

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Subject: **HISTORIC SHIPS MAKE HISTORY AT L.A.'S FESTIVAL OF SAIL**



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After 5:00 p.m.:

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(SAN PEDRO, Calif.) – The largest fleet of tallships ever to visit sailed into the Port of Los Angeles today, to celebrate the 2002 Festival of Sail. More than a dozen foreign and domestic vessels participating in the new-to-Los Angeles event will be anchored at the Port for the next five days.

The showcase commenced with a Grand Parade of Sail, featuring tallships with soaring sails, fireboats and a flotilla of smaller vessels. Daily activities include free tours of the ships at dockside, day sails, mock cannon battles and private on-ship receptions.

“With the anniversary of 9/11 approaching, we are reminded of the importance of forming relationships with the international community,” said 15th District Councilwoman Janice Hahn. “We see the Festival of Sail as an excellent bonding opportunity and invite all of Los Angeles to come out and participate in this historic event.”

The following 13 tallships joined in the Port’s festivities:

American Pride, from Long Beach, Calif.
Bat'kivshchyna, from the Ukraine
Bill of Rights, of San Pedro, Calif.
Europa, from the Netherlands
Hawaiian Chieftain, from Sausalito, Calif.
Irving Johnson, of San Pedro, Calif.
Lynx, from Newport Beach, Calif.
Pilgrim, from Dana Point, Calif.
Robert C. Seamans, from Tacoma, Mass.
R. Tucker Thompson, from New Zealand
Spirit of Dana Point, from Dana Point, Calif.
Swift of Ipswich, of San Pedro, Calif.
Tole Mour, from Honolulu, Hawaii

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L.A. Festival of Sail Makes History

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“The Port of Los Angeles welcomes these ships, captains and crews to the wonderful Los Angeles community of San Pedro,” said Larry Keller, Executive Director of the Port of Los Angeles. “We invite all of Southern California to come visit the majestic ships and discover what this historic community has to offer.”

The Port recently welcomed the Ecuadorean tall ship, *Guayas*, which garnered interest from more than 30,000 spectators last month. The 265-foot sailing vessel provided Los Angeles with a weeklong preview to the grand event.

In addition to the visiting ships, the Port is now presenting an up-close look at one of its new twin brigantines, *Irving Johnson*, to Festivalgoers.

The Mayor and City Council recently proclaimed *Irving & Exy Johnson* the “Official Tallships of the City of Los Angeles.” The newly-constructed, 110-foot vessels are named after two popular sea adventurers, Captain Irving Johnson and his wife, Exy.

With the support of Mayor Jim Hahn and 15th District Councilwoman Janice Hahn, the 2002 Los Angeles Festival of Sail is a joint effort of the Port of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Maritime Museum, Department of Recreation and Parks, Maritime Institute, Los Angeles Convention and Visitors Bureau and San Pedro Peninsula Chamber of Commerce.

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