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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sheila Gonzales
(310) 732-3506

TALL SHIPS® 101

***Stats and facts about the international tall ships
participating in TallShips® LA, August 11-14***

SAN PEDRO, Calif. – Be informed for TallShips®LA, August 11-14. With historical knowledge, vessel stats and fun facts, you will be able to recognize the tall ships, identify their key features and tout a little trivia!

Fifteen international tall ships are scheduled to participate in the TallShips®LA, maritime event. Visiting ships include the *Argus*, *Bill of Rights*, *Californian*, Mexico's *Cuauhtémoc*, *Exy Johnson*, Antigua's *Kaisei*, *Lynx*, *R. Tucker Thompson* of New Zealand, *Pilgrim*, *Robert C. Seamans*, *Royaliste*, *Spirit of Dana Point*, *Swift of Ipswich*, *Talofa* and *Tole Mour*.

For most people, a tall ship is a sailing vessel with three or more masts and many sails, as seen in the bygone era of the Errol Flynn movies. A tall ship, by definition, is a sailing vessel whose **masts** are in segments, made up of several timbers in order to give strength, and to make each mast more manageable for partial removal and repairs. The nostalgic definition is more commonly used when referring to any sailing vessel that provides sail training and participates in events such as tall ship races.

For classification and race settings, the International Sail Training Association divides tall ships into three classes and several sub classes according to the vessels, sparred length and rig. A rig is the configuration, shape and number of the spars, poles, and sails. For further clarification, sailing rigs are divided into two broad categories determined by the fore and aft rig in which triangular shaped sails lie along the same direction as

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the ship's length, or the square rig which has squared or rectangular shaped sails attached to poles, which are perpendicular to (or go across) the vertical mast.

TallShips®LA will host variety of rigged Class A and Class B tall ships. Mexico's *Cuauhtémoc*, Antigua's *Kaisei* and the *Robert C. Seamans* are categorized as Class A vessels.

The *Cuauhtémoc* will be the largest tall ship to participate in this year's festivity and recently celebrated her 23rd birthday as a sail training vessel. She is a 297-foot long barque with three masts. The fore (second tallest) and main (tallest) masts are square-rigged with the mizzenmast (third tallest) rigged fore and aft.

Antigua's *Kaisei*, *Robert C. Seamans* and the *Exy Johnson* are brigantine styled vessels. A brigantine is a two masted vessel with square sails only on the foremast and fore and aft sails in the main mast. The hometown ship – the *Exy Johnson* – is one of the official tall ships for the City of Los Angeles. Built like the *Kaisei* and the *Robert C. Seamans*, she is classified as a Class B brigantine because she is a smaller vessel with a sparred length of 110 feet, whereas the *Kaisei* has a sparred length of 151 feet and the *Robert C. Seamans* has a sparred length of 134 feet.

The other Class B tall ship participants include the *Argus*, *Bill of Rights*, *Californian*, *R. Tucker Thompson*, *Lynx*, *Royaliste*, *Pilgrim*, *Spirit of Dana Point*, *Swift of Ipswich* and *Talofa*.

The *Argus*, along with the *Royaliste*, are ketch style vessels. A ketch is a two-masted sailing vessel very similar to the schooner but the main mast (tallest mast) is the first mast rather than the second. Ketches were popular in 19th Century Europe and became popular as yachts in the 20th Century. The *Royaliste*,

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a gaff-rigged, square topsail ketch has two masts and is gaff-rigged with foresails (a gaff is a free-swinging spar, pole, attached to the top of the sail).

The *Californian* is a replica 1847 Revenue Cutter with a single mast and is rigged with a main sail and two headsails. The Revenue Service was a precursor to today's Coast Guard. The *Californian* has an international following as the "official tall ship of the State of California."

The *Pilgrim* represents the brig-styled vessel in the procession. A brig differs from a brigantine in that a brig is square-rigged on both masts whereas a brigantine is square-rigged on the foremast only. This year, the *Pilgrim* celebrates her 60th birthday. For literary buffs, she is a full size replica of the brig immortalized in the American seafaring classic, "Two Years Before the Mast" authored by Richard Henry Dana, Jr.

Schooner-styled vessels complete the tall ship participants list with *Bill of Rights*, *Lynx*, *R. Tucker Thompson*, *Spirit of Dana Point*, *Swift of Ipswich*, *Tole Mour* and *Talofa*. A schooner is a fore and aft rigged vessel that can have between two and six masts. Schooners rigged with three or more masts have spars (poles) of uniform dimensions and scantlings (timbers) for all masts with the exception of the main boom on the aftermast, which is heavier and longer.

The *Bill of Rights* is a gaff topsail schooner with two masts decked with gaff and square rigged with foresails. The *R. Tucker Thompson*, a gaff-rigged, square topsail schooner whose primary sail is trapezoidal in shape, with a combination of small square sails and fore and aft sails. The *Lynx* and the *Tole Mour* are square topsail schooners with a combination of small squared sails and fore and aft sails.

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An accurate replica of 1770's privateers used during the American Revolution, the *Spirit of Dana Point* is stylized after a Baltimore clipper schooner. Clipper ships are well known for their speed and were used for smuggling. *Swift of Ipswich* is a schooner that is fore and aft rigged vessel with three masts. She once served as the private yacht for 1930's actor James Cagney, known as the little tough guy, who received an Academy Award for "Yankee Doodle Dandy."

Built in 1928, the *Talofa* is a one-of-a-kind originally built Marconi-rigged, staysail schooner with three masts and a staysail (a sail that remains attached) and foresails. Her sails are a unique terracotta color. She has been completely restored and will be available for viewing.

For more information about TallShips®LA and the international tall ships, log on to the website at www.tallshipsla.com.

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