



## Restored 1939 Bathhouse Building Sparkles Again



**B**egun in 1936, and dedicated in 1939, the Park's Bathhouse is a product of the post-Great Depression era Works Progress Administration (WPA). It was constructed to stimulate the U.S. economy by creating jobs and income. The Bathhouse's interior design was executed by a team of renowned artists employed by the Federal Art Project, the visual arts arm of the WPA.

Phase one of the Aquatic Park Bathhouse/Amphitheater rehabilitation began in May 2006, when the Museum was closed to relocate the collections and exhibits. The construction work began in October, and first addressed the building's roof, waterproofing and drainage, and window systems. With that phase now complete, it is a good time to review what has been accomplished.

Although the building itself is rather sturdy, the original roof system was actually quite fragile. Consisting of nearly 18,000 red slate tiles, it was designed to drain down through the building itself, using open pipes that ran precariously between ceilings and walls, and clogged frequently over the years – spilling rainwater into some interior spaces.

Over time, the roof tiles cracked and separated, and the red slate was buried under layers of sealant and tar applied to stem the leaks. Although somewhat effective, this treatment obscured an integral element of the building's character. Contractors had to jackhammer the fused tiles/sealant out chunk by chunk -- it may have been the City's only rooftop excavation! (Photos above far right.)

Of the building's many distinctive features, its extensive, curved windows and thick-paneled glass doors may be the most eye-catching. And for months, Park neighbors have watched yards of steel-sheathed glass replaced with plywood sheets.

The windows and glass doors gleam like the facets of a lighthouse lens, and their frames bear the imprint of hand-

held tools. They are all unique constructions, handmade on-site to fit into their own particular openings.

Unfortunately, in today's templated and pre-cut world, this made them extremely difficult to duplicate and install. But it is a part of the building that was designed to be seen and appreciated, and we could do no less than retain the architect's original vision. (Photo above left.)

The third major accomplishment of this phase, on the other hand, was designed to be hidden.

As built, the Bathhouse did not have an elevator. In 1955, the City installed a car between the first and second floors, but the third floor remained inaccessible. The Park faced a dilemma: how to increase access without changing the building's historic character?

The answer: use a hydraulic elevator (which locates much of the machinery underground), and thread the shaft carefully through the building's superstructure. Unobtrusively, the Park both upgraded the existing elevator, and made the third floor accessible for the first time in seventy years.

Restoration of the lobby murals continues, and in future projects conservators will treat the green slate entranceway and the building's many terrazzo floors. (Photo above middle.)

In mid-September, repair of Aquatic Park's failing bleachers and associated underground structures (a surprisingly extensive complex including charmingly "modern" men's and women's shower facilities) will begin. We hope to completely re-open the building in late 2009, and start bringing exhibitions back in 2010.

In the meantime, Park rangers have already begun offering free, guided tours through selected portions of the Bathhouse. Please stop by and watch us work!

### Welcome

Welcome to an exciting fall here at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. We just completed repair of the Aquatic Park Bathhouse roof and windows, and installation of an elevator to the third floor. And we are just now starting to rehabilitate the District's poured concrete bleachers and the adjacent underground complex.

At the same time, new exhibits are being built in our Visitor Center, work on the schooner *C.A. Thayer's* deckhouses continues, and we're preparing to send the 1886 square-rigger *Balclutha* to drydock this winter!

Amidst all the capital construction, staff and volunteers continue to build community stewardship and pride by offering participatory programs like Coastal Clean-up Day, on September 20, and a slate of special volunteer events to mark National Public Lands Day (September 27). More details about both events are inside.

And congratulations to the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association for producing the 2008 Festival of Sail, an event that spotlighted important maritime resources all along the San Francisco waterfront.

Please join us in preserving and appreciating America's cultural legacy here at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park.



Kate Richardson  
Superintendent

### 1 Restored 1939 Bathhouse Sparkles Again

Phase One of the Aquatic Park Bathhouse and Amphitheater rehabilitation project is complete.

### 2 Collections Corner

Construction workers dug up interesting items during the restoration of historic Aquatic Park Bathhouse Building.

### 4 Help Clean up Aquatic Park! Activity Page for Kids

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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 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 Cullivan

#### 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 22: Brian Cooke, Tim Campbell, Stephen Canright, Lynn Cullivan, Kathryn Daskal, Elizabeth Evans, Judy Hitzeman, and Amy Hosa.

