

Fun Weekend Ahead for All Things Maritime

By Monica Grant | September 11, 2020 | West Coast, USA

This weekend is full of opportunities for sailing enthusiasts who love tall ships, wooden boats and all things maritime. As is common in these COVID times, the events are being hosted online, but in some ways this makes it all the more engaging, as participants are joining in from locations all over the world, including Australia and the UK.

Virtual Maritime Festival

The Ocean Institute is hosting its first-ever Virtual Maritime Festival, “a multi-layered interactive and educational event featuring a three-day global stream marathon.” The event, which was designed to replace this year’s Tall Ships Festival, is entirely free, and runs from 10 a.m. today through September 13.



Instead of ‘no festival’, Ocean Institute’s virtual festival has a great lineup of fun interactive events.

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Maritime organizations from across the globe have created interactive virtual experiences ranging from maritime reenactments and cannon battles to mermaid encounters, sea chanteys, music, and a topsail cargo schooner transporting coffee through the Costa Rican jungle.

The full schedule of events and signups is available at <https://maritimefest2020.com>.

Here are some highlights:

- Discover how a three-masted topsail cargo schooner is transporting coffee through the Costa Rican jungle
- The Island Trust in the UK is exploring marine life
- San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park is hosting a live chantey sing-along
- Honolulu’s Polynesian Voyaging Society looks at the history of Polynesia and Hawaii and the associated maritime culture
- Experience the debut of the “Buccaneers Video Game Challenge,” utilizing an icon representing the *Pilgrim*, Ocean Institute’s former full-sized replica of the 1830s merchant ship detailed in the classic novel *Two Years Before the Mast*.
- Join Santa Monica’s The 5 Gyres Institute in a discussion about plastic pollution



Mermaids, sea chanteys and wooden boats

— what more could a sailor want?

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Participating oceanic institutions include the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney, the United Kingdom’s Island Trust, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, the tall ship *Lady Washington*, Polynesian Voyaging Society of Hawaii, Mystic Seaport Museum of Connecticut, and many more.

According to Ocean Institute’s president and CEO Wendy Marshall, the new virtual event will most likely continue as an annual festival moving forward. “We’re thrilled to be partnering with maritime museums and vessels from around the world to present this exciting streaming event during such extraordinary times. As they say, ‘a rising tide lifts all boats.’”

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