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Shipping News

Portland's busiest season gets underway:
Nautical news from past and present.

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

Summer in Maine is the perfect time to test your sea legs and admire the beautiful coastline from the ocean. Here's what you need to know about this year's visiting ships.

GHOST SHIPS

The tallest ship of them is coming to Portland this summer—just not by water. *Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition* will be at Portland Science Center from June 18 until mid-September, ready to transport visitors back 104 years to the greatest mari-

A prominent member of the Astor clan, John Jacob IV, was traveling back from honeymoon with his pregnant 19-year-old bride, Madeleine, when fate intervened. Madeleine was rescued, but her new husband perished at sea. Devastated, Madeleine refused to talk of the tragedy for many years. She continued to visit La Selva, Astor's cottage in Bar Harbor, during the following summers with her sister and son, John "Jakey" Astor VI. In 1916, Mrs. Astor renounced her \$5 million widow's trust (\$103 million in today's money) to marry banker William Dick, a childhood friend.

With his wife and daughter, Cushing Island resident Charles Melville Hays was also aboard the ship. During the disaster, Hays was quick to get his family into the limited lifeboats. Mac Smith, author of *Mainers on the*

Titanic [2015], reports that his daughter, Orian Hays, "was so sure they would see [her father] again, we didn't even kiss goodbye." Many hours later, she offered up her straw hat to set alight and catch the attention of the rescue boat RMS *Carpathia*. The Hays family still owns and visits their residence on Cushing Island to



time tragedy of our age.

The story of the "unsinkable ship" is well known, but you may not have realized the *Titanic* also had Maine connections. A number of Acadia's illustrious summer rusticators were among the passengers on the fateful maiden voyage.



The Cat fares start at \$107 for an adult, \$199 for a car. June 15–September 30. Portland to Yarmouth departs 2:30 p.m. Yarmouth to Portland departs 8:30 a.m. 877-762-7245 ferries.ca/thecat

this day.

A Brunswick local and Bowdoin graduate, Richard White Jr., boarded for the maiden voyage with his father, as a reward for finishing his studies early. No trace of them was found.

CRUISE TO NOVA SCOTIA

Meow. I'm back (though I'm a different vessel). In current maritime news, the ferry connection between Portland and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia will be significantly speedier from June 15 onwards. Bay Ferries Ltd. plans

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The View From Kittery Point

You can still marvel at the fleet of tall ships visiting Portsmouth this summer, without even having to leave Maine. Kittery Point provides a spectacular vantage point from which to watch the opening event of **Sail Portsmouth 2016**, the majestic Parade of Sail up the Piscataqua River.

Leading the spectacle will be the star of the show, the 170-foot **El Galeón Andalucía**. This replica 16th century galeón is a unique example of the 500 year-old boat that brought the Spanish explorer, Juan Ponce de León, to the eastern shore of Florida. Grab your deck chair and binoculars and watch this 495-ton historic vessel cruise by.

Behind her will follow the schooner **Lynx**, a beautiful 122 foot, two-masted replica of an early privateer used during the War of 1812 to evade British naval fleet. Her design made her one of the fastest and most maneuverable ships in the American arsenal. Look closely and you may see the 12 replica cannons that

would have armed the original **Lynx**.

Keep an eye out for a slice of Maine maritime history sailing up the Piscataqua. Several traditional reproduction "gundalows," a shallow draft type of cargo barge once common in the Gulf of Maine's rivers and estuaries, will also be joining the parade.

Among the display will be the first ocean-going, full-rigged ship to have been built in the United States in over 100 years, The **Oliver Hazard Perry**. At 196 feet and with three masts of 130 feet each, this enormous vessel, built last year in Newport, was a favorite at last year's Portland Tall Ships festival.

Private boats are also welcome join the parade and enter the harbor in style alongside these spectacu-

lar tall ships. to re-introduce a high-speed catamaran service that will allow passengers to make the crossing in just 5.5 hours. The new ferry, like her forebear named *The Cat*, can carry 750 passengers and 280 cars on her decks. She will replace the *Nova Star* service, which took nearly twice as long and saw disappointing sales during its two years of service.