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# Collections Corner

During the renovation of the Aquatic Park Bathhouse, a number of items were found that provide a glimpse of life in the 1930s and perhaps before.

Ceramic and glass sherds, found in the pit dug for the new elevator, may very well be part of the rubble of the 1906 Earthquake and Fire. A brown glass wine bottle, a Rainier beer cone-top can, an Orangeade bottle cap, and a tobacco bag, tell us of habits and vices of those who worked in, or on, the building.

In the United States, cone top beer cans had their start in 1935. Prior to the 1930s most beer was bottled in glass. The cone top can design allowed breweries to use their existing bottling equipment to fill and cap the "bottle-shaped" cans. Because of its design, we know that this particular can was made between March 1936 and July 1937 (the latter being the "brewed by" date on the bottom). Eventually the flat top beer can, that we use today, was introduced and new canning systems were devised to fill them.

A Calo Cat Food can, found several years ago in the building, contains a residue of blue paint, a thumbprint in blue on the outside of the can, and, attached to the exterior, an intriguing hand-written notation: "flat blue fish/ panel #26." During the late 1930s artist Hilaire Hiler, and his assistants, spent two years creating 5000 square feet of brilliantly colored interior murals. We don't have absolute proof, but it seems likely that this paint was used to create one of the blue fish in a mural panel.

Tours of the building and the murals are offered on a regular basis. See page three for tours dates and times.

By Judy Hitzeman, Museum Curator



Photo from left clockwise, heavy stoneware sherds with dark blue, green and white glaze found in the pit dug for the elevator (SAFR 21672), Rainier beer cone-top can (21683), Orangeade bottle cap (21685), brown glass wine bottle (21684), sherds decorated with floral and geometric designs in blue glaze (21671), tobacco pouch (21686), and Calo Cat Food can (20298). Photo: NPS

## Come Join Our Volunteer Crew

Looking for adventure or camaraderie? Interested in learning new skills, meeting new people, or sharing your maritime interests all while serving your national park? Well, we have the right opportunity for you!

Experience is not necessary, and many volunteer opportunities exist. Learn new skills working with shipwrights on the pier and in the small boat shop. Join our thriving docent program or living history group. Volunteer at the Maritime Library, or with the rigging crew of *Balclutha*.

Volunteers are asked to commit to working at least one day per month with a typical shift lasting six hours.

On National Public Lands Day, September 27, the volunteer office will host the second annual Maritime Arts and Trades Exposition. This is an excellent day to visit Hyde Street Pier and see many of our volunteers in action. Talk to volunteers who repair *Balclutha's* rigging, try your hand at mak-

ing rope, interact with Living History players, see a docent in action giving an interpretive talk, learn how to tie some knots, and much more.

For more information on how you can join our maritime Volunteers In Parks (VIP) program, please contact our volunteer office at 415-556-1613.

By Terry Dorman, Volunteer Coordinator



Volunteer Coordinator Terry Dorman (left) presenting an award to David Hirzel, a member of the Living History Players. Photo: Bernie Barden

# Adventure on the *Alma*

Thousands of people every day take ferry tours around the beautiful San Francisco Bay, but relatively few people know about a new Bay tour alternative just a few blocks west of the ferry docks. Four to six times a month through November, up to 40 passengers will experience the Bay up close and personal, from the deck of a 117-year-old sailboat called the *Alma*.

*Alma* first mate Alice Watts said the afternoon sails, which began in October 2007, have not yet been discovered by most Bay Area locals or visitors. "It's really an untapped treasure," she said.

Built in 1891 and moored at the north end of the Hyde Street Pier, the 60-foot-long

scow schooner was originally used to carry bulk cargo around the Bay. The deck looks and feels a little like an extra-thick raft. But what the *Alma* lacks in speed and grace it makes up for in room and stability. "It's a very unique boat - the last one of her kind," Alice said. "We have a lot of fun, and it's a great way to see the city from a different perspective. And if you've never been on the water before, it's a great venue because it's so stable."

*Alma* excursions feature a National Park Service ranger who answers questions about the *Alma*, as well as about San Francisco's waterfront history, the islands in the Bay and the many creatures that can be seen from the deck, including cormo-

rants, murrelets, pelicans, sea lions and seals. Passengers can help with the sails and sometimes take a turn behind the wheel. Routes vary depending on the tides, but can go by the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, Angel Island or Treasure Island.

