.

- A Nicer Place to Sit...1**
- Superintendent's Message...1**
- Visitor Information...2**
- Wartime Mural Preserved...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).

#### Superintendent

Kate Richardson

#### Chief of Interpretation

Marc Hayman

#### Public Affairs Officer

Lynn Cullinan

#### Editor

Christine Baird

#### Mailing Address

Building E, Fort Mason Center  
San Francisco, CA 94123

#### Fax Number

415-556-1624

#### Park Information

415-447-5000

Contributors to Volume 25: Tim Campbell, Stephen Canright, Dave Casebolt, Lynn Cullinan, Richard Everett, Amy Hosa, Mark Neuweld and Brendan Wilson.

*The Maritime News* June, July, August 2009 Volume No. 25.

## New Exhibit Being Built in the Visitor Center *A Walk Along the Waterfront*

Historic sections of San Francisco's storied waterfront, not seen for over a hundred years, are now being replicated in the back of the park's visitor center. There are full scale reconstructions of a sailor's boarding house, waterfront piers, and a Barbary Coast bar. Even the sandy shore of the Presidio and the red cliffs of the Marin Headlands are being represented. The new exhibit is expected to open next year.

The exhibit is designed to be experienced as if walking around San Francisco, beginning at the Presidio and ending at the southern shipyards near Hunters Point.

Hundreds of rare artifacts and photographs will be displayed within the storefronts and entryways of a waterfront long since vanished. The stories of people who came to and from ports on the East and West Coasts, and from all over the world, are told.

On the shore of the Presidio are barrel staves with Russian writing on them, and nearby an Ohlone tule canoe made of bundled reeds rests on the shore. In the Fisherman's Wharf area, an Italian fishing boat has its sail up to dry, with the day's catch grilling on deck. Nearby, the greasy door of an engine repair shop stands open.

Visitors will walk through a modern archaeological dig. There, parts of a buried ship emerge from the mud along with miners' picks and shovels. The ship is one of many that came to San Francisco loaded with supplies for the Gold Rush -- and never left.

When finished, visitors of all ages will enjoy learning how San Francisco's famous waterfront was once a gateway to the world.

By Richard Everett, Curator of Exhibits



Exhibit Specialist Justin Zolli painting a large mural that will provide a realistic atmosphere behind a miner's tent and waterfront structures along the Yerba Buena shore in Gold Rush San Francisco.

## Go Sailing On Alma



Feel the waves, breathe the salt air, and take in dazzling views while park rangers tell stories about waterfront history.

The historic scow schooner *Alma* will sail June 6, 13 27; July 2, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30; August 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 27; September 3, 5, 19, 26; October 17, 24, 31; and November 7, 14, 21. Tickets prices are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors, and \$20 for children ages six to 15. Children age five or under ride for free but must be accompanied by an adult.

The three-hour program departs promptly from Hyde Street Pier at 12:30 pm and the program ends at 4:00 pm. Ticket sales help fund restoration and maintenance of the vessel. For more information, please call 415-447-5000.

Last April, under the direction of Park Conservator Dave Casebolt, and assisted by employees Channing Walker, Bruce Vanwick and others, the entire wall section was sawn free from the surrounding structure and carefully lowered onto a padded platform.

According to Dave it is, "dumb luck" that the painting survived, considering it was done in water-soluble paints on a wall under the leaky bleachers.

The painting was done on a thick plaster wall on metal mesh over a wooden frame, so the back side of the painting was a crumbly, rusty piece of plaster wall. In the conservation shop, Dave applied a plastic coating that soaked into the original plaster making a firm layer. It will then be attached to a piece of lightweight aluminum backing that will serve as a suitable frame for exhibiting the work.

By Stephen Canright, Park Curator, Maritime History

## Collections Corner

### A Wartime Mural Preserved



During World War II, the U.S. Army took over Aquatic Park as the headquarters for an anti-aircraft unit. The military controlled the park until 1948. Before returning the property to the city, they did a careful restoration, removing almost every trace of Army occupation. They did, however, leave behind a painting on a stucco wall under the east bleachers. This area has been used for storage and shop space and this modest painting has never been viewed by the public.

When the current restoration of the bleachers required that the damaged east bleacher be demolished, the painted wall section was cut out. Now safely in storage, the piece will be conserved and later exhibited as a part of the history of Aquatic Park.

