



## How Do You Build and Sail a Pelican?

The latest addition to the Hyde Street Pier fleet isn't a 19th Century square-rigger or a ferryboat from the Roaring '20s. Although considerably more modest than the park's historic ships, the latest addition has a different kind of significance – it was built by hand in 16 days from November through January by a group of San Francisco teenagers in the Maritime Education Center, a bayside workshop near the foot of Van Ness Ave.

The 16 students come from Downtown High School in San Francisco's Potrero Hill neighborhood. In the words of Elizabeth Houston, one of the students, "There's no art program at our school, so this program helps us get that kind of experience. If you don't like sitting around, this is a different situation than the classroom – it's more hands-on."

The boat is a San Francisco Pelican. Designed in the 1950s with San Francisco Bay conditions in mind, the Pelican is a sturdy, simple, 12-foot-long wooden sailing boat that is relatively easy to build using basic carpentry skills.

Teacher Ed Cavanaugh described the class as "experiential education" that provides basic carpentry and mathematics skills in a team environment. Perhaps more important, it generates enthusiasm. "You get them out here and put tools in their hands, and they go 'Oh, yeah!'"

John Heid, a 30-year-old woodworker with a passion for boat-building, is the lead instructor. "We're trying to teach these kids some basic life skills so they can go out and get a job," John said, adding that "It's a platform for teaching them other things", such as discipline, cleaning, being on time, and respect. A bonus for the students is getting a taste of sailing.

Jason Rucker, the assistant curator of small craft at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park and the founder of the program, estimates that there are a few thousand Pelicans around the



The Pelican-building class is an ongoing program. Photo, top left: Laying the keel on a Pelican built last spring. Photo, top right: The launching celebration of the recently-built Pelican with students from Downtown High School. Photo, above: The maiden voyage. The mast, sail, rudder, tiller, and custom paint job, will be added later. NPS Photos

world and several hundred in the Bay Area. "The local fleet races once a month in different locations in Northern California, and the Maritime Park Association sponsors pelican races here every spring," he explained.

This boat is only a temporary addition to the fleet. Unlike the other six Pelican boats built through this kind of class at the park in past years, Downtown High School will put this latest Pelican up for sale. Proceeds will help cover future Pelican boat class costs.

A few Pelicans built by past classes can usually be seen in front of the Small Boat Shop or in the water around the Hyde Street Pier. Anyone interested in getting involved with this program can contact Jason Rucker at 415-556-4031.

By Brian Cooke, Park Volunteer

### Partnerships

As the Golden Gate opened America's West to trade and commerce, so San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park ushers Americans into our rich maritime heritage.

We are the stewards of the nation's most spectacular collection of seafaring history: six National Landmark vessels, a National Landmark District, a state-of-the-art visitor center, public library, and research facility.

We are actively forming partnerships with foundations, governmental agencies, private businesses, cultural institutions, and educational organizations. The front page article details one of those flourishing educational partnerships between the park, San Francisco Maritime National Park Association (our non-profit partner), and the San Francisco Public Schools.

We are dedicated to leaving a legacy for the nation and the greater San Francisco community, and to furthering our partnerships within the community.



Kate Richardson  
Superintendent

### 1 How Do You Sail a Pelican?

No, we're not talking about the one with wings and feathers; rather, a sturdy, wooden, 12-foot-long, sail boat.

### 2 Docent Training Class Offered

What is a docent? Sign up for this fun and interesting class and find out. Share your love of maritime history with park visitors from around the world.

### 4 Baby On Board: Activity Page for Kids

What was it like to grow up on a sailing ship over 100 years ago? How did kids get their sea legs, and did they have to take baths?

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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 National 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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# If Ships Could Speak



Park Docent Bruce Hood giving a tour of the sailing ship *Balclutha*. He is with visitors at the stern of the vessel and demonstrating where a sailor would stand when at the helm. NPS Photo

## An Introduction to Interpretation at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer docent at the park? This three-day training course will introduce participants to maritime history, the park's historic ships and the art of presenting educational programs.

Learn the stories preserved by the park's collection of authentic 19th century vessels, and chart a new course as a steward of this unique "floating national park."

The course will include tours of the historic ships, park library, and collections. Partici-

pants will learn how to prepare a compelling interpretive program. Once trained, docents will share their knowledge with park visitors through formal educational programs and informal contacts.

The training is presented over three consecutive Sundays: April 15, 22, and 29, from 10:30am to 4:30pm at the park. The course includes an additional eight hours of on-the-job training to be scheduled in May.