Tickets for *Alma* afternoon sails 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. Boarding is promptly at 12:30 pm and the program ends at 4 pm. Ticket sales help fund other interpretive programs at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. For more information on *Alma* sails, please call 415-447-5000.

By Brian Cooke, Park Volunteer



*Alma* sailing dates for fall 2008:

September 4, 6, 11, 13, 20, 27  
October 4, 11, 18, 25  
November 1, 8, 15, 22

## Visitor Information

### Dates and Hours of Operation: September through May 2009

**Hyde Street Pier**, located at Hyde and Jefferson Streets: September 1-30: 9:30AM to 5:30PM (Last Pier entry at 5PM.) October 1-May 31: 9:30AM to 5:00PM (Last Pier entry at 4:30PM.)

**Visitor Center**, located at the corner of Hyde and Jefferson Streets: September 1-30: 9:30AM to 5:30PM. October 1-May 31: 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 making an appointment: Monday-Friday (1PM-4PM), and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the 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

Free for supervised children under 16. Free with Federal Interagency Annual, Senior, and Access Passes, and San Francisco Maritime NHP 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](http://www.nps.gov/safr)  
Association Website: [www.maritime.org](http://www.maritime.org)

# Music, Tours, Events, Lectures and Living History

## MUSIC

### CHANTEY SING

Saturdays, September 6, October 4 and November 1, 8PM-MIDNIGHT. Free. 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.

### MUSIC OF THE SEA FOR KIDS

Saturdays, September 20, October 18 and November 15, 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. ☺

### 20TH SEA MUSIC CONCERT SERIES

Saturdays, September 27 and October 18, 8PM. Free. Aboard a historic vessel at Hyde Street Pier. For ticket information call 415-561-6662 ext. 33.

In September Geoff Kaufman brings his passion for maritime history and sea music to the pier and the group Ida Red will perform their a capella harmonies in October. More at [www.nps.gov/safr/planyourvisit/concertseries2008.htm](http://www.nps.gov/safr/planyourvisit/concertseries2008.htm)

## MORE PROGRAMS

### A SINGING TOUR OF BALCLUTHA

Sundays, September 7, October 12 and November 23, 3PM. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free).

Walk the decks of the 1886 sailing ship Balclutha and locate places where shipboard songs were sung. Help turn the capstan and the bilge pump while singing along if it suits your fancy! ☺

### CRAFTS FOR KIDS

Saturdays, September 27 and October 25, 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! ☺

**HISTORIC WATERFRONT WALKING TOUR: FROM GOLD RUSH TO NATIONAL PARK** Saturdays and Sundays, September, October, and November, 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 cov-



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 Maritime Store. To contact the Friends, call 415-561-7040.

ers 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, September, October, and November. 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.

### BOOK TALK: "THAR SHE BLOWS"

Sunday, October 12, 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. ☺

### ADVENTURES AT SEA: LIFE ABOARD A 19TH CENTURY SAILING SHIP

Daily, September, October and November, 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. ☺

### SPANISH EXPLORERS IN EARLY CALIFORNIA

Sunday, September 21 and October 26; Saturday, November 1, 3PM. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free).

Spanish explorers arrived in California before any other European power. Join us for a slide show about these intrepid explorers.

### EUREKA ENGINE ROOM TOUR

Saturday, September 6, Sunday, October 5, and Sunday, November 16, 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.

### STAND BY TO ANSWER BELLS

Saturday, November 8, 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 ship 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, September 13 and October 4, 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.

### 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.

### RESTORING THE C. A. THAYER

Sundays, September 14, October 19, and November 9, 3PM. Aboard Balclutha at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission (under 16 free). This illustrated presentation will describe the recent restoration of the lumber schooner C. A. Thayer and the unique way she returned to Hyde Street Pier.

### BIRDS OF THE BAY

Sundays, September 14, October 5, and November 16, 9:30AM-11:30AM. Meet at the Hyde Street Pier entrance. No fee. View shore, migratory, city and resident birds on this easy stroll. Bring binoculars, bird books and dress in layers. ☺

### SMALL CRAFT ON HYDE STREET PIER

Sunday, September 28, and Saturday, November 22, 3:00PM. 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, October 11, 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.

## MODELMAKING

### MODELERS' WORKSHOP

Saturdays, open throughout the fall, 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.