It was five days prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 that the Army took over Aquatic Park. Battery B of the

216th Coast Artillery Regiment moved into the main building. It also became the headquarters of the Fourth Anti-Aircraft Command. The complex was used for offices and quarters for the officers and men. The space under the bleachers served as a mess hall. The wall painting, done by an anonymous soldier probably in 1942 or '43, exhorted the men not to waste food. While it is no masterpiece, it is certainly evocative of wartime life at the site.

Beginning in 1951, the space was managed by the Maritime Museum and then by the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. Staff were aware of the painting as an interesting bit of historical curiosity. The bleachers structure, built initially of defective materials, was damp and badly ventilated, and gradually deteriorated. As part of the Aquatic Park Rehabilitation Project, the eastern bleachers are being torn down and rebuilt, so the painting was removed.

## Visitor Information

### Dates and Hours of Operation:

**June 21 through August 15, 2009**

**Hyde Street Pier**, located at Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30AM to 6:00PM. Last pier entry at 5:30PM.  
(June 1-20 & Aug. 16-31, closes at 5PM.)

**Visitor Center**, located at the corner of

Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30AM to 6:00PM. (June 1-20 & Aug. 16-31, closes at 5PM.)

**Aquatic Park Bathhouse Building**, located on Beach Street at the foot of Polk Street.

Between June 21 and August 15, the building is open from 11:00AM to 4:00PM. For program information, 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 1st Sunday of the month (10am-4pm). Call 415-561-7030.

### 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>.



### 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.

### No-Fee Areas

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



The *Maritime News* is printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks. Please recycle it again.

### Contact Information

General Park Information: 415-447-5000

Maritime Store: 415-775-2665

Maritime Library: 415-561-7030

USS *Pampantico*: 415-775-1943

Park Website: [www.nps.gov/safr](http://www.nps.gov/safr)

Association Website: [www.maritime.org](http://www.maritime.org)

### 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.

# Music, Tours, Events, Lectures and Living History

## MUSIC

### CHANTEY SING

*Saturdays, June 6, July 11 and August 1, 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, June 20, July 18 and August 15, 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. ☺

## NEW PROGRAMS

### TRANSPACIFIC OCEAN LINERS:

#### THE FATED SISTERS

*Saturdays, June 6, July 11, and August 22, 3PM. Meet in the Visitor Center, in the Sailor's Den. Free.*

This new PowerPoint presentation will take you aboard the Dollar Line sister ocean liners, *President Hoover* and *Coolidge*, two of the most opulent and fated American liners that operated out of San Francisco during the 1930s. ☺



### MEMORIES ETCHED IN IVORY:

#### A SAILOR'S ART

*Saturdays, June 13 and August 8, 3PM. Aboard Eureka at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free).*

Learn the artistic process of scrimshaw. Create your own scrimshaw and take your art home with you. View scrimshaw pieces and other examples of sailor's work. You don't have to be an artist to attend! Join us for the fun of learning something new! ☺

### THE ART AND CRAFT OF TRADITIONAL SHIP RIGGING

*Saturdays, July 11 and August 15, 1PM–2PM. Meet in the Visitor Center, in the Sailor's Den. Free.*

Join Historic Ships Rigging Foreman Jamie White for a discussion and PowerPoint presentation detailing the problems, solutions, and results in restoring rigging on historic ships built on the river Clyde in Scotland.



### ADVENTURES ON THE HIGH SEAS

*Sundays, July 25 and August 22, 1PM–2PM. Meet in the Visitor Center, in the Sailor's Den. Free.*

Join us for an overview of the video recording collection in the J. Porter Shaw Library located at the park. Whether for research or pleasure, these videos are available for use in the library. Today's presentation will focus on the many remakes of the pirate film, *Treasure Island*. ☺

### ☺ FUN FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM

## PROGRAMS

### HISTORIC WATERFRONT WALKING TOUR: FROM GOLD RUSH TO NATIONAL PARK

*Saturdays and Sundays, June, July, and August, 10:30–11:30AM. Meet in the Argonaut Hotel lobby (495 Jefferson St.), adjacent to the Visitor Center. Free.*

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 covers about a mile, with some gently sloping and uneven terrain. Dress in layers, wear sunscreen, and walking shoes. ☺

### AQUATIC PARK BATHHOUSE BUILDING

*Open 11:00am to 4:00pm daily from June 21 through August 15, 2009. Located at 900 Beach Street, at the foot of Polk Street. Free.*