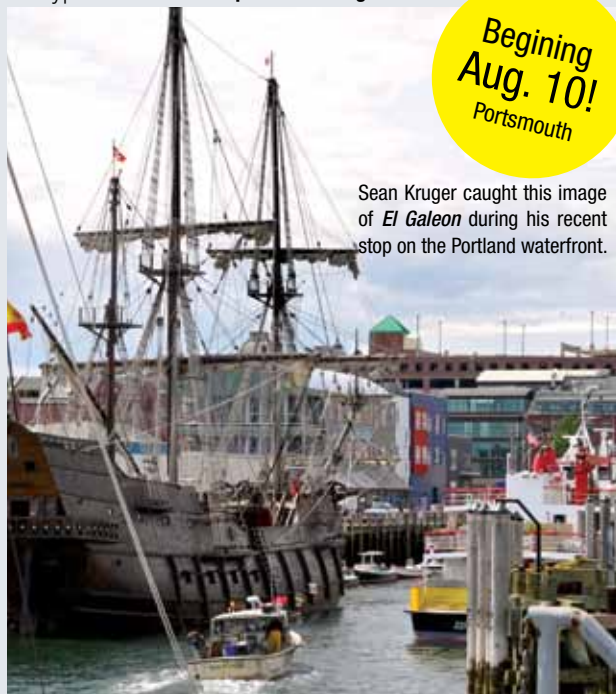
Only time will tell if *The Cat* (one of two ships from the bankrupt Hawaii Superferries which were in turn sold to the U.S. Navy, which is leasing one to Bay Ferries and preparing the other for military service, according to Boston.com) will get the cream of Maine's tourist trade, but with over 100,000 cruise ship visitors expected in Portland, there's no doubt the city's streets and waterways will be swarming this summer.

LOCAL SAILING ADVENTURES

After the success of last summer's festival, Tall Ships Portland is turning its attention toward getting Maine students on the high seas this summer. In partnership with Northeast Maritime Institute,

lar tall ships.

Sail Portsmouth 2016 runs Aug. 10-14. Gates open at 10 a.m. each day. Tickets available at the gate or at sailportsmouth.org



Sean Kruger caught this image of *El Galeon* during his recent stop on the Portland waterfront.



Students will learn how to sail 74-foot tall ship *Fritha* across Gulf of Maine as part of the Northeast Maritime Institute's summer program.

Tall Ships will offer sailing courses for students, aged between 13 to 18, aboard the traditionally crafted brigantine *Fritha*. She'll make eight separate five-day voyages over the summer break, taking groups of students across the Gulf of Maine under the power of sail.

Also visiting Portland this summer are some of last year's favorite Tall Ships. The schooner *Bowdoin*, flagship of the Maine Maritime Academy, was built by the Hodgdon Brothers of East Boothbay in 1921 to survey Arctic waters.

That means her timbers were built to stand up to the kind of scrapes that took down the *Titanic*.

Bagheera sailed in the Bermuda Race shortly after being built in 1924, and went on to a long racing career, winning the Chicago-Mackinac Race. *Wendameen* (1912) hosted such guests as Katherine Anne Porter and playwright Eugene O'Neill. She was sold off and left to rot during the Depression, until rescued by Captain Neal Parker, who found her in a mudbank in the 1980s and had her restored from the keel up. ■

Set Sail!

Casco Bay Lines

Summer schedule June 18-Sept. 5, 774-7871, cascobaylines.com



Bagheera & Wendameen

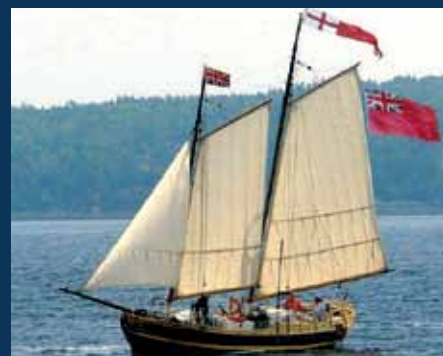
Available for morning or afternoon sails or all-day private charter. May 1-Oct. 27, Maine State Pier, portlandschooner.com, 766-2500



Frances Keep your eyes peeled for Acoustic Sunset Cruises throughout the summer! mainesailingadventures.net, 619-1842



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