## COSTUMED LIVING HISTORY

### A DAY IN THE LIFE: 1901

Saturdays, September 13 and November 8, 10AM-4PM. Aboard the historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier. Vessel admission.

Step into the past as you board the historic ships. Help the sailors on Balclutha raise the staysail in the morning and return for musical fun during the afternoon dog-watch. Visit Balclutha's cook in the galley, learn about life in 1901 from ferryboat passengers on Eureka, and join Mrs. Galan on the Ark houseboat for afternoon tea to discuss issues of the day. ☺



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 Maritime Store discounts. For more information, call Member Services at 415-561-6662 x12, or go to [www.maritime.org](http://www.maritime.org).

## 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](mailto:melani_van_petten@partner.nps.gov).

### FROM VIKING TO VICTORIAN:

A HISTORY OF IRON IN SHIPBUILDING Saturday, September 6, 6PM.

Norwegian maritime historian and historic ship restorer Olaf Envig will describe his scientific lab tests and remarkable field tests, sailing in the North Sea, which demonstrated that iron, because of its very crudeness, is a more durable shipbuilding material than steel, and will sign copies of his new book, *From Viking to Victorian: A History of Iron in Shipbuilding*.

### COLLECTING EVOLUTION

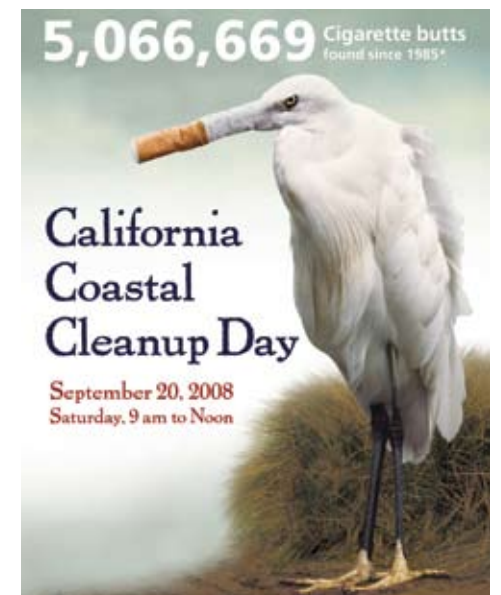
Saturday, October 11, 6PM.

During a 1905-06 expedition, the schooner Academy collected 75,000 biological specimens from the Galapagos Islands. Geology Professor Matthew James, of Sonoma State University, will examine the historical background and lasting significance of the expedition, the lives of the scientists on board, and why Darwin went to the Galapagos in 1835 on the HMS Beagle.

### THE RECOVERY OF THE MARY ROSE

Saturday, November 8, 6PM.

Nautical archeologist, maritime historian, and dynamic storyteller Ed von der Porten will tell of his work on the recovery of Henry VIII's warship Mary Rose during the early efforts to identify and then raise her from the bottom, where she had been buried since the 16th century.



Poster courtesy of the California Coastal Commission

## CLEANUP DAY EVENTS AT THE PARK

Saturday, September 20

Park ranger program, 10-10:45AM and beach cleanup, 11AM-NOON. At Hyde Street Pier and Aquatic Park beach. Cleanup supplies provided. Bring your own "trashless" picnic lunch to enjoy at the beach after the cleanup.

Tons of marine debris are picked up each year off California's beaches. Plastics and other toxic chemicals littered on beaches create problems for organisms living nearby. Meet with a Park ranger at the end of the Pier and discover marine organisms hidden around Hyde Street Pier and how they are affected by the things we throw away (10-10:45AM). Then be part of the solution and join Park Rangers in a shoreline cleanup at Aquatic Park (11AM-NOON). ☺

### ☺ FUN FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM

## Today In The Park

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 *Balclutha* Ship Tour (daily)  
Sea Music Concert on *Balclutha*
- 4 Bathhouse Building Tour (every Thursday)  
Sailing on *Alma*
- 6 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Saturday)  
Bathhouse Building Tour (every Saturday)  
Sailing on *Alma*  
Eureka Engine Room Tour  
From Viking to Victorian Chantey Sing  
Modelmaking Workshop open on Saturdays
- 7 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Sunday)  
Singing Tour of *Balclutha*
- 11 Sailing on *Alma*
- 13 Costumed Living History: A Day in the Life 1901  
Hercules Engineering Tour