There is no charge for the training but reservations are required. To register, or for more information, contact Terry Dorman, volunteer coordinator, at 415-556-1613 or [Terry\\_Dorman@nps.gov](mailto:Terry_Dorman@nps.gov)



## Junior Ranger Day

*Saturday, April 28, 10AM-4PM.  
On Hyde Street Pier, the historic  
ships, and in the Visitor Center.  
Vessel admission (under 16 free).*

Join us for a special day for Junior Rangers and Junior Ranger Want-To-Bes! We'll have demonstrations and activities for kids of all ages. Help raise a sail, pump the ship dry, and turn a capstan. At 2PM singer Debra Cowen will perform songs of the sea on *Balclutha*. Come and sing along...loudly!

Children ages 7-12 can earn a San Francisco Maritime Junior Ranger badge by completing the activities in our Junior Ranger booklet. Get a head start by downloading it from our website, [www.nps.gov/safr](http://www.nps.gov/safr) and clicking on the "For Kids" button on the left hand side.

Come on down and enjoy a day of fun at the pier!

# Sign Aboard at the Park Association

You can show your support for the park through membership in the Maritime Park Association, our non-profit partner organization. Your membership assists with preservation and education projects for park ships and collections. Membership comes with special benefits at each level, including the *Sea Letter* magazine, free park admission, and Maritime Store discounts. For more information, call Member Services at 415-561-6662 x12, or go to [www.maritime.org](http://www.maritime.org).



## Enjoy Your Public Lands

Use a new inter-agency recreational pass to visit the fascinating natural and cultural resources preserved in national parks, national forests, wildlife refuges, and other federal lands throughout the country. (\$80, good for one year from date of sale.) Or consider an annual pass exclusively for visitation to the magnificent ships at Hyde Street Pier. (\$20, good for one year from date of sale.) Passes can be purchased at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. Please inquire at the ticket booth on Hyde Street Pier.

## Two Fleets at SF Maritime

Maintenance employees now use electric-powered cars to keep the park shipshape; the gardener keeps the lawns trimmed with a mower that runs on 100% vegetable-based diesel fuel.



The new clean-burning fleet of park maintenance vehicles with the historic fleet of ships at Hyde Street Pier in the background. NPS Photo

## Visitor Information

### Dates and Hours of Operation

The *Hyde Street Pier*, located at Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30AM-5:00PM—last entry at 4:30PM (October 1-May 27), and 9:30AM-5:30PM—last entry at 5PM (Memorial Day-September 30).

The *Aquatic Park Bathhouse Building* is located on Beach Street at the foot of Polk Street. The building was closed in July 2006 for major renovation work. For more information, call the Visitor Center, 415-447-5000.

The *Visitor Center*, located at the corner of Hyde and Jefferson Streets, is open 9:30AM-5:00PM (October 1-May 27) and 9:30AM-7:00PM (Memorial Day-September 30).

The *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 making an appointment: Monday-Friday (1PM-4PM), and one Saturday per month (10AM-4PM). Call 415-561-7030.

### No-Fee Areas

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

### Boarding Pass (Entrance Fee For Historic Vessels): \$5.00

Free for supervised children under 16. Free with National Parks Pass, Golden Eagle, Golden Age/Access Pass or Park Annual Pass.

### Reservations/Permits

Reservations for school groups and other educational groups must be made at least two weeks prior to your visit. At least one month's notice and application for Special Use Permits is required. Filming permits are arranged on an individual basis.

### 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](http://www.nps.gov/safr)  
Association Website: [www.maritime.org](http://www.maritime.org)

# Music, Tours, Events, Living History and Film

## MUSIC

### CHANTEY SING

Saturdays, March 3, April 7 and May 5, 8PM-MIDNIGHT. No fee. Aboard a historic vessel at Hyde Street Pier. Reservations required: call 415-561-7171 or email [peter\\_kasin@nps.gov](mailto: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. March is Women's History Month and the March 3 sing will emphasize songs about women in maritime history.

### MUSIC OF THE SEA FOR KIDS

Saturdays, March 17, April 21 and May 19, 3PM. Aboard Balclutha 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. ☺

### DEBRA COWEN CONCERT

Saturday, April 28, 2PM TO 3:30PM. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free).

Debra Cowen is one of America's foremost interpreters of traditional and contemporary folksongs. Join us for an afternoon concert of sea songs as this Massachusetts singer tours the West Coast. ☺

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

### EXHIBIT: WOMEN WHO CHANGED MARITIME HISTORY

Daily, throughout March. In the Visitor Center, 9:30AM TO 4:45PM. Free.