The historic, 1939, newly restored Works Progress Administration-era building will be open this summer between 11am and 4pm. Stop by to see the unique architecture, stunning murals and artwork, and recently completed renovation work. ☺

### ADVENTURES AT SEA: LIFE ABOARD A 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY SAILING SHIP

*Daily, June, July and August, 2:15PM. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free).*

Join in on 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. ☺

### CRAFTS FOR KIDS

*Saturdays, June 27, July 25, and August 29, 3PM. Meet at the entrance to Hyde Street Pier. Free.*

Hey kids, want to learn a little about life at sea and make a cool maritime craft? Come on down to the pier and join us! ☺

### LIFESAVING AT THE GOLDEN GATE

*Sundays, June 7, July 5, and August 2, 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. ☺

### LIGHOUSEES OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY

*Sundays, June 21, July 19, and August 16, 1:15PM and 3:15PM. Meet in the Visitor Center, in the Sailor's Den. 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 people who ran them.

### EUREKA ENGINE ROOM TOUR

*Sunday, June 28 and Saturday, August 1, 3PM. Meet on Eureka's gangway. Vessel admission (under 16 free).*

Take a special tour of the ferryboat



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.

Eureka's engine room and get a close-up look at what makes a steam ferry run.

### HERCULES ENGINEERING TOUR

*Saturdays, June 27 and July 25, 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.

### ANIMALS OF HYDE STREET PIER

*June 6, 7, 22, 26 (10:30AM); July 24, 25 (10:15AM); August 7, 9, 21 (10:15AM). Meet at the end of Hyde Street Pier. Free.*

Come experience and observe a whole different world you might not realize exists at Hyde Street Pier. Free.

### SMALL CRAFT ON HYDE STREET PIER

*Sundays, June 21 and August 30, 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, July 18, 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 to our small craft warehouse in Alameda. We'll tour the collection of nearly 100 historic boats, talking about history, design and construction.

### WOMEN AT SEA

*Sundays, June 14, July 12 and August 23, 3PM. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free).*

Learn what shipboard life was like for the captain's wife (and children) on voyages lasting many months during the Age of Sail. ☺

### MARITIME ROUTES OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

*Sundays, July 26 and August 9, 3PM. Meet in the Visitor Center, in the Sailor's Den. 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. ☺

### MODELERS' WORKSHOP

*Saturdays, open throughout the spring, 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 build their own models and also work on a unique model of the *Frederick Douglass*, the oldest active sloop on the West Coast. Modeling techniques are demonstrated. For information, call the park's Volunteer Office at 415-556-1613.

## COSTUMED LIVING HISTORY

### A DAY IN THE LIFE: 1901

*Saturdays, June 13, July 11 and August 8, 11AM–4PM. Aboard the historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission.*

Step into the past as you board our historic ships. Help the sailors on *Balclutha* raise the staysail and join in the musical fun during the "dogwatch." Visit the ship's cook in the galley, and learn about life in 1901 from ferryboat passengers on *Eureka*. Witness a shipboard wedding during the June program, and in July, join a dramatic re-creation of the 1901 labor strike that shook the San Francisco waterfront. ☺

## Bruce Mahaffey

### Exceptional Volunteer



Bruce Mahaffey, left, speaking with Park Ranger Mark Neuwald on Hyde Street Pier. Tugboat Hercules is in the background. NPS Photo

Robert "Bruce" Mahaffey is an exceptional volunteer. Bruce joined the Volunteers-in-Parks program at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park in 2006. Since then, he has accumulated nearly 1400 hours of volunteer service. Bruce has been the anchor of our docent program. He regularly volunteers 10–15 hours a week, a time commitment that far exceeds what the park expects from its docents.

In his duties as a docent, Bruce works at the information desk in the park's Visitor Center. With his knowledge and enthusiasm, he provides visitors numerous opportunities to make intellectual and emotional connections with park resources. "I really love the national parks," said Bruce, adding, "I like meeting people from all over the world and welcoming them to this national park."

Bruce is always taking the initiative to find new ways to improve park operations and the visitor experience. He demonstrates excellent judgment in handling unusual situations.

Bruce is an inspiring example of a cooperative team player. He happily volunteers to take on additional duties whenever there is a need. He is extremely reliable and conscientious, and always arrives early. In fact, he arrives early for his morning shifts at the Visitor Center so he can help open the building! With his positive, supportive attitude, and actions, Bruce makes the park a better place to be for both visitors and employees.