- Sailing on *Alma*
- 14 Birds of the Bay  
Restoring the C. A. Thayer
- 20 Coastal Cleanup Day  
Animals of Hyde Street Pier  
Music of the Sea for Kids  
Sailing on *Alma*
- 27 National Public Lands Day  
Crafts For Kids  
Sailing on *Alma*  
Geoff Kaufman Sea Music Concert
- 28 Small Craft on Hyde Street Pier

### OCTOBER

- 1 *Balclutha* Ship Tour (daily)
- 2 Bathhouse Building Tour (every Thursday)
- 4 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Saturday)  
Bathhouse Building Tour (every Saturday)  
Sailing on *Alma*  
Hercules Engineering Tour  
Chantey Sing

- Modelmaking Workshop open on Saturdays
- 5 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Sunday)  
Birds of the Bay  
Eureka Engine Room Tour
- 11/12 Fleet Weekend  
Sailing on *Alma*  
Small Boat Shop Collection Tour at Alameda  
Collecting Evolution lecture
- 12 Book Talk in the Visitor Center  
Singing Tour of *Balclutha*
- 18 Sailing on *Alma*  
Music of the Sea for Kids  
Ida Red Sea Music Concert
- 19 Restoring the C. A. Thayer
- 25 Crafts For Kids  
Sailing on *Alma*
- 26 Spanish Explorers in Early California

### NOVEMBER

- 1 *Balclutha* Ship Tour (daily)  
Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Saturday)

- Bathhouse Building Tour (every Saturday)  
Sailing on *Alma*  
Spanish Explorers in Early California  
Chantey Sing  
Modelmaking Workshop open on Saturdays
- 2 Historic Waterfront Walking Tour (every Sunday)
- 6 Bathhouse Building Tour (every Thursday)
- 8 Sailing on *Alma*  
Stand By to Answer Bells  
Recovery of the *Mary Rose* lecture  
Costumed Living History: A Day in the Life 1901
- 9 Restoring the C. A. Thayer
- 15 Sailing on *Alma*  
Music of the Sea for Kids
- 16 Birds of the Bay  
Eureka Engine Room Tour
- 22 Sailing on *Alma*  
Small Craft on Hyde Street Pier
- 23 Singing Tour of *Balclutha*

# Kids Activity Page Coastal Cleanup Day 2008

## Cleaning up Aquatic Park

Aquatic Park includes the Bathhouse, lagoon, beach and large grassy area of the park. About 100 years ago this area was called Black Point Cove and it was the opposite of a park. It was an industrial area and used as a garbage dump.

The citizens of San Francisco so loved Black Point Cove they fought for decades to have it cleaned up from an industrial area to family-friendly Aquatic Park. In the 1930s their dreams came true.

In 1939 the Bathhouse opened and was filled with people changing into swimsuits and showering off the sand after a long day at the beach. Today, you can still watch swimmers in the calm waters of the lagoon. You may also see park employees working hard to keep our shoreline litter-free picking up plastic bags, cigarette butts, and dog poop.

## How does trash affect the ocean?

The waters around Aquatic Park are home to many creatures like sea stars, hermit crabs, jelly fish, clams, fish, sea gulls, and the occasional sea lion. Shore birds mistake

small pieces of plastic for fish eggs. A plastic bag floating in the ocean may look like a jellyfish, a sea turtle's favorite food. When animals swallow, or get tangled in plastic, they can get sick or starve to death.

## What can you do to help?

Plastic or Paper? 90% of floating trash in the ocean is plastic! Unlike paper, plastic does not break down naturally over time. Most of the trash in the ocean comes from us. A plastic cup you drink out of today might be floating in the ocean ten thousand years from now!

Talk with your family about ways you can reduce the amount of plastics you use at home and at school. You can do something good for our oceans every day by reducing, reusing, recycling and remembering we can all make a difference.

Mark your calendars for September 20, 2008! You can join in our Coastal Cleanup at Aquatic Park or help clean up a waterway closer to your home.

To find out more about California Coastal Cleanup Day visit [www.coastforyou.org](http://www.coastforyou.org)

Kids Page by Elizabeth Evans, Park Guide



Colorful murals cover the walls inside the Bathhouse (the big, white, ship-shaped building in the park). They show brightly-colored, weird sea creatures that came from the imagination of artist Hilaire Hiler who painted them 70 years ago.

How many different sea creatures can you find in this section of one of the murals?

Do they remind you of animals you have seen?

Have you seen any sea creatures near Aquatic Park?



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