Photo exhibition illustrating the often overlooked impact women have had on maritime history.

### TEA WITH THE LADIES AND SUFFRAGETTE MARCH

Saturday, March 10, NOON. In the Ark houseboat and Hyde Street Pier. No fee. Turn back the clock to 1901 and experience a costumed living history reenactment of a suffragette march in support of votes for women. Later, join a salon of Victorian women as they discuss issues ranging from corsetry to voting rights. Come voice your opinion!

### WENDY THE WELDER: WOMEN BUILDING LIBERTY SHIPS IN WWII

Sundays, March 11 and 18, 1PM. In the Visitor Center theater. Free. During World War II, a shortage of men brought women into the workforce building Liberty Ships. Hear fascinating accounts of their contributions in this slide presentation.

### SHIPPING OUT, THE STORY OF AMERICA'S SEAFARING WOMEN

Sunday, March 25, 2PM. In the Visitor Center theater. Free. Meet award-winning filmmaker Maria Brooks as she presents her extraordinary documentary film (56 minutes) that traces the complex history of women at sea. Shown nationally, this film offers intimate portraits of contemporary women working in a variety of maritime occupations. A 14-minute edited version is shown daily throughout March.

### ☺FUN FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM

## ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

### CHINESE CANNERY WORKERS

Sundays, May 6, 13 and 27, 1:00PM. Meet on Balclutha's maindeck at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free).

On this walking tour of Balclutha, you will learn about the lives and cultural contributions of Chinese laborers who sailed from San Francisco to Alaska (in less than luxurious conditions) for the great salmon runs. ☺



NPS Photo

### CHINESE SHRIMP JUNK GRACE QUAN RAISES SAIL

Saturdays, May 19 and 26, 1:00PM. Meet on Hyde Street Pier. Free.

Grace Quan is a replica of a 19th century San Francisco shrimp junk. Learn about the history of shrimp fishery on the Bay and watch her sail being raised. Come aboard and haul a net, explore the crew's cabin, and take a turn at the tiller. ☺

## MORE PROGRAMS

### CAULKING A SEAM

Sundays, April 15 and 29, NOON. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free).

Watertight seams are essential on wooden sailing ships. Park Ranger Carol Kiser demonstrates the steps involved in caulking a deck seam. ☺

### EUREKA ENGINE ROOM TOUR

Saturday, March 24, Sunday, April 22 and Sunday, May 13, 2PM. Meet on Eureka's gangway. Vessel admission.

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

### HERCULES ENGINEERING TOUR

Sundays, March 25, April 22 and May 27, 3PM. Meet at the gangway on the Pier. Vessel admission. 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.

### THE OCEAN: BARRIER OR HIGHWAY?

Sundays, April 29 and May 20, 3PM. In the Visitor Center. Free. Was the ocean a barrier or a highway for the vessels Balclutha, Thayer and Hercules? Join a ranger for a thirty minute slide presentation to examine this question.

### CRUISE OF THE SHENENDOAH

Saturdays, March 31, April 28 and May 19, 1PM. In the Visitor Center theater. Free. This illustrated program describes the 1864-65 cruise of the C.S.S. Shenandoah in the Pacific Ocean during which she almost completely destroyed the San Francisco based Pacific whaling fleet. Join a Park

Ranger as he traces the 27,000-mile cruise of the Shenandoah.

SMALL CRAFT ON HYDE STREET PIER Sunday, March 11, Saturday, April 14 and Sunday, May 27, 2:00PM. Meet at the Small Boat Shop. Free.

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

### SMALL CRAFT COLLECTION TOUR

Saturday, May 5, 9:30AM-2:30PM. Meet at the Small Boat Shop. No fee. 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.

## MODELMAKING

### MODELERS' WORKSHOP

Saturdays, open throughout the spring, beginning at 9:30AM. On the car deck of the Eureka. Vessel admission.

The Hyde Street Pier Model Shipwrights conduct ship model building classes in the model shop on Eureka on Saturdays. Classes begin at 9:30am and continue into the afternoon. They are currently building a model of the sloop Freda. The Freda was built in Belvedere, CA, in 1885 and is being renovated at a boatyard in Sausalito, CA. Modelmeister Paul Reck, who has built models on display in the Visitor Center and St. Francis Yacht Club, is the primary instructor. Anyone interested in building models is invited to participate. For information, contact Leo Kane at [kanebulota@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kanebulota@sbcglobal.net) or Paul Reck at [stoddardNH@comcast.net](mailto:stoddardNH@comcast.net).