For information on how you can join the volunteer program, please call 415-556-1613.

By Mark Neuwald, Park Ranger



At the Entrance of the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park  
2905 Hyde Street Pier at Hyde and Jefferson Streets

### 10% DISCOUNT COUPON

MODEL SHIPS, MARITIME BOOKS, SEA SHANTY CDs,  
AUTHENTIC REPLICA MARITIME GIFT ITEMS AND APPAREL

## Today In The Park

### JUNE

- 1 Guided Tour of *Balclutha* (daily)
- 6 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Saturday)
  - Animals of Hyde Street Pier
  - Transpacific Ocean Liners
  - Chantey Sing
  - Modelmaking Workshop open on Saturdays
- 7 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Sunday)
  - Animals of Hyde Street Pier
  - Maritime Library open
  - Lifesaving at the Golden Gate
- 13 Costumed Living History
  - Memories Etched in Ivory
- 14 Women at Sea
- 20 Music of the Sea for Kids

- 21 Lighthouses of SF Bay
  - Small Craft on Hyde Street Pier
- 22 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
- 26 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
- 27 Crafts for Kids
  - Hercules* Engineering Tour
- 28 Eureka Engine Room Tour

### JULY

- 1 Guided Tour of *Balclutha* (daily)
- 4 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Saturday)
  - Modelmaking Workshop open on Saturdays
- 5 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Sunday)
  - Maritime Library open
  - Lifesaving at the Golden Gate
- 11 Costumed Living History
  - Art and Craft of Ship Rigging
  - Transpacific Ocean Liners

- Chantey Sing
- 12 Women at Sea
- 18 Small Craft Collection Tour
  - Music of the Sea for Kids
- 19 Lighthouses of SF Bay
- 24 Animals of Hyde Street Pier
- 25 Crafts for Kids
  - Animals of Hyde Street Pier
  - Hercules* Engineering Tour
  - Adventures on the High Seas
- 26 Maritime Routes of the Underground Railroad

### AUGUST

- 1 Guided Tour of *Balclutha* (daily)
  - Eureka Engine Room Tour
  - Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Saturday)
- 23 Women at Sea
  - Small Craft on Hyde Street Pier
- 29 Crafts for Kids
- 30 Small Craft on Hyde Street Pier

## Activity Page for Kids

### A Park of Many Uses

Hey, are those people riding bicycles, swimming, or running? This is a "historical park" so what is going on?

Part of the history this park preserves is a history of recreational use. At the park we are dedicated to learning about maritime history and Hyde Street Pier serves as an open air museum. The Pier is not the right place to play games or ride your bike; you or other visitors could get hurt. On the other hand, Aquatic Park and the Lagoon are perfect places to get exercise and have been for many years. There are many ways to enjoy a visit to a national park. Let's explore recreational opportunities this park offers.

There is a long history of people using the area for recreation. Did you notice the swimmers in the lagoon? People have been swimming here since the 1860s. The two white buildings next to the Hyde Street Pier are swim clubs. Look around the outside of them and see if you can find out which club is older.

Look for the big, white, Aquatic Park Bathhouse building and the surrounding bleachers. They were built in the 1930s to encourage people to come down and swim in the lagoon. The National Park Service is now rebuilding

the bleachers so people can continue to watch swim races and other events like fireworks on the 4th of July.

Another historic use of the park for recreation is the bocce ball courts. See if you can find the court on the park map at the bottom of this page. Bocce ball is a game that can be traced to the ancient Romans. A small ball is tossed to the other end of the court and then two teams try to "bowl" balls close to the first ball to earn points. Immigrants from Europe brought the game with them to America. The bocce ball courts provide a fun way to remember the city's Italian American history and explore some of the many cultures that are part of the story of the city.

Many people enjoy biking, skating, walking, and running through the park. Other people come to read, have picnics, or walk their dog. Since we are in the middle of a city, people use this national park in many of the same ways as a city park. With so many people it is important to be safe – watch out for others and don't speed.

Do you have parks in your hometown? How do you use your hometown parks? There are many ways to enjoy a visit to San Francisco Maritime. Not only does the park offer chances for learning about history, but also has a long history of providing opportunities for exercise and play.

## Park Scavenger Hunt

Can you spot kids and adults doing these activities in the park? Circle each one as you find it. Have fun!



Kids' Page by Brendan Wilson, Park Guide