## COSTUMED LIVING HISTORY

### A DAY IN THE LIFE: 1901

Saturdays, March 10, April 14 and May 12, 10AM-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 in the morning and return for musical fun during the afternoon dogwatch. Learn about life in 1901 from the ferryboat passengers on Eureka, or join Mrs. Galan on the Ark houseboat for afternoon tea to discuss issues of the day. In March, take part in a suffragette march for women's rights. In April, learn about maritime arts and crafts during "Make and Mend." May's special event is a reenactment of President McKinley's visit to San Francisco in 1901.

## IN THE LIBRARY

### FINDING "THE GALLEON IN THE DUNES"

Saturday, March 17, 6PM. In the Maritime Library, Building E, Fort Mason Center. Fee: \$5 (\$4 Library Friends and SFMNP) Reservations: 415-561-7040.

Maritime historian and nautical archeologist Ed Von der Porten will tell of the three expeditions to uncover the story of the Manila galleon San Felipe, wrecked on the Baja California coast in 1576, and discuss how the study of the ship and her cargo has given a better insight into the Chinese-Philippine-Mexican trade at this point in the history of the Manila galleons. The 2006 Karl Kortum Award for Maritime History will also be presented at this time.

SACRAMENTO: PORT OF GOLD Saturday, April 21, 6PM. In the Maritime Library, Building E, Fort Mason Center. Fee: \$5 (\$4 Library Friends and SFMNP) Reservations: 415-561-7040.

H. Alan Sims, maritime historian and archivist, will tell the story of the development of Sacramento as a port city, beginning with John Sutter's dream of a large maritime-based agricultural empire on the Sacramento River. Follow the port's history through the Gold Rush to the golden age of steam boats to the construction of the new Port of Sacramento, with the deep water channel and the re-creation of the city's old waterfront.

WELLS FARGO & CO. ON THE WATER Saturday, May 12, 6PM. In the Maritime Library, Building E, Fort Mason Center. Fee: \$5 (\$4 Library Friends and SFMNP) Reservations: 415-561-7040.

Wells Fargo has long been associated with galloping horses pulling a stagecoach, but as a Gold Rush era banking and express firm, Wells Fargo first rode the paddle-wheel steamers that linked New York and San Francisco by sea. Bill Sander of Wells Fargo Historical Services will tell the story of the company's maritime heritage on the West Coast, including the riverboats that raced each other to Sacramento, the ships that served the coastal communities in the 19th century, and the establishment of regular sea routes across the Pacific.

### PARK RESEARCH LIBRARY

The library is open to the public by making an appointment: Monday -Friday (1-4PM), and the third Saturday of the month (10-4PM). It is often possible to call on the same day you would like to visit. Please call Bill Kooiman, 415-561-7033, or Ted Miles, 415-561-7009. [Ted\\_Miles@nps.gov](mailto:Ted_Miles@nps.gov)

## VOLUNTEERS

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED AS A VOLUNTEER?

At San Francisco Maritime our volunteers provide a variety of services that support the exhibit shop, ships division, small boat shop, maritime library, historic documents department, and interpretation and education. We have the perfect challenge for you! Call the Volunteer Office at 415-556-1613, or visit [www.nps.gov/safr/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm](http://www.nps.gov/safr/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm)

## AGE OF SAIL

The San Francisco Maritime National Park Association's Age of Sail education program is booking programs for the school year. These programs offer hands-on, student-centered learning, and take place aboard the park's historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier. Programs range in cost from \$25 to \$64 per student. For information call Lucas Lineback at 415-561-6662 ext. 30, [llineback@maritime.org](mailto:llineback@maritime.org) or [www.maritime.org](http://www.maritime.org)

## WWII SUBMARINE USS PAMPANITO

Open daily. At Pier 45, Fisherman's Wharf. Fee: adults, \$9; 6-12, \$4; under 6 free with adult; over 62, \$5; active duty military, \$4; family ticket, \$20. Information: 415-775-1943. The Balao-class USS Pampanito (SS-383), a museum and memorial owned and operated by the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, made six patrols in the Pacific during World War II. Admission includes a self-guided audio tour.

## Today In The Park

### MARCH

The Park extends a special invitation on Mondays in March. Explore the fleet of historic ships at Hyde Street Pier for free! No admission will be charged on March Mondays: 5, 12, 19, and 26.

- 3 Women's History Month exhibit opens  
Chantey Sing  
Modelmaking Workshop
- 10 Costumed Living History: A Day in the Life 1901  
Modelmaking Workshop
- 11 Wendy the Welder  
Small Craft on Hyde Street Pier
- 17 Music of the Sea for Kids  
Finding "The Galleon in the Dunes"

- Modelmaking Workshop
- 18 Wendy the Welder
- 24 Eureka Engine Room Tour  
Modelmaking Workshop
- 25 Maria Brooks and "Shipping Out"  
Hercules Engineering Tour
- 31 The Cruise of the *Shenendoah*  
Modelmaking Workshop

### APRIL

- 7 Chantey Sing  
Modelmaking Workshop
- 14 Costumed Living History: A Day in the Life 1901  
Small Craft on Hyde Street Pier  
Modelmaking Workshop
- 15 Caulking a Seam  
Docent Training Class begins
- 21 Music of the Sea for Kids  
Sacramento, Port of Gold

- Modelmaking Workshop
- 22 Eureka Engine Room Tour  
Hercules Engineering Tour  
Docent Training Class
- 28 Junior Ranger Day  
The Cruise of the *Shenendoah*  
Debra Cowen Sea Music Concert on *Balclutha*  
Modelmaking Workshop
- 29 Caulking a Seam  
The Ocean: Barrier or Highway?  
Docent Training Class

### MAY

- 5 Small Craft Collection Tour  
Chantey Sing  
Modelmaking Workshop
- 6 Chinese Cannery Workers
- 12 Costumed Living History:

- A Day in the Life 1901  
Wells Fargo & Co. on the Water  
Modelmaking Workshop
- 13 Chinese Cannery Workers  
Eureka Engine Room Tour
- 19 The Cruise of the *Shenendoah*  
Grace Quan Raises Sail  
Music of the Sea for Kids  
Modelmaking Workshop
- 20 The Ocean: Barrier or Highway?
- 26 Grace Quan Raises Sail  
Modelmaking Workshop
- 27 Small Craft on Hyde Street Pier  
Hercules Engineering Tour



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# Fun and Education for Younger Sailors

## Baby on Board

Captains of sailing ships like the *Balclutha* were away from home for long stretches of time. The lucky ones had their families with them, which sometimes included a baby boy or girl. Two babies were born on *Balclutha*.

Families at sea had to be problem solvers. Babies, being the helpless little people they are, were especially at peril when a ship encountered rough seas. Sailors had to learn to brace themselves in bed so they wouldn't be tossed out of their bunks. How could parents keep their baby safe? Some mothers actually sewed their baby to the mattress, attaching the child's clothing to the outer layer.

Cleaning diapers was another challenge. Freshwater was precious and saved for drinking. Bathing and cleaning clothes was put off until it rained. So how could these families wash diapers? One solution was to tie the diapers to a line and then drag them behind the ship. Unfortunately, when the diapers dried, the salt in the water made the diaper feel like sandpaper, and no one likes to wear scratchy underwear! One mother made her own disposable diapers by lining them with dried sea moss that could be tossed overboard when it got dirty. If a child was old enough to crawl, he or she could be dressed without any diapers at all. When the child had to "go," he or she just went . . . a situation that gives new meaning to the term "poop deck!"

Parents faced the endless challenge of keeping their young children entertained, safe, and out of the crew's way. One captain rigged a swing on deck for his young daughter. One mother used a washtub as a playpen. Sometimes the crew could not help but be charmed by their young crew mates. Children who grew up at sea remember carved toys made for them by the sailors.

One mother recalled trying to catch her four year old son who had become so good at climbing in the rigging that he got away from her by "going aloft" in his own personal jungle gym.

Returning to life ashore was often a big adjustment. One of *Balclutha's* captains, Alfred Durkee, told a story that shows just how different these children were from those born on land. He was in port when he saw a child take her first steps on solid ground: "...when she came ashore . . . she would take a step, then apparently wait, with her foot up, for the floor to roll so she could steady herself before taking another step. She was [on shore] quite a number of days before she could walk like other children."



Agnes Tapley, wife of the captain, and Baby Della on the deck of the sailing ship *Saint James* in 1898.

Captain Christopher and his wife, Heather, had been at sea for over a month when their baby girl was born. In the word search below, find the things they might need to take care of the infant at sea.

- DIAPERS
- THREAD
- TOY BOAT
- NEEDLE
- DRIED MOSS
- WASHTUB

Sources: *Families at Sea*, Stephen A. Haller, National Maritime Museum Association, 1985; *Hen Frigates*, Joan Druett, Simon and Schuster, 1998.

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